

I could have saved a life that day

I could have saved a life that day
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care
I had the time and I was there.
But I didn't want to seem a fool
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he'd done the job before
If I spoke up he might get sore.
The chances didn't seem that bad
I'd done the same, he knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked by
He knew the risks as well as I.
He took the chance, I closed an eye
And with that act, I let him die.
I could have saved a life that day
But I chose to look the other way.
Now every time I see his wife
I know I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear
But isn't something you need to share.
If you see a risk that others take
That puts their health or life at stake,
The question asked or things you say
Could help them live another day.
If you see a risk and walk away
Then hope you never have to say
"I could have saved a life that day
But I chose to look the other way.

By Don Merrill