



The California Stage Company under James Birch's control acquired many smaller stagelines to monopolize early California stage transportation in the mid-1850s.

The California Stage Company

Tune: Dandy Jim of Caroline

Written by John A. Stone

1

There's no respect for youth or age
On board the California stage,
But pull and haul about the seats
As bed-bugs do about the sheets.

Chorus:

They started as a thieving line
In eighteen hundred and forty-nine;
All opposition they defy,
So the people must root hog or die*

2

You're crowded in with Chinamen,
As fattening hogs are in a pen;
And what will more a man provoke
Is musty plug tobacco smoke.

3

The ladies are compelled to sit
With dresses in tobacco spit;
The gentlemen don't seem to care,
But talk on politics and swear.

4

The dust is deep in summer time,
The mountains very hard to climb,
And drivers often stop and yell,
“Get out, all hands, and push up hill.”

5

The drivers, when they feel inclined,
Will have you walking on behind,
And on your shoulders lug a pole
To help them out some muddy hole.

6

They promise when your fare you pay,
“You’ll have to walk but half the way”;
Then add aside, with cunning laugh,
“You’ll have to push the other half.”

*Root Hog or Die” refers to an old
saying used to describe hard times.