



Way Back When

I was the kid in the high-water pants
My father's shoes and my brother's old shirt
Who walked through school in a permanent trance
By the sweet Virginian in the cowgirl skirt
She didn't care that I wasn't cool
Of that I was perfectly sure
So holding her hand this love-sick fool
Knew how lucky we were
Way back when

*Way back when
I'd of stayed if I coulda back then
In a way, Lord, I'm glad they ended
So I can open 'em time and again
And see just what I want to see
And close with a sweet Amen
For the way back when*

Every once in a very long time
Against the odds some long-shot bet
Stumbles along till they're first in line
And the winner is nobody you'd expect
Such is the case of this man's story
I lay with an angel at night
And when she whispers her heart beats for me
I know I did something right
Way back when

chorus

So many take their memories
And shave the edges till everything's smooth
Me I'll keep the hills and valleys
The highs and lows that give it the groove

So I don't mind if sweet romance
Shares the stage with the times I lost
Life revolves on a delicate balance
Careful or you'll throw everything off
All the miracles, all the shortfalls
All the glory and shame
Change a little and you change it all
And it would not have been the same
Way back when

I figured this was an appropriate opener and title since I am one who has spent the better part of his time on this earth looking over his shoulder at days gone by. One of the advantages of getting older is you have a lot more of those days to look back on. I remain grateful for every one....

Milton Sledge - drums
Alison Prestwood - bass
Dan Dugmore - pedal steel
George Marinelli, Jr. - electric
and low-string guitars
Pete Wasner - piano
Tony Arata - acoustic guitar

Tony Arata
(Little Tybee Music/
Forerunner Music, Inc. ASCAP)