

Angus McBride

I'll sing you a story as true as I live
Concerning one Angus McBride
A trawler Skipper, strong in the Kirk
But superstition he could not abide---
'Bide, superstition he could not abide.

Now it came to pass one wild winter's night
The 'Semper Fideles' was cast—
Hard on a shoal, & abandoned there,
Written off as a total loss---
Loss, written off as a total loss.

But Angus he viewed her, decided he could—
Get her off. Or at least he would try!
He'd salvage her, and for a very small price
That hulk from Lloyd's he would buy---
Buy, that hulk from Lloyd's he would buy.

Now how he got her off I really don't know
But as soon as he beached her ashore
Angus declared he was changing her name
He re-christened her the 'Sow and Boar'—
Boar, he re-christened her the 'Sow and Boar'.

The people all swore that he had gone mad,
And the Minister he too agreed
'Cause the name of the beast that bacon gives
Must never be mentioned at sea—
Sea, must never be mentioned at sea.

"I'll show to you they're just 'old wives tales!
As he painted her green overall
"It'll all end in tears!" everyone said,
"And to think he was born with a caul!—
Caul, to think he was born with a caul!"

On his way to the dock on the Minister called
{O when will that fool ever learn!?!}
And the evening before, after his tea
All the fish bones he went and he burned—
Burned, all the fish bones he went and he burned!

He told his wife to wash all their clothes
On that FRIDAY as he set sail
And all of his rigging he had festooned
With rabbits, pigs ears, and pigs tails—
Tails, with rabbits, pigs ears, and pigs tails.

Now of course it was just coincidence
But that night as they crossed Barra Sound
As he turned to starboard, the rudder it jammed
Broke her back as she ran aground—
Ground, broke her back as she ran aground.

But for superstition he still has no time,
Yet if you sail with Angus beware
You better not mention rabbits or pigs
And never a green gansey wear—
Wear, and never a green gansey wear!

An apocryphal tale [or is it?].

The superstitions mentioned are:-

If you change a boats name you change its luck.

Pigs and rabbits must never be mentioned at sea,

Green, a very unlucky colour, not to be worn, some men would not sail

On a vessel if it was painted green.

'Born with a caul', anyone born with a caul will never drown.

If you meet a clergyman, whilst going to join a ship, you must go

Home & start out again, or at least turn three times around.

'Catch me and eat me, but don't burn my bones'.

Washing [clothes] must never be done on sailing day, for

'if you do that you may wash him away'.