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GAA

# Gaelic Sport

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SEPTEMBER/NOVEMBER, 1960  
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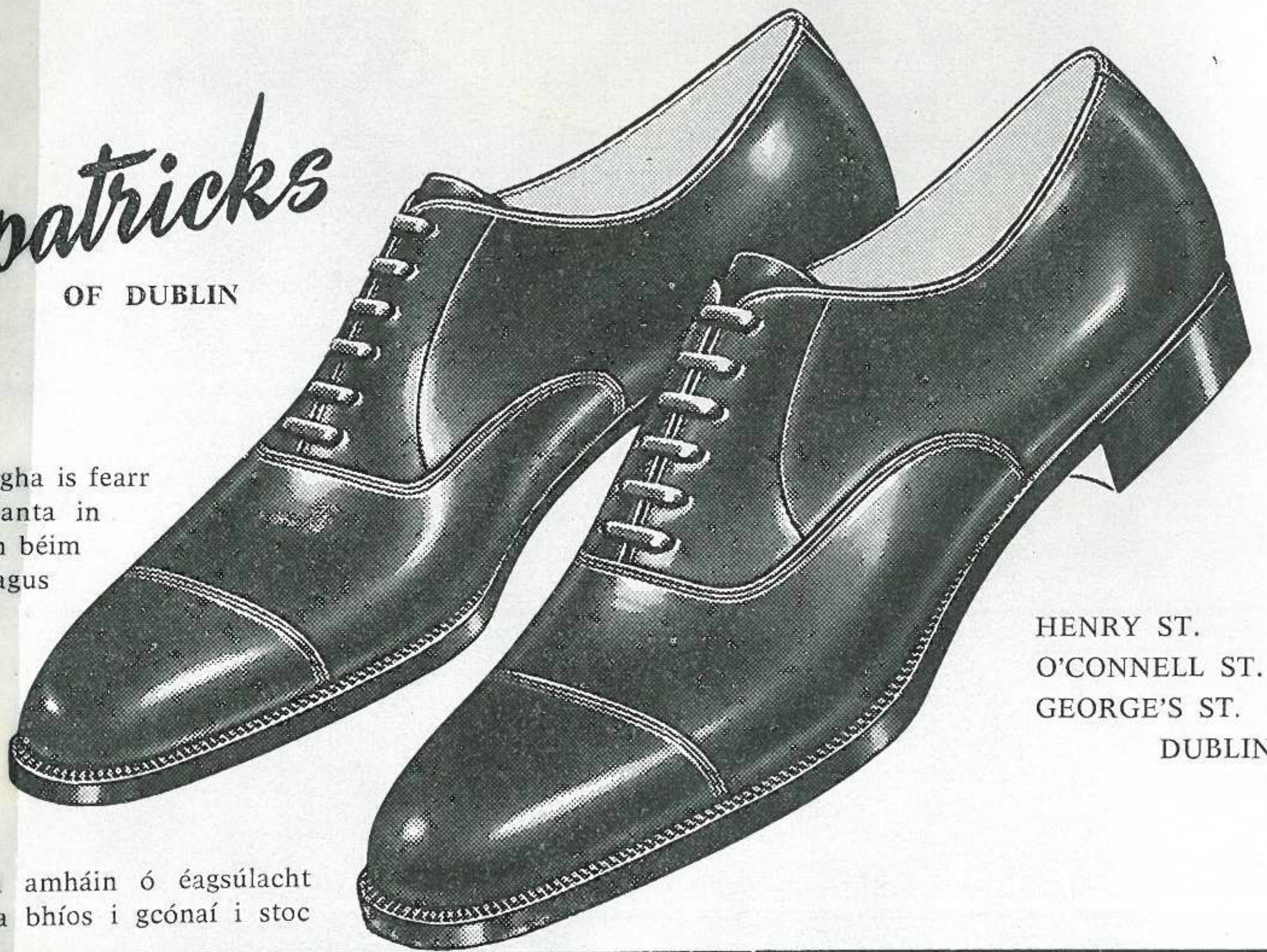
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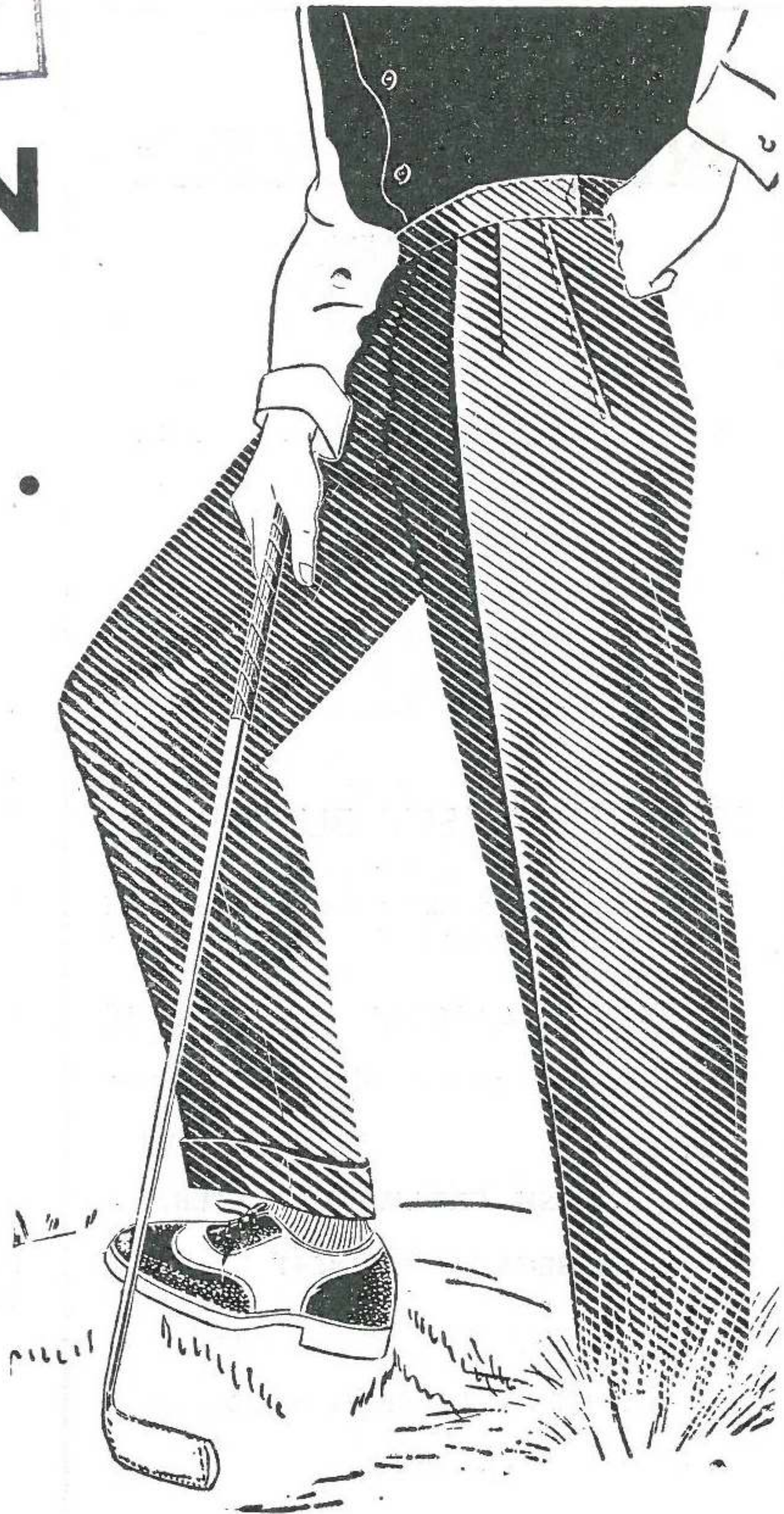
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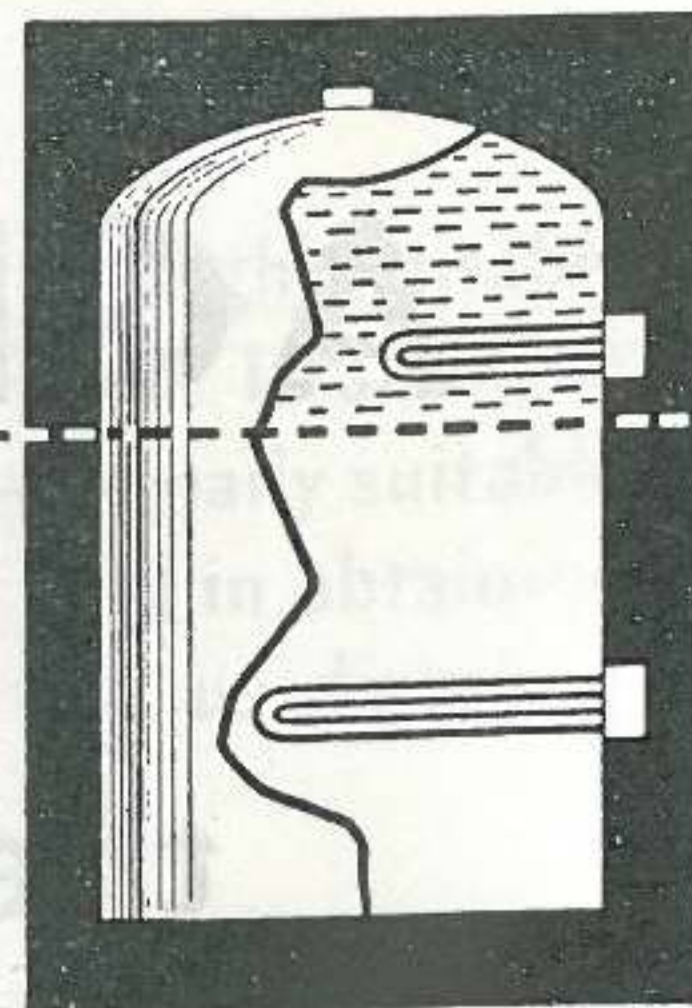
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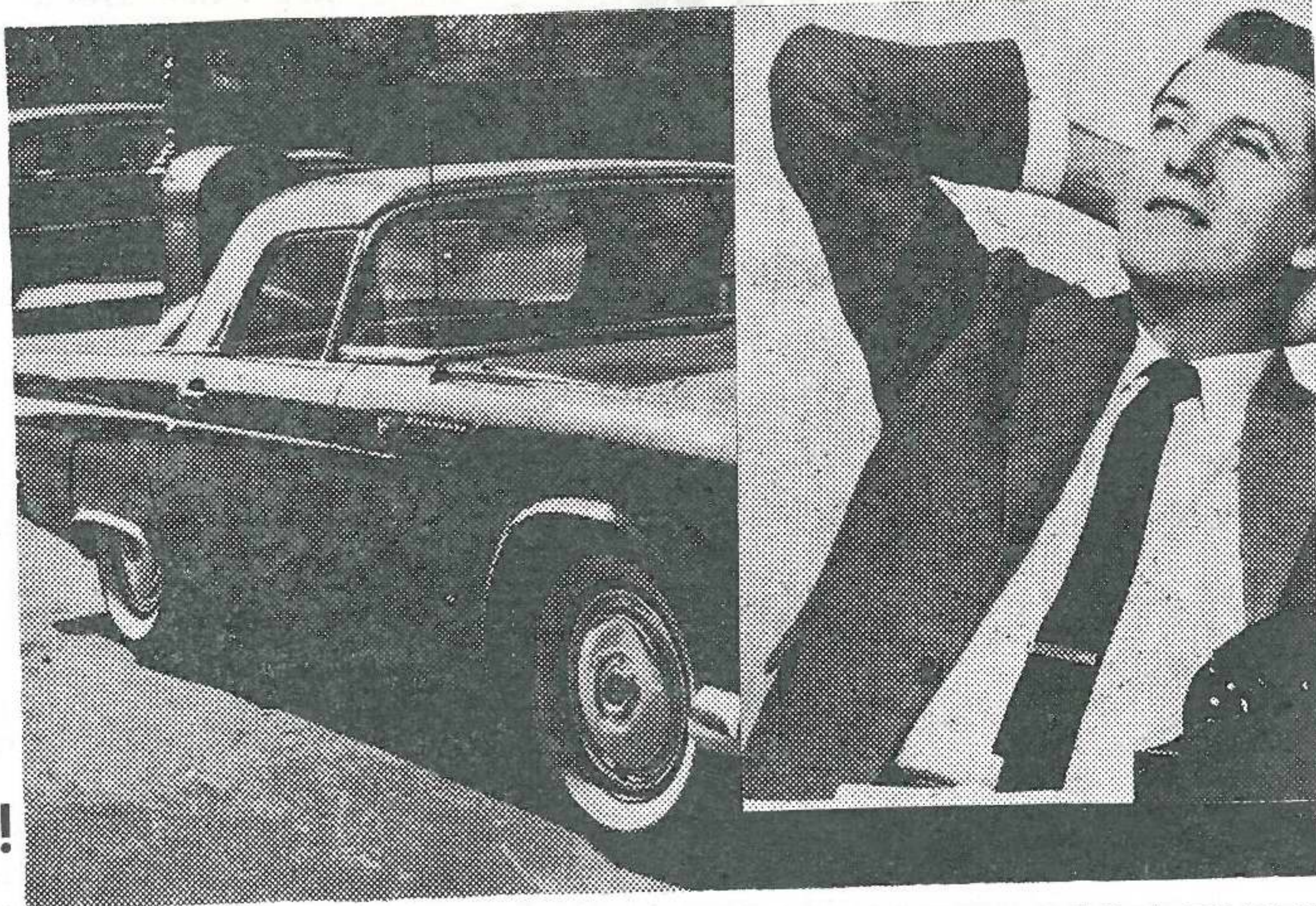
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# Gaelic Sport

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## Cover Picture

**JIMMY DOYLE**, that doyen of a new generation of inter-county hurlers, is our special choice for the front cover of this issue of **GAEILIC SPORT**. Appropriately, too; for this brilliant Thurles Sarsfields star has played a major part in Tipperary's march to the All-Ireland final against Wexford this year. (See story on page 9).

## EDITORIAL

# The Big Hunt

**T**HE Big Hunt is in full cry. The Mad Scramble in which tens of thousands chase and seek and beg little oblong pieces of cardboard in every corner of the land.

And, as usual, there are too few of those precious "passports" to stand seats at the All-Ireland hurling and football finals, to go round the multitude who want to buy them.

When the colossal new Hogan Stand was opened at Croke Park last year it was thought that the supply of tickets for the All-Ireland deciders would be almost sufficient to satisfy the demand.

Far from it. In fact, this year the Big Hunt is wider and shriller than ever before.

And on September 4 and 25 the swollen thousands of disappointed ticket-seekers will pack the Croke Park terraces like sardines in a too-tightly filled tin; and surveying their seated fellow-spectators they will ruminate with unquenched optimism: "Maybe next year we'll be lucky."

But next year the position will still be the same. For there are just not enough seats to accommodate all who want them. And unfortunately, the G.A.A. authorities will never be able to solve the problem completely.

The great pity of it, however, is that many of the men—and for that matter, women, too—who will swelter on the terraces at the forthcoming All-Ireland finals are, in justice, entitled to seats on the stands.

These are the faithful, thick-and-thin followers who, week after

week, year in year out, attend Croke Park and other venues, but who crave tickets only for Final Days.

But their chances of acquiring those elusive pieces of cardboard are almost non-existent because of the present system of distribution.

Up to a few years ago, the G.A.A. distributed a large bulk of Final tickets direct from Croke Park. It was mostly a first-come-first-served system, but at least it gave everyone an even chance of buying a seat.

Nowadays, however, All-Ireland Final tickets are allocated to County Boards, and through them to clubs. This method of distribution was adopted for two reasons:

(1) It gives members of the Association a better chance of viewing the All-Irelands from the comfort of stand seats; (2) it removed the heavy burden of direct distribution from the shoulders of the Headquarters staff.

Fair enough. Both objectives have much to recommend them. But what of the regular follower—the man who keeps the Association's coffers full all the year round—who doesn't belong to a club, and who has no contact with members of the G.A.A.? His chance of buying a seat at an All-Ireland final is now practically nil.

There lies the great weakness in the present system of distribution. Is it too much to ask the G.A.A. to review this matter before September, 1961, and formulate an equitable solution.



TEN years ago they came storming out of John Kelly's quiet village of Killanne under the shadow of Mount Leinster to play a major part in the glorious Wexford hurling revival which the eldest of them had largely inspired and which the youngest still helps to carry forward on his broad shoulders to-day.

All Ireland knows the name of Rackard now, and the ballad-singers have long ago enshrined the fame of the three great brothers in their verses.

*Then here's to the Rackards,  
sure the slopes of Mount  
Leinster*

*Will treasure for ever the fame  
of their name,*

*Big Nicky, tall Bobby and  
curly-haired Billy,*

*The three flowers of Killanne  
and the pride of the game.*

But there were few people in Ireland who had ever heard the name of Rackard when, in the middle 'thirties, a burly school-boy by the name of Nicholas Rackard, turned up, complete with holly hurley, to commence his secondary education at St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny.

Yet, by the time the same Nicholas Rackard left the great hurling nursery beyond the Nore some five years later, his name had long been in the Colleges' headlines, for he had won a whole series of Leinster senior and junior schools championships with St. Kieran's and had played on the first Leinster Colleges side that ever won the All-Ireland competition.

To Dublin, as a student at the Veterinary College, young Rackard arrived in the early 'forties, and was soon starring both in hurling and football with U.C.D. By the mid-forties he had won a Leinster senior football title with Wexford, had become a regular on the Leinster Railway Cup football team, and was already

awakening dreams of a hurling revival by the Slaney.


A couple of years later he had two brothers to aid him on the Wexford senior hurling side: Bobby, tall, dark and willowy, the length of whose deliveries were astounding, and the neatest hurler of the family, Jimmy, who, had he possessed anything like the inches and physique of the rest of the family, might well have become the most famous hurler of them all.

And as the younger Rackards grew to greatness, the Wexford resurgence seemed to grow with them, until, when the hurlers of the Slaney finally came bursting out of Leinster in 1951, there were four Rackard brothers on the line-out—Jimmy in goal, teenager Billy at right full-back, Bobby at centre half-back, and Nicky at full-forward.

Jimmy was in the reserves when Wexford failed to Tipperary in the All-Ireland final of 1951, and did not again appear in the county colours; but his brothers went from triumph to triumph.

In 1954 the "big three," Nicky, Bobby and Billy, made their second bid for those so elusive All-Ireland medals, only to fail narrowly to Cork, despite a truly wonderful display by Bobby.

But then the tide turned and Wexford and the Rackards had their glorious years when the three Killanne brothers helped their beloved county attain to every honour of the hurling game. All-Ireland and National League medals; a Railway Cup with Leinster; Ireland jerseys in the annual challenge game, in which Nicky always opted for the Universities, but received his Ireland honour when the basis of

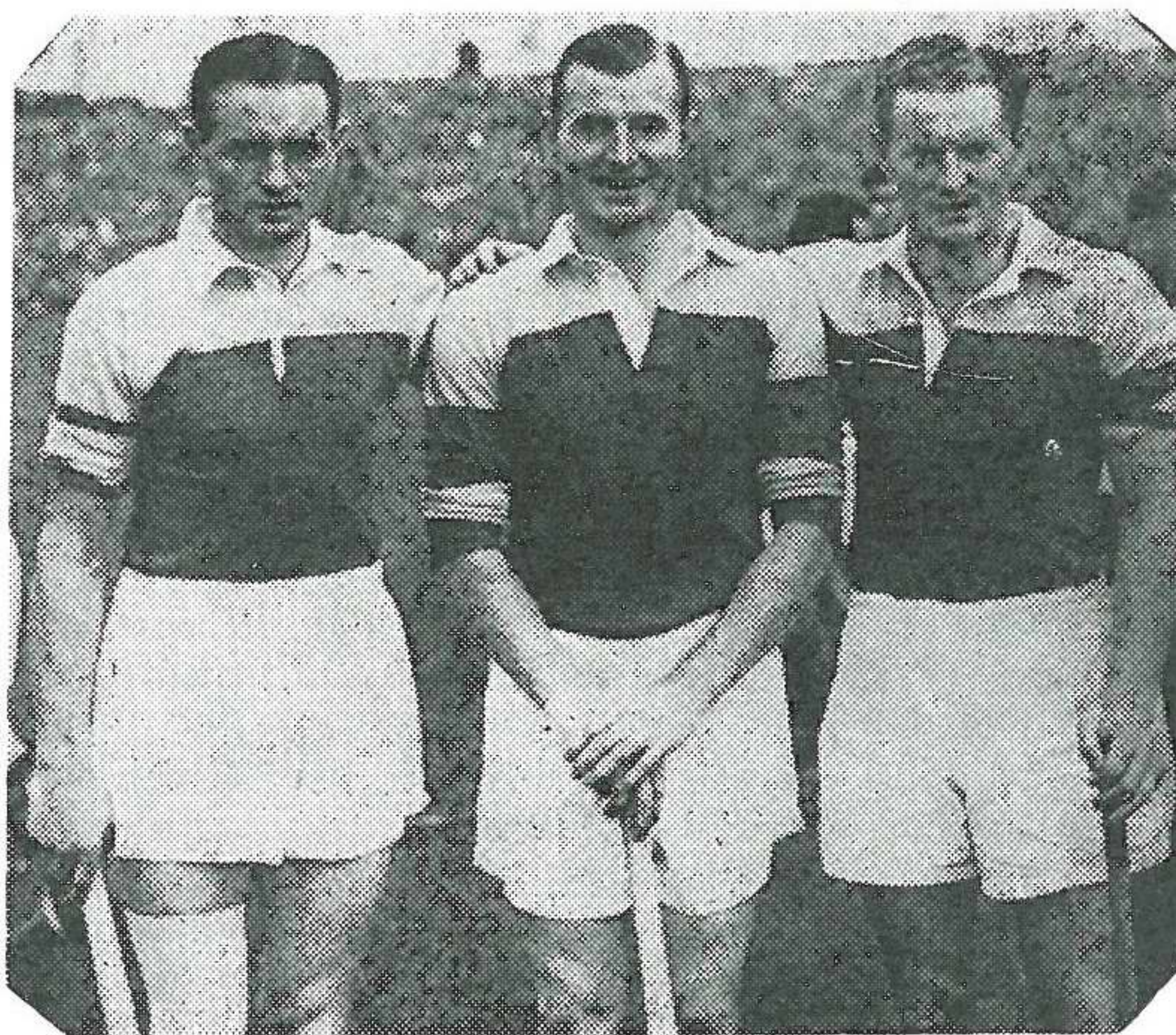


# THE RACKARDS OF KILLANNE



*The famous Rackard brothers  
—corner-stones of Wexford's  
greatness in the 1950s.*

*From left—Bobby,  
Nicky, Billy.*



that yearly exhibition match was altered at last.

Then, in 1957, came their trip to America, where a wonderful victory over Cork at the Polo Grounds left Wexford sitting serenely on top of the hurling world.

And then the crash came, sudden as a thunderclap. Bobby Rackard was injured in an unfortunate farming accident that brought to a regretted end his great hurling career.

A few weeks later Wexford met Kilkenny in the Leinster final at Croke Park and, to the amazement of the hurling public, were routed by the rampant Noresiders. A week or so later again Nicky Rackard, after eighteen seasons in the purple and gold jersey, announced his retirement from inter county hurling.

It seemed that the sun had set on Wexford's glory, even though they came back to win a National

Hurling League title in 1958 with Billy Rackard at centre half-back. In 1959, Wexford went out to Dublin in the Leinster championship and made little show in the League.

Billy Rackard rarely appeared and there were rumours that he had hung up his hurley for the last time. Then came this year's championship campaign and with it the news that Billy was back in training again. It was news that gave heart to every Wexford follower, and when Wexford held Dublin to level scoring in the Leinster semi-final, enthusiasm throughout the county flamed again from Stratford-on-Slaney to Kilmore Quay.

Billy Rackard, after his lay-off, took a while to get back to his best. He was excellent for forty minutes on that first day against Dublin, showed his old-time greatness for much of the hour in the replay which Wexford won, and came back to all his

old glory when he dominated the scene to carry the purple and gold to victory over Kilkenny's black and amber in the hard-fought Leinster final.

And so, when Wexford step out to meet Tipperary in the All Ireland final at Croke Park on the first Sunday in September, Billy Rackard will carry again on his shoulders the honour of Killanne. But the last of the Rackards has a great tradition behind him now, the tradition of hurling greatness and of superb sportsmanship in victory and defeat, built by himself and his older brothers.

Brother Nick will be there on the touch-line, a Wexford selector now, and brother Bobby will be on the stand, both of them yearning that the years could roll back to let them out on the field to assist stalwart Billy in his bid to bring a further title to Wexford and further honour to quiet Killanne.



# SLICK TEAM-WORK IS TIPP'S TRUMP CARD

By PAUL DUDLEY

**M**ANY tributes have been paid to Tipperary, the new Munster hurling champions. And all of them have been well merited. Their strength in defence, their striking power in attack and balanced midfield have all been praised.

But perhaps, the most remarkable characteristic of the side is its team-work. This has been most effectively displayed in each game they've played this year.

Such cohesive effort has, of course, been seen previously on the hurling field. But never in a set of circumstances such as exist on the present Tipperary team. It is achieved amazingly on a side made up of the representatives of no less than a dozen clubs, with only two clubs having more than one player on the side.

This diverse selection is drawn from Thurles Sarsfields (Tony Wall, Jimmy Doyle and Sean McLoughlin), Holycross (Michael Maher and John Doyle), Arravale (Terry Moloney), Toomevara (Matt Hassett), Roscrea (Kieran Carey), Nenagh (Mick Burns), Killenaule (Tom Ryan), Marlfield (Theo English), Borrisoleigh (Liam Devaney), Burgess (Donie Nealon), Coolmoyné (Liam Connolly) and Kilruane (Tom Moloughney).

In addition, another three clubs are represented among the list of substitutes chosen for the Munster final—Kickhams, Moycarkey and Kildangan.

This is a notable feature of the side, but it is one that has been carefully nurtured by famed Tipperary officials like Paddy Leahy, Phil Purcell, Gerry Doyle, Paddy Kenny (no kin of the former hurler) and Jim Stapleton.

The basis of the present team lies in the side that marched to All-Ireland triumph two years ago.

Then it progressed to capture two further National League titles for the county with an odd change and a judicious, but by no means radical, introduction of new and young talent.

The experienced men like John Doyle, Michael Maher, Tony Wall, Theo English, Jimmy Doyle and Liam Devaney have many successful years of hurling behind them. And around them now the selectors have built a formidable side.

Mick Burns of Nenagh was introduced last year, but reached his most effective form early this season. The retiral of the great Micky Byrne in May made way for the arrival of Toomevara's Matt Hassett, a determined, close-tackling defender in the true Byrne mould.

After many brilliant displays with the minor side, young Tom Ryan was promoted, although still in his teens, to partner Theo English at midfield.

The addition of Tom Moloughney and Sean McLoughlin to the full-forward line has given Tipperary more power in this sector than they have had for some time.

In training, this combination is worked-on and the intricate, goal-approaching patterns the Tipperary players weave with the sliothar have brought all opposition crashing to defeat this year.

Not that their triumph in Munster will leave them complacent about the Wexford challenge. They have memories of other meetings with the Slaneysiders and one in particular they will never forget was in the National League final of 1955-'56 when after leading by fifteen points at the interval, Tipperary saw victory snatched away from them by the overwhelming rally of a Wexford side that came back to win 5-9 to 2-14.



# Jimmy joins the immortals

By FRANK FOLEY



*Jimmy Doyle*

**H**URLING has never lacked striking personalities . . . and the game has always been particularly rich in outstanding forwards. In recent memory the fabulous scoring feats of Mick Mackey, Christie Ring, Terry Leahy and Nicky Rackard, among others, stand out as cherished gems.

Now Jimmy Doyle of Tipperary has joined the immortals. But this member of the well-known Thurles hur'ing family, whose famed uncle, Tommy was a former celebrity of the game, hasn't had to wait until now to establish his reputation as a hurler.

He did that many years back as a lean schoolboy in Thurles C.B.S. He played in Munster colleges' competitions and in the All-Ireland colleges' inter provincial contests.

In 1954 he joined the Tipperary minor team as goalkeeper, the position his father, Gerry, filled in other years with the county's senior team. And there set out on a record-making career as the only young lad to appear in four successive All-Ireland minor hurling finals.

But it was as a forward in three of them that Jimmy steadily garnered about him an aura of fame as a menacing hurler. To the consternation of many a defender he elusively whipped around to pick off telling scores.

With the arrival of September, 1958, Jimmy was back again for his fifth consecutive appearance in

Croke Park on All-Ireland Final day. This time he was a senior and helped in no small way to give Tipperary its 17th title.

It was in 1960, however, that Jimmy Doyle, whose collection of hurling medals had reached the 40s while still a teenager, passed into manhood—in every sense.

In March, he came of age and celebrated his 21st. birthday on the 22nd of the month. But in the hurling sense, too, the youth became a man.

Jimmy is now the fully matured hurler; as wily and as experienced as many several years his senior. With the years he has put on weight; is now a heavier, bulkier, but nonetheless mobile, forward well able to stand up to the rigours of hard-tackling championship hurling.

But above all Doyle has speed and accuracy—two qualities to which Tipperary owe so much this year. Rarely have they been so gloriously in evidence than in this year's Munster final. There Jimmy was confronted by Denis O'Riordan, a tenacious young Corkman, yet, Jimmy's bewildering body-swerve and agility enabled him to elude even the attentions of this vigilant defender. A memorable goal and neat points were ample proof of that.

Whatever fate awaits Tipperary in the All-Ireland final against Wexford this year a great deal of additional glory lies ahead for their ace forward, Jimmy Doyle.





# Wexford may upset odds

By TOM DAVIN

*NICK O'DONNELL . . . Wexford's captain and full-back.*

SO Wexford are back. That's the very first thing that brings glamour to the All-Ireland hurling final of 1960, since every follower of hurling through the past decade has thrilled to the brilliance and the sportsmanship of the purple and gold in four or five finals, and no team will be more welcome in Croke Park on Final Day.

And it is surely a remarkable fact that a team with, relatively speaking, so little hurling tradition behind them should have brought such a glamour with them to Croke Park from their very first appearance, and should have so quickly and so consistently won the admiration and the support of the "neutral" followers of the hurling game. (By neutral followers I mean those who go to Croke Park not as supporters of one team or the other, but who by the time the game is ten minutes old have taken sides and remain partisans from that to the end).

The first time I saw what we had better call the "present" Wexford hurling team in Croke Park was about ten years ago when they met Galway in an Oireachtas final or semi-final, I

forget which. To me, men like Bobby Rackard, Ned Wheeler and Padge Kehoe had been only names in the papers until then, although I had seen Nicky Rackard often in Dublin games and with Leinster and had not thought a great deal of him (and it takes a pretty brave man to say that nowadays).

Anyway, Galway beat Wexford that day, but even in defeat the Slaneymen made a host of friends—friends who, I may add, have not deserted them to this day.

There was a Dublin man with me on the day we first saw those Wexford hurlers. He started to shout for them after about ten minutes, and he was still shouting for them when they beat Kilkenny in the 1960 Leinster final a few weeks ago. I asked him why he, a neutral follower, had become so consistent a Wexford supporter. Said he: "Since the first day those fellows ever came up they never blotted their copy, win or lose." And that, I think, plus their remarkable capacity for fighting back from behind, is Wexford's greatest secret of popularity.

But, leaving popularity one side, how does the present Wexford team rate with the great



side that took the League and Championship titles of 1956?

Pat Nolan is, I think, even a sounder goalman than Art Foley, and that is saying a lot, while Nick O'Donnell is sound as ever at full-back. The wing-backs, Neville and Mitchell are sound enough, and it is not faulting them to say that neither can ever hope to be the hurler that Bobby Rackard was.

The seasoned half-back line of Jim English, Billy Rackard and Mick Morrissey looked wonderful for most of the hour against Kilkenny, though I thought Rackard had to do too much of the work and in consequence did not last the hour. However, I feel that all three will be fitter men in the final.

Wheeler, too, was not as fit at midfield as I would like to see him, but he and Sean Power may well be a surprise packet in the final. I thought Wexford's weakness in the Leinster final was in attack. Only for Padge Kehoe, and to a lesser extent Seamus Quaid, their forwards did not impress me at all.

Against them in the All-Ireland final we will

have Tipperary, the team of all talents. The counties have met only once in an All-Ireland final in recent years, and that was in 1951, when Wexford were on the way up and Tipperary were on the crest of the wave.

Tipperary won with more to spare on the scoreboard than they had on the field, and Wexford got sweet revenge for that defeat when in the League final of 1956 they were led 15 points at half-time by the Tipperarymen, and yet came back to win.

Up till a month ago, 'twould have been only an optimist that would have given Wexford a chance against the Tipperary men in this All-Ireland final. I saw Tipperary beat Limerick and All-Ireland champions Waterford in their opening games this season, and they looked invincible. But they looked shaky enough against Cork in the Munster final, and I have yet to meet a Corkman who has any conceited opinion of the present Cork hurling fifteen.

That Munster final showed that Tipperary can

*(Continued on Page 45)*

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## Exceptions!

**T**IPPERARY have been beaten on only four occasions in All-Ireland senior hurling finals :—

- 1909—Kilkenny, 4-6;  
          Tipperary, 0-12
- 1913—Kilkenny, 2-4;  
          Tipperary, 1-2.
- 1917—Dublin, 5-4;  
          Tipperary, 4-2
- 1922—Kilkenny, 4-2;  
          Tipperary, 2-6.

Only once have Tipperary been held to a draw in a hurling final :

- 1908—Tipperary, 2-5;  
          Dublin, 1-8.
- Replay—Tipperary 3-15;  
          Dublin 1-5.

SEAN FEELEY surveys Tipp's record

## YEARS OF GLORY

**T**IPPERARY won the first All-Ireland senior hurling final ever played when at Birr, on April 1, 1888 (1887 championship) a 21-man Thurles selection beat Galway (Meelick) by 1-1 to nil.

That was the beginning of Tipperary's hurling story as recorded in the annals of our native games, but long before the Gaelic Athletic Association was founded the men of Toomevara, Clonoulty, Tubbaradora, Boherlahan and the numerous other towns and villages which are sprinkled throughout the hills and planes of Tipperary, were

playing for "the honour of the little village."

With the foundation of the G.A.A. Tipperary became the first county to win an All-Ireland title. (Limerick won the first football title, but not until four weeks after Tipp had taken the hurling crown).

Having won the 1887 title, the Tipperary hurlers did not appear in a final again until 1895 when, at Jones's Road (now Croke Park) they beat Kilkenny by 6-8 to 1-0. The following year they were back to retain their title by an even more convincing margin when they had no less than thirty four points to spare over Dublin.

In both these All-Ireland finals, Tipperary were represented by a Tubbaradora selection and again in 1898 the same club won for the Premier County her fourth All-Ireland hurling title by beating Kilkenny.

It was Tipperary again in 1899 and 1900 with Moycarkey and Two-Mile-Borris selections representing the county and so at the turn of the century Tipp held six hurling titles to Cork's four and one each for Kerry, Dublin and Limerick.

Tipperary won the hurling title again in 1906 and 1908, and it was not until 1909 that they suffered their first defeat in an All-Ireland final. The 1909 final was played in Cork on December 12, and after a thrilling game Kilkenny won by 4-6 to Tipperary's 0-12.

Kilkenny again beat Tipperary in the final of 1913 but in 1916 the Tipp men were back and led by Boherlahan, they won their ninth title.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GREAT  
TIPPERARY TEAMS ON THEIR WONDERFUL  
ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEARS  
AND TO WISH THEM MANY MORE  
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In 1917 Dublin beat Tipperary narrowly in the final and in 1922 Kilkenny had their last victory over Tipperary in an All-Ireland decider, when they won by 4-2 to 2-6 in Croke Park. Incidentally, this was also the last time that Tipperary were beaten in a senior final. In 1925 they collected their tenth title, at the expense of Galway, and in 1930, at Birr, they made it eleven-up with a clear-cut win over Dublin.

For the next seven years the brilliance of Limerick kept Tipperary in the background in Munster but in 1937 they were back to regain the title with an easy 3-11 to 0-3 win over Kilkenny. In 1945 Tipperary won her 13th title and then came three-in-a-row in 1949, '50 and '51. Then a lapse of six years, and their 17th title in 1958.

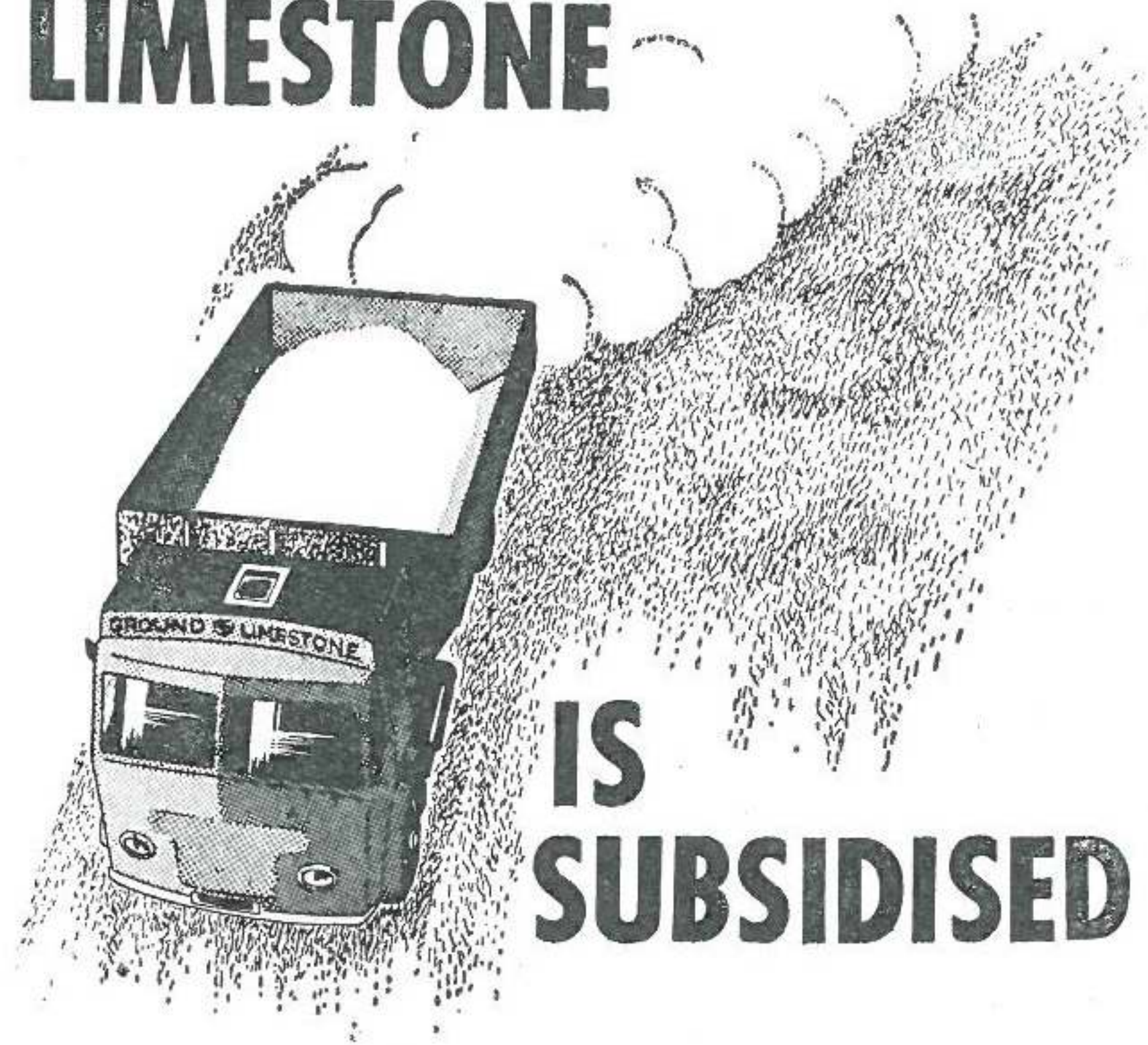
To date, Tipperary have played in 21 senior hurling finals and they have been beaten only four times—three times by Kilkenny and once by Dublin.

What of Tipperary's chances of the title this year? Form clearly favours them. They have a young team, but yet, in no way lacking in experience.

In their three championship games so far this year, they have scored 20 goals and 31 points, Jimmy Doyle notching a personal tally of 8 goals and 26 points from frees and play. This fabulous average of over 6-12 per game speaks very well of Tipperary's scoring power and backed by tradition it is difficult to see them lose.

However, we can rely on the men of Wexford for a typically clean and manly game, but no matter how I view it, it's Tipperary for their 18th title.

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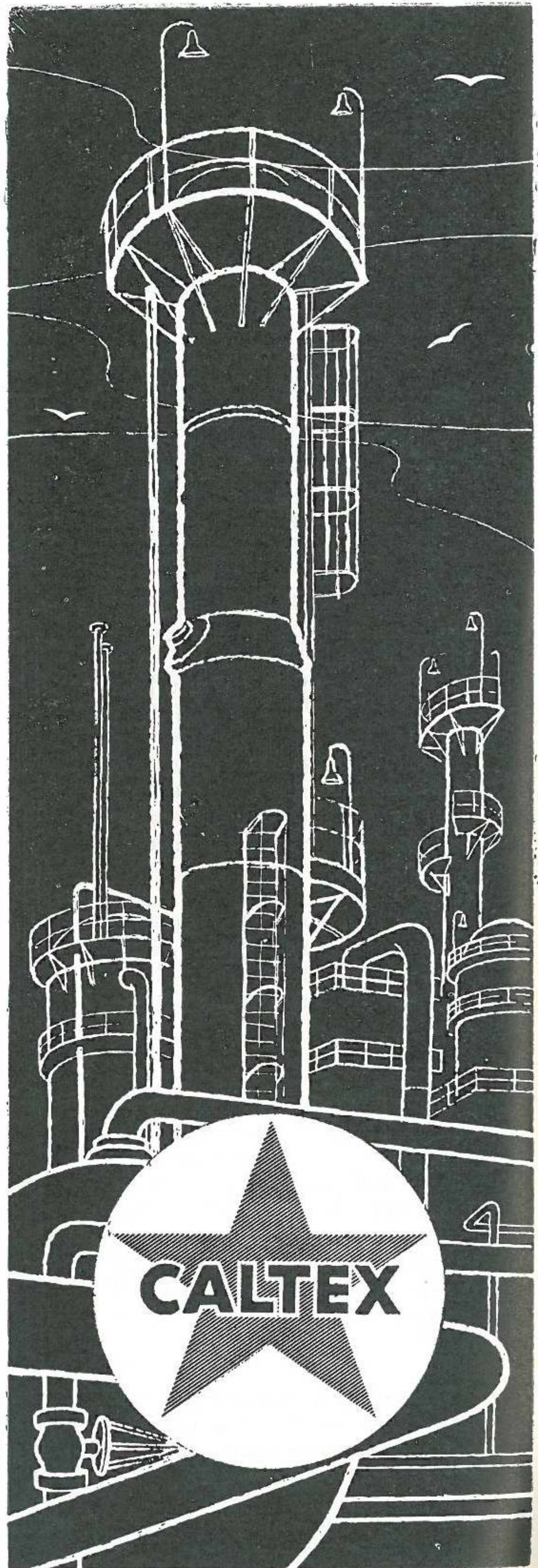
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# THE KINGDOM WAIT . . . . . . *and wonder*

★ By PETER BYRNE

**B**ACK in 1959 a record number of 70,148 cash-paying customers rolled up to see Kerry and Dublin do battle in the All-Ireland Senior football semi-final at Croke Park.

But don't be surprised if that record attendance for a semi-final is gently but firmly erased from the record books after Sunday, September 11 when the stalwart men of Offaly and the red-and black jersied heroes from Down battle it out for the right to meet Kerry in the decider.

And believe you me, "battle" is the operative word. Every soul in the 64,232 crowd who watched the drawn game, will ever thrill to the memory of that titanic struggle and with three weeks of intensive training behind them now, the stage is set for another rip-roaring hour in the replay.

Who'll come out on top this time? Will it be the slick, punch-packed Down fifteen that fairly blasted it's way to a resounding National League title victory earlier on in the year and then went on to supplement that success with a fluent run in the Ulster championship?

Or will courageous Offaly, the team they said hadn't an "earthly" at the start of the season, succeed now where they so narrowly failed in the drawn game on August 21?

Whichever way you look at it, it all adds up to an intriguing tussle and, of more importance still, a mighty headache for All-Ireland king-pins,

Kerry who are scheduled to meet the winners in the final on September 25.

After the Kingdom had overcome that tremendous Galway challenge in the first semi-final, the "knowing ones" shook their heads and said it was only a matter of time before they added yet another to their long string of All-Ireland triumphs

But is it? After watching the hurly burly, make-it-or-bust nature of the exchanges in the first Down-Offaly clash, it would be a rash man indeed, who would predict with any degree of certainty, the winners of the Sam Maguire Cup for 1960.

While either would prove worthy opposition for the famed Kingdom, I have a feeling that the Kerry men are hoping that they won't have to meet the fleet-footed Down attacking machine on September 25.

The Munster champions remember only too well the incisive, rapier-like brand of football of the Down men that wrote finis to the Kingdom's National League ambitions last April.

They remember, too, the rock-like Kevin Mussen-Dan McCartan-Kevin O'Neill half-back line that played havoc with their own much-vaunted trio of Dan McAuliffe, Tom Long and Paudy Sheehy.

But a Kerryman is seldom stuck for an answer

*(Continued on Page 17)*



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(Continued from Page 15)

and any suggestion that the Ulster forwards will give their men the run-about, is quickly countered by the statement that Kevin Coffey, Mick O'Dwyer, Jerome O'Shea and Company are perhaps, the best defensive set-up in present-day football.

As for Offaly, Kerry folk view with no little intrepidation, the possibility of having to meet a mid-field of the calibre of Sean Ryan and the tried-and-trusted Sean Foran.

This pair turned in a power display of hard, high catching football in the first half of the Down match, and in view of Mick O'Connell's eclipse at the hands of Frank Evers in the Galway game, the possibility of an overwhelming Offaly superiority in this department, makes rather a dismal reading for Munster followers.

## *Midfield could decide issue*

Throw in the striking power of the forwards, Donie O'Hanlon and Har-Donnelly and the cool methodical defensive football of men like Paddy McCormack, Greg Hughes and Mickey Brady, and it all adds up to quite a hefty problem for the champions should they have to encounter the Midlanders in the final.

But after weighing up the pros and cons of the forthcoming replay, I reckon it will be Down who will be throwing down the gauntlet to the seasoned Kerry fifteen on All-Ireland final day.

And I make that prediction fully conscious of the fact that Down were, on the general run of

play, decidedly lucky to have earned a second chance on August 21.

In the first half of that encounter, Joe Lennon and P. J. McIlroy just weren't "mapped" with the Offaly mid-field pairing of Sean Ryan and Sean Foran and while the advent of Tony Haddon curbed considerably the rampagings of the Leinster pair, the fact remains that, over the hour, Foran in particular, remained unmastered.

A repeat performance on September 11 could send Offaly into their first-ever final for Har-Donnelly looks to have the measure of George Lavery while over in the other corner, veteran Mick Casey proved what a dangerous attacker he can be, in the drawn game.

As against that, however, one cannot help but be impressed by the manner in which the Down forwards cut gaping holes in the opposition in the second half of the first encounter.

Admittedly, some of the Offaly defenders had "run out of gas" at that stage but the fact remains, that the Northern forwards enjoyed complete superiority in the latter stages of the game.

Ace marksman Paddy Doherty, in particular, repeatedly split the Offaly defence and while Phil O'Reilly did a commendable job of work in holding him to a couple of points in the first half, nothing less than a full sixty-minute effort will suffice in the replay.

But even if Doherty is held, there is enough scoring potential in the remainder of the Down attack to carry them into the final.

Sean O'Neill looks to have his work cut out against that dashing half-back, Charlie Wrenn but anyone of the remaining quartet, James McCartan, Tony Haddon, Patsy O'Hagan and Brian Morgan is capable of winning the match off his own bat.

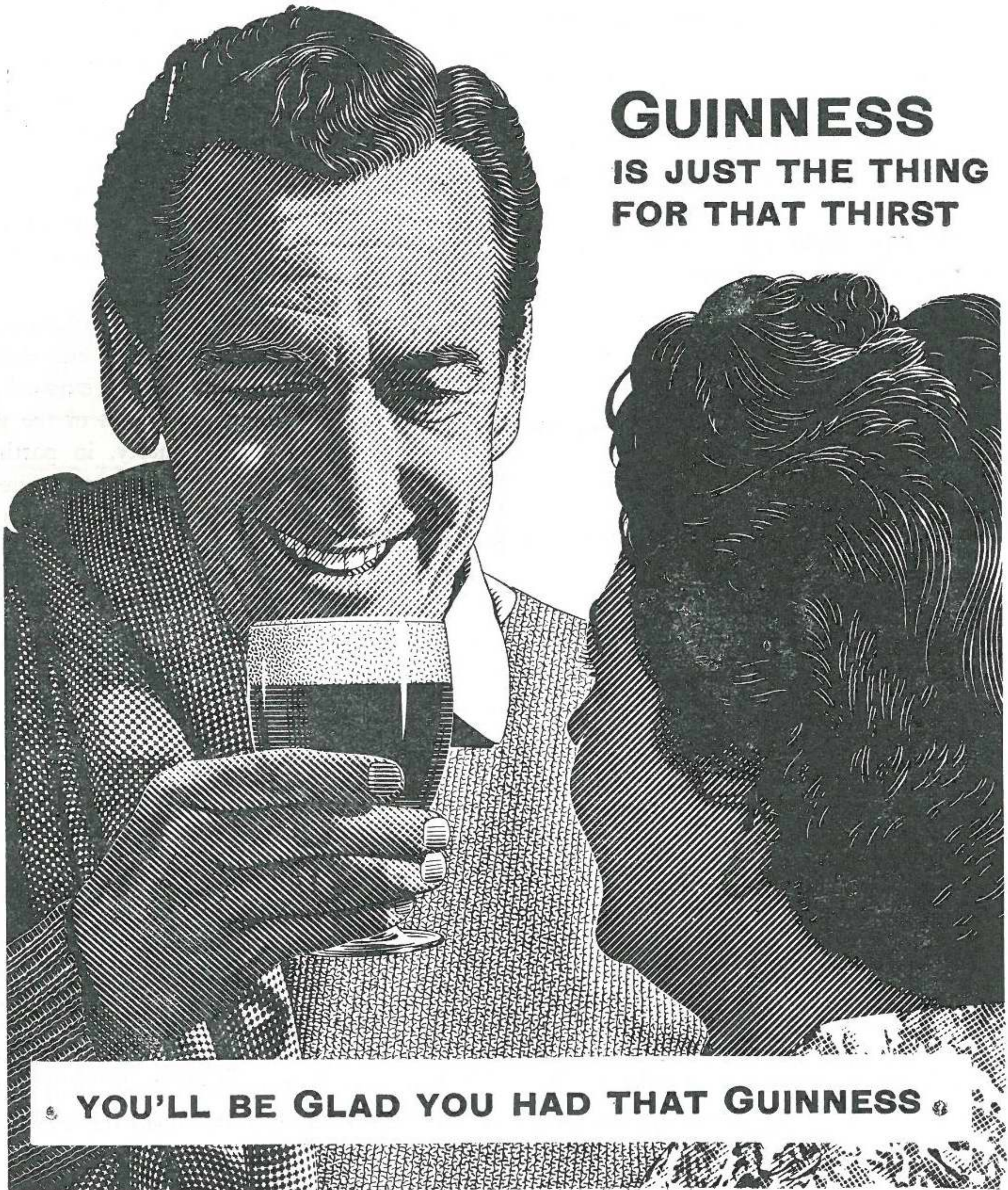
Another factor that weighs heavily with me in predicting a Down victory is the manner in which half backs, Kevin Mussen, Dan McCartan and Kevin O'Neill completely blotted out the Offaly trio, Sean Brereton, Donie O'Hanlon and Tommy Greene in the concluding stages of the first match.

A similar performance here will almost certainly spell Offaly's exit from the 1960 championship and carry Down into their first-ever final against the mighty Kingdom.



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# Medals by post!

By EAMONN MONGEY

I FEEL the time has come when some effort should be made to have a proper presentation of All-Ireland medals, instead of the deplorable haphazard system we have at present.

The All-Ireland finals are the greatest national expressions Ireland witnesses each year, and the winning of an All-Ireland medal is the dream of every young Gael. When he does achieve it then, shouldn't it be presented in a manner appropriate to such a high distinction.

At present, the method of presentation of medals is as varied as it is at times unfortunate. I, myself, was lucky enough to win two All-Ireland medals. Neither of them reached me until months after the particular All-Ireland final. One of them then arrived by post, and I have no clear recollection of how the other arrived. Getting All-Ireland medals by post—even registered post—does tend to take the shine off them.

I'm not alone in my opinion on this. A few weeks ago, I was speaking to an All-Ireland hurler on this very topic and he told me that he chanced to meet his County Secretary one day in his home town and asked him when the All-Ireland medals were being distributed.

"Did you not get yours?" said the Co. Secretary. "Drop up to the house now," said he, in the most off-hand way possible, "and I'll give it to you." And that's

the way that one All-Ireland player got his medal!

I've often seen more ceremony at the presentation of Feis medals for an "under 11" Slip Jig competition.

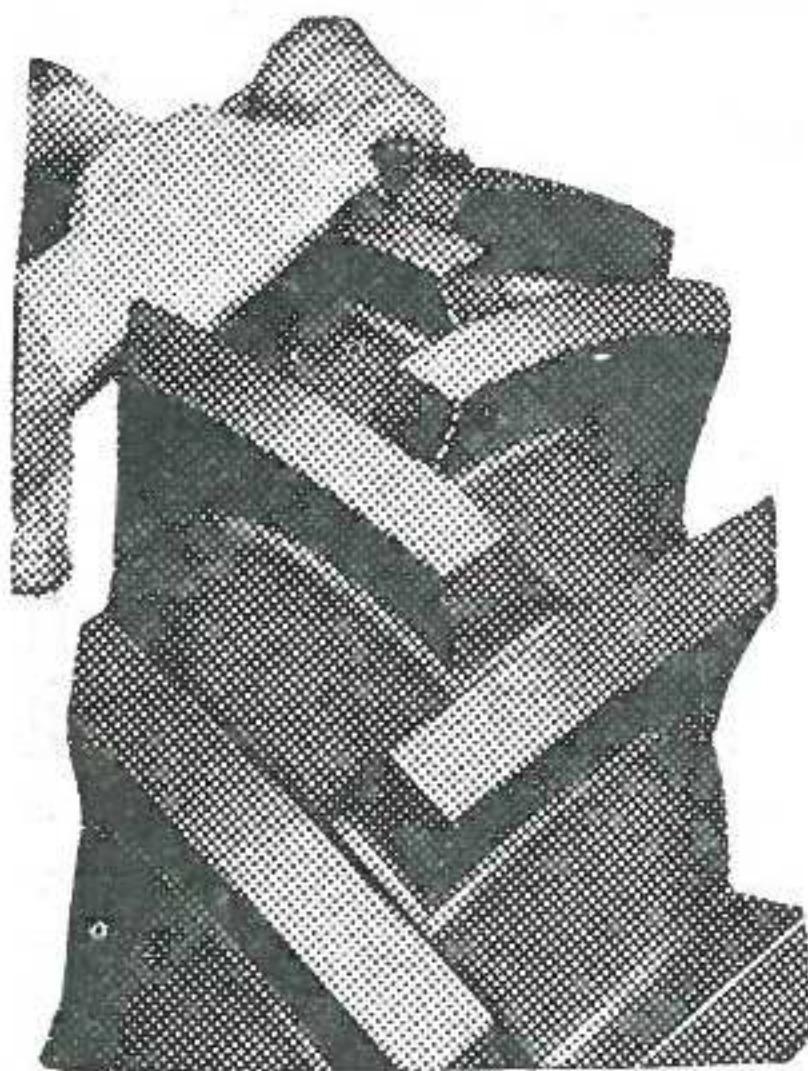
Surely the G.A.A. should realise that there's only one place to present these medals, and that is on the pitch immediately after the game. That is the time when the players most want them, and that is the time when the greatest number of spectators will have the best

opportunity of seeing the presentation.

Besides, calling each player's name out and making an individual presentation to each would give the crowd the opportunity of cheering their favourite performers on All-Ireland day—and give every parish in the winning county the opportunity to cheer their own representative

I know that some people will object and say that the medals

*(Continued on Page 29)*



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# A THORNY QUESTION

ASK any G.A.A. fan what the stickiest problem is in hurling these days, and you'll almost certainly get but one answer—the future of Galway.

Always a thorny question whenever the subject of the caman game is discussed, it has flared up even more fiercely in recent weeks following the trouncing Waterford

handed the Tribesmen in the Munster championship on June 26.

This wasn't just yet another defeat for Galway men. It was the second and final answer that the experiment of pitting the Westerners against the elite of Munster has been a complete and utter flop.

When the Munster Council in-

vited Galway to compete in their provincial hurling championships two years ago, it looked a satisfactory solution to a very tricky problem.

Previously, the Connacht men had been walking straight into the All-Ireland series without playing a game and almost inevitably, defeat was their portion.

Crippled by lack of match-play practice, they seldom held out even a flicker of hope, and gradually the All-Ireland series was being drained of much of its glamour.

But now, after sampling the white-hot fare of the Munster competition for two years, I say the time has come for Galway to back out of the Southern province.

On both occasions they were against Waterford in the first round, and on both occasions they failed dismally to even make a contest of it.

It wasn't so much the scoring margin that separated the sides at the finish—and, make no mistake about it, it certainly was decisive,—that stamps the experiment as a failure; but rather, the manner in which the Decies men completely outclassed their opponents.

And the poverty of Galway's effort this year was driven home to the hilt when, a couple of weeks later, the self-same Waterford

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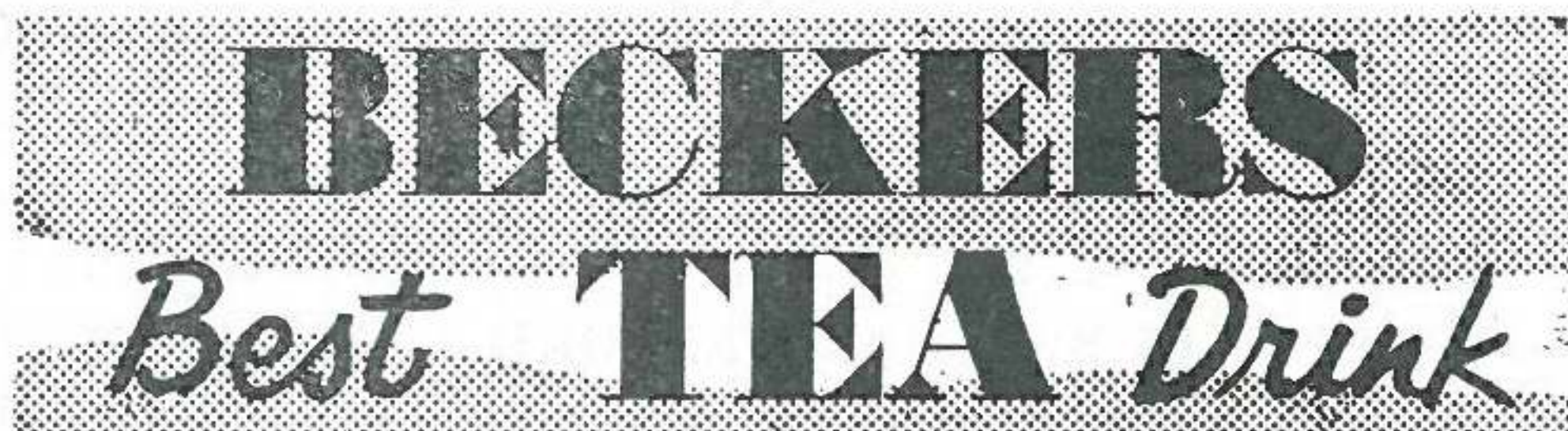
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fifteen was virtually swamped by Tipperary in the semi-final.

No, it must be painfully obvious to the Galway officials that, as matters stand, at the moment at any rate, they just haven't the talent to compete with Munster's best.

Nowhere in Ireland is the general all-round standard of hurling as high as it is in Munster, so that even if the Corrib men drew one of the lesser lights of the moment like Clare or Limerick, they would still hold out little chance of winning.

Is there a solution? Well, the obvious one, of course, is to try and uplift the general all-round standard in the West — thereby giving Galway some semblance of reasonable competition.

But while some progress has been made in this direction in recent years, I reckon we'll still have to wait quite a long time before the remainder of the western counties reach Galway's standard.

So, to my mind, there is only one other solution — and I'm the first to admit that it's not entirely satisfactory, either.

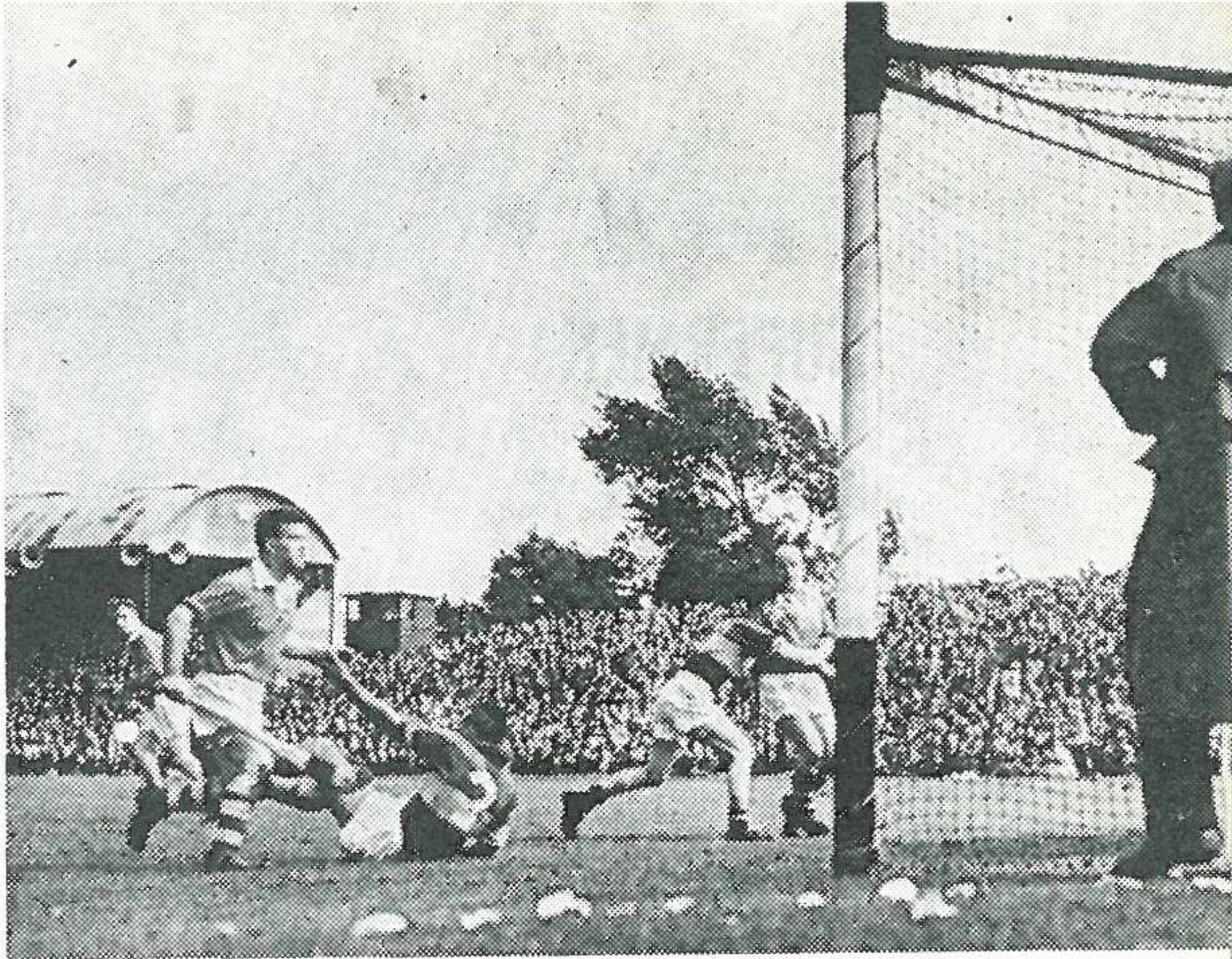
It is that Galway try their luck in the Leinster championship next year.

I know Galway have previously rejected this suggestion but as I see it, there's no other course open to them now.

For one thing, they might have a chance of an easy, first round draw against, say, a team like Laois, Meath or Offaly.

In this way, they could get in some valuable match-practice before tackling the "big three," Wexford, Kilkenny and Dublin—a thing they can hardly expect in Munster.

As I said, this system has its flaws, too, but by and large, it looks a more attractive proposition for Galway than that Munster experiment. For the sake of hurling in general let's hope it works out that way!



Action in the drama-packed Tipperary-Cork Munster hurling final.

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## SUPERMEN!

**K**ERRY have played in 28 All-Ireland senior football finals, excluding the 1908 Home final, in which they lost to Dublin. They also reached the final in 1910 and 1925, but these games were not played. They have won 19 of the finals in which they appeared.

Wexford, Kildare, Cavan, Galway and Roscommon succeeded in drawing with Kerry in All-Ireland finals. Only Galway, in 1938, succeeded in beating Kerry in an All-Ireland replay.



*Kerry backs hold off Galway in the All-Ireland football semi-final.*



# Kerry on the march

★ By CHRIS KELLY

**S**TRANGE as it may seem now, Kerry were by no means a football force in the early days of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Limerick was the first county to win the Munster title. That was in 1887, and 1888 being a "blank" year, they were followed in 1889 by Tipperary; while they in turn were succeeded by Cork who held the title in 1890 and '91.

In 1892, Kerry, represented by Laune Rangers, won the Kingdom's first Munster football title, but in the All-Ireland final, played in Clonturk Park on March 26, 1893, they were beaten by Dublin Young Irelands, 1-4 to 0-3.

During the next decade Kerry failed to win the Munster championship, which was shared mainly by Tipperary and Cork, and with the turn of the century the Kingdom had yet to win an All-Ireland football title. (In 1891 a Ballyduff selection won the All-Ireland senior hurling title, beating Wexford (Crossbeg) by 2-3 to 1-5 after half an hour's extra play. This was, of course, the only time Kerry won the hurling crown).

Then came 1903 and Kerry's Tralee Mitchells won the Munster title. In the All-Ireland home final they drew with Kildare in Tipperary town. The replay took place in Cork and this time it was a draw again. In the third meeting, Kerry were convincing winners by 0-8 to 0-2. In the All-Ireland final Kerry had an easy win over London by 0-11 to 0-3.

It is interesting to note that these three games with Kildare were not played until well into

1905. The All-Ireland final with London was played on November 12, 1905. This postponement, plus the excitement of the two draws, played a very important part in awakening the football fever in Kerry, and while they awaited the outcome of the 1903 championship they won the 1904 and 1905 Munster titles.

Kerry, still represented by Tralee Mitchells, won the 1904 All-Ireland title, which was played on July 1, 1906, and in the 1905 championship they reached their third successive final before losing to Kildare (Roseberry) in Thurles by 1-7 to 0-5.

Kerry were now fully conscious of their football potential. They were on the march. In 1908 they won the Munster title again, only to lose to Dublin in the Home final. But they were back again in 1909 to win their third All-Ireland with a 1-9 to 0-6 victory over Louth.

The following year, Kerry reached the final again but due to lack of proper transport facilities for supporters they refused to travel and Louth received a walk-over. However, Kerry won the title again in 1913 and 1914. In the 1915 final they failed to Wexford and so the first of Kerry's great football eras came to an end.

During the next eight years Kerry failed to reach the All-Ireland final and then, in 1923, a young and brilliant team, led by such men as John Joe Sheehy, Joe Barrett, Con Brosnan and Paul Russell, reached the All-Ireland final and after a thrilling game they lost to Dublin by 1-5 to 1-3.

(Continued on Page 25)



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(Continued from page 23)

This was Dublin's 14th title; Kerry and Wexford now held five each. However, Dublin's era of football supremacy was coming to a close and when Kerry beat them to win the 1924 title it was evident who were to succeed them as football kingpins. A new era of Kerry football had arrived.

The 1925 championship was declared void and in 1926 this young Kerry team retained their title.

Kildare were now another rising football force and led by their giants of the day in Jack Higgins, Paul Doyle and Larry Stanley, they upset Kerry to capture the 1927 and '28 titles. However, this Kerry side was still improving and when the Railway Cup competitions were begun in 1927 fifteen Kerrymen were chosen en bloc to represent Munster and they went on to beat Connacht in the final by 2-3 to 0-5 and win the first ever Railway Cup football title.

In 1929, the Kerrymen, little changed from those who won the 1924 and '26 titles, regained the All-Ireland and convincingly captured it again in 1930, '31 and '32. Kerry now held eleven titles, but this great side was reaching the end of its run.

For five years Kerry waited for a team to succeed John Joe Sheehy's men, and eventually, in 1937, there came another bunch of powerful footballers—worthy successors to the Kerrymen of the previous decade. In 1937 this new Kingdom side regained the title, lost it narrowly to Galway in the '38 final, regained it again in 1939 and defended it successfully in 1940 and '41.

The 1941 victory brought Kerry her 15th football and pride of place on the All-Ireland role of honour. However, as if on purpose, Dublin came from nowhere to capture the 1942 title and they were level again.

Kerry failed to Roscommon in the 1944 final but regained the Sam Maguire Cup again in 1946. They added further titles in 1953, '55 and '58 and so on September 25 they will be striving for their twentieth National crown.

Casting an eye back over the years, one must wonder how the G.A.A. would have fared had Kerry not got the football "urge" at the beginning of the century. One thing sure is that the game would never have reached the popular heights it

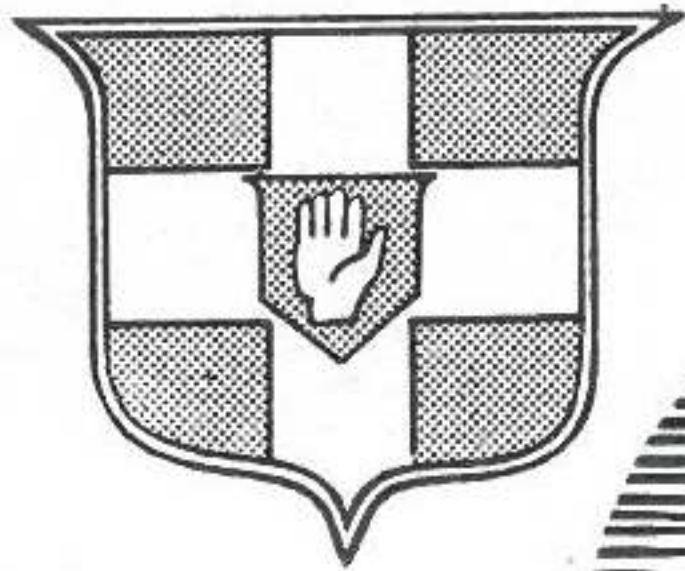


*Vincent Cronin (No. 4), the Cork Minors' left fullback, beats a Down opponent in the All-Ireland semi-final.*

enjoys to-day, for Kerry brought many things great and splendid into the game. They brought a style of their own,—a style strong and graceful, personifying the true splendour of Irish manhood; a rugged but sporting approach to the game, great in its enthusiasm and will-to-win. Together with all of this, they brought a true national and Gaelic spirit which has always kept the Association on the right road and conscious of its full national obligations.



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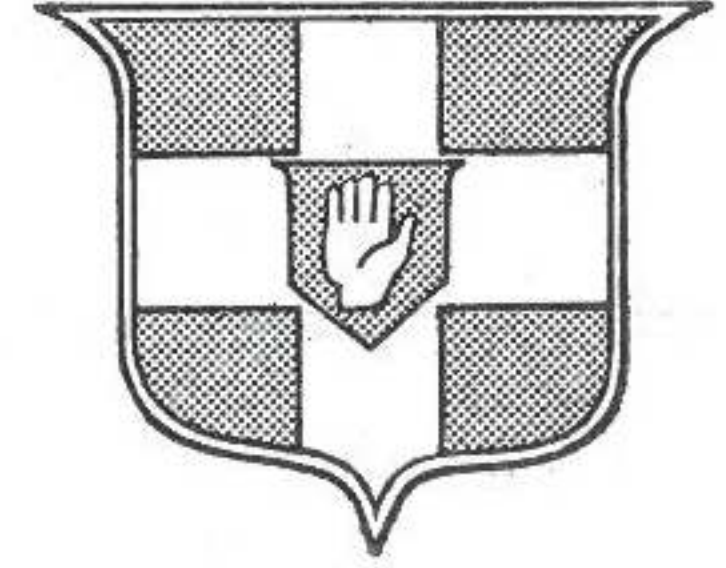
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# ALL-ROUNDERS

By PETER BYRNE

WHEN Michael Cusack helped to found the G.A.A. back in 1884, he could hardly have envisaged the tremendous strides the Association has taken in the past sixty years. On all sides glowing reports of increased and extended membership continue to pour in; playing pitches are improving, and generally, G.A.A. fans have never had it so good.

Yet, the most striking feature of all, to my mind, is the fantastic improvement that has come about in the games themselves.

It's a far cry, indeed, from the rough-and-tumble type of fare so prevalent in the early days of the Association, to the stream-lined stuff that now brings thousands of supporters converging on Croke Park on All-Ireland day.

But if this improvement has made for extra money-spinning and spectator glamour, it has also imposed unprecedented demands on the players themselves.

Getting fit for a big game nowadays entails a considerable strain on inter-county players, more especially if their team are enjoying a good run of successes, thereby being in almost constant demand.

But for some people it's even harder still. I

refer, of course, to those gallant band of stalwarts who play hurling and football at inter-county level i.e. the all-rounders.

Their's is the unenviable task of having to keep slogging away, week after week, in top class competition and the manner in which some of the leading men manage to maintain consistently good form throughout the season never ceases to amaze me.

Some counties seem to specialise in all-rounders, and in this respect Dublin are way ahead of all others.

This is due to a number of factors, not least of which is the work of the Dublin Primary Schools' League which encourages youngsters to adapt themselves to both games in schools' competitions.

Since the 'fifties, Dublin have turned out some really outstanding dual performers, but even amidst this galaxy of stars, one man stands out head and shoulders above all others. His name is Des Ferguson.

Since donning the county colours back in 1950, Ferguson has rendered his county yeoman service in both codes, and it speaks volumes for his ability that, despite some red-hot competi-

*(Continued on Page 31)*



(Continued from Page 19)

cannot be inscribed in time to make the presentation complete on All-Ireland day. My answer to that is that if the County Board feels strongly about it, it can collect all the medals immediately afterwards, have them inscribed and make a formal presentation at some victory banquet subsequently.

Whatever way the medals are presented there should be a victory banquet anyway. As Down captain Kevin Mussen once said to me: "Our careers are so short and our major victories so few that no cause for a celebration should be lost."

Victory celebrations have a two-fold effect—they show well-deserved thanks to a conquering team and they are tremendous morale boosters.

A victory celebration around Christmas after a team has won an All-Ireland final in the previous September starts a team off on the right foot for the next year's campaign. This is a point often overlooked by County Boards who, as a rule, take no proper steps to boost the morale of a team whenever it is inclined to flag.

I'm sure some will argue that County Boards haven't enough money to fete their victorious teams properly. Against this it can be said that if they're not properly feted there won't be any victorious teams. Anyway, if a County Board is that badly off it can run a challenge game on the day of the presentation to meet the bill.

But I digress. The celebration comes some time after the final. The main point I wanted to make is that All-Ireland medals should be presented in the most appropriate place—and the most appropriate place for presenting All-Ireland medals is undoubtedly Croke Park on All-Ireland day.

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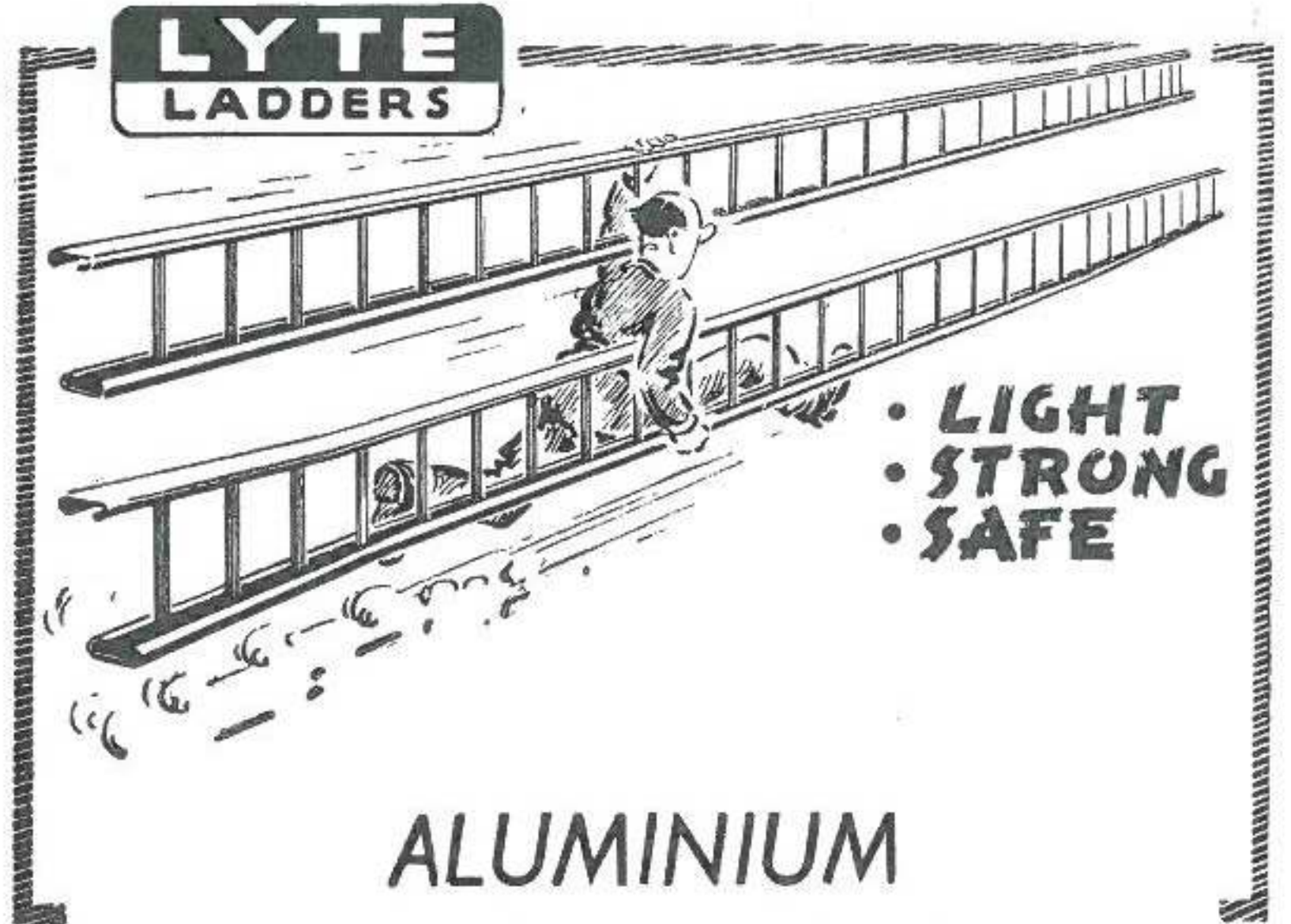
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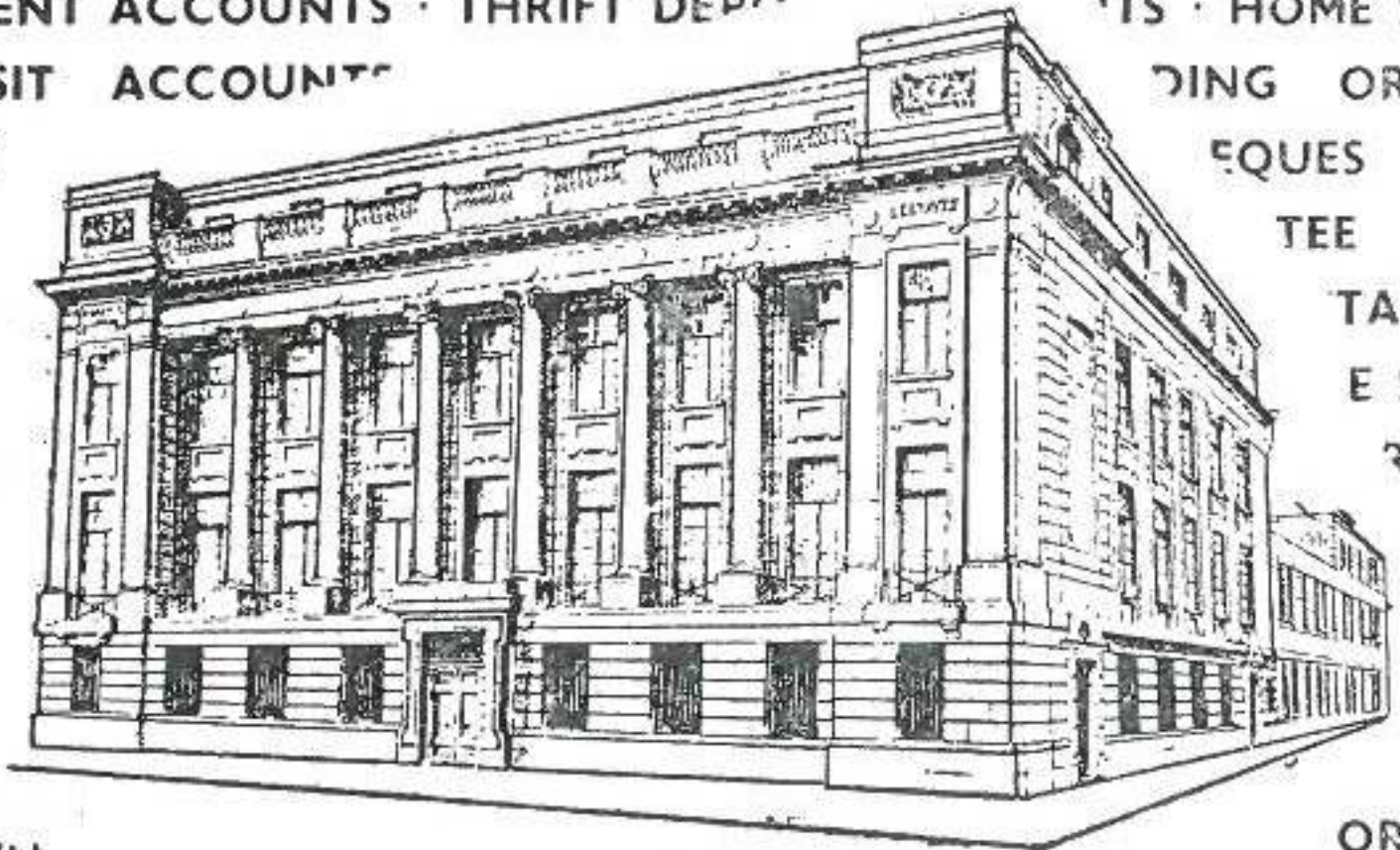
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(Continued from Page 28)

tion, he has never yet been ousted in either game.

Whether it was Christy Ring in hurling or Sean Purcell in football, the St. Vincents man has met and matched the best and this is reflected in the fact that he remains the only man ever to have been honoured by the Ireland selectors in both codes.

An amazing record, surely, which must stamp the likeable Des as one of the greatest—if not THE greatest—all-rounder of all time.

But Ferguson's achievements may yet be equalled by another St. Vincent's man, namely Des Foley. At the age of twenty, Des commands a regular place on both Dublin teams, and looks all set for a really glittering career.

Elder brother, Lar, regular full-back on the county football team, recently made a comeback to inter-county hurling, while other dual performers in the Dublin colours are Kevin Heffernan, Mark Wilson, Mick Bohan and, until recently, Norman Allen, Liam Donnelly and Tony Young.

Another county that fairly teems with versatile performers is Cork; and one in particular, Jack Lynch, must rank alongside Ferguson as one of the greatest. In recent years there has been a slight preference to specialise in one code in the rebel county, but even so, Army man Eamonn Goulding is still proudly carrying on the tradition.

The uprise of hurling in Kerry is due in no small measure to the efforts of some of the football "regulars," notably Johnny Culloty and Niall Sheehy.

Over in Waterford, hurler-cum-footballer Tom

Cunningham apparently relishes hard work for he has been to the forefront of his county's fortunes in both grades in recent years.

Wexford also can lay claim to some fine all-rounders. Nick Rackard first hit the headlines as a footballer before later devoting all his time to the small ball code—a remark that applies also to the Kehoes, Paddy and Padge.

Billie O'Neill and Joe Young keep the Galway flag flying proudly, while that big-hearted standard-bearer of Roscommon fortunes, Gerry O'Malley, must surely loom large to the fore whenever the subject of all-rounders gets an airing.

And in the North, who can forget that wonderful craftsman, Kevin Armstrong, a delightful footballer who was equally at home with a hurley. A wonderful sportsman, Armstrong personified that indomitable Antrim spirit which has enabled them to weather a succession of storms on the hurling field.

Finally, here is a list of what I consider to be the finest fifteen all-rounders in the game just now. I will arrange them in both hurling and football order—so just see if you can do better.

FOOTBALL: J. Culloty (Kerry), M. Wilson (Dublin), N. Sheehy (Kerry), L. Foley (Dublin), D. Ferguson (Dublin), G. O'Malley (Roscommon), O. Fennell (Laois), D. Foley (Dublin), E. Bruer (Westmeath), T. Cunningham (Waterford), E. Goulding (Cork), J. Young (Galway), W. Walsh (Carlow), K. Heffernan (Dublin), W. O'Neill (Galway).

HURLING—J. Culloty, M. Wilson, W. O'Neill, N. Sheehy, J. Young, D. Ferguson, O. Fennell, E. Goulding, E. Bruer, T. Cunningham, D. Foley, G. O'Malley, W. Walsh, L. Foley, K. Heffernan.

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*Kerry's John Dowling (right) and Tadhg Lyne (centre) in a tough tussle with Galway's John Kennedy (No. 2) in the All-Ireland football semi-final at Croke Park.*





## Good luck, Galway

GALWAY, surprise team of this year's camogie competition, will carry the good wishes of many from neutral counties when they take on Dublin in this year's All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park on the first Sunday in October.

And the reason for this is quite logical. Dublin have ruled the roost for too long and it would be a great thing for the game if Galway took the All-Ireland title and the O'Duffy Cup across the Shannon for the first time in the history of the competition.

Don't think that they haven't a chance of doing so. After all, they have already shown the worth of their side by first beating Connacht champions Mayo, and then travelling all the way to Belfast and there defeating Antrim before their home supporters at Casement Park.

Remember, too, that Antrim had made no secret of their determination to regain the All-Ireland crown this year, and the Antrim girls had showed their paces by first routing Derry, who had forced them to extra time in last year's Ulster final, and then crossing to London and defeating by a tall score the exiles who had run Waterford so close at Dungarvan a year ago.

If Galway want further encouragement they can look to the form book which says that Dublin were lucky to beat Antrim at Casement Park in last year's semi-final, and that the Dublin folk themselves do not count their side quite up to the standard of last year's champion team.

So Galway can travel to Croke Park with high hopes, and their young side is unlikely to be

daunted even by the powerful opposition.

These Galwegians have a star goal-minder in Eileen Naughton of St. Mary's and a most effective full-back in Anne McCluskey of St. Enda's. Sterling defenders, too, in the semi-final were Evelyn Niland of St. Mary's and the Castlegar pair, Veronica Heneghan and Sheila Tonry.

Basis of their semi-final victory, however, was



For

every

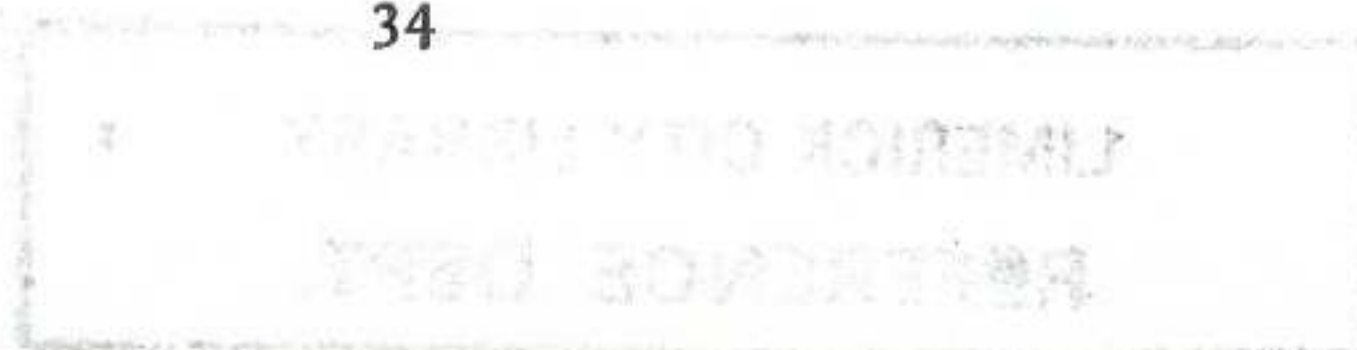
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the midfield work of the two other Castlegar stars, Kathleen Corcoran and Chris Conway of the well-known Castlegar hurling family, who is the inspiration of her side.

Former goalkeeper Kathleen Clancy of St. Mary's was at centre-forward against Antrim, while the three other forwards, Francis Fox (St. Enda's), Kathleen Flaherty (Castlegar) and Emer Walsh (Castlegar) were all on the scoring list on that memorable day.

Galway have not been in an All-Ireland final for many a year—not, I think, since that great camogie player who has since won so much fame for herself in other spheres, Siobhan McKenna, was in her heyday, and the return of the Western county to the limelight comes at an opportune moment.

Only once have they met Dublin in recent years, and that was at Pearse Park in the semi-final two years ago, when one of the greatest-ever Dublin sides was hard set to gain an advantage, until Galway fell away in the closing stages.

But Dublin, though they have won the title so often, have no intention of letting their prized trophy go across the Shannon. After all no fewer than ten of the present Metropolitan side collected All-Ireland medals a year ago, either as players or reserves.

Only Connie Lyons on the left wing and Anna Nulty at left back are newcomers to inter-county fare this season, and this pair have proved themselves in their two games so far.

Besides, this season Dublin have had keener competition than in recent years. The Leinster policy of letting all counties, save Dublin, play in the junior championship has ensured a great battle for junior honours with the result that the junior champions are well seasoned by the time they get to the senior final; and this year Kilkenny battled Dublin all the way, even though the latter were well ahead on the scoreboard at the close.

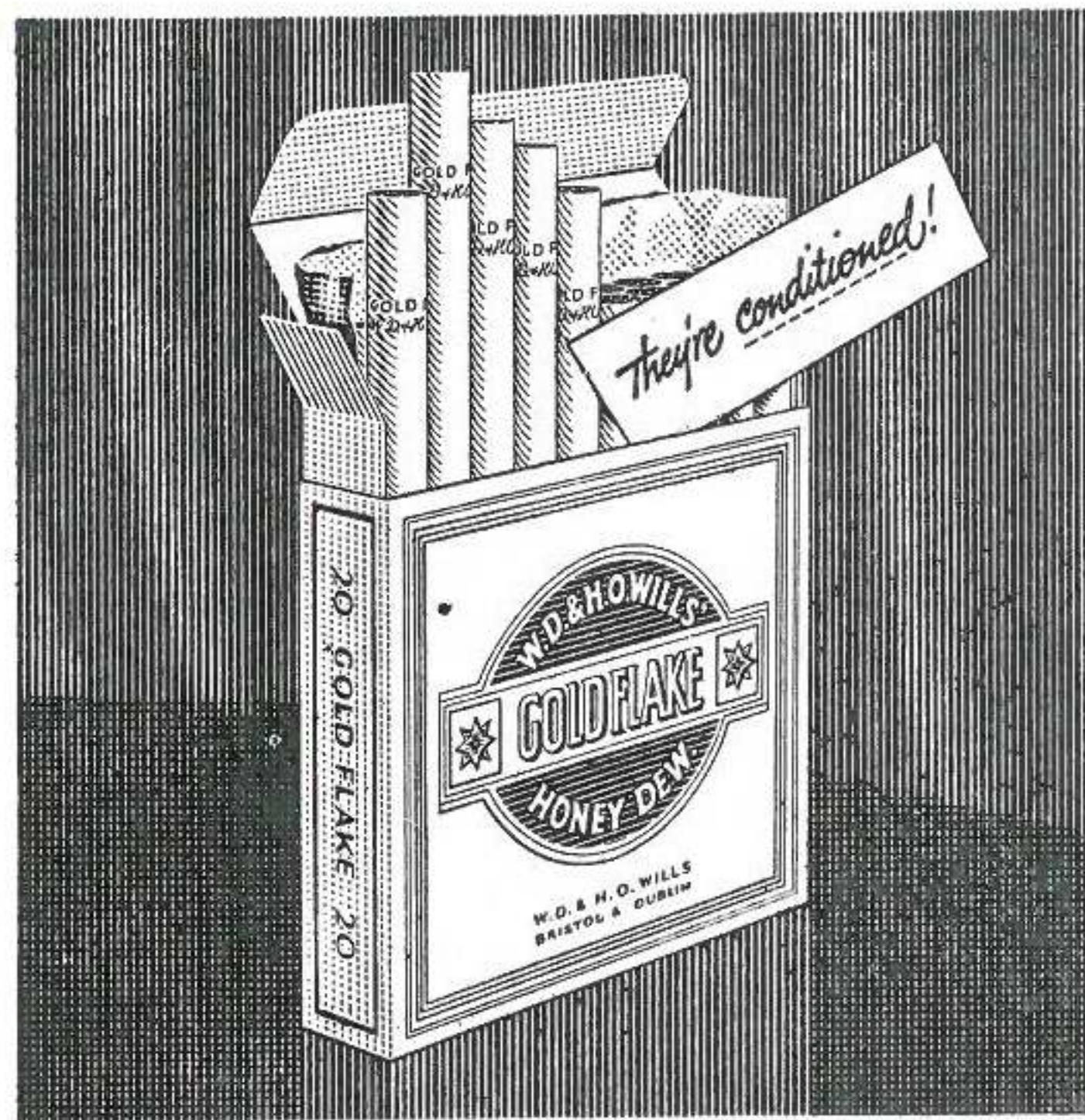
That game certainly stood to Dublin when they met an unexpectedly powerful Tipperary team in the semi-final. For all the first half and much of the second the Munster champions dominated, but not for the first time Dublin showed their penchant for coming from behind, and though scoring finished level, they had the chances to win before the final whistle.

Extra time was then played, and the Dubliners had whatever was in it to qualify for the final after a great game.

That hard-fought semi-final will, I think, have been worth a world of training, and without a really weak link on the side, though far from as powerful at midfield as in former years, I think that the Dubliners, captained by that wonderful centre-back, Doreen Brennan, will resist Galway's earnest challenge, and that we will see on the first Sunday in October at Croke Park the tireless Kathleen Mills collect her fourteenth All-Ireland medal.

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# Antrim's Camogie Progress

IN the mid-forties, the great Antrim team delighted thousands of followers with their brilliant hand-passing movements. The six flying forwards, Gibson, Armstrong, McCorry, O'Hara, McAteer and McCallion, made their way to the All-Ireland semi-final in 1946 only to be dethroned by the mighty men from Kerry in what was said to be an over-robust encounter.

When one discusses Gaelic

affairs in county Antrim this team is always in the forefront.

But what of the Antrim cailini? Discussions about camogie may not be heard in many parts of the county, but the Antrim cailini brought awards to the "Glens" that their footballers and hurlers failed to accomplish.

Yes the standard of camogie in Antrim at present is on a very high level, admittedly, they were beaten by Galway in that recent semi-final

but it was they who put an end to Dublin's glorious run of successes in 1956 when they defeated a team that included such great players as Kathleen Mills and Annette Corrigan.

It was due to the enthusiastic work of members of the Sean a' Diomais G.F.C. in Belfast (such as Joe Dempsey and Henry Shæehan) away back in 1908 that the first camogie team was formed in County Antrim. They called it Banba and it was comprised of some of the footballers sisters who devoted their time to raising funds for their club and helping the football teams in various ways. It was through this co-operation that many camogie teams were formed in the county.

Sean O'Duffy, Camogaiocht organiser, writing in 1929, says, "The playing of our national games would be of little importance if we did not give moral and practical support to other national activities. The (Camogie) Association is independent of all other organisations but is represented on the joint Irish-Ireland bodies for the preservation of our national language, games, industries, songs, dances, etc."

This spirit was prevalent in County Antrim in the early years. Banba played their first game at Dundalk Feis but Cluan Eimhir, Dundalk, defeated them by a two-goal margin.

In 1910, John Mitchell's, Peadar O'Neill-Crowleys, and Ardoyne were formed and in McRory Park, (then called Pairc Sheain a' Diomais) John Mitchell's and Crowley's played their first game. People began to take an interest in this newly-formed sport for the women-folk but the turbulent year's before and after 1916 deterred many from playing our national games.

However, the seed was sown, and although in 1927 only one club — O'Connell's — existed a revival was eminent. Other clubs

(Continued on Page 39)



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(Continued from Page 37)

were formed in 1929, such as Deirdre, St. Mary's Training College, McKelveys, who were connected with Cumann na mBan and who were very zealous workers for the language; Ardoyne, Gaeil Uladh, Countess Markievicz and clubs such as Grainne Mhaol, St. Matthews, and The Collean Knights who played their part in the early years of the revival.

To the forefront in those years were Maire nic Ailin and Clar ni Uiginn.

It was not long until the interest in camogie spread throughout the county and clubs were formed in Creggan (St. Olcans), Randalstown (Tir na n-Og), Antrim (St. Brigids), Moneyglass, Toome and Newbridge (St. Freas).

Padraig Mac Con Midhe, former president of the G.A.A., was at that time teaching in Creggan and with his co-operation the South Antrim Board was formed in 1930. Seamus Mac Seain was the Chairman and O'Connells won in the first two years.

Down throughout the glens where hurling has a great tradition, camogie was soon in the limelight and clubs were formed in Ballycastle, Glenarm, Dunloy, Carnlough, Cushenden, Loughgill and Glenarriff. Some of those clubs in later years gave outstanding players to the county.

In 1932, the three divisions came together and the Antrim Co. Board was formed. About this time, Antrim won the O'Duffy Cup, and apart from 1940 and '41 when they were beaten by Cavan they reigned Ulster champions, a title they hold to the present day, their nearest rivals in recent years being Derry.

In 1933 the interprovincial competitions were started and Antrim supplied many players to the provincial team. St. Olcans (Creggan) were the first team to win the county championship when

(Continued on Page 44)

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Such a day was Sunday, September 5, 1926. A day that came to life with the expectation of a glorious All-Ireland football final . . . matured in the excitement of a dramatic and tremendous struggle at Croke Park . . . and died in the horror of an appalling tragedy that plunged the entire nation into mourning.

The memory of that terrible Sunday evening is still deeply etched on the minds of the people of Drumcollogher . . . the bitter memory of the savage cinema fire that took the lives of forty-eight members of the local community, and turned a gay Limerick village into a graveyard of sorrow.

But, on Sunday morning, the tragedy of Drumcollogher was still many hours away. The day was still a happy, carefree day to the thousands of supporters who poured into Dublin from all over the country for the All-Ireland final between Kerry and Kildare. They swarmed into the city and made it their own.

G.A.A. officials anticipated a crowd of 35,000; almost 50,000 turned up, and long before the game began the turnstiles at Croke Park were closed. But still the crowds turned up . . . and at 3.30 p.m., there

were thousands overflowing into Clonliffe Road and Jones's Road.

Inside, the ground was a glorious sight. Brilliant sunshine danced in shimmering waves across the velvet green of the pitch. The stands and embankments were chequerboards of black and white with happy, excited spectators.

Hardly a breeze rippled the green and gold flags of Kerry or the white banners of Kildare as they hung limply in the enveloping heat of that wonderful autumn afternoon.

Below on the field a Kildare jersey was seen . . . and a mighty roar thundered up into the still sky. Player followed player, and then came the Kerry men, tanned and bronzed with southern suns . . . and Croke Park became a surging sea of sound.

The greatest names in Kerry football were there . . . John Joe Sheehy, Jack Murphy, Con Brosnan, Bob Stack, Joe Barrett, Paul Russell, Johnny Riordan and many more. Kildare, too, had her share of great men, whose fame has endured down through the years . . . Jack Higgins, Larry Stanley, Joe Loughlin, Matt Goff, Paul Doyle, Paddy Martin, Frank Malone and Joe Curtis.

The teams lined up, and the first act of a mighty drama began to unfold. A drama that was to live forever in the minds of 50,000 spectators who were privileged to see it.

Within five minutes the Kildare pennants were waving triumphantly.

Joe O'Loughlin of Rathangan broke away with the ball and his quick pass to Paddy Martin sent Kildare into the attack. Martin whipped the ball out to Paul Doyle and the Curragh man was almost through; but his kick was forced down and forced over the line for a "50".

Jack Higgins took it and drove in a low ball to the unmarked Doyle, who slipped past Joe Sullivan of Dingle and sent the ball spinning between the uprights. First blood to the Lily-Whites.

The Kerry men rallied immediately and from there on the game developed into a grim, thrill-a-minute battle between two magnificent teams.

Time and again the white jerseys surged into the Kerry half, but Joe Barrett, Phil Sullivan, Paul Russell and Jack Murphy were solid rocks of granite on which every Kildare attack perished.

Ten minutes had ticked away when Jack Higgins lofted a high ball into the Kildare forward line. Larry Stanley soared into the air to catch it and as he landed, Phil Sullivan crashed into him and the referee blew for a free. From thirty yards out, Larry sent the ball straight and true between the uprights. Two points to Kildare; Kerry still scoreless.

On and on the struggle raged and gradually the Kerry men fought back. Bob Stack and Con Brosnan got the upper hand at midfield and a pass from Brosnan sent the great John Joe Sheehy tearing through



# ...and appalling tragedy

the centre. With tremendous pace he thundered through the Kildare half-line and fired a long pass out to Jim Bailey of Ballymacelligott.

Jim made ground on the right and dropped a lobbing centre just in front of the Kildare goalmouth . . . fifteen yards out . . . right into the hands of the waiting Sheehy. The road to goal was clear for John Joe. He ran two paces, steadied himself and slammed in a screaming shot. A goal all the way . . . but in that last split-second, Jim Cummins jumped high in the air, got his fingers to the ball and tipped it over the bar for a point.

And that was how the scoreboard read at half-time. Two points to Kildare, one to Kerry.

From the throw-in at the start of the second half, although the Kerry men now had the sun behind them, Kildare took command of the game. Moving with machine-like precision at bewildering speed, they appeared to mesmerise the men from the south. Yet, their intricate, weaving patterns brought little reward against the dour blocking and tackling of Phil Sullivan, Joe Barrett, Jack Murphy and Paul Russell.

After ten minutes, Kildare moved further ahead with a fantastic point from Larry Stanley. Paul Doyle picked up a loose ball on the left wing and raced towards the corner flag. Hemmed in by Kerry defenders, he hand-passed over their heads to Larry, who was waiting almost on the end line, and

within a few yards of the corner flag.

Larry had no hope of breaking through into the centre, so he kicked . . . a high soaring ball that curled out and then slowly curled back in again . . . to drop dead centre between the uprights.

Kerry broke away in a lightning raid. Paul Russell to Con Brosnan . . . Con to John Joe Sheehy . . . John Joe to Jackie Ryan . . . and Jackie's shot went over the bar for another Kerry point.

Three more scores in rapid succession, two points for Kildare and one for Kerry, and as the game went into the last ten minutes, the scoreboard showed six for the Lily-Whites and three for the Kingdom.

And now the pace began to quicken as thirty of Ireland's finest sons fought desperately for another score. Play swung from end to end of the field at flashing speed with two mighty teams locked in furious struggle. The tension rose as 50,000 spectators roared out their appreciation of the titanic battle.

Time ebbed away. Eight minutes left . . . seven . . . six . . . five . . . four.

A kick upfield from Joe Loughlin went loose on the Kerry 21-yard line, Jack Walsh of Ballymacelligott picked it up and with a short accurate kick, he dropped it neatly into the hands of Paul Russell.

The tall Killarney man tore through the Kildare centrefield and

from over fifty yards out, drove a tremendous kick into the Kildare goalmouth.

A cluster of green and gold and white jerseys jumped for it . . . but up above their heads went the clutching hands of Bill Gorman, the Kerry full-forward. He gripped the ball tightly and landed, shrugging off the tackle of the Kildare half-back . . . and then he was through. With only Jim Cummins in the Kildare goal to beat.

Bill settled himself and kicked. Jim Cummins dived despairingly, but he was much too late. The ball went rocketing into the net . . . and Kerry were level.

Now the Kerry men were rampant and they swung into one last glorious, do-or-die attack, but John Joe Sheehy's flying shot sailed inches wide of the post.

Then the whistle went . . . and one of the greatest All-Ireland finals in the history of the G.A.A. came to an end.

And 50,000 delighted spectators slowly left Croke Park to make their long journeys to home all over Ireland. Delighted with the dramatic struggle they had just witnessed; happy in the knowledge that another great battle between these mighty teams was in store.

It was then 5.45 p.m. on the day that was Sunday, September 5, 1926.

Still a wonderful, carefree day . . . but the tragedy of Drumcollogher was now only a few hours away.



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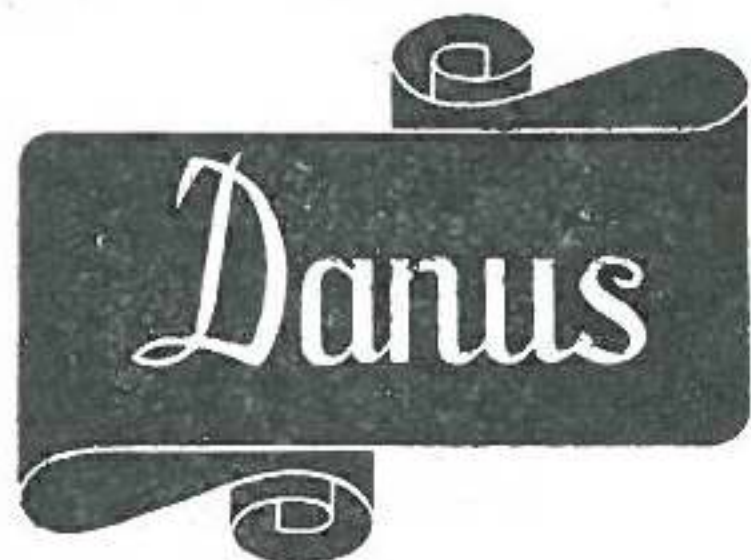
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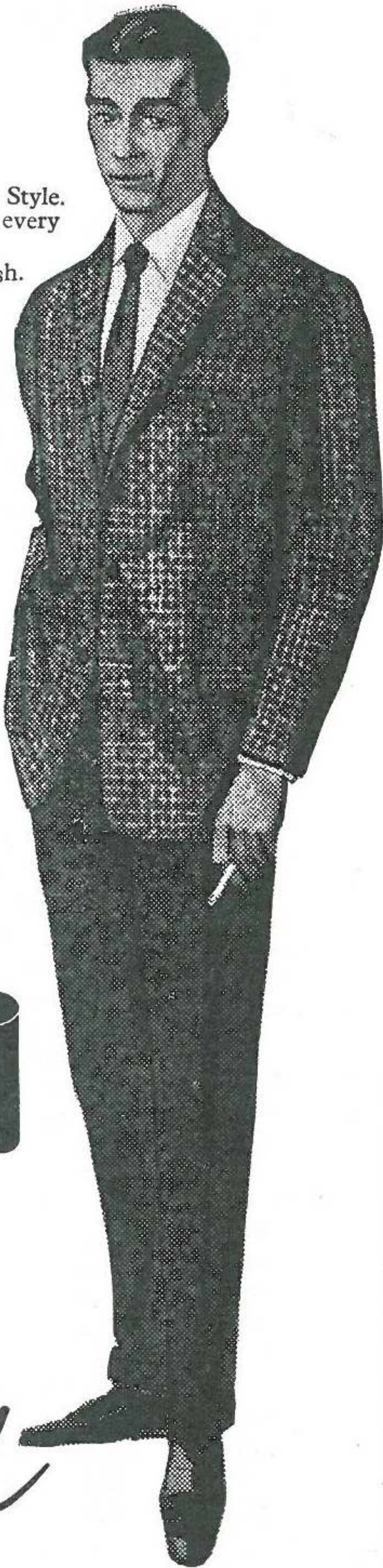
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# LET'S HAVE MORE CLUB GAMES



Says

EAMONN YOUNG

IT was a beautiful summer evening; the country looked lovely. Yet, I couldn't help noticing that the two playing pitches we passed were silent. Perhaps it was the tumult of fifty thousand madly-excited spectators at the Munster hurling final a few days before that emphasised the contrast. Once again the discussion we had last year returned. Are the games declining, especially in the rural areas?

The crowds at our Munster hurling games this year have been very small up to the final, and while the size of the gathering is not a sure guide to the real strength of the organisation, there is no doubt that seeing a good match stimulates one's interest in the game. Why, then, did the people not travel to see the opening games of the championship?

Perhaps the result was obvious due to the strength of some teams; but even so, that has always been the case. I wonder is it because there are so many other places to go, that our games

attract only when the follower is dead sure of first-class entertainment?

There are a host of counter-attractions to Gaelic games in modern life, and rightly so; long enough our people were denied the right to enjoy themselves.

Before the last war people made much of their own amusement. To-day, the motor-car takes each of us very often to watch the other fellow making fun for us. If there's a "big" game within thirty miles, the boys don't want to stay at home and play with their clubs. In fact, they insist that the club games are postponed.

Indeed, there are so many attractive and legitimate pursuits which four wheels bring within striking distance of all, that the games are bound to drop into the background at times.

How popular golf has become in the country; tennis has its followers as always, and the number who care for excellent pastimes like coursing,

*(Continued on Page 51)*





*OLLIE REILLY (No. 2), Louth's right full back fields safely though challenged closely by HARRY DONNELLY of Offaly (No. 15) in the Leinster football final.*

(Contd. from Page 39)

they defeated Deirdre in 1932. They continued their run of successes until Deirdre defeated them in 1937. Deirdre took the crown again in '38 and '39 (the year that the Ashbourne Shield was inaugurated) and proved to be an outstanding team, although they had no link with any football club.

Queen's University entered a team for the Ashbourne Shield but this had no great influence on the development of camogie in the county. However, there was

another institution which was to play an important part in the development of the camán game in Antrim's glens.

A young nun from Cork—Sister Mary du Saint Esprit—came to St. Louis Convent, Ballymena, where camogie was already being played and she soon set about training the girls in wielding the camán in the southern style. Her influence on camogie in the county was soon to be seen and clubs who had gone out of existence in some cases were reformed, among them Ahoghill, Moneyglass, Roughgill, Braid,

Ballymena and Dunloy, which in later years made their mark on the county trophy.

In Creggan for a while, despite the efforts of Rosemary Marron, camogie was at a low ebb, but many girls throughout the county were taking a keen interest in the teaching of this nun from County Cork. The results of her efforts were yet to come — the glorious years of Antrim camogie—'45, '46 '47—in which she played a most prominent part.

(To be concluded next issue)

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(Continued from Page 11)

be beaten, and there is not a hurling follower in Wexford but believes that the lads from the Slaney are capable of doing it.

And yet, the form book still says Tipperary, and despite the shock they got from Cork the men from the Premier County must still be favourites to take the title.

But on the form-book, as I have said, the vote must still go to Tipperary. They have not men as outstanding as some of the Wexford stars, but they have the all-round better team and will start favourites, and deservedly so.

But, on the other hand, it must be remembered that these men of Wexford have become something of a bogey team for Tipperary. The men from the Slaney play much the same storming game as do the Munster champions, and as far as physical strength goes they will not be a whit behind the opposition.

It should be a hard, exciting and gruelling hour, and while I expect the better-balanced Tipperary side to come through I won't be one bit surprised if Wexford upset the odds,

# Dan Ryan

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# Cork — and proud of it

By EAMONN YOUNG

*"Dear old City by the Lee  
What would I not give to thee,  
Roaming your sunny hills and  
dells,  
Listening to those merry chimes  
As we did in days gone by,  
When our hearts were full of  
liberty.*

WE who have got so many beatings, how we love to talk of our wins! But there is glory, too, in defeat, as fifty thousand who saw a raw Cork hurling side almost upset Tipperary a month ago realised.

I always think Cork are a little slow off the mark in the early days, for we didn't win an All-Ireland until 1890—a full three years after the championships had started. To make up for it we won the two, hurling and football, that year; but it was in 1901 that we really came to stay, although London Irish beat us in the final. The fact that one of the exiles' outstanding players was Tommy Barry, a Corkman, accounts for it! I saw Tom—sixty years later—vigorously applauding the Kerry footballers down the Park a few Sundays ago.

There were great hurlers in Cork in those days. Like Larry Flaherty who used to get up at six o'clock in the morning to train. In later days, Larry learned to drive his car by practising in his native element—the playing pitch. He learned to reverse back through the goal-posts!

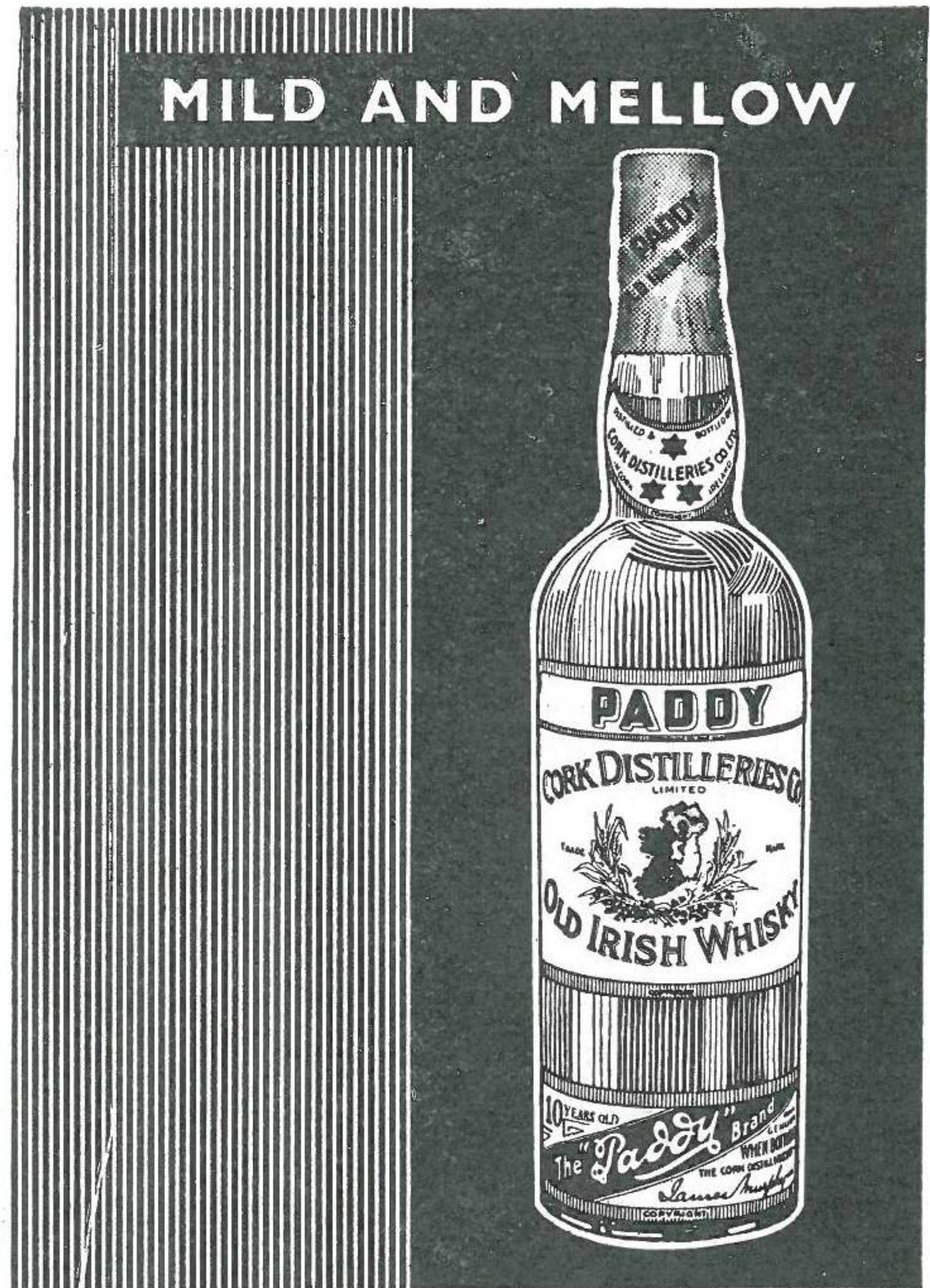
Billy Mackessy, a fast hardy man from Buttevant, won All-Ireland honours in both hurling and football. He was chief scorer in the 1911 team that beat Antrim by five goals. The captain of the side was a big broad-shouldered man from near Clonakilty named Mick Mehigan. His brother, Paddy, is the famous Gaelic writer, "Carbery," still hale and hearty, an athlete who wasn't far off fifty feet in the hop, step and jump.

The greatest hurler of those days was Jamesy Kelliher of Dungourney who played most of his games at half-back. Of average size and nicely built, Jamesy had wonderful ball control, a very level head, and an ability to swerve that men who

played against him described as uncanny.

He was a thorough sportsman and when his hurling days were nearly done became the most

*(Continued overleaf)*



*It's the age that does it!*



popular point-to-point rider in the broad, fertile baronies of Avondhu and Imokilly. And when Jamesy, mounted on his favourite "Home Chat," came sailing over the last fence there was many a man lost his hat.

Sean Og Murphy, the dour, solid full-back, lost his first All-Ireland in 1915 when Laois gave us a nice two-goal beating. But "Og" was there again on many a tough day until an injury finished him and prevented him from crowning a great career with the memorable three-hour struggle with Kilkenny in '31,

Sean Og was a great character and was admired by even his staunchest adversaries when for 26 years he served as Cork County Secretary.

When we made him a presentation after 25 years, he looked at it—a barometer—and said:

"I must hang it in the hall and take a good look at it the last thing on Tuesday night when coming to the Board meeting. If it's any good it will give me an indication of the weather I'm likely to meet in Cook Street."

Eudie Coughlan started in as a sub. in 1919 when we beat Dublin

well in hurling. Connie Sheehan, a great half-back, served on the team, and the best tribute to Connie's ability is the fact that his name is as well-known to-day as then.

Eudie Coughlan crowned a masterly career as a forward when he led Cork to victory in the '31 epic. That third day, Eudie got a ball about forty yards out on his own wing, but was knocked to the ground by a Kilkenny man who wanted victory as much as Eudie. With the normal man it would have been all over, but the lean Coughlan, who was born with a stick in his hand, swung a neat stroke while on his knees and sent it sailing beautifully through the posts.

A great bunch of men came together in the mid-twenties. They were the framework of the famous sides from '26 to '31. Dinny Barry Murphy, a darling half-back; Jim Regan, the iron man at centre-back; Jim Hurley, doubling on high balls at centre-field; and the two Ahernes, "Gah" and "Balty" (they nickname everyone in Blackrock), belting balls into the back of the net.

One day Jim Regan got a whack on the hand. He spoke to Sean Og: "My finger is broken," said Regan. "Never mind your finger," gritted Sean Og, "go back to your place and mark your man." Jim did, and hurled for the hour.

There were lean days in Cork from '32 to '39, but strange to say, the men who shone for us then were as good as the best. They were John Quirke, Micka Brennan, Jack Barrett, and Georgie Garrett.

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In '39, a new era opened, with Jack Lynch of the cool head and the flying feet; Billy Murphy, whose long puck-out is one of my golden memories; Paddy Donovan, one of the best centre-backs we had; Alan Lotty, stylish, fast and strong; Jim Young, clever and very hard; Derry Beckett, elusive and accurate; Sean Condon, Mick Kenefick — youngsters, but first-class.

These were the men who, with many more too numerous to mention, created the most glorious era of Cork hurling. Glorious is the word, for, between '39 and '47, they appeared in SEVEN FINALS, winning five.

And they threw in a football championship in '45 for good measure, with Jack Lynch and Derry Beckett in the team.

Tadgo Crowley of Clonakilty, a big, fast centre-back, led the team with Weeshy Murphy and Jimmy Cronin.

Deliberately I have omitted the star whose brilliance made our weakest teams shine. He powered the side that stopped Tipp's great effort to equal our four-in-a-row record in '52; he dazzled his way to three All-Irelands with John Lyons, Mattie Fouhy and Willie John Daly, on top of the five he had already won; he scorched his hands a hundred times since pulling games out of the fire, and to-day he's still going strong.

*Although he's middlin' small,  
He's the greatest of them all;  
His fame in every county we  
will sing;*

*And a little god is he, by the  
waters of the Lee*

*When he wears the auld red  
jersey—Christy Ring.*

Where am I going to stop? What of Sean Moore, strong and fast as a cat; Neally Duggan, the Red Stag of Beara; Denis Bernard, whose place we can't fill since New York took him; Paddy Driscoll, eleven stone of whipcord and steel, were the men who brought to us two great All-Ireland football finals. We didn't win them. That's why we're great.

For Cork is great. Great in justice . . . great in error  
great in victory . . . great in

defeat. Wrong or right, standing straight, sometimes fierce and unyielding; but soft, too, like on a summer evening come the bells of Shandon from the tower where a goldfish shines in the sun.

*“Shandon bells, loved by the  
people,  
Curly tresses, snow-white locks.  
Even tho' your quaint old  
steeple  
May be like a pepper box,  
You bring many a glow of  
pleasure  
When we hear your chimes  
ring out  
To a sad or joyous measure  
O'er the grave of Fr. Prout.”*

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hunting and swimming remain high or are on the increase.

All these are healthy exercises and by keeping our youth strong and virile we rear a nation that will work — yes, and fight — when the effort is needed.

Still, team-games, in addition to giving the vital outlet for energies, have better character-training qualities than the individual effort. The man who plays hard to help his comrades win a game, or put up a good show in it, is usually a better sport and consequently a better man than he who plays for himself.

The fact that the games are our own is, of course, a consideration so important that it need only be mentioned. We are proud of our games and indeed, after seeing that thrilling hour which Tipp and Cork hurlers gave us in the Munster final. I am convinced that for sheer excitement there is no game like hurling.

We had eight goals and twenty-four points scored in sixty minutes so exciting that we were limp at the finish.

How wonderful for our people to find such a complete outlet for their feelings in one of their own games.

So, if there is any truth in the suggestion that Gaelic games are declining because of the counter-attractions presented by modern life, we should work hard to avoid it.

We must watch the strength of our small clubs in town and country, and anyone with an eye in his head can see that this is vastly more important than assembling big crowds at matches, either excellent or mediocre. More important, too, than crossing T's and dotting I's in shameful little objections.

In fact, I feel that we have gone over too far to the administrative side of the organisation and now need to direct our secretaries to cast from them the clogging, damnable shower of paper which threatens to blind and stultify us, and strike out towards organisation of more and more club

games, to keep the young men happy and pleasantly exercised.

In fact, this work is more important than the laudable efforts many of us make to save the language.

I have often wondered would games of seven, eleven, and thirteen aside be a solution. Rural population is still decreasing, and even in the towns it's hard to get fifteen players as often as we would like.

Matches of under fifteen aside cannot be considered by clubs until the Association recognises them as such, for the matter of injuries and compensation comes up. Yet, anyone who has organised a seven-a-side tournament will tell you of the pleasure everyone, players and spectators, get from it.

Any solution is worth considering, and while admitting that impressions are not a suitable basis for scientific diagnosis, it would be a relief to be assured that in twenty years time we will have the same number playing our games as we have to-day.

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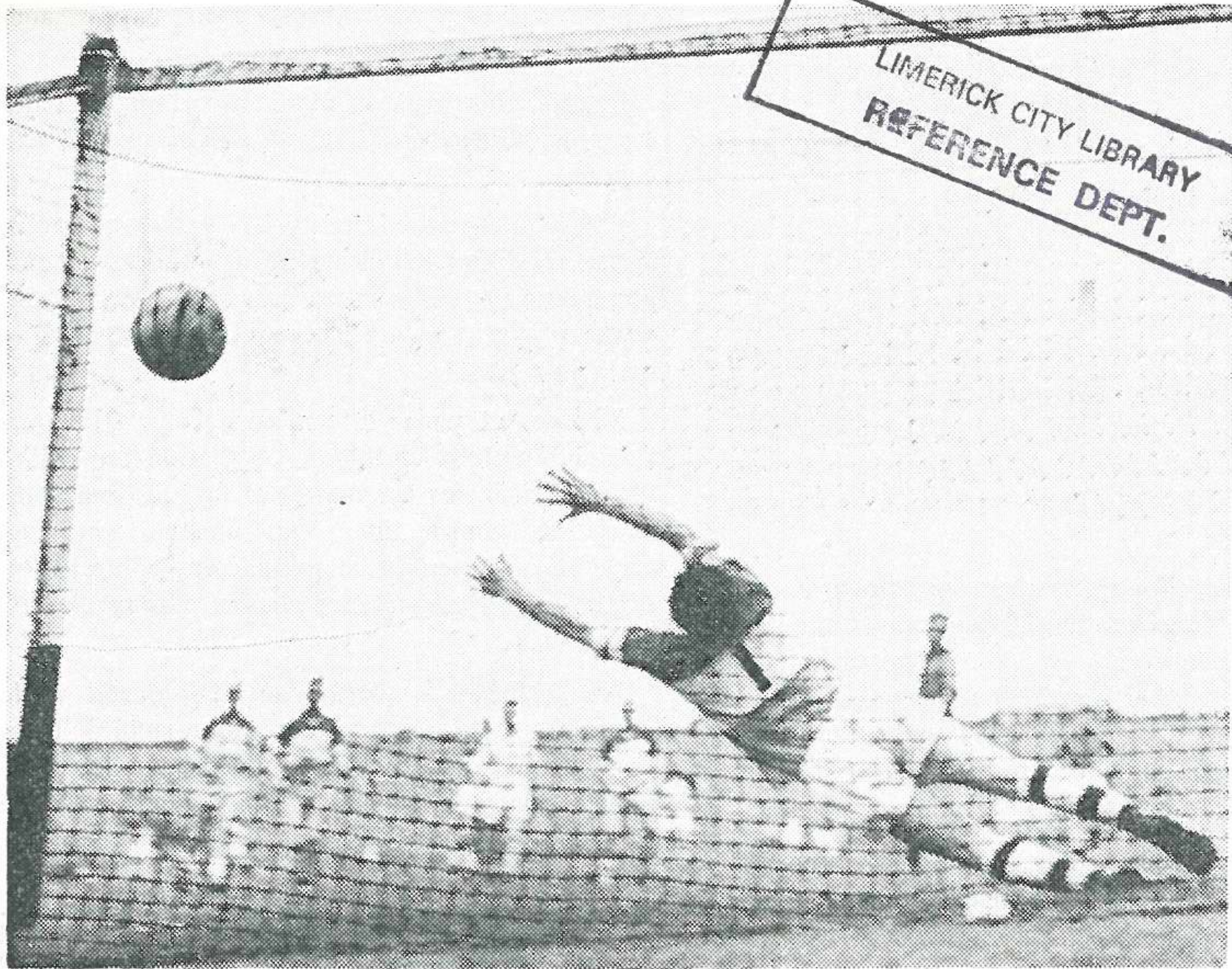
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## That vital penalty goal

**T**HE picture above shows Offaly's goalkeeper, Willie Nolan, flung in a vain attempt to stop Paddy Doherty's penalty goal for Down in the All-Ireland football semi-final at Croke Park on August 21.

That "gift" goal for the Ulster champions brought them to level terms in the 51st minute of the game—a stage when Offaly looked booked for a place in the All-Ireland final.

Referee Tom Cunningham's decision to award the "spot" kick to Down stirred up a heated controversy on the day of the match—a controversy that has raged non-stop since.

Was Cunningham's decision correct? Down men naturally say, Yes. Offaly men just as naturally shout, No.

The main volume of neutral opinion is on Offaly's side, however. The uncommitted fan maintains that the Waterford official was wrong.

Let's quote an expert — Paul Russell, writing in the "Sunday Review" of August 28: "James McCartan barged his way through from a few yards outside the square. In my opinion he had fouled the ball before he was pulled down by the Offaly backs. It should have been a free out. But

let's not blame McCartan: forwards use this gambit in the hope of earning a penalty when they are a few points behind towards the end of a game. I've done it myself in my time!"

Right or wrong, however, that penalty did us all one good turn—it gives us the opportunity of seeing those two fine sides in action again.

### Acknowledgement

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