

Sean O'Callaghan's offers patrons a taste of Ireland

By CARA FLOWMAN
STAFF WRITER
cflowman@oe.homecomm.net

Walls adorned with traditional Irish decor, including black and white photographs and mahogany shelves filled with small treasures and antique instruments, greet patrons as they walk through the front doors and into the bustle of Sean O'Callaghan's in downtown Plymouth.

The \$5.50 pints of Guinness, a dark stout brew, flow out of the tap like water, and the servers are happy to talk about their favorite authentically Irish dishes and drinks.

There are 18 draught beers, mostly Irish brews, like Caffreys, Tetleys and Boddingtons, in addition to the moderately priced full bar.

A fireplace is perched in the center of the large room that is broken up into smaller sitting areas. Celtic knots dress the intricate stained glass windows, imported from Ireland. Large front windows light the bar area and give customers a nice view of the downtown flurry.

Owner John Callaghan named the "public place" after his grandfather, Sean, who also owned a pub. Callaghan, from Brighton, said that in Ireland, pubs are very popular.

"In the old country, people didn't

Sean O'Callaghan's
Where: 821 Penniman Road, just west of Main St. in Plymouth, (734) 459-6666
Open: 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday-Sunday, 21 and over after 9 p.m.
Menu: Authentic Irish pub fare, including corned beef, rabbit stew, shepherd's pie and lamb shank. Daily Specials, Lunch and dinner menu. Full bar. Carry-out available. Average dinner costs \$14.
Atmosphere: It feels like an Irish pub should — close quarters, Irish jig-band music playing, moderately noisy and lots to look at.

n't really eat at home. In fact, they seldomly entertained at home," he said. "(Pubs) became an extension of their home." Callaghan described his restaurant as "a very typical Victorian pub."

Located on Penniman Road, west of Main Street, Callaghan said business has been great at the restaurant, which opened in May.

Along with his son Shane, from Plymouth, Callaghan has been working on the pub for three years. Along with business partners Sam and Kevin Khoshan, who are brothers from Northville, the four purchased the lease last October and began the extensive design and remodeling process.

According to Callaghan, the small kitchen made for some slow service in the beginning, but has not been a problem since.

One of the most popular dishes served is the Shepherd's Pie, a traditional Irish favorite, Callaghan said. Thickly-cut roasted portobello mushrooms stew with shallots and creamed spinach under a golden mashed potato blanket. It's available with or without Guinness-basted beef. The dish is \$12.75 without beef, \$14.25 with it.

Corned beef

Corned beef is served in a number of dishes, including a corned beef melt (with spicy mustard and fontina cheese) and Niman Ranch corned beef dinner. Callaghan estimated that the kitchen uses about 1,000 pounds of corned beef a week.

Koreen Khoshan, Sam and Kevin's sister, also works at O'Callaghan's, helping out as needed.

"(Customers) compare it to 'Cheers.' They go on about their business like it's their home ...



STAFF PHOTO BY HEATHER BONTAG

That's the way we want it to be," Koreen said. She encourages customers to mingle with each other and share tables.

The fish choice changes daily, so does the soup. Callaghan recommends the One And One (fish and chips served with meyer lemon caper tartar sauce), made with halibut.

The hearty soda biscuits are not to be missed. They are

served before dinner arrives.

To finish the meal, there is a list of after dinner drinks and three desserts, Black 'n' Tan ice cream, Berry Brak and Michigan Rhubarb Gingerbread Upside-Down Cake, for \$5.75 each. But the employees suggest not letting the experience end there.

"It's mellow; it's laid-back," said Jay Markley, a bartender. "Everyone's friendly. In general,

it's just a nice place to hang out." Markley, from Plymouth, joked that he is sure a person can live off Guinness alone. "It's been proven."

Callaghan said there are only a couple true pubs in Michigan. He called the rest "Irish bars."

"If you notice, there are no shamrocks on the walls and no leprechauns. Our leprechauns are behind the bar."

Popular dish:
(from left to right) Servers Joel Johnson, Becky Vachow and Sarah Gregory display the Shepherd's Pie.

ZERO TIME TO WAIT!



2001 LINCOLN TOWN CAR EXECUTIVE SERIES

\$0 FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT*
\$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
\$399 PER MONTH/24-MONTH LEASE***
\$3,580 CASH DUE AT SIGNING
(AFTER \$7,000 CASH BACK)
EXCLUDES TAX, TITLE AND LICENSE FEES.

Lincoln Town Car, with its smooth rear-wheel drive, V-8 power, spacious 6-passenger interior, and 3-year/36,000-mile Lincoln Complimentary Maintenance**.

FOR UPDATED A-Z PLAN OFFERS, VISIT LMAgplan.com



lincolnavehicles.com

0.0% APR LIMITED-TERM FINANCING*
ON EVERY 2001 LINCOLN
PLUS,
NO FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT*

LINCOLN TOWN CAR
WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S
HIGHEST FRONT CRASH TEST RATING

Visit Your Metro Detroit Lincoln Dealer.

ANN ARBOR
Sesi
2100 W. Stadium Blvd.
at Liberty
(734) 668-6100
sesi.com

CUNTION TOWNSHIP
Shu Evans Lakeside
17500 Hall Rd.
at Romeo Park
(810) 840-7000
shuevanslakeside.com

DEARBORN
Jack Demmer
21531 Michigan Ave.
between Southfield & Telegraph
(313) 274-8800
demmer.com

DETROIT
Bob Maxey
16901 Mack Ave.
at Calumet
(313) 865-4000
bobmaxey.com

DETROIT
Park Motor
18100 Woodward Ave.
at Cassin Road
(313) 869-5000
parkmotor.com

GARDEN CITY
Shu Evans Garden City
32000 Ford Rd.
just west of Dearborn
(734) 425-4300
shuevansgardencity.com

NOVI
Varsity
49251 Grand River
19511 Block South of Warren
1-800-850-NOVI (6684)
varsity.com

PLYMOUTH
Hines Park
40601 Ann Arbor Rd.
at I-75
1-800-550-MERC
hinespark.com

ROCHESTER HILLS
Crisman
1185 South Rochester Rd.
between Hanks & Apple Rd.
(248) 652-4200
crisman.com

ROSELLE
Bob Maxey
29000 Greater
at 12 Mile Rd.
(810) 552-6000
bobmaxey.com

SOUTHFIELD
Star
24350 West 12 Mile Rd.
at Telegraph
(248) 354-4900
star.com

SOUTHGATE
Southgate
16800 Fort Street
at Fenwick
(734) 285-8800

STERLING HEIGHTS
Cres
36200 Van Dyke
at 15 1/2 Mile Rd.
(810) 939-6000
cres.com

TROY
Bob Borst
1950 West Maple
Troy Motor Mall
(248) 643-6600
borst.com

WATERFORD
Mel Farr
4178 Highland Rd. (M-59)
2 miles west of Telegraph
(248) 683-9500
larkin.com

YPSILANTI
Sesi
950 East Michigan
9 miles west of I-75
(734) 482-7133
sesi.com

*Ford Credit will waive the first month's payment up to \$1,000 on any new 2001 Lincoln for approved Red Carpet Lease and Ford Credit purchase contracts through 7/9/2001. **No-charge maintenance for 3 years or 36,000 miles, whichever occurs first, included with the purchase or lease of a new 2001 Lincoln Town Car. Coverage includes scheduled maintenance services at 5,000-mile intervals. ***Call 1-888-56-LEASE for details. For cash back, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 7/9/2001. †NOT ALL BUYERS WILL QUALIFY FOR THE LOWEST FORD CREDIT APR. SEE DEALER FOR QUALIFICATION DETAILS. Dealer participation may affect savings. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 7/9/2001.