TRANSCRIPTION

Chalie Lamb sings a comic Scots song, "The Nicht that Oor Mag Had Her Bairn"
ScottishVoicesProj.0596

[This recording was made in August 1988 at a house in St. Andrews, Fife, that John Niles and his research team were renting at this time. Present were Charlie Lamb, John Niles, and seven members of his group.]

[*Charlie Lamb sings:*]

1 Noo I'm just gettin back frae a wee social crack [crack: convivial occasion
At the public hoose doon by the station.
We'd blawn up oor heads wi aa oor great deeds, [heids: heads
An the things that's important tae nations.
When the guidbrother Jim, he cam rinnin in,
An be Gowd did he gie me a swearin.
"Ye aucht tae feel shame, ye should hae been hame,
For yer Maggie she's haein her bairn. [haein her bairn: having her baby

2 Noo I didna tak time tae bid them guid nicht,
But oot the back door I gaed spinnin;
I ran up the lane, the nearest road hame,
Never luikin tae see whaur I'm runnin,
When I fell ower a stane, nearly broke ma shin bane,
An rowed intae a heap o coo shairn. [coo shairn: cow dung
Ma claes were a sicht, twad gie ye a fricht,
The nicht that oor Mag had her bairn.

3 When I got tae the door there was whisky galore,
On the table wis cheese, the best goudie; [goudie: gouda
When a neebour Ah spied, an here's what she cried,
"Ye'd best run awa for the howdie." [howdie: midwife
Wi a glass in her hand she bid me no stand:
"Run awa noo for Mistress McLaren!
She's the best in the toon when a woman lies doon,
An ye'll soon see a bonnie braw bairn."

4 Well I ran for the midwife an soon fund her oot,
She thocht I was oot o ma senses,
For I rolled out on the floor an started tae roar,
"Hurry up, wife, an I'll pay all expenses!
If ye come to ma wife, for she'll soon lose her life,
She's as fat as five bundles o yairn. [yairn: yarn
If ye mak her wame richt ye'll be weel paid the nicht," [wame: womb

The nicht that oor Mag had her bairn.

5 Noo as sure as yer life, when you've got a braw wife,
Your troubles an joys tae be sharin;
I'm so happy within I could jump oot ma skin,
For ma Maggie, she's had a braw bairn.

All: [*Applause, words of appreciation*.]

[There follows some conversation that is not transcribed here. This concerns special terms in the song, including "bairn," "howdie," "wame," "yairn," and "cu shairn."]