Song: Howard Gray

Most everyone I knew put the whole Gray family down
They were the poorest family in our little Kansas town
Howard always looked too big for his funny ragged clothes
The kids all laughed at him and Jimmy Jones would thumb his nose
Howard sat across from me in 7th grade at school
I didn't like it much but mama taught the golden rule
So when the spitballs flew at him I never would join in
I guess that was the reason Howard thought I was his friend
And after things would quiet down sometimes I'd turn and see
The grateful eyes of Howard Gray looking back at me

Howard Gray
Howard Gray
Somehow they got their kicks out of treatin’ you that way
Deep down I kind of liked you but I was too afraid
To be a friend to you Howard Gray

One day after lunch I went to comb my hair and saw
They had Howard pinned against a locker in the hall
They were pokin’ fun about the big hole in his shirt
They had his left arm twisted back behind him ‘til it hurt
To this day I can’t explain and I won’t try to guess
Just how it was I wound up laughing harder than the rest
I laughed until I cried but through my tears I still could see
The tear stained eyes of Howard Gray looking back at me

...continued
Howard Gray
Howard Gray
I can’t believe I joined them all in treatin’ you that way
I wanted to apologize but I was too afraid
Of what they’d think about me Howard Gray
From that moment on after I made fun of him
He never looked my way
He never smiled at me again
And not much longer after that
His family moved away
And that’s the last I ever saw or heard of Howard Gray
That was twenty years ago and I still haven’t found
Just why we’ll kick a brother or a sister when they’re down
I know it may sound crazy but now and then I dream
About the eyes of Howard Gray lookin’ back at me

Howard Gray
Howard Gray
I’ve never quite forgiven us for treatin’ you that way
I only hope that somehow you’ll hear this song someday
And you’ll know that I am sorry Howard Gray

We’ll probably never meet again
All I can do is pray
May you and God forgive us
Howard Gray

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