

# Minutes to Memories

John Mellencamp

On a Greyhound thirty miles beyond Jamestown  
He saw the sun set on the Tennessee line  
He looked at the young man who was riding beside him  
He said I'm old kind of worn out inside  
I worked my whole life in the steel mills of Gary  
And my father before me I helped build this land  
Now I'm seventy-seven and with God as my witness  
I earned every dollar that passed through my hands  
My family and friends are the best thing I've known  
Through the eye of the needle I'll carry them home

Days turn to minutes  
And minutes to memories  
Life sweeps away the dreams  
That we have planned  
You are young and you are the future  
So suck it up and tough it out  
And be the best you can

The rain hit the old dog in the twilight's last gleaming  
He said "son it sounds like rattling old bones"  
This highway is long but I know some that are longer  
By sunup tomorrow I guess I'll be home  
Through the hills of Kentucky 'cross the Ohio river  
The old man kept talking 'bout his life and his times  
He fell asleep with his head against the window  
He said an honest man's pillow is his peace of mind  
This world offers riches and riches will grow wings  
I don't take stock in those uncertain things

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The old man had a vision but it was hard for me to follow  
I do things my way and I pay a high price  
When I think back on the old man and the bus ride  
Now that I'm older I can see he was right

Another hot one out on highway eleven  
This is my life It's what I've chosen to do  
There are no free rides, no one said it'd be easy  
The old man told me this my son I'm telling it to you

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