

## Tom T. Hall

### "Whittler"

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(Tom T. Hall)

At an old country store on the outskirts of town  
He sat on the porch with his feet on the ground  
With a stick of red cedar and a sharp Barlow's knife  
He whittled and talked of a whittler's life.

He said when you whittle you don't make a thing  
A whittle can't dance and a whittle can't sing  
A whittle don't hurt and a whittle don't help  
A whittle ain't nothin' but whittlin' itself.

One whittle's a whitt and two whitts a whittle  
It's the same on both ends as it is in the middle  
The same to the wood as it is to the knife  
A whittle's a riddle it's a little like life.

Well, a whittle don't care about heaven or hell  
Don't care how it looks and don't care how it smells  
It's a thing you can't do if you think it's a thing  
It's the end of a circle and the start of a ring.

Well he sits there and whittles and the shavins' pile up  
Back to the earth and then back to the dust  
He said what have I done if I've whittled all day  
Time would have whittled itself anyway.

One whittle's a whitt and two whitts a whittle  
It's the same on both ends as it is in the middle  
The same to the wood as it is to the knife  
A whittle's a riddle it's a little like life.

He said here watch me whittle and he whittled a whitt  
He reared back and laughed and leaned over and spit  
He said let me say one more thing fore you go  
I don't even know what it is I don't know.

One whittle's a whitt and two whitts a whittle  
It's the same on both ends as it is in the middle  
The same to the wood as it is to the knife  
A whittle's a riddle it's a little like life...

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