My grandaddy was a miner
But he finally saw the light
He didn't have much
Just a beat-up truck and a dream about a better life
Grandmama cried when she waved goodbye
You never heard such a lonesome sound.

Pretty soon the dirt road turned Into blacktop, Detroit City bound Down that hillbilly highway On That hillbilly highway That old hillbilly highway Goes on and on.

Now he worked and saved his money
So that one day he might send
My daddy off to college
To use his brains and not his hands
Grandmama cried when she waved goodbye
Never heard such a lonesome sound.

But daddy had himself a good job in Houston One more rollin' down
Down that old hillbilly highway
That old hillbilly highway
That old hillbilly highway
Goes on and on.

Now granddaddy rolled over in his grave
The day that I quit school
I just sat around the house playin' my guitar,
Daddy said I was a fool
My mama cried when I said goodbye,
I never heard such a lonesome sound.

Now I'm standin' on this highway And if you're going my way You know where I'm bound Down that old hillbilly highway That old hillbilly highway That old hillbilly highway Goes on and on