

[\Audio\TheaFoss.mp3](#)

She could have stayed in Norway, and lived the servant's life
Maybe settled down a little later on to be a farmer's wife
But Thea was not the kind of woman who took life lying down
And when she met the love of her life, it was farewell to Oslo town!

It was hard scabble for a country girl on the streets of Oslo town
And it's many a hard-earned dollar to get you from there to Puget Sound
It's a grand story how she made her way, where the transport vessels roam
Hauling the big boys out to sea and bringing them safe back home

Now Andrew Foss was a man in love, and you know he would have paid her way
He earned that passage three times over on a Minnesota carpenter's pay
But he found out when he was almost ready to send for his bride to be
She had made every penny of her own way there and was halfway across the sea

And it was hard scabble, but they had each other and a love of the great unknown
Working harder than they ever would have done, under the cold Norwegian sun
Making their way to the great Northwest where the transport vessels roam
Hauling the big boys out to sea and bringing them safe back home

It was nine long years from the time she landed 'til they made that final haul
To Tacoma's inland waterways from the city of Saint Paul
There was business there a-plenty, there was money to be made
For a woman with a love of enterprise and a man in the building trade

It was hard scabble on the back-wash docks in the belly of Commencement Bay
But it was heart's joy to a mind that sees beyond the passing day
It was a life journey to the northwest waters where the transport vessels roam
Hauling the big boys out to sea and bringing them safe back home

While Andrew was earning their daily bread at his job on the Longbranch Strand
There was a stranger with a boat to sell, and Thea with cash in
And after Andrew's job was finished, after Thea's deal went down
They were richer by a fleet of working skiffs and a business to call their own

It was hard scabble but it goes to show you, when it comes to paying dues
You can serve the ones you were born to serve, or you can serve the ones you choose
And their boats still work the northwest waters where the transport vessels roam
Hauling the big boys out to sea and bringing them safe back home