

# The Erie Canal (Low Bridge)

Thomas S. Allen

Em G Am B7  
I've got a mule and her name is Sal

Em B7 Em  
Fif - teen miles on the Er - ie Can - al She's a

Em Am B7 Em  
good old work - er and a good old pal Fif - teen miles on the

B7 Em G D  
Er - ie Can - al We haul'd some barg - es in our day

Em B7 Em  
Filled with lum - ber, coal, and hay And eve - ry inch of

Am B7 Em  
the way we know From Al - ban - y to -

G Chorus D  
Buff - a - lo - Low bridge, eve - ry - bo - dy down

G D G  
Low bridge, yeah we're com - ing to a town And you'll

G D7 G D7  
al - way know your neigh - bor You'll al - way know your pal If ya

G G G D7 G  
e - vernav - i - gat - ed on the Er - ie Can - al

1. I've got a mule and her name is Sal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal  
She's a good old worker and a good old pal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal  
We haul'd some barges in our day  
Filled with lumber, coal, and hay  
And every inch of the way we know  
From Albany to Buffalo

**Chorus**

Low bridge, everybody down  
Low bridge, yeah we're coming to a town  
And you'll always know your neighbor  
And you'll always know your pal  
If ya ever navigated on the Erie Canal

2. Where would I be if I lost my pal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal  
I'd like to see a mule good as my Sal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal  
A friend of mine once got her sore  
Now he's got a broken jaw  
'Cause she let fly with an iron toe  
And kicked him back to Buffalo

**Chorus**

3. We'd better look around for a job, old gal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal  
You can bet your life I'll never part with Sal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal  
Get up mule, we've passed that lock  
We'll make Rome 'bout six o'clock  
One more trip and back we'll go  
Right back home to Buffalo

**Chorus**

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Far from being a sailing song, the popular song "Low Bridge, Everybody Down" was written in 1905 by Thomas S. Allen after Erie Canal barge traffic was converted from mule power to engine power, raising the speed of traffic. Also known as "Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal", "Erie Canal Song" and "Mule Named Sal", the song memorializes the years from 1825 to 1880 when the mule barges made boomtowns out of Utica, Rome, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo.

The version using the word "miles" refers to the average distance a mule would tow a barge before resting or being relieved by another mule.

Vernon Dalhart made an early recording of it. It was later recorded by Glenn Yarborough, Pete Seeger, the Weavers, The Kingston Trio, The Hardtackers and The Sons of the Pioneers.

This is not same as the traditional "The E-ri-ee Canal" song which satirically compares bargemen with sailors.

I learned this song from the Kingston Trio recording.