

# The Year That Clayton Delaney Died

Tom T. Hall

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 so  
mehow  
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