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ROCKAWAY, LOVELY ROCKAWAY
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*Now kind-hearted friends, if you'll listen,
I'll give you some verses of song
Maybe two, maybe ten, maybe twenty
But they surely will not keep you long
For I'll sing from my heart's fondest mem'ry
Of a place that I'll always hold dear
Where I spent my first night in America
Nineteen fifty seven the year*

*(Chorus and after verses)
It wasn't the Bronx or Manhattan
Not Chicago or Boston for me
When my uncle said "Pat, I have found you a flat
In Far Rockaway down by the sea
Lovely Rockaway down by the sea..."*

*(2)
I must say I settled in quickly
'Twas almost like being at home
There were colleens and pubs filled with music
And I had no desire to roam
On a clear day you'd see in the distance
The spires of Manhattan so tall
Sure the train ride was only a quarter
But why spend the money at all?*

*(3)
There were lads there from Cork and from Dublin
From Galway and Sligo like me
There were saints, there were drunks, there were angels and punks
In that crazy place down by the sea
For a dollar you'd get to hear dance bands
The McNultys and Morrisseys too
You could splash in the waves of the ocean
When your week of hard labor was through*

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(4)

*But the years will of course bring their changes
No place there that I'd recognize
The pubs are all gone, the old crowd has moved on
And the thought brings a tear to my eyes
No more the sweet accents of Ireland
In the voices of children at play
But the Rockaway angels are watching
And know that they think it's okay!*

*- B.Black
December 2003*