

Huckleberry Hunting

1. I am a shantyman of the wild goose nation,

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

I'll sing you a song all about the old plantation.

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

2. When the boys and the girls went
a-huckleberry
huntin'

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

The little girl she cried when the boy he started courting.

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

3. Well the little girl ran off, the little boy ran after,

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

The little girl fell down and he saw her little garter!

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

4. He said: I'll be your beau, if you'll if you let be me your feller,

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

She said I got a sweetheart and his name is Jackie Miller.

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

5. He pulled her on this knee, he kissed her hard and proper,

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

She kissed him back and he didn't try to stop her

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

6. Then he put his arm all around her waspy waist

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

She said: Young man, oh don't you be in such haste!

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

7. Then he put his hand all upon her knee

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

She said: Young man, oh don't you be quite so free.

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

8. Then he put his hand upon her thigh

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

She said: Young man, don't you think that rather high?

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

9. Then he put his hand yet higher still

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

She said: Young man man, oh that gives me quite a thrill.

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

10. I am a shanty man of this here working party.

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

Pull hard, and sing hard, we'll do it good and hearty

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

11. I'll sing you a song all about the old plantation

To me Way, to me Hey, to me He away!

When the boys and the girls went a huckleberry hunting.

And sing Hilo, me Ranzo Ray!

Gray's Anatomy of the Human Body, 1918, Superficial flexors of the leg, copyright expired.



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Notes:

Halyard, pump, windlass, or (Hugill:) "almost any task"

Alternative Titles: Huckleberry Hunting, Ranzo Ray, We'll Ranzo Way, Wild Goose Nation,

(Not to be confused with other shanties about Ranzo, or the *Wild Goose Shanty* which is a different song.)

This version: CD: *Bung up and Bilge Free*, Portsmouth Shantymen

Doerflinger, William Main, 1994, *Songs of the Sailor and Lumbermen*:

... a shanty often sung at the pumps as well as the halyards. It probably originated with American Negro sailors, those gifted and inventive shantymen, in so far as its general pattern, tune and refrain are concerned.

Judging by the allusion to courting while picking huckleberries, the solos may have originated with white sailormen - quite likely with men hailing from along the coast of New England.

Notes on the words

Wild Goose Nation - debatable

Hilo - appearing in many shanties, Hilo is a port in Chile

Ranzo Ray - appears in many shanties, perhaps a man's name

To me - appears in many shanties, often written as **timme**.



Gilray, James, 1797, *A corner, near the bank - or an example for fathers*, National Portrait Gallery (via [wikimedia.com](#))