



Dermot Harris in Kilkee last week.

—PICTURE: BRIAN McMAHON

## Beautiful, Kieran comments

GONE ARE the days when our rural population seldom left the smell of the soil far behind them.

Now one of Co. Limerick's bright young farmers who occupies the position of president of Macra na Feirme has just returned from a week's trip in Helsinki, Finland.

Kieran Curtin is thirty-three years of age.

But his looks and enthusiasm rate him a lot younger.

He spent his week in Helsinki chaperoning the Irish team of two boys and two girls who were not as successful as former years despite the fact that another County Limerick person, Mary Noonan of Croom, was one of the team.

The Irish team were in Finland to take part in the competitions organised by the European Young Farmers' Association and the H.H.H.H. or 4Hs—the American Head, Heart, Hands & Health group—as the

# Emerging from his brother's shadow: Dermot

TWO successful emigrant. Limerickmen voiced their affection for the old city in interviews in the English published ("Voice of the Irish in Britain") "Irish Post" recently.

Dermot Harris (brother of the flamboyant Richard) now described as emerging from the shadow of the latter, and Jim Hayes, the sole actor of Irish heritage or nationality in the National Theatre Company in London's West Bank, traced their background and regard for Limerick in the paper.

The man who conducted and wrote one of these interviews is Kevin O'Connor, himself a Limerickman and a staff man with the "Post".

The articles tell us that Dermot Harris is business partner of his brother, Dickie, and is in the state known in this country as that of being "comfortably off".

Added to this, on his own initiative, he formed a music publishing company which in deference to his wife's home town, Bridgend, and his former home, Limerick, he christened Limbridge.

This enterprise has grown so big in the right circles that it is now owned by J. Vincent Edwards, a star of "Fair". It is even making its own movies. Quote: "It started with 'Bumblefield' directed by and starring Richard Harris; and

'Dylan', 'Scrooge' and 'Hamlet' are all in the pipeline. Then the Company, and its growing octopus-like subsidiaries, has financial interests in other people's firms, notably of Stanley Baker, whose Company, Oakhurst, operates from the same building and vice versa, and so on."

There is an extensive list of accomplishments on these lines.

And with all this Dermot Harris says:

"Now I feel like all my Christmases are coming together. I am happier than I have ever been.

"I do all the background work on our records, hiring musicians and twiddling the knobs. I work harder than ever, and I have just bought my first home. The only time I have ever had a roof of my own, and that alone makes it all worthwhile. It really does, and who would doubt it!"

### Limerick

Of Limerick, Harris says: "I love it, and go there now, even though we have no business there. I like to bring my friends and look at it; buildings and trade are turning it into a mini London."

As the only Irish participant in what interviewer Kevin O'Connor described as "the most professional repertory system in the country," Jim Hayes, the "Post's" second interviewee, could not be described as a product of the London-Irish mould.

Unlike many of our actors abroad, he is not confined to playing Irish roles, though he has played the father of Pagan Mike in Synge's "Playboy" in a Theatre of the Round production in the uninspiring Stoke-on-Trent.

His experience with the Theatre in the Round he found very "fulfilling," which, said Kevin O'Connor, is "natural to someone whose communication with the world at large is from the other side of footlights. It may also have to do with his induction into the Theatre as an adolescent in Limerick, where such stalwarts as Kitty Bredin and Father Moriarty kept a group going in good and bad times alike.

"He got the bug there, and came to England to try my luck for a couple of years. Even if I failed, I would at least have tried."

With the aid of dead-end jobs and a scholarship, Jim Hayes got through drama school, and "the obligatory stints in repertory" to his present position with "The National."

Co-relating his career and his native city, he says:

"I often think of how theatre in Limerick and the city might benefit from the sort of thing we did in Stoke—the community thing—think of all the history around there that could be documented. But how? When?"

Anyone with any ideas or solutions should contact Jim Hayes. Meanwhile, thanks to Kevin O'Connor for his insight on Limerickmen.

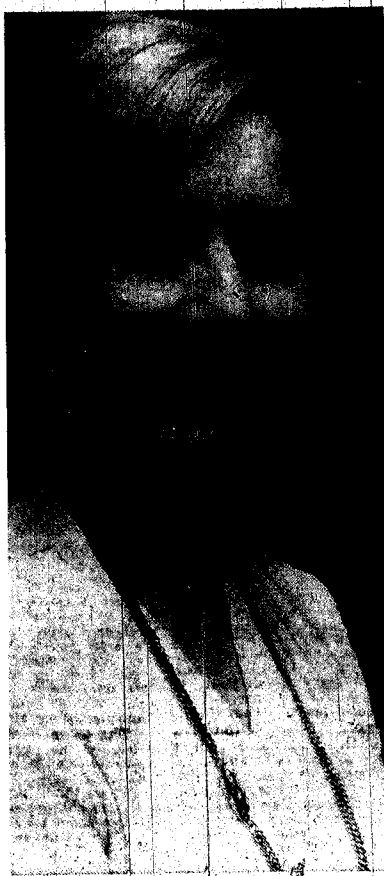


Kieran Curtin... leader of the new breed of Irish farmer.

farmers in that Continent are known.

The whole bunch were holding their annual rally in the land of pine which greatly impressed Kieran Curtin... "a beautiful country, densely planted, and with something like 60,000 lakes."

One meeting of the general assembly took



Ni Mhuiri — Sissy in "Lovers."

## lem for Aine