

Night Rider's Lament

Michael Burton

III-83

G C
 While I was out a' ridin'
 G D
 The graveyard shift, midnight 'til dawn,
 C G G/F# Em
 The moon was as bright as a reading light
 D G
 For a letter from an old friend back home.
 G C D G
 He asked me, "Why do you ride for your money?
 C D G
 Why do you rope for short pay?
 C D G C C/B Am
 You ain't getting' nowhere and you're losing your share - -
 D G
 Oh, you must have gone crazy out there."

He said, "Last night I ran into Jenny;
 She's married and has a good life.
 Oh, you sure missed the track when you never come back;
 She's the perfect professional's wife.
 She asked me, 'Why does he ride for his money?
 Why does he rope for short pay?
 He ain't getting' nowhere and he's losing his share.
 Oh, he must have gone crazy out there.' "

C D G G/F# Em
 But they've never seen the Northern Lights.
 C D G
 Never seen a hawk on the wing.
 C D G C C/B Am
 Never seen the spring hit the great divide - -
 D G
 And they've never heard old camp cookie sing.

Break chords: C G D G C G G/F# Em G D G G

Well, I read up the last of the letter.
 I tore off the stamp for Black Jim.
 Little Dougie rode up to relieve me;
 And just looked at my letter and grinned.

He said, "They ask you why do they ride for their money?
 Why do they rope for short pay?
 They ain't gettin' nowhere and they're losing their share - -
 Oh, they all must be crazy out there."
 Cause they've never seen the Northern Lights, etc including break