

PAT WORKS ON THE RAILWAY

As sung by LaRena Clark circa 1966.

It's Pat do this and Pat do that
He's the best man of the *vinegar vat** [I really don't know if this is what she's saying]
There's six of us that drink strong ale
With Patsy on the railway

Well they sent him up to get some oil
It's there he had to tug and toil
'Twas there he had to tug and toil
Till his hands and face were lame

Well they sent him to confess his sins
He fell and damn near broke his shins
He fell and damn near broke his shins
When old Jones' ale was new

Well they sent him to the hurricane deck [this is *usually* the top deck of a steamboat]
He fell and damn near broke his neck
He fell and damn near broke his neck
While twisting on the train

He threw that peavey o'er his head [a peavey is a cant hook /pike combo tool]
It was a single sou, he said
For the engineer to drive ahead
And I'm sure he wasn't to blame

For the flat cars all went into the ditch
And Cooney called him a son of a B----
And Cooney called him a son of a B----
And he jumped that damned old train.

According to Edith Fowke LeRena learned this song from her father.

I'm not sure exactly what happened, but Pat seems to have caused a bit of a train wreck.
This is almost nothing like the usual "Pat Works On The Railway" which presents a timeline of
Pat's working life. There's a bit of the English song "When Jones' Ale Was New" in here as well.

The melody strongly resembles the tune of the Appalachian ballad "Little Sadie" except that it's in
6/8 time