

# The Eddystone Light

Burl Ives

My father was the keeper of the Eddystone Light  
And he slept with a mermaid one fine night  
From this union there came three  
A porpoise and a porgy and the other was me

Yo, ho, ho, the wind blows free, oh, for a life on the rolling  
sea

One night while I was a-trimmin' of the glim  
A-singin' a verse from the evening hymn  
A voice from the starboard shouted, "Ahoy!"  
And there was my mother a-sittin' on a buoy

Yo, ho, ho, the wind blows free, oh, for a life on the rolling  
sea

"Oh, what has become of my children three?"

My mother then she asked of me  
"One was exhibited as a talking fish  
And the other was served in a chafing dish"

Yo, ho, ho, the wind blows free, oh, for a life on the rolling  
sea

Then the phosphorus flashed in her seaweed hair  
I looked again, and my mother wasn't there  
A voice come a-echoing out through the night:  
"To Hell with the keeper of the Eddystone Light!"

Yo, ho, ho, the wind blows free, oh, for a life on the rolling  
sea