

1. John Dead.

**Grey goose, gone home,
and the fox in the way of
the morning.**

John Dead.

**Grey goose, gone home,
and the fox in the way of
the morning.**

2. Who'll dig his grave?

**Grey goose, gone home,
and the fox in the way of
the morning.**

John Dead

**Grey goose, gone home,
and the fox in the way of
the morning.**

3. Who'll make his shroud?

4. Who'll lower him down?

5. Who'll toll the bell?

6. John Dead

**Grey goose, gone home,
and the fox in the way of
the morning.**

John Dead

**Grey goose, gone home,
and the fox in the way of
the morning.**

We'll sing with Jim Mageen and The Keelers at https://youtu.be/u7W_osYdDnc

Notes:

A hauling shanty

Names: Grey goose gone home, John Dead.

Notes

Jim Mageean, *Haul Away* ([booklet with CD](#)) 2021, wrote:

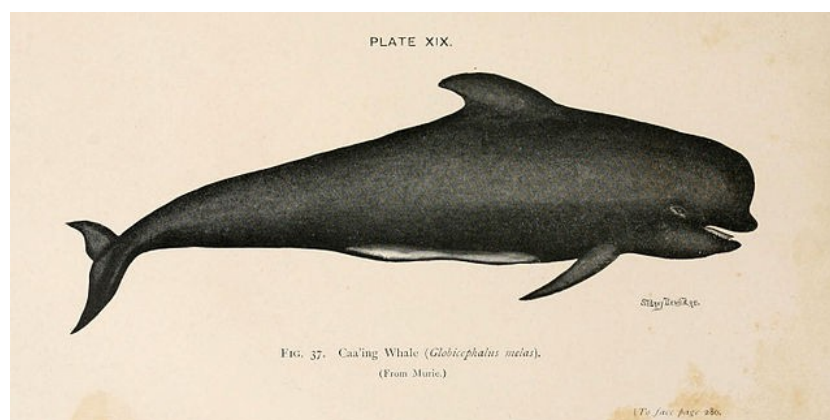
A hauling shanty collected from the whalers of [Barouallie](#), St Vincent, by Roger D Abrahams in the 1960s. They told him they sang the shanty in the slack season (from August) when it was difficult to get men to go to sea due to the scarcity of **blackfish** ([pilot whales](#)) and the start of the hurricane season.

Grey goose / fox -

The whalers used the song to deride the "**grey geese**" who are too "chicken" to come out to hunt the "**fox**" (whale) in the 22- to 26- foot rowing boats.

The **whales** were caught for food and oil at the time. Each blackfish could be rendered down to provide up to twenty gallons of oil and over a ton of meat.

"Usually our real fishing is from January right up to August. But from August, some of the boys start to stray 'way from the boats. Can hardly get sailors to go on the sea again. They don't come out after August becau' there don't be many fish out on the coas' again. Going to another, warm water or something. We doesn't worry 'bout hurricanes then."



Long-finned pilot whale, from ***A book of whales*** London, J. Murray; 1900. see www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/1398420 and [wikimedia](#)