

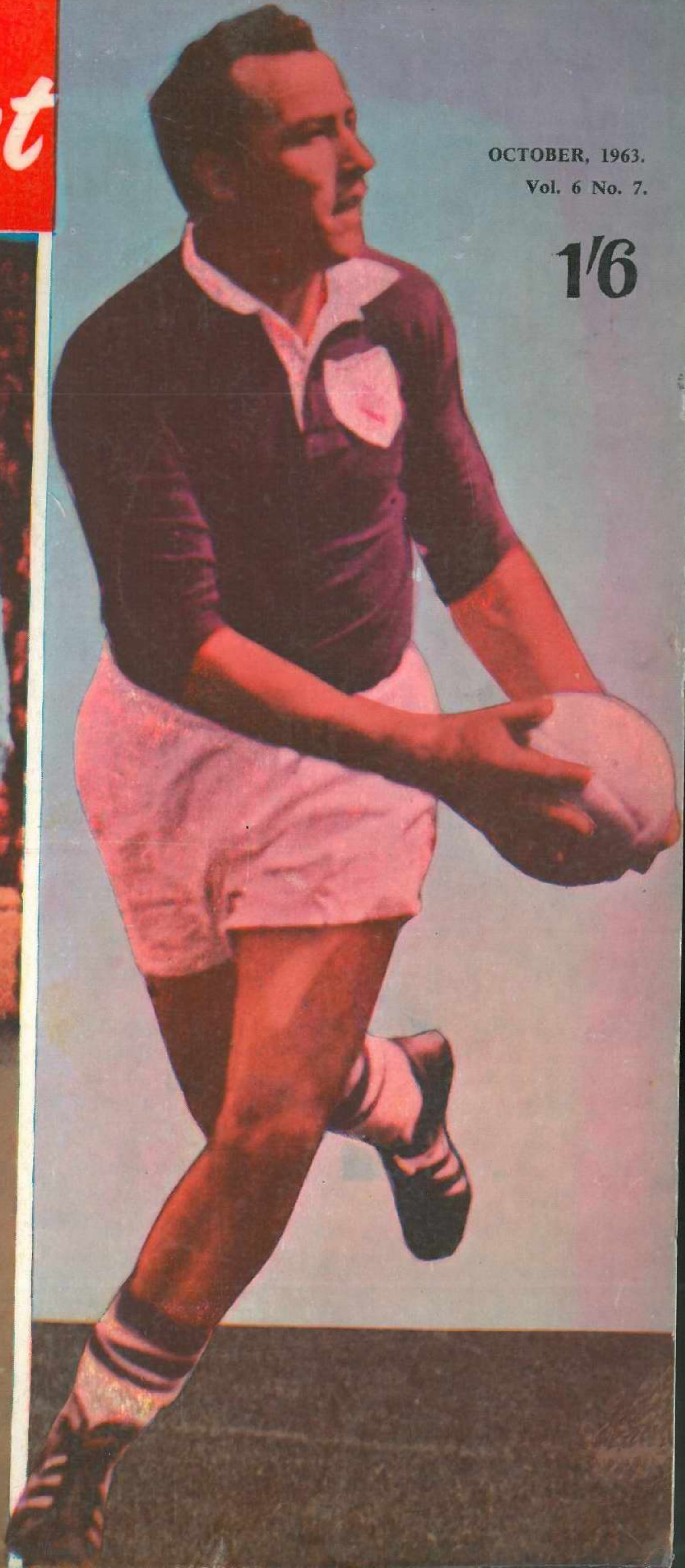
22 Gaelic Sport

GAA

OCTOBER, 1963.

Vol. 6 No. 7.

1/6





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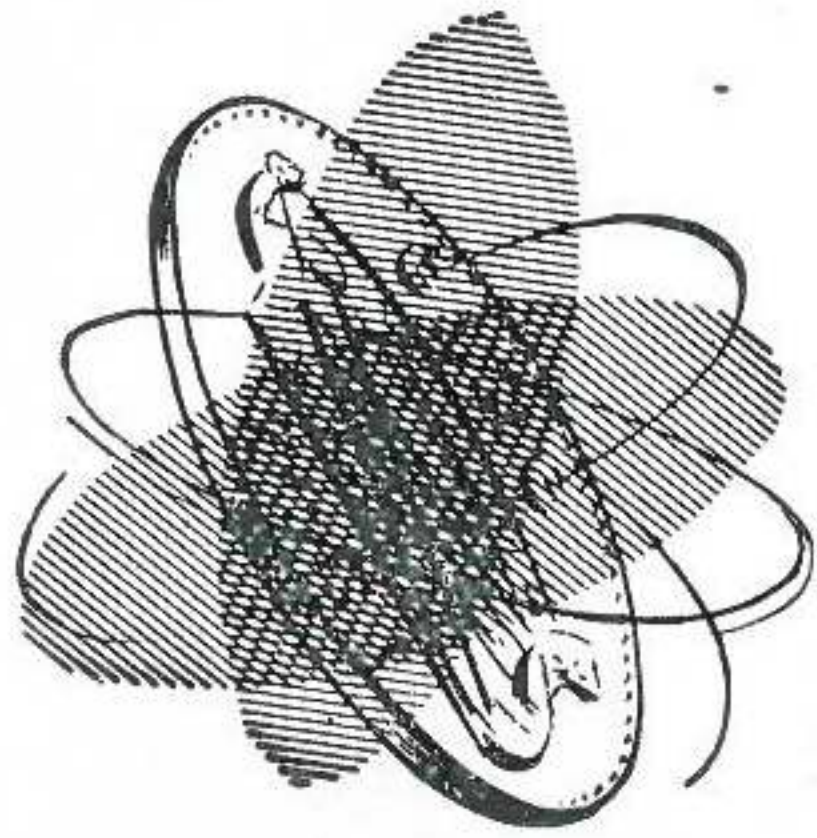
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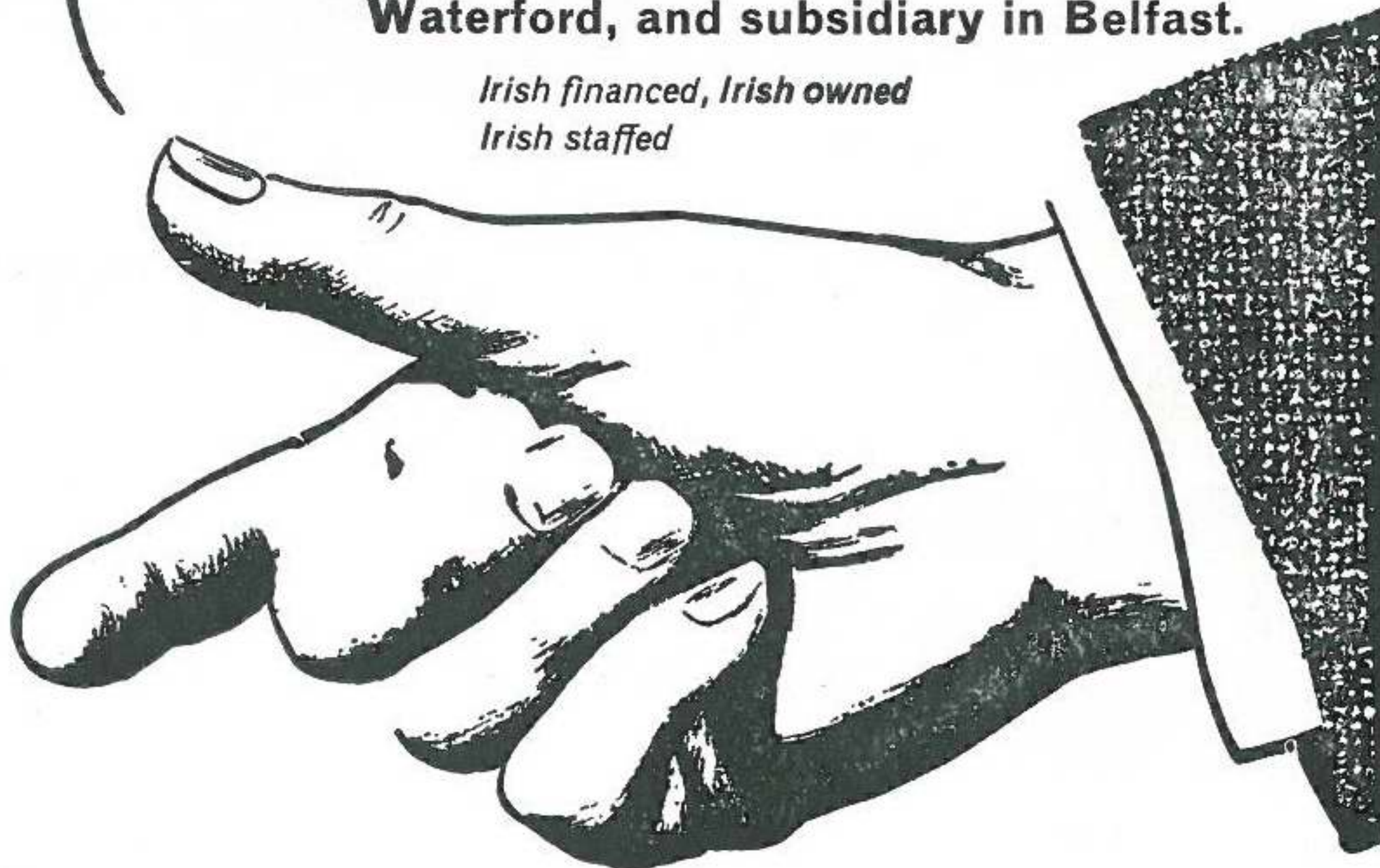
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 6. No. 7. October, 1963

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COMMENT

STORY OF SUCCESS

THERE is a term quite commonly used in many parts of the country which aptly describes the fellow who talks too much and too loudly about himself. He is called "a bit of a blow." It is probably a pared down version of "blowing his own trumpet," which is also beautifully descriptive of the brassy tones of the inveterate boaster.

Cassius Clay can get away with it. But then, he is in a line of business which flourishes on what the Americans call ballyhoo.

We should hate to be accused of boastfulness when we talk about ourselves. Indeed, we have done so on this page on only two or three occasions since GAELIC SPORT was founded five years ago.

In this special All-Ireland Football Final issue we feel that false modesty should not prevent us from doing so again.

We now take the liberty of quoting from the last occasion on which we wrote about ourselves. It was in the March issue of this year in the last of the quarterly series of GAELIC SPORT. We were about to embark on monthly publication from May 1.

We said: "With this issue GAELIC SPORT has reached the first major turning point in its

history . . . In taking this momentous step we are confident that the new GAELIC SPORT . . . will meet with even greater success than that which has been achieved since first we appeared as a quarterly in September, 1958."

We are now glad to say that our confidence of six months ago—confidence, we should add, which was implicitly placed in our readers and advertisers—has been gratifyingly justified.

The new GAELIC SPORT has achieved outstanding success in a remarkably short time. This is not our own opinion. It is the opinion of the thousands of readers and of the many advertisers who so kindly sent us messages of congratulation on the standard of our September issue.

Our All-Ireland Hurling Final issue was a unique break-through in sports magazine production in this country. Our full-colour front cover last month was the subject of especial congratulatory comment.

As our readership grows, and along with it the quality and quantity of our advertisements, this high standard of content and production will not only be maintained, but improved upon in the months ahead.



*Mick Garrett
(Galway)*

DUBLIN CAN DO IT

BOTH Dublin and Galway are worthy finalists having reached the decider on their merits. Dublin have had the more arduous passage being hard-pressed to overcome both Meath and Laois in the Leinster championship. But against Down they surpassed themselves and were most impressive in their facile victory over the Northerners.

It was nip and tuck in the first half of the Connacht championship clash between Galway and Mayo but the Tribesmen pulled ahead after the interval to emerge easy winners. The Connacht final against Leitrim was a mere formality for Galway and in the All-Ireland semi-final they caused the major upset of the year by dethroning champions Kerry.

However previous form has often proved an unreliable guide when assessing the prospects of the contestants in an All-Ireland final. There is nothing quite like the final which bears little relation to any other game be it league or championship. The pre-match tension which gradually builds up from the day after the semi-final until it reaches its heart-thumping peak when you trot out onto the pitch for the nerve-racking preliminaries, is something which has to be experienced to be believed. The team which can overcome this tremendous strain early in the match and settle down to play its normal game usually comes out on top. In my opinion that team will

be Dublin and I expect to see them bring the Sam Maguire Cup back to the Liffeside after an absence of five years.

Before Dublin crashed to Kerry in last year's All-Ireland semi-final I thought that they were potentially the finest fifteen ever to don the blue and white. But in the first half of that game they showed a deplorable lack of spirit and returned to their dressing-room at half-time a very chastened lot with Kerry holding an unassailable lead.

They improved somewhat after the interval, but they couldn't peg back the Kingdom. After the game I heard a disgruntled Dublin supporter remark as he disconsolately left Croke Park that "fifteen Kerry jerseys would have beaten that Dublin team"! In this year's National League they again showed the same lack of determination—especially in the forward

line—and chopping and changing by the selectors failed to cure what ailed them. In fact their defeat by Galway was one of the heaviest ever inflicted upon a Metropolitan side in recent years.

But in the second half of their Leinster championship clash with Meath they were inspired by the Foley brothers, Des and Lar, to fight back from being seven points down to edge in front with a long range point from Des just on the call of time. Since that game they have gone from strength to strength—not only revealing more of their undoubted football craft, but also putting more punch and dash into their play than they had hitherto displayed.

Of course, the recall of that great all-rounder Dessie Ferguson has added greater thrust to the attack. Not only is he the most experienced player in the team, but he is essentially a busy footballer who is not content to wait for something to happen. Furthermore, Dessie is one of those lion-hearted triers who never knows when he is beaten and by his example he has inspired his fellow forwards to battle more tenaciously for possession.

As early as last Christmas Galway were being freely tipped to annex this year's Connacht title. They had a great run in the National League, only succumbing to Down in the semi-final. They are a very young side with several



Sean Meade (Galway)

... HIGHLIGHT OF A GREAT GAME



Lar Foley
(Dublin)

of their players only just out of their teens. They are extremely fast, with seemingly endless stamina and possess a great will to win which has paid handsome dividends. Ten minutes from time they looked a beaten side against Kerry with the champions grimly hanging on to a slender lead.

But when the Kingdom were expected to live up to tradition and administer the coup de grace in the closing minutes, it was Galway who cut loose and playing the best football of the hour, they drew level and forged ahead to a narrow but deserved win. They possess that bubbling enthusiasm and appetite for football which rightly belongs to youth and are an attractive team to watch. They are a very versatile side, at least half a dozen of the players being able to fill almost as many positions on the field with distinc-



John Timmons (Dublin).

FRANKIE BYRNE SUMS UP THE CHANCES OF BOTH TEAMS

tion. This ability to shuffle and reshuffle the players without upsetting the teams rhythm has played no small part in Galway's success story.

Both finalists play an attractive brand of open football, combining catch and kick with slick combined movements. There is little between the respective back divisions, but of the two I think Dublin's is the tighter. I thought that the Kerry forwards, who admittedly gave a lamentable display of poor finishing, beat their opposite numbers very often for possession during the course of the hour. Furthermore the Galway back line has no player of the calibre of Paddy Holden who must surely rate as the outstanding centre-half in the game today.

The midfield tussle should be an enthralling one and may well prove to be the highlight of the game. Even if the Galway pairing again rises to the occasion as they did against Kerry, I feel that they will no more than break even with Des Foley and John Timmons.

Timmons has proved that when he curbs his tendency to overplay the ball and remembers he is a member of a team, that he is a really top class midfielder. With a fully fit Des Foley to partner him this pair will present a very formidable combination.

Both sets of forwards have the ability to bemuse any defence by their speed and combined move-



Des McKane (Dublin)

ments and are able to snap up opportunist scores under the heaviest pressure. I thought that the Dublin corner forwards missed some chances against Down that might have cost their team dearly in a closer game, but on the other hand I doubt if the deep-lying tactics of some of the Galway forwards which manoeuvred the Kerry backs out of position, will pay dividends against the faster Dublin defence.

To sum up, both teams are well-matched rivals with plenty of football talent, but I feel the more experienced Dublin fifteen will get there. They have the more solid back division and should be able to contain the Galway sextet sufficiently for the Metropolitan attack to chalk up a winning score.

Whatever the outcome I sincerely hope that both Dublin and Galway will give a display of all that is best in Gaelic football and so erase the memory of the scrappy and robust football which was a feature of many of our important ties this year.

FACTS

about the finalists

DUBLIN rank next to Kerry on the All-Ireland senior football roll of honour. They have won the title on sixteen occasions and all but five of these victories were scored prior to 1910:

1891—Dublin 2-1, Cork 1-9 (at the time a goal outweighed any number of points).

1892—Dublin 1-4, Kerry 0-3.

1894—Dublin 0-5, Cork 1-2 (Dublin were awarded the title).

1897—Dublin 2-6, Cork 0-2.

1898—Dublin 2-8, Waterford 0-4.

1899—Dublin 1-10, Cork 0-6.

1901—Dublin 0-14, London 0-2.

1902—Dublin 2-8, Cork 0-4.

1906—Dublin 0-5, Cork 0-4.

1907—Dublin 0-6, Cork 0-2.

1908—Dublin 1-10, London 0-4.

1921—Dublin 1-9, Mayo 0-2.

1922—Dublin 0-6, Galway 0-4.

1923—Dublin 1-5, Kerry 1-3.

1942—Dublin 1-10, Galway 1-8.

1958—Dublin 2-12, Derry 1-9.

Excluding substitutes 169 players share Dublin's 266 All-Ireland medals. A good percentage of these players were natives of other counties but despite this the honour of winning those many titles belongs solely to Dublin and most of those non-native players, who gave service and allegiance to the Metropolis, continued to live there. To-day their families have grown up and are proud to consider themselves Dubliners.

This will be Dublin's 23rd football final appearance. The six occasions on which they were beaten in the final were:

1896—Limerick 1-5, Dublin 0-7.

1904—Kerry 0-5, Dublin 0-2.

1920—Tipperary 1-6, Dublin 1-2.

1924—Kerry 0-4, Dublin 0-3.

1934—Galway 3-5, Dublin 1-9.

1955—Kerry 0-12, Dublin 1-6.

Dublin have an even more consistent record in All-Ireland semi-finals. They have played 28 and won 23 of them. This is a much more consistent record to that of Kerry who have played in 47 semi-finals and lost 14 of them.

The score in the 1891 All-Ireland final was Dublin 2-1, Cork 1-9. However, Dublin were the winners as a goal then outweighed any number of points. However, when the same teams met in the 1894 final the final score was Cork 1-1, Dublin 0-6. This game was a draw for by then a goal was equal to five points.

The replay of that 1894 final took place at Thurles and this time Cork led 1-2 to 0-5 when the

game was called off. The Central Council later awarded the title to Dublin. So it might be said that Dublin had their share of luck in picking up at least one of their titles . . . but then so too had Galway in 1925. That story is told elsewhere in this issue.

Bray may be in County Wicklow but for football purposes it was included in County Dublin for a period and won the Dublin title in 1901. The club then went on to lead Dublin to the 1902 All-Ireland title.

As will be seen from the above facts, Dublin played in 18 All-Ireland finals prior to 1925. It is an extraordinary fact that in all these games, which include four defeats, they conceded but four goals.

THEIR PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Dublin and Galway have met in the championship on five occasions:—

1922 final—Dublin, 0-6; Galway, 0-4.

1933 semi-final — Galway, 0-8; Dublin 1-4.

1934 final—Galway, 3-5; Dublin, 1-9.

1942 final—Dublin, 1-10; Galway, 1-8.

1958 semi-final — Dublin, 2-7; Galway 1-9.

On the way to the final Dublin have had four games to Galway's three. The Metropolitans beat — Meath 2-6 to 2-5; Kildare 2-7 to 1-5; Laois 2-11 to 2-9 and Down 2-11 to 0-7.

Galway beat—Mayo 2-8 to 1-6;

Leitrim 4-11 to 1-6 and Kerry 1-7 to 0-8.

Dublin's average winning score has been 2-9 to 1-7 while Galway's has been a trifle greater—2-10 to 0-9.

Dublin top scores are — M. Whelan 1-15; B. McDonald 3-1; D. Ferguson 2-3; J. Timmons 1-6; G. Davey 1-1 and L. Foley 0-4.

Galway's leading marksmen are —S. Leyden 3-6; P. Donnellan 3-4; M. McDonagh 0-6; C. Dunne 0-5 and S. Concannon 1-1.

Only Mattie McDonagh remains from the victorious Galway team of 1956 while Dublin have Des Ferguson, Lar Foley and John Timmons of the side which brought them the 1958 title.

TRIBESMEN

LEAD IN

THE WEST

ONLY nine All-Ireland senior football titles have gone to Connacht and of these Galway have won four. Their victories read—

1925	Galway, 3-2	Cavan, 1-2
1934	Galway, 3-5	Dublin, 1-9
1938	Galway, 2-4	Kerry, 0-7
1956	Galway, 2-13	Cork, 3-7

Galway were awarded the 1925 title after Kerry and Cavan had been declared illegal. Jack Mulholland tells the full story concerning this involved Galway triumph elsewhere in this issue.

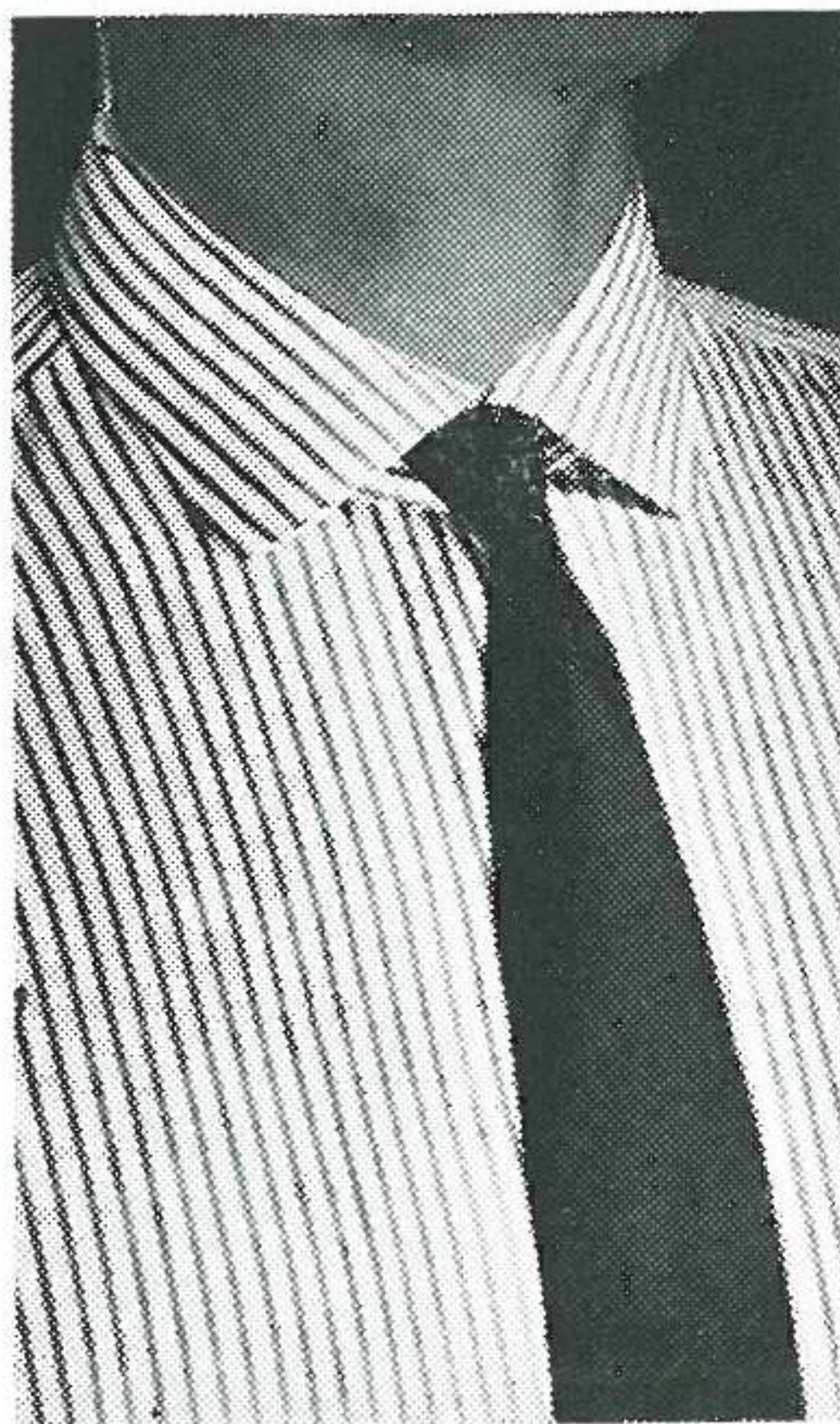
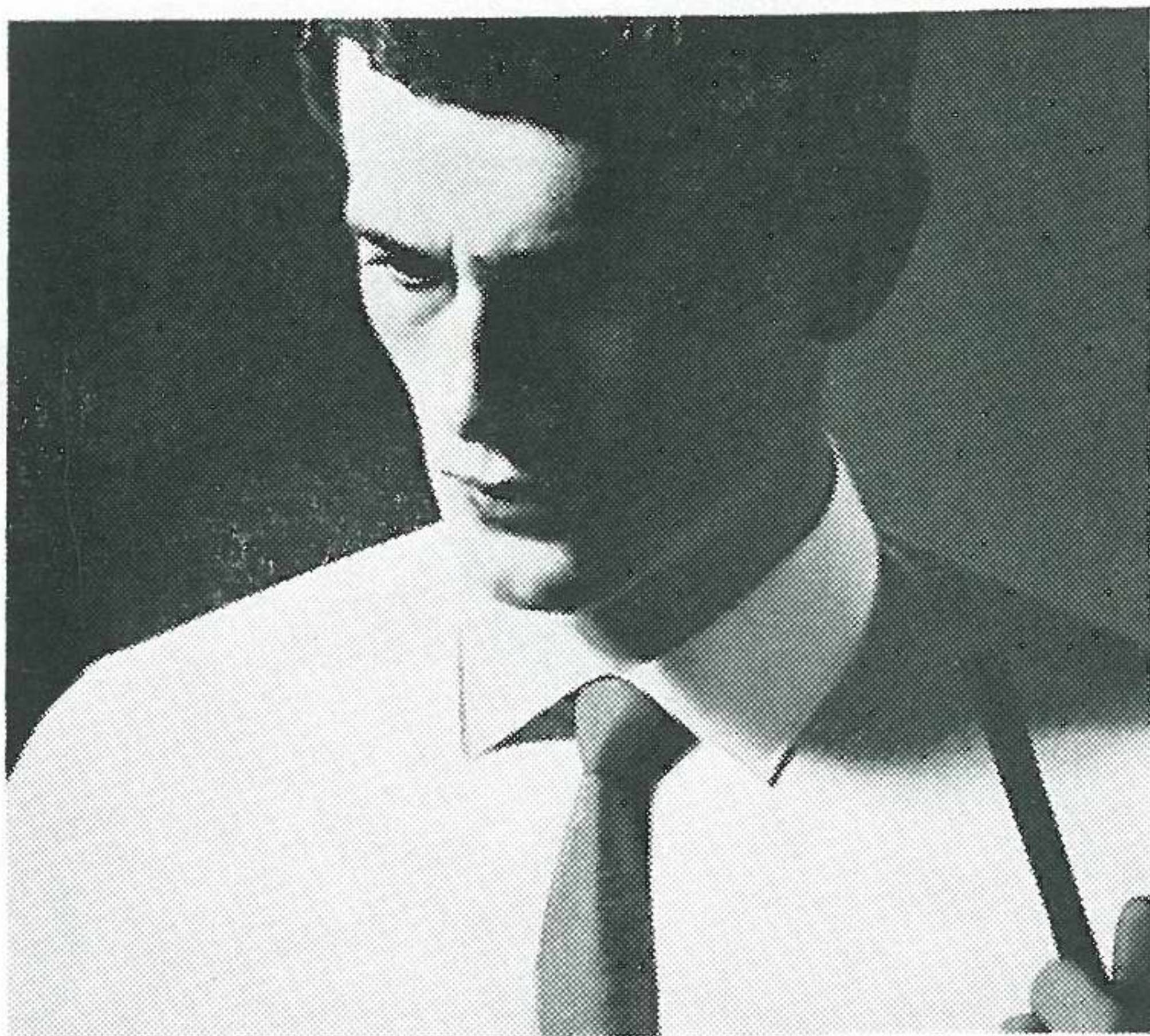
In all Galway have contested ten All-Ireland finals (excluding 1925). Their seven losses read—

1919	Kildare 2-5	Galway 0-1
1922	Dublin 0-6	Galway 0-4
1933	Cavan 2-5	Galway 1-4
1940	Kerry 1-8	Galway 1-3
1941	Kerry 1-8	Galway 0-7
1942	Dublin 1-10	Galway 1-8
1959	Kerry 3-7	Galway 1-4

Galway hold the unique distinction of having been beaten in three consecutive football finals — 1940, '41 and '42. They were also beaten in the 1900 All-Ireland 'home' final, Tipperary winning 2-20 to 0-1.

Two former Galway captains, John Dunne and Mick Donnellan T.D., have sons playing on the present side. John Dunne captained the victorious 1938 team while Mick Donnellan had the distinction of being captain of the Connacht team which brought the province its first Railway Cup title in 1934.

Quite a few non-natives have figured on great Galway teams. For example Bobby Beggs and Joe Young (Dublin) John Burke (Clare) Billy O'Neill (Cork), John Nallen (Mayo) Dan Kavanagh, Jimmy Clifford and Eddie Condon (Kerry).



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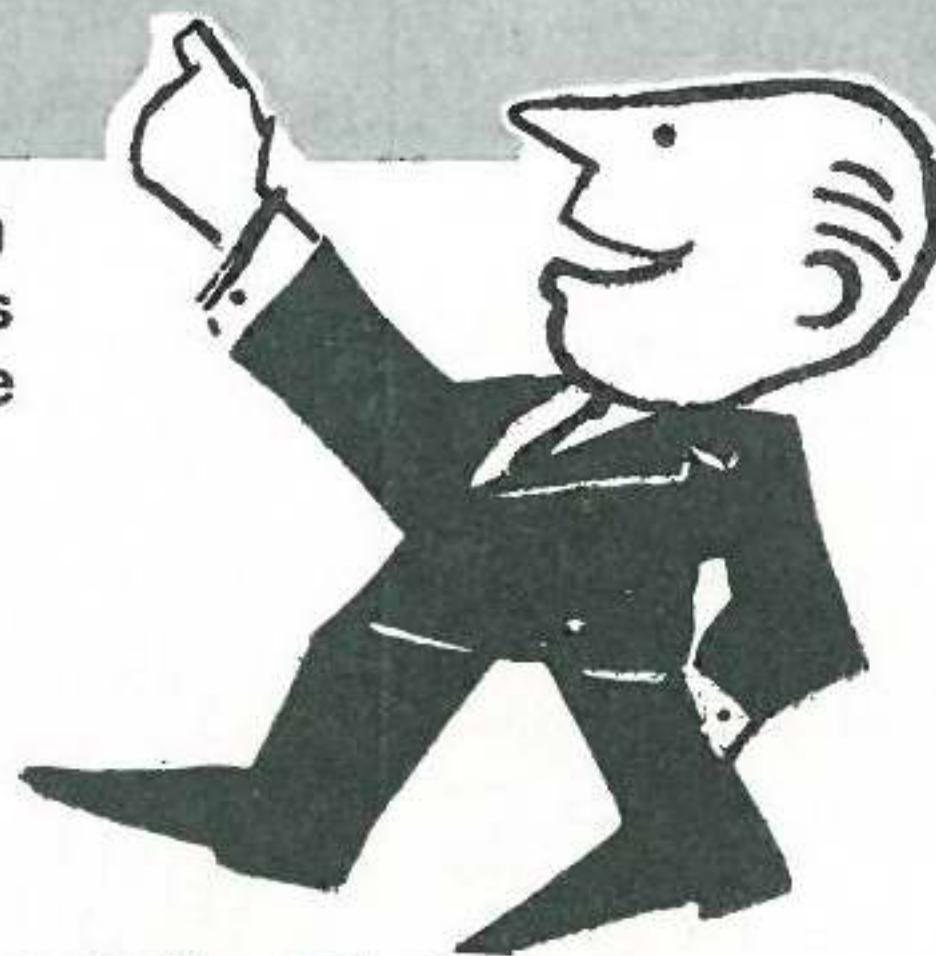
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A TRIUMPH FOR YOUTH

YOUTH conquered — that best and briefly is the story of the 1963 All-Ireland senior hurling final. I would not rate it as being quite up to last year's Tipperary-Wexford final but it was none the less a tremendous game and one of the finest of recent years.

Kilkenny placed their confidence in youth and the young men carried the day. In the attack 19-year-old Tom Walsh had an hour which assures him of being remembered even if he never plays another game. Tom Murphy was little behind.

Eddie Keher produced a new radar technique which guided every ball to its desired destination, and in defence "Cha" Whelan and Phil Larkin did little wrong. These were Kilkenny's young heroes.

How good really is this Kilkenny fifteen. Personally, I would not rate them a great side—but they will be. As a matter of fact, I expect the Noresiders to be about to enter a period comparable with that great spell of theirs in the early and mid-thirties.

They certainly have the material to do so. There are a host of brilliant young players other than those who won All-Ireland medals earlier this month. There are minors from 1960, '61 and '62 who will shortly take over from the few remaining veterans on the side.

Remember the brilliant performances of those three-in-a-row Kilkenny minors, such class is now quickly maturing into an even

Worthy Tribute

ON the morning after the final John Player and Sons paid a worthy tribute to the new All-Ireland hurling champions.

There was an interesting tour of their factory premises followed by a splendid lunch and presentations to each of the players and officials.

Such gestures are to be highly commended and, likewise, they are remembered.

better senior standard. It may take a year or two but there is a truly great Kilkenny team in the making.

Actually, I do know that the majority of Noreside mentors visualised this present side taking another year or so before growing into an All-Ireland winning combination. It seems they underrated the capabilities of the lads and everybody is now the happier for it. However, mark you me Kilkenny's great hurling has yet to come—but it is on its way.

What of Waterford? They certainly tried hard and might well have won with a little luck but there is no escaping that Kilkenny were the better team. With an average age of 28, Waterford had no answer to their opponents youth.

It is easy to be wise now but perhaps we were really asking too

FLASHBACK TO KILKENNY'S MEMORABLE WIN IN THE HURLING FINAL

By Sean Feeley

much of this Deice side. They had trained for last year's Oireachtas competition and they won it. Then it was the victorious march in a hard-fought National League campaign and more and more training.

No sooner was that over than the championship was about to begin and there was more training still. In the end there was nothing extra to be brought out of them on the big occasion.

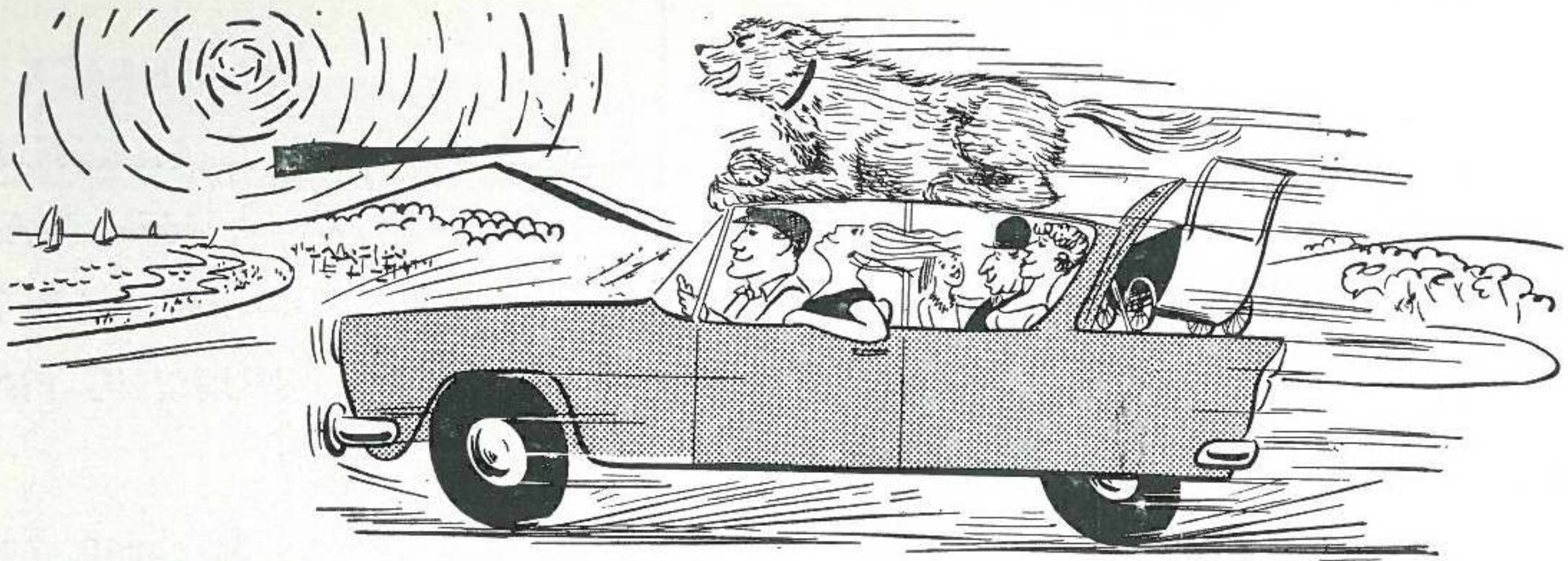
Most teams produce that little extra in an All-Ireland final — Waterford had spent their "little extra" in winning the Oireachtas and the League. Kilkenny on the other hand had not. They produced even more than the usual "little extra" and Waterford had nothing but a great heart to fight it, and it wasn't enough.

That was a great Waterford team but they were human beings, not supermen, and they averaged 28 years of age.

Will they come again. They could but I doubt it. I doubt if the present side, almost all of which have been together since prior to the 1957 campaign, have it in them to come again.

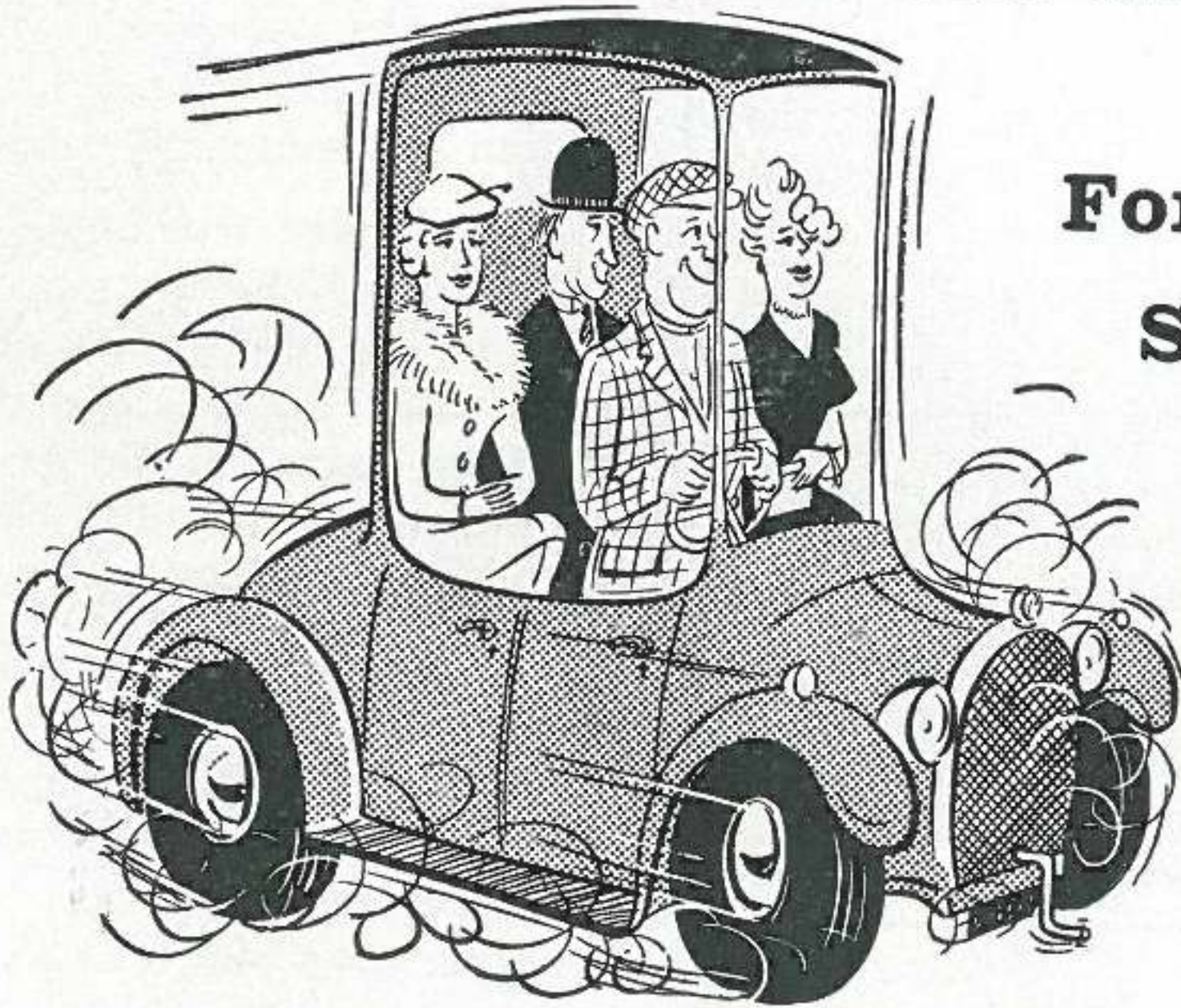
New blood is needed to be blended with the old and when this is done and the correct blend eventually found—then Waterford will come again.

But our thanks goes to them all—to every player who played in a glorious 1963 final. They provided a thrilling and sporting hour which we will remember.



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By **JOE KEOHANE**

MIGHTY MOCLAIR!



Joe Keohane.

HOW the years seem to fly. It is over a quarter of a century since I played in my first All-Ireland final and looking back there is no doubt but that they were great times. Top class football demands a lot—but it gives much more in return. In the friends, the laughs, the thrills and the memories there is payment indeed.

Yes, they were good times and it did not take Sean Donegan's series, "STORIES YET UNTOLD" to remind me of it.

Incidentally, Donegan dug up a fair few stories about me, and sure it is only the well-behaved player who can have his deeds retold in print. I could write a few yarns about Sean too . . . only I know that the Editor of GAELIC SPORT would never print them.

To turn from the flippant to a sad note—what a tragic loss was the untimely death of Billy Myers. He was alongside me in six All-Ireland finals and you could not ask for a better man.

With Billy there you knew that if the odd ball was missed, he was right there behind you to cover up. Like his father before him, he was the personification of all that is great in Kerry football. He played a hard and manly game and he played it great. While young Kerry lads aspire to don the green and gold they will remember.

Football has a habit of producing its heroes and we often forget how much a team effort is the winning of any game. Even brilliant individual performances are

usually the result of an understanding between team-mates.

Such was always the case with Kerry. We had a great understanding in the full back line. There was Billy Myers, Bill Kinnerk and Tadg Healy — later came Dinny Lyne and Paddy Bawn Brosnan. They were all as dependable as the Rock of Cashel and a full back's task was the easier for having them.

Looking at teams of the present day, it is an odd fact that few of them have even a regular full forward let alone a good one. Down never had a regular player for the position, neither have Donegal, Cavan, Mayo, Galway, Meath, Cork or any of the top counties except possibly Kerry and Dublin.

And even in the cases of Tom Long and Des Ferguson, neither player is what might be called a fully-fledged full-forward for they have been but recently converted to the position.

What a change from my day when all the leading counties had first class men for the number fourteen jersey. Cavan had great ones in Louis Blessing and Peter Donohue, while Roscomcon had a lively one in Jack McQuillan. In turn Kerry produced three of the best in Dan Spring, Murt Kelly and Paddy Burke, while Laois had Chris Delaney and Cork had Jim Cronin and indeed there were many others as well.

However there was one full forward who stood on his own and, in my book, high above them all. He was, of course, Mayo's mighty Paddy Moclair. Paddy was one of those players that when you look

back you take a pride in saying—"I played on him."

I have never seen a better full-forward. Tom Langan was really good but Paddy Moclair was really great. One of nature's gentlemen—and he still is, they don't come anymore like Paddy. Oddly enough he was a grown man when he first took up the game and perhaps odder still it was not in Mayo but in Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare, that he learned and perfected his football.

I have not the space to recall all of the great players and great friends that I made during my football days but there is one other that demands mention. He never played in an All-Ireland final but he still ranks among the real giants of the game. He is, of course, Tommy Murphy of Laois. Tommy had everything.

Kerry are not in the final this year—but sure you can't win 'em all as they say. Galway had their revenge for many previous defeats and they deserved it too on the day's play.

However, mark you Kerry will be back next year and it may be a somewhat premature forecast but I believe that we will be celebrating that 21st birthday in twelve months time. It will be all the better for the brief postponement.



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THE MUDDLE OF '25

GALWAY won their first All-Ireland senior football title in 1925 but it was a title with a difference and for the benefit of those too young to remember, I am going to tell the story. It is an involved tale and one which can still spark off heated debate, but it is still a story which should be told, for it is part of our sporting history.

Let me say though that I am a neutral and connected with neither of the teams involved. I therefore write free of prejudice. What I state are the facts and I state them hoping to offend no county—least of all Galway, whom I have always admired.

Having made myself clear, here goes. The 1925 championship opened with Kerry as the reigning champions. The previous year they had ended Dublin's long reign at the top and they were well fancied to retain the crown.

The Kingdom stormed out of Munster; Cavan retained their Ulster title and Wexford took over from Dublin in Leinster. Meanwhile the Connacht championship was not finished and the Connacht Council had no choice but to nominate a county to contest the All-Ireland semi-final. They chose Mayo who had won the provincial title in 1923 and '24.

Kerry were at home to Cavan in their semi-final game at Tralee and after a hard-fought hour the Kingdom advanced by 1-7 to 2-3.

In the other semi-final Mayo defeated Wexford 2-4 to 1-4 and the stage appeared set for a Kerry-Mayo final . . . but more was to come.

Cavan lodged an objection to Kerry, claiming that Phil Sullivan was a suspended player as a result of being involved in some techni-

cality in Dublin club competition. The objection came before the Central Council and the Chairman, I think it was Wexford's P. D. Breen, decided in favour of Cavan.

Kerry then lodged a counter-objection to Cavan's J. P. Murphy and on a majority vote of the Central Council this too was carried with the result that both Kerry and Cavan were now out of the championships. Mayo remained as the only unbeaten team.

Then Wexford objected to Mayo but this objection was lost and for a while it did appear as if Mayo were the 1925 All-Ireland champions.

Meanwhile the Connacht championship had to be finished. I think Mayo beat Sligo first and then they met Galway at Tuam in the provincial final. I wasn't at the game but I and many more as well, certainly would have been had we known that it was the All-Ireland final . . . and it really wasn't either until the game was over.

As I remember it, the game was announced as being only the Connacht final and I believe all of the players involved considered it nothing more. Galway won with a late goal and a short while later the Central Council declared them All-Ireland champions.

Later the Council invited the four provincial champions to compete in a four-cornered competition in lieu of the championship. Kerry refused to take part, Galway went on to beat Wexford 3-4 to 1-1 and then on January 10, 1926, they beat Cavan 3-2 to 1-4. This more or less confirmed their right to the title.

However, to this day my Mayo and Kerry friends contest the justice of the result. The Mayo-

men hold that had they known what was involved in the belated Connacht final their approach would have been different.

Furthermore they point to the more recent events of 1941 when the Munster senior hurling championship was not finished and the provincial Council nominated Cork to contest the All-Ireland final, which they won. Later Tipperary beat Cork in the Munster final but it was considered only the Munster final and Cork remained as All-Ireland champions.

Kerry on the otherhand hold that Cavan should never have objected on such a technicality—particularly when their own side was illegal as a result of a similar technicality. Had Kerry not been objected to and had they beaten Mayo in the final my old friend and fellow GAELIC SPORT correspondent, Paul Russell, would have retired with seven instead of six All-Ireland medals.

However, there is a third possibility which some are inclined to overlook regarding this involved question. Had that Connacht championship been played in the normal way and at the proper time, who knows but that Galway might have beaten Mayo anyway. Let's not forget that it was they who came out of Connacht the following year.

Well there you have it. The book credits Galway with the 1925 All-Ireland title, and so it will ever remain. Let us not forget too that they beat Cavan at Croke Park by six points in the final of the competition which was arranged in lieu of the championship. Kerry could only beat Cavan by one point in the All-Ireland semi-final proper at Tralee.



John Donnellan

THE PROUDEST MAN IN GALWAY

THE proudest man in Galway at the moment is Mick Donnellan, the former Parliamentary Secretary, and with good reason, for sons John and Pat have been carrying the Galway colours magnificently all this year and never better than in the surprise All-Ireland semi-final victory over Kerry, when exuberant Pat rallied Galway magnificently and elder brother John took the cue and sealed up Kerry's path to goal. If you were fortunate enough to visit the Donnellan home at Cloonmore, Dunmore, you could not but admire the beautiful collection of medals and cups on display. The medals, with the 1925 All-Ireland medal as the centrepiece, are father Mick's property. The cups, mostly 7-a-side trophies, belong to Mick's wholehearted sons. And whisper — the Cloonmore home may have two more centrepieces pretty soon.

BRIAN GERAGHTY

Another proud father these days is Peter Geraghty of Oughterard, whose son Brian, recently appointed to the teaching staff of Clongowes Wood College, should, despite a mediocre display against Kerry, make the Galway All-Ireland team. Brian's opportunism around goal is second to none. Against Dublin in the League last March, his two second-half goals

sealed Dublin's fate. A master of the fisted score, Brian has fully recovered from a recurring nose injury and should be fighting fit for the final. His father, Peter, of Ballygar stock, has always been a staunch Gael and is usually available to assist any G.A.A. venture. If you ever go to see a football game at Oughterard, keep mental note of the man that sells you the ticket at the gate and you'll remember Peter Geraghty. Brian, need one say, is also a staunch Irishman and a Gaeilgeoir par excellence. His academic achievements include B.A., H.Dip. in Ed. and the Teastas Timire Gaeilge.

ENDA COLLERAN

Enda Colleran, Galway's staunch defender is a native of Moylough and the third member of his family to play senior football for his county. He, too, comes of good footballing stock as the Colleran's of Moylough were great footballers some thirty year ago, among them Enda's own father. The other members of the family to represent Galway in senior football were Seamus, the well-known Tuam Star, and Gerry, a very tenacious corner back of 1954-55 vintage. Quite a contribution from one family.

ON THE SIDELINE

Praise for officials for a change! Who are these Galway officials,

who have guided the county so well this year? You have all heard of John Dunne, Fr. Paddy Mahon, Brendan Nestor and Frank Stockwell. Perhaps not so well known are Joe Sweeney from Ballygar, a dynamic personality and a teacher by profession; Luke Hehir of Milltown, who played club football for many a year; Frankie Kyne, from



Pat Donnellan

Clonbur who played senior for Galway in 1960, is also a teacher by profession; Jimmy Kilroy of Fr. Griffins, a native of Clonberne and a Garda by profession is another. So too are Bertie Coleman of Dunmore, Fred Jennings, of Ballinasloe and Mick O'Toole of St. Michael's. Tuam is represented by Philip Joyce or Jackie Heneghan or Fr. Fitzsimons all of them sincere Gaels. So too is Dr. Farrell of Tuam, the Co. Treasurer. Let's leave it at that. These are the men who guide the Western challenge.

AU REVOIR

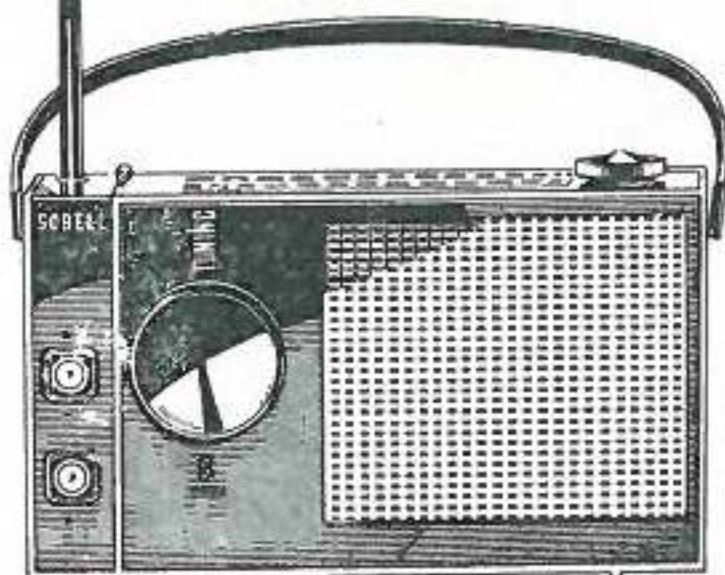
This month we say au revoir to three Columban Missionaries bound for the Far East — Frs. Nicholas Murray, Joe Cahill and Ger French. Fr. Murray, that strapping hurler from Fohenagh, will be missed on the club fields of Galway. Frs. Cahill and French rendered sterling service in club football to Ballina Stephenites and Claremorris respectively. All three were great Clubmen.

FINAL HOPES

As this is the All-Ireland football final issue and as Galway are represented, we hope the maroon and white distinguishes itself on Final Day. As a Connachtman, I wish victory for the Tribesmen and feel too they will do it. But I hope we have a sporting and good game. Kerry, in the first semi-final, showed how a defeat should be taken. They are true sportsmen. The Dublin-Down game was not quite so sporting. Indeed it was the reverse. Let us hope the final is not likewise. It is the nation's showpiece. The contestants are the models of our youth. There must be a loser in every game. Losing does not mean the end of the world. There is always another time and with the help of God we will have an All-Ireland final befitting the occasion—clean, sporting and thrilling. LET'S HAVE SUCH A GAME, DUBLIN AND GALWAY, PLEASE.

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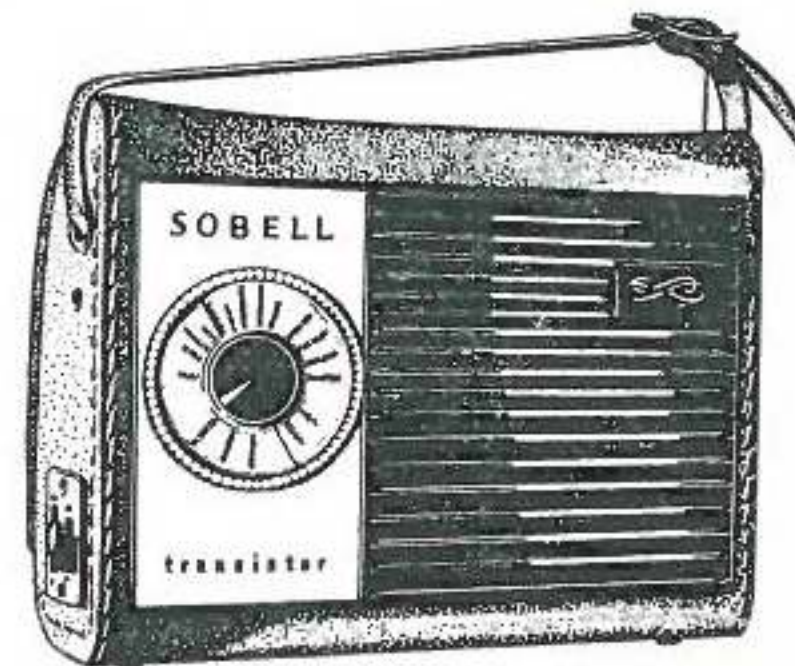
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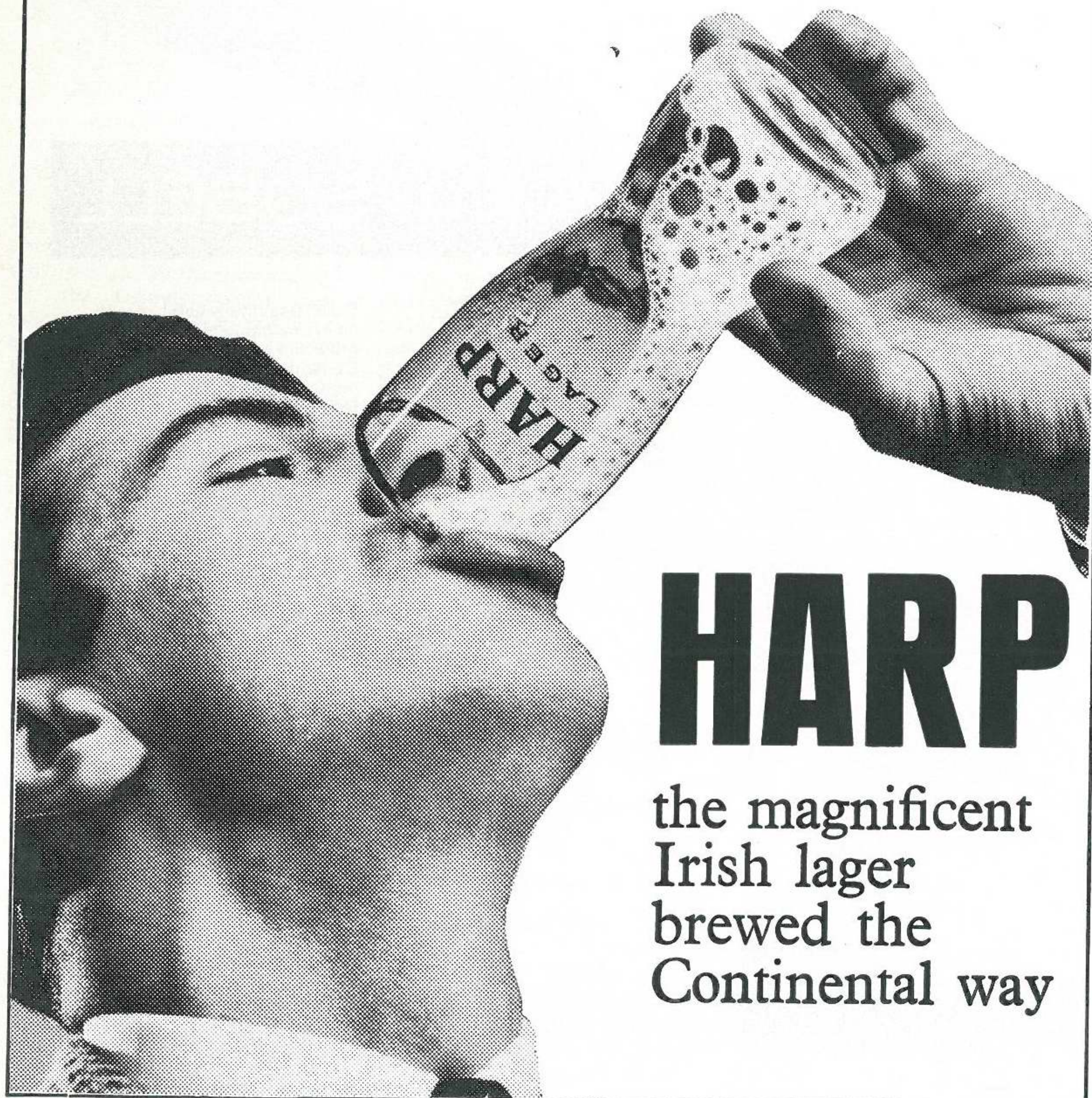
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DUBLIN'S performance in reaching this year's All-Ireland final must surely be one of the most extraordinary in the history of the G.A.A.

Six months ago they were beaten by eleven points by Galway in a League game at Croke Park. In the championship they started as outsiders in every game they played—against Meath, Kildare, Laois and Down. And now they

were on the right road, they had the courage to **persevere** with their plans and, even more important, they had the **patience** to wait for them to come to fruition. And so they now stand on the threshold of success.

In **picking** and **planning** their players, too, the Dublin selectors deserve every commendation—not only because of the wisdom of their choice but also because of

that the Dublin team has been trained to play each match at championship tempo for a full hour. Not only that but each player who requires it appears to get individual attention. I have in mind, particularly, the way in which John Timmons was "brought on" between the Leinster campaign, where he was very moderate, and the All-Ireland semi-final in which he starred.

In the training, too, there was I believe, an element of **psychology** (see how the "p" keeps cropping up) introduced, in that their was much less ball play than usual. This left the players with an appetite for the game which they were able to satisfy fully against Down.

Having dealt with all the "P's", you may well wonder where does the "Q" come in. Well, of course, "Q" stands for "Quinn"—Brendan Quinn, the man to whom the training of the team was entrusted.

When he was first appointed, Brendan insisted that he be given full control of the team and that he would accept full responsibility for anything that went wrong. It was a courageous move but it reflected the mood of the man himself and his confidence has been justified.

So there you have it. It is not simply one factor which has brought Dublin to the All-Ireland final. It is really a number of factors. But binding the whole thing together is another element—success. Nothing helps a team (especially a new team) like success. It binds it into a strong, determined, confident and capable unit—and that's what the Dublin team is to-day.

The only trouble for the Dublin men is that the Galway team has been moving along similar lines. Now they have to be beaten in the All-Ireland final. They will certainly not go down without a struggle—and what a struggle that should be!

EAMONN MONGEY KEEPS AN EYE ON . . .

DUBLIN'S

Ps and Qs

find themselves as one of the hottest favourites in years for All-Ireland honours on September 22.

How did all this come about? Oddy enough, it seems to have been by a series of P's and Q's—"P" for Players, of course in the first instance, but also for Planning, Perseverance, Patience, Preparation, Picking, Placing.

This advance by Dublin didn't just happen. It was planned for nearly two years. Last year, for instance, they reached the League final only to be thwarted by Down. Then in the All-Ireland championship they reached the semi-final only to be thwarted by the eventual winners, Kerry.

But then the whole plan got such a shaking by that Galway defeat in the League last March that anybody would have forgiven the Dublin G.A.A. bosses if they had drastically revised their plans or abandoned some of them altogether. But they didn't.

As it transpired, feeling that they

their attitude that only those who turned up conscientiously for training would be chosen.

Perhaps, the greatest stroke the selectors produced was in persuading Des Ferguson to return to the team where his presence among the forwards has transformed them. But no less astute was the placing of Mickey Whelan on the "forty" where his snipe-like darts can open up any defence.

The moves, too, which the selectors made during the course of the various games have all contributed to the success of the team. Lar Foley's switch from full-back to full-forward against Meath was inspired; while Mickey Whelan's transfer to centre-field against Laois swung the game completely in Dublin's favour.

But all this would have been of no avail if there had not been proper **preparation** for the championship campaign; and it is quite evident from the results achieved



SO CONSISTENTLY GOOD

MAGNIFICENT MANGAN

SEVEN years ago they were talking about the All-Ireland football final—just the same as they are talking about it today. And for every man from west of the Shannon the question was just the same; would Galway return to the top?

They were talking then about Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell, about Gerry Daly and Tom Dillon, Frank Ivers and Mattie McDonagh, Billy O'Neill and Joe Young and they were talking, too, about the greatest goalkeeper Galway had ever produced . . . Jack Mangan, the man who would go up to the Hogan Stand to collect the Sam Maguire Cup if Galway won.

It has been a long time since I have seen Jack and, indeed, I wonder where he is today and, for that matter, whether he will be in Croke Park on All Ireland day to see whether this year's Galway team can emulate the great triumph of 1956.

When Jack captained the All-Ireland side in 1956, he was about 30 then and heading in to the twilight of his football career. But it had been a rich career in honours and in the years before that, he had collected county, provincial and Ireland honours. Before the match against Cork, there was only one medal missing—an All-Ireland one.

Jack was fortunate in his early days in that at the Christian Brothers school in Tuam, he came under the influence of Brother Murphy, whose enthusiasm for

Gaelic games was remarkable. There, with Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell, Jack got his first grounding in football; a sound grounding that eventually was to lead him to a place on the Galway senior team.

But it was not as a goalkeeper however, for, in his first match in the maroon and white of Galway, Jack made his minor debut as full-back . . . and believe it or not, Frank Stockwell, afterwards to become one of the greatest full-forwards the game has known, was in goal.

In 1946, while still a schoolboy,

Jack Mangan made his first appearance on the Galway senior team and from there on he was to retain his place for well over a decade.

Galway were then struggling through hard times and successes were few and it was not until 1948 that things began to improve. That year Galway reached the Connacht final against Mayo and went down with flying colours after two drawn games and extra time.

Great things were predicted for Galway after that but the years that followed were lean ones,

(Continued overleaf).



Jack Mangan . . . pictured in action in the All-Ireland final of 1956.

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(From previous page).

although Jack Mangan went on to represent Connacht and Ireland.

In 1954 Galway forged to the top again with a shock win over National League champions Mayo in the opening rounds of the Connacht championship at Tuam. That year Galway experimented with the idea of playing Sean Purcell at full back and against Mayo it turned out to be a glorious move.

Galway, after a narrow win over Sligo went through to the All-Ireland semi-final, but had the distinct misfortune to come up against a Kerry side at Croke Park. And so Jack Mangan had to wait a little longer for his All-Ireland medal.

The following year they crashed to Roscommon in the first round of the Connacht championship but then came 1956 . . . the year that Jack Mangan will remember to the end of his days.

As captain of Galway he led them out of the West with three great wins — over Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo and then, after a desperately close battle against Tyrone, they won through to the All-Ireland final against Cork, who had beaten Kerry in Munster and Kildare in the All-Ireland semi-final.

The 1956 All-Ireland is too recent to go into in detail but five minutes after half-time Galway were steaming away to almost certain victory with a lead of eight points. Then came a tremendous Cork revival, the gap was narrowed to a point . . . and everything was set for a glorious climax.

And glorious it was . . . but Galway stayed on top. They tacked on two more points and it was all over.

And so Jack Mangan, a prince of goalkeepers, went to the Hogan Stand to collect the All-Ireland Cup . . . the crowning moment of a great career.

I wonder will we see another maroon and white jersey on the Hogan Stand this year.

TOP TEN

FOLLOW THE FEATS
OF THE STARS

FOR the fifth month GAE^LIC SPORT lists the top ten footballers and hurlers of the preceding month, based on individual performances. The players are listed in order of merit.

These lists are compiled by our editorial staff and are based entirely on games played during the period in question. These current lists are decided on games played from and including Sunday, August 18, to Sunday, September 1.

The football list shows a complete change from last month and Dublin, by virtue of their sparkling display against Down in the All-Ireland semi-final, have no less than seven players included.

However, Down's Joe Lennon heads the list. His tremendous and almost lone battle against Dublin won him the honour.

In the hurling list Kilkenny predominate, taking seven positions including the first three. Four players who appeared on last month's hurling list are retained. These are Eddie Keher, Seamus Cleere, Phil Grimes and Ollie Walsh.

Keher who headed the list in our August issue and who was in seventh position last month, comes back on top again. Seamus Cleere moves up from eighth to second position while Ollie Walsh and Phil Grimes move down the list from their high placings of last month.

This system of recording great performances on a monthly basis provides a detailed guide to the footballer and hurler of the year. Watch this page in GAE^LIC SPORT each month and follow the feats of the stars.

ROLL OF HONOUR

FOOTBALL

1. J. LENNON (Down)
2. J. TIMMONS (Dublin)
3. P. HOLDEN (Dublin)
4. M. WHELAN (Dublin)
5. M. KISSANE (Dublin)
6. D. FERGUSON (Dublin)
7. L. FOLEY (Dublin)
8. B. CASEY (Dublin)
9. G. LAVERY (Down)
10. B. HAYDEN (Carlow)

HURLING

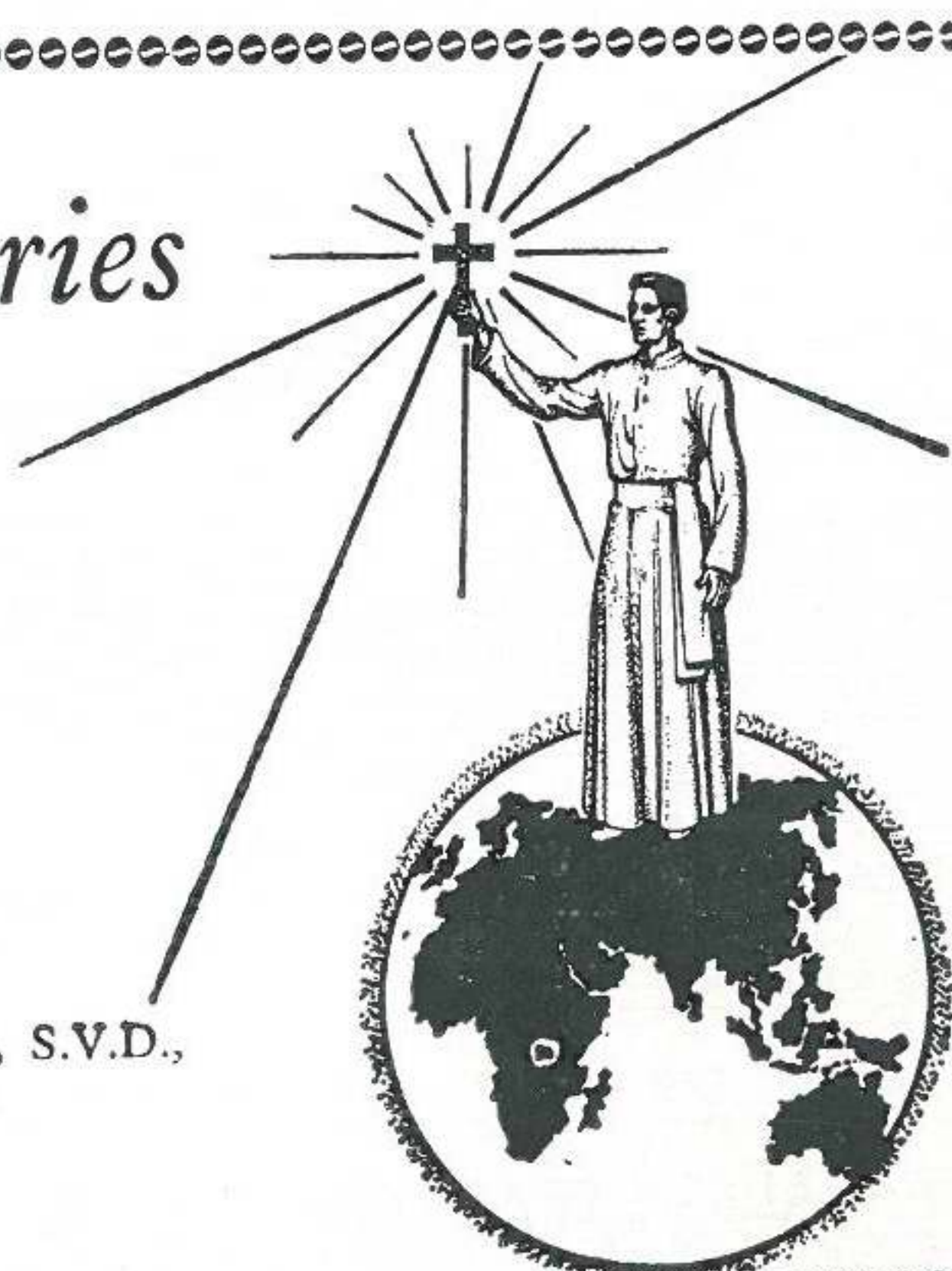
1. E. KEHER (Kilkenny)
2. S. CLEERE (Kilkenny)
3. T. WALSH (Kilkenny)
4. M. FLANNELLY (Waterford)
5. S. POWER (Waterford)
6. T. MURPHY (Kilkenny)
7. S. CLOHESEY (Kilkenny)
8. O. WALSH (Kilkenny)
9. P. GRIMES (Waterford)
10. T. CARROLL (Kilkenny)

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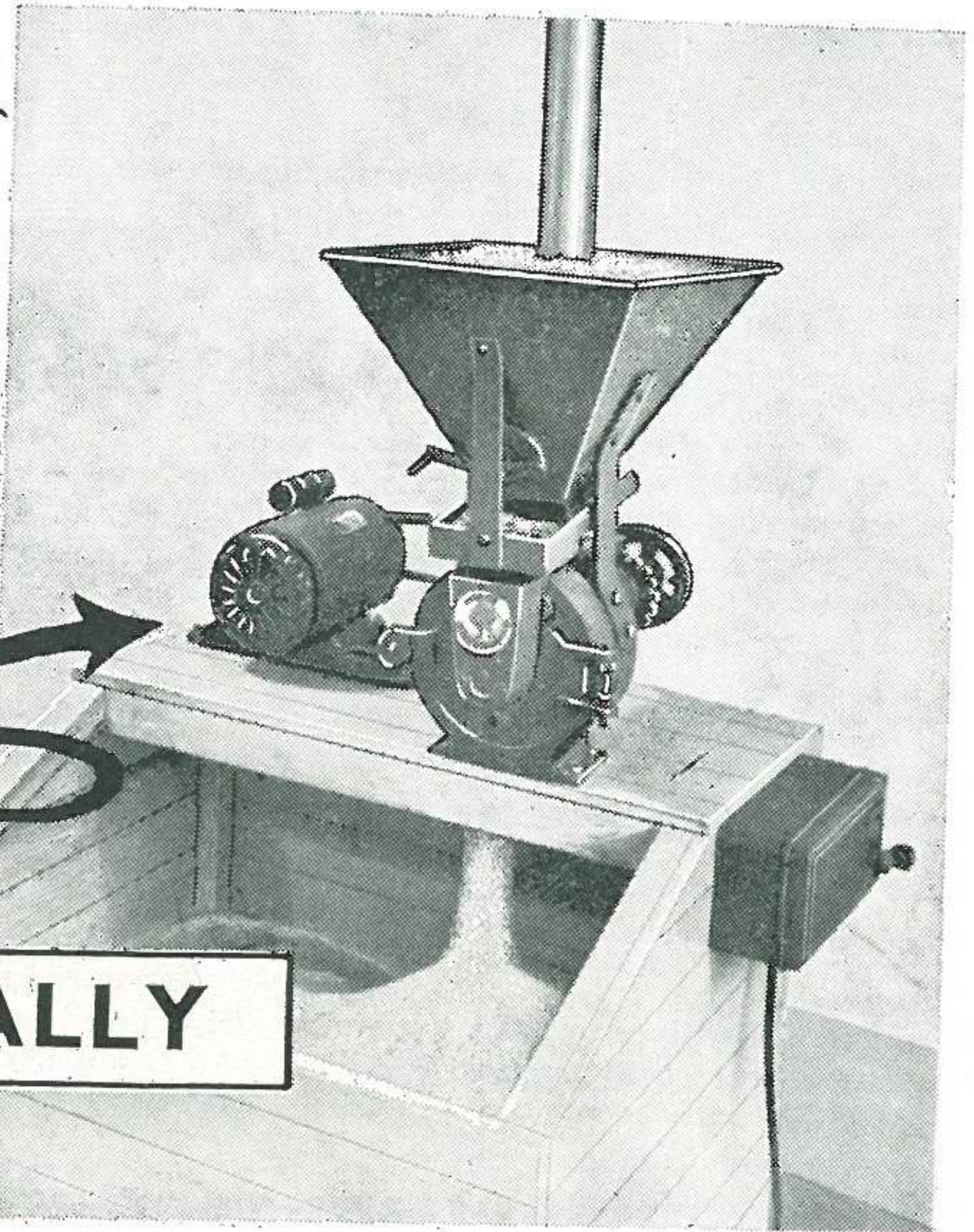
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YOUNG Pat Donnellan and his goal almost broke my heart. All around us, hordes of Galwaymen were roaring their heads off in fiendish glee; maroon and white flags were being waved gaily in Connacht pride. But there in the centre of the Cusack Stand we were an island of numbed loneliness and despair. Kerry were beaten; Galway were through to the All-Ireland final.

I looked at Garrett Prendiville of Castleisland beside me. A Kerry minor back in 1933, he lives and dies for the Kingdom. Now his face was a mask of shocked tragedy. The rest of the lads were almost as bad. We could have been at a funeral.

And, indeed, in a way, I suppose we were. Down below us in Croke Park our dreams and hopes of another All-Ireland for Kerry were now being buried irrevocably by fifteen pitiless Galwaymen.

The walk from Croke Park to Nicky Meagher's pub was the sad walk home from the cemetery. Few words were spoken and those that were, were not for the birth of a new All-Ireland side but for the passing of an old one.

I was the first to shake off the numbness. "We might as well forget about it. It's all over and done with. Now we can enjoy the All-Ireland."—I told them—"After all we don't have to cheer for anyone. We're neutral."

But will we be neutral? It was a few days later that I started to think about that and, for no good reason that I can explain here, something that happened a good few years ago, ran into my mind. After giving it a fair amount of thought during the past fortnight, it could happen that I will be doing a bit of cheering on All-Ireland day.

I WON'T BE NEUTRAL AFTER ALL!

Says Philip Roderick

Perhaps I had better explain . . .

It was perhaps five or six years ago, maybe a little longer, although I do remember, that it was after 1955. Kerry, I know, had beaten Dublin in the All-Ireland final.

God forgive me but I was working for an English Sunday newspaper at the time and sometime around the beginning of one week the sports editor rang me from London.

In a quaint mixture of Oxford and Cockney, he told me that he wanted a six weeks series on a "Gallic" player—"You know, mate, one of those blokes that play hurley or Gallic football. Preferably a Dubin man. We could do with a little extra circulation in Dublin"—he told me.

I promised him the world—anything to get him off my back—and then I sat back to think about a possible subject.

I talked it over with several people and they all came up with the same answer. "Why not try Des Ferguson, he'd make a great story."

Eventually I took their advice, particularly when I discovered that he lived in Raheny then—about a mile from where I lived.

I remember the night well. The winter had faded and the softness of Spring was reaching out to grasp at Summer. It was too nice a night to be in a car; I walked out the new road to Howth, turned up at Watermill Lane and made my way leisurely to the new houses.

Mrs. Ferguson, a charming and exquisite girl—she did not look more than sixteen or seventeen—opened the door to me and made me welcome. And that is absolutely true.

She did not know who I was; she had never seen me before. Yet, with all the graciousness of a great lady, she brought me in and introduced me to Des Ferguson.

He, too, made me welcome, enveloping me in a warmth that one could feel. In my southern insularity, I had felt until then that only such a warmth could come from a family in Cork or Kerry.

(Continued on page 25).



Dunloe WEATHERCOATS *at all events!*

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(From page 23).

But here in this house in Raheny there was true warmth—a warmth engendered by pride, happiness and deep hospitality.

We drank tea, lots of tea and we talked, lots of talk. We ranged through a million subjects; people we knew, newspaper work, building, St. Vincent's, Dublin, footballers, hurlers . . . everything.

Of course, he turned down my proposition about writing his life story. In his opinion there were many others in Dublin more suited to a life story; many others who had done far more than he to make Dublin a great power in hurling and football. That was his opinion; I disagreed.

I tried everything — and mind you, I can be persuasive—but it was all to no good. I even appealed to Maura—I hope I have spelt her name correctly—but with a disarming smile she dissociated herself from the whole thing.

In the end he settled everything. There was a friend of his, a close friend of many years, another great Dubliner and footballer. He was on his way to America; he was an ideal subject and Des felt that I could get my life story there.

True enough, he was right. I saw this friend, everything went smoothly; I wrote my series of six articles and we were all happy. But that's another story and it does not belong here.

That night in Raheny, we talked on long beyond midnight. What we talked about may have been trivial but it did not matter. For a little while I had my share of some other people's lives. Lives that were happy; lives that were facing into a wonderful future.

I remember walking back down Watermill Lane that evening and on to the front and I remember that I felt on top of the world. I had failed in what I had set out to do . . . but I had enjoyed myself.

I wonder, now that I have written this, whether Des and

A word of thanks from

JOE LENNON

IN a letter which appeared in our August issue, a Dunggannon reader, who signed himself "Keep It Gaelic" disagreed with opinions on coaching which had been expressed in an article by Eamonn Mongey. In that article Eamonn wrote on and quoted from a book on coaching which is being written by Down star, Joe Lennon.

Opposing these views "Keep It Gaelic" offered the opinion that it was "the honour and glory of the little village" which made our games attractive to us and not the actual standard of play.

In a leading article entitled **MINORITY VIEW** in that same issue we commented on this controversy and strongly supported the progressive ideas held by the advocates of coaching. Joe Lennon now rallies to the flag with a scorching attack on the anti-coaching public. He writes:—

Dear Sir, — Thank you very much for defending me (in your August edition) against the "wee village idiot" from Dunggannon. The comment of **MINORITY VIEW** adequately consigned our friend to the limbo where his

kind should be gathered and slowly burned.

Seriously though, I wonder just what percentage of the followers of Gaelic Games are honestly imbued with this 'catacomb mentality.' Don't you ever have the feeling that perhaps we should turn the other cheek and hope that they will tire of their insensate flagellation of the figments of their warped mentality? Should we suffer them gladly, and nod, and hope that their incidence in the next generation will be substantially decreased?

I feel sure that even though faith and hope for an improvement in them is foolhardy, we must, in all charity, treat them gently and affectionately, and patiently await their fading away into the mists of antiquity whence they originated.

JOE LENNON.

"Willow Bank,"
Poyntz Pass,
Newry.

P.S.—Very many thanks for all the help you have given our Down Association of Gaelic Sportsmen and the "Downman" magazine. It is very much appreciated by all the boys.

Maura remember that night. I hope they do, now that I have jogged their memories.

So, will I be neutral on All-Ireland Day? Will I sit there, silent and sad that my Kerry men are not there?

Somehow or other I do not think I will. You see, I want Des Ferguson to win another All-Ireland medal; I would like his family to have another one.

Forgive me, all you nice Galway people, but . . . UP DUBLIN!

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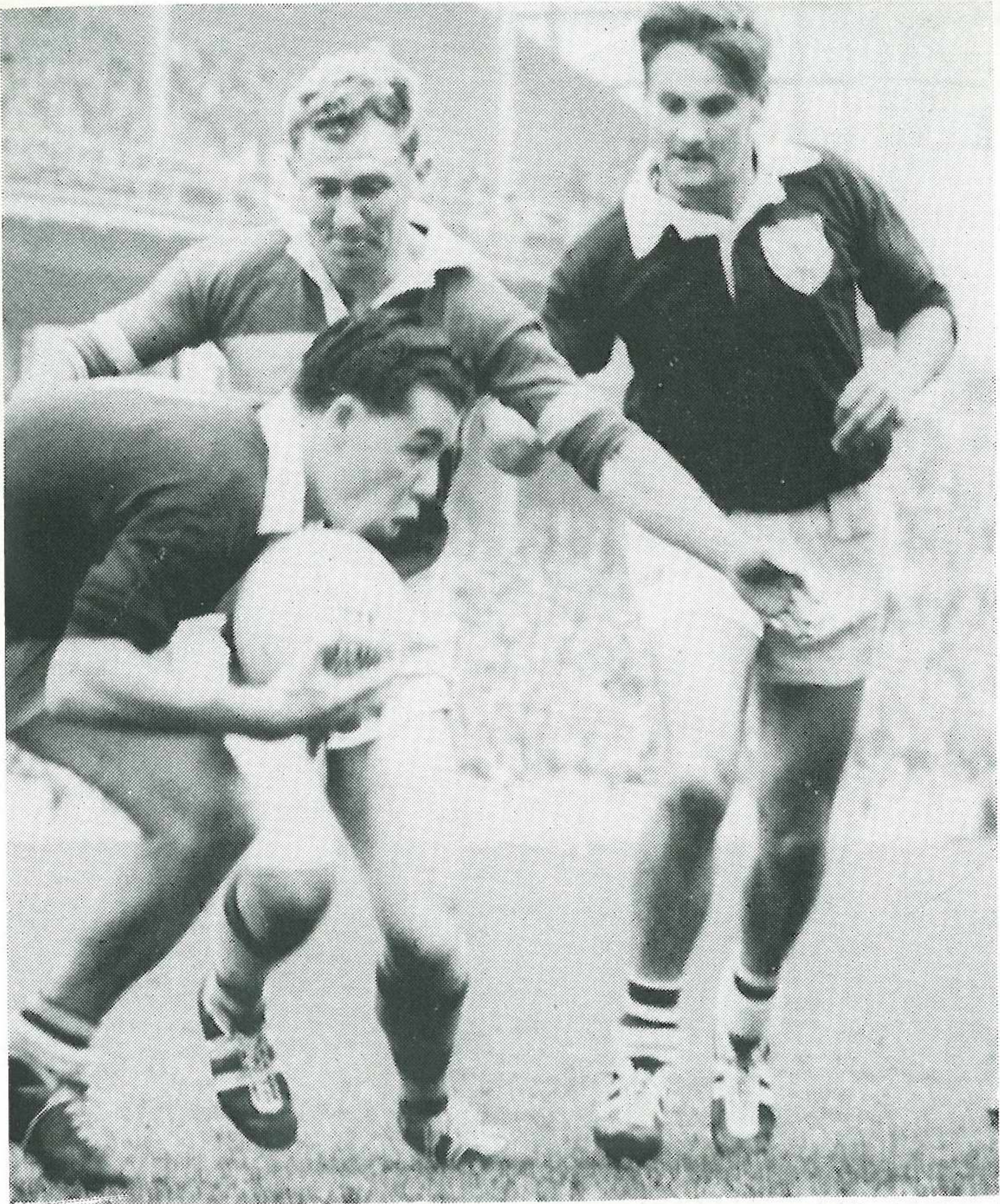
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**A MAN WHO KNOWS
WHERE HE'S GOING**

Martin Newell, the Galway defender, bursts past his opponent, Billy Doran, to repulse a Kerry attack during the All-Ireland football semi-final at Croke Park on August 4. His fellow back, Noel Tierney (right) looks on calmly, knowing that the situation is in safe hands.

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CALL me lucky if you like, but I was reared in a home where love for Gaelic Games, football particularly, was very strong. My father, God rest him, was a staunch Gael and it was but natural that the younger members of the clan should share his interests. When I try to recall the Sabbath of my early childhood, I remember our trim Sunday clothes which we sported at first Mass, the inevitable football match, evening devotions with the possibility of a concert or play thrown in to complete our day in the winter-time.

A game of football always seemed to be part of my Sunday. If we did not engage in a game with the other young lads of the area, we travelled to a game with our respective fathers, loyal followers of the county side and, of course, the club side too.

Funny how it is always the good you remember best—scorching days at Connacht Finals and Galway victories of course; a friendly pat on the back from none other than Bobby Beggs as I gaped at him in astonishment at half-time in a challenge inter-county game played at Mountbellew; some fanatical Mayo supporters rolling a barrell draped in the green and red on to the field in Roscommon at half-time in a Connacht Final to the strains of the then-popular tune "Roll Out the Barrell," and we never endured the penance of watching a game played in torrential rain mar dheadh or the seemingly long hours of waiting in a stuffy car as your fathers drowned their sorrows or celebrated a victory after a game.

But it was a healthy environment and built up in most of us a great love for football, for our native town Dunmore and, above all, for our native county. We

THE ROAD TO FAME

adored the heroes of our county team and were all miniature county stars in our own mind. We dreamed of the day when we too would wear the beloved maroon and white—that beautiful colour contrast that seemed in our minds to outshine any other county jersey. We wondered how Mayo youngsters could tolerate the green and red. We dreamed, too, of wearing the green and white of Dunmore but that was within our scope we hopefully imagined. Childhood fantasies!

Some of us went to secondary schools—schools that fostered and strengthened our love of football. We improved at our game as well as at our books and when we graduated, some of us were selected for our club minor sides and others were more fortunate to be honoured by the county minor selectors. I will never forget that day in 1949 that I read the news that I was selected for Galway's



minor football team to play Sligo in that year's championship. I had reached a childhood ambition to wear the county jersey and felt very happy indeed.

After that all the honours of the game came to me mainly because I was fortunate to be playing with an excellent team. Through thick and thin from 1949 until 1961, when I finally wore the maroon and white jersey of Galway for the last time, I always maintained that love for county and until my last outing always considered it a privilege to wear it.

For that I may thank my upbringing and the town in which I was reared. For Dunmore in North Galway is still a very live football centre and though such ardent and sincere Gaels as J. J. Nestor, Ned Kilkenny, Tommy Fahy and my father are no longer with us, we still have Mick Halliday, Mick Donnellan, Brendan Nestor, Bertie Coleman and Jim Greaney among others, to nurture the G.A.A. interests of Dunmore's younger folk along the proper lines. Long may such a spirit prevail.



★ DES FERGUSON

RIVALS DISCU

IT seems to be generally accepted that Dublin were very impressive in beating Down in the All-Ireland semi-final—well I expect them to be considerably better in the final.

There are a number of reasons. Firstly the team is improving gradually from game to game. They were poor against Meath in the opening round, showed much better form against Kildare and were somewhat better still against Laois in the Leinster final.

Then came the big improvement and a sparkling display against Down and I am convinced that there is still another margin of progression. Certainly all indications in training point to it.

The second reason why I expect an improvement against Galway is that Des Foley and Paddy Holden are likely to be even better than they were against Down.

Injuries have upset both of them this year and neither were at their peak form in the semi-final despite the fact that they had outstanding games. We can look to much greater brilliance from them both in the final.

The Down victory has done the team an amount of good. It has given a full realisation of what can be done without at the same time giving any feeling of over-confidence.

The only drawback as a result of the decisive semi-final victory is that we may now be installed as favourites when, in fact, we had been enjoying

our role as underdogs throughout the championship. And there is no getting away from it, but that being underdogs has helped.

I have been associated with Dublin teams since the late 'forties and I have never experienced such spirit and enthusiasm. It is a wonderful driving force and so far has made up for what other shortcomings there may have been.

Galway too have plenty of spirit. They proved this very clearly by coming from behind in such style against Kerry. Still I feel reasonably confident that we will just about edge it.

I expect Des Foley and John Timmons to give us a marked pull at mid-field, while our defence has the speed and the ability to stay with and control the Galway forwards.

Our own attack has done all that has been required to date and while I do realise that the Galway defence may be better than anything which we have so far met, we should still just about manage it—if for no other reason but that our mid-field pull should keep us well supplied with the ball.

Anything can, of course, happen in an All-Ireland final and so far it has been a year full of surprises. However, I believe that we will have that little extra at the end.

It should be close and the football should certainly be of a high standard. I look forward to a sporting game which will do credit to both victors and losers and may the best team win.

SS THE FINAL



MATTIE McDONAGH ★

THE only thing that surprised me about the second of the All-Ireland semi-finals was its decisiveness. I had anticipated a Dublin victory over Down but I had not expected that it would be by anything as great as a ten points margin.

How do Galway and Dublin compare? Naturally our last meeting is being discussed again and again—particularly in Galway. We met at Croke Park on Sunday, March 3, and Galway won 2-12 to 0-7. To my mind we played our best football this year on that day.

Dublin have certainly improved since then. The inclusion of Des Ferguson has greatly improved their attack while it must be remembered that neither Paddy Holden nor John Timmons were on for the full hour in the league game.

However, Galway too have improved. Our backline has knitted more closely together since Noel Tierney moved to full back.

Tom Clancy held the full back position against Dublin in the league and he had a great game and when he was injured later on it appeared a major blow. However, it is an ill wind that favours nobody and Noel Tierney is now the best full back I have seen for many years.

He proved this against Tom Long, as I felt confident he would, and let no one think that it was a flash in the pan performance.

Sean Meade is back at his best now—thanks to the wonderful training which we are enjoying and our wing backs are as fast as hares. I think

that this half-back line of ours will be the rock on which Dublin's All-Ireland hopes will perish.

Our mid-field should hold their own against Des Foley and John Timmons. Few expected the Kerry mid-field to be beaten but they were and Mick Garrett showed that he is as good, if not better, than any player in this sector.

And now to the forward line. It was late in the hour before they got moving against Kerry—almost too late. The tactics employed earlier just did not work and when the wing forwards reverted to playing their usual game the entire attack moved smoothly.

Dublin, no doubt, place great confidence in their half-back line because of the manner in which they held the Down line of Paddy Doherty, James McCartan and Sean O'Neill. But were Doherty and McCartan at their best—remember they both had been on the injured list. There's the rub.

Still there can be no doubt but that Dublin have a fine set of backs. They have proven this on more than one occasion. They have the speed and the football ability to keep most forwards quiet.

Knowing this our attack will be trying all the harder and I believe we will do enough to see us through. This year, I hope, we will reverse the 1958 semi-final decision, when Olly Freaney with that last heart-breaking free of the game, snatched victory from us.

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BOBBY BEGGS

A DUAL ALLEGIANCE

By SEAN O'NEILL

BOBBY BEGGS personified all that is and ever was great in Dublin and Galway. He played with and against them both—winning All-Ireland medals with them both. He was a much loved hero in each camp—even when he was with the opposition and it is as a hero that they still remember him to-day in both Dublin and Galway.

The first time that I met Bobby in person, he was in bed. It was a few years back and I had called to his Skerries home to interview him for a radio programme. Not being familiar with the ways and working hours of men of the sea, I committed the indiscretion of intruding during his sleeping hours. Still, I got the interview and a whale of a one it was.

There was never anything half measure about Bobby Beggs. He was a great player—colourful, powerful and sporting. He was also, and indeed still is, a great character. Stories concerning Bobby are legion throughout Galway and Dublin. He was so loved that his every feat, antic or deed became a story to be avidly learned and then more avidly told and retold.

In Galway in particular, they still talk of him. Be it in the city, in Tuam, Ballinasloe, Dunmore or anywhere else where Galwaymen take pride in football and its great exponents.

There are those who are great on

the field and who are admired for it. There are those who are great both on and off the field and who are truly loved for it. Bobby Beggs belonged entirely to the latter category. He was always great—on the field, at work, in a pub or wherever he was.

Even still when Galwaymen mention his name, you note that glint in their eyes and that slight smile on their lips. There is affection, admiration and tremendous respect. He was a Dubliner but he came to them and they took him to themselves and made him one of their own. There is still a sad wonder as to why he ever left—but again they smile and say “Bobby—he was a great man.”

Beggs learned his football on the strand at his native Skerries. He starred with Dublin in their climb to the 1934 All-Ireland final where he played against Galway in a thrilling decider which was won by the Westerners, 3-5 to 1-9. The following Spring he was selected for Leinster and helped them beat Connacht at Mullingar in the Railway Cup semi-final. In the final Leinster beat Munster.

A few months later Bobby was in the Galway colours and he captured his second Railway Cup medal in 1936 when he was one of the stars of the victorious Connacht side.

Then came Galway's great resurgence and playing a leading role was the man from Skerries as

an impassable centre half-back. They took over from Mayo as Connacht champions in 1938, scored a facile win over Monaghan in the semi-final and then drew with Kerry in the final. A few weeks later Bobby Beggs won his first All-Ireland medal when Galway defeated Kerry in the replay.

He was back again with the Westerners in the 1940 and '41 finals, when Kerry just edged them on both occasions. Then in 1942 Bobby returned to Dublin. He was now somewhat in the veteran stage but as if by magic his return saw the Metropolitans qualify for the final—something which they had not done since he was with them before in 1934. Opposing Dublin in the final were none other than Galway.

It was an odd experience for Beggs. All of his old friends and former teammates were on the opposing side but still he was with his native county. Not as lively as of previous years, he was now at corner back and was having but a mediocre game.

Time was ticking away and Dublin battled to hold on to a slim two points lead. Galway were pressing and their pressure soon became an avalanche. But this was to be Beggs' greatest moment. Time and time again he turned back the tide, grasping that ball as only he could and coming out straight. He never believed in going the roundabout when there was a direct passage . . . and if there wasn't a direct passage—well then Bobby of the mighty rock-like build made it and no man was fit to stop him.

Dublin, thanks to Beggs, held out to win and so the man from Skerries had won All-Ireland medals with both counties.

DUBLIN'S GREATEST DAY

SUNDAY, February 28, 1892, was undoubtedly the greatest day in the annals of Dublin Gaeldom. It was also a unique occasion for Gaelic Games and one which was never repeated.

The venue was Clonturk Park—then the regular site for most major games and on this occasion the scene opened with Dublin Young Irelands meeting Cavan Slashers in the 1891 All-Ireland senior football semi-final. It was Dublin's first appearance in such a game. The previous year they had beaten Wicklow and Kildare to capture the Leinster crown and here at last was their chance to bid for major honours.

Cavan were appearing in their third such game and it was generally believed that it would be third time lucky for them as on both the previous occasions they had failed to reach the final.

It was a tremendous struggle with the issue in doubt all the way but in the end Dublin held out and so qualified for their first All-Ireland final.

But that was not all, the programme at Clonturk was only beginning. No sooner had the leg-weary footballers of Dublin and Cavan gone off the field than on came the hurling men of Wexford and Kerry to contest their 1891 All-Ireland final.

Wexford were firm favourites for they had been rather unlucky to miss winning the previous year's title. They had been leading Cork, 2-2 to 1-6, in the 1890 final at the same venue when the game had been called off. Cork were later awarded the title. At that time a goal outweighed any number of points.

And now the men of Wexford were back again still seeking that first title. Wexford were first to take the field and then came Kerry dressed in long trousers and wearing white singlets bearing the word "Kerry." All of the Munster men were in their bare-feet.

This too was a hectic struggle and within five minutes Kerry had scored a point. The huge crowd showed wonder at the length the

UNIQUE OCCASION AT CLONTURK PARK

By Michael Walshe

ball was being driven with each stroke. Kerry were certainly having the better of things and after twenty minutes they added another point.

However, just before half-time Wexford hit back to narrow the gap and at the break the score still stood 0-2 to 0-1 with Kerry leading.

Thirsting for victory Kerry launched a series of attacks early in the second half but the Wexford backs stood firm. Still Kerry continued to press and eventually they had their reward with a great goal. It looked like the deciding score—but it certainly was not for it had the effect of bringing Wexford fighting back and they replied with a point. Again the Leinster champions attacked and again they scored—a goal and the sides were level—or were they?

Kerry players and supporters objected vehemently to the score, contending that it should have been but a point. They claimed that the ball had rebounded off a

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spectator and came back into play before the Wexford forwards swept it between the goal posts. However the score was allowed and at the end of the hour the teams were still level.

Patrick Tobin, then Secretary of the Association, ordered that extra time be played but Kerry refused and left the field. For a while it appeared as if another All-Ireland final was to end in dispute but then a mighty cheer heralded Kerry's return and this time they made no mistake. They slammed home another goal and added a point. Wexford added three points but the Kerry goal-line was beyond their reach and so the Kingdom won their first and only hurling crown.

So far the crowd had witnessed two and a half hours of drama-packed play but the best wine was still to come. Yes, believe it or not but the 1891 All-Ireland senior football final was also for decision. Ninety minutes after qualifying for their first All-Ireland final, Dublin took the field to fight for that title.

Their opponents, Cork, were the reigning All-Ireland champions. The previous year they had won the title with a decisive 2-4 to 0-1 victory over Wexford and once again Dublin were complete outsiders. Whatever chance they might have been given in normal circumstances they certainly were given virtually none against a fresh team of such high rating.

However, Dublin showed little indication of their earlier grueling game when they immediately went into the attack against the Leesiders and slammed home a well taken goal.

George Roche was performing

extraordinary feats for the Metropolitans and once again they scored, this time a point. Cork simply had no answer to the delightful football of their challengers and at half-time Dublin led 2-1 to 0-1.

After the interval Dublin seemed to slow down. The hectic battle with Cavan was now showing its effect and they were forced on the defensive. Cork scored a goal

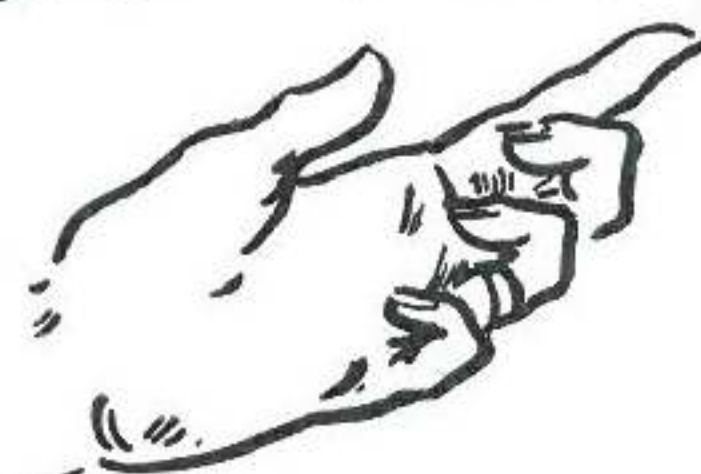
and then came point after point. Still Dublin held out.

No amount of points would overcome their goal lead and Cork were trying desperately for that winning score. However, try as they may twenty one gallant Dublinmen stood in their way and in the fading light they held the gap and carried the day. Dublin had won their first All-Ireland title.



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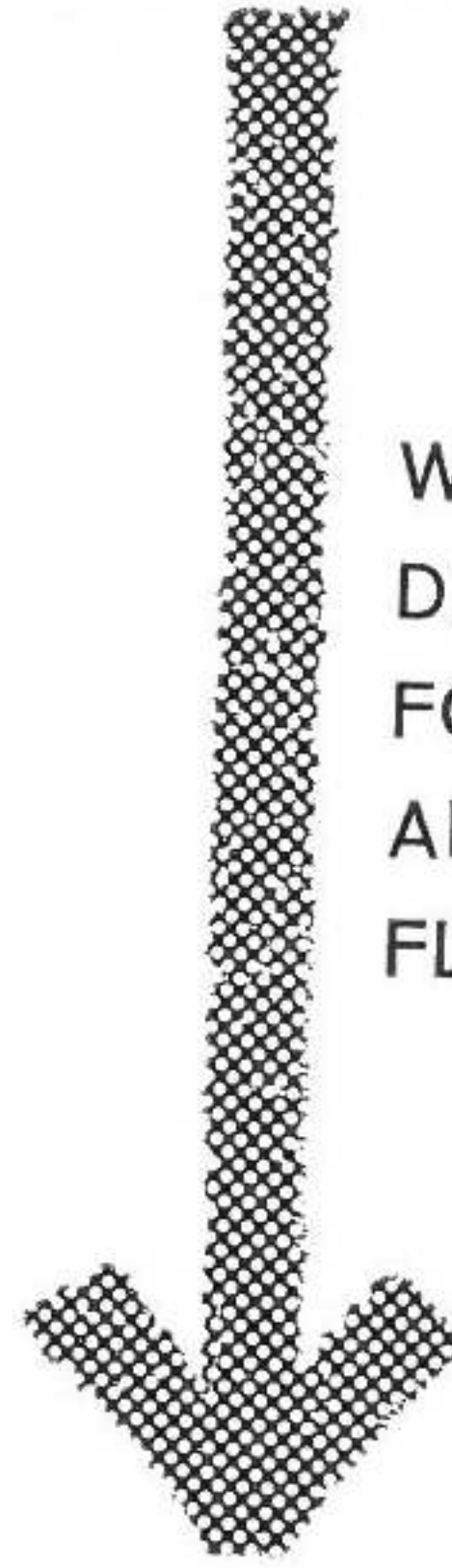
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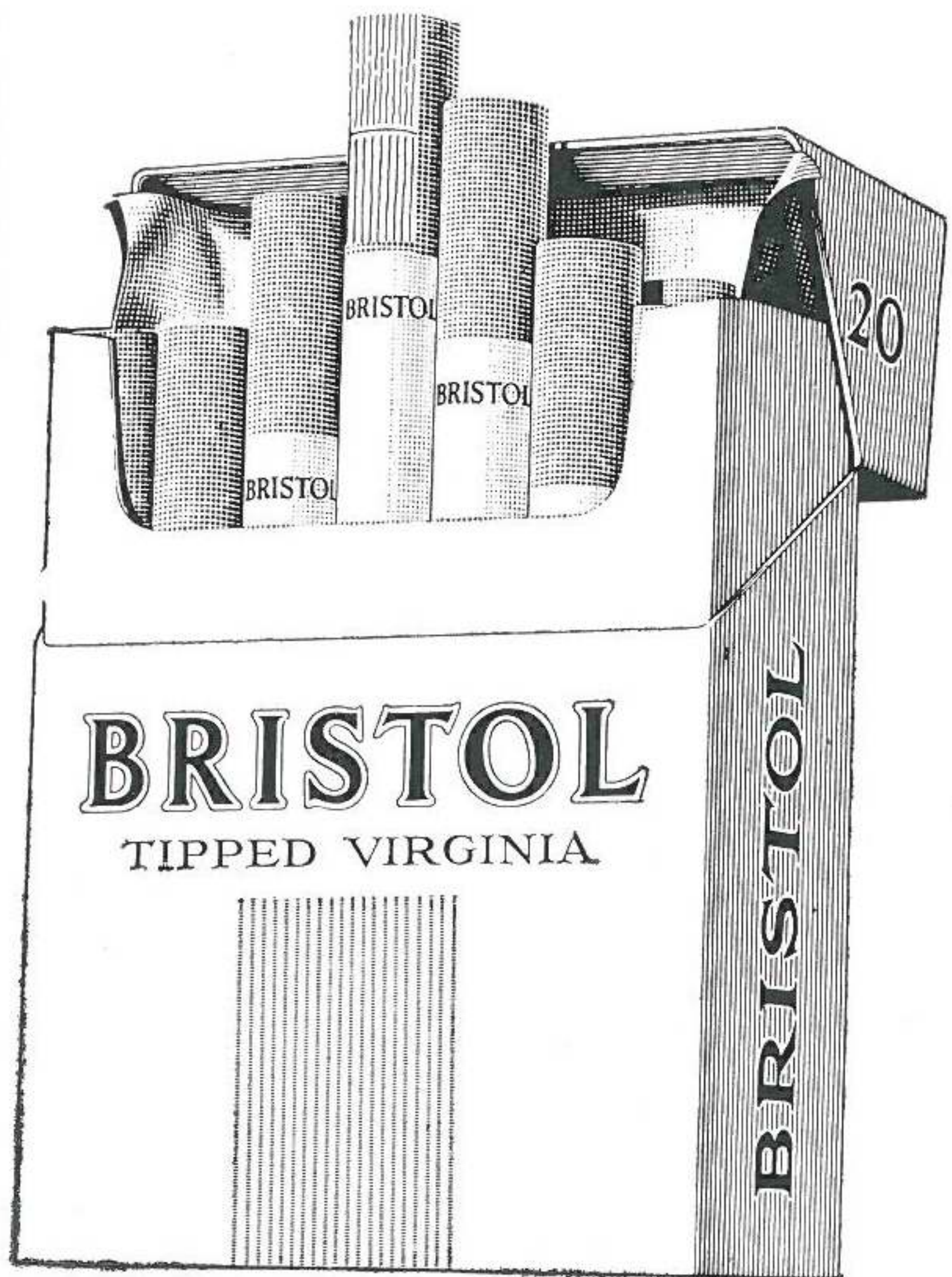
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FIRST CHAMPIONS

THE RISE OF LIMERICK COMMERCIALS

Seamus O Ceallaigh

LIMERICK Commercials revived Gaelic Football in Limerick before the G.A.A. itself was formed, and so, it was appropriate that the Commercials should be the first team to inscribe its name on the All-Ireland championship roll of honour. It is a tribute, too, to the strength of the football code by Shannonside at the time that the only team to beat them in the entire course of the 1887 championships campaign was another renowned Limerick side of the period—St. Michael's.

Thurles has often been referred to as the "Cradle of the G.A.A.," and it was a farmer's son from Rossmore, near Thurles—Dan H. Ryan—then engaged in the drapery business in Limerick, who was responsible for founding the Commercials Club.

Dan, a versatile athlete, champion oarsman and step dancer of no mean repute, anticipated the foundation of the G.A.A. by some eighteen months.

The first organisational venture might be compared with inter-firm competition as we understand it to-day. Dan formed a team composed of young men drawn from the drapery houses and a few other shop assistants, and instructed them in the rudiments of Gaelic football, as best he could at a period before recognised rules were established.

A team without some other combination to play was of little use. So Dan turned to the Pork-butchers, then a strong body in Limerick, and induced them to form a team. Drawn mainly from the employees of the local bacon factories, Limerick Butchers, in

consequence, made their bow. They were a powerful body of men, but hardly as handy with the football as Commercials.

Anyway, the pair met at the old Balincacurra Race Course in the first recorded game of Gaelic Football in Limerick, in the Autumn of 1883, and Commercials won after a terrific tussle, and amidst scenes of wild excitement.

This match aroused tremendous interest and resulted in the formation of other clubs. Meanwhile, Commercials were very elated at their success, they became really enthusiastic, and worked like trojans to establish the game anywhere they could.

The first parish team to come into existence was in Meelick, close to Limerick city. They were also big men, but when they met the Commercials, early in 1884, the greater craft and understanding of the city men prevailed.

Soon the second parish team appeared—St. Patricks, under the leadership of that grand Gael Captain Gough, and it was a notable occasion when they lined out against Commercials in the Canal Fields. It proved a most exciting game that further popularised the code, and Commercials again triumphed, but only by a very narrow margin.

With the formation of the G.A.A. in November, 1884, Dan Ryan felt the time was opportune to extend the scope of the Commercials club, and a meeting was called to which all the commercial athletic young men of the city were invited. Immediately, the ranks were filled up by as fine a body of athletes as any man could hope for. Dan remarked "I have now

an army of footballers fit to do honours to any county, and the G.A.A. must go ahead."

Limerick at the time was a rugby stronghold, and Dan's language was regarded as very outspoken. However, the dream of his life was realised for the Commercials proved successful beyond his wildest hopes.

With a strong team, matches were arranged against St. Michael's, St. Johns and St. Patrick's, all of whom met defeat. Dan then fixed up matches with every team in the county, winning as he went along.

By 1886 clubs had sprung up everywhere. Tipperary and Cork were active and doing famously. A match was arranged on Good Friday with the "Lees" of Cork—afterwards one of the big clubs of the G.A.A.—and following a stubborn contest the Commercials emerged successful. Immediately after, they travelled to Kilrush by special steamer—a trip full of pleasure and delightful scenery—and defeated the local footballers, then enjoying a strong reputation in the Banner County.

The next big fixture was at Bansha, where they played a pair of matches—against Bansha and the Tipperary "Rosannas"—two slashing teams—again coming out victors. On that occasion the first special train over the old Waterford and Limerick railroad was organised for a Gaelic match, and had to be guaranteed by Dan Ryan and Maurice Fitzgibbon.

Later in 1886 Commercials travelled to the Limerick Junction to meet the famous Bohercrowe team, and defeated them after a

(Continued overleaf).

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(From previous page).

hard match. Towards the close of a great season they again beat the Lees, at Cork, and Kilmacduane, at Kilrush, besides several lesser known sides through the neighbouring counties.

In the same year a big athletic sports under their auspices was held at Limerick Markets Field, which proved so successful and was so well patronised and appreciated by the public that they were continued for three successive Sundays. Many powerful athletes competed and the members of the Commercials club proved their worth by winning the lion's share of the prizes.

Now we come to the ever memorable year of 1887. Just as the first championships were announced Commercials met an early disappointment in the loss of their captain—Dan Ryan, whose commercial pursuits called him to Dublin. The choice of a successor fell on a non-player, Pat Treacy.

The first Limerick county finals were decided at the Grocers' Field on Sunday, July 17, before the largest throng of people that had yet marked the popular interest in the Gaelic pastimes.

The football game was played first, the contestants being St. Michaels and Commercials. The teams had met before, as already mentioned, and the Commercials then scored a decided success. In the interval Commercials had been the premier team in Munster, having preserved throughout an unbroken record with crack teams and others. Consequently, it was something of a sensation when St. Michael's won by 5 points and 1 forfeit point to one forfeit point for their opponents.

At this stage it might be well to explain that the goalposts were not the same as those used nowadays. The upright did not extend above the crossbar, and, in addition, there were two side posts. So there were four uprights in all

(Continued next page).

at each end. A goal was scored when the ball was struck between the centre posts and points when it entered through either of the outer areas. Apart from the goals and points, there was a third score. This was the forfeit point and was awarded when a defender sent the ball over his own end line, thus being similar to the present day 'fifty.' The teams consisted of 21 players—ten backs, two midfielders and nine forwards.

There was a surprise sequel to the final, when Commercials lodged an objection to the constitution of the St. Michaels team, alleging that seven members of same had played rugby. The County Board ordered a replay, and St. Michaels, who had to find substitutes for the men objected to, were beaten 2-8 to 0-1, after a vigorous match of fast, open football.

Commercials' first inter county game in the inaugural championship was against Dowdstown (Meath) and Commercials won, 3-2 to 0-2. The gate receipts were £210. In this game, Malachi O'Brien of the Commercials kicked a goal from centrefield, evidently a then unheard of feat, for on the strength of it he was invited to dinner with Lord De Frenche, in whose park the game was played.

For the second round, at Clonturk Park, Dublin, Kilmacow (Kilkenny) provided the opposition, and after a desperate struggle the game ended in a draw of 1-10 each. That day blew a storm and scientific play was out of the question.

Three weeks later they were again asked to try conclusions and Bansha was fixed as the venue. In bright sunshine, in a beautifully equipped meadow field right in the wake of the Glen of Aherlow, the teams toed the line. For a while the well nigh invincible Kilmacow (who had earlier defeated Lees, 0-4 to nil) seemed to be winning, but once the Commercials settled down there was no stopping them;

their ground work and rushes carried everything so the "brave rolling blades" had to submit to defeat.

In the semi-final, played at Bohermore, near Tipperary, on March 11, 1888, Commercials beat Templemore (Tipperary) 1-8 to 0-4 on a replay, the first game being disputed and ordered to be refixed.

Commercials next met Louth (Dundalk Young Irelands) in the final, played at Clonskeagh, Dublin, on April 29, with gate receipts £300.

Louth had disposed of Ballyduff Lower (Waterford) 1-8 to 0-3 and Castlebridge (Wexford) 0-7 to 0-2. The final proved a wonderfully fast game, scientific and clever but Commercials stayed out better and won an exciting match with something to spare.

The contest was fought in a fine sporting spirit. Louth did a good deal of clever hand work and

playing with the wind in the first half were three points ahead at the interval. In the closing minutes, however, Commercials' fine defence and spirited rushes swung the game in their favour, and they got the all important goal to win, 1-4 to 0-3.

W. J. Spain, who was one of the outstanding Limerick players of the day, later emigrated to America, as did four other members of the side, but before he did so he carved a special niche for himself in the hall of fame by becoming the first ever to win All-Ireland medals in football and hurling. His success in the latter code was scored with Dublin in 1889.

Congratulations poured in on the Commercials from all sides on the manly way in which they fought out the championship and won with undisputed merit the first and one of the greatest championships of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

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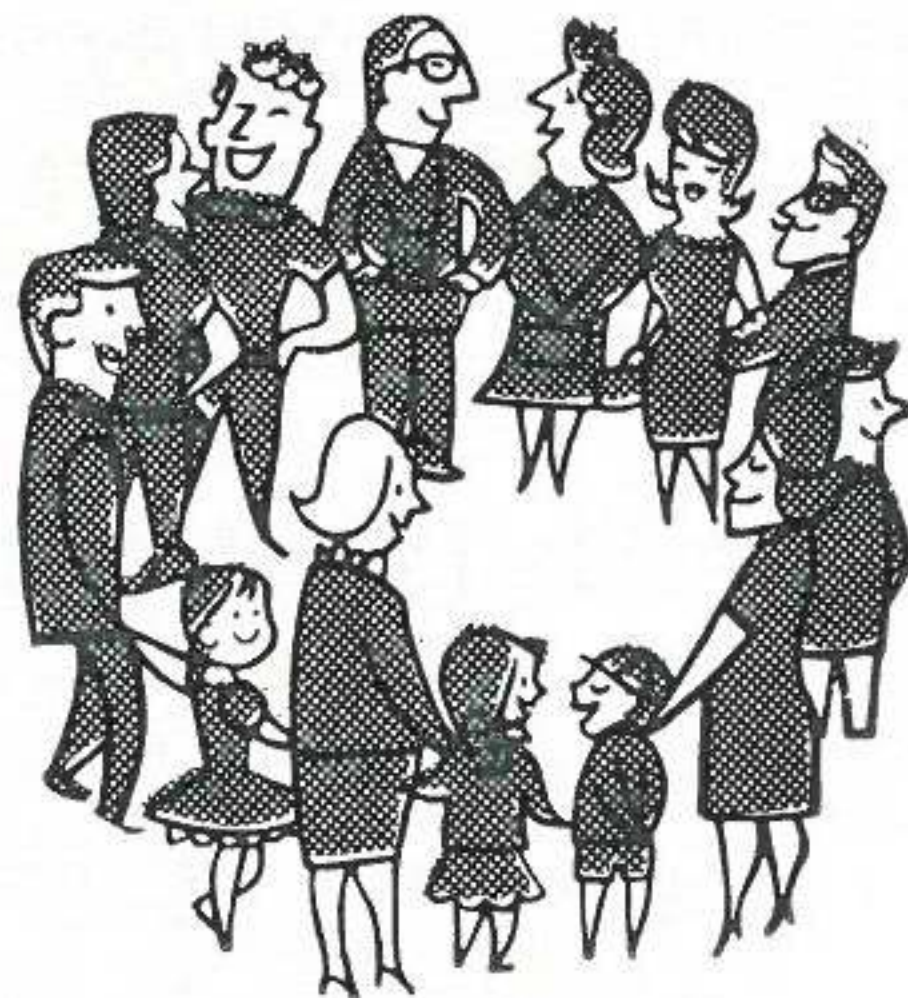
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LEAGUES

EVEN while the All-Ireland championships are waiting to be completed and the race for the Sam Maguire Cup is still the top talking point in Gaeldom the National Football League swings quietly into action in Ulster.

On September 15 six of the eight counties competing in the Lagan Cup step out in the first series of matches and in the other divisions the National Leagues will commence on September 29 (hurling) and October 6 (football).

These coming National Leagues are of course the ones to win, for in addition to the honour and glory that comes with triumph, and is second only to the All-Ireland championships, there is this season the added prize of a trip to the United States for the League finals in New York.

And next year is the year for the World's Fair in New York!!!

Therefore, the struggle for this season's League titles promises to be one of the most hectic of all and I would hate to be asked now to predict next May's home winners.

There is, however, another reason why success in the Leagues is something counties should strive for with greater effort than some do. The Leagues are money-spinners for successful counties and although players are concerned not at all with this aspect of the games

it is a subject that is uppermost in the minds of harassed county board officials who have to make ends meet.

The fact is that while the All-Ireland championships bring the glory it is the Leagues that bring in the cash. And it is on this cash that county boards depend for improvements in their grounds and playing facilities.

Take Kerry as an example. In 1962 the county noted for its successes in the championship rather than the League carried off the All-Ireland title for the 20th time and to make the rejoicing all the greater their minors made it a double.

But when the year's accounts were in and audited at the end of the year Kerry were *in the Red* . . . to the tune of £796. But Down, their predecessors as All-Ireland champions and a county that went out of the championship race in July, showed a handsome profit of £4,400 for 1962.

And the difference can be explained by their contrasting fortunes in the National League. In the 1961-62 competition Kerry failed to come out of their Division IV and into the money-spinning semi-finals. But Down won the Lagan Cup, played in the semi-final and final of the League and the cash came rolling in.

Now in 1963 Kerry has lost the All-Ireland title . . . and its loss caused much lamenting in the county. But ironically they will almost certainly balance their budget even though the county board has paid out considerable sums on ground improvements and other amenities.

The answer, of course, is the National League. For having reached the final last May both Kerry and Down collected over £3,000 each as their share of the record-breaking home final gate. The divide of the gates in their semi-finals brought in several hundred pounds more.

Rewards are not as great in the Hurling League, but they are sizeable nevertheless. Waterford and Tipperary collected over £1,000 from this year's home final and next season's League will be more rewarding for there will be two semi-finals as well as the final.

So you see it pays to take the National League seriously.

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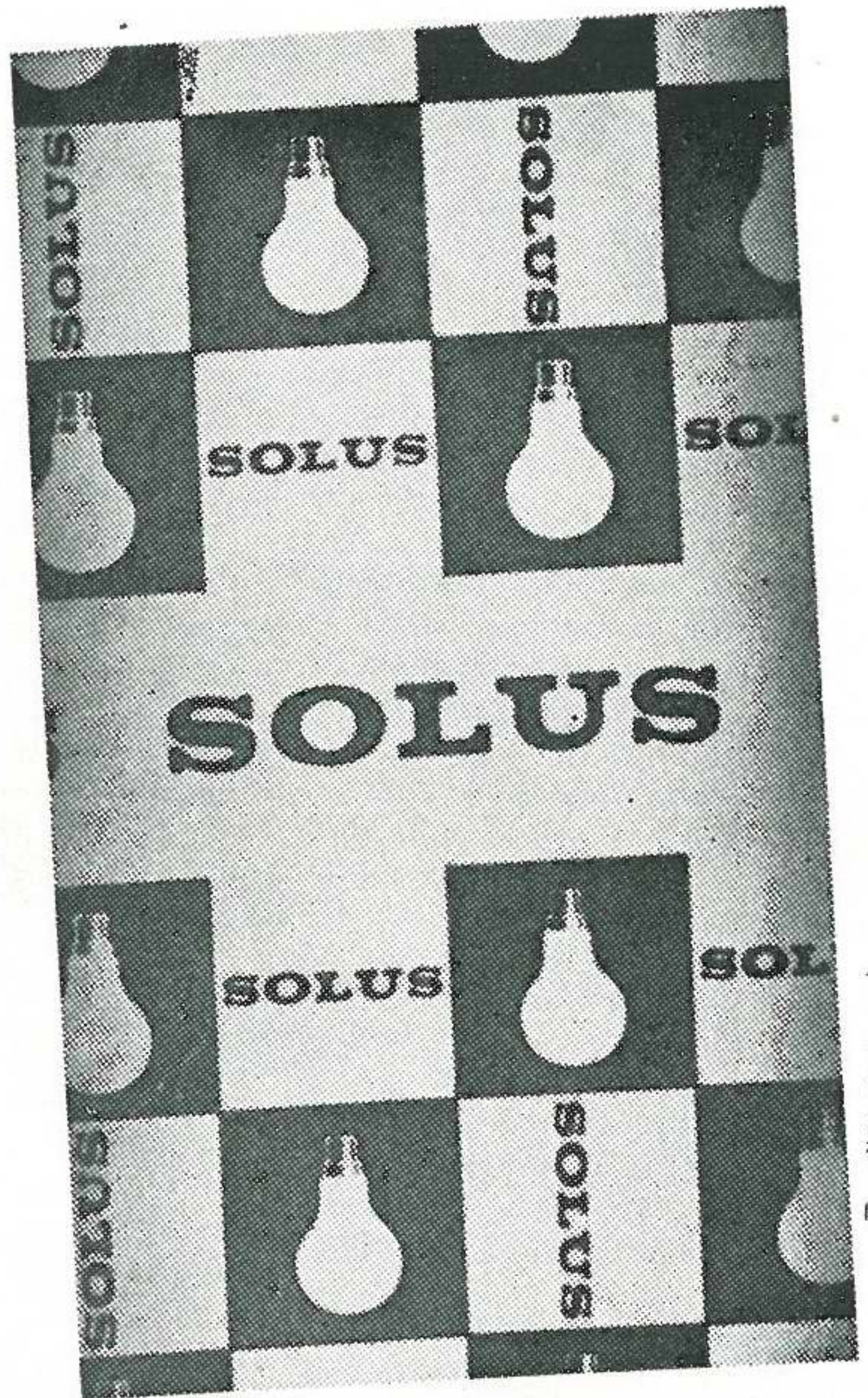


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I MBLIANA siad fóirne Átha Cliath agus na Gaillimhe a bhéas in iomaíocht sa Chraobh-Chluiche peile. Bliain is fiche ó shin bhí an dá fhoireann céanna sa Chraobh-Chluiche i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Tagann smaointe fánacha chugam fén chluiche sin i 1942, go háirithe smaointe fé roinnt des na daoine a bhí sa choimhlint.

An chéad rud suimiúil fé fhoireann na Gaillimhe an taca sin ná go raibh siad sa chraobh-chluiche trí bliana i ndiaidh a chéile, eadhon 1940, 1941 agus 1942 agus chailleadar gach uair. Níor thárla a leithéid roimhe ná ó shin.

Bhí beirt Ciarraidheach ar fhoireann na Gaillimhe 1942, Jimmy Clifford agus Dan Kavanagh. Dimrios le Jimmy ar fóirne an Chéad Chathláin agus Ceannas-aíocht an Iarthair agus is minic a bhíos in aghaidh Dan Kavanagh agus é ag imirt le hIolscoil na Gaillimhe. Bhain Dan amach bonn na hÉireann dó féin agus é ag imirt le Ciarraí sa bhlian 1946.

Ach tá a mhalairt de scéal ag baint le Clifford. D'fhág sé an tArm i 1943 agus chuaig sé isteach sa Gárda Síochana; fostaidh i gCorcaigh é agus tá sé ann go fóill. I 1944 d'imir sé le foireann Chorcaí ach an bhliain na dhiaidh sin d'imir sé lena chontae dúchais, Ciarraí. Tás ag cách gur rug Corcaigh craobh na hÉireann leo i 1945. An bhliain dár gcionn bhí Clifford ar ais le Corcaigh agus bhain Ciarraí craobh na hÉireann amach! Dá bhithín sin chaill Jimmy Clifford trí buinn—1942, 1945 agus 1946.

Ar fhoireann Átha Cliath i 1942 bhí an sár-imreoir sin Peadar

Ó Raghallaigh—is dócha gurab é an imreoir ab' fhearr i bPáirc an Crócaigh an lá ud; im' thuairimse is dá bhuíochas siúd a bhuaig Áth Cliath an Craobh.

Tá an-aithne agam ar Pheadar le roinnt bliana anuas mar is eisan atá i bhfeidhil tréinéala fóirne Uí Fáile agus fén a chúram tá an fhoireann sin d'éis dhá Craobh Laighean a bhuachaint agus is beag nár rugadar Craobh na hÉireann leo i 1961.

Paddy Bermingham duine eile a bhí ar fhoireann Átha Cliath agus d'imríos le Paddy ar fhoireann Laighean i 1948. Caleb Crone,

lántacha clé d'Áth Cliath i 1942 rug sé bonn eile le Crocaigh i 1945. Cailleadh ó shin é Beannacht Dé len a anam uasal.

Jimm McGuaran cúilbáire do Gaillimh tá sé 'na dhochtúir anois i nDún an Ochtá agus is minic a bhuaileas leis ar na bóthre sa cheantar sin.

Duine eile a bhí 'na fhear-ionaid do Gaillimh agus a tháinig isteach sna tosaigh sa tárna leath an lá úd abea Ned Mulholland. B'as Contae na hIarmhí ó dhúchas Eamon agus fuair sé bonn Uile-Éireann le Gaillimh i 1938 agus

(Ar lean. leat. 45)

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A tense moment during the All-Ireland hurling final at Croke Park on September 1, as Tom Walsh of Kilkenny (right) and Waterford's Jim Byrne pull on a ball in front of the Munster champions' goalmouth. Kilkenny's other corner forward, Tom Murphy, is partly hidden behind Walsh

(From page 43).

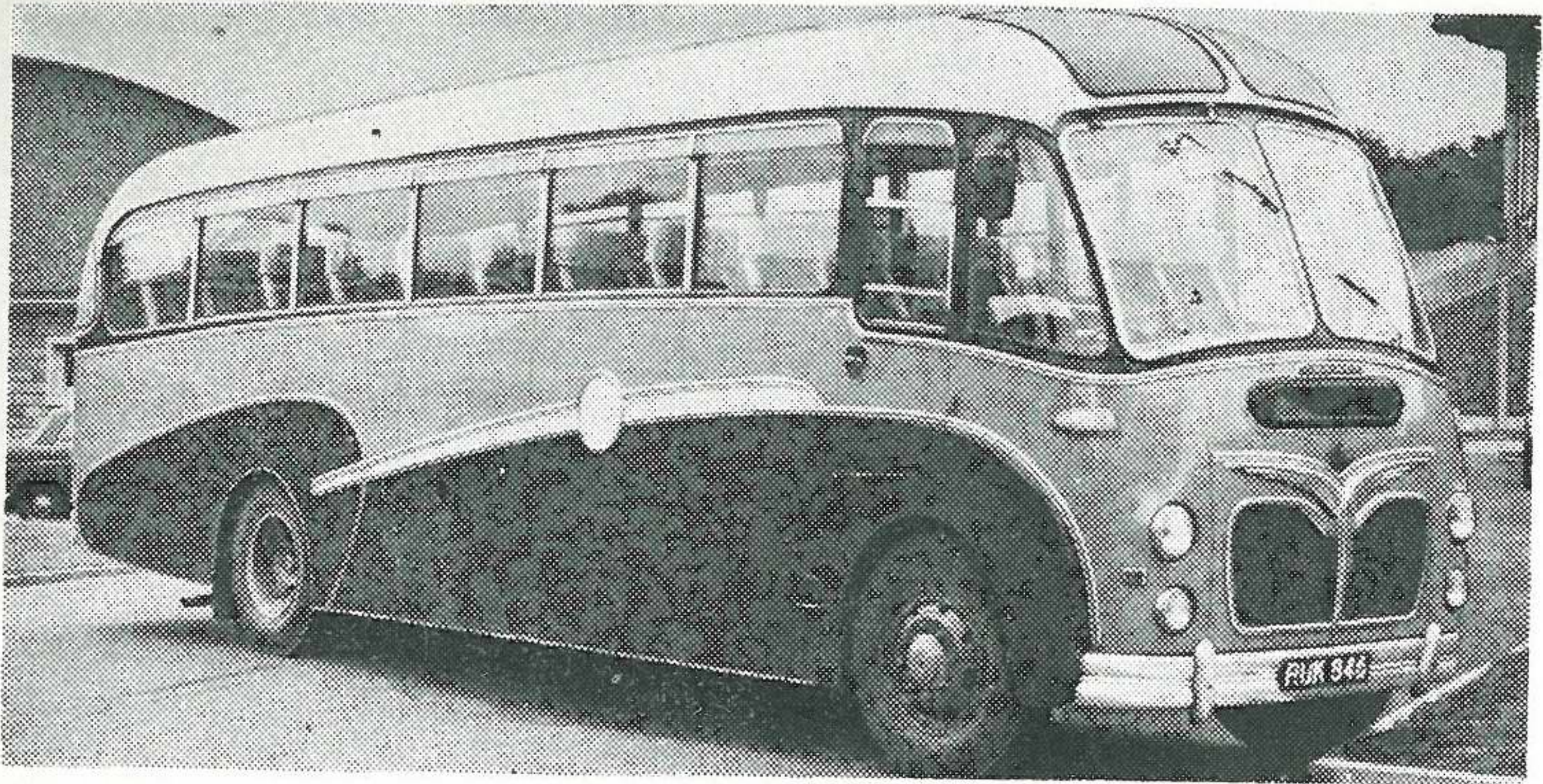
ceapaim nach bhfuil Iarmhídheach eile ann le bonn sinsireach Uile-Éireann aige.

Ó 1942 anall bhí an Gaillimh agus Áth Cliath sa bhfásach, mar adéarfá, ar feadh roinnt mhaith blianta ach ait le rá tháinig an dá chontae chun chinn arís thart ar an ama céanna. Teip ar Áth Cliath sa chraobh-chluiche 1955 agus rugadar an craobh leo i 1958. Sa bhliain 1956 rug na Gaillimh an craobh in aghaidh Corcaigh—rud

suimiúil fén cluiche sin ná go raibh an scór ab' airde riamh ag foireann nár bhuaig an craobh ag na Corcaighig sé sin 3 cúl 7 gcúilíní.

Pointe suimiúil eile fé craobh-chluiche na bliana seo ná nach bhfuil aon bhaint oifigiúil ag aon duine a bhí ar fhoirinn na Gaillimhe 1942 le foireann na bliana '63 ach ar an lámh eile dhe tá Breandán Ó Cuinn, leath-taca dheis ar fhoirinn Átha Cliath 1942, mar tréinealaí na fóirne '63.

I 1942 cheap foireann na Gaillimhe ag leath-ama go raibh an cluiche buaite aca. Ach, sá tárna leath bhí scéal eile ann agus d'imir na h-Ath Cliathaigh i bhfad níos fearr agus bhí an lá leo. I mbliana tá na comharthaí ann go mbeidh sár-chluiche againn ar an triú Domhnach Mheán-Fomhair—dhá fhoireann óg, tapaidh, cliste. Níl aon chinnteacht fén toradh go dtí an fheadóg dheireannach. Ach, nach cuma fén bhua má bhíonn cluiche glan spórtiúil againn?



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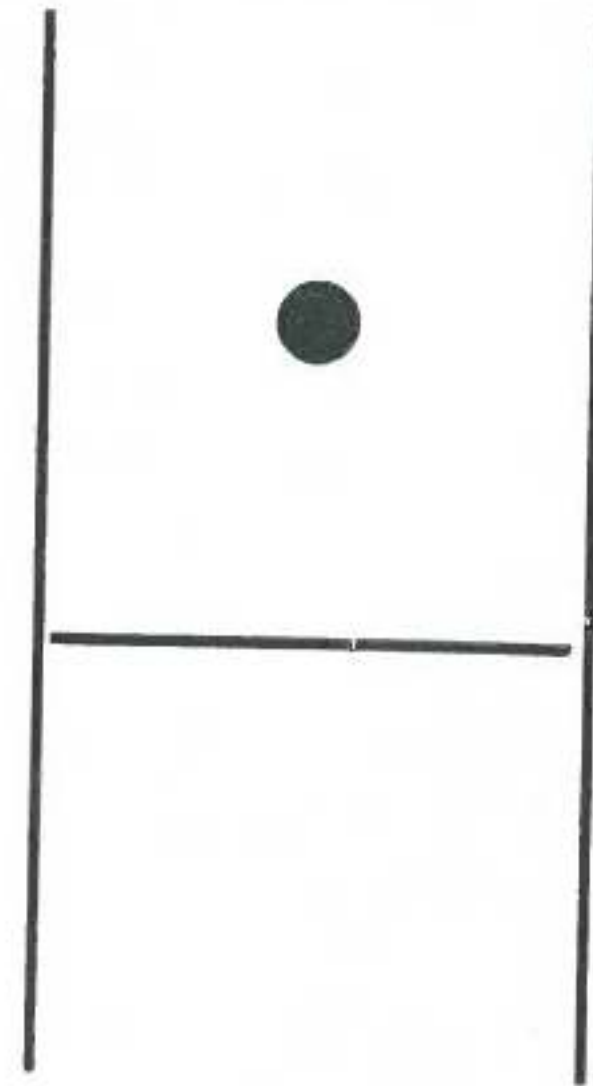
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A DEFENDER OF GREAT TALENT

WHETHER or not Dublin capture the premier football award on Sunday, young corner back, Bill Casey, will have plenty of reason to remember 1963, for in nine brief months he has sprung into the forefront of the limelight and there he is likely to stay for many a day.

When I spoke to him a week ago, Bill surprised me by stating that his greatest sporting thrill was not achieved on the football field but in a handball alley—when at the age of fifteen he won his first Dublin minor handball title.

But then football is by no means the only sport which this 20-year-old star has mastered. A product of St. Vincent's School, Glasnevin, it was there he developed his early sporting talents and he still remains as the school's basketball coach and can claim to have produced several under-15 and under-18 international stars.

He was only nine when he first donned the school jersey as a hurler. His first game was in the wide open spaces of Phoenix Park. Later that year he also represented the school in football and during the nine years which followed was a regular with St. Vincent's in both codes.

In 1960 he graduated to the

Dublin minor hurling and football teams and he also helped his club, Na Fianna, capture the county minor football title. But his service to Dublin during 1960 did not just end there. He also represented the county in handball and basketball.

The following year he collected a Leinster minor football medal and by then his career was obviously destined to lead him to senior honours. Later that year, the Dublin senior selectors picked him for a challenge game against Down and he has retained his place ever since.

An injury received against Louth in the first round of last year's championship denied him a Leinster medal but Bill found compensation in basketball and won his place on the Ireland team.

However, football distinction too was to come his way a few months later. It was in the Grounds Tournament final and Dublin were faced with All-Ireland champions Kerry, who had given them a football lesson in the All-Ireland semi-final. Hero of that Kingdom victory, it will be remembered, was Tom Long, who completely baffled the Dublin defence and the youthful Casey found himself marking Long in the tournament final.

Lar Foley had cried off the

Dublin side and it therefore became Bill's task to try and curb the Kerry star . . . And he did it. It was a tremendous feat.

Still when Bill was chosen on the Leinster team to meet Munster in the Railway Cup semi-final at Tralee last February, many eyebrows were raised — more especially as he had been picked at left half-back. But once again Casey more than justified the confidence shown in him. He had an outstanding game and came away in the second half to score a very valuable point.

For the final on St. Patrick's Day, Bill was changed to right half-back and had to mark Ulster star, Paddy Doherty. Again the Dubliner came through with colours flying.

However, it was this year's championship which really won Bill Casey the full recognition which his great talents call for. In every game he has starred and is now one of the county's big hopes.

I watched him the other Sunday in the John Player Cup final against Carlow at Finglas. Conditions were anything but helpful—yet he fielded every ball and gave a classical exhibition playing at centre half-back.

Bill credits basketball with having developed his fielding ability and to handball he credits much of his all the year fitness.

For so long Dublin football was recognised as mainly commendable for its clever forward play but these days everybody speaks of the great Dublin backs. They are of course, including Bill Casey in those references, for he now is undoubtedly the best equipped of this Metropolitan defence. A footballer from toe to fingertips he is surely destined for a wonderful career during the decade which lies ahead.



SEAN DONEGAN

STORIES YET UNTOLD

WHENEVER I go to Cork city, I am always sure to meet two staunch friends—John Burke and Jimmy Clifford.

John, one of Galway's stars in their All-Ireland victory of 1938, is a native of County Clare and he was the greatest "one-footed" footballer that I have seen. He had a devastating swerve and a habit of stopping "dead" in the middle of a run or freezing as his kick was about to be blocked. Both gambits left many an opponent sprawling.

He was also extremely accurate from frees and there were few better at getting a goal from a placed ball. A curving spinning shot which usually slipped under the bar was his forte.

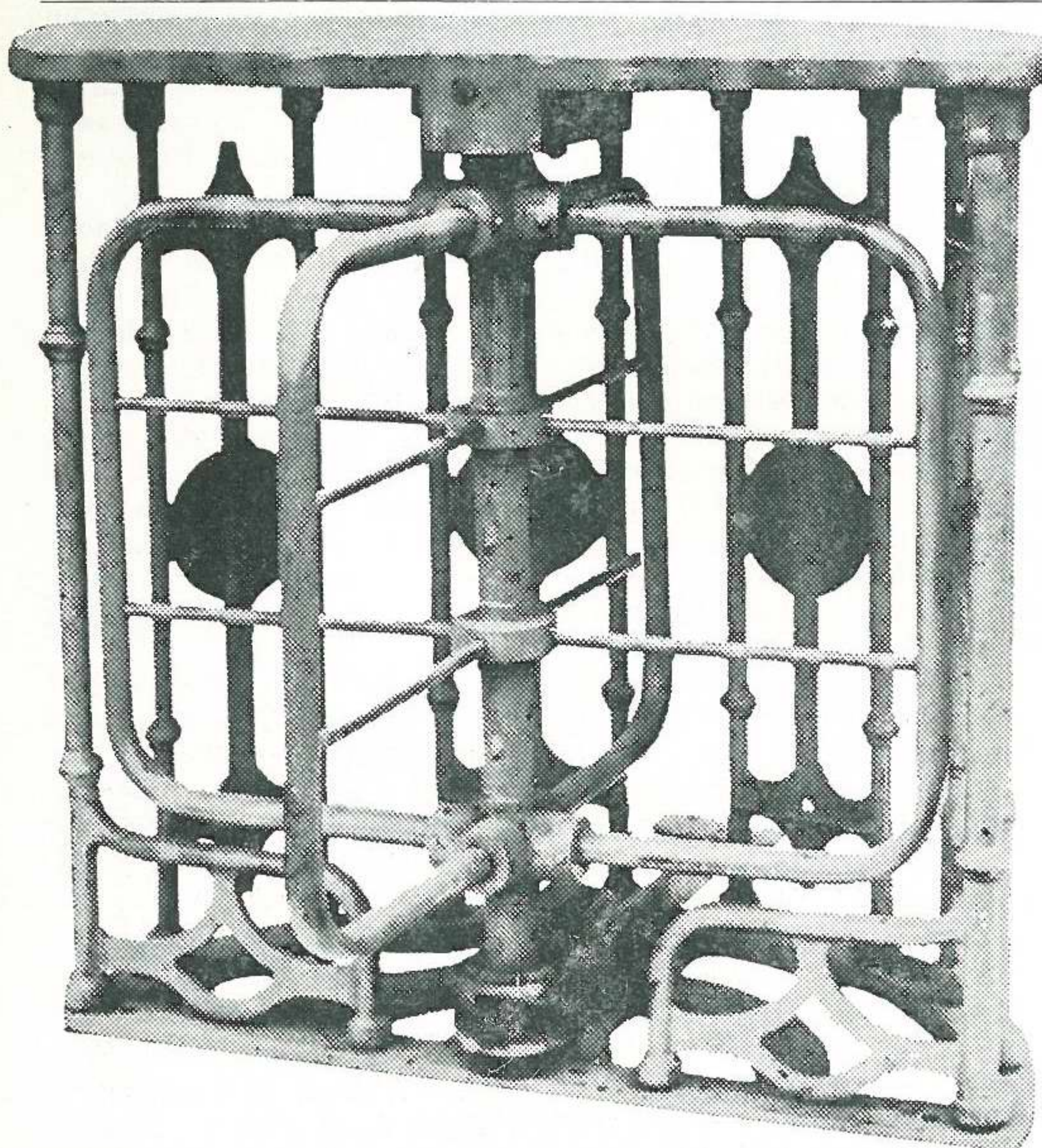
I well remember John's remark to me the day my photograph appeared in a newspaper for the first time. "When my photo' first appeared," says he, "I thought I'd never see a poor day again."

He is now an official in St. Stephen's Hospital, Cork, and looks as if he hasn't put on an ounce of weight since his playing days. I expect to see a Burke on the Cork minor team before long.

Jimmy Clifford is now a member of the Garda Síochána in that same city. A native of Kerry, Jimmy played a lot of his football in Galway and was a member of the 1942 team beaten by Dublin in the final.

Summing up that game for me shortly afterwards, Jimmy said that he and his team-mates were too complacent about the score at half-time. Galway were well ahead and felt it was "in the bag."

There is a moral here and I recall the words of another great player, the late John Joe O'Reilly. "No matter how much you're winning



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by, keep piling on the scores—never relax; keep up the effort for the whole game," was his motto.

If Galway happen to be ahead at half-time in this year's final I have no doubt but that words to this effect will be used by Western mentors who will remember the 1942 decider.

Although he played in only that one All-Ireland final Jimmy Clifford could have won three All-Ireland medals. Complacency may have cost him the first but with the other two it was a case of being in the wrong place at the right time.

After his spell with Galway he was stationed in Cork in 1944 and he turned out with the Leesiders. However in 1945 he declared for his native Kerry and, of course, Cork went on to win the All-Ireland title.

In 1946 Jimmy returned to Cork and Kerry went on to take the title. Not that he was chasing medals: he always approached the game in a light-hearted manner and was the soul of wit. His rapartee in a dressing-room prior to a game eased the tension and dispelled the butterflies from many a nervous stomach.

I remember a day when the Western Command team was in training. Jimmy was then in the Army and an argument developed between himself and Eddie Condon. Eddie was a Lieutenant and Jimmy had the rank of Sergeant and this meant that there was a certain inequality about the argument. N.C.Os. and privates had to respect their commanding officers so Jimmy was in a bit of a spot.

However, he found the solution and made his point. "Do you mind if I call you a liar, Sir?" says he to Condon. I can hear them both laughing still and that was the end of the argument.

Series concludes next month.

MOURNING IN THE CONGO!

By EAMONN YOUNG

HERE in Katanga, Kerry's defeat by Galway was heard with astonishment followed by jubilation of Westerners and a period of deep mourning by sombre sons of the Kingdom. It would certainly be Galway and Down for the final with the Cup going North again.

Dublin's devastation of that slick Ulster combination put the tin hat on it and there was one poor soul who regretted the odds he had given in early August against a Dublin-Galway final.

Now we just don't know what to think. Kerry threw away too many chances against Galway for one to give the latter premier rating while strong confident Dublin have a style of football which does not produce scores in proportion to the amount of possession won by the Metropolitans.

I have little confidence in a team making an unexpected All-Ireland

appearance. Remember Down's hasty juvenile display against Galway in the '59 semi-final.

Yet Down were classy soon after when they got the feel of Croke Park.

At this distance that homely feeling Dubliners have for Croke Park is about the only tangible asset one can discern in their favour.

But it is indeed an asset. It should help a lot to swing it especially if the teams are, as most expect, rather even.

HELD OVER

OWING to heavy pressure on space in this issue, Chris Murray's "Comment on the Rules" and Alleyman's handball column have been held over until November.

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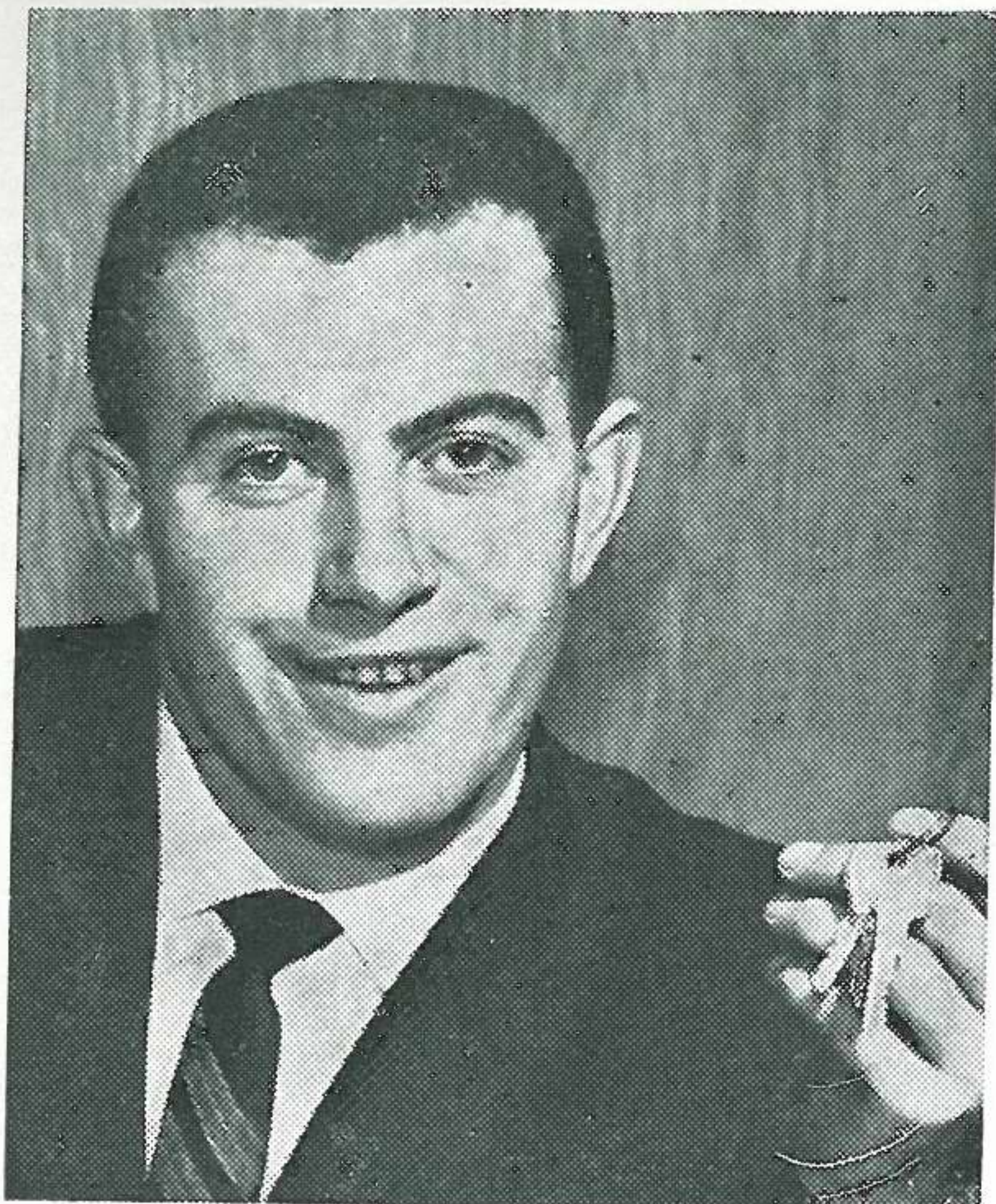
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WESTWARD, HO!

THERE is a visit to New York at stake in the coming National Leagues and this should certainly result in some very keen competition. While an All-Ireland medal will always remain the premier Irish sporting award, there is no getting away from it but that a visit to New York is also something to be fought for.

I well remember early May, 1931. The Kerry team headed for Cobh to join the German ship "St. Louis" and we were on our way. Our visit was sponsored by four McGovern brothers, natives of County Leitrim, and as big-hearted and generous a quartet of exiles as you could meet.

Teams who fly the Atlantic these days miss much. There is nothing like a sea voyage with its varying stages of calm and storm. It was so much part of the entire event — although Tim O'Donnell would not agree. He was sea-sick all the way.

However, for the rest of us the voyage was most enjoyable. We mingled with the friendly Germans and they certainly looked after us. We were given full facilities for training. We had the use of the ship's gymnasium and there was a physical-training instructor attached who took pride in helping out.

How well I remember the Statue of Liberty as we sailed into New York. Thousands—yes millions of our kith and kin had sailed by it—most of them never to pass it again. But we would. We were visitors and not emigrants and we came with a light heart.

There were hundreds of smiling faces to greet us as we berthed. At the quayside I remember Martin Shanahan of Dublin and Tipperary fame; Big Eddie Robert of Waterford; John Kerry O'Donnell (a brother of Tim's); Phil Sullivan, our former team-mate; "Pluggy" Moriarty and, of course, Bill Landers. There too was Mick Moloney of Miltown Malbay and then New York's star forward.

I had no relatives in the Great Beyond but I watched the warm greeting of those who had—the embraces, the handclasps and the joy. I had, of course, many friends to meet—men loyal and true like Tommy Armitage; Johnny McGoldrick, Mick Spillane and Bill Mangan of Kildare fame.

They really did us proud and made us proud—those exiles of 1931. Nothing was too good for us and remember America was not then the affluent society which it is today. That night there was a vast dinner and speeches — many many speeches. Those Yanks had a

lot to say to us—but then why not. Some of them had waited a long time for such an occasion and for some this was as near as they would ever again be to home.

We had two days to prepare and then came the big occasion—looking back I think it gave me the greatest thrill of my football career.

It was Yankee Stadium — awesome with its vast stands and its strange and rock-hard sod. It was small from the point of playing area and by no means to our liking. But there was no time for thinking of how best to handle such situations. There were 68,000 exiles cheering their heads off. They had come to see the great Kerry team and it was our job to deliver the goods.

Remember in those years much of the cream of our footballers had emigrated. Many of them were now ready and waiting to prove that they still had retained all their ability.

Four years previous they had beaten Kerry in a three game series (that was the time that the sponsor disappeared with the "green backs" —but that's another story). Anyway, we were back to have another go and prove that being champions

(Continued overleaf).

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(Continued from previous page). of Ireland meant being champions of the world.

The parade around the field and then we stood and watched the American and Irish flags been hoisted ever so slowly. While each flag climbed its respective pole the appropriate National Anthem was played by the Monaghan Pipers band.

That surely was my proudest moment on any pitch. There was something tremendous and moving about it all. I felt proud and for many reasons—proud because here I was wearing the historic green and gold of Kerry—proud because here was our National Flag floating high and majestically graceful over the Yankee Stadium — proud because here were 68,000 Irish exiles sharing in my pride as they watched that flag and raised their voices in the singing of our National Anthem.

They were never to be forgotten moments. I found myself standing more rigid than I had ever stood before and being more conscious of the beauty and significance of this ceremony than I was ever to be again. It was a moment supreme . . . and then the flag had finally reached the top of the pole and it was over.

The game was on and it was tough. Strong men played strong and manly football and here was no quarter given or sought.

I remember Johnny McGoldrick a prince of centre half-backs and what a loss to Leitrim: he was unbeatable. Mick Ormsby of Mayo, John Tuite of Louth; Kildaremen, Bill Mangan and Tom Keogh; Tommy Ayres of Tipperary, and Jimmy Jermyn of Cavan—great footballers all and to the crowd's delight they were proving it too.

New York has never had footballers like them and they certainly made us fight all the way. Yes, we won and when it was over the crowd swarmed on to the pitch to

(Continued next page).



The Kerry team which toured America in 1931. For identification of players see third last paragraph in Paul Russell's accompanying article.

cheer us again and hold us and finally carry us proudly.

It was great. Thirty years and more have gone but I remember it all as if it was only last year. Anyway, who could forget such kindness, such warmth and such a proud people.

They have always been a credit to Ireland. When help was needed, be it for the national cause or any cause for that matter, the Irish of America were always there to give it—even in the years when they could ill-afford it.

If I were young again, I'd be trying hard for a repeat of that trip of a lifetime.

Take a look at the photograph of the Kerry team which accompanies this article. We are aboard

the "St. Louis" and the man with the cap overhead the group was a German engineer, who before the voyage ended was a staunch Kingdom supporter.

Can you recognise many of the team? I suppose it depends on your age. Sitting on the deck in the front row are, from left—Bob Stack, Paddy Whitty and Con Brosnan. The two on the chairs are "Dee" O'Connor and Jack Walsh. Standing — first row are Tommy Barrett, E. Fitzgerald, J. J. Sheehy, Jack McCarthy and Miko Doyle. The two immediately behind this row are Johnny Riordan and myself. Behind us are Jackie Ryan and Tim O'Donnell. Next two — Dan Ryan and Dan O'Keeffe. Second row from top—

Tim Landers, and Con Geaney and the two at very back — Tommy Barrett and "Pedlar" Sweeney.

Where are they now? "Pedlar" Sweeney, Jackie Ryan, "Dee" O'Connor and Eamonn Fitzgerald have passed on. God be good to them.

Tommy Barrett and Miko Doyle are in New York. Tim Landers, Con Geaney (Dave's father) Dan Ryan, Dan O'Keeffe, Johnny Riordan, John Joe Sheehy, Jack McCarthy (present Sec. of Munster Council), Jack Walsh, Bob Stack (who was actually born in U.S.) and Con Brosnan are all living in Kerry and keeping well. Tim O'Donnell is a Garda Sgt. in Dublin, Paddy Whitty is an hotel proprietor in London.

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OFFALY ON THE UPGRADE

ONE of the most pleasant outings I have had for some time was down to Tullamore on the fourth Sunday in August for the last event of the Leinster championship year, the junior final which carries with it the magnificent Smyco Cup, which must be one of the most massive trophies available in any sport.

Presented to the Leinster Camogie Council some years ago by the Smyco Company in Balbriggan, the trophy has aroused the most flattering comment wherever it has been on display, and, in its relatively short existence, it has already been very much on the rounds. It was first won by Kilkenny, then by Kildare, then by Offaly who were faced with a challenge to their junior supremacy by Longford in this year's final after taking the cup for the first time last season.

Well, I had heard great reports about the improvement in the Offaly team but I was little prepared for what I saw in Tullamore, for the Offaly girls that evening played polished camogie and their positional play and combined movements were a delight to watch. Much of the credit for this, I feel, must go to the former Tipperary All-Ireland goalkeeper, Catherine Carroll, who, now playing at full-forward for her native Offaly, has not only steadied the whole side but has coached and tutored them to the stage that one felt they would be quite capable of taking on many a senior county team.

In her days with Tipperary, Catherine played for the Roscrea club, but only because there was then no camogie in Offaly. When Offaly returned to action last year she was still playing with Roscrea and could not transfer to her native county until this season, when she has certainly made an immense difference to the side.

The most impressive feature about the Offaly girls was their team work, a feature not usually to be found in junior sides. Indeed their second successive Smyco Cup victory was not, on the playing field, a triumph for any individual player but for the whole twelve.

One sad feature of this convincing victory for Offaly is, however, that it seems almost certain they will have to part company with the Smyco Cup next year. So good were they this year that they are almost certain to be promoted to Intermediate grade next season, so that the trophy will have new custodians this time next year.

And, badly though they were beaten on the score-board at Tullamore, I would not be at all surprised if Longford were the next junior champions of Leinster. They have plenty of camogie ability but sadly lacked the team-work which characterised the victory of Offaly.

The All-Ireland laurels once again rest with Dublin and congratulations to both victors and vanquished for a splendidly contested game. More about this wonderful game in a later issue.

One thing I found very interesting to note was this, that while the Dublin G.A.A. Boards were concentrating on building up native-born teams through the past decade or so, the Dublin camogie teams have always been almost entirely Dublin born.

Even of the many noted University College stars who have won All-Ireland medals with Dublin, the vast majority were Dublin-born with, perhaps, half-a-dozen notable exceptions. Of the Dublin team that played Antrim in the All-Ireland final, all but one, Mary Sherlock, are natives of the capital, and Mary, who played for Sligo in her pre-Dublin days, came to the Metropolis as a teenager.

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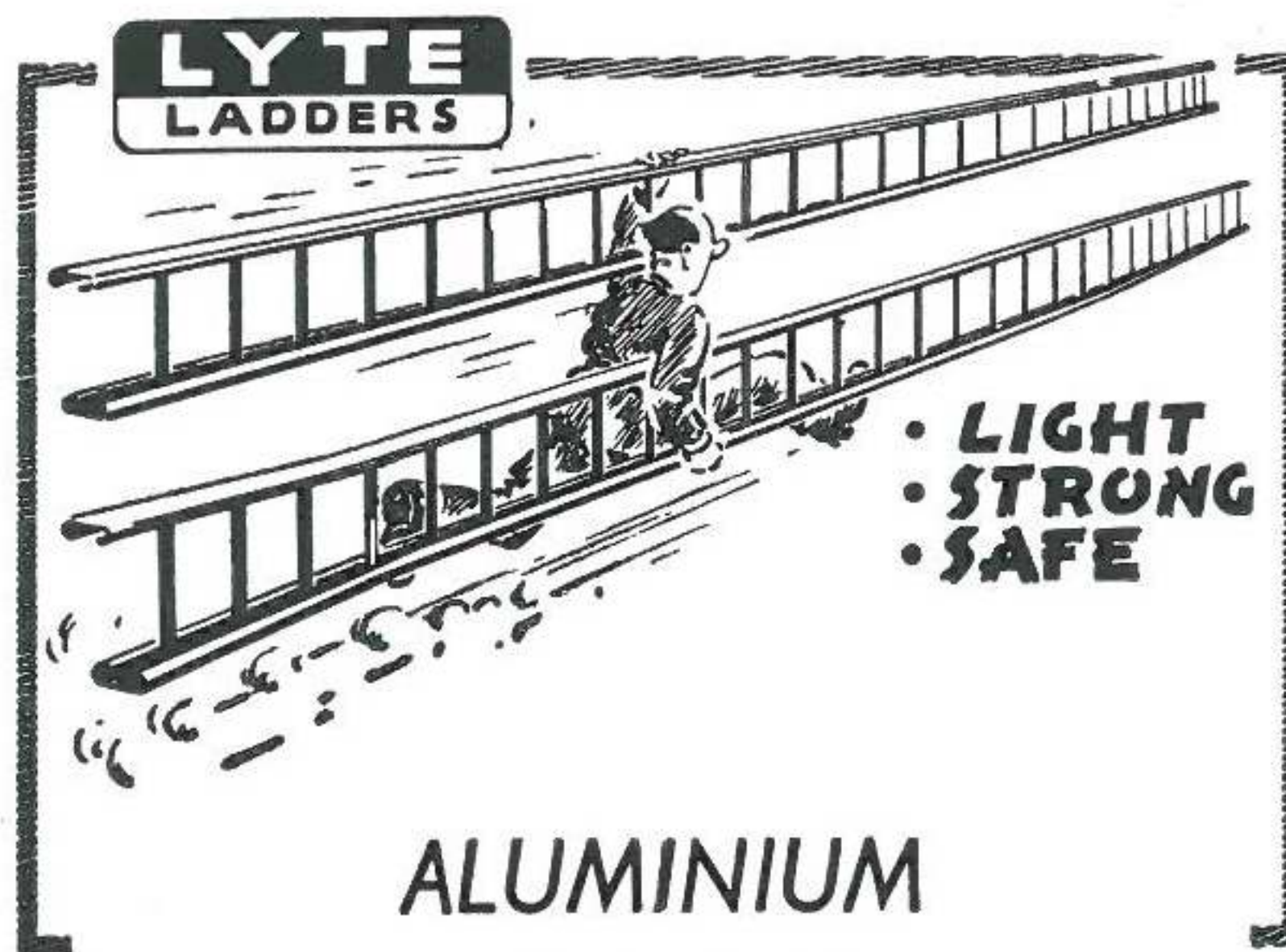
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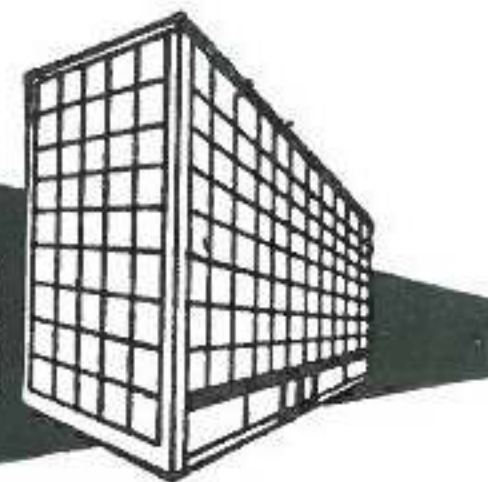
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THE OLD-TIMERS

WHEN first I used resort to Croke Park long ago I really went there to see hurling, but I soon got accustomed to watching the football matches that were usually tagged on to the Dublin championship hurling programmes and, in less than no time, I counted myself as well up on football as any man that had been reared on it.

The reason for this was that on the cement in front of the old Hogan and snug in the nearest bit of the old Corner stand you had men in those days who had been playing and watching Gaelic football almost from the day the Davin brothers drew up the first set of regular rules.

You could start with Dick Curtis, who was the only man I ever knew who could claim to have played football in the days when wrestling was still permitted.

I remember asking Dick one time what particular style of wrestling was favoured and he told me 'collar and elbow' was the style in vogue when wrestling was allowed as part of football matches, but that when, in after years, Dublin County Board ran separate wrestling championships, "Greco-Roman" and "Cornwall and



Brendan Nestor . . . one of Galway's great forwards of the 1930s.

Devon" styles were also recognised.

Another man of the early days whose name was still fresh in Croke Park thirty years ago and more was that of Tom "Darby" Errity, a contemporary of Dick Curtis. Errity, who won four or

five All-Ireland medals with Dublin in the course of a fairly long career, used to play with Clondalkin but had fairly close ties also with Lucan.

Darby Errity, those old-timers used to vow, was the hardest bit of a man they ever saw and Dick Curtis who had played with him and against him said in my hearing that he never saw the same Darby daunted.

But nine times out of ten when they started reminiscing about old-time Dublin stars the talk always came back to Pat "Cocker" Daly.

I never saw "Cocker" Daly play but his name was still a legend when first I came to Dublin. Those Croke Park "regulars" were never tired of telling about Daly—they told me he was called "Cocker" for two reasons: in the first place because of the colour of his red-ginger hair which was exactly the same shade as was then very common with fanciers of cocker spaniels. Also some folk claimed that the way Daly set himself on the field could be very reminiscent of a "cocker" too.

According to some of the veteran followers of the game "Cocker" Daly's career in senior club football lasted for the remarkable span of 31 years from 1895 to 1926, and they used to add, whether this was true or false, that the last Dublin championship match he played in he had one son playing with him and two sons playing against him.

Another record that they

(Continued page 59).

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(From page 57).

credited to "Cocker" was this—that he was the only man that ever won championship medals in Dublin in four different decades, the 1890's, the 1900's, the 1910's and the 1920's. If he did he must have been a man and a half. But the feat of the "Cocker's" that was most often recalled was his achievement in driving the ball right out of Croke Park.

I heard different versions of this feat but all were agreed that it was in a Dublin senior championship game and that it occurred at the Railway goal end.

"Cocker" according to those whose recollection was clearest, took a free about thirty yards out from the Railway posts and almost straight in front of them. He sent the ball over the bar, over the railing, over the Railway wall, (which was a few feet lower then than it is now) and clear over the Railway embankment beyond, a feat that nobody ever repeated in a football game.

Indeed, for years afterwards, in days when it was common for people to "walk" the Jones's road pitch before or after a big game, those who had been lucky enough to witness the "Cocker" Daly's feat, used march to the exact spot and proudly illustrate how Daly did it.

To underline the power of "Cocker's" kick I may add that only twice in thirty-five years of watching games at Croke Park have I seen a football from play strike the Railway Wall.

Those old-timers of my youth had not much say about Galway although they used recall a side called the Tuam Krugers playing in an All-Ireland final out at Terenure around the turn of the century and then talk about "Knacker" Walsh and his men who caused a great shock twenty years later by beating Kerry in a semi-final replay and afterwards gave a then dominant Dublin a very bad fright in an All-Ireland

final. "Only for Joe Norris and Joe Synnott that day Dublin were done," is a judgment I remember after all the years.

When first I saw Galway myself, some thirty years ago, they had some great footballers on view, Mick Connaire, Mick Donnellan, Frank Fox, Tull Dunne, Frank Cunniffe and, of course, Brendan Néstor. The present Donnellans and Cyril Dunne are worthy sons of sterling fathers.

Brendan Nestor was a star with the Dublin Geraldines in the years when he was teaching in the capital and I think Frank Cunniffe, if memory serves me rightly, played for the Geraldines too.

Frank had a habit which always marked him in big games or small. He almost always played in defence usually either right half-back or right full. When he had taken his place, and awaited the start, he always bent down plucked a blade of grass from the pitch, and began to chew it. Whether Frank was conscious of his action or not I don't know, but I saw him pluck that blade of grass several times, even before the throw-in for All Ireland finals and he played in several.

Bobby Beggs from Skerries, was I suppose the only man who ever won All-Ireland football medals both with Dublin and Galway. A great tearaway half-back, Bobby was equally popular in both counties, and though he has been back in his beloved North County Dublin for many a year now, he still takes a trip to Galway every year to renew acquaintanceship with the old friends.

Mick Gill, of course, won hurling medals with Galway and Dublin and there is an odd coincidence about the way in which these two men gained those dual awards. They both won medals with Galway first and then when they won their medals with Dublin, the team they beat in the final was—Galway.

TOP SCORERS

EDDIE KEHER is the top 1963 senior hurling championship scorer. Last month he was in second position but his magnificent score of fourteen points in the All-Ireland final has made him a clear winner.

Oddly enough Kilkenny have but one player among the top marksmen while Carlow have two. Cork's Richie Browne had two championship games while each of the other listed players had three.

Leitrim's Cathal Flynn still leads the football list but he is now seriously challenged by Dublin's star marksman, Mickey Whelan, who has jumped into second place. The All-Ireland final will give Whelan an opportunity of taking the honours — although he could well be challenged by Galway's Seamus Leyden.

HURLING

1. E. KEHER (Kilkenny) 2-25.
2. P. GRIMES (Waterford) 2-15.
3. W. HOGAN (Carlow) 5-3.
4. S. POWER (Waterford) 3-4.
5. R. BROWNE (Cork) 3-2.
L. WALSH (Carlow) 1-8.

FOOTBALL

1. C. FLYNN (Leitrim) 1-18.
2. M. WHELAN (Dublin) 1-15.
3. H. LAVERTY (Donegal) 2-10.
4. S. LEYDEN (Galway) 3-6.
5. N. DELANEY (Laois) 3-5.

PRINCIPAL RESULTS

August 18:

S.F.—Dublin 2-11; Down 0-7.
M.F.—Westmeath 3-9; Down 0-8.
I.H.—Tipperary 0-17; Wexford 2-3.

August 25:

S.F.—Dublin 3-11; Carlow 2-6.
J.F.—Kerry 3-7; Antrim 0-3.
J.F.—Wexford 1-12; Mayo 0-5.

September 1:

S.H.—Kilkenny 4-17; Waterford 6-8.
M.H.—Wexford 6-12; Limerick 5-9.

LOOKING AROUND

with JIM O'BRIEN

AS I see it, Westmeath are going to take the All-Ireland minor football title and should it happen it will certainly be a welcome victory. Not that we have anything against the spirited Kerry lads, but it is grand to see a weaker county coming forward at last . . . and Westmeath have certainly done that this year.

They made their mark in both minor and junior grades and after so many years of striving the dawn has surely come for this gallant county.

Every player on the Westmeath minor side — from Kevin Higgins in goal to Oliver Egan, who was at top of the left in the semi-final, has played his part in the magnificent march forward. However, a special mention must surely be made of Pat Bradley.

This sturdy young Midlander has set up quite a few records this year,

but surely the one which will stand is that he played in almost a score of championship games. With Patrician College, Ballyfin, and his county's minor and junior sides he packed as many championship games into a period of six months as have many well known players in an entire career.

Without having to think about it too long, I could name a dozen intercounty senior stars of at least ten years standing who have not this many championship outings to their credit. A truly great string of performances by a lad we should be hearing much more from during the years ahead.

Behind Bradley stands Ray Niland, whose record this year is but a trifle less great. But then there are many great records in that county this year — from veterans like County Secretary, Paddy Flanagan, who when the

need arose, put on the county jersey once more and stepped into full back on the county junior football side to play magnificent football and lead the team into the Leinster final—right down the line to the youngest of a star minor football side and a minor hurling fifteen, which in fact was little behind and would have proven it had it enjoyed the breaks.

CONDOLENCE

Deepest sympathy is extended to the Kilcoyne family of Tubbercurry on their recent bereavement.

JIMMY SMYTH

Off on a trip to New York on October 12 goes Clare and Munster hurling star of long standing, Jimmy Smyth. He goes at the invitation of the Clare exiles in that city and is expected to turn out in at least one game.

Jimmy is still as good as the best but I hope that the Gaels of New York will realise that they are still seeing but a shadow of the great hurler of a decade ago.

JOHN PLAYER CUP

A word of praise for Simon Deignan and his fellow Finglas, County Dublin, officials who have done an excellent job in establishing the John Player Cup competition as a worthwhile and permanent annual event.

This year's competition produced excellent football and gallant Carlow put up a fine performance before handing over the very valuable Cup to resurgent Dublin.

CÚRSA GAEILGE

Praise too for those who organised and held the experimental course for club secretaries at Bhaile an Fhirtearaigh, Co. Kerry. It was entirely through Irish and, I am told, proved an outstanding success.

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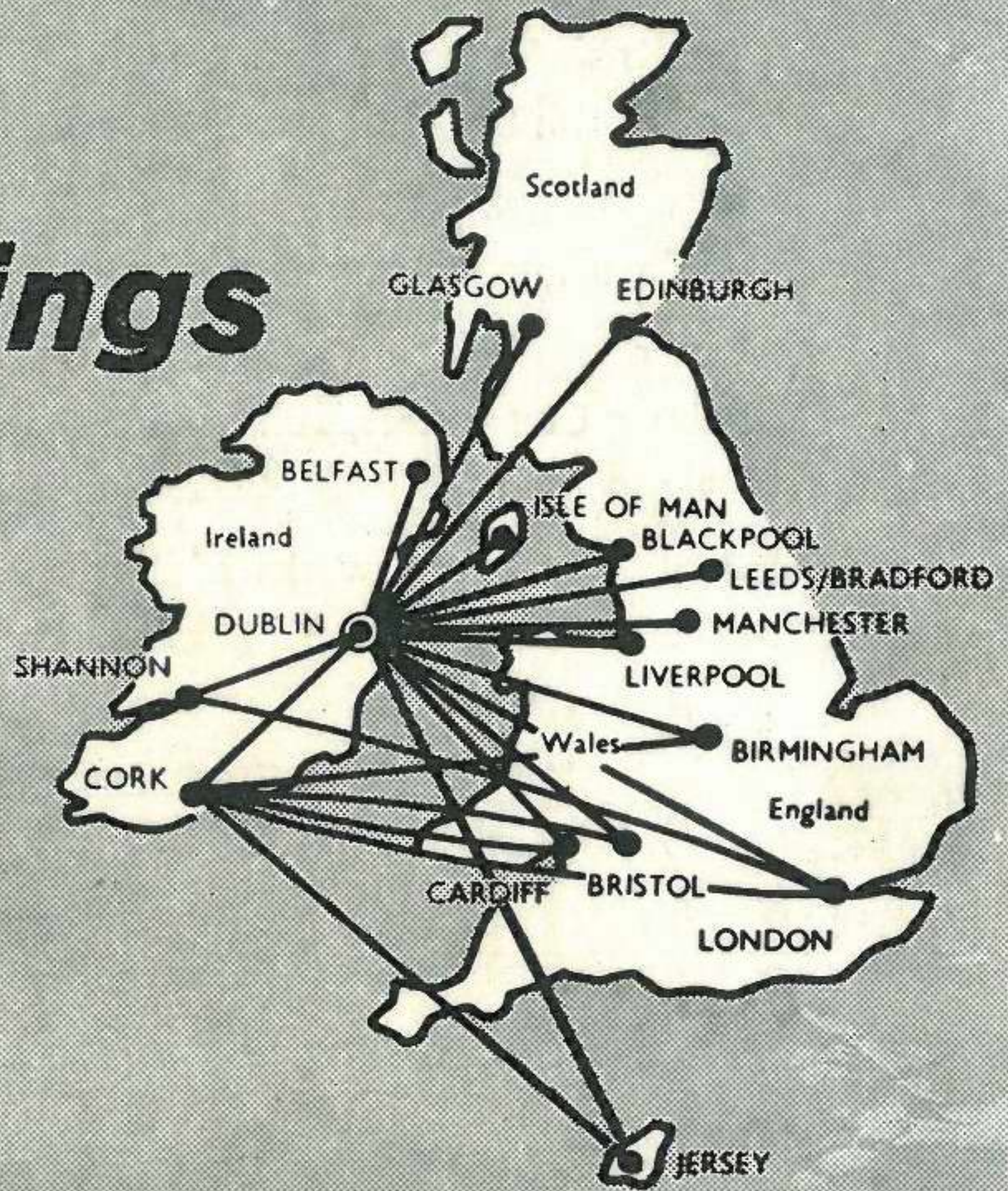
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