

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.

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.