

Hogeye Man

A navvy was a labourer who worked on the canals (navigations) and railways of America from the 1850's onward. Navvies must have seemed like visitations from hell for a quiet town, as the canal or railway 'head' approached accompanied by dirty, foul mouthed, ungodly men.

A 'Hogeye Man', is possibly a canal bargeman or an inveterate wencher or both. Thus, "hog-eye navvy" is a derogatory term used by the deep water sailors in this capstan shanty.

Many of the original verses were far too obscene to have ever found their way into print and the early printed ones are far too racist to be sung today. Roud 331.

Go and fetch me down my riding cane
For I'm going to see my darling Jane

Chorus

*With the Hogeye,
Railroad navvy, with the Hogeye
Row ashore with the Hogeye Oh
She wants her Hogeye man*

Oh the Hogeye sailors come and go
And they come down to San Francisco

Now Sally's in the garden picking peas
Her golden hair hangs to her knees

Now Sally's in the kitchen making duff
The cheeks of her arse go chuff, chuff, chuff

Now it's who's been here since I've been gone
It's that railroad navvy with his sea boots on

Now Sally's sitting upon his knee
What can I do I'm out at sea

It's a Hogeye ship with a Hogeye crew
Hogeye mate and skipper too