Steve Earle "Pancho and Lefty"

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Living on the road, my friend Was gonna keep you free and clean Now you wear your skin like iron Your breath's as hard as kerosene

You weren't your mama's only boy But her favorite one it seems She began to cry when you said goodbye And sank into your dreams

Pancho was a bandit boys His horse was fast as polished steel Wore his gun outside his pants For all the honest world to feel

Pancho met his match you know On the deserts down in Mexico Nobody heard his dying words That's the way it goes

All the federales say
Could have had him any day
They only let him hang around
Out of kindness I suppose

Lefty, he can't sing the blues
All night long like he used to
The dust that Pancho bit down south
Ended up in Lefty's mouth
The day they laid poor Pancho low
Lefty split for Ohio
Where he got the bread to go
There ain't nobody knows

All the federales say
Could have had him any day
They only let him slip away
Out of kindness I suppose

Poets tell how Pancho fell Lefty's livin' in a cheap hotel The desert's quiet and Cleveland's cold So the story ends we're told

Pancho needs your prayers, it's true
But save a few for Lefty too
He only did what he had to do
And now he's growing old

All the federales say Could have had him any day They only let him go so wrong Out of kindness I suppose

A few gray federales say Could have had him any day They only let him hang around Out of kindness I suppose

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