

## **Tift Merritt**

### **"Laid a Highway"**

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This was a town took care of it's own  
That's what me and my children have known  
I worked the mill the way my parents did  
I remember this town when I was a kid

Sitting through the movies twice  
Open windows late at night  
Slipping out in the summer heat  
To meet John Miller in the middle of the street

They laid a highway a few years back  
Next town over by the railroad track  
Some nights, I'm glad it passed us by  
Some nights, I sit and watch my hometown die

I'm fifty-five and when the mill burned down  
I wasn't much past a pretty young gal  
The boss lit a match in the oily night  
Cops never had enough to set it right

So while the company traded with our lives  
We were busy watching that slow moon rise  
Dancing on the dry grass bridge  
Making love down by the Cedar County Bridge

They laid a highway a few years back  
Next town over by the railroad track  
Some nights, I'm glad it passed us by  
Some nights, I sit and watch my hometown die

They never came to tear that old place down  
They roped it off, but you can walk around  
See the dust on the rusted doors  
Watch the rain fall through the burned out floors

This was a town took care of it's own  
This was a town doing fine all alone  
The mill got out a quarter to five  
You could eat supper with any family you liked

They laid a highway a few years back  
Next town over by the railroad track

Some nights, I'm glad it passed us by  
Some nights, I sit and watch this hometown die

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