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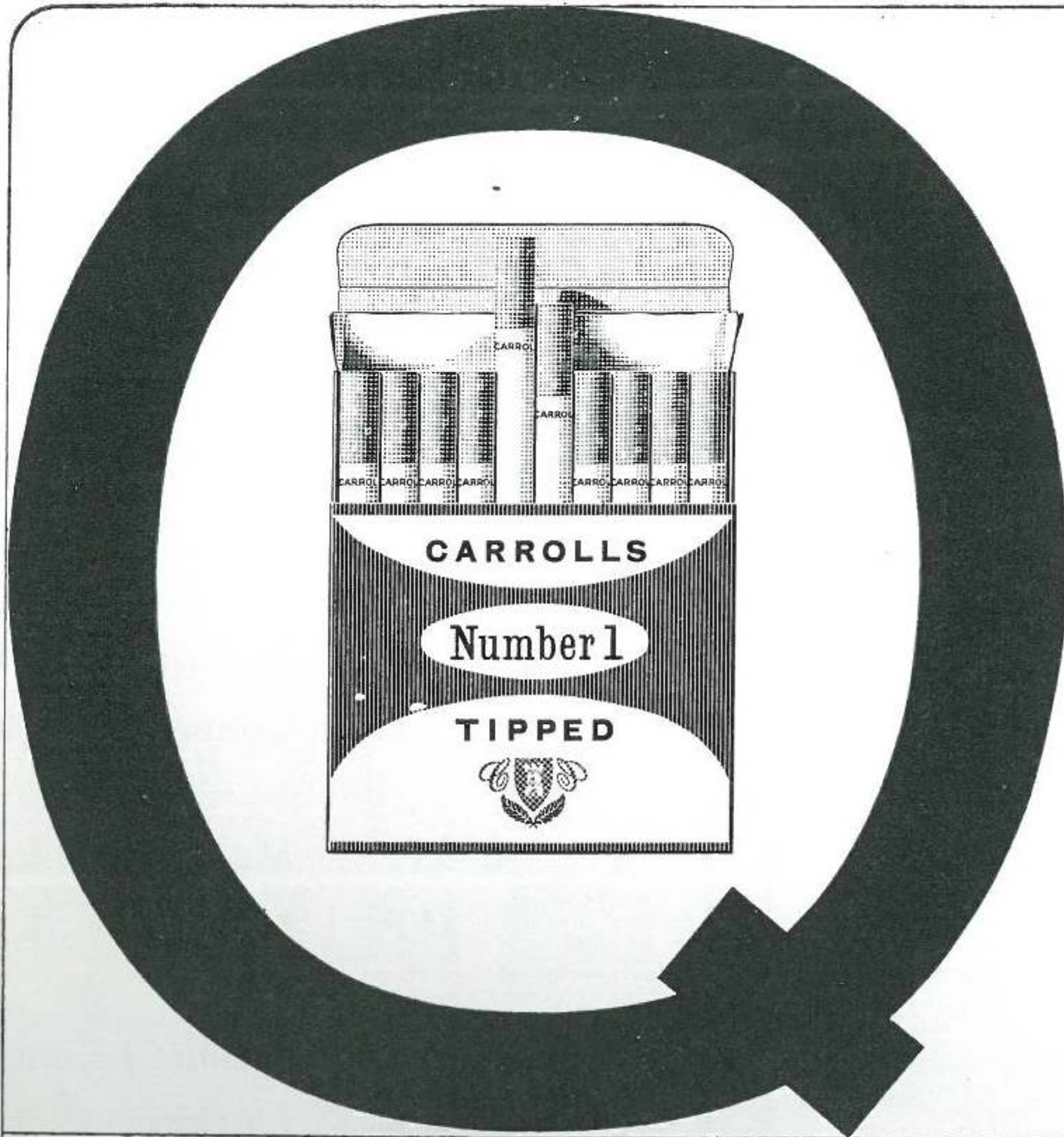
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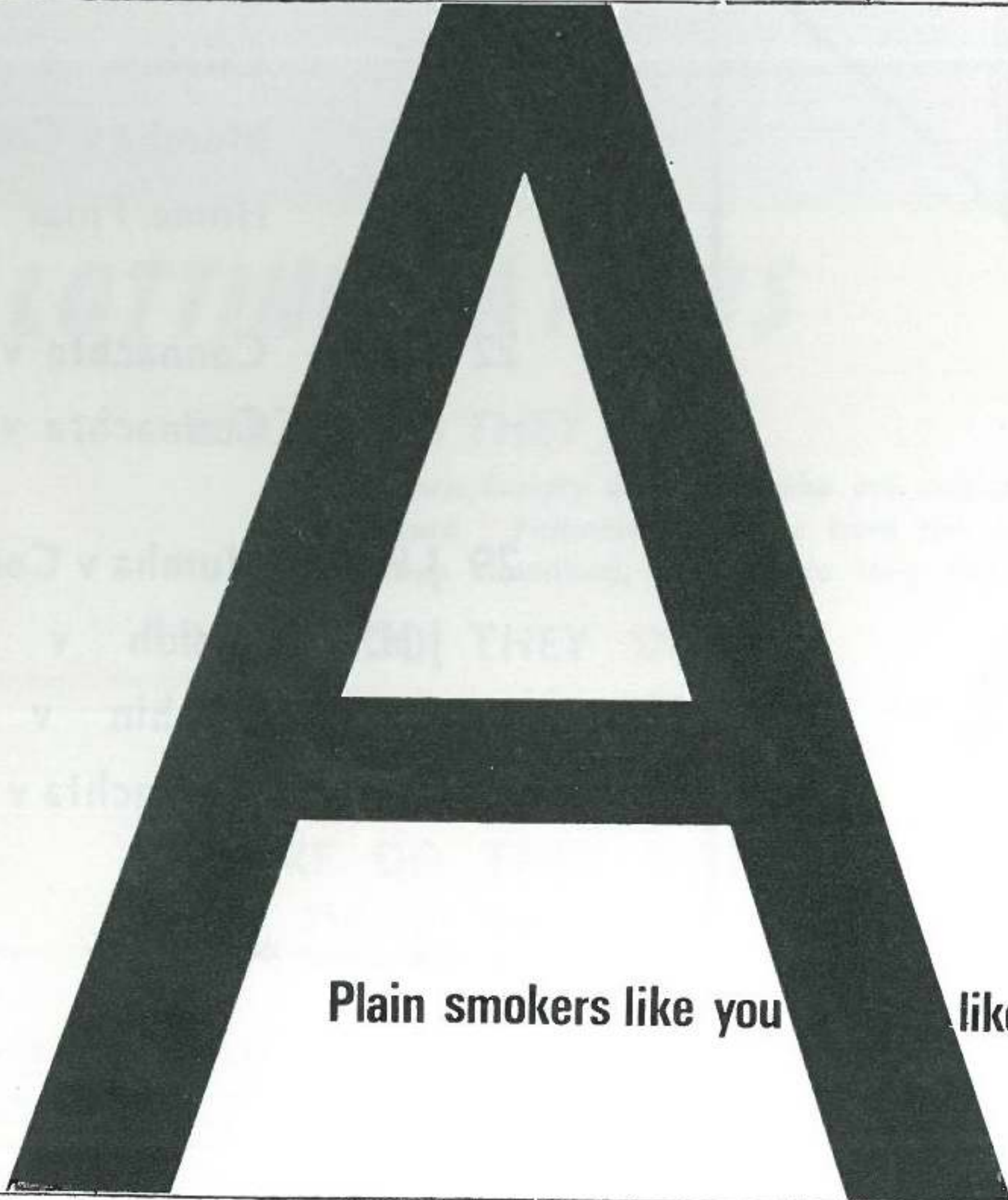
August	1	U-21 H.	Laighin	v	Ulaidh
		U-21 H.	Connachta	v	Mumha
„	8	S.F.	Mumha	v	Laighin
		M.F.	Mumha	v	Laighin
„	15	M.H.	Mumha	v	Connachta
		M.H.	Laighin	v	Ulaidh
		J.F.	Laighin	v	Ulaidh
		J.F.	Mumha	v	Connachta
		I.H.	Home Final		
„	22	S.F.	Connachta	v	Ulaidh
		M.F.	Connachta	v	Ulaidh
„	29	J.H.	Mumha	v	Connachta
		J.H.	Ulaidh	v	Laighin
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 8. No. 8. August, 1965.

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A WELCOME IMPROVEMENT . . .

FOR years the absence of a supply of books on Gaelic Games has been much felt. A visit to any public library could always bring home the point most forceably. If one was lucky, and if the library happened to be a large urban one, then there might be three or four books on Gaelic Games. In such a library one would also have the choice of scores of books on non-native games.

The economics of publication in a small country such as ours are such that this imbalance is never likely to be wholly righted—certainly not while we remain mainly an English speaking nation. However, the position can be improved—and is in fact being improved.

The cause of this improvement is blessed with two sources. Firstly the Central Council has realised that it has an obligation in assisting the creation of serious G.A.A. literature. Secondly, leading commercial firms such as Arthur Guinness Son & Co. Ltd., have come to accept such literature as worthy of financial support and sponsorship.

As a result of both these developments Joe Lennon's valuable book was published a year or so ago and now Tony Wall's hurling instruction book—an even more important publication, is about to appear.

We sincerely hope that this is but the beginning. There are no games under the sun as rich in colour and as cram-packed with human drama and excitement as are Gaelic Games. They provide a subject-matter worthy of any writer and now that the undertaking of such work promises a reasonable remuneration, the ball is in the writers' court.

What's happened

CONGRATULATIONS to Lime-rick footballers. I know that when this is read they will have gone down to Kerry in the Munster final. But they broke a record nearly seventy years old and who are we to say that they won't repeat the effort and appear in

another provincial final before long.

Sometime when the Garryowen men have done a little more—in hurling or football, and I expect improvement in both—I hope to write about them.

In the meantime we must answer

the burning question: what has happened Cork?

From 1911 when Cork won its second football All-Ireland (which by right was its third for the Nils won it in 1894 but were black-guarded out of it by Dublin, the referee and Central Council) until 1928 there was no football success. Then Jim Hurley, Mossie Donegan and the rest went down to Larry Stanley, Paul Doyle and the stars of Kildare in the semi final.

Again there was a recess until 1940 when a new lively bunch came together and we had some fine footballers in Paddy Cronin, now invalided in Dublin, Jack Lynch, Jimmy Cronin, Dave Magnier, the late Mick Tubridy, Tadg Crowley, Caleb Crone, Derry Beckett, and the present Cork chairman, "Weesh" Murphy. They won our last football All-Ireland in 1945.

In 1949 Cork was beaten in the semi-final by Cavan and again in '52 but had the consolation of winning our first National League title in that year. Incidentally in the semi-final against Cavan we were missing Con McGrath, then playing magnificently, and myself — which loss, I hope, meant at least the point by which we went down. But no excuses!

In 1956 and '57 two good Cork teams gave fine displays and a touch of heart-failure in two All-Irelands about which I have just finished writing elsewhere in the magazine.

After that second disappointment

GENTLEMEN, PLEASE!

A BASIC precept in journalistic ethics requires that a writer does not quote from a publication without acknowledging that publication by name.

Last November this magazine featured an important and exclusive interview with the President of the G.A.A., Alf O Muiri. Shortly afterwards Des O'Rourke, a sports contributor to the "Evening Press", saw fit to make that interview the subject of an article. Other than to state that the interview appeared in a "Gaelic games paper," he avoided acknowledgment.

Worse still by using the word "paper" instead of "magazine" he made his source even less discernible.

Much more recently Nollaig O Gadhra, a contributor to the "Gaelic Weekly", quoted almost in full a leading article of GAELIC SPORT'S. Again no mention whatsoever of the source from which he was quoting.

Might we then make our point clear. Anyone, anywhere is free to quote at length from GAELIC SPORT. Furthermore they are quite free to disagree with everything and anything which we might have said. They can attack and abuse our views to their hearts' content. We do not mind in the least.

All that we ask is that those who quote us should conform with elementary good manners by naming us. GAELIC SPORT is the name—an easy one to remember.

And even those whose powers of retention are limited—all they have to do is to close the magazine from which they are "lifting" and there, low and behold, they will find its name on the front cover.

So gentlemen — please!

—THE EDITOR.

to Cork?

there was an abatement of the flood of enthusiasm which is essential to real endeavour and since then Cork has, except in the Munster football final of '63 in Killarney, been beaten by Kerry, Waterford and this year by Limerick.

In Munster, as well as in the rest of Ireland, we are inclined to write off Clare, Limerick, Waterford and Tipperary as footballers. Yet I know—often to my cost that this is wrong. These counties all had their moments of football glory and have produced great men. The reason we don't know their men now is because the essential to recognition is success.

But how to win success with Kerry in the province?

The world knows that the brand of educated football they play down there is mounted on the vehicle of hard honest manliness and when the two are combined it's hard to beat. Kerry men are the best kickers in the country and better than most at the fetch.

Kerry have beaten the best of them pretty often in the All-Ireland series. What chance then have the other Munster counties except Cork? Naturally the other counties lose interest and then without first-class competition the county fifteen gradually drops lower.

I have no doubt that with five years preparation any of the Munster counties outside of Kerry could win an All-Ireland in football. It won't happen for many reasons, one of them being that the

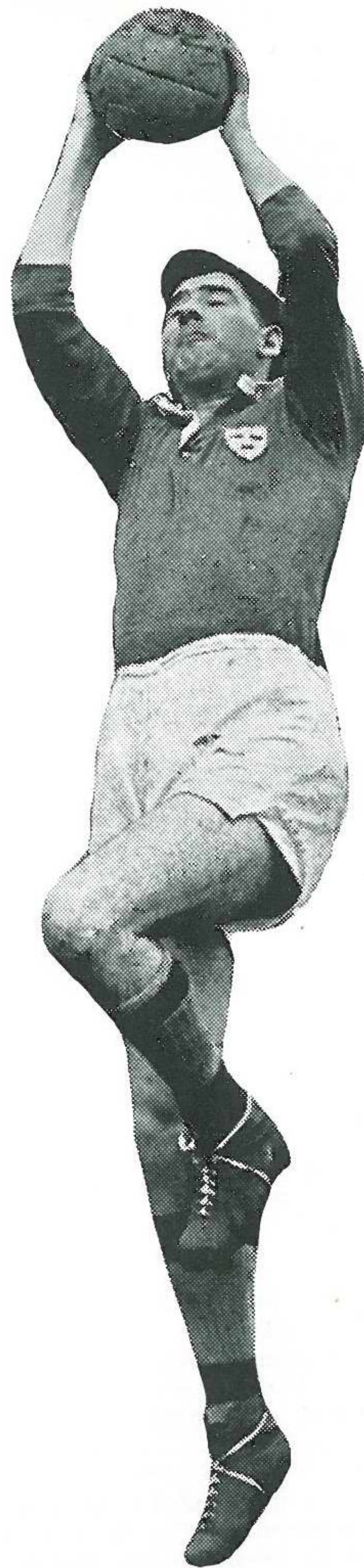
average G.A.A. leader down here is more interested in promoting further the wonderful hurling, leaving the football to John Joe Sheehy, Jim Brosnan, Tadg Crowley, Murt Kelly, Teddy O'Connor and their friends.

Just now Limerick have strung together a pretty good bunch of players and Mick Tynan, Eamonn Cregan, Bernie Hartigan, Jack Quinlivan and their captain, Tony Fitzgerald, are up with the best. In fact all the side needs is plenty of educated football practice and good competition to make it competent.

With Cork suffering from the loss of two men ruled out on the day of the game (under Rule 27), their leader Con Sullivan hurt, and inadequate preparation, it was only to be expected that we might have a fair team for the Munster final but not for our first game. Unfortunately this game was the last, and the best of luck to Limerick.

There are plenty footballers — and hurlers too — in Cork. We don't have to show dragon's teeth to see them arise. What we do need is careful shrewd and consistent coaching and training through summer and winter to bring out the best in each and find the faults which can't be remedied and which must after they are detected cause the player to be dropped.

That's the way with top-class teams: the weakest must go to the wall though he may be a star in a lower grade.



★ JOHN CRONIN . . . a former Cork and Kerry star.

But while there is life there is hope and life we still have in abundance. Yes, we'll be back.



★ FLASHBACK . . . to the Cavan-Donegal Ulster semi-final in Clones on July 14, 1963.

Cavan's tactics won a home venue

WERE you surprised when you heard that the Donegal-Cavan second replay was fixed for Breffni Park? Of course you were for had not the previous game between these counties been played there too. Why did Cavan get this third and vital game on homeground? Due to the absence of daily newspapers you may not have got the facts—so here they are.

When the second game ended level at Breffni Park there should have been extra time played. The Official Guide makes this point

clear. Cavan were on the field and willing to play the extra period but Donegal refused. This decision could have cost Donegal the game.

Then came a meeting of the Ulster Council to decide the issue. Nobody expected Cavan to be awarded the match and Irvines-town was fancied as the venue for

the third meeting. But Cavan stood firm.

They quoted the rule regarding extra time and claimed the match. This went to a vote and Cavan lost by ten votes to eight. I have no doubt that Cavan expected this—but it was an excellent tactic. Lose one and win the other.

ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

by **CONNALLACH**

The Council swung in their favour with regard to the venue, and again, by ten votes to eight, Breffni Park was chosen—a sort of conciliatory move to compensate Cavan for the rejection of their first claim.

I have no doubt at all but that this was what the Breffnimen wanted from the beginning. But, of course, had they simply gone after the venue from the beginning they, in all probability, would not have got it.

So it was Breffni Park and a one point win for Cavan. Was the home venue worth that vital point? Of course it was and probably more—but at the same time Donegal can blame themselves for they threw the game away.

These championship developments were but a sequel to the famous unplayed Donegal-Cavan McKenna Cup final. Remember how Cavan stood firm and refused to play that game—putting forward as a reason that Tom Maguire was in America for the Cardinal Cushing games.

Those in the know fully realised what Cavan were up to then. They were not that worried about the McKenna final. What concerned them was to avoid being beaten by Donegal in a game so near to championship time.

Donegal were then riding high and Cavan were somewhat in the doldrums. Donegal would have beaten them in the McKenna Cup final and this would be a major blow to Breffni morale and confidence—and would have greatly undermined their hopes of working-up championship fever.

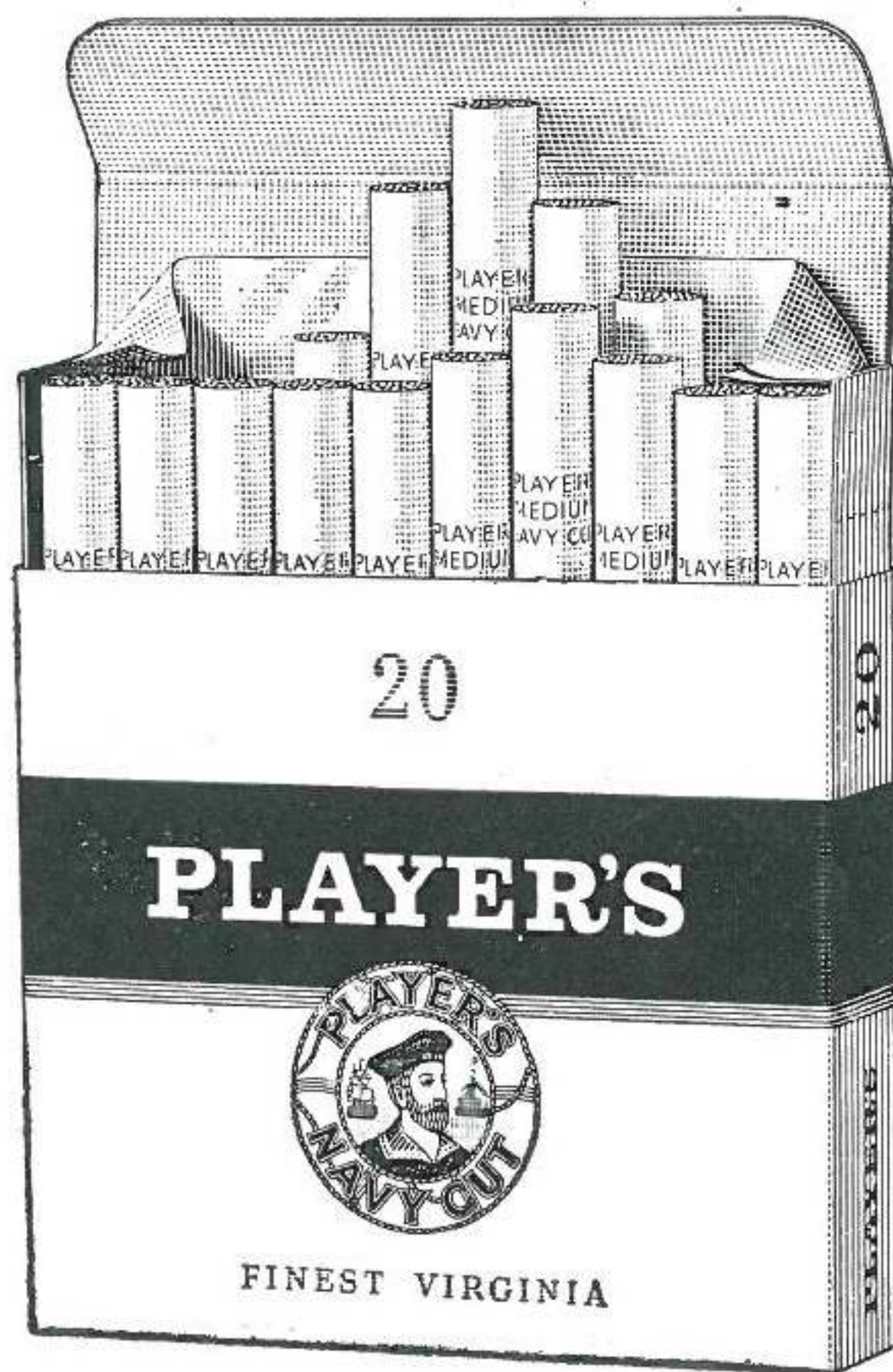
Yes, those in the know knew what Cavan had in mind by refusing to play that game. It was bad sportsmanship but good tactics. It certainly worked as far as Donegal was concerned . . . but it all has not won Breffni any new fans.

EIGHT IN A ROW

Down contest their eighth consecutive Ulster title. A proud

● TO PAGE 48.

Only PLAYER'S please so much

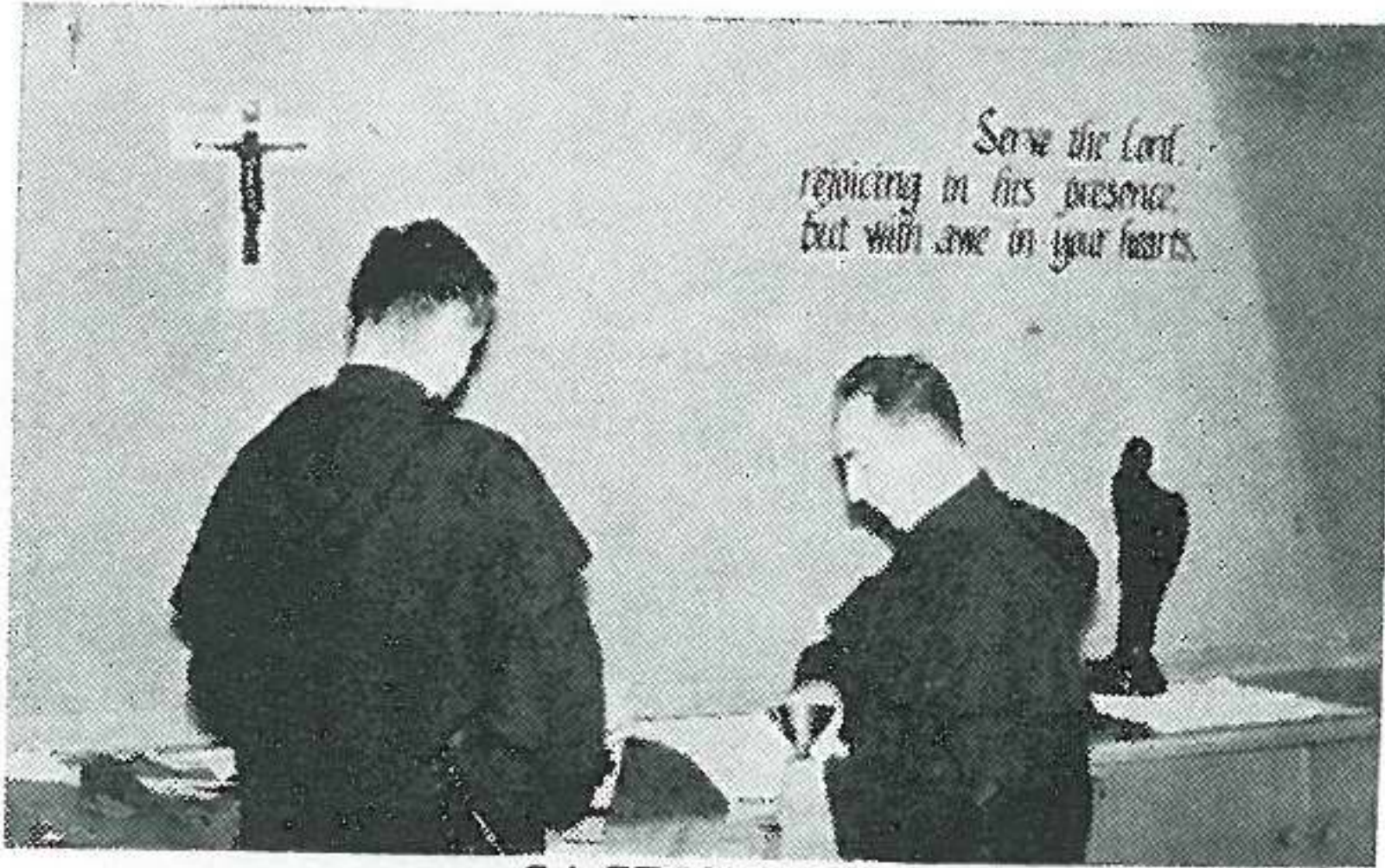


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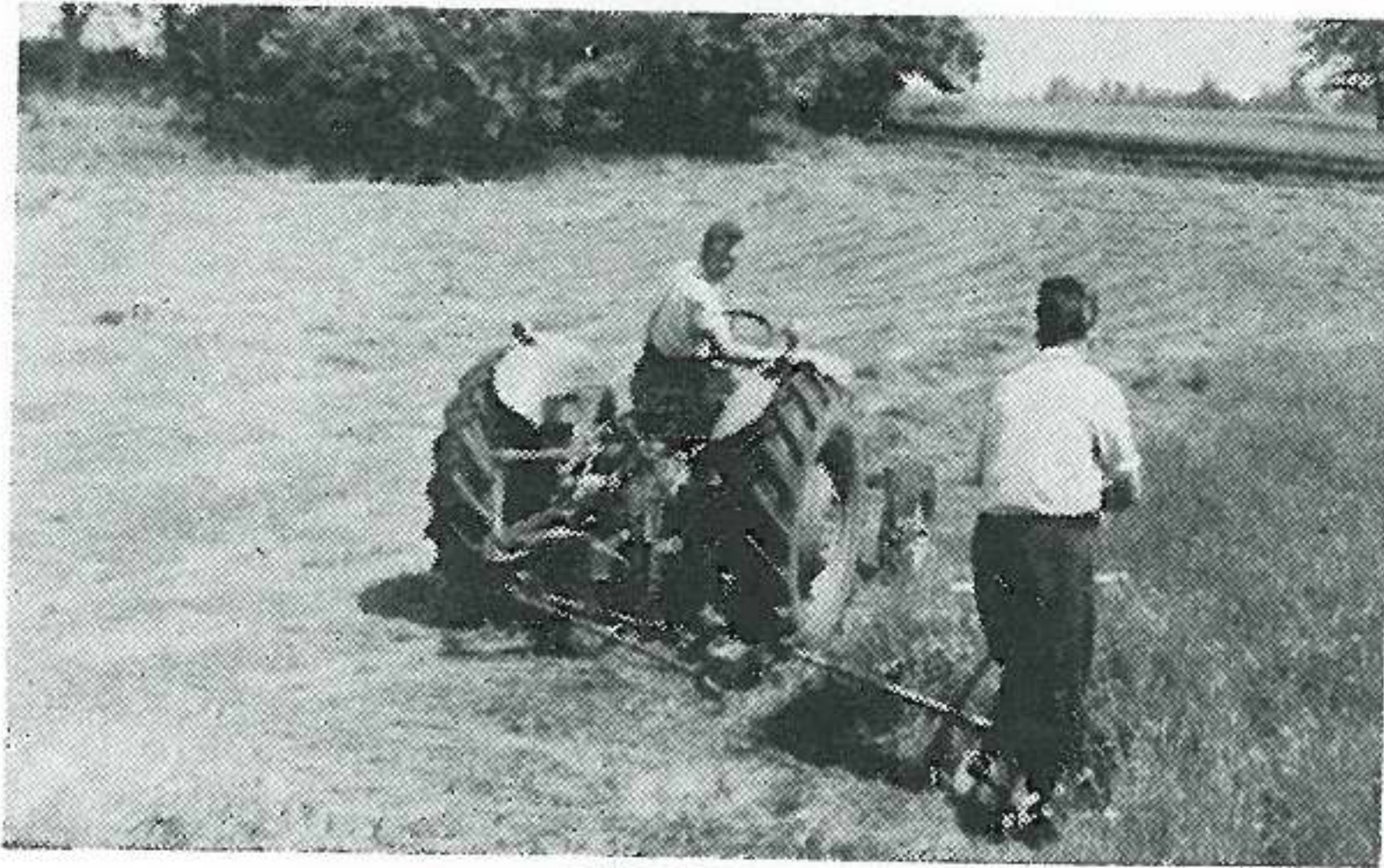
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OFFALYMEN FIGHT FOR THE FOOTBALLING TEACHER

COMMENTARY

WHILE Johnny Geraghty was starring with the Galway footballers in New York the Offaly Vocational Committee was giving the Department of Education a hard going over for having refused the Galway keeper leave of absence with pay during his U.S. visit.

Johnny is an Irish teacher at the Edenderry Vocational School. The Department gave him leave of absence—but no pay while he was away.

However, the Offaly Vocational Committee was not at all satisfied with this. They decided that an application for pay be made forthwith.

"It is an honour to this county to have a man of Johnny Geraghty's calibre among us," said Committee member Mr. J. McCann. The Committee agreed.

GREAT GALWAY SCHEME

All this month at Coláiste Chonnacht, Spiddal, approximately one hundred boys will attend an Irish language-juvenile hurling course on a scholarship basis. This imaginative and far-reaching scheme is the brain-child of the Galway Coiste Iomana and with it they have given a magnificent lead to the entire country.

Galway will have fifty boys in attendance while the rest come from Mayo and Roscommon. The Galway boys were chosen on the basis of hurling promise and the entire course will be conducted through the medium of Irish. Has the language and the games ever been better married? I think not.



★ JOHNNY GERAGHTY . . . leave—but no pay.

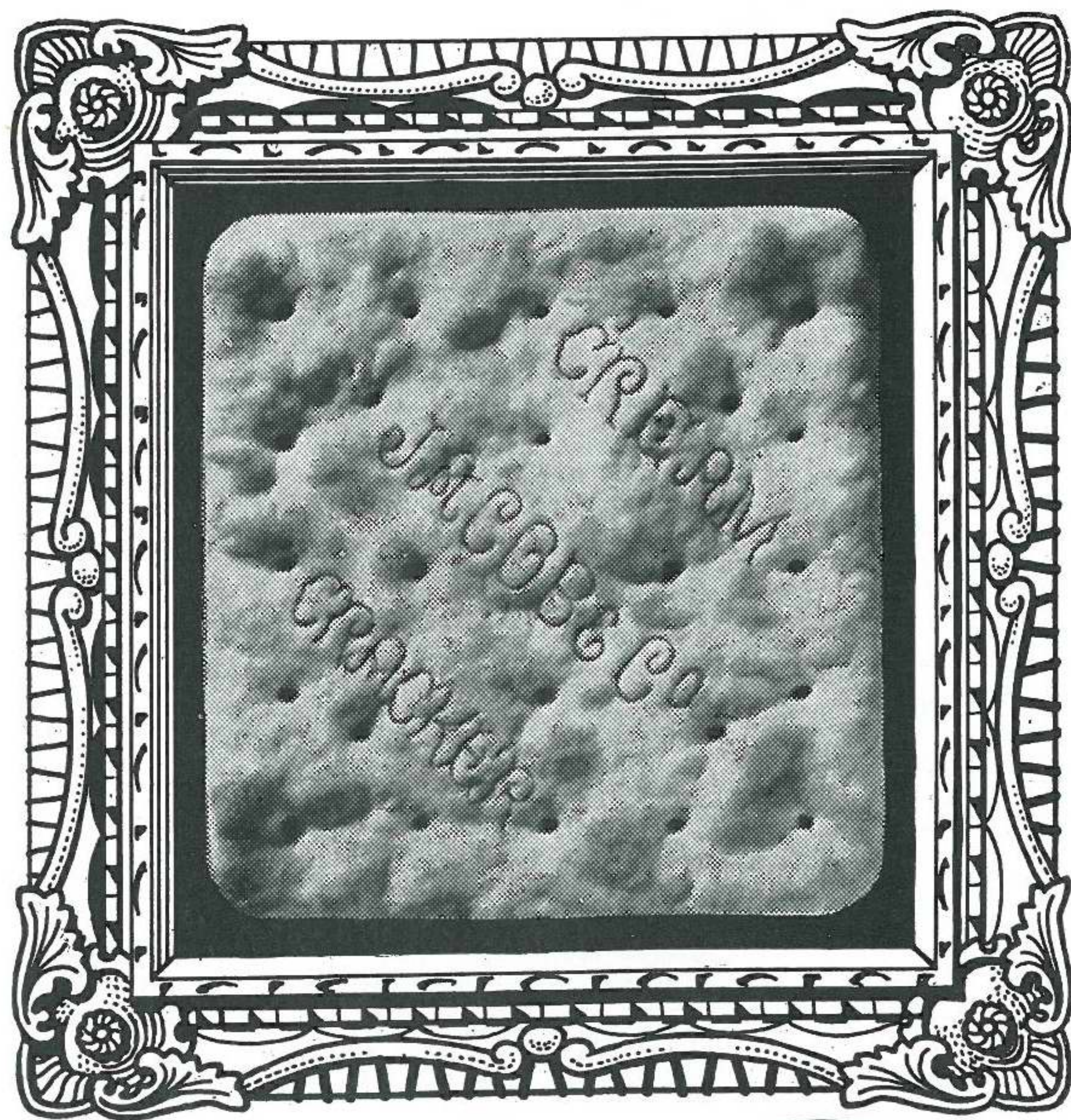
To sponsor this course the Galway Coiste Iomana has had to take on a great responsibility. They have done so almost entirely on their own and there is great credit due to them.

Incidentally the Five-Year Hurling Scheme is really being put into operation throughout the county.

There are juvenile and school teams in action everywhere and thousands of boys involved.

Galway may be in the hurling doldrums at present—but boy you just watch out for them from 1970 on. With enthusiasm and organisation so widespread throughout

● TO PAGE 37.



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Joe Lennon

Let's have more **PARISH** games . . .

ONE of the factors which tends to militate against a more comprehensive approach to football at club level is the undue stress which is laid on the best twenty or so footballers in the parish. Too often, apart from the odd kick about, they and few others are the only ones concerned in competitive football. This means that for the many players who are just not good enough for the club team, there is no real stimulus to play or keep fit.

The big drawbacks which result from this state of affairs are the scarcity of reserve talent when needed and the danger that young players may not get a chance on the team.

I think we should have much more competition within the clubs even at the expense of inter-club games. The club should cater for more than the best twenty or so players. To do this, a parish seven-a-side or ten-a-side tournament could be organised each month.

If club membership means anything it should mean a willingness on the part of members to take part in and organise more and more activities. In football, we could have competitions for the most accurate free kicker, the longest free kicker or a game called golf-ball where the ball has to be kicked around a marked-out course in a certain number of kicks.

Anything which we can do to

increase the number playing the better will the game take root in the parish. Whether we admit it or not, county and inter-club football is tending to reduce rather than increase the number of players and the total number of games played. The current trend to suspend club football when the county team is doing well is a most malign influence.

A club which refuses to play because one or two of its better players are on duty with the county is hardly worthy of the name. A county which limits or suspends local competition when things are going well on the inter-county field is doing a very ill-service to the game and the Association.

Some time ago, I was quoted as having said "Football begins at county level." I meant it then and I still do. If football was properly organised within the clubs, the game would prosper more than at present. Until we recognise the obvious lopsidedness in administration and organisation and then try and correct it, we shall flounder on from season to season with ever-decreasing numbers of players and ever-increasing numbers of spectators.

So let's have a move within the clubs to provide maximum football for maximum numbers of parishioners. More intra-club football and less (if necessary) inter-club football is what is needed.

TOP TEN

SLIGO AND CORK MEN ON TOP

THIS month's Top Ten lists are based on intercounty performances from Sunday, June 13 to Sunday, July 4, inclusive.

Sligo's score-getter Micheál Kearns heads the football list, closely followed by Galwaymen, Pat Donnellan and Johnny Geraghty.

In hurling most of the top camán counties are represented with Cork's Denis O'Riordan taking top place and Waterford's Ned Power one place behind.

FOOTBALL

1. Micheál Kearns (Sligo).
2. Pat Donnellan (Galway).
3. Johnny Geraghty (Galway).
4. Bobby Burns (Longford).
5. Paddy Doherty (Down).
6. Jimmy Whan (Armagh).
7. Brendan Barden (Longford).
8. Pat Collier (Meath).
9. Michael McLoone (Donegal).
10. John Timmons (Dublin).

HURLING

1. Denis O'Riordan (Cork).
2. Ned Power (Waterford).
3. Jimmy Cullinan (Clare).
4. Eddie Keher (Kilkenny).
5. Sean McLoughlin (Tipperary).
6. Frank Walsh (Waterford).
7. Noel Gallagher (Cork).
8. Pascal O'Brien (Clare).
9. Mick Bermingham (Dublin).
10. Pat Cronin (Clare).

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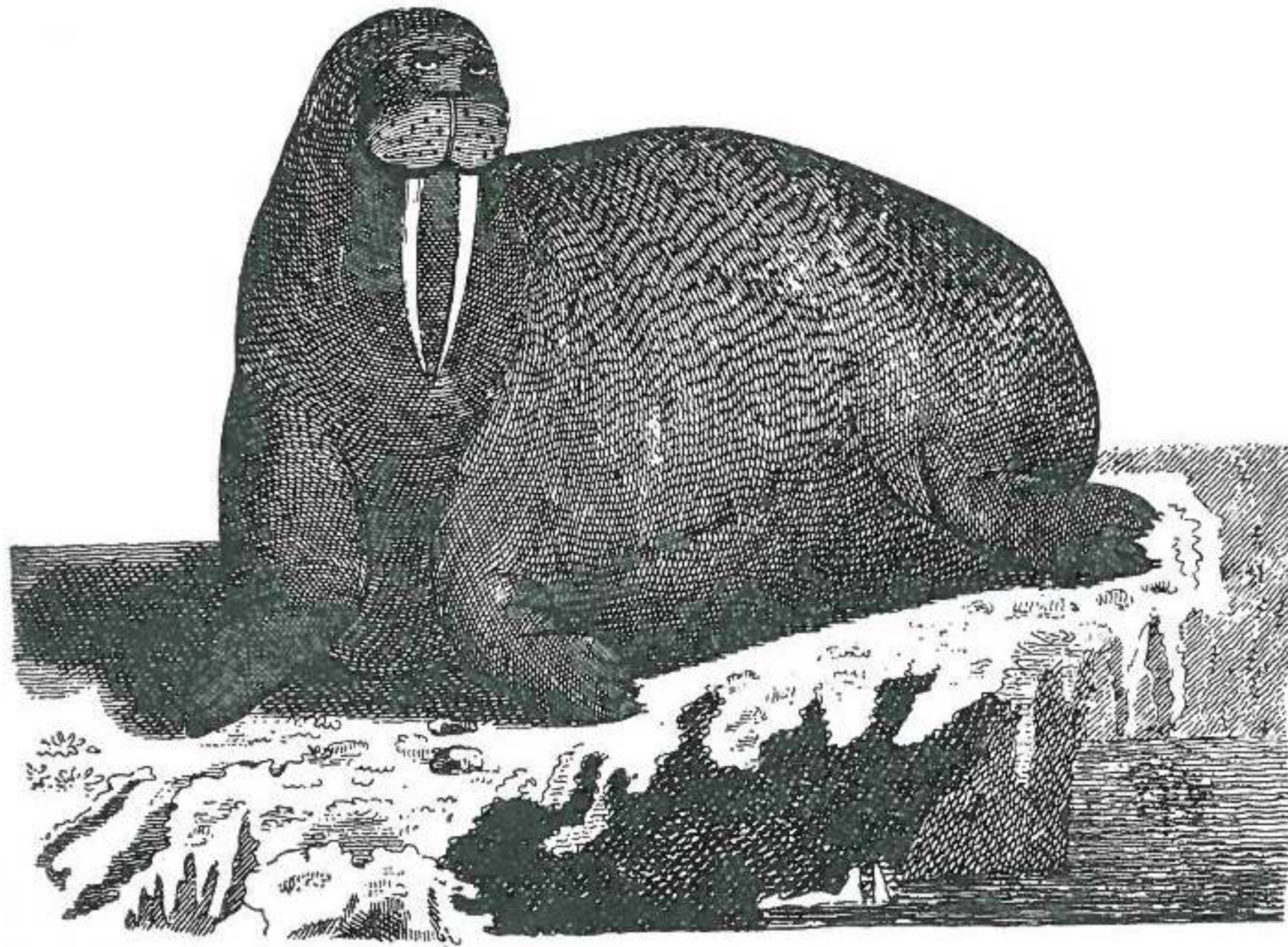
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Loyalty begins at home . . .

says JAY DRENNAN

PATRIOTISM is a much used and often misused word. But whatever ideals it conjures to the mind, the practical application of the virtue at the level of everyday living is a most interesting study. Sometimes called loyalty — but where is the difference—it applies to Gaelic games as to everything else, and it applies in a way which does not gain maximum expression in the structure of the competitions of the G.A.A. At least, until Munster introduced an official club championship of the province, it did not.

Loyalty, which in turn is also charity, begins at home. We have our strongest loyalties to our own people and our own homes, and next to our own district, and so in ever-widening and ever-weakening concentric circles through parish and county and country. We all remember our school days and the school matches, which were the most tense occasions we have ever experienced in sport, when the fiercest of all our loyalties were called to the fore.

Next greatest enthusiasm for the ordinary follower of our games is occasioned by those outings of his local club when the honour of the native heath is at stake. Next most affecting occasion is the outing of the county team. For those whose club is a nonentity the county may take precedence, but for the man who belongs with a club of moderate or good standard, the county's performance is of a little less importance, if he will but

admit it, than the performance of his club. The horizons are narrower but the honour means much.

Subscribing to this extension of loyalties inwards, the Munster Council began this year for the first time, an official provincial inter-club championship in both hurling and football. This new competition, which has not yet reached its conclusion, already has shown that it is one which will catch on, and which has captured even so soon the imagination of the fans. Its appeal, perhaps, may not prove to be of such universal application as the inter-county grade, but when the outstanding clubs come together there is no doubt that they will attract outstanding crowds.

One of the great advantages of the new competition is that it gives the clubs which win in their own county something higher to aim at than the mere winning of their own home championships; for the so-called weaker counties this is at once a mighty incentive to dethrone the stronger, and also a splendid opportunity of meeting stronger opposition and perfecting and improving their game.

For the club members it is of the greatest advantage, too, since few enough of the personnel of the winning club team can be included in the intercounty team, and many of the best and most solid clubmen never reach the intercounty heights. There are those who play stalwart parts in inter-club games,

yet have not quite the class which would make them material for the county team; and there are those who are brilliant players, but temperamentally unsuited to playing with any but their home parish team. When selected for the higher honour of the intercounty game they never reproduce the form of which they are capable. This seems strange, but anybody who watches both kinds of games will come across any number of such players in a season.

For these players, and the not-so-good ones who are just parts of the club team—unspectacular but sound—the new Munster club championship is giving a great chance. They will have the fruits of loyalty and honest endeavour while still with their own clubmen.

For the supporters of the club it is the great opportunity for seeing their men involved in games against those clubs which they always felt their men could beat, but since the only yardstick of comparison was some milk-and-water tournament or challenge, they could never be sure. And the supporters of the games in general have endorsed over a long number of years now their enthusiasm for tournaments for the champion clubs of various counties by flocking in their thousands to such games. The Dunhill tournament for several years was a fine example of this; the Blackrock Church Fund tournament in Cork another, and there were several others in south

● TO PAGE 37.

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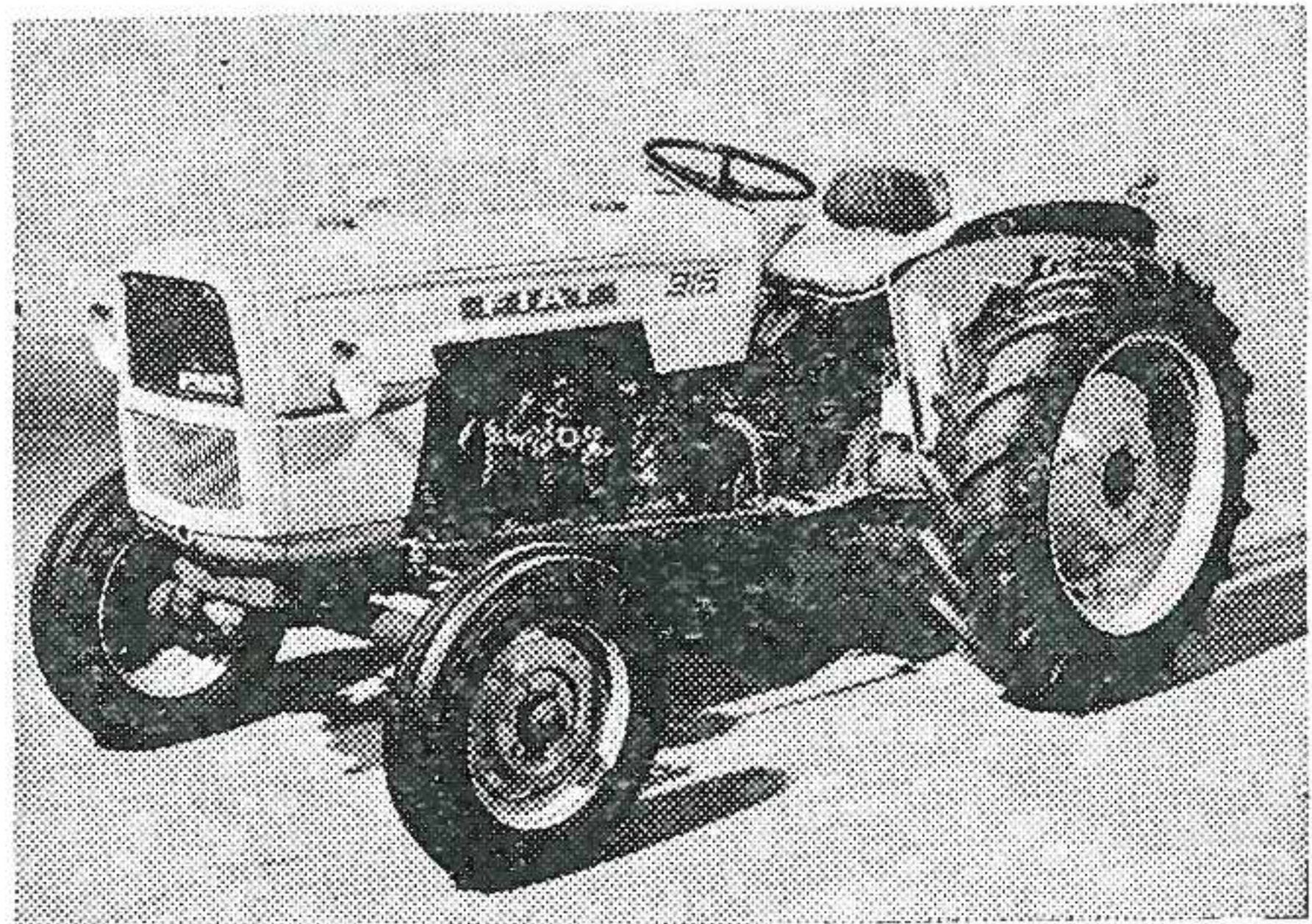
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THE END OF THE ROAD . . .

CROKE PARK on Sunday, September 22, in the year 1957. Like ants the thousands swarmed along the terraces, while over on the stands the programmes rustled and we settled down to watch.

Bishop Cornelius Lucey of Cork, with Seamus Mac Fearain of Antrim, testified to an organisational unity that transcended politics. Dermot O'Brien, leader of a ceili band and Louth footballers at the same time knelt to kiss the prelate's ring.

A big man from the sea-washed shores of Beara waited. Neally Duggan at thirty-five was after the All-Ireland medal he might have won twelve years earlier.

The players stood for the Anthem, in went the white ball and the final of '57 was on.

Cork broke away from the throw and raced to the Canal goal. The Louth backs came out in that resolute but nervous fashion that players show before they settle down. There were half clearances and a little fussing until Eamonn Goulding got possession over on the right wing and swerved away. His man brought him down and we smiled to hear that whistle.

That point would be handy. Up walked Eric Ryan. He kicked; and straight and true she went. Only two minutes gone.

Almost immediately Louth worked up the field and Kevin Beahan drove it low to Jim Roe who swung, and curled a beautiful ball high and over the bar.

In the fifth minute Neally Duggan, playing full forward, roamed out and got the leather a full forty yards from goal. In the goalmouth backs and forwards waited for the lobbing centre. Duggan took a quick look at goal and decided to save them the trouble. He lofted it neatly over the bar.

Again it was left corner forward Jimmy Roe who slapped a neat equaliser over from thirty yards and in the thirteenth minute Seamus O'Donnell, the Louth right winger, worked himself up into a position from which you wouldn't score with a rifle—and put it over the bar.

Three minutes later Eric Ryan's educated foot sent a ground kick from a rather difficult angle neatly where we wanted it. Level again!

Then they placed a ball for Kevin Beahan a full forty yards out. He proved what we had said: Beahan could kick them. It sailed dead on and we knew that anything under fifty yards was dangerous for the hour.

Neally Duggan—and Cork—had a spot of bad luck then for the big full forward eluded Tom Conlon and worked into a good position only to slip. The ball was cleared and a minute after Dermot O'Brien left it to tall Dan O'Neill, the Mayo-born mid-fielder, and Louth had another point to leave them two up.

Eamonn Goulding, who had played a lot of the ball on the right wing where he had the edge on



Stephen White during this half, next cut through for a fast shot at goal. Sean Og Flood earned a mighty Louth cheer. He saved and cleared.

Then Duggan dropped in a thirty-yard lob and "Toots" Kelleher created a mild disturbance, in fair fashion, near the square. Tommy Furlong got well up off the ground and sent it to the net. Croke Park rocked. This is what we wanted.

The cheer had hardly died away when Niall Fitzgerald, leaping like a deer, rose to another ball and fisted it over. Happy enough we went to the dressing-room with a two point lead of 1-4 to 0-5.

As we waited on the side-line for the re-start the Louth side was slow to come out. How sluggish some of them looked to my impatient eye. And then when all were ready we saw that one Louthman was missing. Down along the side-line he came from the dressing-room at the canal side of the field.

He didn't run and he didn't walk but drifted along at an ambling pace more suitable to a bad scholar going late to school than an All-Ireland athlete. It was "Red" Meehan the Louth corner-back. We

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

PHILIP RODERICK

PROVIDES THE ANSWER

LIKE everyone else of my age, I was a youngster at one time . . . and I don't suppose I was any different from any of you. I did all the usual things one associates with youngsters — I robbed my fair share of orchards, I was chased by the Guards, I mitched a few days from school, I "cogged" a few "eckers" at the local school . . . and, of course, I fancied myself as one of the best hurlers in the town.

There is no need to accuse me of boasting. Didn't you at one time or another think you were the best hurler in the town . . . and that most of the young girls had eyes for none but you? And tell me, who were you when you were playing hurling as a youngster? Don't try to tell me that you believed your own name and identity was good enough.

I remember I always fancied myself as Eudie Coughlan—that was when I was really good—but there were times too when I became Dinny Barry Murphy, and Marie Connell. I always had a sneaking admiration for "Fox" Collins but there was little I could do about him. First of all my hair was the wrong colour and on top of that we had two red-haired young men on our team and they had to battle between themselves to see which of them would be "Fox."

We also had one young man who insisted all the time in being called what I fondly imagined at the time to be "Bill X." For the life of me I could not figure out why.

Eudie Coughlan, "Fox" Collins, Jim Hurley, Marie Connell, Dinny Barry Murphy or Balty and Gah



★ JIM
REGAN



★ JIM
HURLEY.



★ D. B.
MURPHY.

Ahearne, I could understand. After all, Cork had just beaten Kilkenny in the immortal final of 1931 and their names were household words throughout the length and breadth of Cork county. They were the heroes of the day; everyone wanted to be identified with them.

But "Bill X"? Now that was a little out of the ordinary and for a long, long time, I thought it was a name dreamt up by the young man who used it. Not for many years after, until I met the same young man in his twenties — by which time he had dropped the "Bill X"—did I find out.

And, of course it was not "Bill X" at all; it was "Billex" . . . and then the penny dropped. The youngster had acquired the name from his father—a long-time St. Finbarr's supporter, whose idol for many decades had been the one and only "Billex" Moloney of the "Barrs."

Over the years since then the name of "Billex" Moloney has cropped up many times. Larry Flaherty—still driving that immaculate taxi of his around Cork city—played with "Billex" and knew him well and he talked at great length about him. Larry, like many other Corkmen whose memories go back to the start of the century, thought

the world of "Billex" and, if we are to judge by the people who saw him play, "Billex" must have been one of the greatest men who ever wore a Cork jersey.

Recently, after "Billex" had come up in another conversation, I decided to try to trace his career, just to see how many All-Ireland medals he had won.

And, hard though it is to believe, "Billex" never won an All-Ireland medal.

He played in two finals—the 1904 and 1905 games—and lost the first by a point and the second, when Cork and Kilkenny were ordered to replay the final. Cork won the first game of 1905 but in the replayed game, they went down badly at Dungarvan.

"Billex", of course, was for over twenty years one of the really great stars of the St. Finbarr's side and for many years after he had retired, he acted as trainer and selector to the side.

"Billex" is a man I would like to know a lot more about. Perhaps some of our readers in Cork can help with some information about him?

After all, if he was good enough to be a hero for one youngster in Cork 30 years ago . . . then he must have been really good.

Cork tackle that punctuality problem



by SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

CORK County Board are tackling in vigorous fashion the question of punctuality—a department that all must admit needs tightening up, particularly as far as club games are concerned.

Referees must be stricter in reporting late-comers than they have been in the past, and if neces-

sary some incentive must be devised to get them to enforce this very important and very necessary rule.

Maybe if the fines could be pooled and used at the end of the season as an award for the best referee stricter enforcement of the rule would be secured.

Referees themselves are sometimes to blame for late starts. If they do not actually arrive too close to the appointed time for comfort they invite trouble by arriving without umpires, and are forced to start a search for these when they should be getting under way.

Referees have the hardest task of all in the G.A.A., and I often feel they are the least appreciated. A more understanding approach by boards and councils would help a lot in this regard—and a referee who gives unstinted service should be rewarded in some way. They are more entitled than many to stand seats at the All-Ireland finals, but how many boards show their appreciation in this way.

Without our referees we would have no games—put that in your pipe and smoke it—county officials and all others whom it may concern.

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(KILKENNY) (WEXFORD)

Minor : 2 p.m.

Ath Cliath v Loch Garmán
(DUBLIN) (WEXFORD)

Also on August 1st at Droichead Nua

Fé 21 Bld. Football Final : Ua bhFailghe v. Cill Dara, 3.30 p.m.

KERRY PLANS

Kerry County Board are to spend £30,000 on a most ambitious scheme of dressing-room and other facilities at Austin Park, Tralee and Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney.

The Tralee project will be up to the standard of the best anywhere, consisting of a two storey building,

● TO PAGE 46.



Our Sporting Life

In covering every facet of the nation's sporting life, Radio and Telefis Eireann Outside Broadcast teams take their microphones and cameras back and forth the length and breadth of the country. Between them, Ireland's national radio and television services make it possible for an audience of millions to be present at major sporting events—the greatest proportion of air-time being devoted to Gaelic games.

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THE UNKNOWN

FROM BALLYDUFF . . .

by PATRICK CARVER

SOMEDAY I will have to get somebody from Ballyduff to verify this story. The main facts are true—I discovered most of them in the National Library—but it is possible that some of the elders of Ballyduff, Co. Waterford may have heard their fathers and mothers talking about John E. Tobin . . . and, if they have, they might be able to add a few more facts about a man who was generally recognised as one of the greatest footballers in the country before the birth of the G.A.A. Certainly, it is on record that he was one of the fastest Gaelic footballers this country has produced.

I was not around at the time—the time of this story is almost 100 years ago—and I cannot tell you what brand of football they played in Ballyduff or, in fact who Ballyduff were playing on the day that a certain sporting gentleman took grave note of the fact that John E. Tobin could run like a hare.

It would appear that the policy of the Ballyduff team at the time was to ensure that John E. got the ball. For when he got it there was no stopping him. He could outrun any footballer in Waterford and, by all accounts, his speed was responsible for many of Ballyduff's great victories.

One sporting gentleman, however,

recognised possibilities about John E's speed and after this particular game at Ballyduff, he made a point of getting hold of John E. to discuss a matter of great importance.

Had John E. ever thought seriously about taking part in foot races? John E. modestly admitted that he had taken part in a few local events but that he had had little trouble in outdistancing the opposition.

That was enough for our sporting gentleman. He felt he had found what he was looking for and he promised to have another chat with John E. during the course of a few weeks.

Around this time—it was the Autumn of 1867—the finest runner in Ireland, acknowledged by everyone, was a certain Captain H. F. Marryat of the 65th Regiment of the British Army. Time and again he had taken part in matches against the best runners in the whole of Ireland and not a man had been able to get within yards of him.

Our sporting gentleman from Waterford approached Marryat and challenged him to run against an unknown youngster from Ballyduff, Co. Waterford. Marryat was not too interested until a suggestion was put forward that the match should be for £500 a side.

This was too good to be true. Easy money; he accepted immediately. The race was fixed for the Navigation Walk, Cork, on October 26, 1867.

The word spread quickly and the Captain's admirers—there were quite a lot of them—decided to get in on the easy money. They made wagers on all sides and when the day of the race came, it was estimated that they had bet somewhere in the region of £4,000 on Marryat to win. Of course, it was dead safe money. Marryat had brought a coach from England and he had been putting the Captain through a strict routine of training for almost four weeks. General feeling was that Marryat would win in the proverbial canter.

Thousands lined the Navigation Walk for the race. Most of them had come to see the Captain win, but two coach loads of supporters had arrived from Ballyduff to cheer on John E. Tobin. And, again by all accounts, the Ballyduff men had made their bets. One man claimed that if John E. were beaten, it would bankrupt the village.

When the two men stripped off for their 110 yards sprint, even the Ballyduff supporters became worried. The Captain was a big powerful man; beside him John E. Tobin looked slim and somewhat anaemic.

But when the starter fired a pistol, all the special training of Captain Marryat counted for nought. John E. Tobin was off like a frightened hare and he was three yards ahead at the halfway mark. And there was no slackening of pace. John E. increased his lead and at the tape was five yards up in a time of 10½ seconds.

It was generally agreed that it had been one of the fastest races seen up to then . . . and, if we are to believe the stories of the time, Ballyduff went on a spree that lasted for almost a week.

Certainly the town did not go bankrupt. If any place did, it must have been Cork City.

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DEANTÓIRÍ DON RIALTAS

LET'S APPLAUD THE ALL-ROUNDERS

IN these days of the sporting specialists, the men of the one game or even of the one event, I sometimes wonder if I am the only one left who still feels that the all-rounder is the man who really deserves the plaudits on the sporting scene. To me the beau ideal of a sportsman is still the late Tom Kiely of Ballyneale, who could run, jump or throw the weights with the best in the world, who could play hurling and football for Tipperary, and who could play the fiddle or dance a jig or sing a song to charm the birds off the trees.

Give me the all-rounder every time and that is why my heart always warms to men like the Foley brothers and Des Ferguson from Dublin, or Michael Keating of Tipperary, or Sean Meade or Cyril Dunne of Galway, or that young lad coming up, Eamonn Cregan of Limerick.

All these are equally good at hurling or football, and more power to them say I. But there has been no more versatile sportsman on the Gaelic fields through the last decade or so than the Kerry All-Ireland goalkeeper, Johnny Cullotty.

You see, Killarney Johnny has played and won All-Irelands in both hurling and football in different positions. He has also

won National League medals in different positions. Sometimes he was in goal and sometimes, mainly in his younger days before a knee injury came against him, he was in the forwards, and I have seen him play in goal and in the forwards in hurling in recent times. Moreover, but for that knee injury he would surely have been a basketball international, for I saw him play brilliant basketball for Kerry a decade ago, and he was All-Ireland class then.

Of course we do have a basketball international at the moment who is also an All-Ireland medalist in football and that is Dublin's Bill Casey. Bill is a great star of the basketball courts and an extremely fine footballer by any standards. In addition I saw him perform with considerable distinction in the novice U.C.D. sports at Belfield in the early summer, and I thought then that if he had a bit of spare time to devote to the athletics he could easily make his way into championship class.

What Bill's capabilities on the hurling fields are I do not know but I do know that his sister Mary has been a star of the great Dublin side, Celtic, for some years past and I think, collected at least one All-Ireland medal as a reserve on the Dublin team.



★ MARTIN O'NEILL

But, as I said at the start, nowadays we are coming more and more into believing that this is the day of the sporting specialist, and I am still convinced that specialisation is entirely wrong for the good of all games. To my way of thinking any young fellow who has the use of himself at all should be encouraged to develop his talents in every possible way.

And I often think, that if I had my time all over again, the man whose example I would strive to follow would be Martin O'Neill, for so many years Secretary of the Leinster Council, and one of the most talented all-round performers I have ever known.

Martin won All-Ireland medals in football and in handball with Wicklow. The football medal was, of course, won in the junior grade. He won senior football and junior

● TO PAGE 22

MOONDHARRIG

● FROM PAGE 21.

hurling medals in Leinster with Wexford, his native county. He played football twice for Ireland in the Tailteann Games, and he also captained the only junior football team that ever represented Ireland in an international game. He won county championship medals in three different counties, in Dublin with the Kickhams, in Wicklow with Bray Emmets and in Wexford with Ferns-Clonlee. And he was also a more than useful athlete.

Moreover, Martin did not confine his activities to playing only. He was a noted referee, officiating at several All-Ireland finals, includ-

ing the most famous final of all, the game between Kerry and Cavan at the New York Polo Grounds in 1947. Basketball, of course, was not in vogue when Martin O'Neill was young. If it had been I am quite willing to believe that he could have been an All-Ireland star at that game too.

Of course in addition to Martin, eight more of this O'Neill family from Ferns played for Wexford. Des and Joe both played for Leinster in Railway Cup games, while the others were Paddy (long an adopted Cavan man), Colm, Aodh, Seamus, Carthage and Michael. Several of Martin's seven sons have also played for Wexford in recent years. There is a family record for you.

COVER PICTURE

Our Cover Picture this month features two Kerry men who need no introduction, Johnny Culloty and Seamus Murphy.

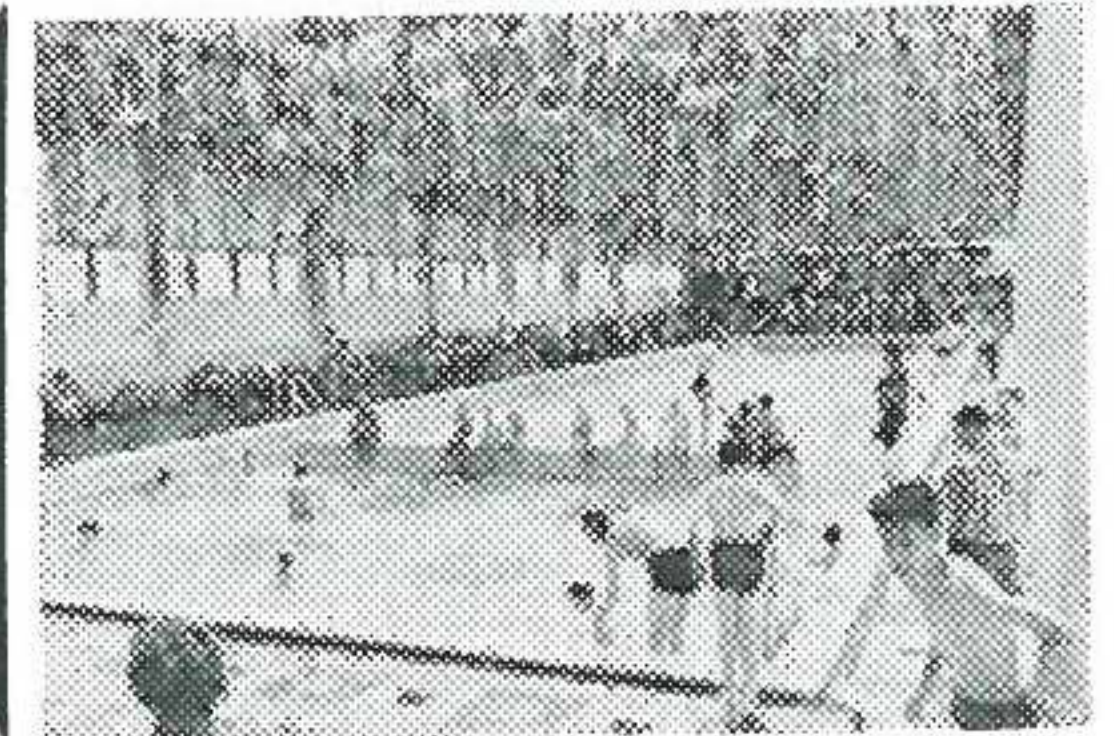
Both of these great players have given sterling service both to their native Kerry and to their province and no doubt if the Kingdom reach the Final this year it will be through no fault of Johnny Culloty or Seamus Murphy if the Sam Maguire Cup does not, once again, head in a southern direction.



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BY the time this article appears in print we should be at the stage of the camogie semi-finals. Which means that the inter-provincial series will have succeeded the provincial championships and the way will be more or less clear to the All-Ireland final.

Now, to me, the heartening thing about the progress of camogie in recent years has been the increase in the number of competitions. A few years ago we had the All-Ireland championships in senior grade and no more. Then we had the first step forward, the formation of the colleges' competitions, first in Ulster and then in Leinster. At the moment we have senior and junior colleges' championships in both those provinces and I know of no move that has been more successful in spreading the prestige and popularity of camogie, even in areas fairly remote from the big cities. Recently they have even advanced a step further in Ulster by starting a very successful competition for the technical schools.

Driving force behind this new competition in the North is the great Antrim full-back Moya Forde, who deserves every praise and support for the great work she is doing for the game. Surely someone in the South can make some effort to get a camogie competition going among the technical schools here. Especially since such enthusiasm has been engendered for the hurling

CAMOGIE

SUCCESS WITH A CAPITAL 'S'

by AGNES HOURIGAN

and football competitions among the same schools.

I feel that it was the increase in the schools and colleges that really led to the formation of junior competitions in Leinster and Ulster where in addition to the senior inter-county championships, junior competitions have been flourishing for several years now.

Leinster, of course, also has an intermediate championship, but this is mainly an encouragement to other counties and to offset Dublin's continued supremacy in the senior grade.

In Munster this year, there is an additional championship confined to players who have not won a Munster championship. already, and this should give an additional fillip to the game in such counties as Limerick, Clare and Kerry.

The great point about those additional championships is that they

give players many more chances of of acquiring match-play experience, and also sustain competitive interest for far longer periods than a single championship can provide.

One other point I would like to make. The Dublin season ends at the end of May or beginning of June and the Dublin clubs have no competitive games from then until the middle of September. Now I know that many of the Dublin clubs would welcome an invitation to play a match or two down the country especially during the months of June or July. At present such trips are only made at the Whit week-end.

I feel many country teams would find the visit of a Dublin club on a summer Sunday a big attraction. And it would do a great deal, not alone to arouse interest in the game, but would also help to improve the standard of the game in the weaker camogie areas.

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It's 'House Full' for th

THE first of the Hurling Scheme's national hurling courses, which are being sponsored by the Central Council, gets underway at Gormanston College, Co. Meath, on Sunday, August 8, when approximately one hundred representatives from all over the country will arrive for one week of intensive tuition in the methods of hurling instruction.

A repeat course begins on Sunday, August 15, and this too has drawn a full house. As a result of these courses each county will have a quota of men qualified in the art of instructing and training juveniles—and indeed adult teams as well.

In charge of these two courses is Dublin's versatile, Des Ferguson. He will be assisted by Donie Nealon and the Kilkenny trainer, Fr. T. Maher of St. Kieran's College.

It is expected that much of the lectures and material which has been prepared for these courses will be issued in book form at some later date.

SCORE-KEEPING

Down footballer, Sean O'Neill, writing in the Belfast "Sunday News":

Anything which tends to encourage selfishness on the football field, or the hurling field, or any other sports field for that matter, is bad. It is bad both for the team concerned and for the game, whatever it may be.

We have, at the present time, in some of the national newspapers, a weekly report on the top scorers both in hurling and football. This often makes interesting reading but how many people have stopped to consider the effect that this kind of

score-keeping can have on individual players and the teams they play for.

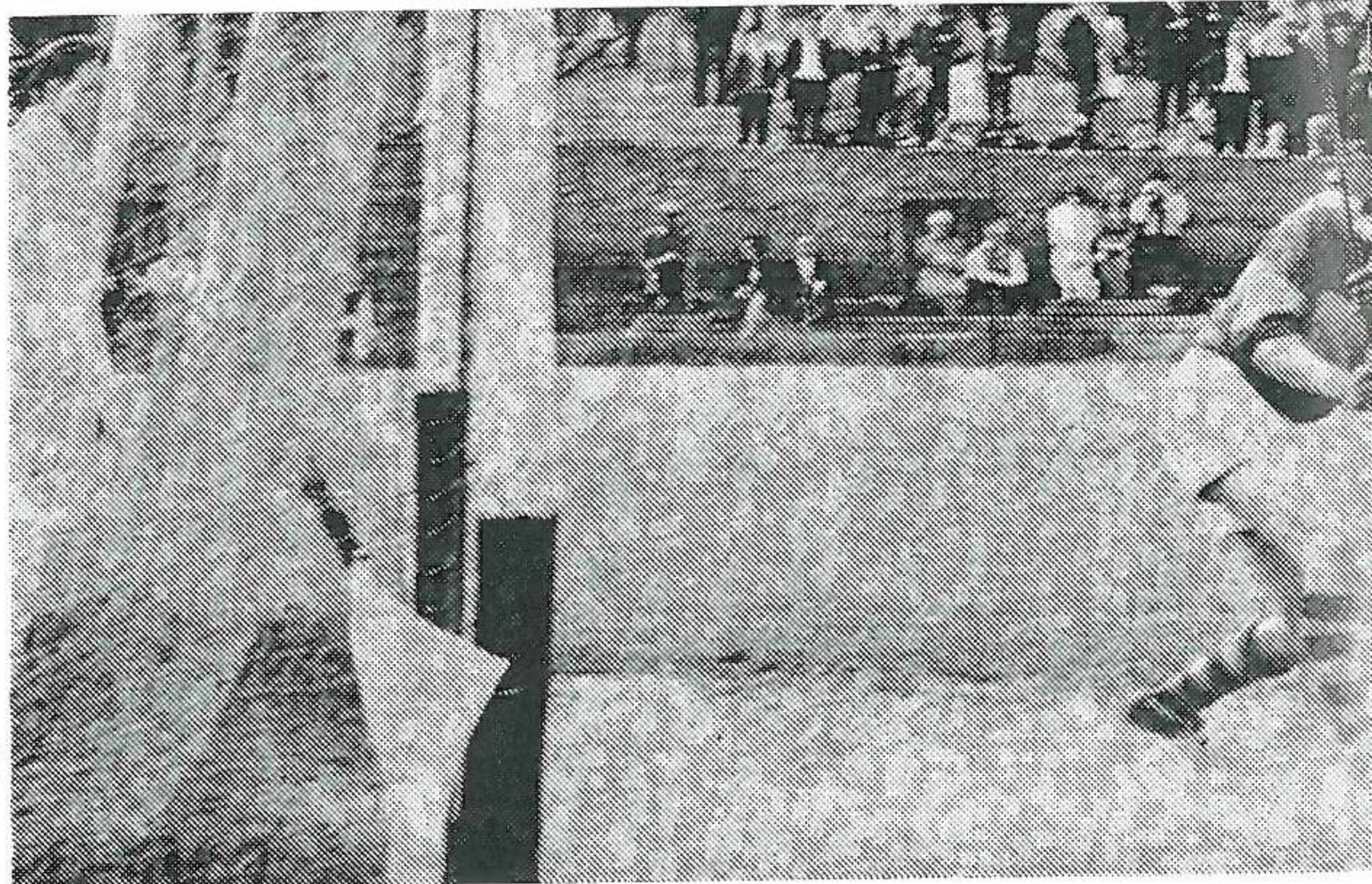
Consider what happens when a player first sees his name at or near the top of the weekly list. He may want to keep it there if he can and the result is that he gets score hungry. He begins to go looking for his own score all the time and forgets about his colleagues.

This can only have a disastrous effect on teamwork because when one man is slow to part with the ball to a better placed colleague, a rot sets in and the final result is that every man is hunting for his own score. With teamwork and understanding gone, a defence has an easy job in curbing an attack.

I feel this periodical publication of the top scorers in football and hurling should be abandoned.

Statistician, Owen McCann, a

● **POC FADA STAR . . . Peter O'Sullivan, one of Tipperary's two-man goalkeeping team, in action during a senior hurling tournament clash with Kilkenny at Nowlan Park.**



the hurling seminars

regular contributor to GAELIC SPORT, is virtually the sole culprit here.

However, the point as we would see it is that if the O'Neill argument were brought to its final and logical conclusion newspaper reporting of games should be abandoned completely. If score-lists are going to make players selfish so too should reports which headline scoring feats and brilliant individual performances.

THE CROWD-PULLERS

The U.S. Cardinal Cushing games are certainly proving a money-spinner.

Profits to date read:—

1962— 3,000 dollars.

1963—18,000 dollars.

1964—15,000 dollars.

1965—27,000 dollars.

A break-down of this year's

figures shows that there was a profit of 14,000 dollars from events in New York; 12,000 dollars from Boston and 1,000 dollars from Hartford.

Next year Chicago will be included on the programme—which makes it an even more attractive trip for those lucky players who are invited to travel over.

TIPPERARY NEWS

The Tipperary County Board has once again requested an apology from the "Irish Press" for what the Board considers to be an unjust report of last year's county senior hurling final.

The Board also wants a return to the Sunday 10 p.m. G.A.A. news programme by Radio Eir-eann. Many voices were raised in protest against the present arrangement whereby G.A.A. results

are given at 6.45 p.m. and in a "mixed" programme.

The county is quite pleased with having won the Poc Fada team title. At a recent Board meeting the trophy was on view and the county's two-man goalkeeping team of John O'Donoghue and Peter O'Sullivan was congratulated on their victory.

KILKENNY SHOW THE WAY

Graignamanagh, Co. Kilkenny, will soon have a first-class G.A.A. grounds. A nine-acre field has been purchased for £1,720 and when fully developed there will be two playing pitches, a ball-alley, tennis and basketball courts as well as fully equipped dressing-rooms.

One of the pitches will be kept exclusively for juvenile games and practise.

This is the type of approach

● TO PAGE 47.



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**ALL-IRELAND
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The 1965 All-Ireland Ploughing Championships will be staged in Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, on land kindly given by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Slazenger and Mr. Norman Walker.

The dates are Wednesday and Thursday, November 17 and 18, and a large acreage will be available for Trade Stands, Demonstrations and seven Ploughing Competitions.

This National event has not been held in Wicklow since 1937, but Wicklow have taken part in every contest since 1931 and won many of them. Last year, the entire county celebrated the victory of the World Plough Champion, Charles Keegan (Enniskerry) who will defend his title in Norway next October.

**NEW FOOTBALL
 BOOT !**

A new name is appearing in the sportswear world and that is "bantams". Manufactured and marketed by the Drogheda boot and shoe manufacturers, Edward Donaghy and Sons Limited, "bantams" have been designed to cater for the ultimate in footballers' rugged needs.

The name "bantams" is indicative of the lightness, "speedability" and "with-it" appearance of these wonderful new football boots and will win many fans for this first-rate product coming from the well known Drogheda manufacturer.

The "bantams" are boots which actually stand square on their own studs, thus showing the perfect balance obtained by the use of the additional studs which, of their own accord, will prove of great benefit to the player whilst still not interfering with the overall weight of the boot.

FINTAN

COSTELLO

FACE TO FACE
with
SEAN O'DONNELL



IF he were with a more prominent county Fintan Costello would be a national football star. But he is not with a prominent county, he is with Westmeath — one of the counties for whom year after year it is a case of so near and yet so far.

For two years in succession now Fintan Costello has starred in the

early rounds of the Leinster championship. Who knows but perhaps this year the Leinster Railway Cup selectors may have noted him. Let us hope so.

Fintan learned his football at St. Finian's College, Mullingar. He never played minor for the county but in 1961 he was given senior recognition. Studies curtailed his

football for a year or two but since late 1963 he has been able to give the game all it requires and his play has certainly been of the highest order.

Now 23, Costello would appear to be entering on a period of brilliant football. Perhaps Westmeath will rise with him. All indications are that they are capable of doing so.

I recently put these questions to the red-headed young man from the Midlands.

O'Donnell — Why does Westmeath always fail on the big occasion?

Costello—Well, we did not fail in the normal sense of the word against Meath this year. We put us a fine performance—much better than most people expected. At the end of the hour we had a higher rating than we had at the beginning. This was not failure it was progress.


But, of course, we have failed over the years to make it into the football big-time. We are not alone in this. A lot of factors are involved — lack of tradition, of experience, of confidence, etc. However, I am convinced that the present Westmeath side — and remember we were understrength against Meath, is capable of going places.

O'D.—What is club football like in the county?

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FACE TO FACE

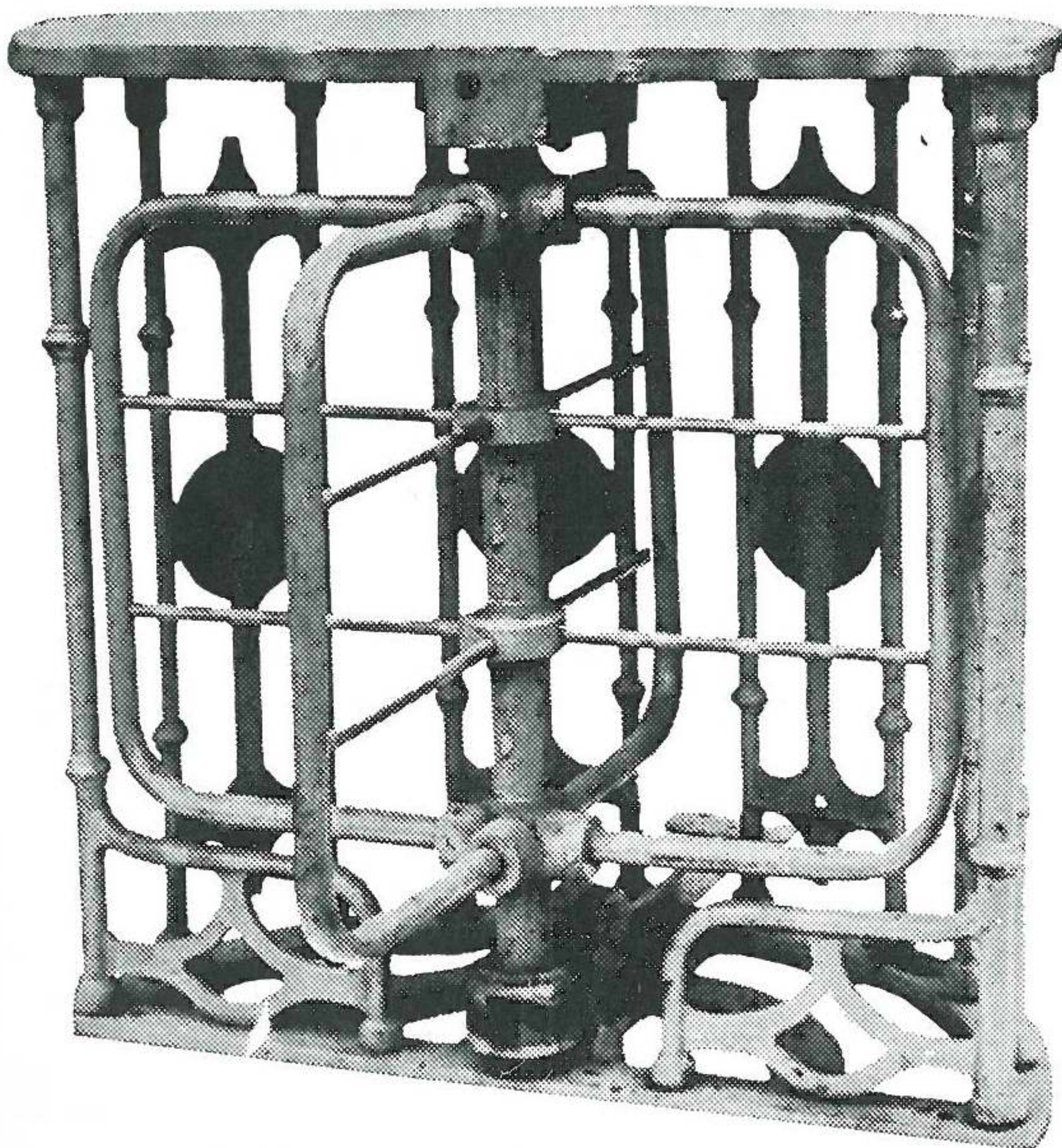
● FROM PAGE 27.

C.—The standard is quite good—about ten senior teams. A few of these could perhaps be considered below normal senior club standard and personally I would prefer to see them regraded and allowed to amalgamate with another junior club for senior competition. Still

all in all the standard is as, I say, quite good.

O'D.—Are you satisfied with the social standing of the G.A.A.?

C.—Of course. Are we not by far the leading national sports body in the country. One could not have any higher social standing than that.



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O'D.—What I really meant was from the point of view of social activities?

C.—Well, perhaps things could be improved in that particular field. I think it would be a good idea if intercounty teams were in the same hotel and could meet after a game. We could meet our opponents and get to know them as people in this way. It would add to things greatly.

However, Westmeath has given a lead to a certain extent in this matter. For example last year county finalists met for dinner after the game and they were very pleasant occasions. I hope this arrangement is continued in the county.

O'D.—What game do you like to remember most?

C.—The 1960 All-Ireland colleges' final in which we lost to St. Jarlath's—also perhaps last year's League meeting with Longford which we won.

O'D.—How about disappointments?

C.—Last year's defeat by Laois was certainly one.

O'D.—Is there any type of player that you dislike having to play on?

C.—Yes, the player who does not really want to play and who is only concerned in seeing that you do not play football either. The "spoiler" in other words.

O'D.—How do you play a game?

C.—I like to rely on speed with a view to getting to the ball first.

O'D.—Who were your football idols as a boy?

C.—Mick O'Connell and Cathal O'Leary.

O'D.—What players have given you most trouble?

C.—Peter Moore, Raymond Carolan and Mick Carley come quickly to mind. All are first-class footballers and trying to match them is not easy.

O'D.—One last question Fintan. Have you any other sports interests?

C.—I am very keen on athletics and used to compete a lot in college. I also like basketball.

* CONTINUING OUR SERIES :

“ MUNSTER CLUBS OF OTHER DAYS ”

Waterfordmen took hurling to North America . . .

by SEAMUS
O CEALLAIGH

WATERFORD club hurling got an unexpected boost in the recent semi-final of the Munster senior championship, when hotly fancied Thurles Sarsfields were ousted by Mount Sion following a rousing struggle.

Geographically bounded on three sides by Ireland's greatest hurling counties, who between them have won fifty-four of the seventy-seven All-Ireland hurling finals, it is a matter of no little wonder to many how Waterford has not a greater record to show for years of devotion to Gaelic ideals.

Deep thinking Waterford Gaels take a pride in the fact that the silver tongued orator, Thomas Francis Meagher, succeeded in reviving hurling in Waterford during his great election campaign in February of 1848, many years before the G.A.A. was founded. With the failure of the Young Ireland movement, and the transportation of many of its leaders, it sank out of popularity, but one old district for generations known as Barrack Street, clung to the code.

It is widely held that Waterford men introduced hurling as a game into North America before it was generally revived in the homeland. Proof of this is forthcoming in the

● TO PAGE 31.



● M. WYSE.

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MUNSTER CLUBS

● FROM PAGE 29.

fact that Newfoundland figures largely in some of Waterford's old folk songs, with the hurlers of Barrack Street (or Fohastooheen as it was known in those days) getting much mention.

The years of the 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.

Waterford made needy response to the clarion call from Thurles, and the county had the honour of supplying the venue for the first athletic championship meeting under the auspices of the new Association. This important event took place at Tramore on October 6, 1885, and the trophies included a valuable silver cup, the gift of Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel and Patron of the G.A.A.

Ballyduff had the distinction of figuring in the first of the All-Ireland football semi-finals, in which they were defeated narrowly by Dundalk Young Irelands. The split in the G.A.A., which came shortly afterwards, caused a big upset, and Waterford except for a

● P. BROWNE
... one of the
Waterford stars
of former days.



few clubs, fell away completely for a lengthy spell.

The hurlers hardly figured at all in the early efforts under G.A.A. leadership, and this explains the absence of the county from the hurling limelight. For this reason other areas got a long start, and when Waterford did eventually get going it was only natural that it should take them some time to reach the standard achieved by long practice in other areas.

That does not say that the Waterford of an earlier generation had not its hurling heroes. Such men as Tom King, "Fox" Phelan (one of seven hurling brothers) Jack Corbett, Dick Brett, Jim Murphy, Toby Fitzgerald, Dick Morrissey and "Dotty" Power are still spoken of with veneration by old time hurling enthusiasts.

Some famous clubs too graced the olden arena, notably the "Commercials," a very formidable combination; the "T. F. Meaghers," locally known as the "Salters", (as many of its units were employees of the bacon curing industry). Ballytruckle, an aspiring unit of power and perseverance, while in the county, Killrossanty (who always played in their flannel jackets), Ballyduff Lower, Tramore, Fews, Dungarvan, Clashmore and Kilmoleron were most in the picture. Most popular venue was the great level field known as the "Ballaire" at Ballynaneshagh, the scene of many great games and gatherings.

In later years the outstanding hurling clubs included Ferrybank, Dungarvan, Clonea, De la Salle, Ballytruckle, Ballydurn, Abbeyside, Grace Dieu, Lismore, Tallow, Portlaw, Tiurin, and the magical city pair, Erins Own and Mount Sion. Dungarvan also had a first-class football unit and head the list of county championship winners in this code, with Rathcormack, Stradbally, Aglish, Kinselebeg, Fenor, Mount Sion and Kilbros-senty also much to the fore.

In the old days Dungarvan was one of the leading venues in the

● TO PAGE 47.

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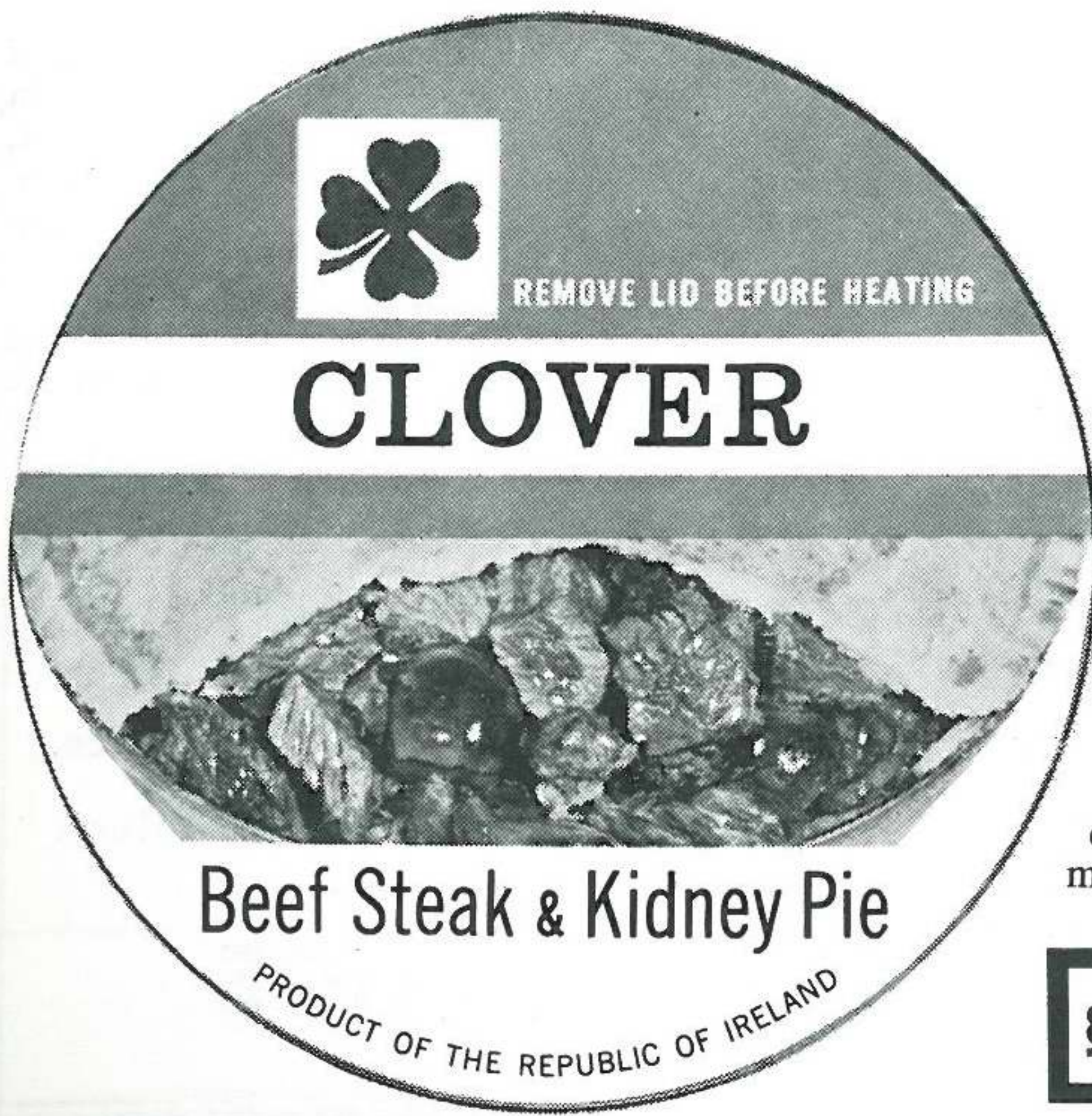
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CLOVER



WILL DENIS RETURN TO THE LIMELIGHT?

ASKS FRANK HUGHES

COULD it be that by the time you read this Denis Heaslip will be back in favour with the Kilkenny selectors. Certainly any man who could score 2-13 in the space of one hour is worthy of at least some consideration and Heaslip did just that last month when helping Knocktopher defeat Carrickshock in the county junior championship. His personal tally was five points greater than the 4-2 notched by the combined Carrickshock side.

Denis, who is 31, has been on and off the Kilkenny side on numerous occasions. On the junior team in 1955 and '56, he won an All-Ireland medal in London the latter year. From there he went on to the senior team and won a medal in 1957.

In 1959 Heaslip had the unusual experience of being on the Leinster Railway Cup team at a time when the Kilkenny mentors had dropped him.

One of the great exponents of the past decade, Denis evidently has plenty of hurling left in him and we could certainly be hearing more from him.

OLLIE SCORES

But then Heaslip was not the only high scorer in recent Kilkenny competitions. Take for example the first round senior championship game between Thomastown and Slieverue. Thomastown won 7-16 to 0-8.

Tom Walsh was flying as usual and scored 1-9 for Thomastown—but that was nothing in comparison with the bold Ollie Walsh who,

instead of playing in goal, lined out at right full forward. When the game ended he had notched a personal total of SIX goals and two points.

INTERMEDIATE STARS

The Wexford senior hurlers may have lacked something by way of consistency in recent years but certainly the same thing cannot be said about the county's intermediate sides. This grade came into being in 1961 and already the Slaneysiders have their eyes on their third All-Ireland title.

On the present Wexford intermediate side, which qualified for the "home" final by beating Antrim in the Leinster final, is Martin Codd who helped the seniors to an All-Ireland title in 1956. Also on the team is Christy Hartigan who helped Tipperary capture the 1963 intermediate title. Should Wexford win out this year Christy, unless I am mistaken, will be the first man to capture intermediate medals with two counties.

THE TOP SCORER

Top scorer in the recent Walters-town-Lougher Meath junior cham-



★ OLLIE WALSH.

pionship game was Liam Flood who playing at right full forward for Lougher scored 1-2 and was mainly responsible for another goal.

Liam revived the Lougher club eight years ago and he still retains the position of secretary. He has played for the club on a number of occasions but that game against Walterstown was his first championship outing.

Nothing unusual about all of this you say—well there is, for Liam Flood has but one arm since birth.

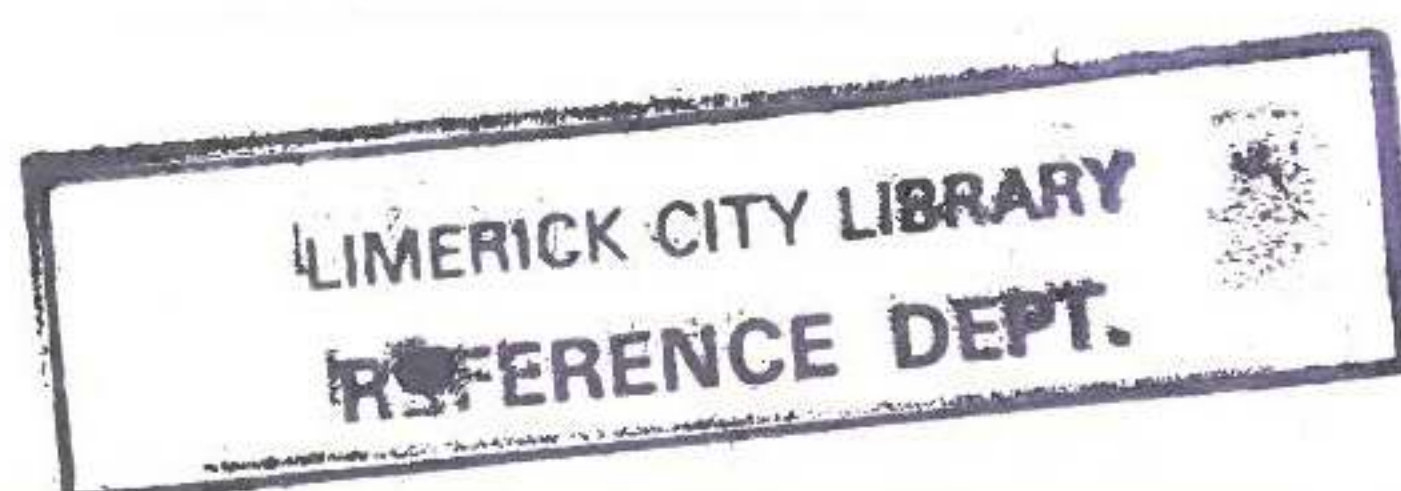
WRONG MAN

At a recent meeting of the Louth County Board it was disclosed that the wrong player had been suspended following a referee's report last year. It was in fact the referee himself, Mr. P. Hoey, who raised the issue and he explained that it had taken him months to establish his error. He now wished to put the matter in order. It was a case of mistaken identity, he concluded.

A HARD BARGAIN

At the time of writing the Arklow Geraldines Club is involved in a major financial deal with the local Urban Council. The Council wants to purchase land which the club owns but there has been considerable difficulty in agreeing on a price. However, eventual agreement is virtually certain, for the Council has refused to service any private builder who might be bidding against them. This means that if the club wants to sell it has little choice but to sell to the Council.

Geraldines are in the course of developing a new park and intend to build a first-class club house with the money which they will receive from the sale of the field.



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SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN

DEIRTEAR linn nach raibh an oiread céanna saidhbhris ariamh sa saol ná mar atá faoi láthair. 'Sé sin an chuid den tsaol go bhfuil eolas againn faoi ar a dtugtar "An tIarthar". Tá an tírín seo 'gainne 'na measc siúd agus gídh nach bhfuil na buntáistí nádúrtha céanna againn is atá ag Meiriceá, cuirim i gcás, is ar a leithéidí atáimid ag déanamh aithris.

Tá airgid go leor ag an aosóg sa tír seo agus déanfaimid infhiúchadh ar an scéal féachaint cé mar a chuireann sé isteach ar chúrsaí an Chumainn Lúthcleas Gael. Bhuail mé ó am go céile le déanaí le seanpheileadóirí mar Phádraig Uí Bheaglaoich, Cláiríneach cliúteach sna "dachaidí", agus Peadar Ó Raghallaigh togha na tacaí dá raigh riamh ag Átha Cliath agus phlé mé an cheist leo. Táid araon den tuairim céanna liom féin go bhfuil an iomarca airgid ar na fearaibh óga agus go gcuireann sin isteach ar chúrsaí an Chumainn.

Sa sráid-bhaile is lú faoi'n dtír anois tá na mion-ghluaisteáin ag plódadh na sráide—ní bhíonn de ghnáth ach an taon tsráid san áit. Ag bailiú na gcompánach, idir foireann is baineann, atáid agus ag glanadh leo chuig an bhaile mór agus na soillsí lonnracha. Chíféa eisceacht nó dhó ag déanamh ar pháirc an imeartha. Ach mura mbíonn go leor daoine le cleachtadh ceart a dhéanamh imíonn an scata beag seo leo ar ball beag.

Dhein mé féin iarracht le déanaí

foireann peile a bhailiú i bPáirc an Fhionuisce le haghaidh traenála agus chun socraithe a dhéanamh faoi turas fán dtuaith áit a mbeadh cluiche in aghaidh na fóiren áitiúla againn. Bhí triúr is fice ainmnithe agus in ann teacht, dár leo, go dtí an ionad traenála. Tháinig cúigear.

Tá peileadóir a imríonn lena chontae dúchais ag obair i mbaile bheag i gcontae eile. Fear óg a bhfuil suim aige sa chluiche agus a dheineann dian-iarracht i gcónaí cleachtadh agus traenáil go háirithe ag tosach na bliana. Cúpla mí ó shin toghadh é ar fhoirinn a chontae agus chinn sé ar cúpla seachtain ullmhúcháin a dhéanamh. Creid é nó ná creid é, ní fhéadfadh sé oiread is duine amháin ón bhaile fháil a bhéadh sásta dul síos don pháirc chun an pheil a leadradh chuige. Is baile í seo nár chuala trácht riamh ar sacar ná a léithéid. Aontaím gur ceanntar iománaíochta é ach ní raibh iománaí le feiceál ar an bpáirc ach oiread—agus bhí an fear óg toiltheanach camán a ghlacadh chuige da mba ghá.

Do réir deallraimh bhí ógánaigh na háite imithe chuig damhsaí, "peictiúirí" agus tabhairní. Roinnt aca ag freastal ar rástaí na gcon in áit atá ós cionn tríocha míle ón mbaile bheag seo. Tás ag cách go mbíonn airgid de dhíth ar ógánach ag dul chuig áit ar bith aca go háirithe má bhíonn cáilín á breith leis. Agus do réir na comharthaí tá go leor de aca.

Is deallrathach go bhfuil a

gcómhacht á chailliúnt ag oifigí na gclub fé mar atá smacht á chailliúnt ag tuismitheoirí an tsaoil. Tá ógánaigh an tsaoil ag déanamh a ndícheall le breise "saoirse" fháil—saoirse ó smacht, saoirse chun drabhlais, saoirse ó na sean nósanna. Aon gnó nó caitheamh aimsire 'na mbíonn buntáiste ag duine níos sine ná iad tugaidh masla do nó mí-shuim sa rud sin. Ní theastaíonn uatha ceol na sinnsear, damhsaí na sinnsear nó fhú cluichí na sinnsear. Tá an bail céanna ar roinnt mhaith d'ógánaigh (nó déagóirí) na hEireann agus caithfear srian a chur leis sara loitear ár gcuid mac is iníon.

Tá an lá tagaithe, agus is minic a luaigh mé cheana é, go bhfuil halla nó seomra club gáthrach le gach páirc imeartha. Ní amháin le haghaidh gléasadh na bhfóirne ach le haghaidh caithimh aimsire na n-ógánach. Agus maille leis an halla tá taoiseach de dhíth ar ghach club; ní hé captaon na fóirne nó rúnaí an chlub ach duine atá oile ar chúram na nóg agus atá in ann iad a stiúriú. Duine go bhfuil meas ag na hógánaigh air; duine go bhfuil ar a chumas clár seachtainiúl a chur ar fáil agus, níos tabhachtaí fós, atá in ann é chur i gcrích. Ar an gclár beidh traenáil chuirp agus cleachtadh na gcluichí ach beidh níos mó ná sin chun na hógánaigh a mhealladh.

Thagair mé ins na haltanna thuas d'ógánaigh—níor dhúirt mé fir óga ná buachaillí nó stócaigh agus d'aon gnó níor dhúirt. Tá géar-ghá ag an gCumann Lúthcleas Gael níos mó áird a thabhairt ar na cáilíní. Ní ins gach paróiste atá cumann camógaíochta agus áit nach bhfuil ní bhíonn tada le déanamh ag cáilíní an pharóiste ach fanacht leis na fir go dtí go bhfuil an cleachta thart. Ach nílid, deagóirí baineann an lae inniu, sásta fanacht a thuille. Dá bhrí sin caithfear féachaint chuige go mbeidh áit do na cáilíní ar an gclár. Ar an mbealach seo gheofar fir óga na tíre ar ais ar na páirceanna ag cleachtadh na gcluichí.

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Drennan

● FROM PAGE 13.

Kilkenny and throughout Munster in recent times.

One of the main discussion points in clubs and pubs has always been centred round the speculation as to which one was the best club-team in the country. If the example of Munster were followed by the other provinces and the final of the inter-provincial champions played out, all these doubts would be allayed, and often a club from a county which is not the strongest in the country could triumph and perhaps lift its county to greater heights and greater ambitions.

The only thing which I see against the new competition, at the moment, is the fact that it is one more new set of fixtures to be fitted into the crowded schedule, and one which will take further

days from the few enough at the disposal of county boards for the running of their home championships. This is a problem, but not an insuperable one, since all that is really needed is a better division of time between the competitions, so that they do not all occur round about the same time, as at present, but so that some will be played in the slacker period. This is a problem of organisation and one which should not provide great difficulties, while the resultant benefit to the public would be to keep their interest more actively alive over a longer period of the year. No bad thing either, and possibly as good an antedote to foreign games as could readily be devised.

One club which has so far justified itself in higher company has

been Kilrossanty, the Waterford football champions, who put U.C.C. out in the first round of the football. A great uplift for their supporters was this shock result, proving to them that their lads are as good as any you could find in any club anywhere. The hurling competition eased into an easy beginning, with all games going according to the intercounty form-book. But, when the hurling semi-final was reached between Thurles Sarsfields and Mount Sion the All-Ireland champion county's champions had to bow the knee. This was a rip-roaring and highly delightful game which made the competition worthwhile by itself alone, if there were to be no other game of quality. Mount Sion short-headed the opposition to the delight of their supporters, who have for a long time been claiming for their team the title of all-Ireland's best club of hurling men.

CONNACHT COMMENT

● FROM PAGE 9.

the county they simply cannot fail.

LEITRIM SURPRISES

Leitrim had itself some surprises during the past month. First there was Gortletteragh's win over fancied Aughavas in the senior football championship. Gortletteragh have not taken part in senior competition for over twenty years.

But big a surprise as this was, a bigger one was to be provided by the county's minor hurlers who in the Connacht semi-final defeated Roscommon. It was the first time in G.A.A. annals that Leitrim fielded a minor hurling team. They now meet Mayo in the Connacht final.

Could it be that by the time you read these notes Leitrim will have qualified for the All-Ireland minor hurling semi-final?

LENNON PROBLEM

Some people were worried in Mayo lest Down and themselves

clash in the All-Ireland semi-final. The point being that Joe Lennon would be playing for Down and training the Mayo team. Well, Sligo solved that problem nice and handy.

PAT DONNELLAN

Pat Donnellan was not fit to play in New York due to the old knee trouble—but as it happens he did play and brilliantly at that. One can only guess as to how great a player he would be if he had two bad knees. A chip off the old block surely. What a pity he was forced to miss so many of Galway's great hours. But no doubt there are many more ahead.

WALK TALL!

Two junior football games had to be called off in Charlestown, Co. Mayo, because there was a growth of grass on the pitch which would do credit to a first-class meadow. Which, incidentally, drives home the point that if hurling is going to be played

throughout all of the West, an awful lot of ground committees will have to pull up their socks and cut down the grass.

CROSSMOLINA

Crossmolina will soon have a new and fully equipped ground. "Very little if anything behind Castlebar," says one Crossmolina man to me the other day.

AND BALLINA TOO

Ballina too is making rapid progress with its development plans for the James Stephen's Park. Recently a delegation representing the local development committee went to the U.S. and came back "loaded down with dollars" to assist the worthy cause.

TOM KILCOYNE

Connacht Council and Sligo Secretary, Tom Kilcoyne, has retired as principal of the Achonry National School, having completed forty-four years service. On behalf of GAELIC SPORT we wish him every joy and long life to enjoy his merited rest.

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EAMONN YOUNG

● FROM PAGE 15.

saw him again before the game was over.

Anyway the game wasn't thirty seconds on when "Toots" Kelleher gathered over on his own wing and screwed over the nicest point of the game.

Then we noticed that Kevin Beahan had gone to right-wing where John Joe Henchion was his keeper and Seamus O'Donnell had dropped in to centre-field to partner the other Mayoman Dan O'Neill. Stephen White had changed in to centre-back on Niall Fitzgerald and Peadar Smith had gone out on Eamonn Goulding.

For the first nine-minutes of the second half there was still only one team in it and that wasn't Louth. However, though we had the ball, the flags didn't go up — although there were only two wides the whole half hour and eight in all — a number equalled by Louth.

Then the effect of the Louth changes became evident. Stephen White held the middle path better than the less experienced Smith and Seamus O'Donnell began to turn the tide at centre-field where Eric Ryan and Sean Moore had owned the ball. Moreover, Kevin Beahan was slipping away in that crafty fashion of his at right-wing.

Seamus O'Donnell drove it to Beahan and the Louthman dropped a long accurate ball right to the square. We knew then how Galway felt in the semi-final when it hopped maddeningly over the bar. A minute later Kevin Beahan had another point and now, only one point down, Louth were all out, beating our men to the ball and obviously going to score again.

They did — Jimmy Roe tapped a close-in free upstairs and with eighteen minutes to go the sides were level and we were getting excited.

Three minutes later, with three Corkmen on his house, Seamus Cunningham twisted like a hare

on the turn and while falling punched a good ball that went over the bar.

Then all of a sudden I was sure we were done. A high ball dropped towards Liam Power's right-hand goal-post. The goalie got his hands to it; it dropped to the ground to be fought for on a clear square by Jim McDonnell, Liam Power and Mick Gould.

Suddenly the leather burst away from them and to my dismay stopped about four feet from the goal-line. McDonnell whirled around and saw it first. It was all over. Where Mick Gould's long leg came from I'll never know but it stretched forward and booted the ball away at the same time.

Joe Sullivan who had crashed into Neally Duggan early on had to retire and Finbarr McAuliffe came on. "Toots" Kelliher went out to right wing and no sooner arrived than the irrepressible Millstreet man slipped over a lovely point and we were level again. Two minutes later "Toots" did it once again. We were a point ahead now though I knew there would be more scoring. Both sides were playing great football now. For four more minutes they fought it out up and down the field. One of Sean Moore's fetches brought gasps from the crowd.

We were one lonely point ahead but the boys were running like greyhounds and I knew they would stay as long as any team in Ireland. About six minutes to go and I felt a little nervous for a score must come and one for us, even a point would not only make the Louthmen's job harder but would help the sands of time to run out. One more score lads and the clock will beat them.

Then came a dangerous raid but to the rescue came Paddy Driscoll in brilliant fashion. But it wasn't so easy to carve his way through and the clearance went over the sideline. Back settled the defenders

ready for Kevin Beahan's kick. This was serious—for both sides. Dead on he kicked it to the right upright at the Canal end and Dan Murray, strong as a horse and with hands like a vice, rose to it. Seamus Cunningham caught Dan's left arm in his and the ball hopped off the defender's right.

In one blinding split second I saw it strike the goalpost. The mad roar told me it was gone in. Later Liam Power the goalie told me it skipped off the upright and gave him no chance.

Heavens above, we were two points down with only four minutes to go. The boot was on the other foot now. Would the clock beat us? Madly we applauded Mick Gould's long quick kick-out, and down into the Louth half stormed about twelve of the Corkmen as if the very weight of numbers would push the ball on to the railway itself.

I'll never forget Stephen White's display just then. The great Louth man had been a long time waiting for his All-Ireland medal and now he packed into four minutes enough dashing football to throw us back. But in spite of a frenzied defence, down charged the Corkmen on the Louth citadel. Surely it must give.

A forty yard free to Cork and Eric Ryan to take it. Neatly and steadily he landed it in the goal-mouth.

Now lads here it comes. On the line I could utter no sound. Into the square they piled — about a dozen of them and the ball disappeared. I *knew* it was in the net. But out of the ruck on the left side came "Red" Meehan, the man who ambled to his place at the resumption, beat off an avalanche of southern bone and muscle, with the free-kicker Eric Ryan in the van, and slipped away from the square with a frenzied opponent's hand tied up in his jersey.

That was the end. Patsy Geraghty's whistle finished the day.

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The tall spare man with the long arms clad in white shirt, navy-blue belted pants, and soft-soled shoes stood erect, poised, with the big black and red ball in his left hand. A slow steady pace forward, followed by a quicker one, a third, a long swing of the brawny arm and with body bent double, away went the ball with a plop, running smoothly down the lane towards the ten white pins waiting unafraid about fifty feet away.

Crash! The ball slapped into the pins and down went the whole lot.

He turned around to where his friend was marking at a small glaze-topped table . . . and smiled.

There was no chatter of voices and even if there were, one got the impression that the acoustics were such as to hush them, and to me it seemed that I had suddenly turned in from the mad stream of life washing past the doorway, to a quiet little harbour under the hill where Tennyson's stately ships took their refuge and the little sailor lad sang in his boat on the bay.

Bowling is a good sport. It gives exercise; it stimulates us to increase skill because the atmosphere of competition is introduced just as keenly as we like it. It's the best indoor family active recreation we know, for at no other game can the whole menage Mother, Dad and the kids all combine so well, on reasonably equal basis in competition.

One of the Bord Failte comments a few years ago was that in this country the number of indoor sports centres needed a boost. The people who brought bowling to Cork have given a sporting amenity to the city which, to judge by the numbers and interest, is certainly well appreciated.—Eamonn Young.

Television boosts G.A.A. games

by MIKE BURNS

WHEN television arrived on the Irish scene and our G.A.A. games were televised 'live' for the first time, there were the not-unexpected groans from some people that this type of coverage would harm the Association.

The moaners first claimed that 'live' coverage would affect attendances and, consequently, the gates at the big games. Then they said it would affect club games. And there were at least a half-dozen other complaints, so irrelevant by now that they really aren't worth quoting again.

But what were the facts? Well, first of all, attendances at the games *didn't* drop when the outside broadcast TV cameras moved in. The gates *didn't* suffer. And, at least to my own knowledge, club games *didn't* suffer either, because club officials got together and rearranged the times of their games so that players and spectators could watch the big clashes on TV and, later see the local sides in action.

On the credit side, television has certainly helped to spread our games abroad, and millions of people in the United States and Britain now know something of the finer points of play.

Take the Telefis Eireann coverage of the Railway Cup finals on St. Patrick's Day. Both games were telerecorded and were later shown to 50 million viewers in the United States on the top ABC TV pro-

gramme, *Wide World of Sport*.

And last September, BBC TV'S second channel, BBC-2, showed the All-Ireland hurling final.

No plans had been made to take the football final. But there were so many requests from viewers for more G.A.A. games that the programme planners had to revise their schedules to include the football clash.

At that stage, of course, BBC-2 was available only in the London region. This year, the service will be available in other parts of Britain and, since both finals will be relayed to BBC-2, millions of new viewers will see the games.

Apart from the regular viewing audience, I know that many players like to see recordings of games. They like to see where they made mistakes and make mental notes about what to do in future games.

And there is also another important point. Players can get an opportunity to study an opponent's play, to spot his weak points.

I also think that television should eventually help to improve the all-round standard of sportmanship in our games, for after watching a tele-recording players must know that the all-seeing eye of the TV camera not only records the highlights of play—it also shows in the clearest way any act of bad sportmanship.



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A TIP FOR STARDOM!

★ *JACK MAHON continues his series of reminiscences.*

WHILE in New York with the Galway team in 1957, quite by chance I met an aunt of the Donnellan brothers, John and Pat, while shopping in a drugstore in downtown Manhattan. On seeing the maroon blazer she asked me was I one of the Galway players and was thrilled when I told her I was from Dunmore and knew the Donnellans well.

"Tell me," said she, "are they any good at the football and will they be as good as their father?" She was more thrilled still when I told her that they were up-and-coming and that Pat, a juvenile at the time, was the makings of a great footballer. "In fact," I said, "when the Galway team come to New York again Pat Donnellan will be in the party."

I realise now that I was doing John an injustice but I had formed a tremendous regard of Pat's potential at the time.

When I arrived home from the States my praise of Pat Donnellan to his aunt had preceded me by letter and Mick Donnellan, R.I.P., was delighted.

Just the other day Pat reminded me of what I had then said. How right my forecast was! The only thing I'm sorry for now is that I didn't include brother John in the forecast too.

NORTHERN VISITS

Some of the most enjoyable experiences during my footballer's life were visits to Ulster. I have particularly grand memories of one such visit. That was the occasion of the re-opening of O'Donovan

Rossa Park in Magherafelt and Galway were to play Derry on opening day in May, 1960.

The trip from Galway on the Saturday was a long one and twenty very hungry Galwaymen reached Mulholland's Hotel around 8 p.m. They hadn't expected us for tea but local Gael, Pat Keenan, a victualler, provided steaks a-plenty and we were given the freedom of the kitchen to help with the cooking. John Nallen took charge of operations from our end and I'm sure the staff of the hotel would willingly have availed of his services at banquets afterwards. It was one meal we all enjoyed and will remember.

Rather surprisingly we won the game on the following day, the day Noel Tierney first fielded for Galway seniors, but what I particularly remember is a very enjoyable ceili held on the Saturday night and the tension that surrounded the re-opening ceremony by Alf Ó Muirí on the Sunday. R.U.C. policemen surrounded the area in expectation of trouble, but there was none.

I really admired our Northern Gaels and the sincerity of their idealism. Alf Ó Muirí in his address was courageously outspoken and inspiring.

It is only when one is faced with these situations that the message comes home. Here we were being watched by the forces of occupation just in case anyone dared to play "Amhrán na bhFiann" or dared to raise a Tricolour. I really began to appreciate the work being done by the Gaelic Athletic

Association and for the first time felt some justification for certain G.A.A. rules which up to then seemed to me out-of-date.

Anyhow we had a memorable visit to Derry, and it is a great pity that more Southern teams do not travel North much more often. It is an education in many ways.

DOYLE AND BYRNE

Finally a topical note. Now that New York visits are so much in the air I was reminded of an incident from the 1957 visit by both Galway and Tipperary.

While watching the N.H.L. (home) final between Tipperary and Kilkenny, I saw Mickey Byrne, the former star defender very active on the sideline and at the end of the hour I saw him run to congratulate his old friend John Doyle of Holycross.

Then I remembered entering the Henry Hudson Hotel in New York with John Doyle and John telling me as we went to our rooms by elevator: "I bet you that I'll hardly be in my room when Byrne will be on the phone using some phoney name and telling me some stupid story, but I'm prepared this time."

Sure enough in went John, the phone rang, and Mickey in his best American accent was trying to lead John "up the garden path" again. But Doyle was wise to it this time.

Now John has qualified for his fifth trip to the States and should at this stage be very wise to all pranks on such tours.

Coming home from the States on the SS. Ryndam, I remember John telling me he was retiring from the inter-county scene. He was prevailed upon to revoke his decision and has played many a famous game since. I must mention, too, Mickey Byrne's great party-piece—the parody on "The Bright Silvery Light of the Moon" which brought down the house or should I say the boat on our return journey.

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THE OLD SOLDIERS

OLD soldiers never die—but then neither do old handballers. The ability to keep playing indefinitely is surely, the trump card of the ballcourt player. The hurler or footballer begins to feel the old bones creaking around the thirty mark, or the injury of other years starting to make its presence felt more and more. But the handballer is very often only coming into his prime, or setting out on the road to fame at that age.

It is comparatively easy to draw the parallel. In the first instance there is the field player who goes out every Sunday to participate in manly combat and retires after a hard-fought struggle leg weary and carrying with him a reminder of a few bone-crushing knocks, delivered and accepted in the best spirit and all quiet legal within the framework of the game.

In the flush of youth, one accepts these as part and parcel of the sport, and provided one could straighten himself out properly by midweek, well then there was no need to worry. From eighteen to twenty-eight the same story holds good, but as time turns the three-decade mark, the frailty of the human make-up begins to have its say, and the mind prompts us on to the sad day of retirement.

There are, of course, the exceptions—the John Doyles and Christy Rings, but it is they, who, in fact, make the rule.

Against that, the playing life of the handballer is completely different. In the very first instance, he starts off with the advantage of always playing on a solid surface.

Many maintain that this is rather a disadvantage, but, while I agree that two hours running on a concrete floor can be rather demanding on the feet, or is inclined to stiffen leg muscles, it is not nearly as exhausting as the effort involved in wading through a grassy and maybe sodden pitch in a heavy pair of football boots.

Then again, handball is a game where individualism is the keynote and the fact that it is always played either by two or four players means that there is rarely bodily contact. Like good wine a handballer seasons with age, and whereas, at the start of his career he relied on superior fitness and stamina to carry him through, as the years pass on he develops an adeptness with both hands and a sense of judgment, that more than compensates for his lack of mobility.

That, precisely, is the reason why, on occasions, we see a newcomer to a ballcourt often aghast, when he witnesses what he considers a prominent young player, full of zip and enthusiasm, being completely over-run by a man twice his years.

Could anyone of us forget the All-Ireland senior singles semi-final at Croke Park on the eve of last year's hurling final.

Joe Maher, the Drogheda ace, who is now domiciled in Toronto, had come to defend his crown against the Mayo veteran—Micky Walsh. On consideration that he could give his challenger at least ten years or more, Maher had been installed as an odds-on pre-match

favourite. He did, in fact win, but only by a very narrow margin, and after he had learned some valuable lessons from the Charlestown player.

Walsh, that night hammered home a thorough lesson, that age in handball is something to be respected.

Another classical example emanates from Kerry, where the evergreen Fitzgerald-Jones Club partnership of Paddy Downey and Jimmy O'Brien, persistently refused to be embarrassed by the passing years, and continued to win titles long after many experts had already written them off as a serious threat. They did, in fact, retire this year under the enviable tag of unbeaten champions in senior softball doubles.

Then there is the thirty-six year old fabled John Ryan who was selected this season for his native Wexford, or forty-five year-old Paddy Munroe, who is still one of the top players in Dublin, and togged out only two months ago as intercounty representative in partnership with Fintan Confrey.

Let us not forget, either, the latest theme which has gripped the game and this is the introduction of over-forty competitions. The idea, which I must say, is both novel and extremely beneficial, is the brain-child of Roscommon, where a recently sponsored tournament evoked considerable interest.

But the Roscommon men have progressed even further and ably abetted by the older brigade of Packie Hoare, Harry O'Doherty and John O'Gara, have been arranging challenges in other counties.

A headline is being set so rigidly that widespread competition for the older player seems a distinct probability, within a very short time.

Is it any wonder, that old handballers never die.

MUNSTER MEDLEY

● FROM PAGE 17

the upstairs portion of which will include a first-class dining-room and a well-fitted kitchen. On the ground floor there will be dressing-rooms, showers, toilets, etc.

At Killarney the emphasis will be mainly on dressing accommodation.

FR. O'DOHERTY

Father John O'Doherty, recently ordained for the Diocese of Killaloe, captained the St. Flannan's team which won the Munster Colleges' senior football cup in 1959. With his native parish, Doonbeg, he won both minor football and senior football Clare championships, as well as the Cusack Cup competition on four occasions.

LIMERICK NEWS

Limerick County Board marked the return of the footballers to the Munster senior football final after an absence of 31 years in unique fashion.

They had a special set of jerseys manufactured for the occasion. To avoid clashing with Kerry's green and gold the Shannonsiders changed to all-white, with green collar and crest, and bearing the inscription "Limerick 1965." The players and substitutes were presented with the jerseys as a keepsake, and as a memento of their participation in the final.

Limerick's football record is better than most of the scribes before the recent Munster decider gave the county credit for. The Shannonsiders played in 13 Southern finals between 1887 and 1934. They won out in the former year and again in 1896, going on to capture All-Ireland laurels in both instances. They were beaten on three occasions in Munster finals by 0-5 to 0-3 — 1895 by Arrevale Rovers; 1897 by Dunmanway; and 1903 by Tralee Mitchells. Arrevale Rovers and Tralee continued to win All-Ireland honours—the latter after three unforgettable meetings with Kildare. On the occasion of their last appearance, in 1934, Kerry beat the Shannonsiders 1-14 to 1-2.

TIPPERARY EXILES

Could a Tipperary team win the Dublin senior hurling championship? That possibility struck a group of spectators watching this year's Dublin county final, in which Young Irelands beat a fancied U.C.D. side, 2-11 to 3-5.

Counting up the native counties of the contestants is a favourite pastime at a Dublin hurling final, and checking the programme for the 1965 decider we find no less than fourteen Tipperary men on the Young Ireland selection and a further five in the U.C.D. pick—or a grand total of nineteen players.

This could make a first rate team in itself, without counting the many who are playing with other leading Dublin clubs.

CORK PRESENTATION

North Cork Board presented their treasurer Gay Cleere, with a wallet of notes, on completion of thirty years as an active official of the Board.

TIMMY O'BRIEN

Timmy O'Brien, who has died, was the last surviving member of the Young Ireland team that won its first Limerick senior hurling title in 1902, shortly following the club's foundation.

He helped them win again in 1910, and was on the Limerick side that won the Munster championship that same year, losing narrowly in the All-Ireland final to Wexford. His son, Tommy, helped St. Patrick's and Limerick in both hurling and football, whilst his grandson, Pa O'Brien, captained the Limerick team beaten by Wexford in the 1963 All-Ireland minor hurling final.

PAT CRONIN

Clare hurler, Pat Cronin, is a son of popular former Kerry footballer, Tim Cronin of Castlemaine.

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MUNSTER CLUBS OF OTHER DAYS

● FROM PAGE 31.

county and the scene of some memorable Munster and All-Ireland finals including one Blue Riband decider between Cork and Kilkenny, which old timers maintain was the greatest ever hurled. Shandon Park owned by that outstanding Gael, the late Dan Fraher, was the first in Ireland devoted exclusively to the playing of native games.

Waterford City Gaels followed his example but they had a long and bitter struggle before they finally established the principle of a Gaelic field for Gaelic Games. They pioneered the idea and it was many years later before it became generally established elsewhere.

Forty years ago the great Erin's Own team were just coming into their own as one of Ireland's top-class hurling clubs and in the space of twenty years they had a grand total of twelve Waterford senior hurling crowns to their name.

Mount Sion won their first senior hurling title in 1938 and they are still going as strong as ever. They piloted Waterford hurling to great heights and introduced many colourful players whose names are now household ones wherever hurling is discussed. Like many other famed Waterford clubs families

played a big part in the development of the Monastery club and the Keanes, Gallaghers, Donnellys, Morrisseys, Grimes and Fanning clans crop up again and again in one or other of the numerous hurling and football teams Mount Sion regularly enter in Waterford competitions.

Other well known families that have graced the Decies scene include the Fives of Tourin; the Phelans of Grantstown, the Goodes of Dungarvan; the Ware's the Wyses, the Powers, the Ryans, and the Faidy's of Erin's Own.

One Mount Sion player Joe Flannelly, has the distinction of figuring in five successive Waterford minor hurling final winning sides; whilst another, Freddie O'Brien, at eighteen, won four Waterford county medals in Mount Sion colours the same season — senior hurling; senior football; minor hurling and minor football. And for good measure he also participated with Mount Sion that year in junior hurling and football championship ties.

I could write on and on of great teams and men who have graced Waterford club games but the space is just not here in this issue, so we must await another opportunity to visit again the great Gaels of the Decies County.

LOOKING

AROUND

● FROM CENTRE PAGES.

which is required throughout the country. More than a field and a set of goal-posts is required for Ireland of 1965. The local clubs must provide full recreational amenities.

MUNSTER FOOTBALL

Former Kerry All-Ireland player, Gary McMahon, trained the Limerick senior football team for the Munster final.

Still on Munster football, it is puzzling how Clare can often beat Kerry in grades other than senior and then always lose in a one-sided game to Cork in the provincial final.

It happened last year with the minors. Clare clearly beat reigning All-Ireland champions, Kerry, only to be trounced by Cork a few weeks later.

Then this year Clare first drew with reigning under-21 champions Kerry and then had a merited win over them in the replay. Again a one-sided defeat by Cork in the provincial final. There have been other instances too.

If Kerry had qualified for those finals they probably would have won them!

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CLASH OF THE ASH

"ASH Trees for Hurleys" is a most attractive booklet which, as its name suggests, provides full details on the planting and growing of ash for hurley-making. Prepared by the "Trees for Ireland" organisation and published by Croke Park, the booklet is a model in design and lay-out.

It provides wonderful information. For example—in the region of 100,000 hurleys are broken every year. These need to be replaced and to do so an annual cutting of approximately 20,000 ash trees is necessary.

Ash requires fifteen years of growth to be mature enough for hurley-making. This means that to meet the required quota 1,000 acres of ash plantation are required—at, in the region of, 435 trees per acre.

This by no means appears a large acreage when one views it as 33 acres per county. The important thing, of course, is that the planting be systematic—that is a total planting of 20,000 young trees every year so that every annual cutting is cancelled out with the planting of an equal number of young trees.

Looking at it again from a per

county angle, it all appears most feasible. Leaving aside Government plantations, who also grow ash, only a total of approximately 620 young trees per county need be planted each year. Surely every county could do this without any great effort.

As I understand it the ash position at the moment is quite adequate for current hurley-making demands. However, what is essential is that sufficient supplies remain and, to assure that, systematic planning needs to be introduced at this point.

Planting now on the lines advocated by this booklet will assure that in 1980 (fifteen years time) there will be plenty of mature trees ready to be cut down and turned into hurleys. Planting in 1966 will take care of the year 1981 and so on.

This booklet also provides full details on how to plant ash, where to plant it and how to protect it from enemies, both two-legged and four-legged. Incidentally the booklet is being distributed free. So come on you land-owning G.A.A. men, get a copy and stick down a few dozen young plants.

P.K.

SPOTLIGHT

● FROM PAGE SEVEN.

record surely for a county which was less than a decade ago at the bottom of the football ladder. And mark you they could win it too. They are not the team they were but Doherty, O'Neill and Co. can still judge where the posts are when given a chance.

HAPPY OCCASION

Congratulations to P. J. McKeefry, Sports Editor of the "Irish News", Belfast, on his recent marriage to Eileen McGarrell of Feystown, Glenarm, Co. Antrim. P. J. is a member of the Swatragh club, while his bride comes from one of the staunchest hurling areas in Co. Antrim.

THE CONCORD CUP

The Concord Cup, which is competed for annually between the Dublin and Cork Insurances Football teams, was presented to the victorious Dublin team at a recent, very enjoyable function, at the headquarters of the Irish National Insurance Co. Ltd. by Mr. Frank Thornton, Director. The Rebel county men had held the cup for the previous two years.

Mr. Thornton said that the Gaelic Section of the Dublin Insurance Athletic Society was making great strides and which the staffs of all insurance companies, Irish and otherwise, supported very enthusiastically. Mr. Thornton said he would like to pay a special tribute to Michael Brennan and Jimmy Graham who had put a lot of hard work into the organising of the various competitions and were now beginning to see the fruits of their initial efforts.

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