

## Burl Ives

### "Roving Gambler"

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Burl Ives - Roving Gambler

I am a roving gambler  
I've gambled all around  
When ever I meet with a deck of cards  
I lay my money down

I've gambled down in Washington  
I've gambled over in Spain  
I'm going back to Portland  
To gamble my last game

Had an Uncle Bill in Portland  
Many more weeks but three  
I fell in love with a pretty little girl  
She fell in love with me

She took me to her parlor  
Cooled me with a fan  
Whispered low in her mother's ear  
I'm in love with a gambling man

Tell me my dear daughter  
How can you treat me so?  
Save your poor old mother  
And with the gambler drove

Mother oh dear Mother  
I'll tell you if I can  
If you ever see me coming back  
It'll be with a gambling man

I am a roving gambler  
I've gambled all around  
When ever I met with a deck of cards  
I laid my money down

I've gambled down in Washington  
I've gambled over in Spain  
I'm going back to Portland  
To gamble my last game

The earlier version by the Hart Valley Drifters is:

I am a roving gambler  
I've gambled all around  
Wherever I meet with a deck of cards  
I lay my money down  
Lay my money down, lay my money down

Had not been in [Frisco]  
Many more weeks but three  
When I fell in love with a pretty girl  
And she fell in love with me  
Fell in love with me, fell in love with me

She took me to her parlor  
Cooled me with a fan  
Whispered low in her mother's ear  
I love that gambling man  
Love that gambling man, love that gambling man

Oh daughter, oh dear daughter  
How can you treat me so  
To leave your dear old mother  
And with a gambling man go  
With a gambling man go, with a gambling man go

Oh mother, oh dear mother  
I'll tell you if I can  
If you ever see me coming back  
It'll be with a gambling man  
With a gambling man, with a gambling man

I hear a train a-coming  
Coming round the curve  
Whistling and a-blowing  
And straining every nerve  
Straining every nerve, straining every nerve

I am a roving gambler  
I've gambled all around  
Wherever I meet with a deck of cards  
I lay my money down  
Lay my money down, lay my money down

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