

# Banks of the Sacramento

G Verse D7  
 5 G D7 G Chorus  
 10 C G  
 15 D7 G

1. O, around Cape Horn we are bound to go  
     To me Hoo-dah, to me hoo-dah  
     Around Cape Horn through the sleet and snow  
     To me hoo-dah, hoo-dah, day  
**Chorus:**  
     Blow, boys, blow,  
     For Califor-I-O,  
     There's plenty of gold so I've been told  
     On the banks of the Sacramento.
2. Oh around the Horn with a mainskys'l set,  
     Around Cape Horn an' we're all wringin' wet.
3. Oh, around Cape Horn in the month o' May,  
     Oh, around Cape Horn is a very long way.
4. Them Dago gals we do adore,  
     They all drink vino an' ask for more.
5. Them Spanish gals ain't got no combs,  
     They comb their locks with tunny-fish bones.
6. To the Sacramento we're bound away,  
     To the Sacramento's a hell o' a way.
7. We're the buckos for to make 'er go,  
     All the way to the Sacramento.
8. We're the bullies for to kick her through,  
     Roll down the hill with a hullabaloo.

9. Starvation an' ease in a Yankee ship,  
We're the bullies for to make 'er rip.
10. Santander Jim is a mate from hell,  
With fists o' iron an' feet as well.
11. Breast yer bars an' bend yer backs,  
Heave an' make yer spare ribs crack.
12. Round the Horn an' up to the Line,  
We're the bullies for to make 'er shine
13. We'll crack it on, on a big skiyoot,  
Ol' Bully Jim is a bloody big brute.
14. Oh, a bully ship wid a bully crew,  
But the mate is a bastard through an' through.
15. Ninety days to 'Frisco Bay,  
Ninety days is damn good pay.
16. Oh, them wuz the days of the good ol' times,  
Back in the days of the Forty-nine.
17. Sing an' heave an' heave an' sing,  
Heave an' make them handspikes spring.
18. An' I wish to God I'd niver bin born,  
To go a-ramblin' round Cape Horn.

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From Stan Hugill's **Shanties from the Seven Seas**. The melody is Stephen Foster's Camptown Races. Sailors taking "Forty-Niners" from the East Coast to San Francisco presumably heard this and adopted it as a chanty. It does not seem to have originally been sung to Foster's tune. The texts are diverse (Hugill, for instance, has a version in which a sailor courts a girl and winds up with a venereal disease), but most seem to be related to the California gold rush. Burl Ives selected several inoffensive verses for inclusion in **The Burl Ives Song Book**.  
I learned it from **The Burl Ives Song Book**.