

Roll the Woodpile Down

According to Stan Hugill this is a sea version of the Negro song 'Haul the Woodpile Down' which originated in the southern states of America and made its way via rivermen to become a deep water song. It was sung as a capstan shanty on working ships as late as 1920.

Way down south where the cocks do crow
'Way down in Florida

The gals all dance to the old banjo
And we'll roll the woodpile down!

Rollin'! Rollin'! Rollin' the whole world 'round
That brown girl o' mine's down the Georgia Line
And we'll roll the woodpile down!

When I was a young man in me prime
I'd take them yaller gals two at a time.

We'll roll him high and we'll roll him low
We'll heave him up and away we'll go.

Oh rouse and bust 'er is the cry
A black man's wage is never high.

O Curly goes on the old ran-tan
O Curly's just a down-east man.

O one more heave and that will do
We're the bullies for to kick 'er through.