

Shipkeeper

He remembers the days and the old man saying ,
John it's the last trip for me and you.
I know they're no one since Annie departed ,
So I've found you a berth and a job to do.
You can stay with the ship until once more she is sailing.
You loved these decks as you once loved her .
Take care of her needs , and let her not be wanting ,
And stay on the books as a ship keeper.

Chorus :-

*Past are the days of the old ship keeper,
O're are the times when he sailed the sea ,
His friends they're all gone , and his memories are fading.
They'll soon come a day when they don't need he.*

He leans on the rail , his old pipe smoking ,
The noise and the grim of the basin loud.
Crews come and go , and they wonder the story ,
Of the battered old man who stands so proud.
But if they look in his eyes they can see the answer.
Sun scorched desk when the days were long.
Calm clear nights , the stars his companion.
The quiet hush of a moon beams song.

Ch:-

The "Mary Helen Rose " , was a tops'le schooner ,
The last wooden ship back here to roam.
No more would return to the old dock basin,
The last wooden ship , and Johns last home.
Now there's great steel hulls with steam for power,
Winches and cranes and clanking gear.
No need for the crew to haul on a foresheet,
No shantyman no ship keeper.

Ch:-

The young engineer sits by the seaman's mission.
When the door opens wide will he still feel strong.
Will his father come with a gesture of forgiveness,
Or will he ask him why he's been so long.
But when he looked in his sons eyes he saw the answer ,
Sun scorched decks when the days were long.
Calm clear nights the stars his companion.
The quite hush of a moonbeams song

Ch:-

*Past are the days of the old ship keeper,
O're are the times when he sailed the sea ,
His friends they're all gone , and his memories are fading.
Today is the day when they don't need he.*



Joe Grundy