



The Ballad Of John Wayne (Clarke)

Refrain:

*John Wayne... John Wayne...
With true grit and wit he helps to shine some light into the dark
John Wayne... John Wayne...
We're singin' 'bout our preacher man, that's John Wayne Clarke*

He was born to be a drivin' man, as would his fate unfold
 Drivin' trucks he scared the devil out of many so I'm told
Then reborn to be a preacher as he heard the Teacher's call
 Two different lives, but still he drives the devil from us all

Refrain:

Now, five and twenty years he's been a-preachin' from the book
 He leads and guides us through our lives with God's own shepherd's hook
He helps us through our darkest hour, he's here to share our joys
 And when he joins up with the choir, he makes a joyful noise

Refrain:

Startin' out in Maine and windin' up here in our state
 A quarter of a century, that's much to celebrate
And so we're here to toast and maybe roast our preacher man
 If anyone can take it, you can bet your life he can

Refrain:

John is known to be real kind to friends who have webbed feet
 Forget the ducks, I'm talkin' frogs, and Hoppy can't be beat
With nine hundred brothers, and six hundred fifty seven
 Sisters, then there's Mom and Dad, all livin' in swamp heaven

And Hoppy often comes to church, to help John teach us kids
 A job that could cause lesser men to up and flip their lids
And when the goin' gets real tough, when some folks would go mad
 John just takes a quiet trip to Hoppy's lily pad

Final Refrain:

Bruce Burchsted, June 2009