

NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON A BONNIE WEE LASSIE

In honor of St. Paddy's day this month, we offer this well-known Irish ballad. Despite the Scots-sounding "bonnie wee lassie", this song is definitely Irish in origin. Carnlough Bay is in Northern Ireland, and is, in fact, the location of Pat Hamill's Hotel (though it is now called the Glencloy Inn). Pat Hamill's was a center for cycling enthusiasts, where folks could stop off on their excursions, and a brisk business in renting bicycles was carried on there. You can hear a lovely version of this song, sung by Jenny Martin at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLEPMfRMH6I>.

SWEET CARNLOUGH BAY

-- Traditional

C **B** *b*
When winter was brawlin' o'er high hills and mountains
C **F** **C**
And dark were the clouds o'er the deep rolling sea.
C **B** *b*
I spied a wee lassie as daylight was dawnin'.
C **F** **C**
She was askin' the road to sweet Carnlough Bay.

I said, "My wee lassie, I cannot well tell you
The number of miles, or how far it might be.
But if you'll consent, I'll convey you a wee bit
And I'll show you the road to sweet Carnlough Bay.

You turn to the right and pass down by the churchyard.
Cross over the river, and down by the sea.
We'll stop in at Pat Hamill's and have a wee dram there.
Just to help us along to sweet Carnlough Bay.

Here's a health to Pat Hamill, likewise the wee lassie.
And to every laddie that's listenin' to me.
And ne'er turn your back on a bonnie wee lassie
When she's askin' the road to sweet Carnlough Bay.