

Billy E. Hardesty

This story is about a young man who lived on the east side of Ypsilanti, Michigan, and some of the deeds for which he was arrested in the autumn of 1978. The song was written while Billy Hardesty was sitting in jail waiting for his trial, but the anticipated aspects of his performance and its consequences turned out to be accurate. In 1981, he was found guilty but mentally ill and was sentenced to five life terms for murders, and separate terms of 150-300 and 100-200 years for two attempted murders connected to his shooting spree. He began serving his sentence at the Riverside Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan.

Billy E. Hardesty
Went lookin' for his destiny
Out behind Abigail's Dirty Shame Bar.

He left three dyin' bodies
Schofield's, Wood's, and Curry's
Out behind the Dirty Shame Bar.

Chorus

Hardesty was his name
Ain't that a dirty shame
Billy, Billy E. Hardesty.

He killed his Mom and Poppa too
Shot their poor old bodies through
Crazy old Billy E. Hardesty.

Bloody murder was his mood
A bloody vulture was tattooed
On the arm of bloody Billy Hardesty.

Chorus

Hardesty was his name
Ain't that a dirty shame
Billy, Billy E. Hardesty.

Billy's deeds are done and past
 Billy's fate is sealed at last
 Billy ain't a-goin' to be goin' too far.

He's sittin' in jail with nothin' to do
 Just talkin' to his old tattoo
 About his Mom and Poppa
 And the Dirty Shame Bar.

Chorus

Hardesty was his name
 Ain't that a dirty shame
 Billy, Billy E. Hardesty.

The bodies of Billy's mother and father were found in their house after the other killings. Billy's father's body had been stuffed into the freezer.

Billy E. Hardesty

Billy E. Har-des -ty went look-in' for his des-ti - ny. Out be - hind A - bi - gails

Dir - ty Shame Bar. He left three dy-in' b - o - dies Scho-field's, Wood's and C-ur-ry's.

Out be - hind the Dir - ty Shame Bar. Har - des - ty was his name.

Ain't that a dir-ty shame Bil - ly, Bil - ly E. H - ar - des - ty.