

Tom T. Hall

"The Year That Clayton Delaney Died"

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I remember the year that clayton delaney died
They said for the last two weeks that he suffered and
cried
It made a big impression on me, although I was a
barefoot kid
They said he got religion at the end and I'm glad that
he did

Clayton was the best guitar picker in our town
I thought he was a hero and I used to follow clayton
around
I often wondered why clayton, who seemed so good to
me
Never took his guitar and made it down in tenn-o-see

Well, daddy said he drank a lot, but I could never
understand
I knew he used to pick up in ohio with a five-piece band
Clayton used to tell me, "son you better put that old
guitar away,
There ain't no money in it, it'll lead you to an early
grave."
I guess if I'd admit it, clayton taught me how to drink
booze
I can see him half-stoned a-pickin' out the lovesick
blues
When clayton died I made him a promise, I was gonna
carry on somehow
I'd give a hundred dollars if he could only see me now

I remember the year that clayton delaney died
Nobody ever knew it but I went out in the woods and I
cried
Well, I know there's a lotta big preachers that know a lot
more than I do
But it could be that the good lord likes a little pickin' too
Yeah, I remember the year that clayton delaney died

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