This day a year ago
he was rolling in the snow
With a younger brother in his father's yard
Christmas break
a time for touching home
the heart of all he'd known
And leaving was so hard

Three thousand miles away
now he's working Christmas Day
Making double time for the minding of the store
Well he always said
he'd make it on his own
He's spending Christmas Eve alone
First Christmas away from home

She's standing by the train station pan-handling for change
Four more dollars buys a decent meal and a room
Looks like the Sally Ann place after all in a crowded sleeping hall
That echoes like a tomb

But it's warm and clean and free and there are worse places to be At least it means no beating from her Dad And if she cries because it's Christmas Day She hopes that it won't show First Christmas away from home

In the apartment stands a tree and it looks so small and bare Not like it was meant to be Golden angel on the top It's not that same old silver star you wanted for your own First Christmas away from home

In the morning they get prayers then it's crafts and tea downstairs Then another meal back in his little room Hoping maybe that "the boys" will think to phone before the day is gone Well it's best they do it soon.

When the "old girl" passed away
he fell apart more every day
Each had always kept the other pretty well
But the kids all said the nursing home was best
Cause he couldn't live alone
First Christmas away from home

In the common room they've got the biggest tree And it's huge and cold and lifeless Not like it ought to be

and the lit-up flashing Santa Claus on top
It's not that same old silver star you once made for
your own
First Christmas away from home