

Gill Net Annie

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Come all who use a fishing pole and love the water blue,
I'll tell you of a lady who to herself was true.
From Presque Isle and Alpena, a slip of a girl was she,
She was known all over the inland seas as Gill Net Annie

On the blue Lake Huron waters
She fished with the best of men,
Along the Lakes they knew the name of Gill Net Annie

The daughter of Old Man Tessier, she had a brother, too
Who fished with their father on Huron's water blue/
But the circus came to town, in 19-and 12 the year,
He took off with the Big Top and left his sister with the gear.

The family had to eat. On the docks she saw the mess.
So she bought some twine to sew up her father's ragged nets.
She rigged two oars for their homemade boat and her father took her out,
And the name "Gill Net Annie" from then on was talked about.

For eight years on Lake Huron, the Whitefish she did catch,
And the business grew to three good boats and about 200 nets.
She set the nets and pulled them in, cleaned the fish up for the shop
And hung her license on the "Dingbat with a bobber-flopper on top."

Then Captain Bob came sailing into her life one day,
And she left the nets to sail and trade along the Lakes.
In the Great Depression they foundered, so she worked in a factory,
But along the docks they still told the story of Gill Net Annie