Entertainment

The Celtic Folk

Putting Forth A Message With Irish Folk Music

By Mike Gooding
Sun Staff Writer

The problem with today's music, according to one Virginia Beach visitor last weekend, is that it contains no message for its listeners. "Basically," he said, "the music on the radio says nothing."

So, Danny O'Flaherty, the 32 year-old leader of a group called "The Celtic Folk," attempted to impart his message to a nightly standing room-only audience during a four-day gig at the Leprechaun Pub on Virginia Beach Boulevard, near London Bridge. "I put out songs about what's happening in America with families and with the environment," he says. "With my songs, I try to get the people to look [illegible] can't solve these things, but by putting our thoughts into music, maybe the people will listen," he said. "We have to reach the children because if they don't have a strong foundation, they'll get caught up in this plastic society of ours. Then, when it comes time for them to make a decision, they will be unable."

In weaving messages in music, performers must be careful in not alienating their audiences, warns O'Flaherty's bandmate, Noel Nash. "You can't get too heavy on them because they might not listen to you." Adds O'Flaherty: "Once you reach a certain level of success, the record com[illegible]

33 year-old brother Patrick.

To his left, playing a six-string guitar, stands the crooning Nash, 34, who just joined the O'Flaherty brothers last week.

A Long Journey

It's a long way from County Galway in Ireland, the home of Danny and Patrick, and County Kerry, Nash's home, to Virginia Beach, Va. "We were right from the soil," jests Patrick, discussing the farming and fishing he and his brother did as children.

Danny left Ireland in 1969 for Chicago, where he joined his uncle in building the Sears Tower. That job completed, [illegible] since. Today, they are regulars at Ireland's Own, a popular nightspot in [illegible]

The Celtic Folk, Danny O'Flaherty, Patrick O'Flaherty, and Noel Nash, appearing tonight through Saturday at the Leprechaun Pub on Virginia Beach Boulevard near London Bridge.

October, Nash performed at an Irish folk festival [illegible], coincidentally, musically by American song writer John Denver. "I like his words and his