

## The Last Watch

Stan Rogers

They dragged her down, dead, from Tobermory  
Too cheap to spare her one last head of steam  
Deep in diesel fumes embraced  
Rust and soot upon the face of one who was so clean

They brought me here to watch her in the boneyard  
Just two old wrecks to spend the night alone  
It's the dark inside this evil place  
Clouds on the moon hide her disgrace  
This whiskey hides my own

It's the last watch on the Midland  
The last watch alone  
One last night to love her  
The last night she's whole

My guess is that we were young together  
Like her's, my strength was young and hard as steel  
And like her too, I knew my ground  
I scarcely felt the years go round  
In answer to the wheel

But then they quenched the fire beneath the boiler  
Gave me a watch and showed me out the door  
At sixty-four, you're still the best  
One year more, and then you're less  
Than dust upon the floor

So here's to useless superannuation  
And us old relics of the days of steam  
In the morning, Lord, I would prefer  
When men with torches come for her  
Let angels come for me