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Gaelic Sport

SEPTEMBER, 1963. Vol. 6. No. 6.

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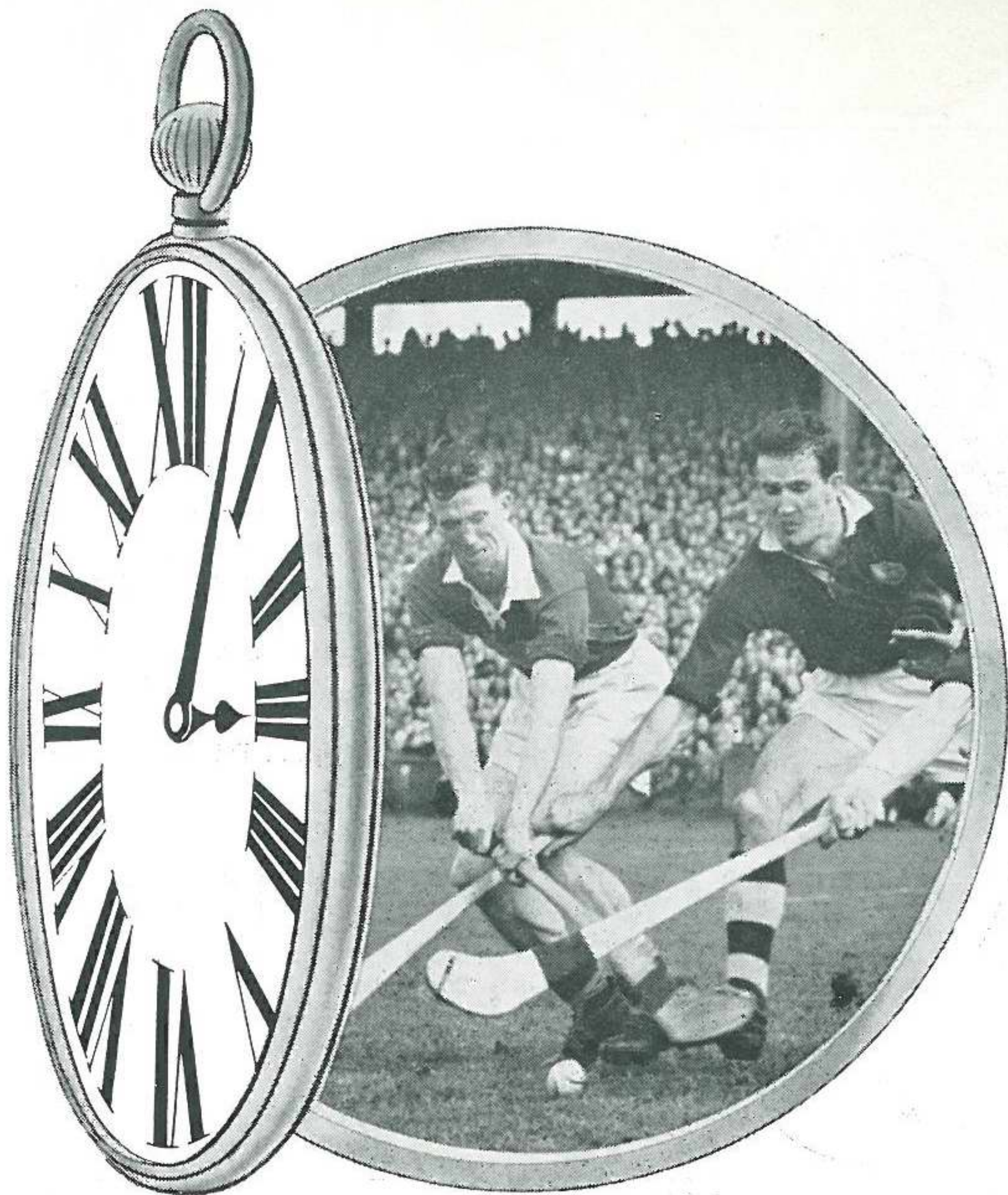


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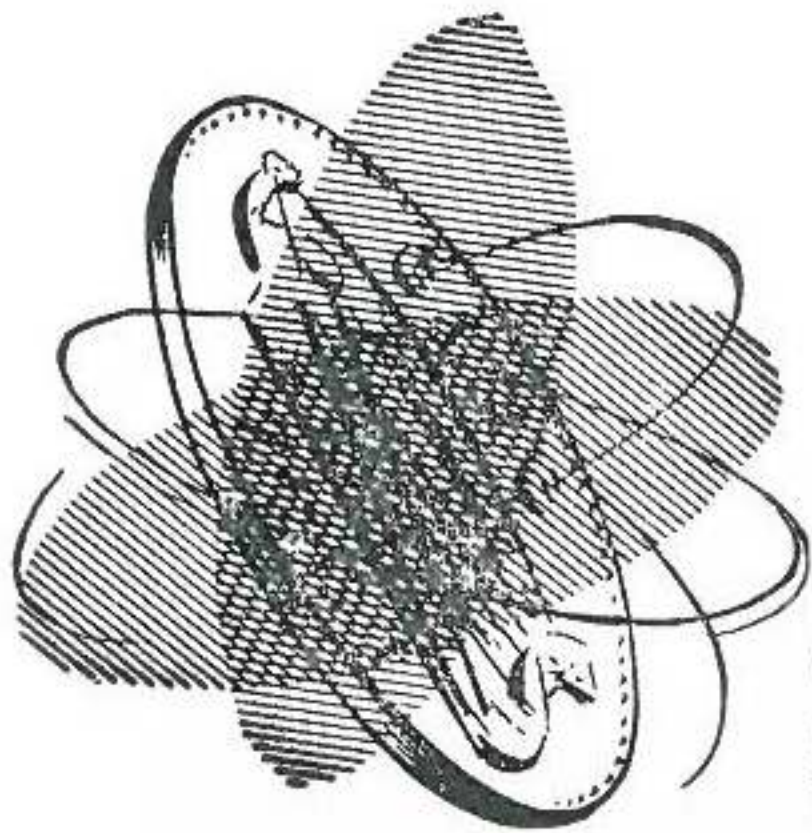
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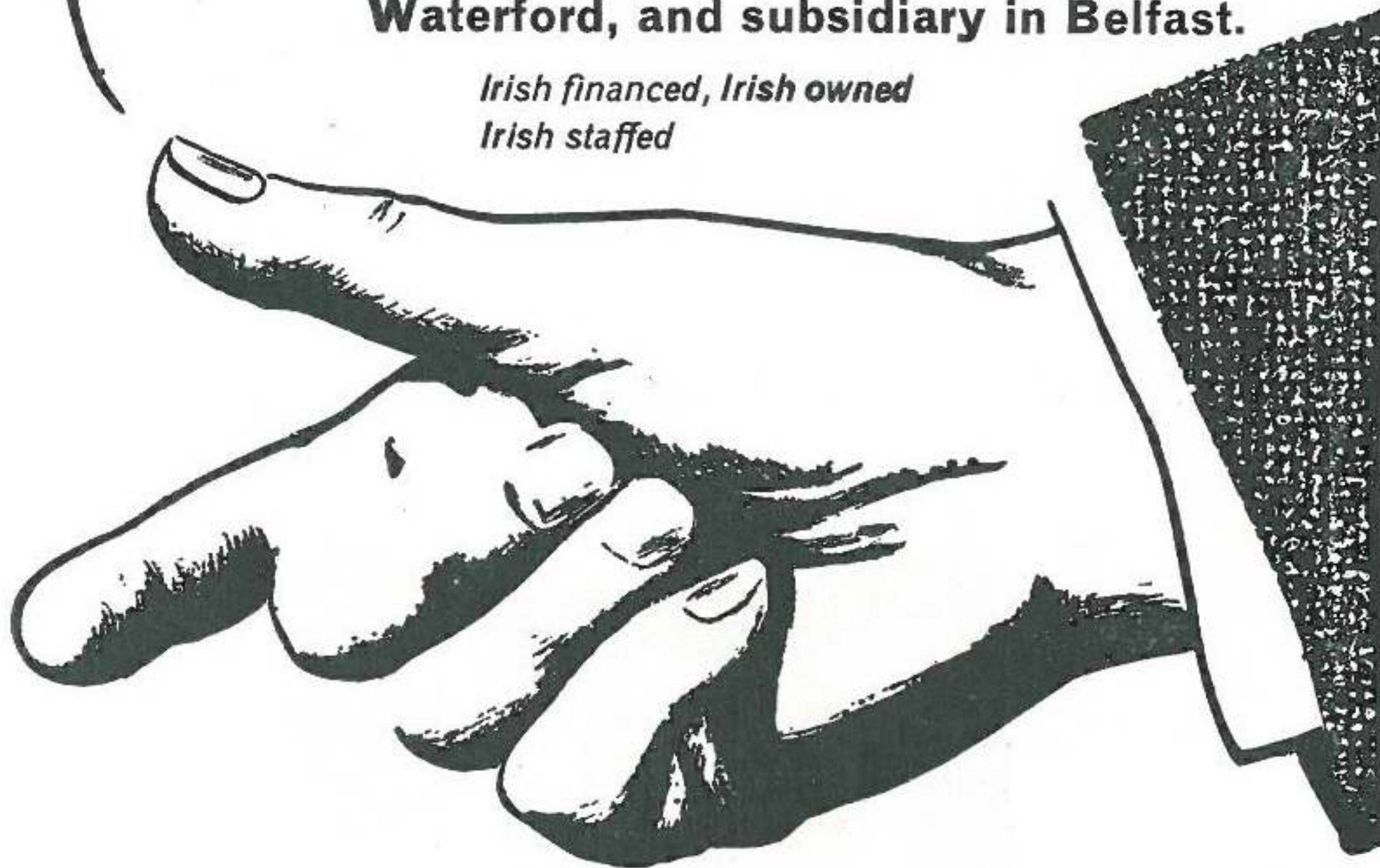
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 6. No. 6. September, 1963

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COMMENT

DON'T RISK IT!

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ANOTHER All-Ireland hurling championship is about to be decided. Waterford and Kilkenny, champions of Munster and Leinster, will meet at Croke Park on September 1 to contest ownership of the Liam McCarthy Cup for the next twelve months.

As the big day approaches interest mounts higher and higher throughout the land. Besides the dedicated followers from the hurling areas, scores of thousands of people who have only a passing interest in the pastime at normal times, talk about the final, read about it, and many of them set off on the perennial hunt for tickets.

At this time, and in this atmosphere, it is impossible to imagine that hurling could ever decline . . . that this magnificent and unique game could ever die.

Yet, the danger signs have appeared often enough in recent years. We have seen them in the standard of the Munster championship, once highly regarded as the epitome of hurling's beauty and hurling's greatness. And we are only now beginning to realise that maybe we were wrong in imagining that it also was the symbol of the game's immortality.

It could be that the decline in the Munster standards—and we say this with all due respect for Waterford's present capabilities—and the decimation of active

interest in some of the areas once known as the strongholds of the game, are no more than a passing phase—the valley period in the normal cycle of events.

But can we be sure? Are we justified in running the risk of complacency? We know from even the most superficial study of history that great changes, either for good or ill, do not occur in a year, or two or ten. Mutations in the habits and pursuits of a community take place gradually, often imperceptibly. When historians record the pattern, remedies are too late.

Is it because those who now love hurling as well as those who only half consciously see in it a beautiful and distinctive part of the country's heritage will not be alive to witness the final of 2163 A.D. that there is no dynamic plan to ensure the virile existence of the game in the coming times?

We dislike being pessimistic at a time when hurling fever is once more in the air. Yet, it is perhaps the most appropriate opportunity to sound the warning.

As the great crowds converge on Croke Park to see Kilkenny and Waterford at play, it is not easy to visualise a time in the future when Irishmen, reading in the history books, will wonder what a hurling final was like.

A crazy thought? Perhaps. Yet, are we taking too great a risk if we laugh at it?

ODDS ON THE DECIES

KILKENNY and Waterford have met twice in senior hurling finals and the score between them at the moment stands exactly level at one game each, with one match drawn. In 1957 Kilkenny, well behind at one stage in the second half, stormed back to one of their most sensational one-point victories. In 1959 it was Kilkenny who

led through most of the second half and Seamus Power equalised with an equally sensational last minute goal. In the replay Waterford won well.

What of their prospects this time? Well as far as experience and performance goes, all the odds are on Waterford. They are Oireachtas champions, they are National

League champions and they have proved their worth again in the Munster championship. They have a courageous and experienced side, proven in the fire of a hundred battles. They have speed, dash, determination and team-work. They have in fact everything that we used expect Kilkenny to have in the old days.

And Kilkenny on the surface at least have very little. They have in Ollie Walsh the goal-keeper of our generation, but Ollie has not all that much to spare over Ned Power. Their present full-back line is largely untested, of their half-backs only Seamus Cleere is really in the classic mould and their midfielders have been none too impressive in their victories to date.

In attack they have Eddie Keher and young Tom Walsh and Billie Dwyer and Sean Clohesey but the latter two have never been very impressive against Waterford.

In experience and achievement this Kilkenny side cannot compare with their opponents, but their big assets at the moment are youth, speed and enthusiasm. Yet one doubts if they have any advantage in speed over Waterford. The Kilkennymen were a yard behind Dublin for half the hour in the



•
**OLLIE
WALSH
OF
THE
EAGLE
EYE**
•

... KILKENNY YOUTH?

Says **TERENCE**
ROYNANE

Leinster final and if they are a yard behind Waterford for the first thirty minutes this time, the match will be over by half-time.

On the other hand youth is certainly on Kilkenny's side. Of the present team only Clohesey and Johnny McGovern are over the thirty mark, by far the greater majority of the team being in their early twenties and one or two are in their teens.

By contrast a number of the Waterford players are getting a bit long in the tooth. Seamus Power and Philly Grimes are approaching the veteran stage. Austin Flynn, Tom Cunningham, Mick Flannelly have been hurling a long time and it remains to be seen how they will cope with Kilkenny's greater youth should the sod play fast. Ollie Walsh's long deliveries are almost worth an extra man to his side and he usually rates one hundred per cent. against Waterford.

The form-book of course says Waterford all the way, but Kilkenny can point to two pages of that far from reliable volume that speak in their favour. In the National League Waterford twice had to beat Wexford very narrowly when advancing to the final. I do not think Wexford were as good



● **Scientist Jim Byrne . . . Waterford's left full-back.**

a team in those matches as they were when they played Kilkenny in the championship.

Yet Kilkenny beat the Wexford men. Besides when Kilkenny and Waterford met in a challenge match a couple of months ago, their only real clash this year, Kilkenny forwards ran riot against the Waterford defence. But then neither side was at full strength that day.

I doubt if the Kilkenny forwards will have anything like the same freedom this time. On the other hand unless the Kilkenny defence improves out of all knowledge they do not seem to have very many answers, except Ollie Walsh and Seamus Cleere to the craft of Flannelly and Frankie Walsh, the raking runs of Tom Cheasty or the goal-scoring experience of Seamus Power and Grimes.

The odds therefore are on

Waterford, but Kilkenny are never more dangerous than when everything seems to be against them, and the present side are no exceptions to the rule.

They are unperturbed by their relatively poor showing against Dublin, for they are of the opinion that no team in Ireland was more under-rated than the Dubliners. They feel they have a coming team, lacking in nothing except experience. They will make a bold bid for victory and even if they fail this time they are very confident that the McCarthy Cup will be back beside the Nore within the next year or two.

In any case from two counties whose style is so very similar we can hope to see fast stylish and spectacular hurling, with the ball and not the man the sole object of attention from start to stop.

Seamus O Ceallaigh

ALL-IRELAND senior hurling renown, by way of championship success, only came to Waterford as late as 1948. Ten years earlier they won the Munster championship for the first time—forty-one years after the last of the other five Southern counties had put their name on the storied Cup.

Geographically surrounded as they are by the four great hurling counties of Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny and Wexford; who between them have won fifty-six of the seventy-five All-Ireland hurling finals; many will wonder how they escaped the contagion of hurling greatness for such an extended spell.

Maybe they inoculated themselves against it long before the G.A.A. itself saw light of day, for if we delve deeper into the Gaelic past of Waterford, we find to our amazement an attachment and devotion to hurling that had no counterpart in the counties now so heavily laden with the fruits of caman success since regular competitions were established.

Credit where it is due—that is an old Irish maxim—and Waterford steps up to take its bow. Tradition credits the county with an almost unbroken record of devotion to National pastimes—and in the Western districts particularly this can be traced back into antiquity.

We know it had extended to the East and City by the seventeenth century. Waterford, at the period, enjoyed extensive trade intercourse with Newfoundland, and it has been definitely established that it was in this way hurling first found its way to North America — an event commemorated in some of the very old folk songs of Waterford.

Thirty-six years before the G.A.A. saw light of day, the silver tongued orator, Thomas Francis Meagher, succeeded in reviving hurling in his native Waterford.

Exhorting the young manhood of the city to “go back to the old Irish games that made men and kept them in Ireland,” he later gathered a big group out at Ballybricken, and with Michael Doheny got a pair of teams in action. When Meagher returned afterwards, on the historic occasion when the tricolour was unfurled for the first time, many stalwart hurlers were there to greet him.

The years of famine and the

succeeding period of intense emigration made a decisive end to much of the old traditions, manners and customs of the people, and we find little hurling in West Waterford, and none at all in the East or City when the Gaelic Athletic Association was formed in 1884.

The land of the Decies quickly responded to the call however, and the infant organisation received immediate support from one of the most powerful athletic figures in the country at the time—Ireland's first all-round champion, Dan Fraher of Dungarvan.

Waterford, too, had the distinction of supplying the venue for the first athletic championship meeting under the auspices of the new association. This big event took place at Tramore on October 6, 1885. All the great athletic names that had rallied to the banner of the G.A.A. participated, and the trophies included a valuable silver cup presented by the renowned Dr. Croke, then so actively engaged in helping the spread of the new organisation, which he so warmly supported.

When hurling and football championships were established, Waterford was also to the fore, and it is on record that one of the greatest gatherings of early G.A.A. days assembled at Kilmacthomas on March 6, 1887, for a club football tie between Ballyduff and Kilros-senty. Michael Cusack, the founder of the G.A.A. was amongst the spectators and it is of interest that club colours were worn for what is believed to have been the first time at a sporting fixture in Ireland.

Ballyduff won, and created much

WATERFORD

HURLING'S ROOTS ARE DEEP BY THE SUIR

enthusiasm in the county by reaching the semi-final of the All-Ireland championship, in which they were defeated by the Young Irelands of Louth, then a powerful combination.

The big split in the G.A.A. that followed the “stormy” convention of 1888 hit the organisation in Waterford severely, and an even worse crisis came with the great political upheaval caused by the Parnell Split of some few years later.

East Waterford, with the exception of a small group in the City, fell away completely for a long number of years, and although the Erins Hope of Dungarvan came up with glorious life to win the Munster senior football championship in 1898 the enthusiasm they aroused was all too short-lived.

Waterford was not entirely out of the Gaelic picture however, and famed athletes like Tom Barry and Pat Keohane of Dungarvan, Percy Kirwan of Kilmacthomas and Peter O'Connor of the City, gained world renown in events in which Irishmen long held glorious sway.

If Waterford itself was missing from first-class hurling the county was not without its great games, and the renowned Shandon Park at Dungarvan was the venue for some of the unforgettable contests of the early days and a few All-Ireland finals that will go down with the greatest the game has known.

In Waterford City the Gaelic spirit was very much alive too, and to some of the earnest workers there must go credit for a successful outcome to the first fight—a bitter and prolonged one—for the establishment of the principle of

a "Gaelic Grounds for Gaelic Games."

I doubt if it would be possible to meet anywhere a more enthusiastic and devoted band than the men who kept hurling alive in the Decies since county championships were revived there exactly sixty years ago. Appropriately enough, the "Thomas Francis Meagher's" were to the fore, as were also such clubs as Clonea, Gracedieu, Ballyduff, Dungarvan, Ferrybank, Lismore, Young Irelands and De La Salle.

It would be impossible to recall even a fraction of the hurling heroes who graced the arena then, but such men as Tom King, "Fox" Phelan (one of seven hurling brothers), Jack Corbett, Dick Brett, Ned Butler, Joe Colfer, Jim Murphy, Toby Fitzgerald, Cox Waters, Dan Foley, Jim Hunt, Dick Morrissey and Dotty Power, are still spoken of with veneration by old caman enthusiasts.

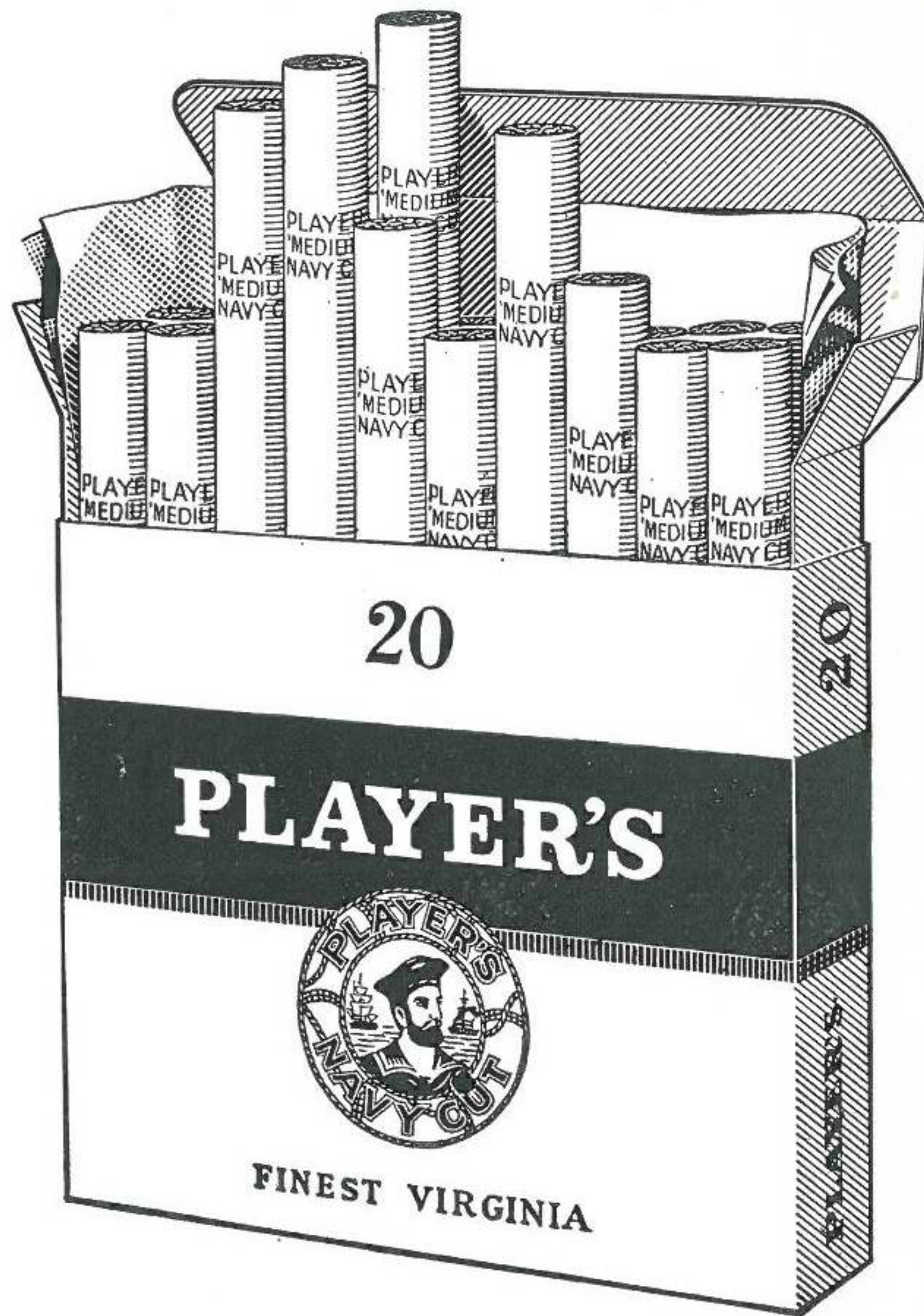
The first team in Waterford, however, that made the rest of hurling Ireland sit up and take real notice was Erin's Own—the lads from Morrisons Road district, who during their great reign from 1927 to 1935, made us so familiar with such as the Wares—Charlie, Jim and Jack; the Wyses, the Ryans, the Fardys, and the Powers. Paddy "Fad" Browne was another long-serving player with the club, but lest I forget them later, let me recall other great Gaelic families deserving of mention in the Phelans of Grantstown, the Morrisseys of Ferrybank, the Gallaghers of Roanmore and the Goodes of Dungarvan.

As the march of time left its inevitable mark on some of the greatest of the Erin's Own stalwarts a new and even greater force made its presence felt in Mount Sion, but meantime Portlaw slipped into the picture for a brief but glorious spell that saw the county win the Munster Senior Hurling crown for the first time in 1938.

I believe it was the great hurling rivalry of the late 'thirties between Erin's Own and Mount Sion that really whipped enthusiasm for the caman code to white heat by Suirside, for certainly it will be agreed that the men from the Decies have ever since produced teams fit to take their place with the best of the other hurling counties.

Waterford's greatest day came undoubtedly in September, 1948, when the hurlers from the Decies territory won both the minor and

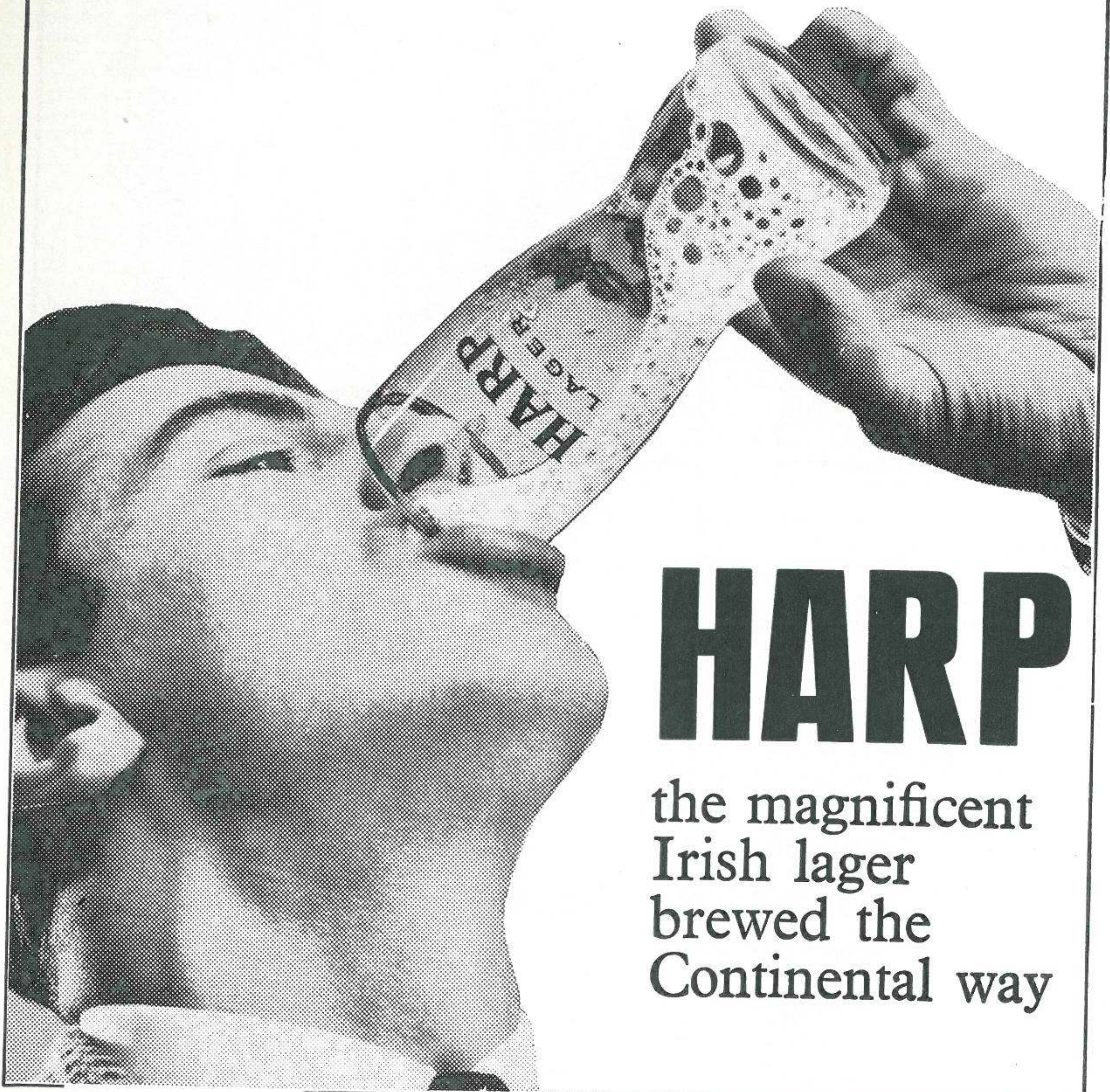
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I back Kilkenny

Says **DES FERGUSON**

IT has all the indications of being a great hurling final and we have but to cast a thought back to the previous meetings between Waterford and Kilkenny in the 1957 and '59 finals to get some idea of the type of hurling it is likely to produce.

Kilkenny enter the game as outsiders—mainly because they failed to give Dublin a trouncing in the Leinster final. The fact that they were well held by Dublin for over half of the game has suggested to many that the men in the Black and Amber are not quite that good.

On the other hand, of course, there are those—such as a certain evening newspaper correspondent who recently described that game as “a flop as far as Dubliners were concerned.” Dublin were unfit in his opinion and otherwise would have won.

Well, everybody is entitled to his opinion, but personally I think both of the above reasonings are unfair to a gallant Dublin team which tried hard.

In my opinion the team was not unfit and furthermore the game was not “a flop.” As a matter of fact it was Dublin’s best performance since the 1961 All-Ireland final.

The team had changed little over those two years and during that time it failed to live up to

the promise it had shown in that decider against Tipperary. However, form is a fickle business and it returned this year.

It might be said to have arrived in the second half of the game against Carlow and the pity is that there was no other outing prior to the Leinster final. Had Dublin another game to play it would have done them the world of good and then who knows what might have happened against Kilkenny.

Except for the very much felt absence of Des Foley, the Dublin team of this year’s Leinster final was little behind that which held Tipperary 0-16 to 1-12 in the 1961 decider . . . yet Kilkenny won by seven points. This in my opinion points to Kilkenny being a good team.

Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that when Kilkenny and Waterford met in a challenge game early in July, the final score was 9-10 to 4-5 with Kilkenny the winners.

Anything could, of course, happen in the final. Waterford are a great hearted team and as we saw in both the Oireachtas and the League finals, produce their best form in Croke Park. However, I for one will not be surprised if Kilkenny just about edge it.

COISTE OIDEACHAIS GHAIRME BEATHA CHONDAE NA GAILLIMHE

CURSAI LAE AGUS OICHE

SCOILEANNA

GAILLIMH THIAR:
An CHEATRU RUA
CNOC NA hAILLE
CILL RONAN
ROS MUC

GAILLIMH THOIR:
BEAL ATHA NA SLUAGH AN CREAGAN
BAILE LOCHA RIACH CNOC BREAC
GORT INSE GHUAIRE PORT OMNA
GLEANN NA MADADH DUN MOR

TUAIM

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(Scoil Chonaithe do Bhuacailli-Ceird na hOstaiochta)

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ROLL OF HONOUR

WATERFORD have appeared in
but four All-Ireland senior
hurling finals and of these they
have won two — 1948 and 1959.
However, Dublin beat them by
only two points in the 1938 decider
and in 1957 it was even closer
when Kilkenny edged them by a
single point.

Only Phil Grimes won All-
Ireland medals in 1948 and '59
Waterford's other medal holders
are—

Jim Ware, J. Cusack, V. Baston,
T. Curran, J. Keane, E. Carew, A.
Fleming, J. Goode, M. Hayes, K.
O'Connor, J. O'Connor, M. Hickey,
N. Daly, W. Galvin and C. Moylan
—all 1948; N. Power, A. Flynn, J.
Harney, J. Barron, M. Lacey, M.
Morrissey, J. Condon, S. Power, M.
Flannelly, T. Cheasty, F. Walsh, L.
Guinan, T. Cunningham, J. Kiely,
C. Ware, M. O'Connor and D.
Whelan—1959.

(Continued from page 7)

senior All-Ireland titles—the latter
for the first time. It was a proud
day, too, for Mount Sion club who
had eleven players associated with
the great triumph—John Keane,
Andy Fleming, Vin Baston, Larry
Fanning, Dave Power and Phil
Grimes with the Seniors; Mick
Flannelly, Tom Gallagher, Joe
Conlon, S. Hayden and M. Morris-
sey in the under age ranks.

Waterford had crashed the All-
Ireland barrier, which they again
succeeded in doing in 1959. Their
opponents that memorable
occasion, when they had to play
two hours before reaching a
decision, were the men from the
Silvery Nore, whom they meet
again this time.

They had other hurling barriers
to cross though, and that the
present team succeeded in taking
both the Oireachtas Cup and the
National Hurling League title for
the first time, defeating All-
Ireland title holders, Tipperary, in
the last ditch stand on each
occasion. This is the finest guaran-
tee we have that the men from
Waterford are very fitted to carry
the Munster standard proudly into
the 1963 All-Ireland senior hurling
final.



Terry Leahy

KILKENNY MEN WON 227 ALL-IRELAND MEDALS



Eddie Byrne

WONDERFUL RECORD

Michael Walshe

KILKENNY rank second only to Tipperary and Cork on the All-Ireland hurling honours list. The men in Black and Amber have won the title on fourteen occasions:

1904—Kilkenny, 1-9; Cork, 1-8.
 1905—Kilkenny, 7-7; Cork, 2-9.
 1907—Kilkenny, 3-12; Cork, 4-8.
 1909—Kilkenny, 4-6; Tipperary, 0-12.
 1911—Munster champions, Limerick, refused to replay the final which had been unfinished at Cork and the Munster Council then nominated Tipperary to replace Limerick. Kilkenny beat Tipperary 3-3 to 2-1.
 1912—Kilkenny, 2-1; Cork, 1-3.
 1913—Kilkenny, 2-4; Tipperary, 1-2.
 1922—Kilkenny, 4-2; Tipperary, 2-6.
 1932—Kilkenny, 3-3; Clare, 2-3.
 1933—Kilkenny, 1-7; Limerick, 0-6.
 1935—Kilkenny, 2-5; Limerick, 2-4.
 1939—Kilkenny, 2-7; Cork, 3-3.
 1947—Kilkenny, 0-14; Cork, 2-7.
 1957—Kilkenny, 4-10; Waterford, 3-12.

Excluding substitutes other than those who came on in All-Ireland finals, 110 Kilkennymen have won a total of 227 All-Ireland hurling medals. The list reads:—

Seven each: R. Walsh, S. Walton, J. Rochford and R. Doyle—1904, '05, '07, '09, '11, '12, '13.

Six each: E. Doyle—1904, '05, '07, '09, '11, '12. M. Gargan, J. Kelly, D. Kennedy—1905, '07, '09, '11, '12, '13.

Five each: P. Lanigan—1904, '05, '07, '09, '11. J. Keohane—1907, '09, '11, '12, '13. M. Power—1922, '27, '32, '33, '35. M. Doyle, R. Doherty—1907, '09, '11, '12, '13.

Four each: J. J. Brennan—1905, '11, '12, '13. J. Power—1907, '11, '12, '13. D. Grace—1911, '12, '13, '22. J. Walsh—1932, '33, '35, '39. P. Phelan, P. Larkin—1932, '33, '35, '39.

Three each: D. Stapleton, J. Anthony—1904, '05, '07. L. Meagher, E. Byrne, P. Byrne, T. Leahy, P. O'Reilly—1932, '33, '35. J. O'Connell—1933, '35, '39.

Two each: J. Hoyne, M. Lawlor, J. Lawlor—1904, '05. D. Grace, T. Kenny—1905, '07. T. McCormack—1911, '12. Pierce Grace—1911,

'13. J. Dermody, J. Fitzpatrick, Martin Power—1932, '33. J. Dunne, J. Duggan, M. White—1933, '35. P. Blanchfield—1935, '39. P. Grace, J. Kelly, J. Langton, Terry Leahy, J. Mulcahy, 1939, '47.

One each: R. Brennan, J. Doherty, P. Fielding, P. Maher, P. Saunders—1904. J. Glennon—1905. J. Delahunty, J. Dunphy, W. Henebery, J. Ryan, M. Shortall—1909. J. Lennon—1913. P. Aylward, T. Carroll, W. Dunphy, E. Dunphy, P. Donohoe, P. Glendon, J. Holohan, K. Kenny, M. Lawlor, M. McDonald, J. Roberts, J. Tobin, R. Tobin—1922. J. Carroll, D. Dunne, J. Grace—1932. E. Doyle—1933. L. Byrne, L. Duggan—1935. W. Burke, B. Hinks, R. Brannagan, J. Gargan, S. O'Brien, J. D. Phelan—1939. W. Cahill, J. Donegan, S. Downey, P. Hayden, L. Reidy, J. Heffernan, D. Kennedy, T. Walton, E. Kavanagh, M. Marnell, P. Prendergast—1947. O. Walsh, T. Walsh, J. Walsh, J. Maher, P. Buggy, M. Walsh, J. McGovern, M. Brophy, J. Sutton, D. Heaslip, M. Kenny, M. Kelly, R. Rockett, W. Dwyer, S. Clohosey, W. Walsh—1957. (Mattie Power's 1927 medal was gained with Dublin.)

Not included in this list are Kilkennymen such as Jim "Builder Walsh" and Tommy Moore who won All-Ireland medals with Dublin, while the Grace brothers of Tullaroan, Jack and Pierce between them won seven All-Ireland football medals with Dublin.



Sean Clohosey of Kilkenny... bidding for his second medal.



SO CONSISTENTLY GOOD

FACTS

about the finalists

TO qualify for the final Kilkenny have had two outings. They beat Wexford 4-9 to 3-8 and Dublin 2-10 to 0-9 in the Leinster final.

* * *

The county's six top championship scorers are—E. Keher, 2-11; S. Cleere, 0-4; S. Clohessy, 1-1; T. Walsh, W. Murphy and J. McGovern 1-0 each.

* * *

Together with winning fourteen senior hurling titles, Kilkenny won junior titles in 1928, '46, '51 and '56; minor titles in 1931, '35, '36, '50, '60, '61, '62 and National League titles in 1932 and 1962.

* * *

Oddly enough Kilkenny have never failed to win the Leinster senior hurling title on the fourth year of every decade since the foundation of the G.A.A. They have won this title in 1893, 1903, '13, '23, '33, '43, '53 and '63.

* * *

Kilkenny have contested twenty eight All-Ireland senior hurling finals and their record therefore is one of 50 per cent success.

* * *

Kilkenny have no mean football records. They won the Leinster senior title in 1888, 1900 and 1911 and the county can lay claim to seven All-Ireland senior football medals. These were won by the Grace brothers of Tullaroan, but in the Dublin colours. Jack Grace was on the victorious Dublin football teams of 1901, '02, '06, '07 and '09, while his brother Pierce joined him on the 1906 and '07 sides. Pierce later returned to Kilkenny and

won senior hurling medals in 1911, '12 and '13.

Another prominent footballing son of Kilkenny was Sean Brennan, who played with both Kildare and Leinster. He is still playing in New York.

* * *

Actually Kilkenny might well have won the 1900 All-Ireland senior football title were it not for an objection. Having won the Leinster title that year, they beat Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final at Carrick-on-Suir. However,

Tipperary objected and the Central Council ordered a replay. Kilkenny refused to take part in the replay and Tipperary were then awarded the game. They went on to beat London 3-7 to 0-2 in the All-Ireland final.

* * *

Kilkenny were beaten 5-10 to 3-13 by Cork in the 1905 All-Ireland senior hurling final at Tipperary. However, Kilkenny objected and were granted a replay. They won 7-7 to Cork's 2-9.

GRIMES SEEKS THIRD MEDAL

WATERFORD, represented by Erin's Hope, qualified for the 1898 All-Ireland senior football final. The game was played at Tipperary on April 8, 1900 and Dublin Geraldines won by 2-8 to 0-4. It was 38 years later before the county qualified for its first hurling final.

Together with their senior hurling victories of 1948 and '59, Waterford won junior hurling titles in 1931 and '34 and minor hurling titles in 1929 and '48.

Of the present side Tom Cunningham, Austin Flynn, John Barron, Martin Og Morrissey, Seamus Power, Phil Grimes, Mick Flannelly, Tom Cheasty, Frank Walsh and Larry Guinan played in the 1957 final when Kilkenny won by 4-10 to 3-12.

Waterford's mighty John Keane, regarded by many as the greatest centre half-back of all-time, played his first game for Munster in 1937 and his last in 1949.

Kerry have had few outsiders help them in their All-Ireland victories but Waterford's Roddy Kirwan was one of the exceptions. He helped the Kingdom win its first senior football title in 1903.

On the way to the final Waterford beat Limerick 2-15 to 3-6 and Tipperary 0-11 to 0-8.

The county's six top championship scorers are—Phil Grimes 1-11, Seamus Power and Frank Walsh 0-4 each, Mick Flannelly 0-3, John Barron 1-0 and Joe Condon 0-2.

With a total of 4-29 Phil Grimes was the top scorer in the National League. He could also finish as the top championship marksman, thereby bringing off an outstanding double.

A win for Waterford and Grimes will have won an All-Ireland medal fifteen years after winning his first. He helped Waterford qualify for the 1948 Munster final and then emigrated to America.



THE PAUL RUSSELL COLUMN

(By courtesy of "Sunday Review")

WELL DONE, GALWAY!

IT takes a good team to beat Kerry in an All-Ireland semi-final but as the records show—beating Kerry is no guarantee of winning the title.

During the past thirty years the Kingdom have been beaten in nine semi-finals and on five of those occasions the conquerors failed in the final. These were — Dublin, 1934; Galway, 1942; Mayo, 1948; Louth, 1950; and Derry, 1958—all of which suggests that Galway's most difficult hurdle may yet be ahead.

However, irrespective of what happens to Galway in the final no one can take away from their great performance in coming from behind to beat Kerry. Had the game gone on a few more minutes I believe that Galway's victory would have been more decisive. It certainly was a great day for the West.

Kerry were poor to put it mildly. They evidently underrated the opposition and paid the price. They, no doubt, intended being fitter and faster for the final and they certainly have plenty of time . . . at least twelve months.

Still I expect the Kingdom to be back more determined than ever next year and that twenty-first title cannot be too far off. Galway taught a lesson this year which will be long remembered in Kerry.

What of Donegal though — the

glamour team of the year who crashed so heavily in the Ulster final? Well, they too should be back next year provided they accept this year's defeat for what it was—the big fall before the major ascent.

I can think of no team which came straight from obscurity and went directly to the top. It just does not happen for experience has to be acquired and this is usually done in defeat.

Donegal lost to Down this year by 2-11 to 1-4 and in 1959 Down lost to Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final by 1-11 to 1-4. Down came back to win two successive titles.

Consciously or unconsciously Donegal were overcome by the big occasion but that was not all. They failed in a host of departments which would have been easily handled by a more experienced team.

First they held on to the ball too long. Their smaller forwards tried to cut through the Down defence instead of making the ball do the travelling. The backs too were guilty of blunders—one in particular which allowed a Down forward to slip inside the full back line and notch a vital goal.

Easy frees were missed — some for the reason that the taker did not bother to take the usual short run up to the ball. P. J. Flood was

not fully fit and yet he was left at m.d.-field while at the same time Sean Ferriter was ineffective at centre-half forward and he too was left there for almost the hour.

Ferriter certainly should have been brought to mid-field with Flood going back into the defence and either Hannigan or Griffin brought to centre forward. Furthermore wing-backs, Paul Kelly and Sean O'Donnell, should have been switched.

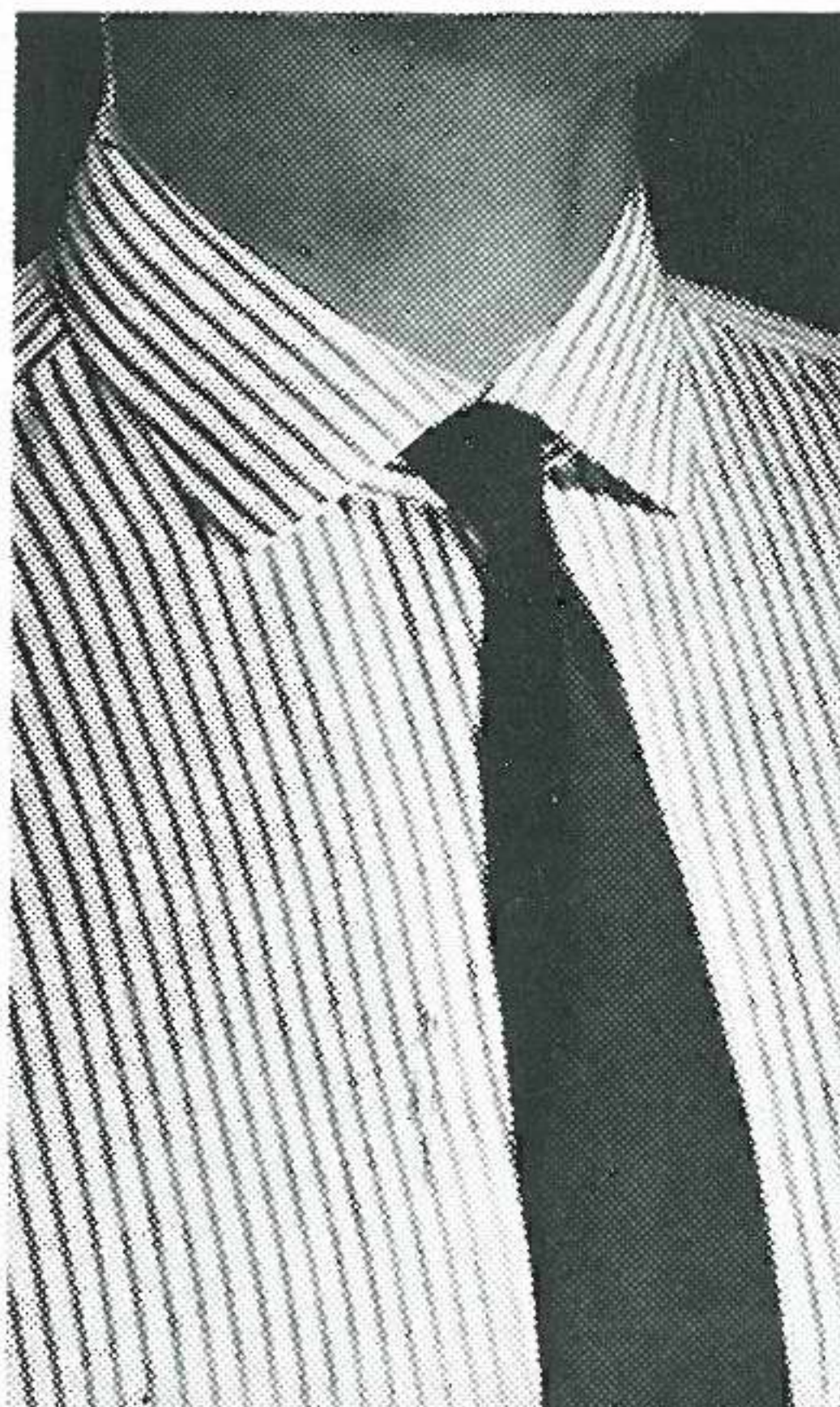
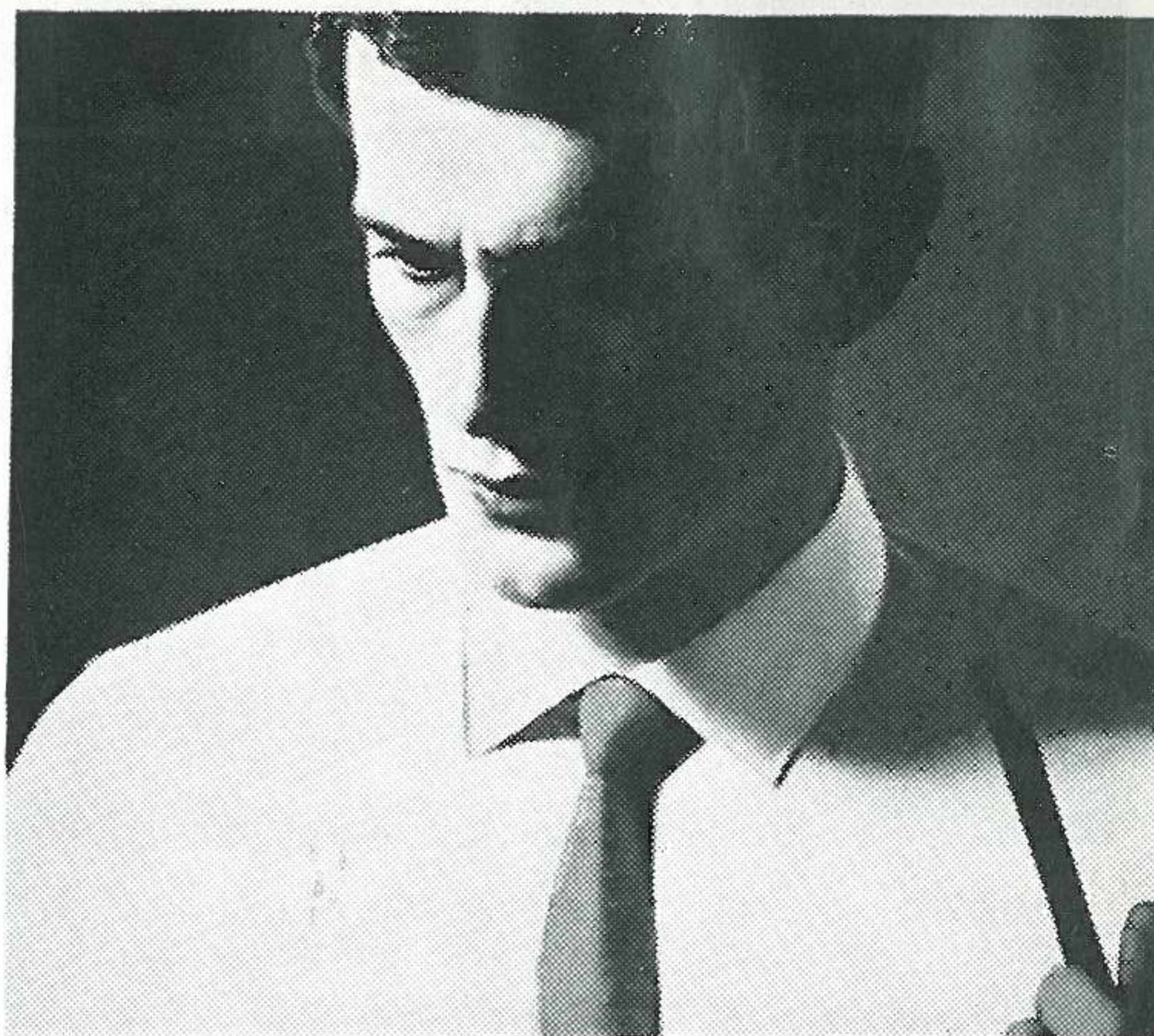
There were other possible moves as well which might have helped to get the team in motion but the important thing is that the Donegal mentors should have benefited from the event and know how to deal with similar occasions in the future.

I am fully convinced that this Donegal team can be moulded into a first class side capable of at least reaching the All-Ireland final. However it is now that the big push is required.

On no account should enthusiasm be allowed lag among the players. The McKenna and Lagan Cup titles should be gone after with all flags flying. A few new and bigger forwards should be tried out during the Winter months and then all should be ready for the 1964 Championship—when I will be looking forward to seeing Donegal capture their first Ulster senior football title.

THUMBING THROUGH THE RECORDS

- The average score in a hurling final is 4-7 to 1-6.
- From 1910 to 1919 there were more goals than points scored in every hurling final. The total scores of both winners and losers in those ten finals was 75 goals and 48 points.
- Two teams have failed to score in hurling finals—Galway in 1887 against Tipperary and London in 1902 against Cork.
- The 1887 final also produced the lowest score—Tipperary 1-1 to Galway's 0-0. The second lowest total was in 1901 when London beat Cork 1-5 to 0-4.
- The highest total score in a hurling final was registered in 1893 when Tipperary beat Kilkenny 7-13 to 3-10. Second highest was the 1951 final when Tipperary beat Wexford 7-7 to 3-9.
- There was only one point scored in the 1914 final between Clare and Laois. Clare scored 5-1 to Laois's 1-0.
- Highest team score in a hurling final was registered by Tipperary in 1896 when they beat Dublin 8-14 to 0-4. This too was the most onesided final.
- Second to this comes Cork's 5-20 to Dublin's 2-0 in the 1894 final. This was the only occasion in which a team scored twenty points or more in a hurling final.



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TOP THIRTY



V. Baston (Waterford)



L. Meagher (Kilkenny)

NOW don't get me wrong—I didn't see all the great Kilkenny and Waterford hurlers since these counties first sought the fulfilment of their sporting aspirations. However, I have seen many of them—right back over fifty years. No doubt that's why the Editor of GAEILIC SPORT asked me to pick the greatest Kilkenny and Waterford teams of all time.

It was a difficult job—not that my memory is not good, but that there were so many great men to choose from. To help me with the task I rounded up two contemporaries, one of whom was at Dungarvan when

Kilkenny beat Cork in the 1907 final and was particularly familiar with the old-time wearers of the Black and Amber.

Between us we picked the teams. Of course we didn't agree about all of the players—far from it, but seeing that I was the man in charge, I took it upon myself to have the final say when the dispute approached deadlock.

Well here they are, and incidentally, I would be more than interested to hear the opinions of other old-timers. Anyone who cares to write me can do so care of the Editor.

KILKENNY

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| P. Larkin | O. Walsh | D. Grace |
| E. Byrne | J. Rochford | P. Phelan |
| L. Meagher | Drug Walsh | M. Gargan |
| J. Langton | Tommy Leahy | Terry Leahy |
| S. Walton | Jim Kelly | M. Power |

WATERFORD

- | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------|
| A. Fleming | J. Ware | J. Goode |
| M. Hickey | C. Ware | J. O'Connor |
| V. Baston | J. Keane | P. Browne |
| T. Cheasty | S. Wyse | C. Moylan |
| S. Power | L. Byrne | P. Grimes |

Left to right: P. Browne (Waterford), P. Larkin (Kilkenny), Tommy Leahy (Kilkenny), P. Phelan (Kilkenny), M. Wyse (Waterford).



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TOP TEN

FOLLOW THE FEATS OF THE STARS

FOR the fourth month **Gaelic 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 specified. These current lists are decided on games played from and including Sunday, July 21, to Sunday, August 11.

Both lists show considerable change from last month. In hurling Ollie Walsh moves from third to number one position while Des Ferguson jumps from ninth to second spot. It is quite a coincidence that the versatile Dubliner was ranked second on the football list last month.

Lar Foley too demonstrates his versatility. He was ranked ninth on last month's football list and is now fifth on this month's hurling list.

Carlow's Willie Hogan and Cathal Flynn of Leitrim still lead as the top hurling and football championship scorers respectively. These lists are based on championship games played up to and including Sunday, August 11.

Oddly enough only Seamus

Leyden of Galway among the five top football scorers is still engaged in the championship and he is six points behind Cathal Flynn who must stand an excellent chance of finishing as the top marksman of the championship despite the fact that Leitrim were beaten in the Connacht final.

FOOTBALL

- 1.—P. DONNELLAN (Galway).
- 2.—N. TIERNEY (Galway).
- 3.—S. LEYDEN (Galway).
- 4.—N. SHEEHY (Kerry).
- 5.—J. DONNELLAN (Galway).
- 6.—D. McCARTAN (Down).
- 7.—C. DUNNE (Galway).
- 8.—M. GARRETT (Galway).
- 9.—S. HOARE (Donegal).
- 10.—S. O'NEILL (Down).

HURLING

- 1.—O. WALSH (Kilkenny).
- 2.—D. FERGUSON (Dublin).
- 3.—A. FLYNN (Waterford).
- 4.—P. GRIMES (Waterford).
- 5.—L. FOLEY (Dublin).
- 6.—JOHN DOYLE (Tipperary).
- 7.—E. KEHER (Kilkenny).
- 8.—S. CLEERE (Kilkenny).
- 9.—L. KIELY (Tipperary).
- 10.—M. DEMPSEY (Waterford).

THE LEADING MARKSMEN

HURLING

- 1.—W. HOGAN (Carlow) 5-3.
- 2.—E. KEHER (Kilkenny) 2-11.
- 3.—P. GRIMES (Waterford) 1-11.
- 4.—R. BROWNE (Cork) 3-2.
- L. WALSH (Carlow) 1-8.

FOOTBALL

- 1.—C. FLYNN (Leitrim) 1-18.
- 2.—H. LAVERTY (Donegal) 2-10.
- 3.—S. LEYDEN (Galway) 3-6.
- 4.—N. DELANEY (Laois) 3-5.
- 5.—H. FAY (Kildare) 2-7.

FAMOUS PLAYERS JOIN OUR TEAM

MORE and more scoops by **Gaelic Sport!** We are proud to welcome three new personalities to our top team of writers. In next month's football final special issue Joe Keohane of Kerry and Galwaymen Mattie McDonagh and Jack Mahon will make their debut in our pages.

JOE KEOHANE . . . hero of eight All-Ireland football finals and regarded by many as the greatest of all full backs. Sean Donegan has recalled some of the great Keohane feats and escapades in his entertaining series "Stories Yet Untold" —now Joe takes over.

MATTIE McDONAGH . . . the youthful star of the victorious Galway team of 1956 and now at the zenith of his great career. He has played in eight consecutive Connacht senior finals . . . and may well play in eight more. He will write on the final.

JACK MAHON . . . Galway's princely centre half-back for many a day and now as widely acclaimed as a G.A.A. writer as he was on the field of play. Ever sporting, ever popular, Jack ranks among the great men of the West.

SCORELINES OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP TIES

July 21:

S.H. Kilkenny 2-10; Dublin 0-9.
M.H. Kilkenny 1-10; Dublin 0-9.
M.H. Limerick 2-9; Waterford 2-5.
M.F. Mayo 3-5; Roscommon 1-5.
M.F. Donegal 6-5; Fermanagh 0-7.

July 28:

S.H. Waterford 0-11; Tipperary 0-8.
M.H. Limerick 4-12; Tipperary 5-4.
S.F. Down 2-11; Donegal 1-4.
M.F. Down 4-6; Donegal 2-11.
M.H. Wexford 6-10; Kilkenny 6-8.

August 4:

S.F. Galway 1-7; Kerry 0-8.
M.F. Kerry 1-14; Mayo 2-7.
M.F. Westmeath 2-14; Dublin 3-7.

August 11:

J.H. Antrim 4-2; Roscommon 1-7.
J.H. Westmeath 8-9; Kerry 2-3.
J.F. Kerry 2-4; Limerick 0-6.
M.H. Wexford 8-14; Antrim 3-1.

AGE, I am sad to say, makes liars of us all. And to prove that, I am going to tell you a true story . . . a story I would never have told if I had not boasted in last month's issue that I had seen my first All-Ireland hurling final in 1932 and had not read an excellent story in the same issue about that particular final between Kilkenny and Clare.

Down through the years I have boasted many times of how I saw Kilkenny beat Clare and, indeed, I have often described, graphically and excitingly, of how "Tull" Considine missed that glorious shot that would, almost certainly, have taken the All-Ireland Cup to Munster that year.

The plain and unvarnished truth is that I never saw that All-Ireland final . . . but I must hasten to add that I was there. Yes, I was in Croke Park from start to finish of the 1932 All-Ireland hurling final but—and may God forgive me for this—what I saw was negligible. So be patient for a little while and listen to my story.

At the time I was a child and, sad to say, I had precious little interest in G.A.A. games. Despite that, however, I jumped at the opportunity of going to Dublin for the week-end in which Kilkenny would meet Clare.

My father had a case on at the time and had to travel to Dublin to tie up some loose ends. By dint of persuasion and cajolery, I talked him into taking me along.

He did not want to see the game—his only sporting interest was in horses and the amount of money he lost on them—but, shortly after we arrived in Dublin from Cork, he arranged with a distant relation of ours—a woman no less—to take me to Croke Park.

Talk of your All-Ireland crowds of today! It seems incredible to recall now that there was not the slightest trouble in getting into Croke Park for an All-Ireland final in 1932. And there was

I turned my back on a battle of giants!

buckets of room to move around in.

We went in by the Jones's Road gate and made our way up to the back of the corner stand where the Nally stand is situated today. Within a matter of minutes I was able to elude our distant relation and I was off on a tour of exploration.

Inevitably I found the refreshment room which, as most people of my age will remember, was in under the Hogan Stand. There, I fell into company with another youngster of my age and over a friendly bottle of lemonade we became firm friends. I remember I found him intriguing—he had a most wonderful accent which I now recall as a Dublin one. And he must have found mine equally intriguing; he probably had never met anyone from Cork before.

I distinctly remember seeing the two teams come out of the dressing rooms and I remember too walking after them as they moved around the back of the corner stand and out on to the ground. We followed them and

we watched the parade and the start of the game from the old wooden stand under the scoreboard at the Railway end.

After a few minutes the game began to bore the two of us and so—shades of my own habits in the years that followed—I retired to the bar again. There in seclusion—everyone else was watching the game—we drank more and more lemonade, topped off by a few ice creams and possibly sixpence worth of crystal fruits and N.K.M. toffees.

Eventually the young tummy rebelled and I had to retire for a little while until my overworked system brought me back into line again.

Thereupon my friend and I went off again to explore Croke Park. We went right up along the Hogan Stand and on to the Long Stand, dodging in and out, cheering when the crowd cheered and laughing when they groaned in disappointment.

After a long while I ran into my long-suffering female relation, by now almost frantic with worry. Remember, there was no loud-

**PHILIP RODERICK
TELLS ABOUT
THE TIME
HE BARTERED
A HURLING FINAL
FOR THE
FIZZ OF LEMONADE**

speaker system then to say: "A young boy has been found. Would his father collect him at the back of the Hogan Stand?" In those days if you were lost in Croke Park, you stayed lost.

I saw the end of the game and, being a Munster man, how I cheered at the final whistle when I realised that Clare had won. The Black and Amber men had beaten Kilkenny. And God knows, my poor unfortunate relation thought the same.

It wasn't until I read the papers the following morning that I found out that Clare did not wear Black and Amber jerseys. Ah, the innocence of youth.

That, dear readers, was how I saw my first All-Ireland final. So remember, if you ever meet me and if you hear me start off: "Now I remember my first All-Ireland final," just jog me gently and remind me of the lemonade.

But, if you hear me talk about the Kilkenny-Limerick game of 1933, let me off. I was a year older then . . . and I had collected a little sense during those twelve months.

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OUR TEAM FOR THE FOOTBALL FINAL

GAELIC SPORT proudly presents the **Greatest Team Ever**. Next month's issue will be on sale throughout the country not later than **Wednesday, September 18**, so as to give readers a complete and detailed preview of the All-Ireland Football Final.

In that issue we will present the greatest team of G.A.A. personalities and writers ever to appear in any publication. Our winning team for the football final appears below.

Between them eight members of this team have won **NINETEEN** All-Ireland senior

football medals. . . . And an even greater indication of our team's football prowess is that nine of the members have between them played on almost **ONE HUNDRED** Railway Cup teams.

This, then, is **Gaelic Sport's** team for the football final. It is a winning team—be with it. And to make sure that you are not left without a copy of our next bumper issue, place an order immediately with your newsagent—or should you prefer it, send a £1 subscription to our office which will ensure that you receive your copy by

direct mail for each of the next twelve months.

Remember . . . next month's issue will be the best reading value ever offered to followers of our native games. Remember, too, that the current issue and next month's combine to form a wonderful souvenir of the 1963 All-Ireland finals. They will make an ideal gift for friends and relatives abroad.

All-Stars

PHILIP RODERICK

(Cork)

JIM O'BRIEN

(Cavan)

JOE KEOHANE

(Kerry)

SEAN FEELEY

(Antrim)

PAUL RUSSELL

(Kerry)

JACK MAHON

(Galway)

LIAM FOX

(Tyrone)

SEAN DONEGAN

(Offaly)

EAMONN MONGEY

(Mayo)

FRANKIE BYRNE

(Meath)

MATTIE McDONAGH

(Galway)

EAMONN YOUNG

(Cork)

MOONDHARRIG

(Kilkenny)

DES FERGUSON

(Dublin)

PATRICK CARVER

(Cork)



Eamonn Young



“KEEP AN EYE ON TYLER’S SON,” SAID THE MAN

THE MAGNIFICENT MICK

THE day is imprinted on my memory—September 9, 1928. The Limerick G.A.A. had bought a field of its own. Such a purchase was a most unusual thing then, and when I learned of the opening day I decided to be there.

Those first matches got little publicity and my only directions were that the field was on the Ennis Road — “a bit beyond the Union Cross.” That was about the end of civilisation as far as Limerick was concerned then, and I walked what appeared a long way before eventually, from the top of the hill, I saw under me a pair of goalposts set in a wide open field. On closer inspection, I was disappointed to find a pitch with a very decided slope to the road end, and a very poor surface.

It was then I met an old friend—a veteran Gael of many years standing—and I was amazed when he said to me: “This is a day I thought I would never live to see.” He immediately sensed I did not share his enthusiasm, and he continued: “I know it does not look a lot yet, but it will be a great field someday. It is out in the country and there is plenty of room.”

My friend was from Castleconnell and the opening match was a junior hurling tie between Ahane, only then recently resurrected as a club, and the previous year’s champions, Fedamore—and he aroused my interest

in the Ahane lads by suggesting that I “keep an eye on Tyler’s son,” who was making his first hurling appearance with the club that day.

That was my introduction to Mick Mackey, accompanied by the injunction that “he had to be good.” Anyway, I got his background before the game commenced.

His grandfather, another Michael Mackey, led the youths of his day in Castleconnell practicing hurling

were nominated to represent Limerick in the first All-Ireland senior hurling championship, but when Michael Mackey arrived in Dublin with his twenty-one players it was only to find a twenty-one from the neighbouring parish of Morroe there before him and also claiming to represent Limerick. They could not agree as to which would play Kilkenny, and although Limerick had two teams present no game took place and Kilkenny got a walk-over.

By SEAMUS O’CEALLAIGH

before the G.A.A. itself was founded, and when the first G.A.A. club was formed in the parish he was captain. He was also main organiser of one of the big competitions, the Castleconnell Cup, set in motion before regular championships were established.

Castleconnell participated in the first county championship, and scenes of wild excitement were associated with their first game in the city, where a certain section were openly hostile to the new movement. The pitch at the old Poorhouse Field was invaded, goalposts were torn up, and the teams attacked with weapons. They had to defend themselves as best they could, Michael Mackey being badly injured and removed to hospital.

Shortly afterwards Castleconnell

Michael’s son, John, better known to hurling followers as “Tyler” Mackey, was in his day one of the Ireland’s best known hurlers. A veritable tornado on the playing field, it was from his very direct style that the Shannon-side tradition as the hardest pullers in the game originated.

One of the most fearless of hurlers, legends grew around the name of this tough, reckless, devil may care midfielder, who was both a powerful man and a great natural hurler. My friend spoke glowingly of his sweeping double-handed thrusts, his fierce tackling, his whirlwind raids, with strokes swift as lightning cutting through all opposition. Mick Mackey’s solo runs became famous but “Tyler” it was who originated

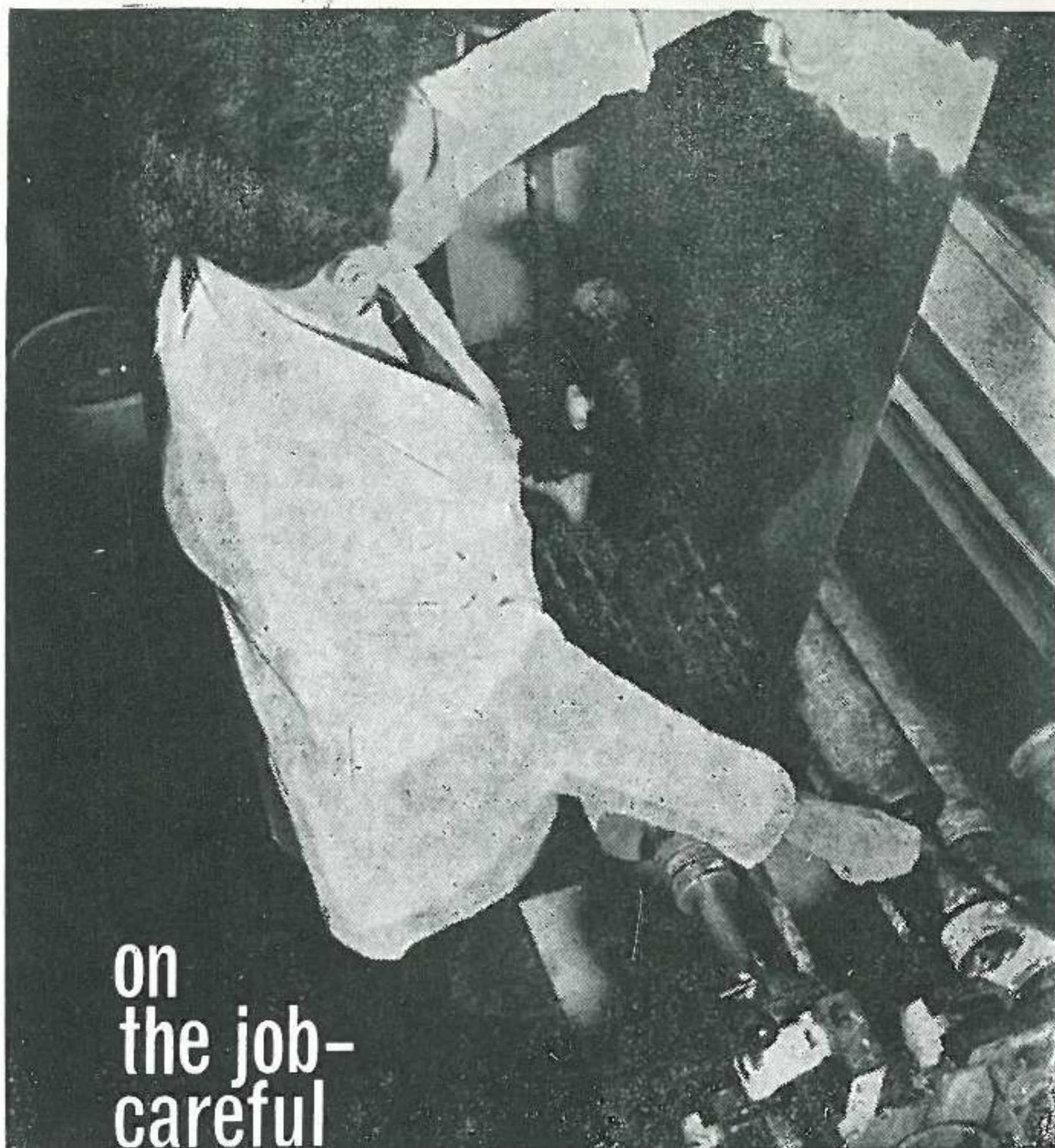
MACKEY

this spectacular method of breaking through for a score. A born leader "Tyler" captained Limerick through many stirring campaigns, including the 1910 and 1911 All-Ireland finals. His robust style and directness in attack often gave the impression of roughness but those who hurled with and against him testified to a gentle and generous nature.

I was not all that impressed by Mick Mackey on his first outing. Ahane won well—it was not a particularly strenuous match and with lads like Timmy Ryan and Paddy Scanlan shining at midfield and Pat O'Reilly, now Chairman of Limerick County Board, keeping a sound goal, the few Ahane newcomers got little show.

I did not see Mick again until almost twelve months later, when he lined out, along with his brother John, on the Limerick minor team beaten by Waterford at Dungarvan—the Decies lads, who included Jackie and Declan Goode, J. Curley, D. Wyse, P. Lannon and F. Pinkert, going on to bring the first All-Ireland crown to their county.

Mick Mackey was on the Limerick junior side the following year, when they drew with Tipperary at Clonmel, in a game Mick maintains Limerick were most unlucky not to win. Anyway, Tipperary made no mistake in the replay, and they, too, went on to take All-Ireland honours —
(Continued in page 46.)



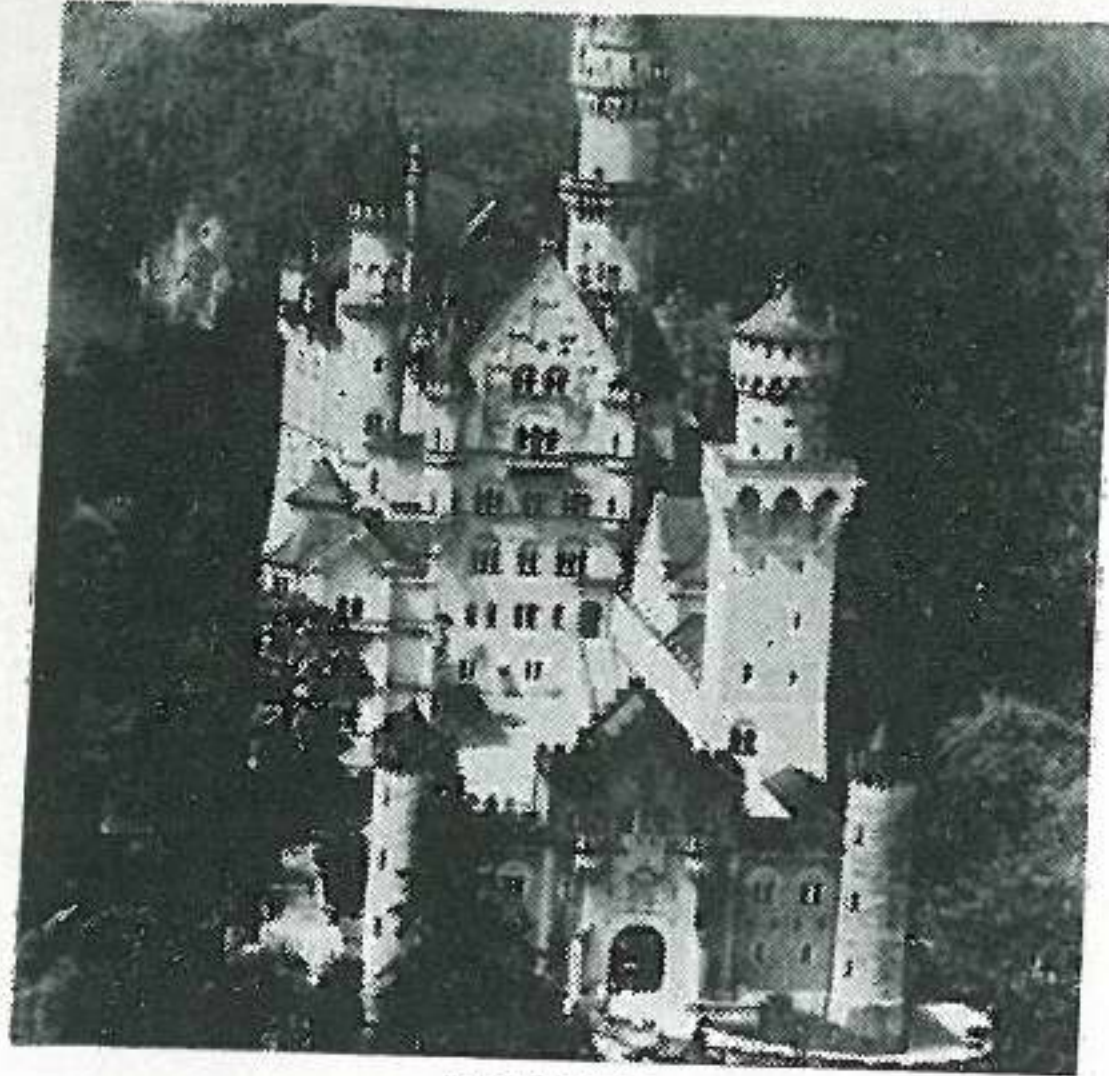
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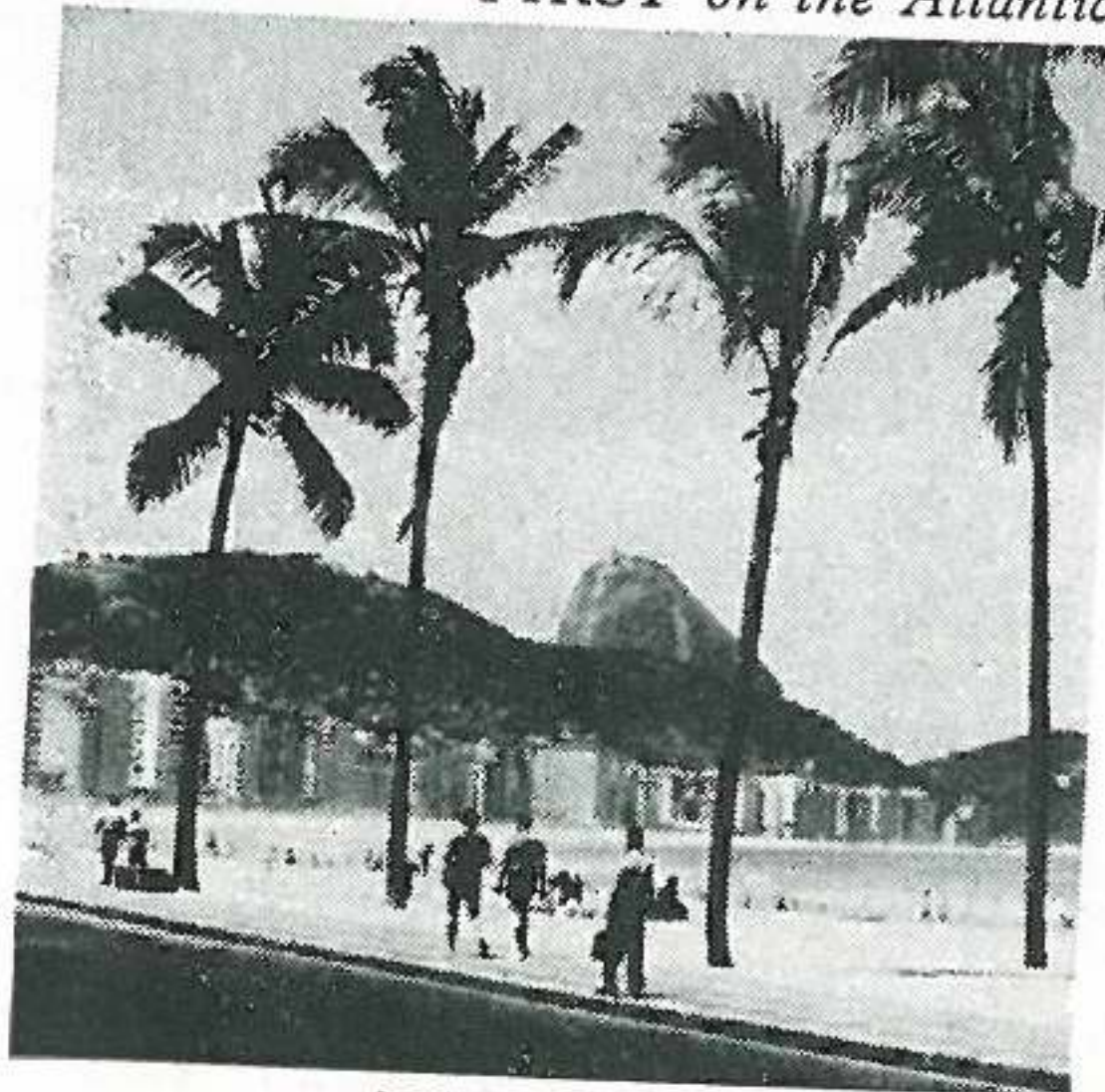




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THE DAY THAT LORY SAID GOODBYE

ALL-IRELAND final day at Killarney in 1937 was one of the first great adventures of my young life. It began with the expectancy of a great hurling game, the long leisurely cycle from North Cork across into Millstreet, along to Rathmore and on into the fabled lands of lake and beauty; it rose to a climax with the thrills and excitement of a great battle between two superb teams and it died sadly with the knowledge that I had seen one of the immortals of hurling on the field for the last time.

It was a day of days in Killarney. The town teemed with thousands of tourists and visitors, the streets were splashed with the black and amber of Kilkenny and the rich blue and gold of Tipperary and above everything there was that glorious feeling that only an All-Ireland day can bring.

We were fortunate; we were down on the sideline at Fitzgerald Stadium long before the game began, lazing in the warm sunshine, pitying the poor thousands

forced to stand uncomfortably on the terrace.

How the excitement rose when the Tipperary men and the Kilkenny men stepped on to the field. Young men with dancing feet; fit heroes ready to hurl out their hearts for a circle of gold . . . and for our enjoyment.

History remembers now that it was a disappointing final but in a young man's mind history can be false. I enjoyed that final, so too, I am sure did many thousands more.

Yet, if I were asked to recall my enduring memory of that final, it would not be a memory of the play . . . but of one unforgettable moment when a man whose name was known from end to end of Ireland, walked on to the field.

It happened shortly after the start. One of Kilkenny's centre-field men went down and it was obvious that he would have to be taken off.

Someone beckoned to the sideline and a tall slender figure stepped out from the Kilkenny

bench. Like wildfire the word raced around the field. Lory Meagher was coming on.

How we craned and stretched to have a look at him — this magnificent athlete whose deeds had even by then become legendary stories of hurling.

The appearance of this majestic figure, we felt, would strike fear into the Tipperary ranks. How could they triumph against this warrior who, for so long, had been the hub on which hurling itself revolved?

But time, inexorably, had caught up with Lory Meagher. The artistry, the immaculate stickwork, the superb sense of position . . . they were still there. Alas the speed and surge of youth were gone. A new generation had sprung up to challenge the immortal personality of hurling.

Lory Meagher played his heart out that afternoon but it was all in vain. Tipperary swept on to victory and at the end were seventeen points ahead.

There is little now I remember of that Tipperary victory. Perhaps memory plays me tricks with the years, but all I can recall is the figure of Lory Meagher walking onto the field to fight again for Kilkenny . . . and later, his lonely figure as he walked somewhat dejectedly towards the dressing rooms.

Maybe Lory Meagher played again—I don't know, although I do know that he never again played in a final—but I always like to think that All-Ireland final day at Killarney was the day that Lory Meagher said goodbye.

Goodbye to the days that had brought him so much honour . . . and brought us who were privileged to see him, so much pleasure and enjoyment.

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SPEECHLESS!

TOO MANY CAPTAINS FAIL BEFORE THE 'MIKE'

Frank Jordan

THE All-Ireland finals will be on us in no time and I am therefore prompted to get off my chest something which has been prodding me for years—namely the lack of thought and preparation which is so common in the ceremony of receiving the Cup.

Surely there can be no greater moment in the career of any player than that moment when, on behalf of his county and teammates, he accepts the victors Cup at the end of an All-Ireland final. Few players have had this great honour and of those who have had, few have met the occasion in the proper fashion.

I have seen every final of the past fifteen years and have always made a point of remaining nearby for the presentation. To me it is all so much a vital part of the great day.

However, the pity is that so few of our captains rise to the occasion with the appropriate brief speech.

Oddly enough minor captains are more often than not adequate in this regard but the same certainly cannot be said for their elders.

Who will ever forget Jack Mangan's fine oration in 1956 when he took the Sam Maguire Cup on behalf of the men of Galway. That was a model speech—clear, precise and truly worthy of the occasion. It is by far the best that I have heard.

There have, of course, been other good ones too. Peter McDermott was excellent for Meath in 1954, as was Christy Ring on that same year. There have been other occasions as well in recent years when the winning captain did justice to himself and his team but I will not list them for the reason that in doing so

I would be but pointing the finger directly at those who failed on the job.

Now don't get me wrong. I realise that not all are blessed with the oratorical powers of Jack Mangan but I do believe that almost everybody is capable of saying the minimum which is necessary.

If there are players who are not capable of putting a few articulate sentences together and uttering them in a reasonably clear manner, then such players should not

be burdened with the task of captaining a team in an All-Ireland final.

The captaincy has its responsibilities and therefore requires certain ability. Only those blessed with that ability should be given the job.

As soon as a team qualifies for an All-Ireland final a captain should realise if he is lucky it will be his task to climb those steps up to the Hogan Stand and receive the Cup. Having received it, it will

(Continued overleaf)



A tussle for possession between the Kilkenny full-back, Charlie Phelan, and Dublin's Paddy Croke in the Leinster hurling final at Croke Park on July 21.

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(From previous page)

therefore be his duty to thank the President for having presented it and then address himself to the crowd.

A speech of at least a hundred words is necessary and either the beginning or the end of that speech, or should he prefer, all of it, should be in Irish.

Most players might prefer an Irish-English speech and that is fine, provided it is prepared and reasonably well said.

And there is no getting away from it but it must be prepared beforehand. If the captain has a limited knowledge of Irish, he should be assisted by some mentor who has the language fluently and the few Irish sentences should be memorised until they flow freely.

No player is so old that he did not learn Irish at some stage of his education and it is therefore not asking too much that he should be capable of pronouncing two sentences in that tongue which he has memorised beforehand.

The rest is not difficult. A few more appropriate and well chosen sentences in English completes the job and that is all that is necessary, providing, of course, the captain remembers to avail of the microphone which will be near at hand and utters his words reasonably clearly.

I don't think it is asking too much of any player to meet the occasion in a sensible and dignified manner. It is his duty to do so just as much as it is his duty to do his best during the game.

It is also the duty of the county mentors — particularly the county chairman, to see to it that the captain has his speech prepared and is ready to do what is required.

As I write this it could be any two of a dozen players who will receive the victors' Cups at the end of this year's finals but whoever the lucky captains are let us hope they have read this little earnest plea and taken a hint.

JOHN BARRON

of Waterford

Liam Fox



John Barron (right) closely "policed" by Michael Maher (Tipperary) during the "home" League final last May.

WHEN the Waterford selectors named John Barron as their full-forward for a vital National League game against Cork on April 1 at Dungarvan last year, this unassuming player could be excused if he thought it an April Fool's joke.

For he appeared only once before at full-forward—and then only for five minutes of a Munster Factory League tie in 1961.

But the Waterford selectors were never more serious and John played as full-forward in that League tie. Since then this former great left full-back (the position in which he won a 1959 All-Ireland medal) has never been out of his county's attack.

For the start of last year's championship—a first round game against Clare in May—he was moved to left corner forward. This meant a return to the position he often played in for De La Salle College (Waterford) during the 1953 Harty Cup campaign in

which he alternated between mid-field and corner forward.

Staying in the corner right through last year's Munster championship of unhappy memory for Waterford, he was there when the county beat Wexford in the September Oireachtas semi-final.

But for the Oireachtas final of glorious memory for Waterford John was moved again to full-forward, and his darting, roaming tactics brought him a 2-2 contribution to his side's victory over Tipperary. And at full-forward he has remained, playing a very important role in the team's National League home final victory and its championship successes too.

His one excursion from the position was against Limerick in this year's Munster semi-final, when he substituted for the missing Tom Cheasty at centre-forward.

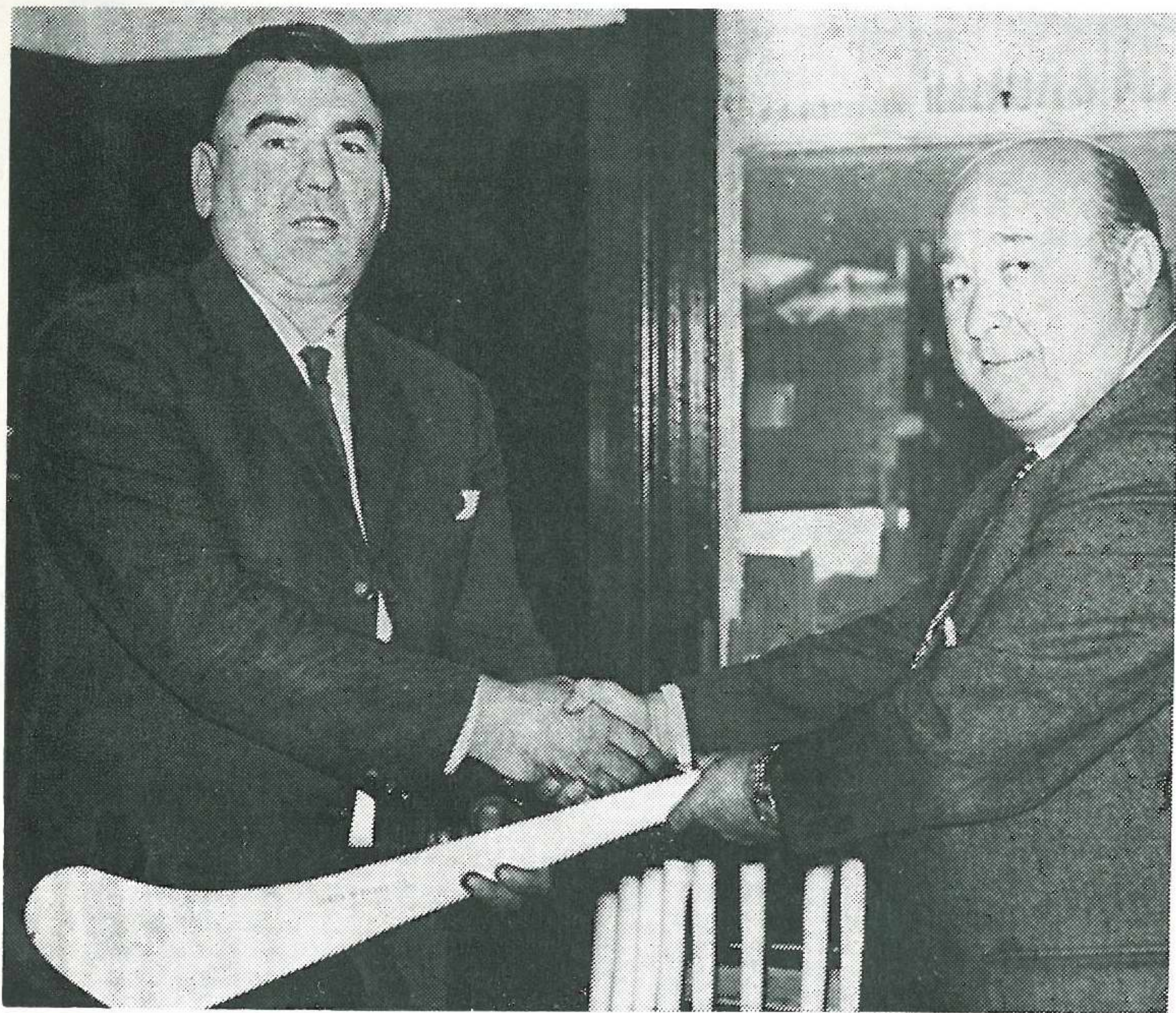
John Barron, slightly built and now 28 years of age, played on the

Munster Colleges' hurling team of 1953 at right full-back, even though he was mostly at midfield or corner forward that year for his school. He graduated through the Waterford minor and junior side to the senior team on which he took over as left full-back from Jackie Goode for the 1955 championship tie against Limerick. There he remained until an injury kept him out of a League game against Wexford early last year. When he had recovered he was picked as full-forward.

And as further proof of his versatility he played in goal against Kerry in the first round of the Munster championship in 1958.

A fast player of tremendous industry with splendid anticipation and the ability to slip into an open space for a quick pass as well as an unselfishness that often lays on scores for his fellow attackers John is one of Waterford's big hopes against Kilkenny.

HURLEYS FOR CHICAGO—



Mick Mackey, famous Limerick hurler of the '40s leaving Shannon Airport for Chicago where he stayed for ten days as guest of the Shannon Hurling club, Chicago. Mick brought with him a set of Limerick hurleys for his friends in Chicago. Picture shows Mr. Arthur McMahon of the manufacturers, James McMahon Ltd., Limerick, presenting the hurleys to Mick Mackey before he left.

THE FIRST HURLING
FINAL AT BIRR: 1887

TREE BRANCHES SERVED FOR GOAL POSTS!

Michael Walshe

NOVEMBER, 1884, saw the birth of the Gaelic Athletic Association and eighteen months later hurling challenge games were a regular feature throughout the country. Easter Sunday, 1886, saw a great gathering at Thurles with special trains operating from Dublin and other parts.

Faughs (Dublin) beat Two-Mile Borris (Tipperary) and Holycross beat Metropolitans (Dublin). In a local contest, Nenagh outscored Moycarkey. Hurling was saved and on the march and by 1887 the country was ready for the first All-Ireland hurling championship.

Ten teams entered and an open draw resulted as follows: Wicklow v. Clare; Louth v. Waterford; Kilkenny v. Cork; Galway v. Wexford, Meath v. Limerick and Dublin v. Tipperary.

However, inexperience in organisation and local disputes resulted in only five counties competing. In the first round Meeling (Galway) defeated Castlebridge (Wexford) 2-5 to 1-0, and Thurles (Tipperary) beat Smith O'Brien's (Clare) by 1-6 to 0-2.

In the semi-final, Thurles beat Tullaroan (Kilkenny) at Urlingford to the score of 4-6 to nil.

The final was fixed for Easter Sunday, 1888, with Birr as the venue. The pitch lacked much—it was rough and tree branches served as the goalposts. Still enthusiasm was high.

Many members of the Galway side—those from Tynagh and Killimor, failed to secure transport and so they walked to the venue. The players togged out at Cunningham's Hotel and walked in

military fashion to the "battle field." The game was late in starting but no one was too worried for they knew that they were sharing in the making of Irish history. A local man, Patrick White, acted as referee.

It was a mighty struggle. Almost all of the players were big and powerful and every ball was contested with vigour and determination. Play swept from one end of the field to the other and then on the eleventh minute Tipperary scored a point.

Shortly afterwards Thurles lost a player through injury and had no one to replace him. However matters were rectified shortly afterwards when a Galway player was sent to the line for tripping. There was still only one point in it at the interval.

Shortly after the restart the Premier County were awarded a forfeit point (awarded in the same circumstances as a "70" is to-day) but the Galway men still fought on. Then the turning point came when Tom Healy crashed home a Thurles goal and the Tipperarymen held out to win by that score.

And so it was that Tipperary became the first All-Ireland champions. It was April 1, 1888, and what an April Fool's joke it was on those who thought that they had banished the game of the Gael for good.

Four weeks later the first All-Ireland football final was played but that is another story and we will leave it until next month.



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Donegan's greatest

SEAN DONEGAN'S memory of that 1944 Army Football final at Croke Park, when an Army commentator credited him with everything that he himself did, everything that Eddie Condon did, and everything that Peter Molloy did, rings a bell. For I was the commentator who credited Sean with that great performance. Now here is my side of the story.

My Colonel, (who shall be nameless), recommended this particular Lieutenant of his to Radio Eireann, and said, with my full consent, that he had a man who could do both the hurling and the football commentaries from Croke Park . . . one after the other, no trouble to him at all.

Radio Eireann were politely interested in this superman, and asked him down to the studios, put him in a recording room and said, "Now just imagine that you are a commentator at Croke Park and let's hear how you sound" . . . and they shut the door and the red light went on.

I felt a complete fool as I stood there in the studio yapping my head off describing an imaginary match, but later they rang the Colonel and said that the Lieutenant would do, but he would be given only one of the games, not both. Even Michael O'Hehir was exhausted after one match, they mentioned and the Lieutenant and Michael could arrange matters between them.

This was rather a blow, but as at the time the All-Army finals were major affairs, perhaps understandable. I was given a staff car and

WE TRACKED HIM DOWN

WHO was the mysterious commentator who broadcast the All-Army football final of 1944, and credited Sean Donegan with some extraordinary feats? In our June issue, Donegan recalled that game, but he carefully avoided naming the commentator. It took us some time to find out—but we succeeded. The commentator was none other than Terry O'Sullivan, now known throughout Ireland for his most entertaining column in the "Evening Press" and also for his broadcasts from Radio Eireann. We asked Terry to tell us his version of the eventful commentary. He has sportingly done so.

I went off to the training camps of the four teams, watched them at practice, and after an interesting week in such places as Mullingar and Athlone, came back with sixty players clearly in my minds eye. This thing was too easy for words.

Michael O'Hehir and I had a coffee and I felt rather generous offering him a choice of either the hurling or the football. Michael picked the hurling final which was on first and he therefore could get away early, and we said we'd see each other in Croke Park.

I turned up in uniform, of course, wearing field boots and spurs (the Artillery Corps died with their spurs on), passed the armed plain clothes men who in those days had to haunt every microphone, and climbed up the steep little ladder into the commentator's box . . . half an hour before the first match was due to start. There was nobody in Croke Park except a bunch of kids, which was rather disappointing, but soon the marching battalions from every barracks in Dublin crunched in, and then, with about five minutes to go, and while I was beginning to feel a bit run down, Michael O'Hehir

came into the box that he knew so well.

He had a pair of powerful field glasses, a glass cloth for demisting the window, three bottles of minerals with the tops already off, a cardboard cup, his notes in Irish, his notes in English, and a lean quiet man who just stood behind him. I felt completely deflated, for I hadn't thought of any of those things. Michael began his commentary in his usual tearaway style, polished off the hurling final, and slipped away. Then began the football final, and I was on.

As Sean Donegan recalled for you, there were such notabilities before my eyes as the soccer star Peter Molloy, Joe Keohane, Sean Gallagher, Eddie Condon . . . and I forget who else. But I had watched them all in training, and I more or less got the names right as play continued.

The game went on . . . too long, and to my horror at full time both the Western Command and the Fifth Brigades were level and extra time was decided upon.

The light, which was bad enough at full time, now began to go altogether, and every time I blinked

game

By Terry O'Sullivan

my straining eyes, I either lost or gained a man. I clearly remember lamenting the fact that Peter Molloy had gone off injured but when I blinked my eyes again . . . he was still there, or back again. I don't know what it was about Sean Donegan's shape or style, but as the darkness set in, I became "punch drunk," seeing hosts and unseeing them, sending people off and bringing them on again and mixing up the spots in front of my eyes with the ball. I saw Sean everywhere, and I said so. It was pretty frightful in the box, but it must have been agony to listen to.

When the final, beautiful final whistle blew I climbed down out of that commentator's box having aged about twenty years, and I toddled off into the dusk in search of a large brandy.

But the Colonel had to be faced the next morning. He was a kind man, from Belfast, and incapable of sarcasm, and so he did not mean the full implications of what he said. "You rather remind me of Wakelam," says he.

Wakelam was then the rugby commentator for the B.B.C.

Well we're all big boys now, and can afford to laugh. I learned a lesson in that commentator's box at Croke Park, and I think that Michael O'Hehir would agree with me. It's the commentator's job to entertain the listeners, and the more awfully dull the match, the greater the demands upon the commentator. His voice must at times convey a tension which in fact may not be present in Croke Park at all. Factual and accurate he must be, of course, that's fundamental, but

on top of that the commentator must hold the hundreds of thousands who are listening, with bold strokes of coloured words and the intimate jargon that grows around every sport, from golf to racing, from cricket to handball.

Michael O'Hehir is one of the best commentators in the world, not because he speaks so well and idiomatically the language of the G.A.A., but because of his brilliance in that most testing of all sporting occasions, horse racing.

To hear him pick up his section of the commentary at the Grand

National at Aintree is to realise that this man must have built-in photo-electric cells. Now that he is the boss-man of sport in Telefis Eireann, he no doubt is grooming or seeking, successors for commenting. It is almost impossible to imagine a great occasion at Croke Park or the Curragh without him.

One little thing I forgot about that first and last commentary of mine from Croke Park. I got a fee of five pounds. Thinking back on it now, perhaps, I should send that fiver to Sean Donegan, just marked "Conscience Money."

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ON the surface, the odds seem to be all against Kilkenny in this 1963 hurling final, but I know a remarkable number of Noreside supporters who are as happy as Larry for that very reason. They claim that Kilkenny are always least dangerous when most fancied and that fact was amply demonstrated in the Leinster final when Kilkenny took so long to shake off Dublin's unexpectedly strong challenge.

Besides, I have met a couple of pretty shrewd operators who believe that Leinster final form was not so topsy turvey at all, that Dublin, barring the fact they were without Des Foley, gave their best display since they met Tipperary in the All-Ireland final of 1961, and that, maybe, if you look at it from one aspect, Dublin were a harder team to beat in the final than Wexford were in the semi-final.

But, to return to the outsider aspect, it is true that some of Kilkenny's greatest triumphs have been achieved when not even their most rabid followers gave the wearers of the black and amber any great chance of victory.

Kilkenny's first ever All-Ireland success, achieved at Carrick-on-Suir, was well before my time, but I remember men who could easily recall how astounded they were when they read the result in the papers — in fact a lot of people were under the impression at first glance that the reporters must have slipped up somehow.

And after all, their surprise was not far to seek. This was Kilkenny's fifth or sixth bid for All-Ireland honours, and, with the exception of one year, in which they lost narrowly to Limerick, they had never even given a real fright to the Munster champions. Moreover, in the 1903 final at Dungarvan less than twelve months

Happy Underdogs!

before, they had been almost annihilated by the Corkmen, and many of the same players were again on duty on both teams.

In addition, Cork had scored a very clear-cut victory over Wexford just a few weeks before in the Croke Cup final, and Wexford were, in Leinster, reckoned every bit as good as Kilkenny.

Yet Kilkenny led Cork a very merry dance through the first half that day at Carrick, and were well ahead nearing the interval. Then Cork came back, cut the margin just before half-time, and when they levelled early in the second half, most spectators believed that the customary end was inevitable — defeat for Kilkenny.

But this time the inevitable did not happen. It remained score for score right to the end, and, when the last whistle was already being awaited, Kilkenny went bounding away for a point, and the lead again.

But here is an extraordinary fact. My father and one of my uncles, God rest them both, were in Deer-park of the Davins that day and they both often discussed that match in my presence in after years, praising this player and that, but they never said who scored that last Kilkenny point, nor is the scorer given in any account of the game I have seen.

Anyway, in the championship of the following year, 1905, Kilkenny and Cork met again. There was a pretty even "market" on the event this time, with Cork seemingly slight favourites, and they justified that favouritism by winning a very high-scoring game by a narrow margin. But that was not the end of the argument.

At that time the rule against members of the British Army playing G.A.A. games was pretty strict, and the Cork goal-keeper, Sonny Jim McCarthy, was alleged to be a militia-man.

Whether he was or he wasn't is more than I can tell, but, in any case, Kilkenny lodged an appeal, and the Central Council ordered a replay, which took place at Dungarvan. This time there was no doubt about it, Cork were the firmest of favourites, and looked to be romping home early on.

But then Jim Kelly, the Moon-coin scoring-machine, got on the target. As Cork wilted, Kelly, who had played for Kilkenny in every game of the previous championship except the final, cracked home goal after goal, and the black and amber raced to their easiest ever All-Ireland victory.

Naturally enough Kilkenny were the more fancied side when they met Cork again in the 1907 final at Dungarvan. Kilkenny won but only by that lucky point, again scored in the last minute. But this time we know the scorer, Jim Kelly again!

Came 1909 and for the first time in a decade Kilkenny and Tipperary met in the All-Ireland hurling final.

In the summer of 1909, Tipperary had beaten Dublin in the 1908 final, and when they faced Kilkenny in the 1909 final at Cork in December, were warmly fancied to beat the Leinstermen. But, to make assurance doubly sure, as it seemed, a bit of a "breeze" sprang up in the Kilkenny camp a couple of days before the game, and some of their star players withdrew from the side.

(Continued page 39)

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THE DISTILLERY - BOTTLED WHISKEY

(From page 37)

So Kilkenny fielded out against Tipperary in that final with the "gaps" stopped by four Mooncoin men who never played in an All-Ireland before or after — Jim Dunphy, Joe Delahunty, Jim Ryan and Billie Hennebry.

Everything favoured Tipperary in that game — except the result. Kilkenny won with something to spare, and Billie Hennebry one of the "unknowns" scored three of his sides' four goals!

On then to 1913 when Kilkenny and Tipperary met again and this time Kilkenny were more the outsiders than ever before. They had won the 1911 and 1912 All-Irelands, though they were more than lucky to beat Cork in the latter game — which Cork dominated almost everywhere except on the scoreboard. Then, in 1913, they met the new-arisen Toomevara "Greyhounds" in the final of the Croke Memorial tournament and "Toome" literally ran the Kilkenny veterans off the field in Dan Fraher's Shandon Park at Dungarvan — and Dungarvan was always Kilkenny's lucky ground.

In the Leinster series Kilkenny were very lucky to come through and when their only gesture for the final, in which they were again to face Toomevara, was to recall a veteran who had been missing at Dungarvan, the bookmakers, who did a busy G.A.A. business in those days, were saving themselves before-hand by quoting prohibitive odds on the "Greyhounds."

Even when Kilkenny led by a couple of goals at half-time the "books" did not change their tune. After all, Kilkenny had been well in the hunt for half the hour at Dungarvan. Indeed I often heard my father relate gleefully how, even after ten minutes or so of the second half, the "books" out at the old embankment side were still offering liberal odds against

(Continued overleaf)



Watched anxiously by the Dublin goalkeeper, Jimmy Gray (No. 1). Kilkenny's right corner-forward, Tom Walsh, takes off as from a launching pad in an attempt to keep a high ball in play during the Leinster final.

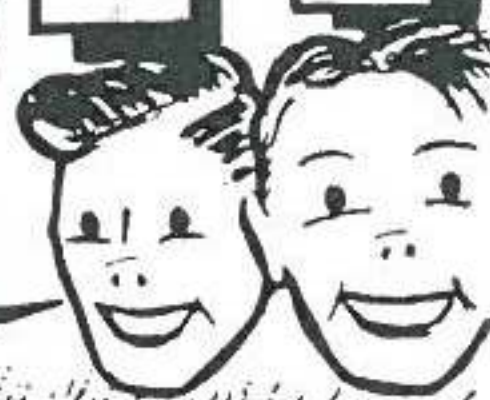


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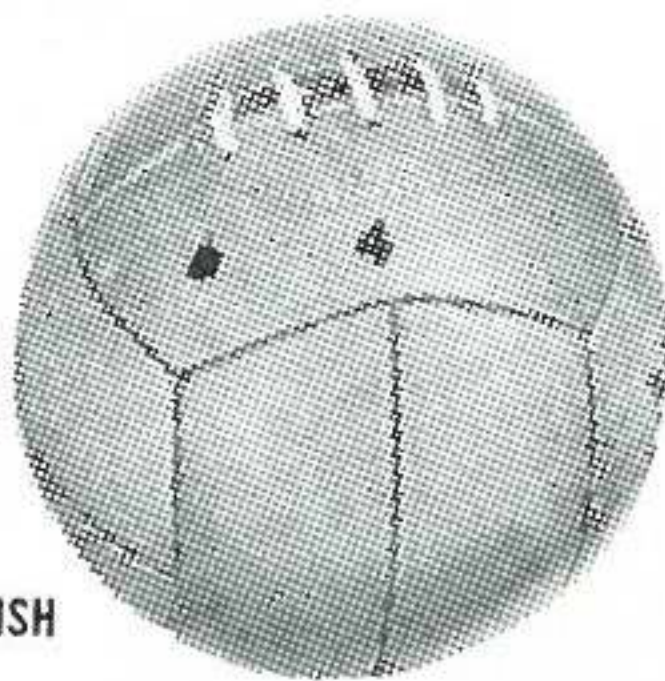


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(From previous page)

Kilkenny, odds to which he helped himself as far as his far from unlimited resources allowed.

Anyway, to cut a long story short, there was never a chance for the "Greyhounds" to break from slips this time, and, to the amazement of the hurling world, Kilkenny marched to victory.

The last time that Kilkenny went into a final as rankst of outsiders was against Limerick in 1935. The same teams had met in the All-Ireland final of 1933 and Kilkenny had been hard-pushed to beat the then unexperienced Limerick men by four points.

The Kilkennymen, after an American tour, in which they did badly, crashed to Dublin in 1934, and Dublin on a replay, lost to Limerick in the All-Ireland final of that year. Limerick then went on to win the National League for the second successive year and completely over-ran all opposition in Munster in 1935.

Kilkenny came through to the final comfortably, if not all that impressively, and were by no means the form team in the final against the Mick Mackey powered Limerick side which had been dubbed the "Team of the Century." Shortly after the start of the final I saw a spectator back Kilkenny with a fellow-spectator, at odds of ten to one against the Noremens!

Then the rain came down in torrents, and it seemed that conditions could hardly be worse suited to the pick-and-strike style of the Kilkennymen. But, wondrous to relate, it was Kilkenny who switched to ground hurling and snatched amazing if narrow victory on the watery surface.

Will Kilkenny add another to their list of victories against the odds this year? Well, please God, we will all discover that for ourselves on the first Sunday in September.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY COTTER

GALWAY'S Grand Old Man of football has died. Johnny Cotter, President of the Galway Football Board, has passed to his eternal reward. Among the many football personalities I saw paying tribute to his memory at the large funeral were John Dunne, Brendan Nestor, Rev. P. Mahon, J. J. Daly, Larry McGovern, Dinny Sullivan, Ned Keogh, Jack Kissane, Jack Mahon, Mick Halliday, Martin Divilly, Rev. P. Lee and Rev. J. O'Dea. Mr. Cotter was a great follower of the Galway maroon and white and was one of the prime movers behind the formation of the Galway City club team, Fr. Griffin's. He was also one of the Pearse Stadium Committee and was interested in all things Gaelic. A truly great Gael has gone to his reward. May he rest in peace.

CROSSMOLINA AGAINN

Last year, Crossmolina won the Mayo J.F. championship. This year, they hope to win the senior and here's one supporter of their's who believes that they can do it. They have an abundance of talent at their disposal. Their stars include Stanley Rowe and P. J. Loftus of the Mayo senior team, Cathal Cawley the Sligo star, Mick Costelloe, the former Galway and London footballer, Sean McCormack, the former Donegal and Sligo player, Tom Rochford a formed brilliant Mayo minor, who retired very prematurely from the county scene, and last but by no

means least the "daddy" of them all, Micky Loftus, the popular referee, who is very much the inspiration of the present brigade and the most bemedalled Crossmolina player ever. Quite an array of stars!

TONY HAYDEN

In Leitrim's very lack-lustre display against Galway in the Connacht final, one man came through with his reputation untarnished. I refer to their defensive pillar Tony Hayden, who had been dropped from the team but came on as a substitute in the second half of the final and mystified everybody present as to why he was not there all along. Hayden was the inspiration of Leitrim's defence in the years 1957-'62 and gave many sterling displays in the Connacht championships of those years. Though heavier now, his anticipation is still excellent, and Leitrim would do well not to discard the bould Tony for some time yet.

LYNCH STARS

A record gate of £475 at the Galway S.F.C. 1st round game at Galway recently is testimony of the great appeal of a Tuam v. Dunmore game. Tuam with Sean Purcell, Mick Garrett, Mick Reynolds, John Lynch, Brian Geraghty, Peter Crisham, "Hauleen" McDonagh and Tommy Fay have been strongly challenged over the past few years by their younger neighbours in North Galway. The speedy Dun-

more side that includes the Donnellan brothers Pat and John, Jack Mahon, Seamus Leydon, Andy O'Connor, John and Tommy Keenan, Sean Gannon, Bosco McDermott and John Glavey. Dunmore were lucky to win the game referred to and their path to goal was barred by the magnificence of Roscommon's John Lynch at full-back for Tuam. This was one of Lynch's greatest hours—certainly his greatest in a Tuam jersey.

MICK CONNAUGHTON

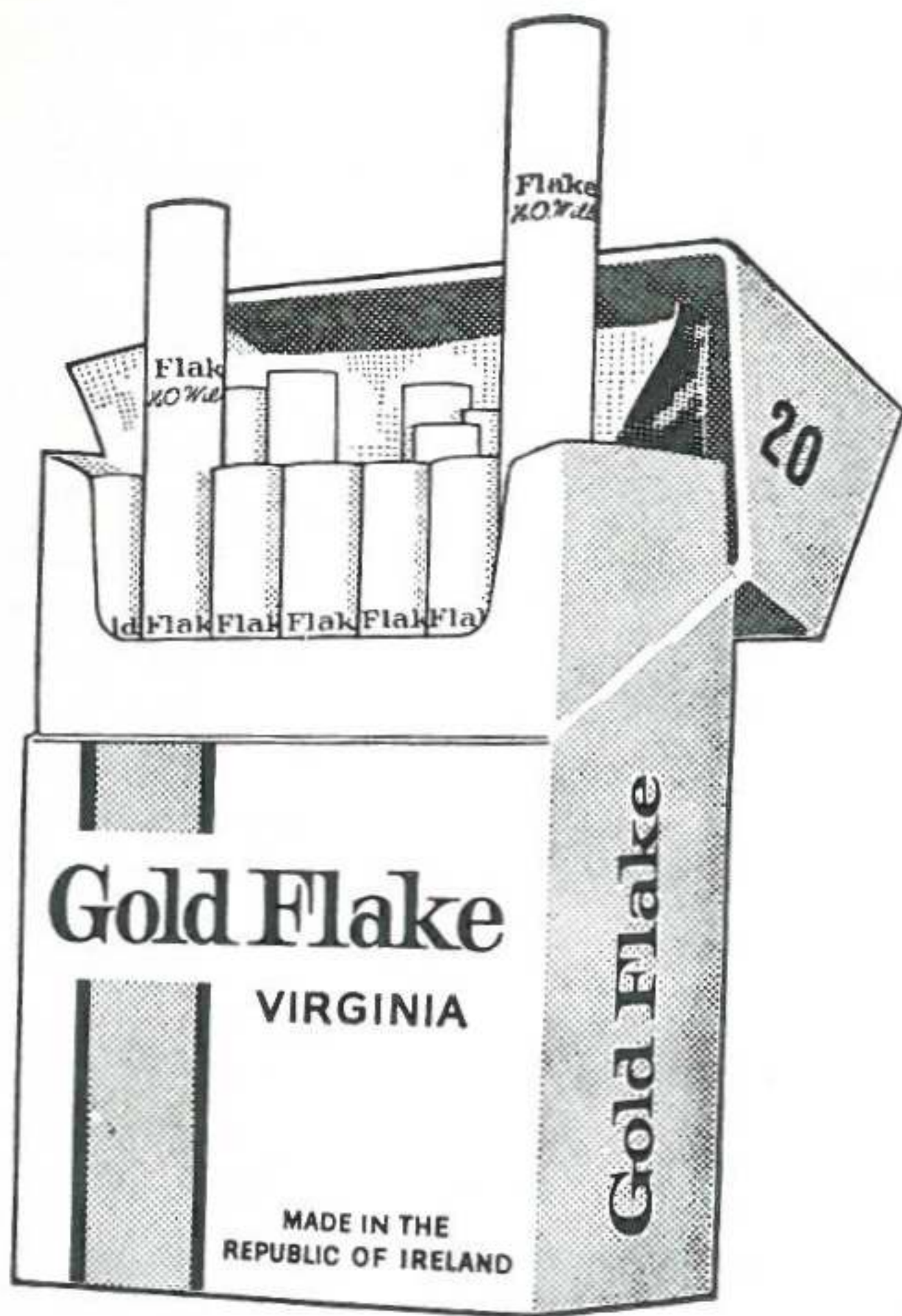
Michael Connaughton of Claremorris, who won his 3rd successive Connacht championship medal with Mayo minors this year must surely be the leading minor footballer in the game. On the "40" for Mayo's 1961 side, he starred at midfield for his native county last year, and this year again hit the high spots as Mayo's centre half-forward. And believe it or not, a good friend of his tells me he is a first class goalkeeper and has played in this position for his native Claremorris more than once. Quite an adaptable man Mick and one of the most promising Mayo minors since Padraic Carney strode the scene way back in the 'forties.

JIMMY DUGGAN

I notice where Jimmy Duggan the Galway hurler is taking to refereeing. A gentleman on and off the playing fields, he should make a first-class referee.

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 am stuck up.
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 the satisfaction
 I'm going to give
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 feeling a little
 glow. Is that
 so bad?”

“What makes you
 think you're the
 only one?”

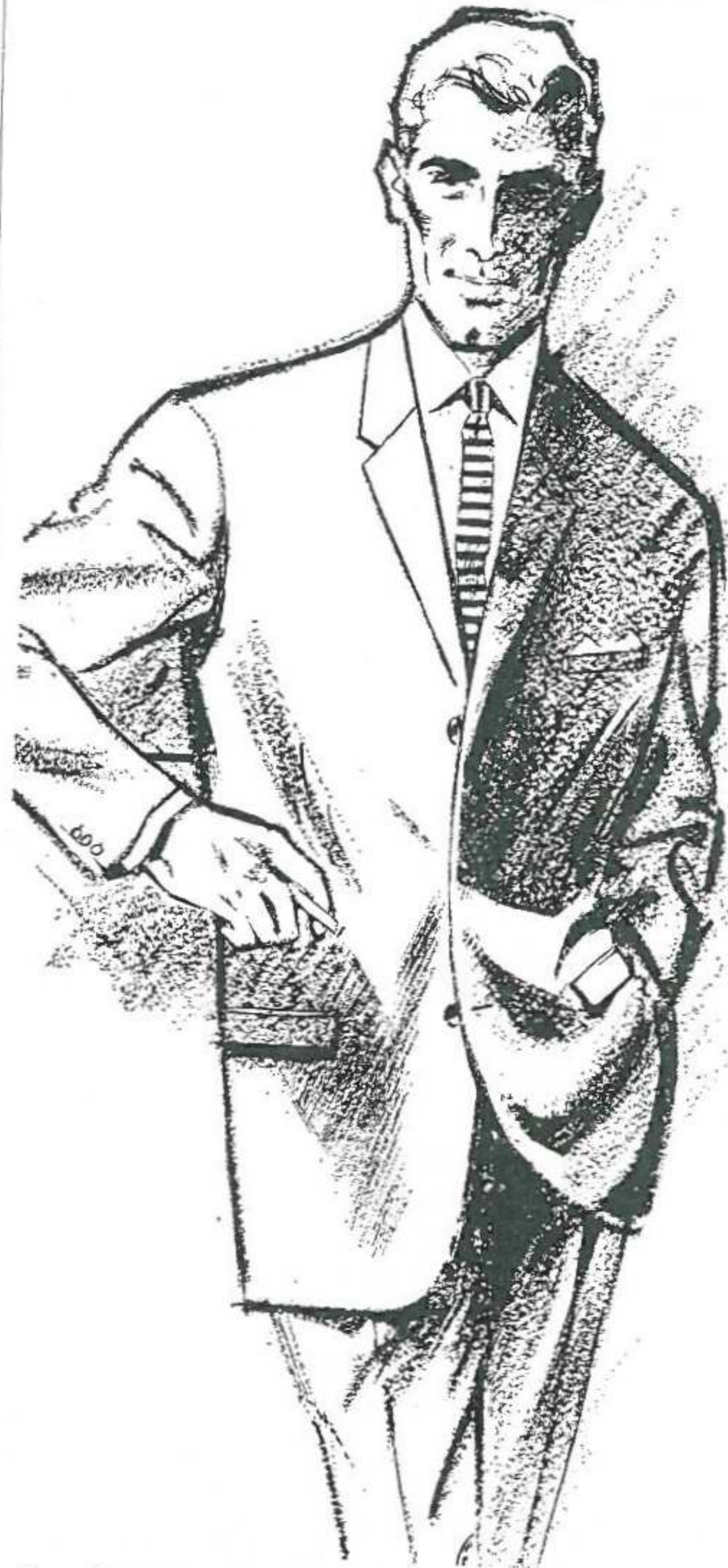


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A CASE AGAINST THE 'CLOCK'

THERE is another side to the Bogue Clock question despite how eloquently such respected figures as Eamonn Mongey and Tom Long may advocate its return to Croke Park.

Writing in the "Sunday Press" in somewhat recent times both Eamonn and Tom made a strong and what appeared to be convincing case for the Clock. However, I have had the opportunity in recent weeks of discussing this time-piece with a number of regular patrons to Gaelic Park, New York, who happened to be home on holiday—and from what they tell me it appears that the Clock is every bit as "fallible" and certainly as controversial in its decisions as any human time-keeper.

Let me then put the case against the Bogue Clock by recalling in rather brief fashion two specific "crimes" committed by the said Clock during the month of May.

However, before I do so, I wish to make it clear that my informants (there were two of them, each of whom I met separately) were not involved in anyway in the incidents which they recalled. They are both astute and regular G.A.A. men of wide experience both at home and in the U.S. One in fact is a former intercounty footballer of two decades ago.

The first incident relates to the 1963 New York league game between Monaghan and Leitrim played at Gaelic Park, New York, in late May. The referee was former Offaly and Leinster star, Paddy Casey.

Monaghan, the 1962 championship finalists, were firm favourites but Leitrim, led by Seamus Grogan, Eddie Rowley and Pat Murray, were staying well.

On the 26th minute of the second half Leitrim drew level and so it remained amidst great excitement. Time ticked away and then in the

dying seconds Eddie Rowley broke away and cutting through the Monaghan defence, he kicked and straight over the bar went the ball. The roar of the crowd was deafening and it became even more so as referee Casey blew the long whistle.

Leitrim had won and brought off the surprise of the season—or had they. Amidst the jubilation, and the carrying of Rowley shoulder-high from the field, came an announcement over the public address system stating that the referee had declared the game a draw. The announcement went on to explain that the Bogue Clock had sounded its final buzzer before the ball dropped over the bar.

Consternation followed. The Leitrim supporters dropped their hero and went in search of Paddy Casey. They found him and asked him to explain again. This he did, stating that just as the ball dropped the buzzer had sounded and few had heard it due to the cheering. The game was over before the score, he held.

The Leitrim men were by no means satisfied. They did not contest the sounding of the buzzer but they did hold that as Rowley had kicked before the Clock sounded, the ball should be allowed complete its flight.

The referee agreed that the ball was in flight prior to the buzzer but he was adamant that the game was over before the score was registered. That was that. The referee's decision was final but few, if any, Leitrim supporters agreed with it.

A grand game had ended in a most unsatisfactory manner and gentlemen, I give you the culprit—the Bogue Clock.

The second Clock controversy of which I have been given accurate detail concerns, oddly enough, the game in which Tom Long, Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer played while in New York.

(Continued page 45.)

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Action shots from the Galway-Kerry All-Ireland football semi-final at Croke Park on August 4.

(From page 43.)

It will be remembered that they fielded with the New York Kerry fifteen against an All-Stars selection. The referee was again an Offalyman, this time our own top man, John Dowling.

Officially Kerry won this game but I am told that some of those in New York refer to it as "Bogue victory."

Kerry were leading as the game drew to a close and with only seconds to go the Kingdom full back fouled his All-Stars opponent. Referee Dowling blew for a free and the ball was placed right in front of the Kerry goal and twenty-one yards out—then the Bogue Clock sounded the final buzzer and the referee indicated the game was over.

He was immediately surrounded by the All-Stars players who requested that they be allowed take the free. The referee replied by pointing to the clock. And so it ended.

However, my informants tell me that the usual procedure in such cases at Gaelic Park is to allow the free be taken.

They say that when the whistle has gone for a free, the free is allowed irrespective of the Clock.

This then is the evidence to hand against the Bogue Clock. Seeing that these two incidents took place in the space of eight days, it is logical to presume that they are not out of the ordinary but two of a number of controversial Clock verdicts.

Certainly had either Paddy Casey or John Dowling been in full control of the game with no

clock, there would not have been these unsatisfactory endings. Either the game would have ended before the incidents or after they had been brought to a conclusion.

Furthermore there is an inconsistency about the two incidents. Both my informants state that referee Dowling should according to New York custom (or is it rule?) have allowed the free to be taken, seeing that it had been awarded prior to the sounding of the buzzer.

If this is correct surely a logical follow-up would be to allow a kick from play (as was Eddie Rowley's) to complete its flight irrespective of the buzzer.

But then Paddy Casey is an experienced New York referee and he did not allow the Rowley score.

However, it is not for me to try and interpret New York rules—and neither have I the audacity to question the decisions of the two very respected referees.

What I do say though is that the Clock was to blame for two otherwise fine games ending unsatisfactorily and somewhat unpleasantly. With human time-keeping, fallible though it may be otherwise, this would not have happened.

I wonder will these remarks entice a reply from my fellow GAELIC SPORT correspondent, Eamonn Mongey. He has been for long an enthusiastic advocate of the Clock system . . . or can it be that he now sees the other side of the Bogue.

MAGNIFICENT MICK MACKEY

(Continued from page 25)

collecting the Triple Crown, as the senior and minors also won that year—the only County ever to accomplish this feat in hurling or football.

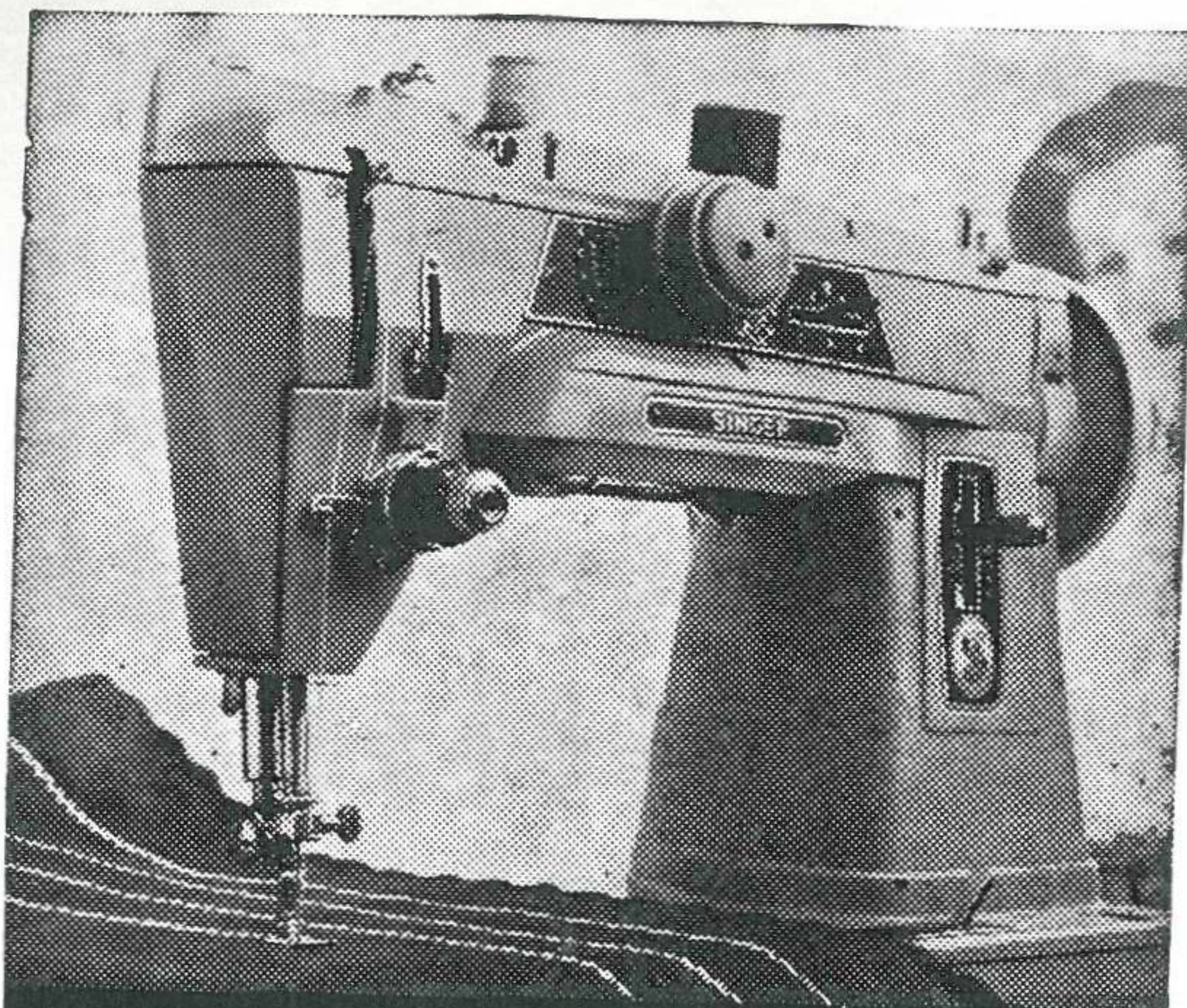
November 16, 1930—another day at Limerick Gaelic Grounds. Mick Mackey had paid his way in to see Kilkenny play Limerick in a National hurling League tie when anxious Limerick officials approached him. Some of the selected players had not turned up—they were short—would he play? Mick agreed, and so put on the senior county jersey for the first time. Kilkenny won, 3-4 to 0-3.

Meanwhile Ahane were growing up in Limerick hurling. After winning minor and junior County titles they were beaten in the final of the intermediate championship. However, they elected to go senior and demonstrated their worth by winning the premier county crown in 1931. Club hurling was at its peak in Munster at the time, and in subsequent tournaments Ahane swept all before them—defeating the pride of most of the other counties to become one of the most talked of clubs in the whole country.

It would be impossible to recount their triumphs here, sufficient to say that during his active days Mick Mackey won fifteen senior county hurling championship medals with his club—and five senior football ones—the latter in successive seasons, 1935 to 1939. And lest I forget it later, he also won a Munster junior football medal with Limerick.

Mick Mackey (helped by his brother John) won five Munster championship titles and three All-

(Continued next page)



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(From previous page)

Irelands with Limerick. Mick captained the Shannonside fifteen in 1936 and 1940.

The Mackey collection of medals must be the largest of any Gaelic family. They boast the astounding total of 57 Limerick championship trophies, 47 of them gained in all grades of hurling, the remainder in football. An inventory of the medals won in inter-county competition discloses the following:—Six All-Ireland Championship, eleven National League, fifteen Railway Cup, thirteen Munster Championship, seventeen Thomond Feis and two Oireachtas. Three times John and Mick figured on winning teams in London, they had an unbeaten record during the great Limerick tour of America in 1936, whilst countless awards were won in tournament games with club and county in almost every part of Ireland.

The injunction to "Keep an eye on Tyler's son," which I got that day the first ball was struck in the new Limerick Grounds should have been in the plural. I know many good judges, including the great "Tyler" himself, who maintained John was the better hurler, but there is no doubt Mick was the more colourful figure—the man whose hurling deeds are still indelibly imprinted in the minds of some of the greatest men that ever thrilled to the clash of the caman.

In a newspaper report of the unforgettable 1934 All-Ireland final replay we read:—"John Mackey was the greatest man of the thirty. Pulling first time he drove more balls onwards than any three men and literally appeared to be all over the field. Undoubtedly he is the best man in the position in Ireland."

And of Mick:—"It was when the need was greatest Mick Mackey came out of the blue to bring the Jubilee Crown to Limerick. Falling back to help break a terrific Dublin raid, he

collected a strong clearance by Shinney. With the ball glued to his hurley, he raced along the wing, off on one of his great solo runs. It was do or die and the thronged field knew it. So did every man of that gallant Dublin fifteen. Throwing everything he possessed into the effort Mick advanced steadily to shooting position. Opponents he met in plenty and he literally cut them from his path. Strong men went down like ninepins as he stormed through—then the sweet swish of ash on leather as he banged home the winning score. It was magnificent."

I will conclude with two short but very eloquent tributes to Mick

as a hurler. The first came from Ned Maher of Tubberadora, goalkeeper of the Tipperary All-Ireland teams of 1895, 1896 and 1898, who said: "Mick Mackey was the greatest hurler ever and I saw them all." Another holder of three All-Ireland hurling medals, Father Dan Grace of Tullaroan paid him this tribute: "I believe Jack Rochfort to be the best hurler ever, but it would be hard to beat Mick Mackey as an all rounder. He had wonderful ability, magnificent strength, and the courage of a lion."

Mick's crowning glory was the Caltex Award last year—a reminder that he still remains "the daddy of them all."

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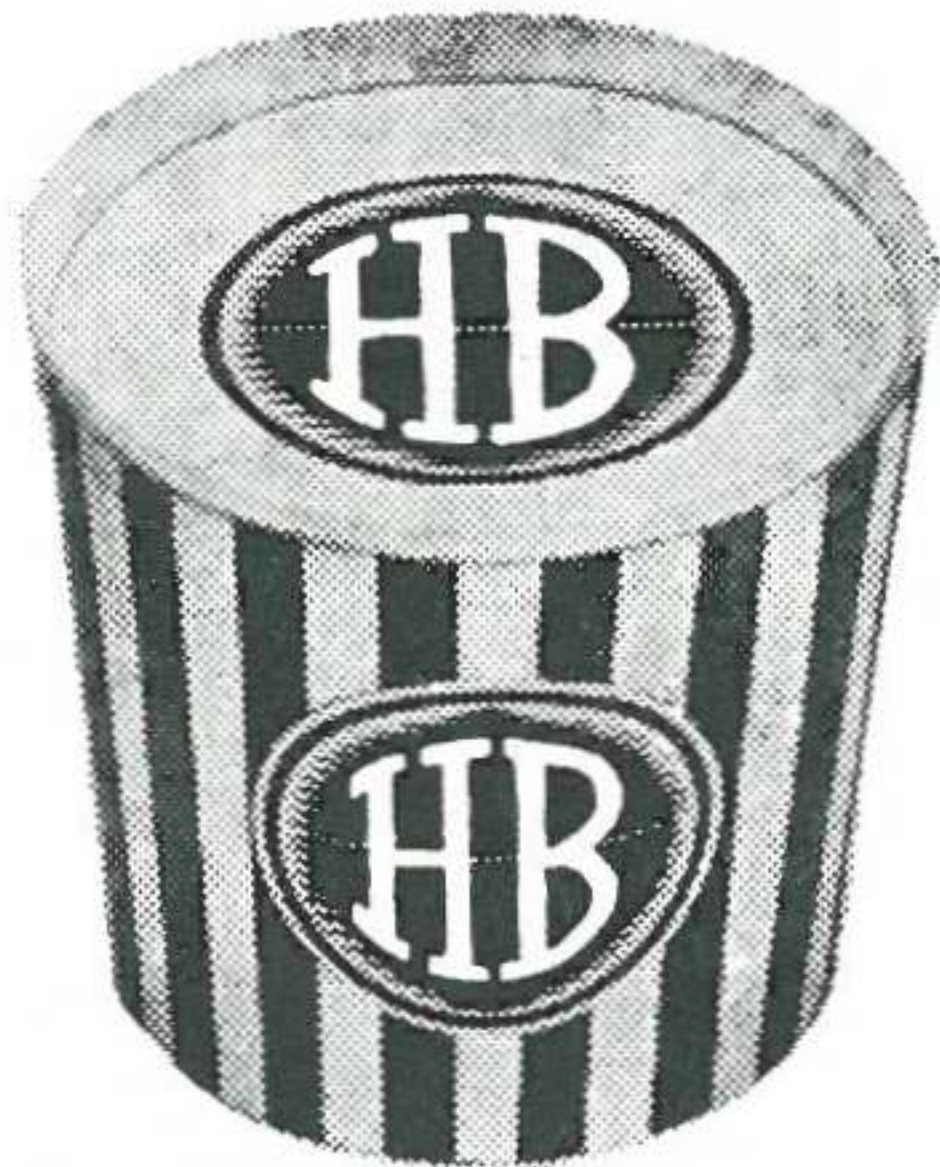
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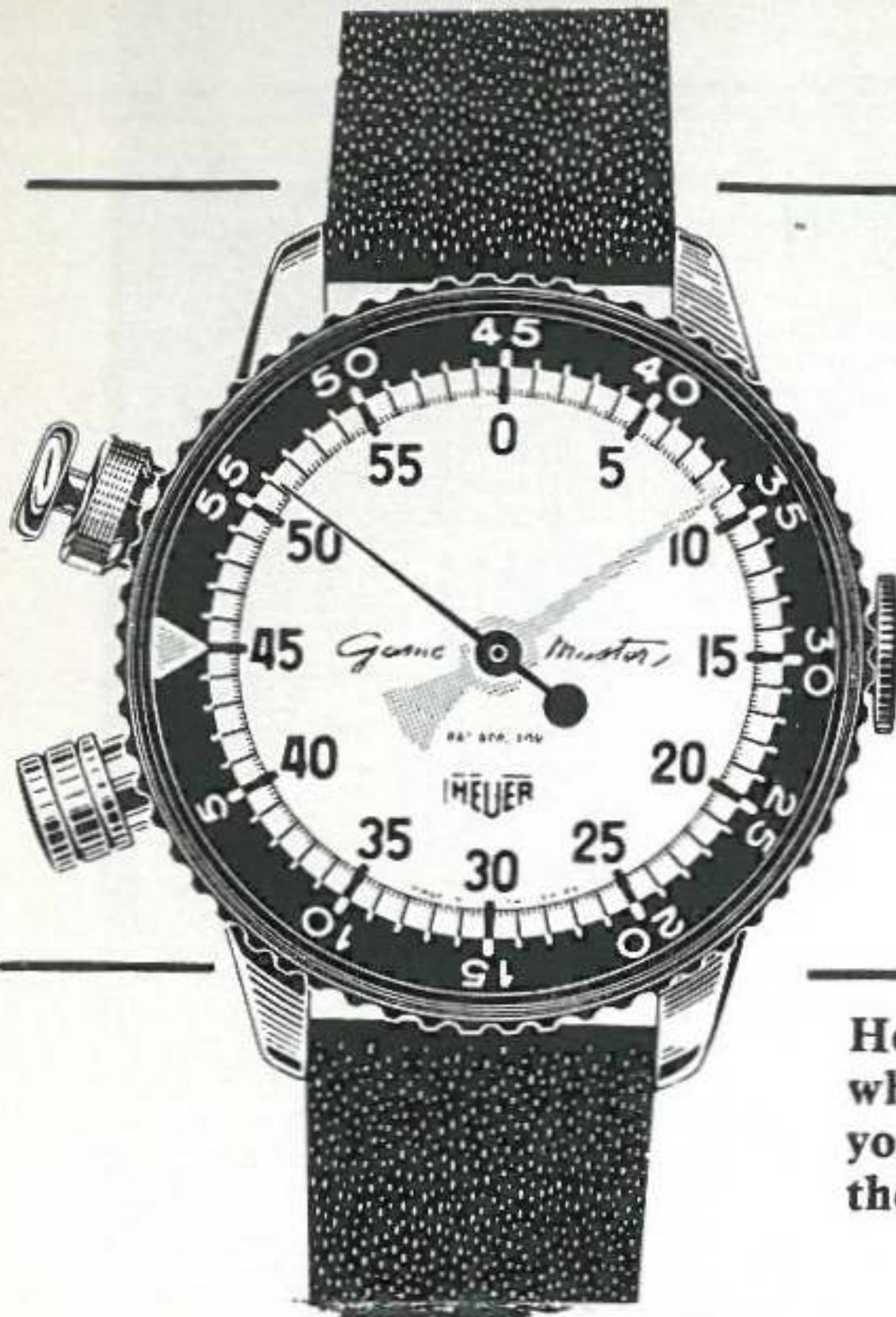
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Tommy Murphy of Kilkenny (left) tackles the Dublin goalkeeper, Jimmy Gray, during the Leinster hurling final at Croke Park on July 21.

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O dheas uainn i gContae Uí Fáile bhí an dúiche thart timpeall ar Bhiorra agus bí an iomáint an príomh chluiche ansiúd. Ní hionadh seo mar ba i mBiorra a d'imriodh an chéad craobhcluiche iomána i 1887 agus comh maith leis sin tá an ceantar taobh le Contae Thiobrad Arann.

Ach tá athrú scéil ann le roinnt bliana. Tá sár-fhoireann mionúir i mBeannchor anois agus craobh na bliana 1962 aca. Tá foireann sóisearach sa pharóiste céanna agus iad siúd cáilithe do chluiche ceannais na bliana seo.

Níos fuide ó thuaidh tá an iomáint ag teacht i léim fosta—in áitheacha mar Clárach, Baile an Chumair agus Rachra. Mar sin tá an iomáint á imirt go forleathan sa Chontae mar, aisteach le rá, bhí fóirne iomána (gach grád) i gcónaí in Eadon Doire, in oirthir an Chontae le hais teorainn Chill Dara.

Cad fé ndear an fás seo ó bhí mise óg? Níl amhras ann ná gurabé sárobair "Bórd na Scol" a dhein an gaisce. Tá cabhair is airgead á thabhairt dóibh ag an gCoiste Chontae agus tá muinteoirí diograiseacha ag tabhairt ama is comhairle dos na hóganaigh.

Tá comórtaisí ann dos na daltaí fé bhun dhá bhlian déag agus ceithre bhliana déag agus is ainsan atá abhar na bfóirne mionúir. I 1962 i bPáirc an Chrócaigh, ba bheag nár sháruigh mionúir Uí Fáile ar Loch Garman agus tá's againn anois gurbh iad siúd atá sa chluiche ceannais i mbliana.

Cloisfear fé fóirne iomána Uí Fáile amach anseo. Ait le rá níl easba tradisiún sa chontae. Rugadar Craob na h-Eireann sa roinn sóisear leo i 1927, nuair chlaoidadar Chorcaigh. Dhá bhlian ina dhiadh sin thug Corcaigh an Chraobh sínsir leo agus cuid mhaith d'fhoirinn sóisearach 1927 ina measc.

Cuireadh cosc obann le dul cun cinn na fóirne sin a bhí ag Uí Fáile mar taobh istigh de thréimse

gearr bhí deichniúir aca ag imirt le foireann Uí Fáile i Nua Eabhrach—áit a thugadar an chraobh leo deich mbliana i ndiadh a chéile.

Fosta tá eisiompláir, Des Dooley, Paddy Molloy, Des Dillon, Andy Gallagher, Paddy Birmingham agus daoine mar iad ag óganaigh an lae inniu.

Comh maith bhí beirt de na moltóirí iomána ab'fhearr riamh sa chontae—Jimmy Flaherty agus John Dowling agus i lathair na huairé tá Pat Spain, sáriománaí le Drom Chuileann, ag teacht i léim mar mholtóir eadar-chontae.

Iománaí ó dhuchas as An Tulach i gContae an Chláir sea Cathaoirleach an Choiste Chontae— an sagart oirmhineach O Bheacháin. Leis siud agus daoine mar é i mbun rudai ní baol don iomáint i gContae Uí Fáile.

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Form

THIS month we comment on Rules 134 and 135 which deal with the very important subject of scores.

RULE 134 — SCORES

“The goalkeeper shall not be charged unless in possession of the

ball or obstructing an opponent or when he has passed outside the parallelogram.”

RECOMMENDATION — That this rule be rigidly enforced. Where the goalkeeper is indiscriminately charged as, for instance, when the ball is going in or over for a score,

the score should be disallowed and a free out be given.

COMMENT — Therefore we interpret that the goalkeeper may be charged (legitimately of course) when he is in possession of the ball either inside or outside the parallelogram. He may also be charged when he himself is obstructing an opponent as, for instance, holding off a forward, while his full back is attempting to clear. And when he leaves the parallelogram, he is to be treated as anyone of the outfield players.

Gradually the goalkeeper is being allowed privileges. Some years back, the goalkeeper in football was allowed by rule to pick the ball off the ground inside the parallelogram — a wise decision. This picking of the ball with the boot slows up the game considerably and the goalkeeper was severely hampered by it. Besides it was very difficult for a referee to decide whether the goalkeeper at the feet of an army of forwards had infringed the pick-up rule. The incident in the 1958 All-Ireland final between Dublin and Derry showed the necessity for this innovation. A similar incident in a Kerry v Down, N.F.L. game in 1960 made the change obligatory. Outside the parallelogram, of course, the goalkeeper must pick the ball off the ground in the normal way.

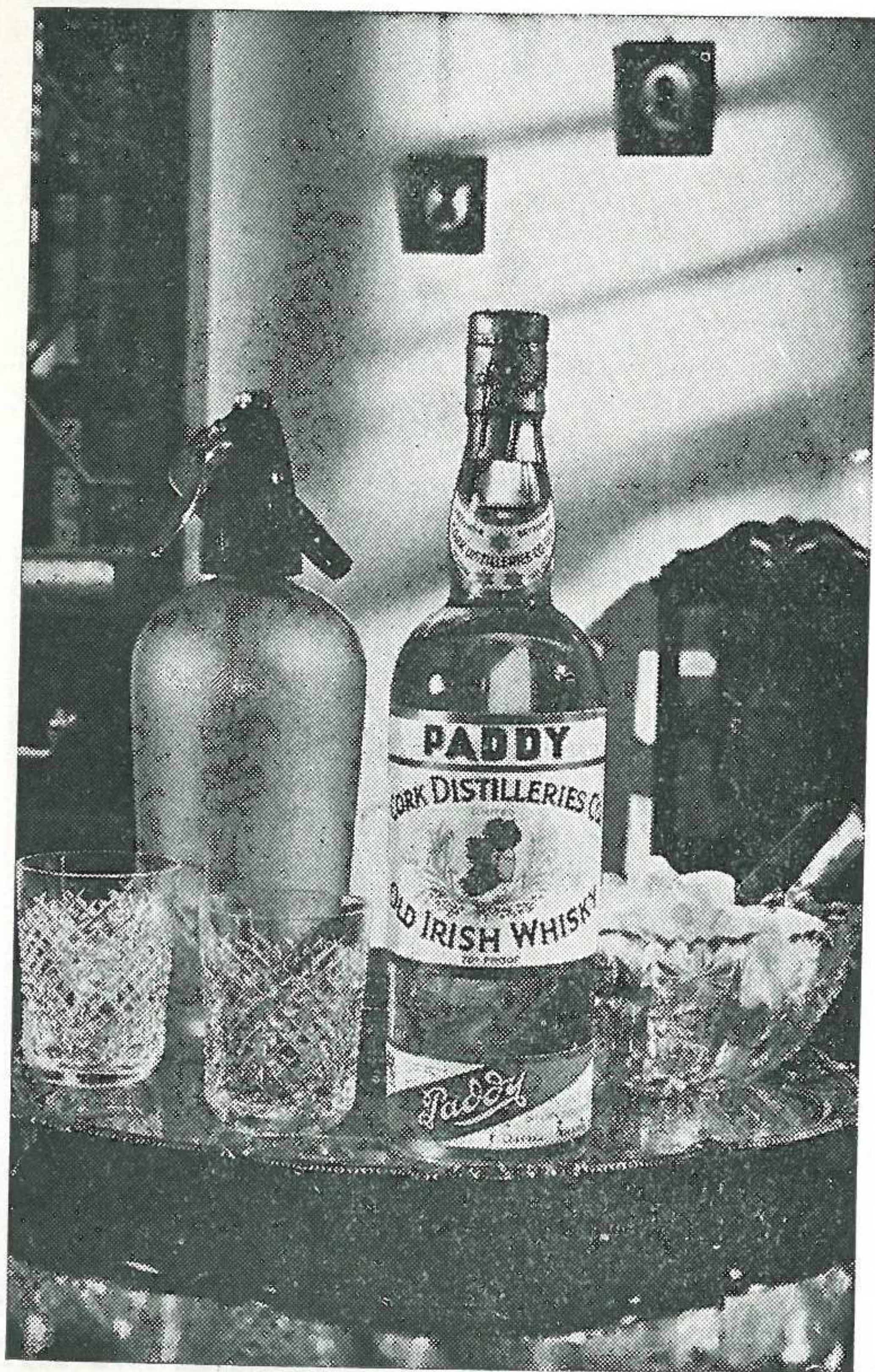
The recommendation needs no explanation. How often have we seen a big forward charge in and “bury” the goalkeeper as the ball sails over the bar.

RULE 135—ENTERING THE PARALLELOGRAM

“The referee shall disallow a score made if a player of the opposing side enters the parallelogram before the ball enters it during play, but if the ball returns before a player has had time to get out of the area and the player in question does not interfere with the defence, the score should be allowed. The score is allowed when the ball is sufficiently high to be out of reach of attack and defence, though, attacking players were in the parallelogram.”

Note — “When a score is disallowed for infringement of parallelogram rule, the defending side shall take a free kick (football) or free puck (hurling) from within parallelogram.”

(Continued next page)



ON THE BALL

ON the ball. . . . Writing in the December issue of **GALLIC SPORT**, Sean Donegan recommended a new deal for the National Hurling League. It is interesting to note that the recent arrangements made by the Central Council vary little from the Donegan plan.

Asked for his opinion on the new regrouping, Sean remarked: "I welcome it wholeheartedly and it was urgently required. However, I would prefer if the plan were extended, as I had suggested, to include 'home' and 'away' games, thereby giving each county eight instead of four games. Excluding semi-finals and finals each team will have but four games in a period of approximately four months. As well it could happen with the new arrangement that all five teams in a group would finish up with equal points. Still it is a great improvement and hurling will benefit by it."

(From previous page.)

COMMENT — We interpret, therefore, that a score is disallowed if a forward enters the square before the ball. Breaches of this rule are easily detected by the umpires in a case where a forward waiting for a ball in the square, collects, turns and bangs the ball into the net. Other breaches where a forward enters the square before a ball which subsequently sails in for a score, most often a point, are not that easily detected. The object of the umpire's scrutiny in the latter case is the ball and he may lose sight of the offender. The rule if carefully read is sensible and if a man is inside the square by mistake so to speak and does not hinder the backs or the flight of the ball then he cannot be whistled or can he? Perhaps some reader would like to develop this theme!

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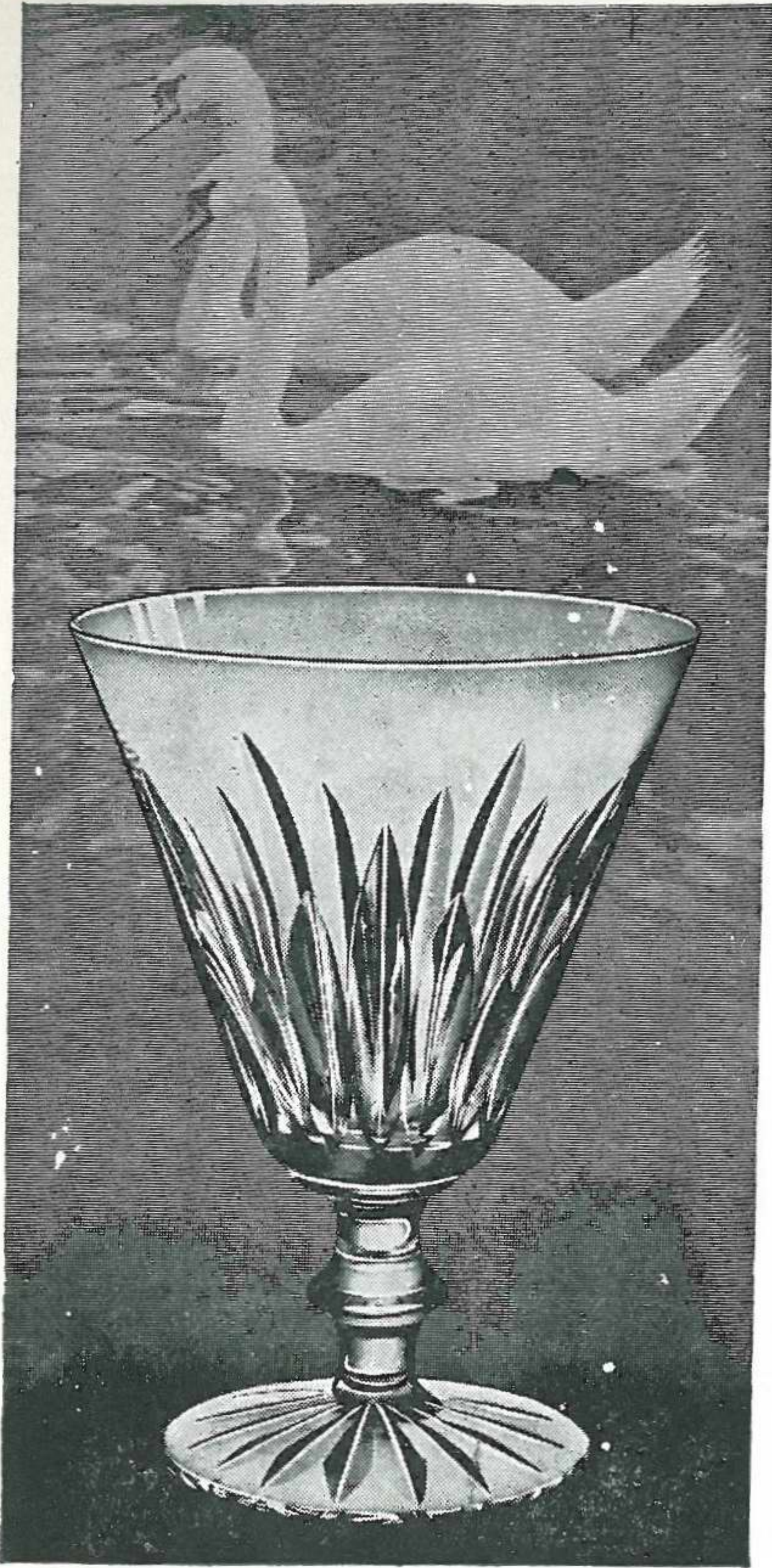
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STORIES YET UNTOLD

THE mighty Cavan team of the late 'forties had stood unbeaten from early 1947 and had tucked away two All-Ireland titles when an All-Army team faced them at Droichead Nua in October, 1948.

Two of our Army stalwarts, the late John Joe O'Reilly and Simon Deignan, elected to play with their county and as a result Cavan were at full strength.

There was a rather small attendance despite the fact that some of the greatest football talent of all time was on view—John Joe O'Reilly, P. J. Duke, Tony Tighe, Peter Donoghue, Simon Deignan, to name but a few of the Cavanmen while opposed to them were such as Eamonn Young, Joe Keohane, Eddie Condon, Sean Gallagher, Bill Jackson, Sean Brennan and the Cronins, John and Jim.

After a rousing struggle the Army men emerged victorious and Cavan's unbeaten record was smashed. However, like all heavyweight champions, Cavan had insisted on a return clause in the contract and my personal tale belongs to the return bout.

The Cavan County Board invited us to Breffni Park for the replay and we were treated royally by them. I remember in particular T. P. O'Reilly making sure we were all properly catered for.

Quite a big attendance turned up for the game, as might be expected, for Breffni's pride was at stake. Furthermore I believe that the full Cavan team rarely played at their own headquarters during that period.

There was a printed programme on sale at the game and on it I was listed as No. 8 on the Army fifteen, but due to the defection of one of our backs, I was moved to centre half-back before

the game and Sean Brennan donned the No. 8 jersey and took over at midfield.

There was no announcement of this change made to the spectators and so the game began. Marking Brennan at midfield was Tony Tighe, the idol of all Breffni, and he and Sean were very evenly matched. . . . Too well matched maybe, for it was not long until a little "needle" developed between them and right through the game the vendetta continued.

There was complete harmony in all other parts of the field. I was playing on Mick Higgins and we hardly rubbed against each other. For the record Cavan had their revenge and won by five or six points.

Shortly afterwards a brother-in-law of mine, Jimmy Guinan, happened to be traveling for his firm in the Cavan area and he got into a football discussion in a certain hotel in Cavan town. The talk was on the Cavan-Army game and unwittingly Jimmy happened to mention that his brother-in-law was on the Army team.

"Which of them?" queried a listener. Jimmy told him. The Cavan men looked at one another and then the obvious spokesman of the group remarked with vengeance—"He is the dirtiest player we ever saw. He nearly killed Tony Tighe and if you want to get any orders in this county you won't mention his name again."

Not being aware of the facts, Jimmy made no effort to defend my character and no doubt to this day many a Cavan man remembers Sean Brennan and curses me.

Then there was the day Joe Keohane declared a Republic. It was earlier in 1948 and the All-Army team was invited to Belfast to play Antrim, who were endeavouring to regain the glory of '46.

(Continued on page 57.)



IF I'D ONLY KNOWN...

He would have given anything to see that match; but the thought of queues and crowded carriages and rush and bother put him off.

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Kerry's full-forward, Tom Long (right) gets in his kick despite a valiant attempt to stop the shot by the Galway full-back, Noel Tierney, during the first of the All-Ireland football semi-finals on August 4.

(From page 55.)

We were travelling by train and when we arrived at Amiens Street Station we found the Dublin camogie team were also making the journey to play their Antrim counterparts. As we were about to board the train some G.A.A. officials arrived with a supply of hurleys and these were handed out to us—two per man, and before we had time to explain that we were footballers, we were informed briefly—“They’ll be collected from ye in Belfast.” And right enough all of the hurleys were collected again as we left the train at Belfast. We had been in the smuggling business.

However, it was at the Border that Keohane stole the show. The customs officers were making their rounds asking if we had anything to declare and Joe—all 6 ft. 2 in. of him stood up and replied “Yes, I have—I declare a Republic.”

Corrigan Park was thronged for the game and it was a rousing encounter. Not an inch was

given either way from the first whistle and after a while I heard a chant of “Come on Army—Come on Army” being taken up.

By gosh, I thought, this is a real sporting crowd for we were a few points down. The chant started again a few minutes later and it rose to a crescendo as the play swept into our goal area. I had a close look and there was Kevin Armstrong in possession of the ball and on one of his inimitable solo runs. Yes, it was now obvious who “Army” was—and he sure was an army of forwards all on his own that great and sporting player—surely one of the greatest forwards ever to lace a boot.

They certainly did us proud on that visit to Belfast. A fine ceili was held for us and it was satisfying to find almost everybody speaking Irish. Gaels in every sense of the word those gallant Antrim men. *Nár lagaidh Dia iad.*

(Series Continued Next Month)



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GOOD IDEA WENT WRONG

SOMEWHERE between the Kerry county convention on the last Sunday of January and the annual Congress on Easter Sunday a good idea went wrong . . . and the result could well be confusion and chaos next year in the G.A.A. fixture list.

In January the Kerry convention had before it a motion asking that the All-Ireland and provincial junior hurling and football championships be confined to players under 21 years of age on January 1 of the year of competition.

But by the time these motions reached the Congress delegates on Easter Sunday, they requested only that All-Ireland and provincial football and hurling championships be inaugurated confined to players under 21 years of age on January 1 of the year of competition.

The difference, you will notice, is that the Congress motions make no reference to the junior grade. This, in fact, leads to two completely new competitions being added to the fixture calendar next year.

This, I believe, is a mistake. There will be far too much clashing of interests, too many calls on players eligible for two, if not three, grades and a difficulty in finding suitable dates on which to play all the games.

In too many counties players will be eligible not only for the minor team but also for the junior team as well as the under-21s . . . even in some cases for the senior side, too.

In most provinces the minor games go along with the senior

championship ties and usually the junior games are staged separately. But where now will the under-21 games fit in? This will be the big problem—particularly in Leinster and Ulster where the calendar is already heavily loaded.

Far better, I suggest, if Kerry had adhered to their original excellent idea of confining the junior championships to an age-limit, although I would have laid this at 23 or 24 rather than 21 years.

Then the junior championship would be a stepping-stone from the minor to senior grades and would have done away with the cases of 'cast-off' seniors coming down to

the junior teams. Furthermore, no extra clashing would be involved.

The danger now is that the under-21 competitions will be run off at the wrong time of the season and instead of creating plenty of public interest will unfortunately be brushed aside as something not worth serious attention.

Perhaps, before these competitions begin next year Congress will see the light and decide that, after all, the introduction of two extra competitions would be unwise and that the most sensible course would be to adopt an age-limit for the junior championships.

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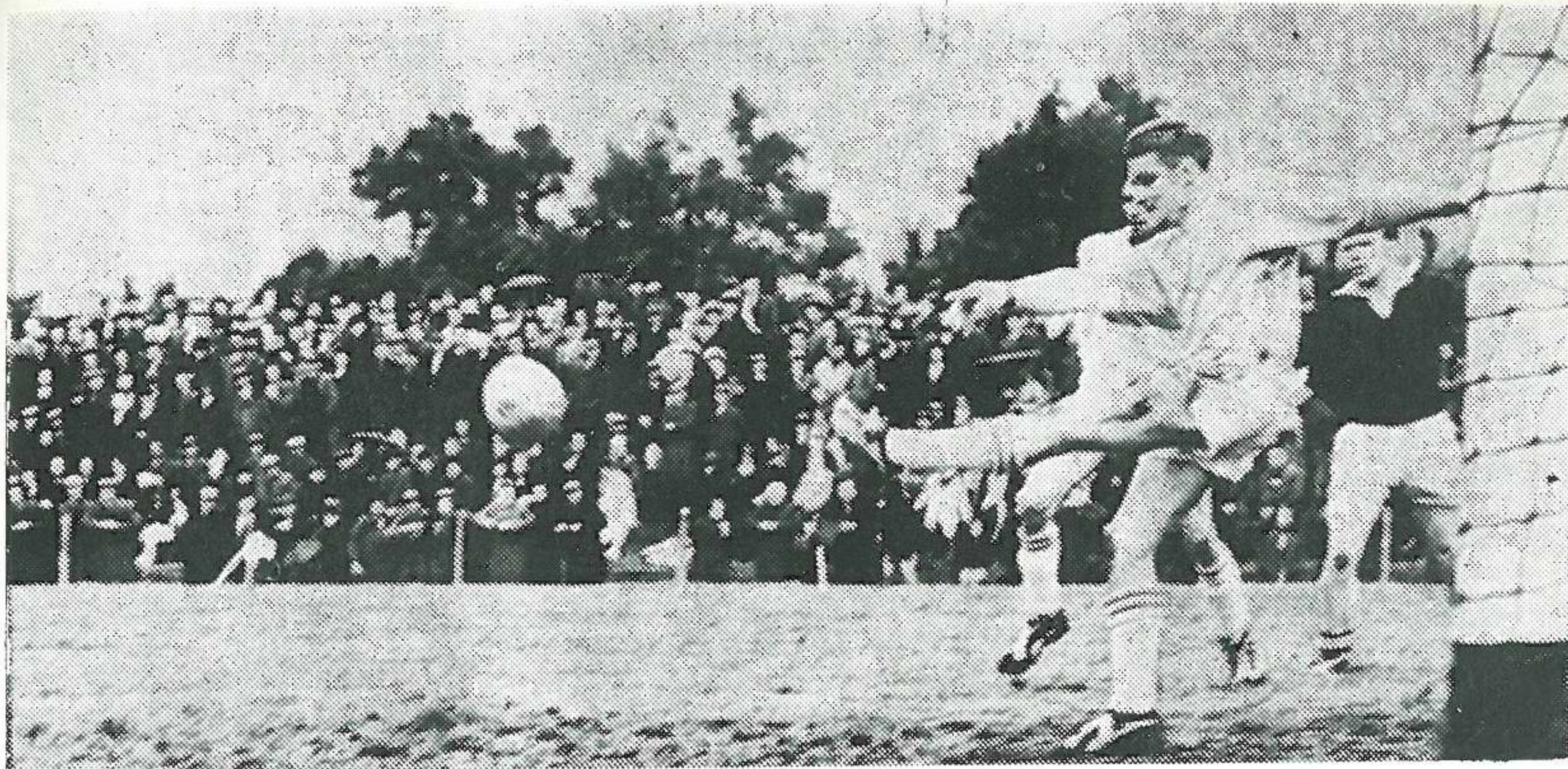
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C. O'Connell, the Derry goalkeeper, in action against Cavan during their Ulster Championship match at the end of June.

GABRIEL KELLY

CONFIDENT OF CAVAN'S FUTURE

Sean O'Donnell.

SUNDAY, July 14 last was one of the blackest days in the annals of Cavan football. Yet, on that occasion when nothing went right for the men of Breffni, one player stood out and fought almost a lone battle to stem the onward march of resurgent Donegal. That man was Gabriel Kelly.

He has had a travelled career, this 25-year-old uncompromising defender. As a student at St. Mary's College, Dundalk, he got little opportunity of winning football honour and oddly enough it was while on holiday in Co. Longford that he won his first medal, when he helped Carrickedmond capture the county minor title. In the final they beat Ballymahon, who were captained by present Longford star, Sean Murray. That was in 1954.

A year later Gabriel was resident in Mayo where he joined the Kiltymagh club and helped them in the junior championship. A county minor trial game saw him win a place on the Mayo minor fifteen and they went on to capture the Connacht title.

In 1956, he was promoted to the county junior team and from there he graduated to the senior side. At the same time he was starring for East Mayo in the county senior championship and with them he won his first senior medal.

From Mayo Gabriel moved to Dublin in 1959 and threw in his lot with the Kickhams club. He also declared for his native Cavan. And so it was that after much travel Gabriel Kelly eventually finished up wearing the Cavan jersey—a jersey which he has since done proud.

He made his debut with the men of Breffni in the Dr. McKenna Cup competition and then it was the championship. Cavan had been out of the picture for some time and in 1959 it did appear as if the Ulster title would once again be theirs. However, they were in for quite a surprise. Up and coming Down proved their masters and in a very decisive fashion.

However, despite Cavan's defeat, Gabriel Kelly was living up to the great promise which he had shown with Mayo. In 1960 he was chosen

on the Ulster Railway Cup team and starred in the province's great victory over Munster in the final. This year he collected his second interprovincial medal.

When I talked to Gabriel recently, he was naturally disappointed at Cavan's defeat but at the same time loud in his praise of Donegal. He ranks Kevin Heffernan as the greatest corner forward he has had the pleasure of playing on, but also recalls sterling battles with Brian Morgan, Cathal Flynn and Meath's Tom Smith.

Of Cavan's future, he is confident. They are a young team, he explains, and will in a short while overcome their tendency towards inconsistency. He firmly believes that there is an All-Ireland in this side.

And let's hope so—if for no other reason but so that Gabriel Kelly wins the medal he so deserves. A wholehearted player and an exemplary sportsman, Cavan can surely thank the day that he came back.

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CAMOGIE

Agnes Hourigan

THE fact that Antrim have come through once again to face Dublin in the All-Ireland camogie final raises again the rather remarkable problem of why camogie flourishes where hurling does not. On the face of it, and assuming hurling to be almost hereditary in certain areas, one would expect that those areas would also dominate camogie which, after all is basically the hurling game played by girls.

Yet look at the three counties that dominate the hurling records and then see where they stand on the list of camogie titles won. Cork are the best of them, having won several camogie titles in the early days. Yet Cork have not won a camogie championship now for more than twenty years.

Tipperary have not come into the camogie limelight until recent years, and have never won an All-Ireland camogie title, though they have reached the final on a couple of occasions recently. Kilkenny have never won a Leinster senior camogie championship, and have never played in an All-Ireland final.

On the other hand Antrim, whose only reward in the hurling world after years of striving is one home junior title, can send out camogie teams which have won four All-Ireland titles in less than twenty years and will be well fancied to win another in the forthcoming final.

And, of course, Dublin have dominated the camogie scene for the past twenty years or more, and done so with teams that are for the most part Dublin-born.

This shows either that the hurling game is not really based on certain areas, and that it is not hereditary, or else that girls can learn the game far more easily than their brothers do. Down, Derry, Mayo have all appeared in camogie finals. In how many hurling finals even at provincial level have teams from those counties played. Longford are in the Leinster junior camogie final, Louth are always a force in Leinster camogie, as are Wicklow and Kildare. Louth, Wicklow and Kildare are all rated of senior camogie status. How long is it since we saw senior hurling sides from those counties?

And remember, in those counties every aid is available from the G.A.A. to develop hurling. Yet

the game does not flourish while camogie does, although camogie has no resources, no powerful organisation, no cheap sticks, nothing to keep it going except the enthusiasm of the players who buy their own sticks, often make their own uniforms, pay their own way, and deserve nothing but the highest praise for doing so.

Nobody ever is likely to tell me why hurling fades and camogie flourishes in those areas, except of course it is that girls do not play football. Could it be that it is football which is really strangling the hurling game in the non-hurling areas.

The forthcoming All-Ireland should from every aspect be one of the greatest yet played, for Dublin and Antrim have through the past decade nearly always succeeded in bringing out the very best in one another. They are both teams who concentrate on style, stick-work and combination rather than on strength, and any game between these two counties is a joy to watch.

Of the two, Antrim are rather the more stylish, somewhat the better ball-players and their striking, while no more accurate than that of Dublin, is usually of slightly greater length.

Dublin are better-balanced, experts at team-work, always playing as a single unit rather than a dozen individuals. That is one secret of their many successes. The other is not far to seek either and is closely related to the first. Though year after year Dublin like all other camogie teams has to find replacements for star players who retire, usually to get married, and there is such a great reserve strength of talent in the Capital, that these gaps are always filled by players who seem to dovetail successfully into the side, and who inside one season seem always to assume the greatness of the stars they displace.

There are, of course, players like Kathleen Mills who starred for twenty years, but in camogie they are the rare exceptions. Indeed, generally speaking camogie nowadays finds some of its brightest stars among the teen-agers. Antrim captain, Sue Ward was a colleges player until last June, Geraldine Callinan of Laois, still a schoolgirl, has already won several Gael-Linn interprovincial medals with Leinster, and there are many others.

PADDY DOWNEY OF KERRY

HE is, without a doubt, the greatest handballer Kerry ever produced. An ambidextrous, skilful player and a member of the famed Fitzgerald-Jones Club in

Tralee, one does not have to be an expert to name him.

He is, of course, Paddy Downey, the pride of Kerry, and with such star players as Jimmy O'Brien,

Eamonn Horan, Moss O'Connor, Pat McCarthy and Tom Kennedy, son of the present Munster Council Secretary, can attribute much of their ability to the training they received in the Tralee courts

Paddy Downey, needless to say, was the star of them all, but he in turn was very fortunate in having such an expert tutor as the late Joe Hassett to guide his handballing destiny towards stardom. Joe, a native of Tipperary and winner of numerous All-Ireland titles with the Premier County, was based with his employers, the E.S.B., in Tralee around the late 'forties, and living only a couple of hundred yards from the alley, spent all his spare time playing the game he loved.

Meanwhile the young Downey was grooming himself for success on the All-Ireland front, and in 1951 he tasted the sweetness of victory when he won the Junior Hard Singles and Soft Doubles with Tim Commane.

Leaving junior ranks Paddy took to the rigorous road of senior competition and very soon it became abundantly clear that he had the potential, the ability and the craft so necessary for a consistent champion.

And so it was, that in 1953, Paddy lined out with his friend and tutor, the late Joe Hassett, in senior competition and the two of them marched off with the Senior Hard Doubles Title. This was the beginning of an era for the Tralee maestro, a glorious decade in which he demonstrated his equal proficiency at softball and handball and practically won a title every year with clockwork regularity.

He has formed a workmanlike partnership with club-mate Jimmy O'Brien and in the last eight years they have amassed the impressive total of seven All-Ireland Doubles Titles. Indeed some of these, were thrilling victories in which the dogged Kingdom men, on more than one occasion, made stupendous recoveries and actually grasped victory from the jaws of defeat.

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The prime instance that springs to mind, was a Munster final clash with Tipperary at Horse and Jockey on June 19, 1960.

As usual Downey and O'Brien were sporting the green and gold singlets while Mick Shanahan and Tom Doheny were on duty for the Premier County. The Tipperarymen were in dynamic form that day and their every shot bore the stamp of inspiration. Before the Kerry men knew what hit them, they were three games down and it seemed that the title which they had won the previous year was about to change hands.

But then it happened . . . Downey found his touch and ably assisted by O'Brien he went about reducing the deficit. Playing their greatest-ever handball they gradually overhauled the Tipperary men and in winning the next four games turned what looked like certain defeat into a glorious victory.

Thereafter they went on to retain their All-Ireland crown by disposing of Kildare's Tony Daly and Pat Winders, although in this case also they had to make up leeway after losing the first two games.

The year 1960 was certainly a memorable one for Downey, for besides that hectic doubles campaign, he also figured in one of the most unusual hard singles finals ever played.

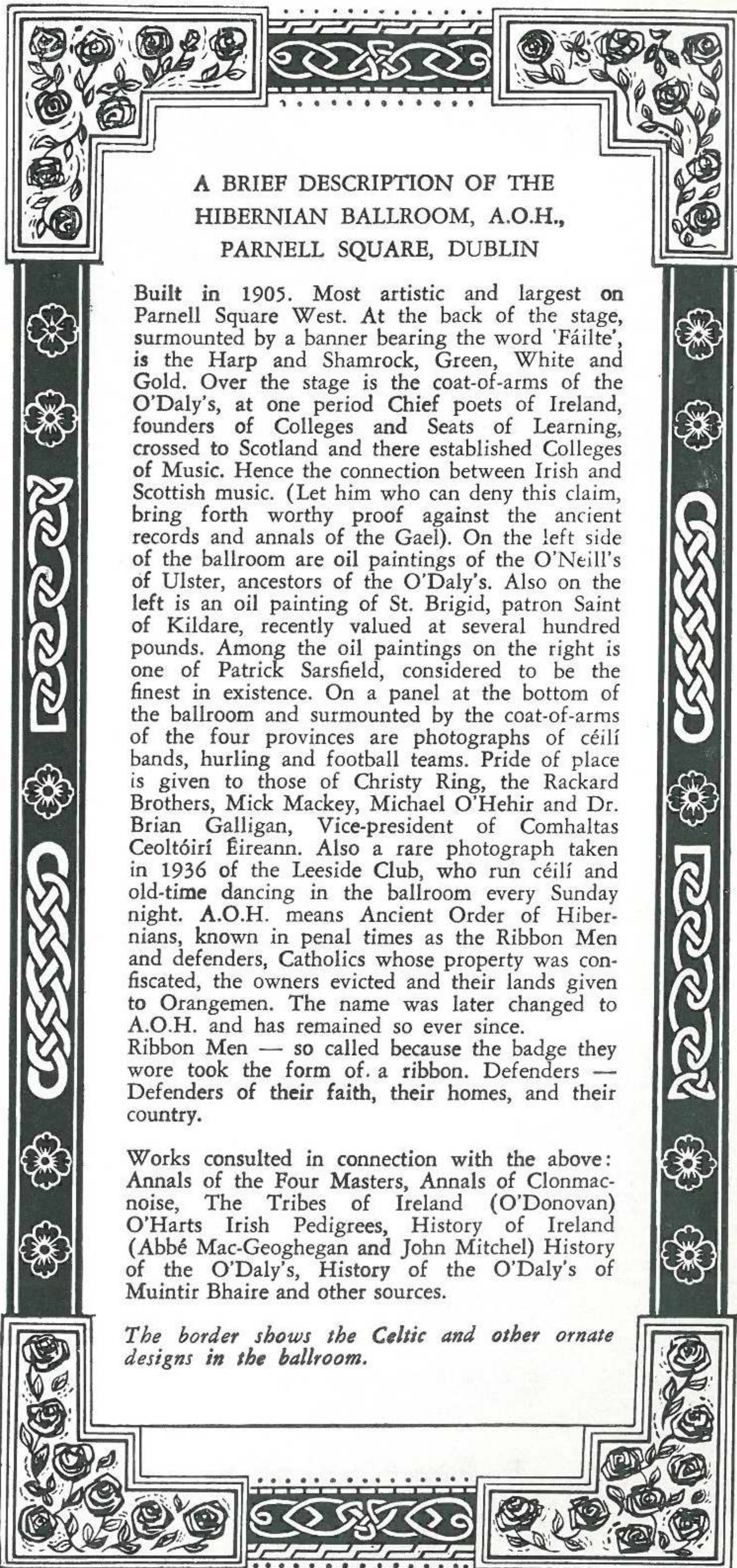
Opposed to Joe Maher from Louth the game was fixed for the Ceanannus Mor ballcourt on October 2, 1960, but due to the inclemency of the weather had to be transferred to the covered court at Ballymore-Eustace.

That afternoon the hardball fanatics of the Kildare village witnessed one of the greatest marathons of recent times.

Our two experts were matching each other shot for shot, and at one stage it seemed that an end was not possible. As darkness fell on Ballymore Eustace the two of them were still slogging it out, but keen to finish it, they packed their bags again and set out for Clogh.

Here the lights were switched on and Maher and Downey again took up the running where they had left off and eventually, late on Sunday night, the greater staying power of the Tralee man proved decisive when he ran out a narrow winner. Just for statis-

(Continued next page.)



A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE HIBERNIAN BALLROOM, A.O.H., PARNELL SQUARE, DUBLIN

Built in 1905. Most artistic and largest on Parnell Square West. At the back of the stage, surmounted by a banner bearing the word 'Fáilte', is the Harp and Shamrock, Green, White and Gold. Over the stage is the coat-of-arms of the O'Daly's, at one period Chief poets of Ireland, founders of Colleges and Seats of Learning, crossed to Scotland and there established Colleges of Music. Hence the connection between Irish and Scottish music. (Let him who can deny this claim, bring forth worthy proof against the ancient records and annals of the Gael). On the left side of the ballroom are oil paintings of the O'Neill's of Ulster, ancestors of the O'Daly's. Also on the left is an oil painting of St. Brigid, patron Saint of Kildare, recently valued at several hundred pounds. Among the oil paintings on the right is one of Patrick Sarsfield, considered to be the finest in existence. On a panel at the bottom of the ballroom and surmounted by the coat-of-arms of the four provinces are photographs of céilí bands, hurling and football teams. Pride of place is given to those of Christy Ring, the Rackard Brothers, Mick Mackey, Michael O'Hehir and Dr. Brian Galligan, Vice-president of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Also a rare photograph taken in 1936 of the Leaside Club, who run céilí and old-time dancing in the ballroom every Sunday night. A.O.H. means Ancient Order of Hibernians, known in penal times as the Ribbon Men and defenders, Catholics whose property was confiscated, the owners evicted and their lands given to Orangemen. The name was later changed to A.O.H. and has remained so ever since. Ribbon Men — so called because the badge they wore took the form of a ribbon. Defenders — Defenders of their faith, their homes, and their country.

Works consulted in connection with the above: Annals of the Four Masters, Annals of Clonmacnoise, The Tribes of Ireland (O'Donovan) O'Harts Irish Pedigrees, History of Ireland (Abbé Mac-Geoghegan and John Mitchel) History of the O'Daly's, History of the O'Daly's of Muintir Bhaire and other sources.

The border shows the Celtic and other ornate designs in the ballroom.

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tical purposes the scores in favour of Downey that day were: 21-17; 21-18; 9-21; 21-17; 7-21; 10-21; 21-11.

Not to be outdone, however, Maher came thundering back in 1961 and dethroned the Kerryman in four straight games.

Beaten in the Munster Softball championship by Cork's Mick Griffin last year, Paddy made no mistake in the hardball code, and in the All-Ireland final scored a facile win over Dublin's Des Dillon.

And those of us who saw him saunter to that sixteenth All-Ireland medal at Ceanannus Mor last autumn little realised that we were seeing him compete in the singles championship for the last time.

But such is the case, for the Kerry expert has not played in the Munster championships this season. Time is taking its toll and though he will definitely line out with Jimmy O'Brien in the doubles it is probable that both of them will call it a day at the end of this season.

For the Kerry Twins of handball fame it has been a glorious innings, Downey the specialist and O'Brien with all the qualities of the ideal partner.

Their departure from the scene will cause an irreplaceable loss for Kerry and indeed for Munster Handball as well.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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*"Would to God the gift to give
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To see ourselves as others
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—ROBERT BURNS.

I WONDER if we really saw ourselves as others see us, what image would we present. Would each of us be satisfied with what we saw or would we immediately change our manners, conduct or way of life? It's an interesting speculation.

Similarly, with the G.A.A. If its members could stand back and take an objective view of the organisation in all its aspects would they be satisfied with what they saw? If not, what changes would they make?

We are, of course, fortunate that in some respects, we can get some idea of what image we present. and, quite honestly, it's not always flattering.

Take hotels for example. I'm one of these people who believe that only the best hotels are good enough for the G.A.A. and any team which has to stay overnight in any place should make use of the best accommodation available in the town. Unfortunately, this is not always done. At times teams don't even use good second-class ones but are content to take any accommodation offered—purely on the basis that anything is good enough for the G.A.A.

Similarly, with catering. Teams as often as not are content to eat anywhere after matches—in dance halls, behind bars or in any "restaurant for a day," whereas often as not the fare is, to put it mildly, institutional.

What is overlooked in all this is that by acting in this manner or accepting this as our lot we are in fact putting a valuation on ourselves. We are offering an image of a second-class organisation which is far from being attractive to anyone outside the fold, and knowing no more about us.

Dressing facilities at pitches is another item by which we can be, and are judged. At the vast majority of pitches around Ireland dressing-rooms are non-existent or where they do exist, are often primitive. For instance one of the Railway Cup football semi-finals was played this year at a pitch which has no dressing-rooms at all (not very pleasant last February) while the other was played at a pitch where the two dressing-rooms are singularly austere and between them, in the matter of running

EAMONN MONGEY TURNS A MIRROR ON THE G.A.A.

water, possess only one cold tap running into a barrel. Hardly what one would expect from an organisation which takes pride in calling itself the greatest amateur organisation in the world.

Of course, what really damages our image is the number of so-called "incidents" which occur at our matches. Let me say at once that, in proportion to the number of matches played every year, they are not very great; but, let me also say that they are rarely handled as firmly as they should be. As a matter of fact, there are times when the newspapers which report them are more strongly criticised than those who participate in them—as if these incidents were figments of the imagination of the reporters.

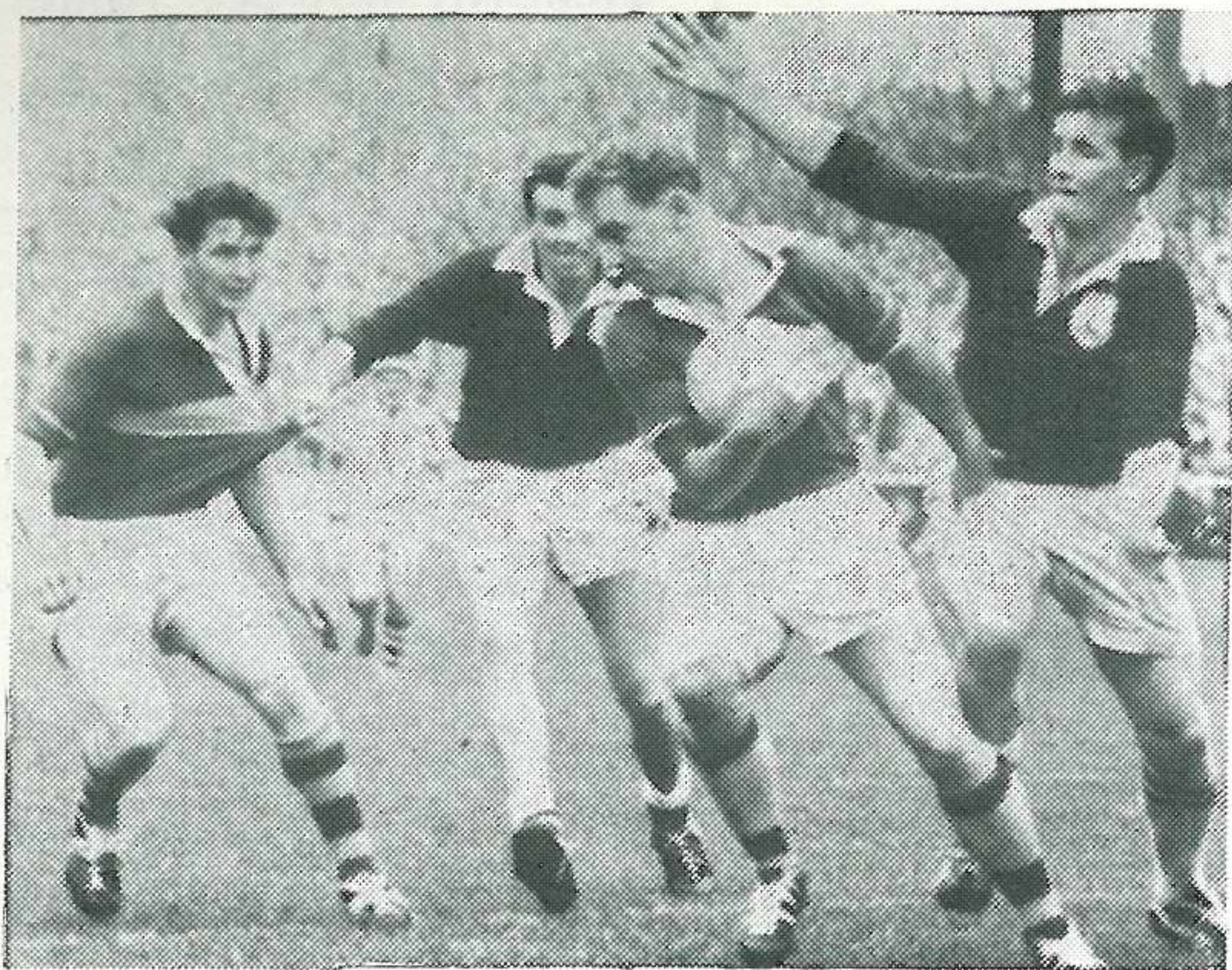
Unless we can show clearly that
(Continued overleaf.)

Austin



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Kerry's Billy Doran eludes Noel Tierney (Galway) as Timmie O'Sullivan (left) is effectively "held" by Sean Meade in the All-Ireland semi-final.

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(From previous page.)

we are not prepared to tolerate indiscipline on the field of play, and that we deal firmly with any offenders we will have considerable difficulty in convincing outsiders that we are really serious in our efforts to make our games safe for anyone to play.

This, naturally, leads one on to the general administration of G.A.A. affairs. For such a strong organisation whose roots go deep into Irish nationalism we should always strive, in administering our affairs, to be democratic, just and tolerant. Happily, this is usually the case; but, occasionally, instances do occur which do not redound to our credit and give an entirely distorted image of our administration.

Take the fairly recent case of Dave Geaney, for example. He was suspended for an offence about which he would be given no details. He was not told when the alleged offence took place, where it took place, what were the circumstances or, of course, who his accusers were. In other words he was unable to defend himself because he didn't know what he had to defend himself against. I don't think that this treatment could ever be considered as democratic, just or tolerant and no intelligent, reasonable man, whether inside or outside the organisation, could possibly justify it.

Can we do anything to improve our image? Well, attention to some of the points I have raised might prove well worthwhile. But mine is, of course, only a cursory examination. Fortunately, however, there is at the moment an enquiry being conducted into all aspects of G.A.A. affairs in Dublin. From its terms of reference, the results of this enquiry could be quite enlightening. If any worthwhile recommendations emerge and are implemented they could go a long way towards projecting that shining image which befits the greatest sporting organisation in Ireland.

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