

# The West of Donegal

Lyrics: Billy Henderson

Tune: Free Electric Band.

1. My father, he's a T.D. and has shares with Ryan air,  
My mother runs a clinic in the county of Kildare.  
They've got single-figure handicaps and they're right into Ti-Chi.  
They're never shaken, never stirred and drink Darjeeling tea.  
With the best of education, I attended U.C.L.  
I learned the rights, but joined the lefts and made the Dons lives hell.  
My parents, they disowned me, 'cause I just would not play ball,  
So I packed my trunk and did a bunk, to the West of Donegal.
2. Contented with my new life, I took up the fishing trade,  
I shipped aboard the 'Shellback', there was money to be made;  
But the herring grounds depleted, and the hard life took its toll;  
When the arse fell out of the industry, I was signing on the dole.  
So I took up the fiddle, and I practiced night and day;  
In the style of Con Cassidy, played gigs from Cork to Bray.  
I teamed up with a singer, who was moving out of Youghal,  
And played Killybegs to Huidie Beag's, in the West of Donegal.

We then became a four-piece, with clarsach and bodhran,  
Toured Germany and Finland, as guests of Elton John;  
Went down big in Scotland, we packed the Usher Hall,  
But hurried back, cause we missed the craic, in the west of Donegal.

3. But all good things, just like they say, and the best of friends must part;  
And a twist of fate, three years ago, it didn't just break my heart.  
Returning from a Dublin gig, at Hanlon's corner, man,  
Some skanger shot a red light, smashing straight into our van;  
I lost an arm and half a leg, and had to quit the band;  
Got half a million compen. And that set me up just grand;  
And I'm back to where I started, still doing the pubs and all,  
Singing single-handedly in the west of Donegal.

*Yowdilly Dowdilly, Heiderum Hoderum, West of Donegal,  
Yowdilly Dowdilly, Heiderum Hoderum, Best of Donegal,  
Yowdilly Dowdilly, Heiderum Hoderum, Rest of Donegal,  
Yowdilly Dowdilly, Heiderum Hoderum, West of Donegal.*

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*Monday, 16 January 2006*

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