

# Night Rider's Lament

Mike Burton - 1975

**G** **C**  
Last night as I was riding  
**G** **D**  
Graveyard shift, midnight to dawn,  
**C** **G**  
Oh, the moon was as bright as a reading  
**Em**  
light  
**D** **G**  
For a letter from an old friend back home.

**C** **D**  
He asked me, "Why do you ride for your  
**G**  
money?  
**C** **D** **G**  
Why do you rope for short pay?  
**C** **D** **G**  
You ain't gettin' nowhere and you're losing  
**C** **Bm** **Am**  
your share - -  
**D** **G**  
Oh, you must have gone crazy out there."

He said, "Last night I run into Jenny;  
She's married and has a good life.  
Oh, you sure missed the track when you  
never come back;  
She's the perfect professional's wife.  
She asked me, 'Why does he ride for his  
money?  
Why does he rope for short pay?  
He ain't gettin' nowhere and he's losing his  
share.  
Oh, he must have gone crazy out there.' "

**C** **D** **G**  
*But they've never seen the Northern Lights.*  
**C** **D** **G**  
*Never seen the hawk on the wing.*  
**C** **D** **G**  
*Never seen the spring hit the great*  
**C** **Bm** **Am**  
*divide - -*  
**D**  
*No, they've never heard old camp cookie*  
**G**  
*sing.*

Well, I read up the last of the letter.  
I tore off the stamp for Black Jim.  
And Billy come by to relieve me;  
Just looked at my letter and grinned.

He said, "They ask you why do you ride  
for your money?  
Why do you rope for short pay?  
You ain't gettin' nowhere and you're losing  
your share - -  
Oh, you must have gone crazy out there."

*But they've never seen the Northern Lights.*  
*Never seen the hawk on the wing.*  
*Never seen the spring hit the great divide -*  
*No, they've never heard old camp cookie*  
*sing.*