

Clear the Track, Let the Bulgine Run

1. Oh the finest ship that you can find,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
Is the Margit Evans of the Blue Cross Line
O clear the track an' let the bulgine run.

**(Timme) hey, rig-a-jig in a jaunting car,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
Wid Liza Lee all on me knee,
So clear the track an' let the bulgine run!**

2. Oh the Margit Evans of the Blue Cross Line,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
Is ne'er a minute behind her time!
O clear the track an' let the bulgine run.

**(Timme) Hey, rig-a-jig in a jaunting car,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
Wid Liza Lee all on me knee,
O clear the track an' let the bulgine run!**

3. And now we've arrived at New York Town,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
Them bow'ry gals will all come down..
O clear the track an' let the bulgine run.

**(Timme) hey, rig-a-jig in a jaunting car,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
Wid Liza Lee all on me knee,
O clear the track an' let the bulgine run!**

4. We'll leave her moored at the West Street Pier,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
We'll head for the barroom for some good strong beer.
O clear the track an' let the bulgine run.

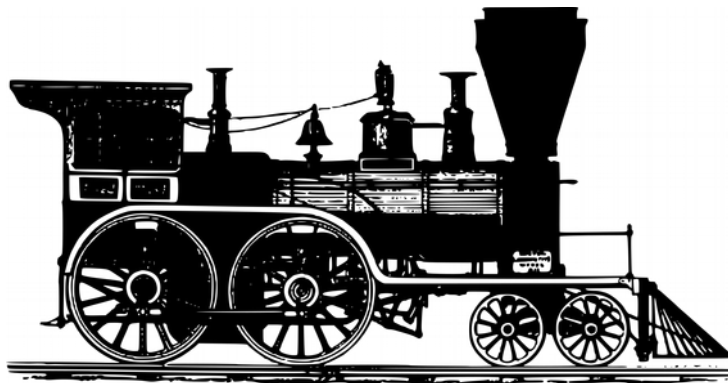
**(Timme) hey, rig-a-jig in a jaunting car,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
Wid Liza Lee all on me knee,
O clear the track an' let the bulgine run!**

5. But now we've arrived at the Salt'ouse Dock
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
Them Liverpool girls to the pier-'ead flock.
O clear the track an' let the bulgine run.

**(Timme) hey, rig-a-jig in a jaunting car,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
Wid Liza Lee all on me knee,
O clear the track an' let the bulgine run!**

6. I vow I'll go to sea no more,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
I'll stay with Liza on the Liverpool shore
O clear the track an' let the bulgine run.

**(Timme) hey, rig-a-jig in a jaunting car,
A-Ho! Way-Ho! Are you 'most done.
Wid Liza Lee all on me knee,
Ho! clear the track an' let the bulgine run!**



1859 steam train, fby [j4j4n](#), from [Openclipart.org](#)

Notes:

Capstan or pump shanty

Alternative Titles: Bulgine shanty, Clear the track and let the Bulgine run, Eliza Lee, Liza Lee

This version: **Portsmouth Shantymen** 1988 CD: **Hangin' Round The Yard**, (Can be heard on [YouTube](#))

Ships named in verse 1 include:

- The Margot Evans of the Blue Cross Line
- The Margot Evans of the Blue Star Line
- Fair Rosalind in the Blackball Line
- O! Wildcat of the Swallowtail Line (Hugill)

There are plenty of versions around, attesting to its popularity. Some versions say how good the ship is, some about the journey, some about about Liza Lee.

Hugill, Stan, 1994, *Shanties from the Seven Seas*:

"**Terry** states it was a favourite song in the Yankee packets. It has almost the same tune as the Irish folk-song *Shule Agra* [Súil a Grá] but the refrains have wording showing Negro influence.

"It was another typical mixture of Irish and Negro sentiments and is one of the many shanties that passed through the shanty mart of Mobile. In this case I should think the tune came from Ireland to Mobile, where the Negroes took it in hand and then at a later date it returned to sea with a few more alterations.

"**Whall** says it was a minstrel ditty."

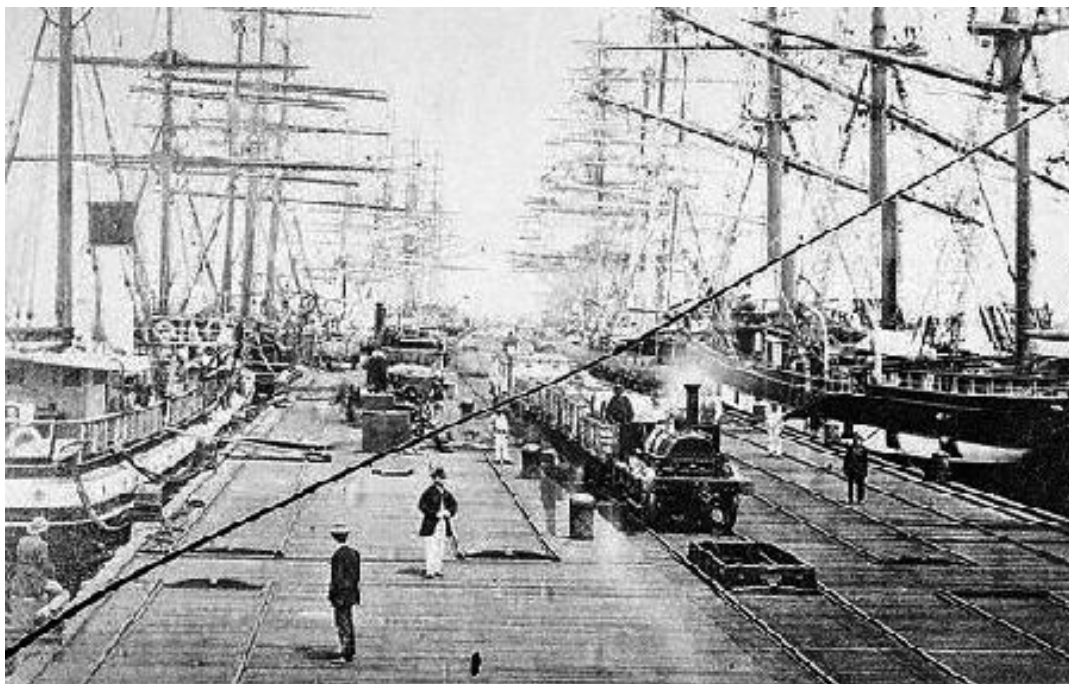
Notes on the words:

Bulgine - nickname for the little locomotive that ran up and down the dock delivering cargo to and from the various ships. (see previous page)

Jaunting car - a light two-wheeled carriage for a single horse, commonly with seats placed back to back and the foot-boards projecting over the wheels; once the typical conveyance for persons in Ireland.



Irish jaunting car, 1890-1900
colour Photochrom print
from US Library of Congress, via [Wikimedia.org](#)



Untitled image of a "bulgine train", found on web site [Wareham-Whalers.org.uk](#)