

N.A.C.A. Racing Secretary Takes Donal Murphy to Task

KERRY Sloane, N.C.A. Secretary, writes us as follows:—With reference to Donal Murphy's article on Radio Eireann's coverage of N.A.C.A. affairs which you published in your December edition.

I am in no position to speak for Athletics but as far as Cycling is concerned the whole article is ridiculous and seems suspiciously like the outpourings of an imaginative journalist with a deadline to make and nothing to write about.

As far as the N.C.A. is concerned, Radio Eireann gives adequate publicity. Our results are always

featured in the news and in Sean O'Callaghan's programme. On top of that we always get a fair look-in from Sports Stadium and the Saturday preview. This year we were also featured on Late City Newsreel. During Ras Tailteann, the results were broadcast each night. Indeed, we look upon Radio Eireann as one of our best and most reliable sources of publicity.

In the course of his outburst, when referring to the N.A.C.A., Mr. Murphy uses the term "our." On what authority does he act as a spokesman for the N.A.C.A.?

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P. Gearty, U.C.D. goalkeeper, goes high to save a shot from the U.C.C. forwards in the Sigerson Cup game at Cork.

Seamus Was a Busy Limerick Man

By "DIXIE"

MANY Gaelic followers throughout the country may not be very familiar with Seamus O'Grady, the dark-haired lad who starred for New York at Croke Park last October, but with Limerick fans he is very popular, having won the county colours with much distinction from 1948 to 1952.

Jim, as he is better known in his native Newcastlewest, learned his hurling at the Courtenay Schools and first caught the eye in local street league games, when his speed, neat striking and deadly accuracy of times proved the telling factor in a keenly contested game.

He helped the county minor hurling and football teams in 1948

and '49 and the latter season he won Western minor honours in both codes with his home town. In 1950, at the age of 19, he was honoured by the county senior selectors and gave a polished display at midfield when the Shannonsiders went under to Tipperary in the Munster Championship.

Came 1951 and he was the outstanding player on the Newcastlewest team that captured West Limerick football honours. Jim holds the rare distinction of having worn the green and white jersey in all six grades, as in 1952 he played with the Senior and Junior footballers and also won a Munster Championship medal with the junior hurlers.

In August, 1952, he left for New York on the invitation of the

St. Vincents Join All-Time Greats

By PEADAR BYRNE

AHANE, O'Toole's or Borrisoleigh—what magic the very mention of these Clubs conjures up in the minds of G.A.A. enthusiasts! And rightly so, for these are Clubs that are soaked in the wealth of our great Association's fame, but for my money, as the best G.A.A. Club ever, give me St. Vincent's every time.

Founded little over twenty years ago, this great Metropolitan Club, from a modest beginning, has stormed its way into the all-time "greats" of the G.A.A. and in the process has contributed players to our games whose names have become household words wherever the games of hurling and football are played.

It was in 1931, when Very Rev. Fr. Fitzpatrick, P.P., and Rev. Bro. Fitzgerald sat down to discuss the ways and means of harnessing the wealth of G.A.A. talent that was annually pouring forth from Dublin's schools, and out of that chat arose a Club—the great St. Vincent's Club which to-day stands supreme and unrivalled.

THE EARLY DAYS

The early days of the Club were much the same as those of any other infant Club, with successes the exception rather than the rule, and it was not until the mid-Forties that St. Vincent's really blossomed forth into a Club of ourstanding promise. They supplied the bulk of the Dublin Minor teams that won All-Ireland Minor Hurling and Football honours in 1945-46. The writing was on the wall for the other Dublin senior teams, as it seemed only a matter of time before these youths hit the senior headlines.

And sure enough, along they came in 1949 and hit the town with a bang in winning the first of six consecutive Dublin S.F. Championships. When one considers the abundance of inter-county players playing Dublin club football, one can gauge the difficulty of winning even a title, but to win six in a row—well, it calls for a brilliant and sustained effort, and that's precisely what St. Vincent's senior footballers have done.

HURLERS ALSO SUPREME

Not to be outdone by their footballers, the hurlers have won the Dublin S.H.C. for the past three years and seem set to win many more. Just to prove their supremacy, they mastered Glen Rovers—ack-

nowledged one of the best hurling clubs in the country—in the Cork Churches' S.H. Tournament last year.

On inter-county fields the St. Vincent's players' deeds are well known. Proof enough it is to say that in 1953, fourteen of them and ex-St. Vincent's man, Paddy O'Grady, whipped the might of Cavan, the then All-Ireland Champions, in the N.F.L. final.

THE FUTURE

And what of St. Vincent's future? With most of the senior players still in the mid-twenties, many more honours seem destined to come their way. And, by the way, did you know that had the Dublin S.F. team overcome Kerry in the All-Ireland Final, St. Vincent's would have collected twenty-four All-Ireland medals in the one day? This, I think, is proof conclusive that the Marino Club is the greatest that ever graced the G.A.A. arenas.

What do your readers think?

JACKIE POWER SETS A RECORD

Twenty-Two Years in Top-Class Hurling

MICEAL MacCADLA

A HURLER who hit the Croke Park headlines nineteen years ago with the famous Shannonside team of the 'thirties and who won his first County Championship medal away back in 1933, played a leading role in Ahane's victory over Geraldines in the 1955 Limerick S.H. Final.

Jackie Power has won fifteen senior hurling championship medals as well as numerous tournament trophies with his native Ahane since 1933 and in this year's final he was the outstanding forward afield. He had a hand in all the Ahane scores and scored three goals off his own caman. At the final whistle he was as fit as a fiddle, in fact throughout the hour his speed was amazing.

PROUD RECORD

A prominent member of the Limerick team that won All-Ireland honours in 1936 and 1940, he won seven Railway Cup medals with Munster from 1940 to 1948 and also holds National League trophies won in 1936, '37, '38 and '46. This is certainly a proud record and in addition he did valuable pioneer work for hurling in Kerry and Mayo for a few years. Twenty-two years is a long spell in top class hurling and the Ahane wizard has set a record that may never be equalled.

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Who Will Figure on Munster's Railway Cup Team?

By P. MacLUGADA

THE choosing of the Munster Railway Cup hurling team has become one of the most controversial activities of Gaelic games. Even to many of us who live in other provinces it seems to hold much more interest than the choosing of our own provincial team. The reasons are, of course, that Munster usually win the cup, and that the choice of players is so large and the competition for places is so keen. So just to add to the controversy that will arise I will stick my neck out and choose my Munster fifteen.

In goal Tony Reddan may once again be the popular choice, but personally I would rather Clare's Mick Hayes as his play over the past two seasons has been more consistent than that of the Laura-man whom I believe is not as hawk-eyed as he used to be. The full back position is easy to fill with Dan McNertney the obvious choice. On his right I would play Waterford's Johnny O'Connor who I am sure would find the closer marking of the full-line more to his style rather than that of the half-line. The filling of the left corner must be with Tipperary's John Doyle or

Clare's Haulie Donlan. Donlan has over the past year given the better displays, but Doyle's vast experience must I think merit him being retained.

For the centre half-back position Munster has three of the four best centre-halves in the country in Pat Stakelum, Donal O'Grady and Vin. Toomey. The Clareman filled the position last year in a capable fashion and his play throughout the year has been excellent with the one exception of his pathetic Munster final display, with Stakelum and Toomey proving themselves adaptable to other positions.

the best arrangement would be I think to play them in the same positions as last year, that was Grady at centre-half back, Toomey on his left and Pat Stakelum at midfield. The right half-back position must I think go to Tipp's Jimmy Finn who has made a great return to form recently, although there are many I am sure who would like to see Waterford's Liam Shalloe in the position.

To choose a partner for Pat Stakelum is a difficult problem with John Hough, G. Murphy and Dermot Sheedy laying greatest claims, of the three Hough is the most consistent, but when in form



Hugh Gallagher, one of Donegal's outstanding stars.

Sheedy is by far the more brilliant and the important occasion would I am sure bring out the best in the tall Feakleman, so he would be my choice. If for nothing else but his scoring spree in the Munster final D. Kelly of Limerick must merit the centre-half forward position. Jimmy Smith is the obvious choice on his left and the right leaves us with Clare's find of the year, Jimmy Kearney, and Cork's Willie John Daly. If one were to judge on this year's displays alone Kearney must be the man, but considering that the brilliant Willie John did not get the opportunities to display his wares as did the Clare man this year, I think he should be retained. Last year's full-forward Jackie Greene seems to have lost the form which won him many honours last year, so Josie Harnett who is doing very well in his new position would be my choice. That leaves us with two positions to fill. Of course one of those belongs to the ever-green Christy Ring and as he is as equally brilliant at right as at left I would play him in the right corner to make room for Limerick's Vivian Cobbe on the left.

Well folks that is my choice, but if you don't agree with me I'll understand, as my usual comment on the efforts of the Munster selectors for the past few years always was "out of what they have left I could pick a team to beat that one."

COMPENSATION FOR ENNIS FAUGHS

Ennis Faughs, defeated finalists in the Co. Clare senior football championship, made some amends by defeating Cooraclare in the Cusack Cup at the Hennessy Memorial Park, Milltown-Malbay recently. Ennis won by 5 points to 3.

John Clarke Looks Back on the 1955 Handball Season

Looking back over the 1955 All-Ireland Handball season, one cannot but note, with some apprehension, the continued unsatisfactory position, pertaining in the "cracker" or native code of this ancient Celtic pastime.

The soft or rubber ball may be all right, but the hard was the game of our forefathers, and pity the man attempting to play with the "garrison ball" in those troubled, yet in many respects, grand old days.

Many varied reasons have been given for this tragic decline, principal amongst them being, the dearth of four-walled courts especially in Ulster and Connaght; the severity of the modern handball, absence of instructors for the youth; emigration from the "cracker" playing centres.

For myself, I am inclined to attribute the trouble to a combination of all these causes, plus a lack of appreciation of the real merits of this form of the game, resulting in apathy amongst many, whose first duty is to foster and preserve it. If you exclude Dublin, Wexford, Kildare, Kilkenny, Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary, handball is little played and encouraged else where, at least to the extent it should.

Here then, is our task during 1956:—Revive the declining native game, give it full priority.

Apart from this, the season generally can be said to have been successful, with play well up to the standard of previous years.

Thirty Counties sent representatives to participate in their respective Provincial Championships, winners from which went forward to do battle for the twelve National crowns.

LION'S SHARE FOR LIMERICK AND WEXFORD

Limerick and Wexford took the lion's share of these, with three successes each.

Austin Clarke (Dublin) once again proved the outstanding handball exponent in the country; retaining his singles title in brilliant fashion against Munster champion Pat Downey (Kerry) in the decider.

The Dublin man's masterly display in the Leinster Final against the experienced Bobby Grattan (Kildare), whom he defeated 4-3, after losing the first three games, will surely go down in Handball History.

John Ryan (Wexford), who like Clarke, has now brought his total of Irish senior championship medals to eight—gave a superb display in the final of the National Softball Singles, outplaying Munster Champion Mick Griffin (Tipperary) in straight games, in defence of the title.

The margin by which Ryan triumphed came as a surprise to many, having regard to Griffin's facile win over Des. Dillon (Clare) in the Munster decider, and Pat Clarke (Mayo) in the Irish semi-final, but there was no doubt in the merit of the victor's performance.

In partnership with John Doyle, Ryan likewise retained the handball doubles title, defeating P. Downey and Jim O'Brien (Kerry) in a hard fought decider.

Limerick did splendidly in taking three minor titles, Tom McGarry being their star performer. Jim Lyng's win for Wexford in the junior S.B.S. was an excellent one, as was J. Ryan's victory in Minor H.B.S. for Tipperary, while the

dual handball success of Army Champion, M. Redmond, playing Kildare, likewise in junior, bordered on the spectacular.

The youthful Pat Downey and Jim O'Brien kept Kerry's flag flying high with a magnificent display against Ryan and Doyle (Wexford) whom they defeated after a strenuous rubber in the final of the senior S.B. doubles.

OUTSTANDING ARMY PLAYER

Sergt. Maher (Curragh), proved the outstanding Army player of the year, winning three of the four All-Army Championships at Athlone.

In the realms of school play, E. Horan and T. Layde (Munster) gave a fine showing in the All-Ireland Colleges S.B. Championship, defeating J. Marmion and J. Coady, Connaught (holders), in a keenly fought and closely finishing decider.

The All-Ireland Tostal Competition (S.B.) was won by John Ryan (Wexford) and Chris. Delaney (Kilkenny), accounting for J. Bergin (Tipperary) and D. Dillon (Clare) in the decider; while Des. Dillon (Clare) annexed the Gael Linn Cup (S.B.) from an entry of close on 200 competitors from all over the country.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR, 1955

Irish Championship Winners—Senior:—H.B.S. and Archbishop Harty Challenge Cup—Austin Clarke (Dublin), Holder. S.B.S. and Purcell Challenge Cup—John Ryan (Wexford), Holder. H.B.D., John Ryan and John Doyle (Wexford), Holders. S.B.D.: Pat Downey and Jim O'Brien (Kerry).

Junior—H.B.S., M. Redmond (Kildare). H.B.D., M. Redmond and J. Parle (Kildare). S.B.S., Jas. Lyng (Wexford). S.B.D., T. Ryan and S. Lennon (Kilkenny).

Minor (under 18 years)—H.B.S., J. Ryan (Tipperary). H.B.D., M. Keyes and J. O'Neill (Limerick). S.B.S., Tom McGarry (Limerick). S.B.D., Tom McGarry and J. Mullins (Limerick).

All-Ireland Colleges Championship (under 19 years)—E. Horan and T. Layde (Munster).

All-Army Championships—H.B.S., Gunner Redmond (Curragh). H.B.D.: Capt. Walsh and Sergt. Maher (Curragh), Holders. S.B.S.: Pte. Maher (Southern), Holder. S.B.D.: Sergt. Maher and Gunner Redmond (Curragh), Holders.

An Tostal Competition—J. Ryan (Wexford) and C. Delaney (Kilkenny).

Gael Linn Cup Competition—D. Dillon (Dublin).

Bray (Wicklow) Mineral Waters Cup and Inter-County Cup Competition (S.B.): A. Clarke and L. Roe (Dublin).

Kingscourt (Cavan)—Brick Co. Cup—Inter-County Competition (S.B.): F. Confrey and P. Reilly (Louth).

Congratulations to Wexford

At a recent Wexford County Board meeting a letter was read from Mr. S. Murphy, Secretary of the Wexfordmen's Association in London, congratulating Wexford on their victory over Kilkenny in the Oireachtas Cup Final.

Said the letter: "The Wexford hurlers have crowned a great year by adding another trophy to their collection."

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N.A.C.A. OSCARS FOR 1955

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THE BIG 5

TRACK—Gerry Gorman.
FIELD—Fionnbarr Callanan.
CROSS-COUNTRY—Paddy Carmody.
TRACK CYCLING—Seamus O'Reilly.
ROAD CYCLING—Gene Mangan.

TEAM OF THE YEAR.—A tie. Metropolitan Harriers, who had the first four home and seven among first twelve in Co. Dublin Senior Cross-Country, and three of the first four in All-Ireland U.C.D., who swept all track events at the Ballinasloe Relays.

VARSITY STAR.—Pat Ozieh, who won three titles, a second and a third place in Inter-Varsity Championships.

COLLEGE STAR.—Mick McSweeney, 6' high-jumper and 45' 2" hop-step-jumper.

BEST VETERAN.—J. J. Doherty, Hammer Champion.

BEST COME-BACK.—Joe Duggan, 41' 3" S.P. winner and 124' Discus; 3rd placer in Inter-Provincial Meet.

MOST PROMISING.—Andy Murphy (16½), Dun Dealgan Sprinter: 23.8 College record.

MOST HEADLINED.—Peter McArdle, All-Ireland titles at 2, 3 and 4 Miles and 8,000 Metres. Three successive records in 3 Miles.

DISCOVERY.—Seán Allen, winner of Galway Senior and All-Ireland Junior Cross-Country titles.

BEST RACE.—All-Ireland Senior Cross-Country Championship. Lap 1: Galway, 55; Tipperary, 62. Lap 2: Galway, 57; Tipperary, 58. Lap 3: Tipperary, 54; Galway, 60. Lap 4: Tipperary, 51; Galway, 68.

MOST AMAZING FEAT.—Pat Monaghan's six titles (100, 200, Long Jump, Hop-Step-Jump, Pole Vault and Shot Put) in Co. Armagh Championships.

BEST TREBLE.—Owen Dalton's All-Ireland Sprint titles.

MOST SATISFACTORY ACHIEVEMENT.—Dinny Hyland's breaking the 12' Vault barrier.

MOST DISAPPOINTING.—Mick Manning, 1954 Double Champion.

KEENEST RIVALRY.—Seamus O'Reilly, winner of three titles, and Frank O'Sullivan, winner of two. In the races which each didn't win, he was runner-up to the other.

WORST LUCK.—Frank Baird's crash at Cork City, which kept him out of All-Ireland.

MOST UNDER-RATED.—Rory Dwyer, 47' Hop-Step-Jump Champion.

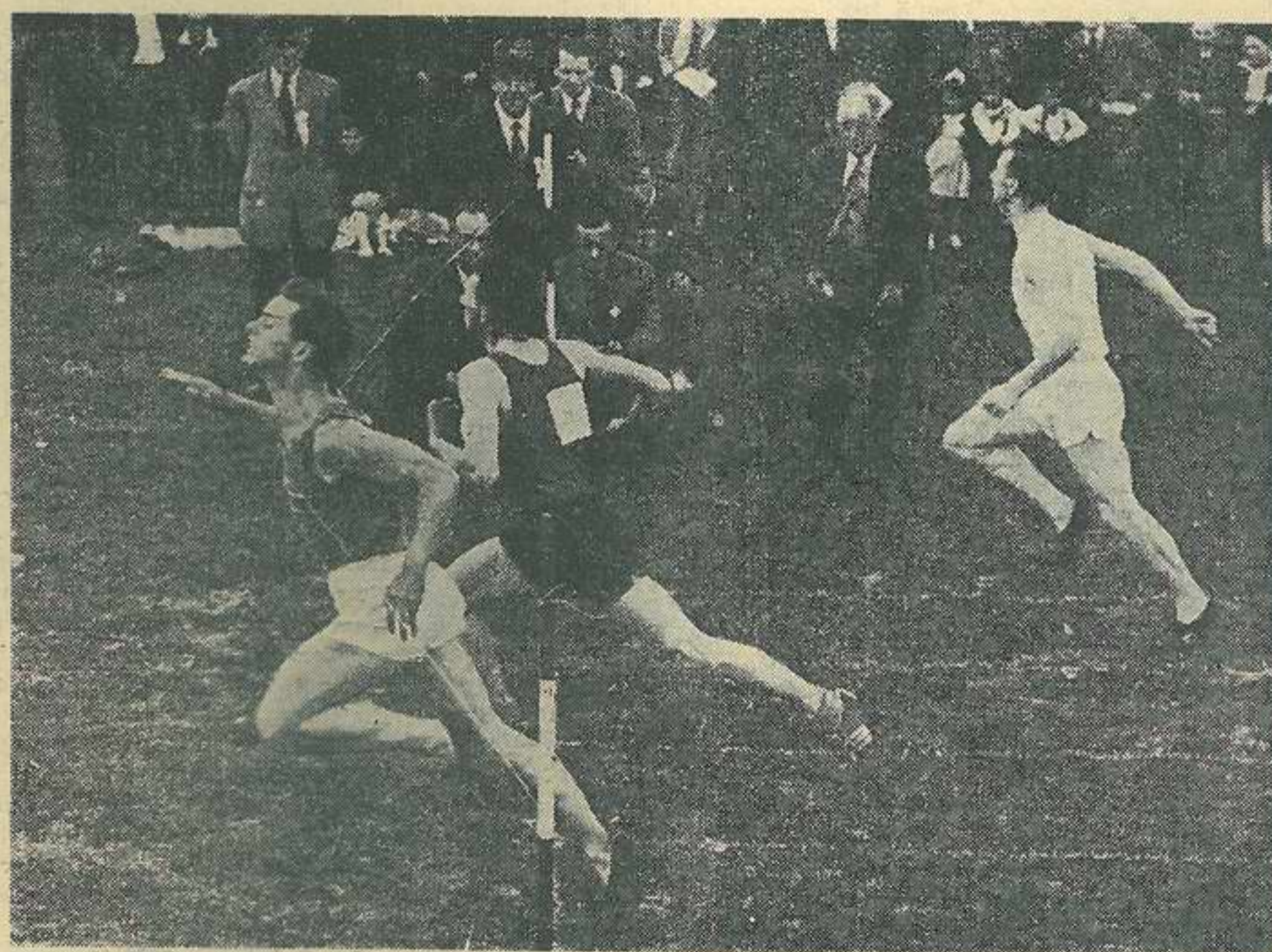
NOTEWORTHY.—Mick Cleary's 8th All-Ireland Senior Gold Medal. Tommy Madden's coupling of top-class cycling and running.



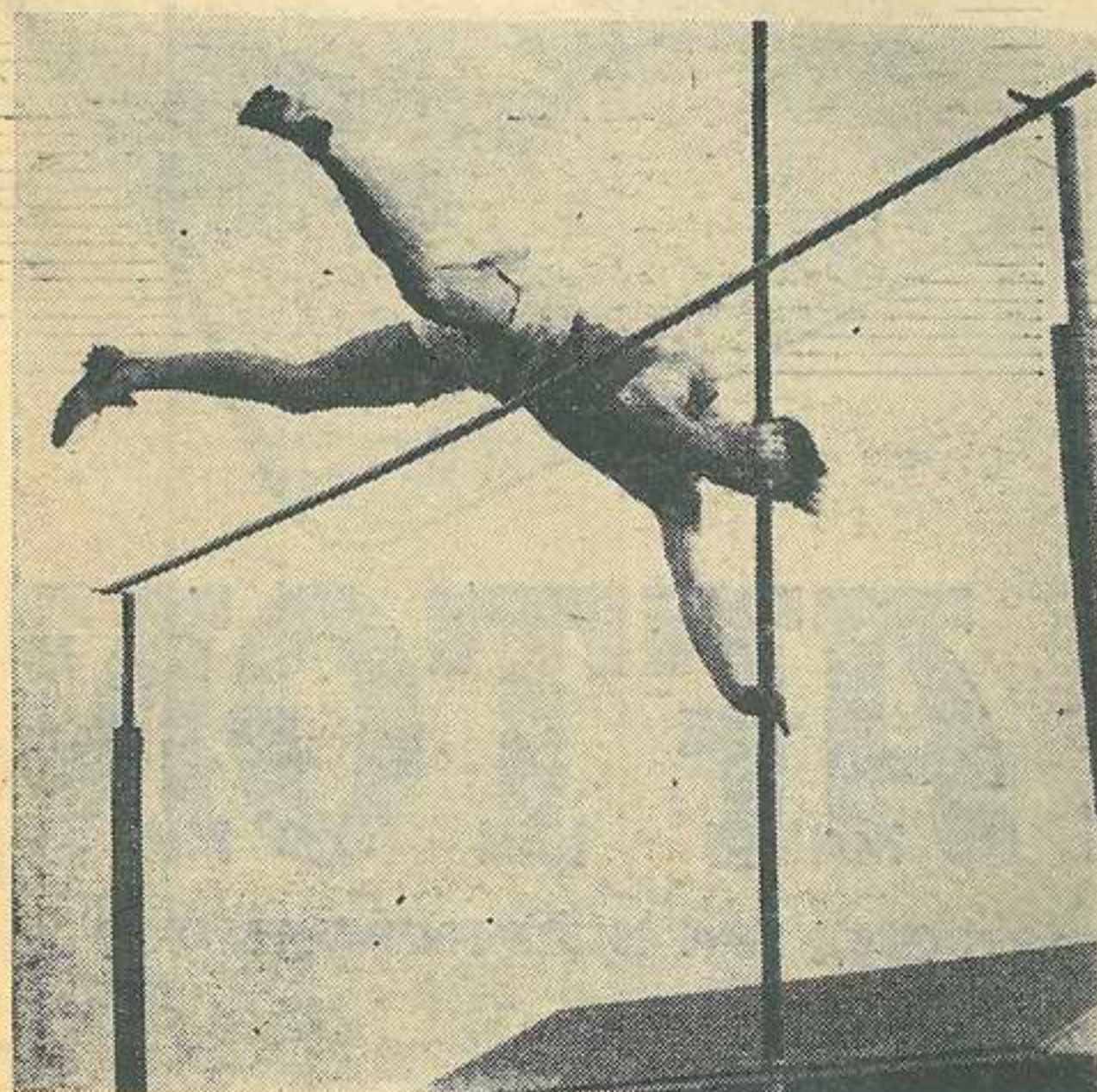
FIONNBARR CALLANAN
 First Irishman in over twenty years to jump 24 feet.



Davy Browne of Ennis, one of the most enthusiastic N.A.C.A. Officials in Ireland during 1955.



Owen Dalton of U.C.D. winning the 100 Yards at the N.A.C.A. Championships. Owen gets Donal Murphy's Oscar for the best treble of the year.



Denis Hyland—First Irishman to beat 12 feet in the Pole Vault.



Pat O'Callaghan, son of the Olympic Champion, winning the Youths' 12 lb. Shot Championship in 1955.

A NEW Athletic Club in Nenagh bears the name Olympic A.C. to commemorate the achievements of the trio from the district who won Olympic titles—J. J. Hayes, Matt McGrath and Bob Tisdall.

The officers are: Chairman: Donald Murphy; vice-Chairman: Sean Naughton; Hon. Sec.: Liam Gleeson; Hon. Treas.: John D. Gleeson; Captain: Michael O'Connell.

Committee: — Patrick Naughton; Vincent Tierney; Gerard Lewis; Olainn Dempsey; Ed. Fogarty.

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SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN YORKSHIRE G.A.A.

The year 1955 was a year of great success for the Yorkshire G.A.A. So said Clare born Secretary Patrick Hanrahan, at the Board's Sixth Annual Convention held in Leeds.

He outlined the Board's success and said he was proud to state that the Board was in a better financial position than ever before. Yorkshire fielded a first class football team this year who beat Gloucester in the semi final, only themselves to be beaten by a small margin in the final, by Warwickshire.

The county hurling team went down with flying colours to the same county in the semi final in Birmingham.

He congratulated St. Brendans of Leeds in winning the Hurling Trophy for the second year in succession, and their opponents Padraic Pearse, Huddersfield, the gallant losers. This game put hurling in Yorkshire at a high standard.

Paying tribute to St. Pat's, Bradford winners, and St. Coleman's Derby losers of the football final he stated it was below the standard of other finals. However, everything points to good county teams in the coming year.

For the first time the Pro. Convention and the football final of Britain were held in Leeds.

This year's fifteen clubs, was the largest ever and there were three

Gaels in England Keep G.A.A. Flag Flying



Padraic Pearse Club, Huddersfield. Officers for 1956: Rev. Fr. Quirke (Kerry), President; Denis Collins (Limerick), Treasurer; Thomas Johnson (Cork), Chairman; Seán Conroy (Galway), Secretary.

Wicklow Football Slumps

BY JOHN KENNY

Wicklow football has suffered something of a setback during 1955. At this period last year hopes were very high but since a League defeat by Dublin in last year's campaign and the narrow defeat by Westmeath in the 1955 Championship Wicklow football has suffered something of a general slump.

The loss of Andy Phillips and Tommy McAuley, two stout hearted defenders, coupled with an injury to star midfielder Jim Rogers, did not improve matters for the 1955/56 League season, and Wicklow suffered three successive defeats to Offaly, Louth and Dublin. But it must be said that they were very unfortunate to lose to Dublin.

However, a good win over Laois has restored confidence, and remembering last year's encounter with the men of the West, Wicklow should give Galway a great game in February at Aughrim.

In a great game at the County Grounds, Ashford captured the Grade A Junior Championship from Knockananna. This is a welcome sign for Wicklow football for Ashford was the first team registered under the Gaelic Athletic Association rules in County Wicklow during May, 1885.

hundred and forty affiliated players to the County Board.

In all it was a great year for Yorkshire, largely due to their hard working Chairman, Mr. J. B. Whitaker, a native of Lorrha, Tipperary. Their President, Rev. Fr. Stritch, P.P., native of Ballybeigue, Tralee, Kerry, founder of the G.A.A. in Yorkshire, who in 1949 generously presented a silver cup for the hurling championships. Also their enthusiastic treasurer, Mr. J. Hallinan, Co. Limerick, and to the co-operation of all the clubs.

Mr. D. Murphy, Secretary, Provincial Council in Britain, who was present, said Yorkshire, although one of the smallest Boards in Britain had played a leading part in the G.A.A. of this country. It was a great thing to hear the Secretary's report of the year's progress. "No matter where the Irish go to-day, they bring with them their Faith."

The work the bishops and priests had done for the G.A.A. was too great to mention.

The Chairman passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Murphy, joined by all the officials of the club.

Re election made Mr. Whitaker chairman for the sixth successive year.

Officers elected for the coming year:—President, Rev. Fr. Stritch, Kerry; Vice Presidents, T. Johnson, Cork, L. Murphy, Monaghan; Chairman, J. B. Whitaker, Tipperary; Vice Chairman, J. Ryan, Clare; Secretary, P. J. Hanrahan, Clare; Asst. Sec., S. Conroy, Galway; Treasurer, J. Hallinan, Limerick; Registrar, D. Ryan, Tipperary; Delegates to Provincial Council, J. B. Whitaker, P. J. Hanrahan, S. Conroy.

Sean O'Neill Recalls

One of Football's Greatest Gentlemen

This month I write of a man who had not God called to His Own in the flower of his manhood, and before he reached the zenith of his football career, would probably have become one of our greatest footballers of all-time.

His passing robbed many a young enthusiast of his hero and idol and many a hardened veteran of his favourite footballer, because to young and old alike P. J. Duke was a beloved and admired figure. Always modest, gentle and kind and yet manly and adring on the field, P. J. left an impression on those who saw him, because whether it was his copy-book football on the field one admired or his noble carriage as he walked from one lecture hall to another in University College, Dublin, one knew that one looked at a great man.

A native of Stradone, Co. Cavan, "P. J." first represented Cavan in 1945 as a forward and was a member of the Cavan team which lost to Cork in the All-Ireland final of that year. In 1946 he moved into the half-back line to flank the great John Joe Reilly (who has also gone to his eternal reward).

1947 was a memorable year for "P. J." because to him can be given much of the credit for Cavan's victory over Kerry in the All-Ireland final in the Polo Grounds, New York, for when he moved from centre-field to mark Kerry's ace forward Batt Garvey and blot him out, "P. J." turned the tide of the game.

The two years that followed put the name of Duke on every Gaelic enthusiast's lips, because whether it was for Cavan or for Ulster or U.C.D. he played he was always the hero of the hour.

In February, 1950, he was the mainstay of the Combined Universities team that played the pick of Ireland and on St. Patrick's Day we were thrilled by his display of delightful football in the Railway Cup Final. Less than a month later we were shocked by the news of his death.

P. J. Duke is gone now for over five years, but his memory lives on. The Dublin inter-College trophy is named after him, but cups and trophies are not necessary to commemorate the name of Duke, because it lives with the game he loved and played so well.

ENCOURAGE NATIONAL GAMES

Stormont Minister Told

On a discussion on physical education in Six-County primary schools, Mr. J. Stewart (Nationalist) suggested to Mr. Midgley, the Minister of Education, the advisability of encouraging "the national games of hurling and Gaelic football" in the schools. There was no reply from the Minister.

Highlights of the London Feis

EAMONN LEAHY

A great Irish spectacle. An exhibition of Irish art and culture surpassing all such exhibitions ever held in London before. That is how I would describe the London Feis held in November.

At the opening ceremony the President of the Gaelic League of London gave an oration "It is my privilege to welcome you once again to the opening of another Feis. It is the seventh Feis at which I have worked and I must say as long as I am in London I shall serve the Gaelic League and its noble cause." He went further into the details of the League and the attitude of emigrants towards culture and tradition, as portrayed at the Feis.

EXCELLENT STANDARD

The adjudicator for the dancing competitions, Mr. Dinneen of Kerry, told me the standard of dancing was quite excellent. I liked very much the few words, quoted here, which Mr. Dinneen addressed to the competitors and audience. Having given the results of the competitions he went on to say "I note some of the schools of dancing have red on their uniforms. Remember six of our counties are also covered in red." There was long and voluminous peals of applause at Mr. Dinneen's short, sweet and bitterly true statement.

The amazing thing to an emigrant like myself was to see those Londoners, of course they proudly say they're Irish, sing and dance in a true Irish tradition.

GREAT FUTURE FOR ANNE

Prominent among the schools of dancing were the Ryan School, Smyth School and Kavanagh School. A lovely little five-year-old danced triumphantly to second place in the hornpipe for children under eight years. Anne Tobin secured second place in this competition, while her sister took the

Minor Championship. I forecast a great future for Anne in Irish dancing.

There were no big draw-backs at the Feis and things ran smoothly all through. Though the President was absent on League business in Ireland for a few days the Secretary, Maire Nic Conraoi, did trojan work on her own.

SUGGESTION

A suggestion or two for next year's London Feis. Try and have adjudicators, like Mr. Dinneen in dancing, for the other various competitions. While not complaining of the adjudicators who did their work perfectly it would give individuals a greater interest and do away with unjust criticism from those who would like to tell, but never would have the courage, the Gaelic League how they should do it.

Congratulations to the Gaelic League of London for a fortnight of happy Irish music and song. Go mbeannuighidh Dia sibh go léir.

RESULTS OF LONDON FEIS IN BRIEF

- Comp. 38 : Jig under 8 years—1, M. Kilbain; 2, M. Blease.
- Comp. 40 : Hornpipe under 8—1, M. Kilbain; 2, A. Tobin.
- Comp. 49 : Jig over 16 years—1, P. Crean.
- Comp. 50 : Hornpipe over 16 years—1, M. Maughan and P. Crean, a tie.
- Comp. 51 and 52—1, P. Crean (in both).
- Comp. 41—1, C. Fanning.
- Comp. 42—1, A. Sheehan and R. Tobin, tie.
- Comp. 46—1, N. O'Sullivan.
- Comp. 45—1, T. Dunne.
- Comp. 79—Minor Champion—R. Tobin.
- Comp. 80—Junior Championship—a tie between J. Dunne and E. Hickey.
- Comp. 81—Senior Champion—1, P. Crean; 2, M. Maughan; 3, a tie, M. Ryan and S. Goulding.

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LEGION FOREVER

FOR many years the Legion (Killarney) Club have been dominant in the East Kerry League. 1955 was no exception and the boys in green and white again emerged victors after a great game with another Killarney

town team, the Crokes. Johnny Culloty was the outstanding Legion man, while Jackie Lyne, Mickey Culloty, Jimmy Redpath, John Trant, Timmy Horgan and Freddie Murphy all played their part. Hardest club worker is un-

doubtedly local publican and Co. Board representative Pat O'Meara and he has a willing band of workers in John Trant, Tim Moriarty, Jackie Lyne and Paddy Flynn.

WOLFE TONE'S TAKE RACKARD TROPHY

By P. SHEEHAN

THE Rackard Trophy has found its first home unexpectedly in Gorey town following the victory of the local Wolfe Tones over Ballygarrett in the District Final played recently. Earlier this year Nicky Rackard presented this very fine trophy to the Gorey District Committee for competition among the junior teams in the District Championship. The actual handing over of the cup was done on the evening of the senior hurling team's reception in Gorey after winning the All-Ireland. Nicky's very fine gesture was made by his great desire to build up hurling in the northern part of the county where the game has not reached such high standards as prevails in other parts. Only one, Oliver Gough, of the Wexford hurling fifteen comes from Gorey and he learned his hurling in Kilkenny. The District Committee and indeed all G.A.A. followers are very grateful to the Killanne stalwart, and they hope that his gesture will soon bear fruit.

DING-DONG STRUGGLE

Judging by the recent Final with the Cup at stake for the first time, it should not be long till we should see some of these northern lads holding permanent positions on the senior selections. We had a ding-dong tussle in a game that could compare favourably with the best and that on a sod that did not lend itself to good hurling. Ballygarrett, the champions for the past two years, had made no bones about their intentions and ability to bring the cup to rest on some sideboard by the sea. This re-organised team from the town had other ideas. The Wolfe Tone Club, one of the oldest in Wexford, have had a few lean seasons recently but this year a new committee with Mr. J. Earls as Chairman, Messrs. M. Doyle and E. Travers as Secretaries set about putting hurling on its feet again and how well have they done so. A careful blending of youth and experience has established a side that paid dividends in the semi-final when they accounted for Buffer's Alley, a regraded senior team. Yet few gave the Tones any chance against the hard hitting sea-siders in the Final.

LIKE MEN POSSESSED

The day of reckoning came and this young team feeling that they had little to lose threw themselves into the fray like men possessed. If speed was to win then they must. With the hill, wind and sun in their favour they realised that they had to build up a big score in the first half if they wanted to have any chance in the concluding stages. A firm grip at centrefield where Jimmy Hobbs and Jn. Callaghan excelled gave them an advantage and enough of the ball to pile up scores but goals came slowly. Tom Sheehan as clever as ever in the corner had a brace of good goals, while W. Doyle had another to give them a gross total of 3 goals and 5 points and a lead of 9 points over Ballygarrett who had a surprise goal and a couple of points per Jas. Murphy. This lead was scarcely enough to give hopes of a win.

But a few replacements and judicious switches saw the town lads hold their own in the early stages of the second half. Keeping the ball on the ground and on the move they made it difficult for Ballygarrett to reduce the lead. Nevertheless the lads from the coast were not to be denied and gradually they whittled away at the Gorey lead and five minutes from time they were only a point in arrears. Excitement at this stage knew no bounds. Ballygarrett supporters saw victory dangling in front of them but just then the Gorey boys got a new lease of life and in a final onslaught Bill Walker, who had come on as a sub., snapped up a well-directed pass from L. Kennedy and ramped home the winning goal to leave the score 5 goals 5

Ireland's Top Hurling Family



THE RACKARD BROTHERS OF WEXFORD

points to 3 goals 7 points and made Gorey the first winners of the Rackard Trophy.

GREAT SPORTSMAN

Later in the improvised dressing-room Mr. W. Doyle on behalf of N. Rackard presented the cup to Jimmy Hobbs, the captain of the team, amidst great jubilation. Mr. Doyle paid tribute to both the Wolfe Tones and Ballygarrett teams on their display and he wished the teams every success. Referring to the donor, he said that N. Rackard's generosity in presenting such a fine cup was in keeping with his great record on the field of play and his trophy will ever be appreciated by Gorey Gaels. Nicky Rackard's name had become a household word and he had endeared himself with everyone from the tiniest tot to the oldest inhabitant in Wexford. Nicky has shown himself one of the finest and greatest sportsmen not only in Wexford but in Leinster and in the whole of Ireland. Mr. M. Cardiff, Ballygarrett, also came to the dressingroom to congratulate the Tones on their victory as also did Mogue Redmond, the rival captain.

St. Eunans College, Letterkenny, last year's junior football champions of whom much was expected this year were surprisingly beaten by St. Colman's Newry by 2-10 to 2-6.

Band Stole The Limelight

Ballykelly defeated Killcullen by a goal 1-7 to 0-7 in the Co. Kildare Intermediate football final. Outstanding for the winners were Buckley Harrison and Ned O'Rourke, and for the losers Hill-

HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP
Congratulations to Rathnure, who featured the Rackard brothers and Jim English of the county team, on the side which defeated Enniscorthy St. Aidan's in the county final by 2-9 to 2-5.

Enniscorthy had Podge Kehoe and Tom Ryan as their stalwarts, and were bidding for their fourth title in a row.

Scorers:—St. Anne's: N. Rackard (1-6), T. Morrissey (1-0), W. Rackard (0-2) and M. Codd (0-1).

St. Aidan's: P. Kehoe (2-2), F. Millar (0-1), P. Lalor (0-1), T. Dixon (0-1).

COUNTY CONVENTION DATE

Wexford G.A.A. County Convention will be held in Wexford town on Sunday, January 22nd.

Liam Soodison

Beal tá na craobaca buairte agus moltaí na laocra as teact cun veirid. Tá pláinte laos laigeann, Seán Cronin, Liam Riocáro agus na laocra eile ólta agus ríor ólta agus sun uadé do tuilleadh é, ac tá fear amáin a tuilleann molaó co-mait le h-aon uime, fear a 'uim gairce i bPáirc an Crócais agus i bPáircanna nac é i iúe na bliana, fear agus marac é ní bainfi an taitneam céadna a rin cluice Cennair Deit a bain-eas ar agus óar liomíra uim pé gairce an lá rin co-mait le fear ar bit o'fuirceann Clarráí nó dé Cliaé; pé Liam Soodison acá i gceirt asam.

MOLTÓIR LIAM

Dé Liam ar moltóir as na pmoth cluici peile so léir i mbliadhna agus réimís pé iao san loct. Níor cuipis mé fuf amáin if uime amáin as cluice ar bit uioó as cur ina coinnib agus if ríor anam a carluigeann a leiceas ráio.

Ní h-aon ruo nua do Liam a beir i bPáirc an Crócais mar moine bliadhna ó foin bí pé veacair a fáru de peileadóir o'fáil ra cíp. Níl uadé ar bit ac guró é an peileadóir a bfearr a bí as loé Sarmain nam. Tá uoime ann a raóad níor ría fóar agus a de mead comparáio roir Liam agus a rái laoc úo Seán Oh-Iginn ó Cill Dara. (Beann-naé Dé ar a Anam).

CRAOB LAIGEANN

Sa blian 1940 bí Liam ar fuirceann miníur loé Sarmain, agus ríi bliadhna ina uiair rin togaó é uon bfuirceann rínníur. Sa blian 1945 buadar Craob Laigeann. Sa cluice leat-ceannair le Cabán, buair Liam clú agus cáil nuair uimr pé cluice rái roganac ar raó. Uuair Cabán an cluice le dá cúlín ra bfeir ac ó foin i leit bí ann Liam Soodison i mbéai cáé.

An blian ina uiair rin togaó Liam ar fuirceann Laigeann agus coimeas pé a áit ar a ndrúir-eann rin so uíi cur éirís pé ar an gcluice. Sa blian 1950 to-nuigeas an rreac cluici roir Roğa na h-Eirceann agus Roğa na h-Oil Sgoit, agus togaó Liam ar fuirceann na h-Eirceann i táir an leat-líne, tacuigeacra.

ALAN LE RÁO

Tós an iomaint ríim miníur-cim loé Sarmain timceall an ama rin agus dá toparó ní raó fuirceann maie peile acá ó foin. Sa blian 1952 déirís Liam ar agus cé nar buair bonn ceannair na h-Eirceann nam if cor-úit so mberó a lán le ráo aise raó na buinn céadna rin so ceann i bpaó.

SEÁN O'NEILL.

Nick O'Donnell Captain of The Champions

Some people fail to realize that being captain of a team is not just an honour that was given to some popular player who can, should the occasion arise make a suitable speech when receiving a trophy and that it means a lot more than just marching at the head of the team before each big game.

With some teams this maybe the case but with most of our prominent teams it definitely is not.

A Captain is chosen because he is a man who can command and understand his men and when the time comes can radiate confidence and spirit to his players. He must also have the respect of all. A good Captain must therefore be militant, confident and kind, and such a man is Nick O'Donnell the Captain of this year's hurling champions.

Nick is a good Captain and to him must be given much of the credit for Wexford's perseverance and eventual success.

It maybe a surprise to many to read that Nick is not a Wexford man—he is a native of Graigue-managh, Co. Kilkenny. The All-Ireland medal he collected this



Captain Nick O'Donnell stands at the extreme left of the men he led to All-Ireland victory on September 4th.

WELL DONE BALLYMONEY

The Ballymoney (Arklow) footballers achieved one of their dearest ambitions in 1955 by winning the County Junior Football Championship. In the opening round of the championship they were hard pressed to beat a strong Arklow side at Auhrim, but they improved with every outing and they were certainly a very fit team when defeating old rivals and very

near neighbours, Brittas Whites, in the Final. The decider proved to be a very close tie and it was only a last-minute goal by Hurley that brought victory to the Ballymoney camp. 1955 will go down in history for Ballymoney, as they also won the South Wicklow Junior Hurling Championship. In the semi-final they had a good win over Arklow Geraldines, while the final was a one-sided affair Ballymoney having matters all their own way against the "Rock."

Congrats. to their star forward J. Hurley on his marriage to Bally-richard camogie star Miss Mai Ivanoff.

The Ballyrichard club made a presentation to the bride at a Ceili held at Brittas Bay, prior to her wedding.

year was not his first one, as it was to most of the team, because in 1946 he was a substitute on the Kilkenny team which won the crown. The same year he also won a junior All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny.

A few years later Nick went to live in Enniscorthy and played for the local St. Aidan's Club. The Wexford mentors seemed to have been keener sighted, in those years, than the Kilkenny ones because they saw Nick as a great full-back prospect. So early in the 1950 season he was chosen on the Wexford senior team and has been an automatic choice since.

In those five years he has won almost every honour in the game. With Wexford he has won three Leinster titles and has been twice chosen for the Leinster Railway Cup team and was once selected for Ireland.

Standing six feet and weighing almost fifteen stone Nick is the ideal full-back, always clean and sportmanly and yet rugged and efficient, he and his men are a credit to Wexford and to the game they play so well.

JUNIOR GAELS' PAGE



An Gael Óg as Iomaíocht

HOW everybody loves an interregnum in the world of sport. Here we are in January, with players in all grades enjoying scith ghearr na Nollag. And then there is the added zest for the have-nots to regard the champs. as have-beens. After all the championship winners of

M. Ó Dubháil

view, installed by many as firm favourites to take the title; Belcamp College, probably the outsiders for all their impressive display in surprisingly defeating O'Connell School; Knockbeg Col-

F. R. Gifni, recently elected for his third term of office as President of the Leinster Colleges' Council, and as Colleges' delegate to the Central Council. Fad saoil chuíge!

And in introducing this innovation let no one dare accuse us of

apeing anything, either modern or foreign.

You must remember that in the ancient days of Ireland's heroic past, when the feasting succeeded the feats of athletic prowess, the choicest dainty was reserved for the hero of the hour. Hence an churadh-mhir—the hero's portion.

Not that you will always find yourselves in agreement with our monthly choice. Ni bhíonn saoi gan locht. But we shall appreciate your disagreements and objections, as well as your approvals and bouquets!

LEATHANACH DUINN FEIN
And now boys and girls, you have here, a complete page, on which to record your achievements on the playing fields.

Before you read on please remove all adults outside the orbit of vision from the following.

TOP SECRET

This is our secret and I am getting it across to you quickly, now that the Editor has lost his reading glasses pro tem.

Your Editor's phobia is space. He dreams, drinks, devours, divulges, desires, deplores space—editorial space for grown-up features.

Let us co-operate in keeping his encroachments off this page. Ach ni bhíonn eolach gan eolas. Cuirigi chugam roinnt faisnéisi anois as aris, fá spóirt—imtheachtaí ins na scoileanna. Cabhrúigi liom.

Now that the missing glasses have been found—over and out!

CLUB EANNA

A Chairde Oga,
This month we have a pleasant surprise for you: We have established a Club for Junior Gaels. The name of the Club is Club Eanna, and it is open to all boys and girls under the age of sixteen, so we hope that all of you will join and thus do your part to strengthen the position of our own Gaelic games.

The name and address of every member will be registered here in the GAELIC ECHO Office and a special membership card will be sent to each boy or girl, when he or she joins. From now on, no one may enter for any competition on this page unless he is a Member of Club Eanna. (This rule does not apply to this month's Crossword Competition, but will apply to all future competitions.)

Just send your name and address, together with the date of your birth, to:

The Secretary,
GAELIC ECHO (1954), Ltd.
13 Parliament Street,
Dublin.

And enclose one three-penny stamp to cover the cost of sending you your membership card. Membership of Club Eanna is free, apart from this single stamp for postage, and remember it will entitle you to enter any future competition on Junior Gaels' Page.

Later we hope to be able to issue attractive badges to the members of Club Eanna and we are, in fact, at present making arrangements for the design and production of these badges.

So don't delay—join Club Eanna this very day, and do your best to foster Irish games.



ST. COLMAN'S FERMOY

1955, can hardly in justice regard themselves as still champions in 1956!

So for the interregnum—Deo Gratias!

THINGS TO COME

But of course there is the sobering thought, where the senior championships are already so far advanced that the remaining contenders are few.

In Connaught the hurling issue has been decided, St. Mary's College defeating Sacred Heart College, Ballinacorney, in the thrilling decider. We congratulate the winners, while appreciating that the monotonous regularity of their victories might make them dead-sea fruit, and certainly presage no golden era for hurling in the West.

The position in Munster and Ulster Senior Championships should be more clear-cut for our next issue.

LEINSTER PROSPECTS

With the four teams still left in the running: St. Joseph's, Fair-

lege, Carlow, last year's winners; and St. Mel's, Longford, adjudged by many doomed by faulty forward finish, to fall victims to Knockbeg in the quarter-final.

With five outstanding sides still in the running for senior honours in Leinster hurling, it would be indeed very rash at this stage to nominate the likely champions. Here again let us suspend judgment until the February semi-finals.

AN CHURADH-MHIR

Each month we hope to spotlight for you the boy or girl, man or woman, whose deeds of the month deserve the palm. That honour will of course be earned, in most cases, as an bhfai the imearth; but remember our administrators too are entitled to the highest praise for the long hours they give unselfishly to organisation.

It is this latter thought that impelled us to award our curadh-mhir this month to An Bráthair

Correct Solution of December Competition.

Across—1, Hcgan; 2, Ita; 3, Land; 4, MD; 5, DA; 6, Naas; 7, At; 8, TT; 9, Idól; 10, Sideline.

Down—1, Holidays; 2, Aidan; 3, Enda; 4, Mast.; 5, Carol; 6, Tie.

CONGRATULATIONS, BOYS

We are pleased to announce the winners of our December Junior Crossword.

1st Prize—Richard Bourke (13), Loughmore, Templemore, Co. Tipperary.

2nd Prize—Willie O'Dwyer (15 years), Bawnmore, Cashel, Co. Tipperary.

3rd Prize—Patrick McGuire (14), Tullybrack, Corlough P.O., Co. Cavan.

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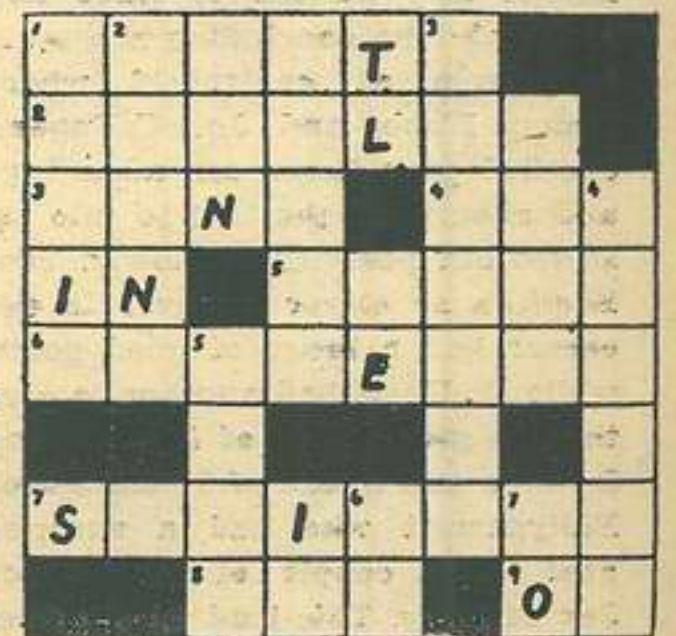
PRIZES!

—AND NO ENTRY FEE

CLUES

CROSSWORD NO. 2

Across—1, This one-armed Mayoman was a leader of the Land League. 2, A well-known Glen in the South of Ireland. 3, A weather — shows us the direction of the wind. 4, You know that someone wants to come in when you hear this at the door. 5, This famous nineteenth century poet was born in Aungier St., Dublin. 6, The judge sometimes passes this on the man in the dock. 7, A well-known tribe of North American Indians. 8, Most of us like to — sweets. 9, When you have a choice you may take one thing — the other. Down—1, This famous poet, who died young, wrote "A Nation Once Again." 2, Many great hurlers came from —, in Co. Limerick. 3, A large city in Canada. 4, A policeman used to be called a — in Ireland, long ago. 5, Everybody has one. 6, These letters after a person's name tell you that he, or she, is a National Teacher. 7, — and behold!



RULES

- 1.—All entrants (boys or girls) must be under 17 years at date of entry.
- 2.—Prizes will be awarded to the first three correct solutions opened.
- 3.—All entries must be accompanied by Entry Form properly completed.
- 4.—The closing date is Jan. 15th, and the Editor's decision is absolutely final.
- 5.—Entries should be addressed to: Crossword, Gaelic Echo (1954) Limited, 13 Parliament St., Dublin.

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- 1st Prize.—Guaranteed Hand-Sewn Football or £2 2s. 0d.
- 2nd Prize.—Hurley or Camogie Stick.
- 3rd Prize.—Silver Medal.

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ONE of the things which most astonishes the scholar who reads in his original Old Irish the sagas and tales of the Red Branch and Fenian cycles, is the manner in which the sea runs through the whole series. Modern Irish literature shows no similar under-current, nor can one find a parallel for it in any save those few island-races with an age-old maritime tradition. Elizabethan England and Ancient Greece had the sea in their blood, so to speak, and so had the Gaels of old. They even adored their mighty sea-gods, Lir, Lord of the Sea, and powerful Manannan Mac Lir, after whom the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea is still called, more than two thousands years later. Tir na nOg lay over the waves, whither Osseen went, and many, many of these old sagas recount the journeys to foreign countries of Irish heroes, to Africa and Greece, to Sweden and Iceland, tales of derring-do and heroism and conquest, whence came home the heroes laden with trophies and captives. There is a beautiful story told of Conall Cearnach, Conall the Slaughterer, hero of many a Red Branch tale, how he stood at the crucifix and drew his sword in fierce rage against those Roman legionaries who tortured so mild a man, till those same mild eyes looked down and bade him sheathe the avenging steel. How had Conall Cearnach got to Palestine? In the same way, surely, that other heroes came and went, in those fleet boats that spanned the friendly brine.

TRADITION MAINTAINED

Then came history's dawn and St. Brendan the Navigator. St. Brendan's own story of his dramatic voyages has come down to us and there can now be no doubt but that he reached the American mainland in several thrilling adventures. Did not Columbus call to Galway for a pilot once? Or who has not heard of Grannuille, Sea-Queen of Connaught, mistress of the sea? Were not mighty sea-battles fought off Drogheda and Rathlin?

And so it was down through the ages to the time of the British occupation of our ports.

EMPTY HARBOURS

In order to free their own industries and shipping from the competition of Irish merchants and ships, the British Government, during its occupation, passed legislation which killed off such thriving export industries as the Irish woollen trade, and made it also impossible for Ireland to retain its own shipping industry. Irishmen still sailed the seven seas, with fame and distinction, but not in Irish ships. Ireland's harbours were empty of Irish ships and Irish Shipping was a thing of the past. This was indeed a gloomy stage in Ireland's shipping history and it lasted right up to March, 1941.

A FRIGHT AND A START

World War II broke out on Sept. 1st, 1939, and now men saw the folly of their indolence and neglect. Ireland's food was not being grown sufficiently at home, all necessities must be imported across the seas, but German aeroplanes, surface raiders and submarines range far and wide after the collapse of France, and the Allies were far too concerned over their own dire plight to worry overmuch about the needs of a small neutral nation. Even if they would help, they could not. There just was no spare shipping to waste on Ireland. Things in Ireland became scarcer and scarcer, especially wheat, tea, sugar, tobacco, petrol, etc. If Ireland was to be made secure, it was obvious that she would have to help herself.

THE BIRTH OF AN INDUSTRY

In March, 1941, Irish Shipping was founded. One chairman each from the three then existing shipping companies in Ireland was appointed to the Board of Directors of Irish Shipping, the Chairman of

Grain Importers (Eire) was also made a Director, and the Board met under the Chairmanship of Mr. John Leydon, Secretary to the Department of Supplies. Their task was to buy or lease or charter ships for the Irish trade. When war broke out, ships of many warring nations were either bound for Irish ports or at dock there. There were ships from Yugo-Slavia, Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Denmark, and Italy, immobilised in Irish ports. Long and difficult legal and diplomatic negotiations had then to be conducted with regard to the purchase or leasing of each ship, but ultimately 15 vessels in all were acquired, 10 in 1941, 4 in 1942 and 1 in 1943. Costly repairs, renovations and maintenance had to be undertaken on all, but finally they were ready for sea.

INSURANCE PAID ITS WAY AND IRISH SHIPPING MADE MONEY

As any ship at that time faring forth from port on any sea was running into dangerous war zones and ran serious risk of being bombed or torpedoed by enemy action, made all the more sinister by means of newer and more deadly mine-fields, Lloyds raised their insurance premiums to a fantastic level. The Irish Government then made a daring move. They backed the underwriting of the ships' insurances themselves at the same rates as Lloyds were offering. When the war was over it was found that Irish Shipping had been lucky. The warring nations had respected the Irish flag both German and Allied combatants had held their fire to a great extent, and Irish Shipping had shown a profit of £3,000,000 on its insurance.

This money is now to the good and available for future expansion. In the meantime, another new industry, allied to Irish Shipping's original aim, has been born, viz. Irish maritime insurance. It has now extended its operations to all shipping and is showing a remarkable profit. The insurance venture began in 1942, and its expansion took place in 1944. In 1946, Irish Shipping handed over its insurance business to the Insurance Corporation of Ireland in consideration of the issue to Irish Shipping of shares at par. A flourishing Marine Insurance business is now in full swing in Dublin operated by a number of insurance companies

and undertaking insurance on all classes of shipping on a reciprocal basis with companies in London, New York and a number of other countries. It was the insurance venture that provided the money and brought in its train so many happy results for the nation generally.

A LESSON TO OTHER INDUSTRIES

It is worth stressing here that, unlike other subsidised industries, Irish Shipping, apart from an original grant of £200,000, has not cost the Irish tax-payers a single penny. It cleared off its overdrafts by means of which it acquired its ships and it looks ahead with financial confidence. It is not a government company and it shows what enterprise and brains and good management can accomplish.

CHANGE OF METHOD OF FINANCING NEW ORDERS

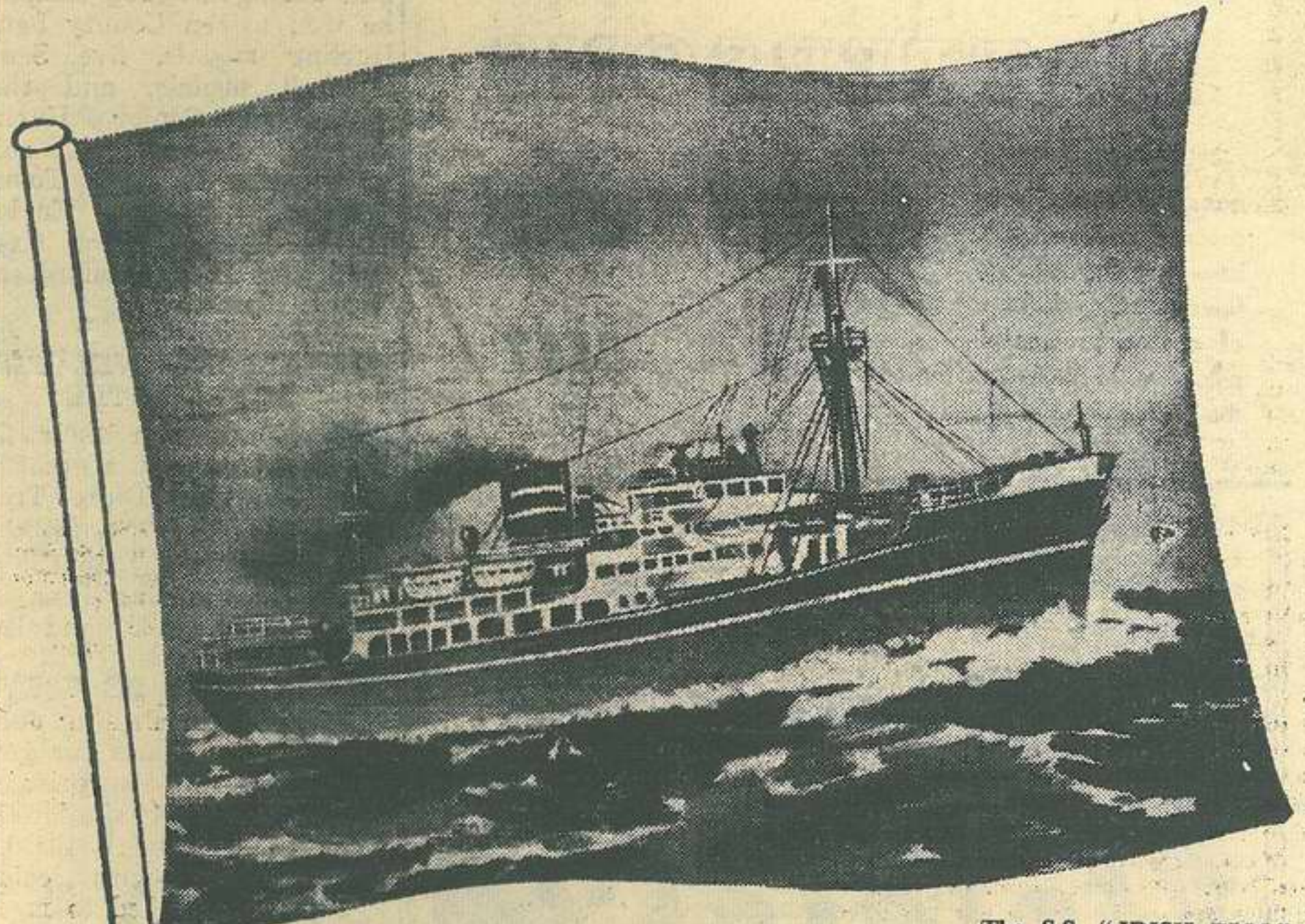
We have so far seen how Irish Shipping was founded in Ireland's hour of dire need to undertake the task of supplying the nation with the goods from overseas which it required to carry on normal life, in fact, actual existence. This task was beyond private enterprise and capital at the time, so the government helped.

Now we come to a change in the method of financing the purchase of new vessels. While the company's own policy of extending the fleet was under way, the Government asked for the company's views as to the types of additional tonnage which could be most gainfully employed. Eventually the Government decided that the company should, in addition to what orders it had already placed

in its own initiative, order six further ships—one collier, one small tanker and four vessels of the 9,950 ton type.

The Government agreed to provide or secure for the company as much of the capital as the company might require to finance the building of these six vessels. The cost of the vessels which the Government instructed them to construct will be in the region of £4 millions. In what way this money will be provided or on what terms it will be given, I am not yet in a position to say. In any event it will be the first time since 1941 that the Exchequer has had to provide for shipping.

When both of these building programmes are completed, the company will have a fleet of 18 vessels with a d.w. tonnage of 120,000.



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DIXIE REVIEWS THE G.A.A. YEAR IN LIMERICK

LIMERICK Gaels can look back on 1955 as being very successful both in inter-county and home affairs. The wearers of the Green and White won no All-Ireland honours, but the Senior Hurling team won the Munster Championship for the first time since 1940, a success that will be long talked of in Munster. The Junior Hurlers went under to Clare in the opening round of the Munster Championship, while the Minors were narrowly defeated by Waterford at Thurles. Football is on the up-grade in the County, and although well beaten by Cork in the Munster Semi-final, the Shannonsiders showed great form in the League. When well under strength they went narrowly under to Tipperary in the opening round. They had a good win over Waterford at the Gaelic Grounds. They went under to Clare at Kilrush in their last outing. With the accent on youth, they are a promising lot, and they could easily have taken Group honours had they been able to muster a full team in all their engagements.

AHANE HEAD THE LIST

Ahane recovered the County Senior Hurling title after a lapse of seven years with a great win over Geraldines, a team representative of the Junior Clubs in East Limerick. The Castleconnell boys head the list in this competition with a total of sixteen titles to their credit. Next come Young Ireland with seven, and Croom take third place with six.

Hero of the 1955 win was veteran Jackie Power, who has 22 years' service to his credit. Surely a fine record, and during his long campaign he won fifteen County Senior Hurling medals, five Senior Football medals, and three All-Ireland Senior Hurling medals. Others to shine were Seán Herbert, Tommy O'Brien, Paddy Enright, Paddy Byrnes, Tom Casey, Seán and Dick Leonard, and Willie Keane.

KILMALLOCK WIN FIRST MINOR TITLE

Kilmallock won their first Minor crown with a great win over the City Club, Treaty Sarsfields. This was the third title to go to the South, previous titles having been won by Hospital (1933) and Bruff (1941).

YOUTH MUST BE SERVED

Patrickswell, fielding one of the youngest teams for years, caused a big surprise by taking the County Junior title. They came through the City Championship with colours flying and qualified to meet a much fancied Kilmee-Feenagh combination in the County Semi-final. Here again it was a triumph for youth, and the "Well" boys finished the campaign with a fine win over Pallasgreen.

CLAUGHAUN WIN FIRST SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The City team, Claughaun, captured their first-ever Senior crown in the big ball game

with a well-merited 5-4 to 1-1 win over Treaty Sarsfields. Dermot Kelly, Limerick's hurling "wonder boy," had a big part in his side's victory. He got able assistance from another inter-county hurling star, 19-year-old Ralph Prendergast. While Michael Tynan, Mick Mack, Dom Scanlon, White and Mannix all played their part in a great victory.

Garda were strongly fancied to take this year's title, and Claughaun created a major

sensation by ousting them in the Semi-final.

Playing great football for the Limerick County team these days is former Roscommon Minor star, Garda Leo Duffy. A very promising midfielder, rumour has it that he may declare for his native county this season. Other Garda players wearing the county colours with distinction are P. Donnellan, a cast iron full-back; J. McDonagh, J. Silke, M. Connolly, and J. Finnerty.

1955 Roll of Honour

For administrative purposes the county has been divided into four divisions and for the records here are the "champs." of 1955.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.H.—Ahane. Runners-up Geraldines.
J.H.—Patrickswell. Runners-up Pallasgreen.
M.H.—Kilmallock. Runners-up Treaty.
J.H.—Treaty. Runners-up Knockaney.
S.F.—Claughaun. Runners-up Treaty.
J.F.—
M.F.—Abbeysfeale. Runners-up Galbally.
J.F.—Treaty. Runners-up Knockane.
At the time of writing the

Junior football competition was unfinished.

WEST LIMERICK

J.H.—Feenagh - Kilmee-Feenagh.
J.F.—Glin. M.H.—Killeedy.
M.F.—Abbeysfeale. Juvenile H.—Croom. Juvenile F.—St. Senans.

CITY

J.H.—Patrickswell. J.F.—Kildimo-Pallas. M. H.—Treaty. M.F.—St. Patricks. Juvenile H. and F.—Treaty.

SOUTH

J.H.—Garryspillane. J.F.—Hospital. M.H.—Kilmallock. M.F.—Galbally. Juvenile H.—Knockaney.

EAST

J.H.—Pallasgreen. J.F.—Oola. M.H.—Doon. M.F.—Fallas. Juvenile H.—Cappamore.

Able Administrator

Much credit for the very smooth running of all competitions must go to County Chairman Paddy O'Reilly of Ahane, who in his hey-day was a prominent hurling goalkeeper. To County Secretary Jackie O'Connell we say, "Congratulations for a job well done." He had a very busy year, but at all times he was "ready, willing and able" to overcome the biggest obstacles. Where would you find a more suitable candidate

for the position of County Treasurer than former Young Ireland Limerick hurler Mick Fitzgibbon? To Mick Mackey, Munster Council representative and hero of a hundred battles, goes the honour of training the victorious Senior Hurling team.

Congratulations to one of Limerick's star hurlers Sean Leonard on his recent wedding. Rath agus sonas oraibh araon a Sheain.

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Rev. Brother O'Brien with one of his winning Mount Sion School teams.

"Mile a Minute Murphy"

One of the flood of emigrants from Ireland to the New World in the last decade of the nineteenth century, Charles Michael Murphy was quickly attracted to the new sport which was then all the rage, cycle racing. A natural athlete, Murphy quickly established himself as a top ranking performer. However, in spite of winning classic events on road and track, he was consumed by a burning ambition to become the first man in the world to cover the one mile distance in one minute, which represents an average speed of sixty miles per hour.

PACED BY TRAIN

Finally after many setbacks he got the necessary support for his project. The only vehicle capable of attaining the necessary speed in those days was a railway train so arrangements were made to build a special wooden track in between the rails of the track at Maymount, Long Island, and on June 30, 1899 Murphy made his attempt behind a train which had a special hood built behind the last carriage to protect him from the wind. The attempt was successful and he covered a measured mile in 57.8 seconds.

The attempt, successful as it was, nearly ended in tragedy. Due to the high speed Murphy's brakes failed and as he hurtled towards the end of the boarded up section he was still going at forty miles per hour. His helpers shouted at him to pull himself on to the platform after his great effort did not seem to realize his great danger nor hear their shouts. Finally only one hundred yards from the end of the boards two of the observers on the platform reached down and pulled the near unconscious Murphy to safety.

CIVIC RECEPTION

With public interest in cycling

at its peak, Murphy was the hero of the hour and received a civic reception from the Mayor of New York. Newspapers at the time dubbed him "Mile a Minute" Murphy and by this name he has gone down in the history of cycling.

Pat Hayes, Star of the Future

Last October when Limerick engaged Clare in the National League tie at the Gaelic Grounds, centre half back Jim Keogh, Ballybricken had to cry off owing to a knee injury and into the breach stepped Pat Hayes.

The Newcastle West boy had a great game, his long striking and great anticipation being a feature of a dull game. Against Galway in the second round tie he was not available owing to a club engagement but he lined out against Tipp. at the Gaelic Grounds a few Sundays afterwards and once more gave a great account of himself. Time and again he broke up dangerous enemy onslaughts and his long clearances oftentimes brought a sigh of relief to Shannonside followers.

The well-built sixfooter is no newcomer to the Limerick jersey as he starred with the county minor hurling team in 1948 and '49 and he also had a few outings with the junior hurling side. He won West Limerick M.H. and M.F. honours with N.C. West in 1949, junior football honours in 1951 and he was the star of this year's junior hurling team that went down to Feenagh-Kilmeedy in the divisional final.

Pat's rise to fame was well merited and the Shannonside mentors are confident that he will make a success of the centre half-back berth vacated by Seamus Ryan.

Ground Record at Dungarvan

Another attendance record went by the board when £455 was paid over the turnstiles at Dungarvan a few Sundays ago when Mount Soin retained the county senior hurling title with a three points victory over a gallant Abbeyside fifteen. Best for the champions were Sean Hayden, Seamus Power, Tom Galagher and Tommy Keane. Liam Whelan, Peter Clancy and Waterford and Munster Railway Cup player Johnny O'Connor were outstanding for Abbeyside.

Kilcolman Fall at Last Fence for Third Time

"DIXIE"

KILCOLMAN'S supporters must have been very disappointed at their team's single point defeat in the West Limerick final, as it was their third time in a few years to go under in the final round when firm favourites to take the title.

In 1948 they lost to Athea in Newcastlewest but they were back again in 1953 only to be defeated by near neighbours Foynes by the slightest of margins. They never looked forward to a game with such interest as the 1955 final and it was a pity that they went under to Glin. Heroes of the 1948 team, Darby Fitz, Sean O'Connor and Jim Brouder, were the backbone of the 1955 team. Emigration has hit the club very hard in the past few years and, but for the number of young players that have left the parish for England and the U.S.A., they would be able to muster a very fine side. Of the young school, the three Kelly brothers were the most promising, while the Carrig brothers, Gerald Hennessy, Mich Nash, Jack Bett Enright, Tim Downey, Joe O'Shaughnessy, Tommy Danaher and John Donovan all played their part.

With the accent on youth, things look bright for this great Limerick football stronghold.

Much credit is due to Sergeant Garvey, team trainer for many years, for the great work he has done for football in the parish.

MISSIONARY RETURNS TO AFRICA

Father G. Higgins, A.M., returns to the mission fields of Africa with an unusual distinction. A great hurling enthusiast, Fr. Higgins has been home on a long holiday and was paid the high compliment by the Limerick city club, Cloughaunt, was elected him President during his stay at home.

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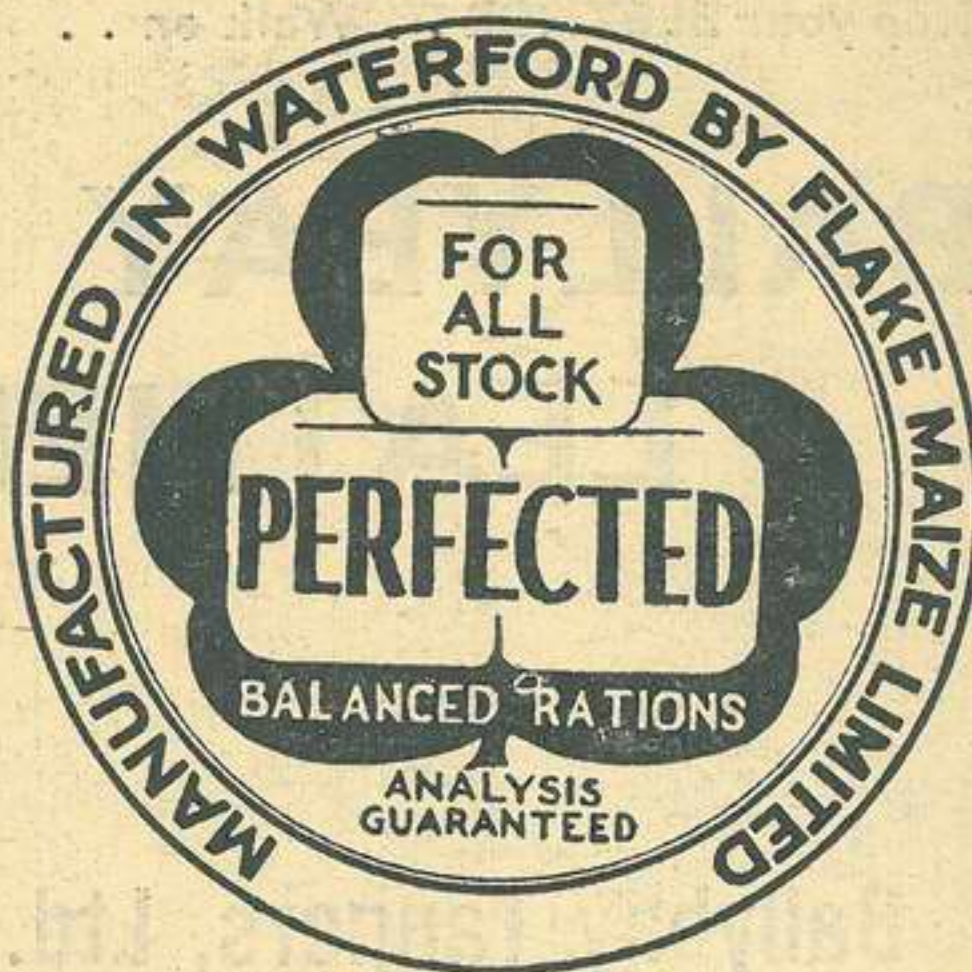
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Are Bundoran Champions?

LIFFORD (that place where all Strabane people buy their cigarettes) were beaten by Bundoran in the Donegal junior football championship to the tune of 4-2 to 0-2. Bundoran claim this game to be the final proper but it is likely that the County Board will order them to play Creeslough who have been re-admitted to the competition.

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Focus on Ulster



On the Camogie Field

The Junior and Minor County Championship finals were played at Blackwatertown before a record crowd.

In the Minor game, Blackwatertown St. Mary's had an easy win of 6-0 to 0-1 over their neighbours Tullymore. For Blackwatertown Mary C. Mallon, and L. Reynolds gave a great display.

The Junior final, which was between Tullymore (Benburb) and St. Anne's, Carrickcruppen (South Armagh) was keenly contested. The exchanges were hectic and the excitement ran high coming up to full time when Carrickcruppen put in all they knew to get on level terms. Both teams were evenly matched, and but for a few defensive blunders Carrickcruppen might have been the victors. Result: Tullymore 7-0; Carrickcruppen 6-1. The standard of the camogie was very high.

The trophies for the Senior, Minor and Junior Championship were presented to the respective winners at a presentation ceillidhe held during November in the Armagh City Hall.

Blackwatertown, Senior County Champions, had a visit from Kilkerry, Louth Co. Champions. The home team won comfortably, the score being 6-4 to 4-1.

Big Antrim Surprise

Recent surprise in Antrim football was the holding to a draw of Gaedhil Uladh by C.Y.M.S. in the South Antrim Intermediate final at Casement Park. This was the first appearance of C.Y.M.S. in the Belfast Park and it was the general opinion that they would give little opposition to the more experienced Gaedhil Uladh, but the men of Glennavel seemed to have little consideration for the critics because they outplayed their fancied opponents for most of the game and were it not for a goal from a penalty got by Gaedhil Uladh just before the interval C.Y.M.S. would surely have carried the day. The final score was: C.Y.M.S. 0-5; Gaedhil Uladh 1-2.

Team Spirit in Belfast

Nancy Carabine (Burns C.C.) recently sustained an eye injury while playing in a club match, and had to spend some time in a Belfast hospital.

Visiting hours presented an unusual sight. Every day there was a long queue of visitors not alone from her own club, but from Camogie and even G.A.A. clubs all over Belfast.

Here indeed is evidence of a grand team spirit and of the close relationship between camogie and G.A.A. folk in the North—a position which is deserving of the greatest praise.

We are glad to report that Nancy is now well and out of hospital, and will soon be seeing eye-to-eye with her opponents!

Donegal Looks to Schoolboy Hurlers

At the recent Co. Donegal hurling convention held in Ballybofey, Mr. Malacny Cullen of Ballyshannon, who was elected chairman for the coming year, spoke of the need to interest the youth of the county in hurling. Mr. Cullen had the novel suggestion of forming schoolboy teams of nine or ten members, because, as he said, it was difficult to get even thirteen boys to make up a team.

NEWCASTLE OFFICIALS

At the annual meeting of the Newcastle G.F. Club (Co. Down), the following officers were elected: President, Rev. C. O'Neill, P.P.; Chairman, Rev. P. McFerran, C.C.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. McLarnon; Secretary, Mr. J. McClements; Asst. Sec., Mr. P. Fegan; Treas., Mr. B. Owens; Intermediate Capt., J. McElroy; Minor Capt., M. Clarke.



Kevin Armstrong of Antrim.

Joe Was the Star

Congratulations from the Gaelic St. John's hurling club on capturing the Co. Antrim senior title. They beat their opponents Faughs by a ten point margin, and led at the interval by 2-3 to 1-1. Much of the credit for their victory must be given to their goalie Joe McCallin, who brought off some great saves, others outstanding were B. McGuirk, Jack Arnold and J. Magowan.

OAK LEAF TAKE ULSTER HONOURS

Oak Leaf, the Derry club, secured the 1955 Ulster novice cross-country championship with a team score of 45 points. G. Leathem of Green Cockade won the individual title. Eighty runners faced the starter.

DONEGAL TOWN ARE HURLING CHAMPIONS

Donegal Town, by scoring five goals, defeated Letterkenny who scored 3-2 to annex the Co. Donegal hurling championship for 1955. Ballyshannon are juvenile champions, having beaten Burt.

BALLYMARTIN AND BALLYKINLAR WIN COUNTY DOWN TITLES

Senior and Junior football titles for 1955 were won by Ballymartin and Ballykinlar respectively.

In the senior game Ballymartin defeated Longstone rather comfortably by 4-8 to 0-5. Despite the wide margin between the two sides, Longstone fought on grimly to the very end.

The very big crowd who turned up to see the game also had the Junior game played at St. Patrick's Park, Newcastle. In the junior game Ballykinlar defeated their more fancied rivals, Rostrevor.

Armagh Final For 1923 Brought Better Reward Than 1955 Final

by S.O.G.

It is 32 years since Crossmaglen had the honour of being chosen as the venue for a Co. Armagh Senior Championship final. This was in 1923 when that noted stronghold of the G.A.A. provided not only the venue but the two teams that battled it out for Senior County football honours.

That year Rangers, a club with an honourable record in county football and still going strong, were challenged by another local combination who entered the Senior competition under the name of Geraldines.

Both teams after playing right through the competition found themselves opposing each other in the Co. Final.

This was played at the Ranger's home ground and some idea of the enthusiasm aroused can be gauged from the fact that the game, with an admission fee of 3d., brought a gate of almost £50.

When Killeavy St. Moninna's from the other side of Slieve Gullion and Armagh Harps from the Primatial City met in Crossmaglen's spacious new pitch on a drab dull Sunday afternoon towards the end of October to decide the 1955 County Senior championship the older people of the town recalled the local Derby of 1923. Needless to say the attendance, though good, fell far short of the figure recorded a generation earlier, and the staunch Gaels of Cross, good judges of good football that they are, were not slow to point out the defects of both teams in the matter of all round football standards.

It was undoubtedly a disappointing final from the football point of view as the Killeavy men were outplayed in all sections and Harps won with an ease and score that did not more than justice to their supremacy.

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18-Point Eric from Limerick

BY S.F.A.

At the moment there is a growing feeling in Gaelic circles in Limerick, that a new era is at hand, that the golden days of the 1930's are to come again, and such optimism is understandable. Limerick's sensational Munster Championship Final win over Clare, set the fire alight, and if the flames dimmed somewhat against this top Wexford team, chalk it down to inexperience chiefly. Those Limerick boys will be back again, as sure as there is a hurley in Ahane, and that's sure enough.

Mick Mackey brought the best any mentor could bring out of this year's team, and with League and challenge games through the winter, the Shannsidors should be a force to be reckoned with next year. Right in the middle of all this wishful thinking something practical has turned up, in the person of a minor player of fifteen years of Treaty Sarsfield hurling team, Eric Smyth. Young Smyth has amazed his team-mates, supporters, and the public by his aptitude as a corner-forward in the City Minor Championship. His team has won it, the final against Patrickswell being very much in their favour. They played three games, defeated Mague Rovers, Claughaun and Patrickswell, and scored 28 goals and 22 points in doing so! Some total this, but listen to Eric Smyth's contribution to it. He scored 5 goals 3 points against Patrickswell. He certainly has given every indication of a "find," particularly as the standard of minor hurling this year in Limerick is good.

His performance must be a record one, so if Mick Mackey has any doubts of having good material to mould in the coming years, the appearance of boys like Eric Smyth will remove these doubts. Treaty Sarsfield is nearly 80 years in existence, and this old club looks like having the youngest star in the Gaelic sky down Limerick way.

Donie The Hero

By "DIXIE"

Hero of the 1955 Limerick Senior Cross-Country race held at Greenpark recently was Pallasbeg boy, 12-year-old Donie O'Flynn, who created quite a surprise by finishing 29th in a big field. It was a great achievement for a lad of his age to finish the gruelling course and if he takes things easy for a while he should hit the athletic headlines in a few years.

First and second places went to Benny O'Sullivan and Albert O'Keefe, Limerick A.C., who won the team prize.

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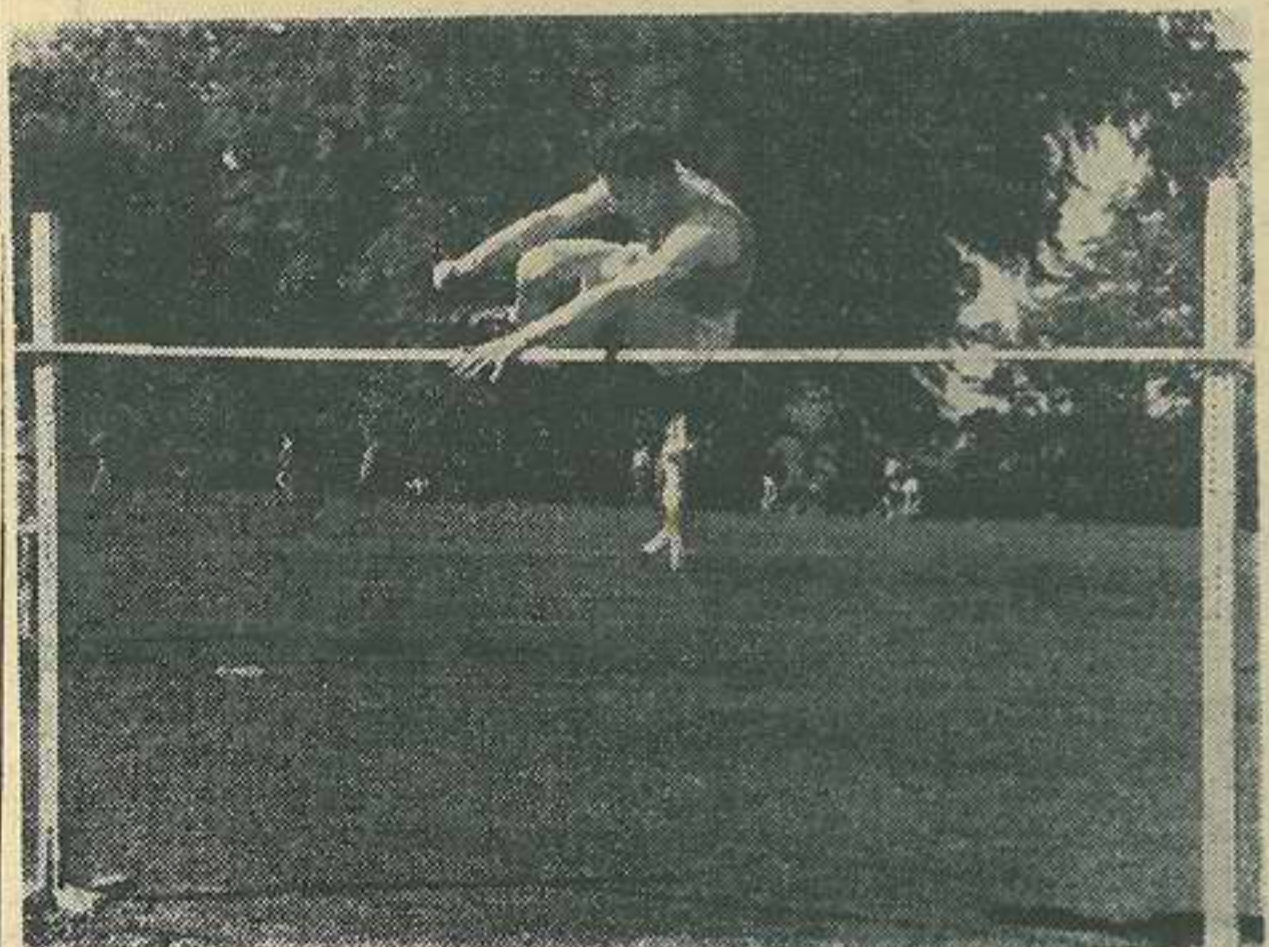
Mr. J. Ryan, the Chairman of the Co. Tipperary Board of the N.A.C.A., at the recent County Convention, referred to the past year as a "memorable" one. Tipperary having swept the boards by annexing the All-Ireland senior, junior and youths cross-country championships.

The 1956 officials elected were: President, Rev. M. Morrissey, C.C.; Vice-Presidents, Dr. Pat O'Callaghan, D. O'Brien, M. Kennedy, M. McCarthy; Chairman, J. Ryan; Vice-Chairman, B. Murnane, M. Blake, D. O'Dwyer, P. Blake; Secretary, M. Navin; Joint Treas., M. Navin, M. Kennedy; Co. Registrar, S. O'Brice.

Ex-Kerry Football Star Passes on

Kerry has lost one of the most prominent footballers of the 1940's by the most untimely death of Paddy Burke. A native of Milltown, he was a great opportunist in his hey-day. Remember the Kerry v. Roscommon All Ireland Final of 1946? Well the men in green and gold were six points behind when Paddy Burke got a picture goal that put Kerry back in the game with a fighting chance. Gega O'Connor had another, and the game ended in a draw. Kerry fans will mourn the passing of this great Gael.

Munster's Best High-Jumper



Maconn McNamara of Co. Clare, National Senior and Youths' Champion.

CLAUGHAN, LIMERICK SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS FOR 1955

A new name appears on the Limerick senior football championship roll of honour with the city club, Claughaun's, victory over Treaty-Sarsfields in the 1955 decider.

This 1955 honour is not however Claughaun's first by any means. In all they have won the senior hurling title five times, the junior title on four occasions and the minor hurling once.

A very fine football programme was seen by a large crowd in Waterford city some Sundays ago when Ring retained their county minor title by defeating Kill 1-5 to 0-3 and Geraldines beat De La Salle in the junior final by the same score.

The death has occurred of Mr. Patrick Butler, of Kyle, Cappamore, who was one of the seventeen Limerick hurlers who won the All-Ireland hurling championship in 1897. Mr. Butler was 81 years old. He spent some time in America. Beannacht De le n'anamh!

The recently formed cross-country club in Ballygarry has commenced activities. The inaugural run—a three-mile affair—was won by P. Kennedy. Second was S. Ryan and the third man was S. Liffey. Judging by the enthusiasm, Ballygarry should be a power in a sport that has made Tipperary famous.

Aghabullogue, the Cork Club, have been suspended by the Cork County Board of the G.A.A. for twelve months for fielding illegal players in the junior hurling championship.

The under sixteen hurling league in Waterford seems to be holding the interest of all young Gaels in the county. At the top of the table with full points are St. Patricks and Morrisons Road, but Gracedieu and Ard na Greine must still be given a chance.

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Mick Barry is Bowlplaying Champion!

By "RAYMOND"

ALTHOUGH he has been regarded as Ireland's supreme bowlplayer for almost a decade, Mick Barry, the oldest of the three great bowling brothers from Waterfall, never won an official All-Ireland Bowlplaying Championship until 1955 when he won a hard-fought final at Dunmanway on November 20 from his neighbour, Ted Murphy of Togher.

Superior in strength, in loft, and in almost every phase of the game, Barry still found it difficult to establish a lead over his more accurate opponent, and when, at "The Waterworks," seven throws from the finish, Murphy took the lead for the first time, there was a strong feeling that the 4,000 spectators who followed the score may easily witness one of the major bowlplaying sensations of the year, for Barry had been accepted as almost a "dead cert" for the title since his great Round III and semi-final wins over Seamus Allen and John Joe Crean.

CLOSE GAME

But in a closely fought finish on an arrow-straight stretch of mile-long road, Barry's greater power prevailed over the keener playing of Murphy, and he won a hard score by 30 yards in the last throw of the day to win the Joe Waters Championship Cup, and so set the final seal on a bowling career that has been as colourful as any the very ancient and intensely Gaelic game of bowlplaying has ever known. For, while Mick has won two big senior tournaments in his time, his luck has never held in championship competitions, and so his win on November 20 must be all the more pleasant to him and to his large circle of followers.

Arrangements are well advanced for a meeting between Mick and the Northern Champion, Joe McVeigh of Armagh, on the Model Farm road near Cork City to decide who is to be hailed as the ultimate Champion of Ireland. We, Corkmen, have little doubt about the outcome, for Barry and McVeigh have already met on McVeigh's own road in Armagh on which occasion Barry won an effortless victory—a victory which our Southern 1954 Champion, Liam O'Keefe, later repeated over the same road.

SALUTE TO ARMAGH MEN

The fact is that our Southern bowlplayers have had an unbroken series of wins over the "bullet-throwers" of Armagh during 1955. First, Barry, then O'Keefe, and later Denny Murphy of Bandon travelled north to meet—and beat—McVeigh. Then Murphy partnered by Tom O'Neill of Cork City beat McVeigh partnered by Harry Toal at Kilkenny in September, and in November O'Neill beat Toal in an exhibition match on the Dundalk, Louth road. In view of these repeated reverses we cannot help but admire the sportsmanship of the Armagh men who are prepared to travel the long trek to Cork to back McVeigh against Barry, and since there can be no real doubt as to where the superiority rests and since in reality there is no championship involved in the meeting between the two, it has been suggested, and practically agreed upon, that Barry should concede a bowl of odds to McVeigh when they meet in Cork.

Champion though he is, I do not feel that we can bestow the title "Bowlplayer of the Year" on Barry. That honour must, I think, go to the young 17 years old Bandon boy, Donie Lehane, who since the start of the 1955 season has made a really great name for himself by beating many of the best men at the game. His latest victory was over Pat Sullivan of Upton for a stake of £460, the biggest stake ever played for in Cork bowlplaying. Another Red Crowley is in the making. The feeling is that in another year Donie will have few, if any, equals in the game.

THE LONG PUCK CONTROVERSY

THE long puck debate has been going on for a long time now in the GAELIC ECHO. In last month's edition J. C. Lonergan mentioned John Hennessy of Emly pucking a ball from one end of a field over the bar at the other end. That, I think, is not the only time it was done as I often heard Paddy Scanlon of Limerick did the same feat.

In the Tailtean Games the long puck contestants had to drive the ball between two lines twenty-one yards apart, and this, of course, shortened the distance of the various pucks as each of the contestants had to try for accuracy. The Tailtean Games competition was won with a puck of eighty yards and that is often bettered by the puck-outs of such goal-men to-day as Tony Reddan (Tipp.), Art. Foley (Wexford) and Mick Hayes (Clare).

If we start going back to the days when the weight and size of the sliotar varied we could eventually end up and say Cù Cullain holds the record as it is said he pucked a ball from the Gap of the North to Tara, ran and caught it before it fell, and pucked it back again.

In my opinion the answer to the question cannot be given, the only "long-puck" competition there has been was not really one at all, and the various records we hear of cannot be compared as the length of fields differ and in this climate of ours there is always some degree of a breeze blowing, and how much it helped the various long-pucks cannot be judged or compared.

Report from Leinster



LOUTH NOVICE CROSS-COUNTRY WINNERS

Although founded only six months ago, Ferdia Athletic Club of Ardee, had as a first cross-country success, the Louth Novice Championship of the current year. The individual winner of the event was a Ferdia man, P. Reilly. The Ferdia A.C. also secured 4th, 5th, 7th, 21st and 22nd places. Eighty runners, who represented six clubs, faced the starter.

WEXFORD N.A.C.A. DATES

At the County Wexford Annual N.A.C.A. Convention it was agreed that a trial be held at Ballymurn on January 15th to select a team to represent Wexford in the Leinster Junior Cross-Country Championship which was scheduled for February 5th, 1956. The first twelve home in the trial race to represent the county.

The Youths' Cross-Country Championship is also to be held at Ballymurn on January 15th, while the novice event is to be held at Adamstown on January 29th.

JUNIOR HURLING TITLE GOES TO WEST OFFALY

The County Offaly junior hurling title was won recently by Carrig-Riverstown team from the Birr parish, who defeated Clara by 2-7 to 2-2.

The game, refereed by Tullamore's J. Dowling, was one of the best seen in Tullamore Park for a long time, and was the third junior hurling title to come to Carrig-Riverstown. Their last two victories were in 1938 (when they were founded) and in 1946.

Starring for the winners were: M. and P. Spellman, C. Kinsella, T. Delahunty and goalkeeper P. Murray.

The Clara stalwarts were Cunningham, Kinahan and O'Meara.

OFFALY CHAMPIONS GO UNDER

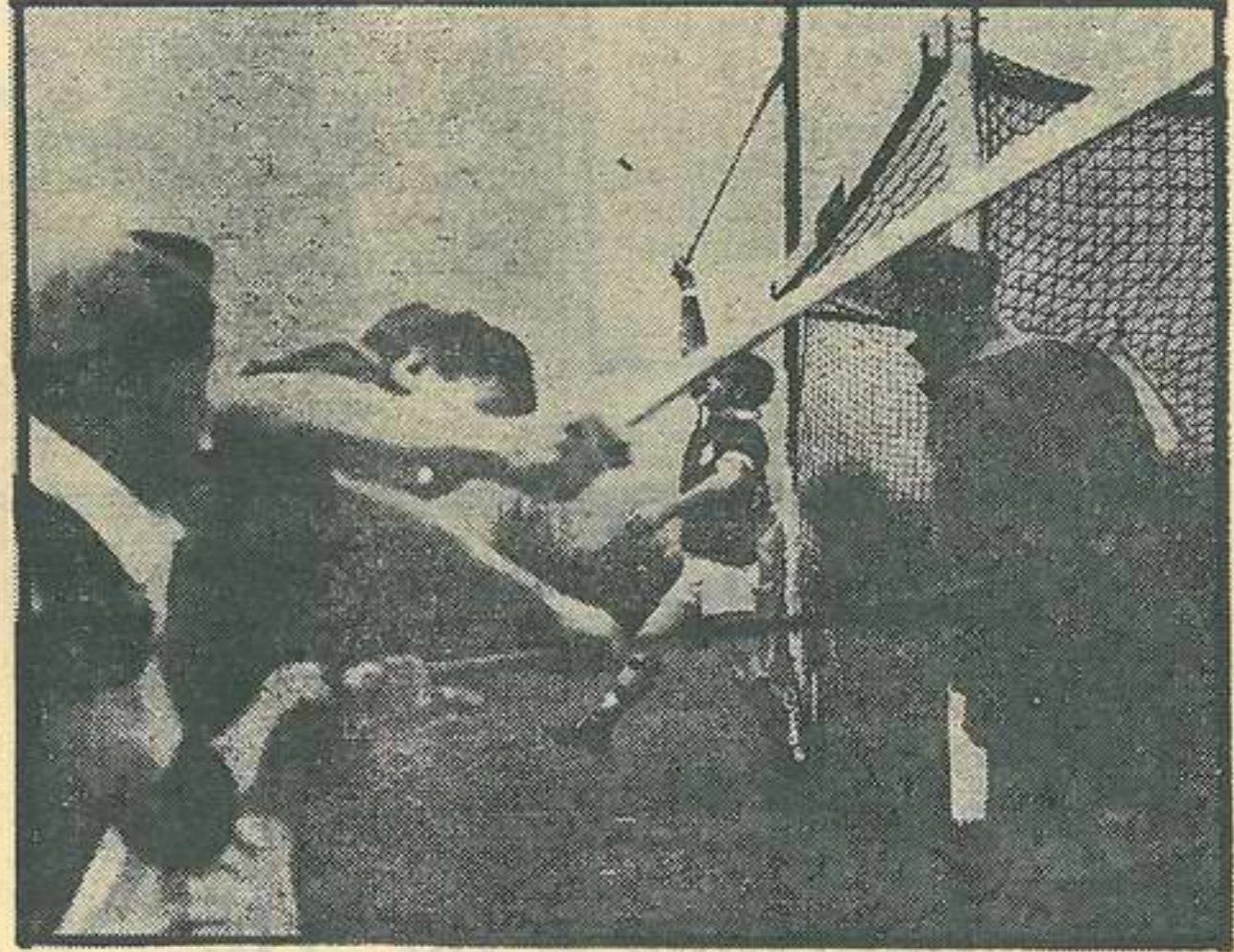
Rhode, the Offaly senior football champions for 1955 and Tullamore the 1954 champions, contested the final of the Daingean Senior Football Tournament in aid of the New Church funds. The result was that the former champions beat Rhode by 1-11 to 0-5.



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Tom Boland makes another of his typical saves.

Dublin-Wicklowmen's Cup For Arklow

For the second year in succession the Arklow juvenile footballers brought the Dublin-Wicklowmen's Cup to the parish. Their opponents in the final were no other than old rivals Wicklow and it was only after a thrill-packed second meeting that the Arklow boys took the honours by the narrowest of margins. Hero of the Arklow win was Jackie Byrne, while Mick Brouder, Ned Roche, O'Toole, McCrudden and netminder O'Connor all played their part. Much credit for the success achieved goes to team trainers Matt McCrudden, Mickey Burke and J. Walker.

Carlow Fails to Place a Representative on Provincial Team

BY P. M. DOYLE

The Leinster football team has been announced and I am sure many supporters of the G.A.A. in Carlow are very disappointed to see that no man from the County has been thought "good enough" to fill a place on the first fifteen. Has Carlow football reached such a low ebb? I don't think so.

I certainly think Andy Murphy should have found a place on that Leinster half-back line. Andy has played many good games for his Province during the last few years and is still playing soundly for his county, and I feel if Wicklow's Garry O'Reilly had been given the right-half forward position and Andy Murphy the right-half back position we would have a stronger Leinster team.

Martin Molloy has found a place among the subs, which hardly does him justice either.

Martin has played many great games for his county since he first hit the headlines in a junior inter-county game against Wexford at Muinebeag a few years back, and I think a place for him on a Leinster team has been long overdue.

Another player who I feel should have at least found a place on that Leinster "21" is Pat Metcalf. Why? Well, anybody who saw his display in this year's championship game against Dublin would give him a fair chance of holding his own against many of the midfielders to-day.

The Arklow senior footballers gave some fine displays throughout the 1955 championship and had "lady luck" been a little kinder they could easily have won the county title. They have first-class footballers in Jim Sullivan and Jim Roche and when the younger school have gained a little more experience, they will take some beating in the County Championship.

Arklow lads to shine for the County Minors in 1955 were: Dublin-born Brian Murray, L. Scallon and Mattie McCrudden. A few months back Brian left for England, while young Scallon has gone to sea.

Doing great work for Gaelic games in the parish are Club Secretary Pat Kinsella, Joe New, Eamonn O'Brien and Treasurer Paddy Wadden.

THE LATE PADDY BURKE, HERO OF THE 1946 FOOTBALL FINAL

By "RAYMOND"

IN mid-November the Gaels of Kerry, and, indeed, the Gaels of all Ireland, were shocked to hear of the untimely death of one of the greatest forwards Gaelic football has known in our time—Paddy Burke of Milltown. The passing of this great footballer, and the wonderful tributes which all Kerry paid to him on the day of his burial, cannot fail to remind us of the gallant part he played in winning the 1946 All-Ireland Championship for Kerry, for if there was one man more than any other of the great team which wore the Kerry green and gold in that championship to whom the glory of that victory can be credited, the man was Paddy Burke.

MEMORABLE FINAL
Croke Park was en fete, as it always is, on All-Ireland Football day. A huge crowd of near 70,000 had thronged through the turnstiles to see Kerry and Roscommon battle out a final that will be remembered as one of the most dramatic in a generation. Roscommon, the 1943 and 1944 champions, were slightly the favourite team, and led by that inspiring centre-forward, Jimmy Murray, they were regarded as one of the finest sides ever to contest a final in Croke Park.

From their goalman Dolan, through J. P. Casserly at full-back, through the great Bill Carlos at centre-back, Eamon Boland and "Sailor" Murray at centre-field and up to full-forward J. J. Fallon, flanked by Nerney and Jack McQuillan—with the finest half-forward line of the decade, Donal Keenan, Jimmy Murray and Frankie Kinlough behind them—Roscommon was in all truth a formidable side that day. Brendan Lynch and Tom Collins guarded the Carlos half-back wings and Bill Jackson and Owens Hoare filled the right and left full-back positions respectively.

GREAT KERRY TEAM
Facing this galaxy of Roscommon stars was a Kerry team equally star-studded from Danno Keefe in goal and Joe Keohane at full-back to Frank O'Keefe, Paddy Burke and Dan Kavanagh on the full-forward line. On Keohane's right was Denny Lyne, on his left the redoubtable "Paddy Bawn." Bill Casey was at centre back with Jackie Lyne on his right and Eddie Walsh of Castleisland on his left. Paddy Kennedy and Teddy O'Connor were the Kerry centre-field, with Joe Falvey, Gega O'Connor and schoolmaster Batt Garvey making up the half-forward line.

This was a worthy "Kingdom" team, but on that last Sunday of September 1946 it met its match, more than its match, in Roscommon, and almost from the throw-in the game was with Roscommon. With Keenan's deadly boot, Jimmy Murray's masterly tactics and Kinlough's supreme opportunism coupled with a matchless centre-field display by Boland, the Connaught champions had run up a lead of six clear points with 10 minutes left to play. Every man of the Roscommon side was playing like a champion, and Kerry appeared to wilt.

At full-forward Paddy Burke was having a trying hour with Casserly who had struck the best form of his career. Gega O'Connor was barely holding his own with Bill Carlos. But in a flash these two great Kerry men changed the entire trend of the game. For once Casserly let Burke slip him as a high ball came in from Paddy Kennedy—and in the quiver of a laurel leaf the ball was in the Roscommon net from a blinding drive by Burke. It was the most eye-opening goal seen at Croke Park since the mighty days of John Joe Sheehy, Paul Doyle and Purty Landers, and the Kerry roar that followed upon it must have shook the gathering clouds on distant Carran Tuathail.

KERRY GOAL
But that goal was still re-echoing over Fairview and Clontarf when another and a greater Kerry chorus shook the Long Stand and reverberated off the Railway walls—Gega O'Connor had broken through for another Kerry goal, the equaliser! Kerry had again survived a dangerous day!

On the day a fortnight later brought 75,771 spectators to Croke

Park. No, with a great replay tradition behind them, Kerry started favourites—but Roscommon were on the attack from the throw-in, and within two minutes a Keenan free gave them first blood of the match. In a minute the equaliser came from Gega O'Connor. Another Keenan free put Roscommon a point in front, and Fallon with a spectacular point from play stretched the lead to 3-1, but a Garvey point a minute later left it 3-2.

ROSCOMMON LEAD
A spectacular first-time clearance by Keohane was followed by a further Keenan free from 45 yards out which gave Roscommon another point, but Gega O'Connor countered this after Burke had been fouled on the goal line when he was almost through to the net. A great point from long range by Paddy Kennedy left the scores level after 20 minutes of grand football, but another Keenan point gave them a 5-4 lead and a neat drive by Fallon made it 6-4 just on half-time.

So far Roscommon had played the better, and a slight pull at centre-field gave them a definite advantage. But Kerry are never so dangerous as when playing the "stern-chase" type of game, and early in the second half they began to press the Roscommon backs relentlessly. In five minutes a Gega O'Connor point left Roscommon only one point ahead—and then came the equaliser when the same player sent a free over the bar amid a mighty Kingdom cheer.

KERRY LEAD FOR FIRST TIME

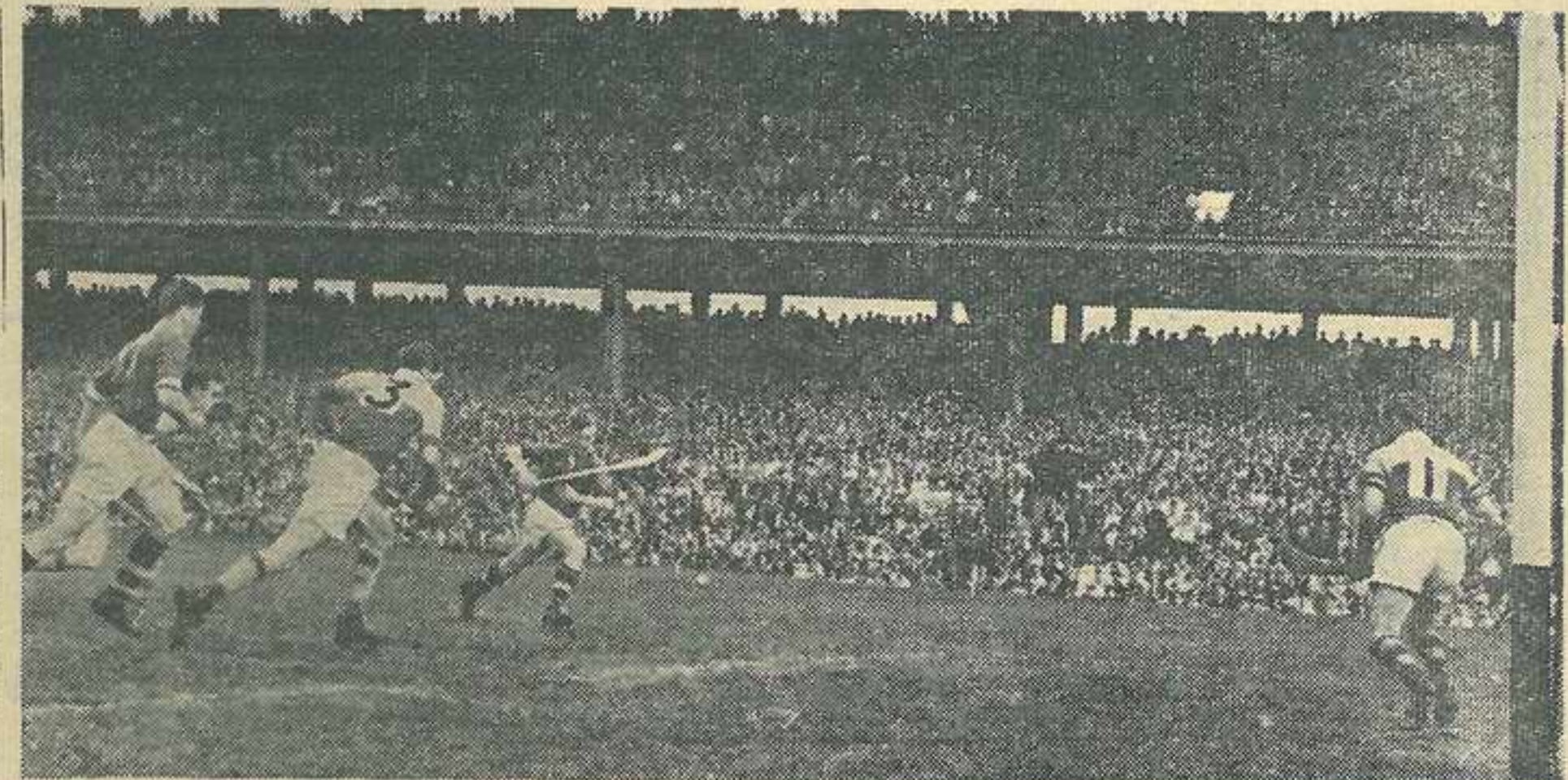
But Roscommon came back in champion fashion, and in a flash they were again two points up from Keenan and Fallon. The yelling thousands had scarcely quieted following Fallon's flag when literally out of the blue came the decisive score of the match, a pass from O'Connor to Burke who with a lightning swerve rounded Casserly to crash home the first goal of the match, the goal that virtually sealed the fortunes of the day. Kerry were in the lead for the first time and the Cusack stand went wild!

But even then the match was not over, and still another point from the golden boot of Donal Keenan made the scores level after twenty-one minutes. Garvey flashed over a Kerry point, but once again Keenan equalised with five minutes left to play amid scenes of excitement almost unparalleled even in Croke Park itself!

Gus Cremins had come on as a sub. for Falvey, and with three minutes left to play he secured on the "40" and with a fine drive he gave Kerry a point, a vital point. But a minute later the game was won when Gega O'Connor shot a low free towards the Roscommon goal, and Burke charging in from nowhere, as it seemed, bundled ball and goal into the Roscommon net. That score won the match for Kerry, won Danno Keefe his seventh All-Ireland medal, won Kerry its fifteenth All-Ireland title, and won for Paddy Burke himself the medal which to-day is so treasured an heirloom in the Burke home at The Abbey, Milltown, Co. Kerry.

"The most dangerous forward I ever played on, but the cleanest player and the finest sportsman." That is the tribute which Paddy Burke's great rival in that All-Ireland, J. P. Casserly the Roscommon full-back, paid to this grand Kerry Gael.

Ólámfáelán; a Phádraig, anois is go deó!



The All-Ireland Hurling Semi-final. On top: Limerick and Wexford parade before the game. Below: Art Foley comes out to check a Limerick advance.

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CURTAIN COMES DOWN ON GALWAY G.A.A.

(M. O'SULLIVAN)

THE curtain was brought down on Gaelic activities for 1955 in Galway when the County Junior Hurling (Grade B) Final was decided at Clarenbridge. Congratulations to the Connemara Club, Moycullen, lone standard bearers of hurling West of the Corrib, in defeating the East Galway champions, Portumna, by six points. By their great victory they have gained the reward of many years of earnest endeavour and took a county trophy home to adorn their

parish. In their path to the final the county champions disposed of some strong challengers from the West Board teams, and in the final of that division they had a convincing win over the city team, Liam Mellows. In the county semi-final they won in no uncertain fashion and somewhat easier than the scores would suggest from a highly rated Kilchreest side

Score in this game: Moycullen, 3-7; Kilchreest, 3-2.

Feature of the final was the brilliant goal-keeping of M. Welby.

ENCOURAGING NEWS

Encouraging news for the juveniles and youths of Galway City has just come to light. A beautiful silver perpetual challenge cup which was presented to Guth na n-Og by the late Mr. P. Gleeson, Galway, will be awarded to the winners of an under-16 football league which is to start shortly. This latest addition now brings the number of competitions run by Guth na n-Og to six. They are as follows:—

Under 13 years: Football for a set of medals.

Under 13: Hurling for a set of medals.

Under 15: Hurling for cup and medals.

Under 15: Football for cup and medals.

Under 16: Football for Gleeson Cup.

Under 16: Hurling for Silke Shield.

These competitions attract a large entry each year and are very popular with the local G.A.A. public. The Coisde na n-Og which was selected recently is composed entirely of boys participating in the above Leagues. They arrange all their fixtures, appoint their own referees, umpires and linesmen. This plan has proved very effective in the past few years and is already helping to build up minor and junior teams in the city.

GALWAY CO. FINALS

Since our last issue of this paper the belated minor and junior finals were decided at Gort. A youthful Carnmore side won in convincing fashion to take County Grade A honours from their Leitrim rivals. In the air and on the ground the Carnmore boys were sure strikers and very accurate at all times. Their stars Martin Murphy, the Hanley Brothers, Eddie and Mattie, Peter Grealish and M. Fox scintillated as expected and the rest of the team played up to their brilliance. The winners won all their preliminary games in a convincing manner and their toughest opposition was offered from the Galway city team, Fr. Tom Burke's, but the greater experience of the champions prevailed in this West Board decider also. The defeated county finalists, Leitrim, have nothing to be ashamed of and they battled with rare spirit. With a little more luck on their side, a little less on the others, would have shown the game in truer perspective.

It was a personal triumph for the county hurler, Martin Murphy, and he received a great ovation when presented with the cup by Mr. J. Whelan, Secretary of the Co. Board.

Final score: Carnmore, 5-10; Leitrim, 1-2.

Connacht Commentary



EX-GALWAY FOOTBALLER FETED IN NEW YORK

Member of the Galway All-Ireland football team which played New York in the Polo Grounds in 1934 is Mr. P. J. O'Donnell of Ballinasloe.

Mr. O'Donnell has been holidaying in New York and to mark his departure home to Ireland a function was held recently at the Irish Institute Building, New York, where Mr. O'Donnell was guest of honour.

Galway Gaels in New York responsible for honouring Mr. O'Donnell were Counselor Joseph F. McLoughlin, Messrs. S. O'Connor, W. Tully, M. Walsh, M. Hession, T. Moran, S. Smith, J. Nevin and P. Coffey.

MELVIN GAELS BRING LEITRIM JUNIOR TROPHY TO KINLOUGH

Melvin Gaels' victory over Aughawilliams by 3-7 to 2-1 in the Co. Leitrim junior football final was celebrated with "zest" in Kinlough.

This is the first time that the championship has come to Kinlough and Kinlough, justly proud of the fact, had bonfires and tar-barrels blazing in the village. Captain of the victorious fifteen, Ml. McGloin, was carried shoulder high through the village. The champions were represented by: W. Gilmartin, J. McGurran, J. Gallagher, J. McMahon, P. Foley, P. Gallagher, J. Kelly, A. Connolly, T. McGowan, G. O'Malley, M. McGloin, P. McGowan, R. Kelly, A. McGowan and A. Gallagher.

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Frank Returns to Galway

Sergt. Frank Conniffe (Garda Síochana) who has been appointed Weights and Measures Inspector in Tuam, is the former Galway County footballer who played against Kerry in the 1938 All-Ireland Football Final. One of the best backs in the game, he

manned the defence with Mick Connaire, prince of full-backs; Mick Rafferty, now teaching near Galway and the renowned Dinny O'Sullivan of Oughterard. A native of Ballinasloe, Sergt. Conniffe was formerly stationed in Dublin.

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BALLINASLOE TRIUMPH

A much fancied Castlebar side was badly rattled by Ballinasloe in the county minor hurling final. The winners scored six goals and one point in the opening quarter, and this hurricane start was largely responsible for bringing the cup to Ballinasloe. Stars for the winners were Madden, McGiloway and Gordon, and Castlebar were well served by county minor Broderick, Egan and Newell. Final score: Ballinasloe, 7-3; Castlebar, 5-0.

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Every good wish from the GAELIC ECHO to the Murroe, Co. Limerick, Gaels in their task of re-laying and levelling Harty Park. Baill Dé ar a saothar.

BIG ATTENDANCE

Between 7,000 and 8,000 packed the Fr. O'Hara Memorial Park, Charlestown, on Sunday, December 4 to make what must be a record attendance for a League game in Mayo. Meath, the visiting team had as big a following as the homeside Mayo. Meath scored a brilliant win and have a great team. I rate them the next best team to Kerry in 1955. Present at this game was Pádraig Carney, who has since announced his retirement from Gaelic football. He will be sadly missed in Mayo.

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GONE TO U.S.A.

A farewell party was held for a member of Castlebar-Mitchells, Mr. Pat Sheridan, a prominent figure in Mayo G.A.A. circles and who has left to take up residence in America.

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Great Mayo League Final Former Mayo Chairman Ends in a Draw Bereaved

The Mayo Senior League Final which was played at Castlebar this year ended in a draw after a hectic tussle between Claremorris and Castlebar 0-8 to 1-5. Marksman of the day was Mick Noone, Claremorris, who scored 7 of his sides 8 points.

The death took place in November last, of Mrs. Catherine E. Towey, Ballaghaderreen. She was mother of Rev. Fr. Patrick Towey, St. Patrick's College, Swinford, a former Chairman of Mayo County Board. May she rest in peace.

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A Dubliner Wants a Fair Crack of The Whip for Galway and—

Sir,—Why not give Galway a chance to win the All-Ireland some year. Year in, year out, they play one match—and sometimes none—and they compete with a team that they are no match for, due to lack of competition. If it is the cherished idea of the G.A.A. to keep hurling alive, then they will have to do something in the case of Galway. How long are they going to keep at it? Well, why not put them into Munster or Leinster every second year? Surely this would not take from the glamour of our Provincial Finals. Galway deserve some chance and it's about time they got it.

"FAIR PLAY."

Wilton Place,
Dublin.

A Corkman Tells us of The New Lough League

After a lapse of nearly three years the above league is again in full swing, with ten teams in the under 10 years and 14 teams in the under 12 group, that is 24 teams in all and over 700 boys on the register.

The competition for the Ald. Galvin Cup for the under 10 group has now reached the second round and the competition for the Dean Scannell Cup in the under 12 group has got off to a flying start and four matches have been played.

We have suspended the playing of further matches until St. Stephen's Day as the pitch must get a chance to dry up, the competitions proper will be resumed in the New Year.

We have in our possession two cups which will be put up for the championship of the Lough Parish.

The Phair Cup for the under 10 group championship and the Connie Neenan Cup for the under 12 group, the latter cup is a magnificent trophy presented by Mr. Con Neenan who was a prominent St. Finbarr's hurler and helped the Barr's to win the Championship in 1919.

Mr Neenan now resides in New York and it is hoped that he will be back in Ireland next year and throw in the ball in the opening match for the under 12 championship of the Lough Parish.

All the competitions are sponsored by the St. Finbarr's Hurling Club the present Cork County Champions, and it was from this league that some of the players in that team learned their hurling, namely, Tony Shaughnessy, Mossey Finn, Derry Driscoll, Willie Walsh, Tomy Cronin, Declan Canton, Jim Cotter, Mickey Joe Driscoll and Jim McKenzie.

A very energetic committee with the Rev. Fr. Fulham, C.C. as president, Mr. Dan Hobbs as chairman, Mr. M. O'Sullivan, registrar, Mr. Jerh McCarthy, Hon. Sec., and Messrs. John B. Murphy, John P. Sheehan and Mick Finn, and of course, Rev. Bro. Gabriel of Greenmount Schools our vice chairman.

All are taking an active part in the promotion of the games in the parish, and it is almost certain that the St. Finbarr's Club will have an abundance of material at their disposal for a number of years to come.

Some very interesting matches have been played in the last few months in particular the match, Gillabey v Glasheen in the under 10 group this match was played at a fast pace and the hurling served up by the young players was a treat to watch.

The opening rounds in the championships will take place on the first Sunday in May, and will continue every Sunday during the season.

Matches will be played every evening during the summer months and it is hoped to have all the competitions completed by the end of September, '56.

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

Capt. "P" Writes us Two Letters

A Chara,—As it is traditional for newspapers at the end of the year to publish, in their opinion, the best hurling and football team in Ireland at present, I wish to give you in my opinion the best hurling team. I will be very grateful to you if you publish in the next edition of your very popular paper the following team.

Tony Reddan (Tipperary), Mick Leahy (Clare), Nick O'Donnell (Wexford), Mick Byrne (Tipperary); Jim English (Wexford), Vin Twomey (Cork), Johnny O'Connor (Waterford); J. Salmon (Galway), M. Ryan (Dublin); Christy Ring (Cork), Billy O'Neill (Galway), Liam Devaney (Tipperary); J. Smith (Clare), Nicky Rackard (Wexford), Art Foley (Wexford). Subs: W. Rackard (Wexford), S. Clohesy (Kilkenny), J. Duggan (Galway), J. Murphy (Cork), M.

Marnell (Kilkenny). This team would take beating and I think is the best team in Ireland.

Yours faithfully,
CAPT. "P."
Co. Tipperary.

Maybe We Will

Dear Editor,—I am a very interested reader of your paper and look forward to it every month. I would like to make a suggestion which I think if it were done would make very interesting reading and improve your hurling-playing readers in their various positions. If, for example, you interviewed Nicky Rackard, Jimmy Kennedy, Christy Ring,

Sean Og Murphy, and various other legendary players who became complete masters of their positions and got from them eight or nine hints on how to play in their positions. This would improve the standard of hurling a lot. If possible you might include an autographed picture of the player whose hints you are publishing.

Yours hopefully,
CAPT. "P."
Co. Tipperary.

G.A.A. IN YORKSHIRE

Leeds won the Yorkshire Hurling Cup for the second year in succession by their recent victory over Padraig Pearse's (the Huddersfield club) by 3-12 to 1-2.

The football trophy was won by St. Patrick's, Bradford, who defeated St. Coleman's Derby by 0-12 to 1-0.

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RULES

- 1.—Competition open to adults only (Male or Female).
- 2.—Prizes will be awarded to first three correct solutions opened.
- 3.—All entries must be accompanied by Entry Form properly completed.
- 4.—The closing date is January 15th, 1956, and the Editor's decision is final.
- 5.—Entries should be addressed to:
Senior Crossword,
Gaelic Echo (1954) Limited,
13, Parliament St., Dublin.

ENTRY FORM

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St. Gall's Annual General Meeting

St. Gall's G.A.A. Club elected the following officers at their recent Annual General Meeting held at McRory Park Pavilion: Chairman, F. Stewart; Vice-Chairman, H. McDaniel; Secretary, D. O'Neill; Team Secretary, F. J. McCarragher; Treasurer, G. Smyth. Committee: J. McGlone, J. Sheehan, S. Crossan, B. Murray, P. Stewart. Club Delegates to South Antrim Committee: C. Kearns, O. Doyle. Club Delegate to Co. Antrim Committee: J. McAreavey.



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Can any Parish beat this?

—Asks CAMOG

A GHAGALLON, a rural parish near Lurgan (Co. Armagh), must surely hold an All-Ireland record.

It has three Camogie Clubs: Geraldines C.C., to which belong the famous McHenry sisters (Bridie, Armagh Captain and Ulster player, Marjorie, Club Secretary and Armagh Registrar and Ulster Council official; Eithne and Eileen), and MacGearaid C.C. and St. Rita's C.C.

For good measure there are also three Gaelic Football Clubs.

This is definitely a record for a rural parish.

"Bannsider Sends us The Best in Ulster"

High Jump: Tim Morrissey, Newry Shamrocks A.C., 5' 11" at Drogheda. Mick Jennings, Glenn A.C., 5' 10" at Glenn. Mick Donaghy, Corrigan A.C., 5' 9" at Strabane.

Long Jump: John Reilly, Green Cockade, 20' 6 1/2" at Milltown. Robert Kelly, Eagle A.C., 19' 10" at Strabane. Andy Colquhoun, Rosario A.C., 19' 10" at Belfast.

Hop, Step and Jump: Robert Kelly, Eagle A.C., 43' 3 1/2" at Glenarm. John Reilly, Green Cockade A.C., 43' 8 1/2" at Dublin. Pat Monaghan, Bannside A.C., 44' 6 1/2" at Knappagh.

Pole Vault: Pat Monaghan, Bannside A.C., 11' 6" at Athlone. Davy Magill, Corrigan A.C., 11' 0" at Athlone. Tommy Mallon, Bannside A.C., 10' 6" at Knappagh.

Shot Putt: Kevin O'Hare, Glenn A.C., 40' 3" at Strabane. Pat Monaghan, Bannside A.C., 40' 1 1/2" at Knappagh. Mick Jennings, Glenn A.C., 38' 2 1/2" at Strabane.

Javelin: Dermot Nugent, Armagh City Harriers, 165' 10" at Dublin. Tim Morrissey, Newry Shamrocks A.C., 155' 4" at Strabane.

Discus: J. Nesbitt, Rasario A.C., 130' 6" at Drogheda. Gerry Bergin, Newbridge A.C., 127' 1" at Athlone. Dermot Nugent, Armagh City Harriers, 119' at Knappagh.

Marathon: Patsy McCabe, West Belfast, 2 hours 48 mins. 50 secs. at Dublin. Des. Lennon, Banbridge A.C., 2 hours 49 mins. 5 secs. at Dublin. Gus Lennon, Banbridge A.C., 3 hours 1 min. 43 secs. at Dublin.

The National Cycling Association Handbook 1956 is at present being compiled. All Sports Committees who wish to have their fixtures included in the list of Sports Meetings should send details of dates, etc., to Lieut. Kerry Sloane, Costume Barracks, Athlone, not later than January 20.

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Jubilation in Miltown

Congratulations to the Miltown Malbay minor football team who recently won the Co. Championship. In the final they beat their old rivals Kilrush by 3-3 to 2-1. The result was greeted with great jubilation in Miltown, as this has been the first time in years that they succeeded in beating Kilrush. The Miltown mentors will be expecting much from these young men next season. It is hoped that J. J. Doyle, Don McMahon, Paddy Daly, Martin Kerin and a few others will be a big asset to the senior team.

SOUTHERN SPORTS GOSSIP

By "RAYMOND"

SEVENTEEN years ago a tall, well-muscled youth of just over 17 was making a name for himself in Cork hurling, and was one of the minors who helped Cork win the All-Ireland minor title of 1939.

To-day that same player, now very much beyond the minor stage, is still a force in Cork Gaelic circles. He is none other than the well-known "Tadhgo" Crowley of Clonakilty, a man whose name stands high in the calendar of great Gaels in his native county and, indeed, all over Munster.

Although hurling was Tadhgo's first love, it is as a footballer that he really struck the highlight of fame. While still a comparative youth he became one of those great young players who blossomed forth in Cork football in the early 1940's one of the team which was later to bring All-Ireland football honours to their native county in 1945.

VERSATILE PLAYER

Tadhgo has filled many positions on the football field during his playing years—he has played at full-back, at full-forward, at centre-field, and even on either wing—but it was as a centre-back that he really made his name. It was as a centre-back that he played for Cork in 1943 and again in 1945 when he had the honour of captaining the team that beat Cavan in the All-Ireland Final of that year. It was at centre-back that he won his two Railway Cup medals for Munster in 1946 and 1948.

UTILITY MAN

For his native club at Clonakilty he has always been the utility man, always the man who could be placed anywhere on the field, even in goal if the necessity arose. With Clonakilty he has won a hat-full of senior county medals—and when his club was beaten by Macroom in this year's championship, by far the best man on the Clonakilty side was the veteran Tadhgo, and despite broiling heat and increasing avoidu- pois he still played a champion's game, still roamed the field with the agility of a minor, bolstering up a wavering back-line and strengthening an uncertain centre-field and forward sector. It was no blame to Tadhgo that his team failed. If inspiration could have pulled them through then his should have done it that day!

But Tadhgo has not neglected his hurling in all his football activities. He has been a big factor in his club's junior hurling team for many years, and has, as well, held a place on the Carbery senior hurling team over a long period.

NOT RETIRING YET

Has Tadhgo any thoughts of retiring? The answer is a very definite no! His present ambition is to help bring the County Championship back to Clonakilty where it first found a place in 1939. He hopes to do that in 1956!

In Memoriam

The tragic death by electrocution has taken from Treaty Sarsfields Club one of its most promising juveniles, in sixteen years old Sean Murphy. A son of James Murphy, Prospect, Limerick, he was electrocuted in the course of his employment early last December. At the early age of sixteen Sean had made quite a name for himself in Gaelic circles and last season he helped the Thomondgate Club win the County Juvenile Hurling and Football Championships. As a mark of respect to his memory, two minutes silence was observed prior to the Treaty Sarsfields v. Cloughaun, Limerick Senior Football Final. To his parents, relatives and friends we extend our very sincere sympathy. May he rest in peace.

LIMERICK HURLER WEDS

Jack Quaid, the Limerick and Feorane hurler was married recently to Miss Bridie Collins of Rath Luirc. Rev. T. Culhane of Feohanagh—that great hurling enthusiast—officiated.

Six Eligible Next Year

Six of the victorious Tipperary minor hurling team will be young enough to play minor for the county again next year. They are: Michael Craddock, Sean Warren, Jimmy Doyle, Liam O'Grady, Tom Gleeson and Pat Ryan. Craddock and Doyle are eligible for two years as is A. Landers (sub. this year).

Record for Jack Lynch?

HOW many Clubs in Ireland have won both county senior hurling and football titles in the one year? There was, of course, the Garda double in the Dublin County Championships of 1929, Treaty Sarsfields' double in County Limerick in 1951, and the instance of the great Vincents Club in Dublin.

But the Club I have in mind is the Cork counterpart of Vincents, Glen Rovers-cum-Saint Nicholas, and mainly for the excellent reason that when that club—for though nominally they appear to be two clubs in point of personnel they are but one—won the Cork double in 1938 three-quarters of the hurlers were also on the football team, Jack Lynch, Jack Buckley, Con Buckley, Paddy O'Donovan, Bobby Buckle, Cooper Moylan, Tim Kiely, to mention but a few. All these men had the unusual experience of capturing two senior county medals in the one season. One of them, Jack Lynch, had later the honour of winning all-Ireland medals in both hurling and football with his county—and what is more unusual is the fact that he won six All-Ireland medals in six successive years, hurling medals in 1941, '42, '43, '44 and '46, and a football medal in 1945 when he played at right full forward for Cork.

This, I should say, must be a record for any one player in Ireland!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Lieutenant Eamonn Goulding on his commission which he received at the Curragh on November 28th. Eamonn won his All-Ireland hurling with Cork in 1954 at full-forward—the first Cadet ever to take this high honour. His studies kept him off the field a good deal in 1955, but close students of the game assure me that he will be back to his best form in 1956. If he does make that return to form he could easily be the man to fill that weak spot on the Cork team, the full-forward position, which has for so long been a source of worry to Corkmen—in fact ever since Liam Dowling vacated it to go to England.

Congratulations, too, to Noel Walsh, Clare senior footballer, on receiving his commission, and to that well-known Clare hurler, Des. Dillon, who recently won the Dublin senior soft-ball title from the hitherto unconquerable Larry Roe, holder of the title for 14 years. Des. will not soon forget his clash with the wily Roe, and when the game stood at two games all (21-14, 21-18, 18-21, 18-21), the title was still very much any man's to take. In the fifth game, however, Des. came clear away to win 21-8—some small consolation, perhaps, to the man for the unexpected

defeat of the Clare team by Limerick in the Munster hurling final a few months ago!

Joe is on his Way up

Congratulations, too, to Commandant Joe Kenny of Collins Barracks on his recent promotion. A Dublinman by birth, Joe has become a naturalised Corkman by adoption, and has since he became attached to the Southern Command, played a prominent part in placing the Collins Football Club in the high place it now occupies in the G.A.A. world. Joe helped that Club to win all their three County Championships, in 1947, '49 and '51. As well as that he has frequently represented the Command in Hurling and has played for Cork in both codes. A Tennis player of interprovincial standard, Joe has been All-Army Tennis Champion on many occasions. His promotion to the rank of Commandant came as good news to his many Gaelic friends in the South.

New Pitch Brought Reward

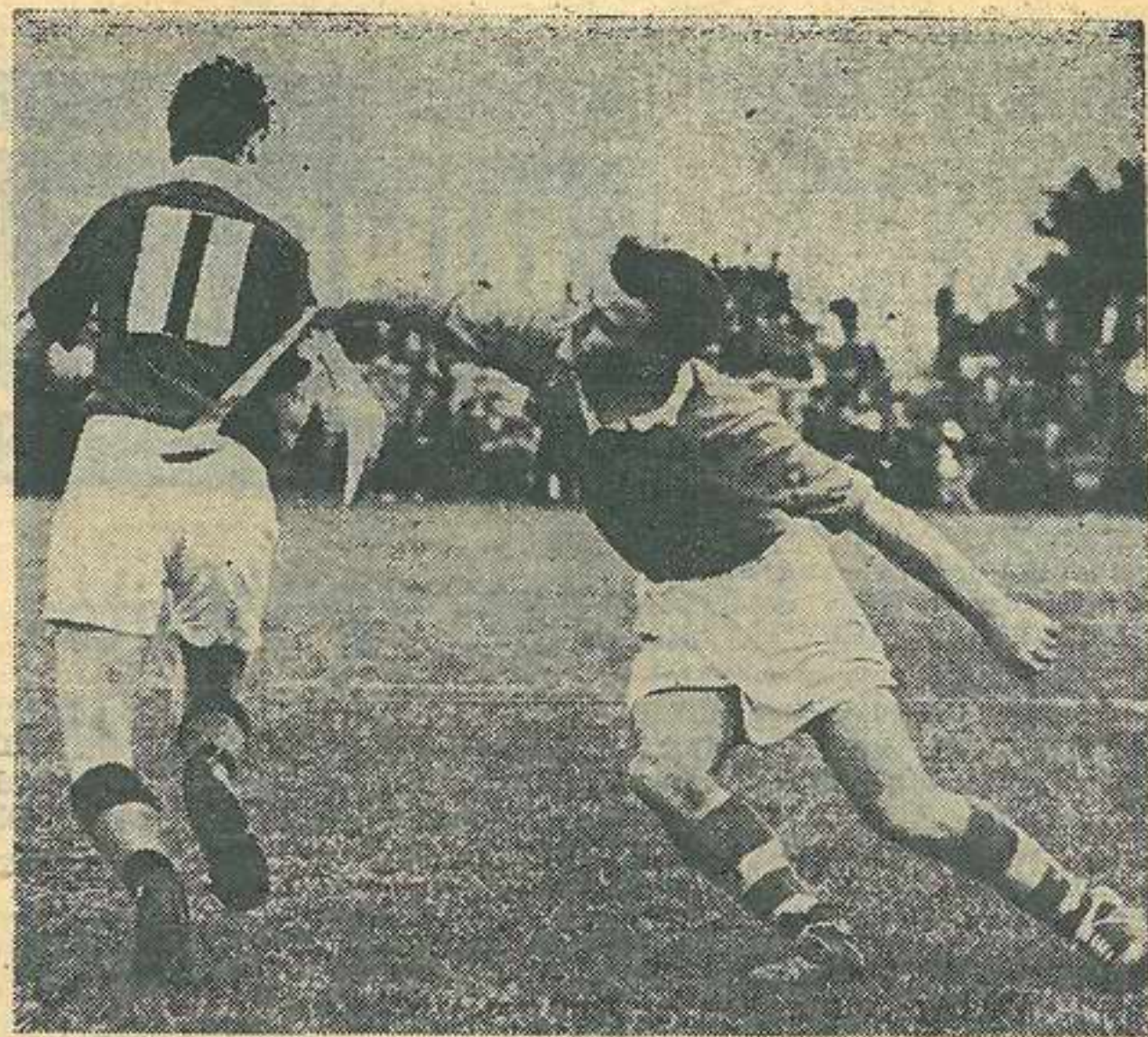
Bonfires blazed in Patrick's Well, Co. Limerick, lately when the town junior team captured their first hurling title. In the final they beat Pallas 4-2 to 2-6.

Up to recently there was no playing pitch in the town, but as soon as one was secured a marked improvement took place in the standard of local hurling. The first reward came last year when the juvenile team won the county title, and now the juniors have followed suite so it seems the new field is being utilised in full by the Gaels of Patrick's Well.

Athletic Club's Lady Secretary

Dunhill, Co. Waterford Athletic Club have a lady—Miss Joan Harner—as Honorary Secretary-Treasurer.

At the recent annual General Meeting other officers for the coming year elected were:—President, Mr. D. Veale; Chairman, Mr. J. Downey. Committee: Messrs. J. White, P. Oates, J. O'Brien, J. Lyons, E. Maher. Captain Senior Cross-Country team, Mr. M. White; Captain Junior Cross-Country team, Mr. W. Dunphy.



A snap from the Junior "Home" Final between Cork and Galway. Courtesy of "Irish Press."

"Weesh" Waited a Long Time, But 'Twas Worth it

A FEW days before the recent Cork County Senior Hurling Final a one-time famous player remarked to me that it is a far more difficult thing for a top-class Cork hurler or footballer to win a County Championship medal than to win an All-Ireland. To prove his statement he referred me to two well-known Gaels, both of whom were on All-Ireland teams long before they won County Championship medals with their local Clubs.

First of these is WEESH MURPHY. For more than a dozen years Weesh filled the full-back position on the Cork Senior Football team. He held that position on the victorious side which won the 1945 All-Ireland. Since that day ten years ago he has added Munster and League medals to his collection, but that elusive Cork County medal always seemed to be just beyond his reach. And, with this once-bright star admittedly waning with the inexorable passage of years, many had come to believe that this was one distinction which the great Weesh would never experience.

But 1955 has brought to this fine Gael the one trophy that had so far seemed to elude him. His team, The Lees, a modern re-incarnation of the once-famed Club of the same name, won its first County Championship a few weeks ago—with the once unbeatable Full-back now playing at full-forward, and scoring one of the team's vital scores.

In the victory of that day Weesh was rather like "Oisín indhíaidh na Fianna" for there remained but of the men who is playing a generation ago had put their native Cork upon the football calendar of Ireland, and to quote the very sporting Macroom player whose team had been beaten in the County Final: "We, as well as all the rest of the County, rejoice that Weesh has got his County medal at last."

The other noted player who waited many years for his county medal was "Micka" Brennan, noted "Sars," Cork and Munster hurler. In the 1930's and '40's, Micka, one of the very greatest of Cork's great hurling forwards, got his place on the County team in the early '30's and held that place up to 1944 during which period he won two All-Irelands (1941 and 1943), and one runner-up medal (1939) with Cork. In the same period he won four Railway Cup Trophies with Munster (1935, 1937, 1939 and 1940), and was on the Munster team beaten in the Final by Leinster in 1937.

Retired from inter-county Hurling in 1944, Micka still played with his Club, The Sarsfields, an old Club which had for a half-century unfailingly—and unsuccessfully—fielded its Senior team in the County Championships. Great

players had worn the colours of that ancient Club—Bobby Lott, his brother Joe, the Murphys of Glountane, Dick Walsh, the Healys, the Barrys, the Becketts—but no county championship had ever gone to the Riverstown Club. Until 1951, that is, and then in the twilight of his colourful career, just twenty-one years after he had first donned the Sars' jersey, Micka Brennan and his Club won the Cork County Championship for the first time.

Not so fortunate on that memorable year was Micka's teammate, the equally famed Allan Lott, nephew of Bobby and Joe of earlier years. Holder of four All-Ireland Medals with the Cork team (1941, '42, '43 and '44), Allan had represented Munster in 1941 in the Railway Cup competition, but it was his great misfortune that an old injury kept him off the Sars' team that won the 1951 County title. And so Allan Lott is one of those great players who really did find it more difficult to win a Cork Senior Medal than an All-Ireland.