

On the Water

Stories from Maritime America

“John Kanaka”

Performed by Helge Arildso

I heard, I heard the old man say, hey!

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay

Today, today is a holiday

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

Tou-lie-ay, oh tou-lie-ay,

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

We'll work tomorrow but not today, hey!

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay

We'll work tomorrow but not today, ho!

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

Tou-lie-ay, ohh tou-lie-ay,

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

We're bound away for 'Frisco Bay, hey!

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay

We're bound away at the break of day, ho!

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

Tou-lie-ay, ohh tou-lie-ay,

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

We're bound away around Cape Horn

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay

We'd wish to Christ we would never been born, ho!

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

Tou-lie-ay, ohh tou-lie-ay,



John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

Oh haul, oh haul, oh haul away, hey!

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay

Oh haul away and make your pay!

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

Tou-lie-ay, ohh tou-lie-ay,

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

I thought I heard the old man say, hey!

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay

It's one more pull and then belay!

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

Tou-lie-ay, ohh tou-lie-ay,

John Kanakanaka, tou-lie-ay.

