

## Tom T. Hall

# "Old Dogs And Children And Watermelon Wine"

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"How old do you think I am?" he said.  
I said, well, I didn't know.  
He said, "I turned 65 about 11 months ago."

I was sittin' in Miami, pouring blended whiskey down  
When this old gray, black gentleman was cleaning up  
the lounge.

There wasn't anyone around, except this old man and  
me.  
The guy who ran the bar was watching Ironside on TV.  
Uninvited, he sat down and opened up his mind  
On old dogs and children and watermelon wine.

"Ever had a drink of watermelon wine?" he asked.  
He told me all about it, though I didn't answer back.  
"Ain't but three things in this world that's worth a  
solitary dime,  
But old dogs and children and watermelon wine."

He said, "Women think about theyselves, when men-  
folk ain't around.  
And friends are hard to find when they discover that  
you're down."  
He said, "I tried it all when I was young and in my  
natural prime,  
Now it's old dogs and children and watermelon wine."

"Old dogs care about you even when you make  
mistakes.  
God bless little children while they're still too young to  
hate."  
When he moved away I found my pen and copied down  
that line  
'Bout old dogs and children and watermelon wine.

I had to catch a plane up to Atlanta that next day.  
As I left for my room I saw him picking up my change.  
That night I dreamed in peaceful sleep of shady  
summertime,  
Of old dogs and children and watermelon wine.

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