

Empire Dreams

California Zephyr

California Zephyr
with sweet breath
the embers fan
a recent burn zone
past charred pines
in ghastly repose
from inglorious battle
fire hazard is high
river level is low
in the American River Valley
down the road
from Sutter's Mill
where to this very day
golden nuggets tumble down cataracts
and streams
irrigating fields
of endless growth
and dominion

Empire Dreams

Roll on Zephyr

Roll on Zephyr
roll on
past the sentry
sleeping by the gate
past prefabricated dreams
ready to be disassembled
shipped and reassembled
anywhere
anytime
at one low cost to you
roll on Zephyr
blowing hot and dry
ash and smoke
smudge the sky
roll on nomads
sagebrush prophets
pack up those prefab dreams
and bring them with you
down the highway
of majesty and misery
roll on Zephyr
roll on

Empire Dreams

Deseret

The Great Salt Lake
shimmers and shines
like a silver dollar
in the pocket of a thirsty pioneer
seeking ancestors
in the market square
to hold hands
across the void
to consecrate baptism
and beehives
lead us Deseret
lead us all
to that sweet honey from the rock

Empire Dreams

Eye of Providence

Here I stand
on the 13th step of the Colorado State Capital
exactly 5280 feet above sea level
shielding my eyes
from a blazing sun
striking the golden dome
the Eye of Providence
rises in the west
beyond snowcapped mountains
hear her in the wind
the sough of pines sing
this way to salvation
this way to prosperity

Empire Dreams

Next Stop Chicago

Next stop Chicago

city of broad shoulders

rising from the rails

connecting east and west

the cash and the flow

a grand cauldron

of wealth and industry

and moral purpose

insatiable

ferocious

patriotic progress

J J Hill would be proud

please check to see if you have all your luggage

Chicago next stop