

Clear the Track (Let the Bullgine Run)

Traditional

C G Am C
Now, the smartest packet that you will find

A-hee! A-ho! Are you 'most done?

Am C G
Is the Marg'ret Evans of the Swallowtail line

Am G Am
So, it's clear the track and let the bullgine run!

C G Am C
CHORUS: *To me hey, rig-a-jig, in a jauntin' car*

A-hee! A-ho! Are you 'most done?

Am C G
And Liza Lee all on my knee

Am G Am
So, it's clear the track and let the bullgine run!

Interlude (after each CHORUS)

| Am G | Am |

C G Am C
Now, the Marg'ret Evans of the Swallowtail Line

A-hee! A-ho! Are you 'most done?

Am C G
Is never a day behind her time

Am G Am
So, it's clear the track and let the bullgine run!

CHORUS (+ Interlude)

C G Am C
Now, when I get home across the sea

A-hee! A-ho! Are you 'most done?

Am C G
Eliza, will you marry me?

Am G Am
So, it's clear the track and let the bullgine run!

CHORUS (+ Interlude)

C G Am C
With Liza Lee upon my knee

A-hee! A-ho! Are you 'most done?

Am C G
As fair a sight as you ever would see

Am G Am
So, it's clear the track and let the bullgine run!

CHORUS (+ Interlude)

Repeat 1st verse & CHORUS to end

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Traditional

VERSE

1. Now, the smart - est pack - et that you will find A - hee! A - ho! Are
you 'most done? Is the Marg - 'ret Ev - ans of the Swal - low - tail
Line So, it's clear the track and let the bull - gine run!

CHORUS

To me hey, rig - a - jig in a jaunt - in' car. A - hee! A - ho! are you 'most
done? And Li - z Lee all on my knee So, it's
clear the track and let the bull - gine run!

2. Now, the Marg'ret Evans of the Swallowtail Line
A-hee! A-ho! Are you 'most done?
Is never a day behind her time
So, it's clear the track and let the bullgine run!

CHORUS (+ Interlude)

3. Now, when I get home across the sea
A-hee! A-ho! Are you 'most done?
Eliza, will you marry me?
So, it's clear the track and let the bullgine run!

CHORUS (+ Interlude)

4. With Liza Lee upon my knee
A-hee! A-ho! Are you 'most done?
As fair a sight as you ever would see
So, it's clear the track and let the bullgine run!

CHORUS (+ Interlude)

Repeat Verse 1 & CHORUS to end

Some Background Notes for ‘Clear the Track (Let the Bullgine Run)’



The Margaret Evans (from a painting by John Stobart)

Clear the Track (Let the Bullgine Run) is a capstan shanty dating from around the mid-19th century and known by a number of alternative titles (‘Eliza Lee’, ‘The Margot Evans’, ‘The Bull John Line’, etc). The Margaret Evans was a full-rigged American packet ship built in 1846 that sailed passengers and cargo to New York from London, Liverpool and other British ports.

‘Bullgine’ was slang term for a steam engine. Although most commonly used to refer to railway locomotives (possibly a corruption of the John Bull engine – one of the earliest locomotives in America (i.e. the Bull ‘gine), it was also used aboard steam ships. This could suggest that the song may have been derived from railway worksongs – especially considering the line: ‘Clear the track and let the bullgine run’.

A jaunting car (sometimes called ‘jaunty’ car) was typically a light, two-wheeled carriage, pulled by a single horse, with a seat in the front for the driver. Commonly, two seats for passengers are positioned above the wheels, back-to-back at 90° to the driver’s seat.



An Irish jaunting car