

Old Dogs, Children & Watermelon Wine

Tom T. Hall

"How old do you think I am? " he said.
I said, well, I didn't know.
He said, "I turned 65 about 11 months ago."

I was sittin' in Miami pourin' blended whiskey down
When this old gray black gentleman was cleanin' up the lounge

There wasn't anyone around 'cept this old man and me
The guy who ran the bar was watchin' "ironsides" on tv
Uninvited, he sat down and opened up his mind
On old dogs and children and watermelon wine

"Ever had a drink of watermelon wine? " he asked
He told me all about it, though I didn't answer back
"Ain't but three things in this world that's worth a solitary d
ime,
But old dogs and children and watermelon wine."

He said, "women think about they-
selves, when menfolk ain't around.
And friends are hard to find when they discover that you're dow
n."
He said, "I tried it all when I was young and in my natural pri
me;
Now it's old dogs and children and watermelon wine."

"Old dogs care about you even when you make mistakes;
God bless little children while they're still too young to hate
."
When he moved away I found my pen and copied down that line
'Bout old dogs and children and watermelon wine.

I had to catch a plane up to Atlanta that next day
As I left for my room I saw him pickin' up my change
That night I dreamed in peaceful sleep of shady summertime
Of old dogs and children and watermelon wine.