

Mystery Tramp

VERSE

When he was 8 he run the streets for fun
just to blow off steam from getting smacked by the nuns
He grew a big smile, grew to be a little mean
with all his old dogs like Rod and Steve

just a good ole boy with a detroit lean
he didn't lean your way 'less you messed with him
little bitty kid with fists of a man
he ate a few bricks but fed a whole lot of sand

Now he never caused trouble, just shut it on down
keeping five blocks safe havin fun, runnin around
momma showed love and daddy worked hard
but he grew a little big to be kept in the yard

before there was grass and cars and cb's
he was rolling in the dirt makin elbows bleed
at 12 he chewed hard on the barrel of a gun
but stood his ground, even seven on one, said

CHORUS

--I run the streets, never run my mouth
mind my business til it gets dragged out
If you want to fight dirty, and you can't settle down
I'm hungry for a smoke, but I'll feed you 'little ground

VERSE

He never drove a car that it wasn't a ford
And always gave it back, knock and run at the door
he never made an enemy that could've been a friend
and the years run fast til their way back when

but tell you about the summer maybe 65
three big boys crossed the line that night
Knocked down a lady, about 80, took her purse
and said mind your business, but I minded hers first, said

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well 17 came and 20 was a blur
he quit his fightin ways every chance that he could
one day the boss at the railroad yard
said the folks from the ghetto couldn't work as hard

Tramp kept to himself, while folks's gettin put down
til a grown man cried and the boss laughed out
when Tramp says that's enough, Boss grabbed him by the throat
but got a one way ticket down the railroad show

CHORUS

--I've run the streets, but i never run my mouth
mind my business til my business' dragged out
If you want to fight dirty, and you can't settle down
I need a check to eat, but I'll feed you 'little ground

VERSE

Wakes up one day and sees he's 45
rolls out of bed and rubbed his eyes
thinks a minute through the things he's done
goes back to sleep and wakes up 51

It's a long hard life to a long soft landing
the years have settled and he's still standin
through the ups and downs of a beat up town,
ya gave us one more hero to sing about

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