



A section of the dining hall of the hostel in St. John's Square. A scheme for the addition of 20 bedrooms to the hostel is being planned.

# The Lynwood Folk have a pleasing sound

The Lynwood Folk have an attractive and distinctive sound in ballads and calypso which has built up an enthusiastic following for this quartette since their foundation, a few months ago.

Their fine sound comes from expert guitar playing, a careful search for songs, fastidious rehearsals to achieve sensitive singing and an enquiring interest in everything connected with folk song. These unique qualities have brought the group far in a short time and promise a great future.

There have been fine traditional musicians in John Gorey's family. His maternal great-grandfather was an accordionist and composer and came from Ashford, near Cong Abbey, to settle at Annacotty. On his father's side were Tom and Mick Gorey, of Bohermore, well-known accordionists and concertina players.

Kieran Carey gave John—who was interested in music since his school days—tuition on the guitar and both of them play this instrument in the Lynwood Folk. John is a brother of Breda Gorey, the champion traditional step-dancer and Bunratty entertainer.

## Kieran

Kieran Carey, a Fairview Rovers player of the Sports-

man of the Year class, and a brother of Lieutenant Christy Carey, pilot of the Army Air Corps Helicopter Wing, is the group's other fine guitarist. Still a secondary school student, Kieran is also a banjo player and a talented song writer. Hearing the Lynwood Folk sing his recently composed pop song, "Cry Yourself To Sleep," fans are convinced that it's in the National Song Contest awards class.

He thinks the group's repertoire—a varied mixture of folk songs and calypso—the best way to entertain the mixed city and rural audiences at their venues around Limerick.

## Sisters

Kay and Pat McMahon, vivacious and attractive sisters from Bengal Terrace, are the group's singers. Kay, a great fan of Brendan Behan's writings discovered, "My Laughing Irish Boy," a lament which Brendan wrote about Michael Collins, and it's among the Lynwood's songs. A trained nurse, Kay is a camogie player, a judo fan and secretary of a local Pat Lynch Air Chords Fan Club. Sweeney's Men are her favourite ballad group.

Pat, a shop assistant, won solo singing prizes at Fefe Luimni, as a school girl. The Wolfe Tones are her favourite ballad group.

The Lynwood Folk play at The Greyhound Bar, Sixmilebridge; Westward Ho, Mungret; and Slattery's of Kildimo. Audiences like their songs so well that they join in when they hear their infectious and distinctive sound.

Maevé Mulvanny—the well-known Dublin ballad singer—with whom they shared the bill at the Merriman Tavern, Scariff, paid a warm tribute to them for their skillful playing and attractive repertoire.

There were widespread and warm compliments, too, from their fellow parishioners who heard them play and sing at the recent St. John's Cathedral parish socials.

John, Kieran, Kay and Pat have a common ambition which shows their idealistic approach to folk song. They would like to travel to the non-competitive Folk Festival held in Sudbury, England—a get-together where they feel they would enrich their present repertoire.

## Early days

They are called The Lynwood Folk Group as their rehearsals are held in Phons Sammon's house, in Lynwood Estate, above Singland Hill. Phons Sammon, a brother-in-law of John Gorey's, proudly mentioned how these associations gave this young

folk group a link with Limerick's days of musical glory.

Phons is a grandson of the late Patrick Sammon, who lived at the Old Church of Ireland Bishop's Palace, in Church Street (St. Mary's Parish), was a founder-member of St. Mary's Fife and Druin Band, its prize-winning conductor at many contests and a gifted and prolific composer.

Patrick Sammon's compositions include "Loved Shannon Shore," "The Walls of Limerick," "A Wreath of Roses" (a sacred music selection dedicated to Our Lady of Limerick), "Glorious Patrick," "Black Battery, 1690," "Marching Songs" and "Old Favourites," whose themes expressed the cherished traditions of Faith and Fatherland and the scenes and pastimes loved by Limerick citizens of two and three generations ago.

W. W. Gleeson—the reliable historian of The Parish's traditions and its personalities—whom we are indebted to for this list of Patrick Sammon's compositions, adds another interesting spotlight on Sammon's stature as a musical authority and his kindly nature.

W.W. recalled the occasion in the early days of Radio Athlone, when a young officer attached to the Army School of Music called to Patrick Sammon's house seeking his assistance in the collection of Irish traditional ballads and classical music. "As was to be only expected, from a man of Sammon's kind-hearted nature," said W. W. Gleeson, "The assistance was granted."



Makers of The Lynwood Sound in ballads and calypso—(from left) John Gorey, Kay and Pat McMahon, and Kieran Carey.

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## Memo

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