THE RED HEADED ANNE

SMALL BIRDS WERE LINING THE BLEAK AUTUMN BRANCHES

PREPARING TO FLY TO A FAR SUNNY SHORE

WHEN THE TINKERS MADE CAMP AT THE BEND ON THE RIVER

COMING BACK FROM THE HORSE FAIR AT BALLINASLOUGH

NOW THE HARVEST BE OVER THE FARMER WENT WALKING

ALL ALONG THE FAIR RIVER THAT BORDERS HIS LAND

AND 'TWAS THERE HE FIRST SAW HER TWIXT FIRE LIGHT AND WATER

THE TINKERMAN'S DAUGHTER, THE RED-HEADED ANNE

NEXT MORNING HE ROSE FROM A NIGHT WITHOUT SLUMBER

HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE FATHER AND HE MADE HIS CASE KNOWN

AND AS THE STORY WAS TOLD, THEY STRUCK OUT A BARGAIN

FOR THE TINKER THE PONY, TO THE DAUGHTER A HOME

WHERE THE TREES CAST THEIR SHADOWS ALONG THE FAIR RIVER

THE TINKER AND THE FARMER INSPECTED THE LAND

AND A WILD GALLANT PONY WAS THE PRICE THEY AGREED ON

FOR THE TINKERMAN'S DAUGHTER, THE RED-HEADED ANNE.

NOW THE WEDDING'S OVER, THE TINKERS DEPARTED

THEY WERE EAGER TO TRAVEL ON SOUTH DOWN THE ROAD

BUT THE CRUNCH OF THE IRON SHOD WHEELS ON THE GRAVEL

WAS AS BITTER TO HER AS THE WAY SHE'D BEEN SOLD

BUT SHE TRIED HARD TO PLEASE HIM; SHE DID ALL HIS BIDDING

SHE SLEPT IN HIS BED AND SHE WORKED ON HIS LAND

BUT THE WALLS OF THEIR CABIN PRESSED TIGHTER AND TIGHTER

FROM THE TINKERMAN'S DAUGHTER, THE RED-HEADED ANNE

NOW AS WHITE AS THE HANDS ON THE PRIEST OR THE HANGMAN

THE SNOW SPREAD ITS BLANKET THE NEXT CHRISTMAS ROUND

AND THE TINKERMAN'S DAUGHTER GOT OUT FROM THE BEDSIDE

TURNED HER BACK TO THE LAND AND HER FACE TO THE TOWN

AND IT'S SAID SOMEONE SAW HER AT DUSK THAT SAME EVENING

SHE WAS MAKIN' HER WAY DOWN BY EIRE FROM BANN

AND THAT WAS THE LAST THAT THE CITY FOLKS SAW HER

THE TINKERMAN'S DAUGHTER, THE RED-HEADED ANNE

WHERE THE NORTH KERRY HILLS CAST A PALL AT THE STORM

AT A FARM ON ITS BANKS LIVES A BITTER OLD MAN

AND HE SWEARS BY THE SHOTGUN HE KEEPS AT HIS BEDSIDE

THAT HE'LL KILL ANY TINKER THAT COMES ON HIS LAND

AND YET WHEN HE HEARS IRON-SHOD WHEELS CRUNCH ON GRAVEL

OR A HORSE IN THE SHAFTS OF THE BRIGHT CARAVAN

HIS DAYS WERE TORMENTED HIS SLEEP WAS DEMENTED

BY THE TINKERMAN'S DAUGHTER, THE RED-HEADED ANNE