

Highway 17

Rodney Crowell

I put away fifteen grand doing one-
night stands mostly liquor stores and fillin' stations
Me and this peepin' Tom by the name of J.D. Swan and any number
of his odd blood relations
This was armed robbery 1957 and mostly our getaways were clean
Then I'd pay off the boys and bury my bread out on Highway 17

I had five kids and a wife with one dress and a yard full of cars
that wouldn't running
My two oldest boys they were on to my noise they despised what
their daddy done
But I did my thing the best I could maing plans by the light of
day
And then night would fall and it was time to call and I was always
on my way

Now J.D. he was crazy and he was inbred he drank whiskey like it
was goin' out of style
You know I should have seen it coming the writing was on the wall
he was getting just a little too loose and wild
Annd he made his mistake out on Airline Drive, you know those North
Houston cops are quick
They blew a hole in J.D. the size of Dallas and put a lump on my
head with the brunt of a nightstick

You know 5-10 in Huntsville ain't no good times boys but I walked
that line do you know what I mean
'Cause my mind was snug on that hole I dug out on Highway 17
I said my mind was snug on that hole I dug out on Highway 17

So I served my time only way I knew how thinking big and making
plans
All about the way I was gonna change the world when I get my hands
on that 15 grand
You know C.W. and Herschel my two oldest boys they took care of
their momma and their little sisters the best way that they could
Dealing dimes and stealing hubcaps you know pretty soon they were
doing good
So I walked out those prison gates a free man on the first day
of November 19 and '63
I kissed my wife and I hugged my babies but they didn't seem the
same to me

You know the boys looked on they were already grown it was written
across their eyes and their faces
I'm the perfect sample of a bad example gone forever from their
graces

But baby six long years and a lot can change many miles beyond
your wildest dreams

But a six-lane wide modern interstate ride out on Highway 17

Lord they sunk my ship 'neath a concrete strip out on Highway 17

Man they broke my back they built a concrete track out on Highway 17

Well, you know it ain't funny but they buried my money out on Highway 17