The View from Ten Miles Out
By Leroy McCarty

[Intro]
Ten miles out from the nearest town,
Montana winds came sweeping down.
On the ranch where we worked and played,
Birds sang as the cottonwoods swayed,
Baby Glen left this world too soon,
Four children in eleven rooms.
Our parents gave us roots to grow,
With faith to guide us where we'd go.

[Verse 1]
Snow blew through the windows at night,
Newborns warmed by the oil-stove light,
Ranch hands came in at six each morn,
Coffee poured, another day born,
Lucile served three square meals a day,
Darrel worked cattle, fields, and hay.
Those memories live, there’s no doubt,
That valley ranch was ten miles out.

[Chorus]
Ten miles out, these lessons we learned,
Give what you can, get what you earn,
See each job through and do your best,
Never quit when put to the test,
Each had a job and did their share,
We learned life's lessons living there,
Keep your word and always stand tall,
Get back up whenever you fall

[Verse 2]
Wayne milked the cows in dawn’s first rays,
Mowed hay for thirty-seven days.
Carolyn drove her rake with pride,
Her dolls went for a wagon ride.
Marilyn fed lambs in her care,
Drove her own rake and did her share.
Linda peeled poles to buy a treat,
Her dogs made childhood days more sweet.

[Verse 3]
4-H kids, we lived for the fair,
We showed livestock under our care,
We learned to sew, to cook, to lead,
And speak with strength we'd always need,
Our parents knew that books meant more,
That learning opened each new door,
Strong hearts, hands, minds showed us the way,
That strength still guides our lives today.

[Chorus]
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[Bridge]
Back then, it was the life we knew,
Time gave us all a clearer view,
When things were hard and work was tough,
We pulled through and would not give up.

[Outro]
Years roll on, and the old days fade,
But not the mem'ries those years made,
Our children share these tales today,
And pass them on in their own way,
Here or in heaven, there's no doubt,
Our hearts are always ten miles out.

[Ending]
Ten miles out…
Always ten miles out…