

39

GAA

# Gaelic Sport



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MARCH, 1965  
Vol. 8. No. 3.



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### **Senior Hurling**

- A. Cláir v Gaillimh at Galway, May 30.
- B. Portláirge v Luimneach at Cork, June 6.
- C. T. Árann v A. Winners, June 27.
- D. Corcaigh v B. Winners, July 4.

**Final, July 25.**

### **Senior Football**

- A. T.-Árann v Cláir at Limerick, May 2 or 9.
- B. Luimneach v Portláirge at Tipperary, May 16.
- C. Ciarraí v B. Winners, June 13.
- D. Corcaigh v C. Winners, June 20.

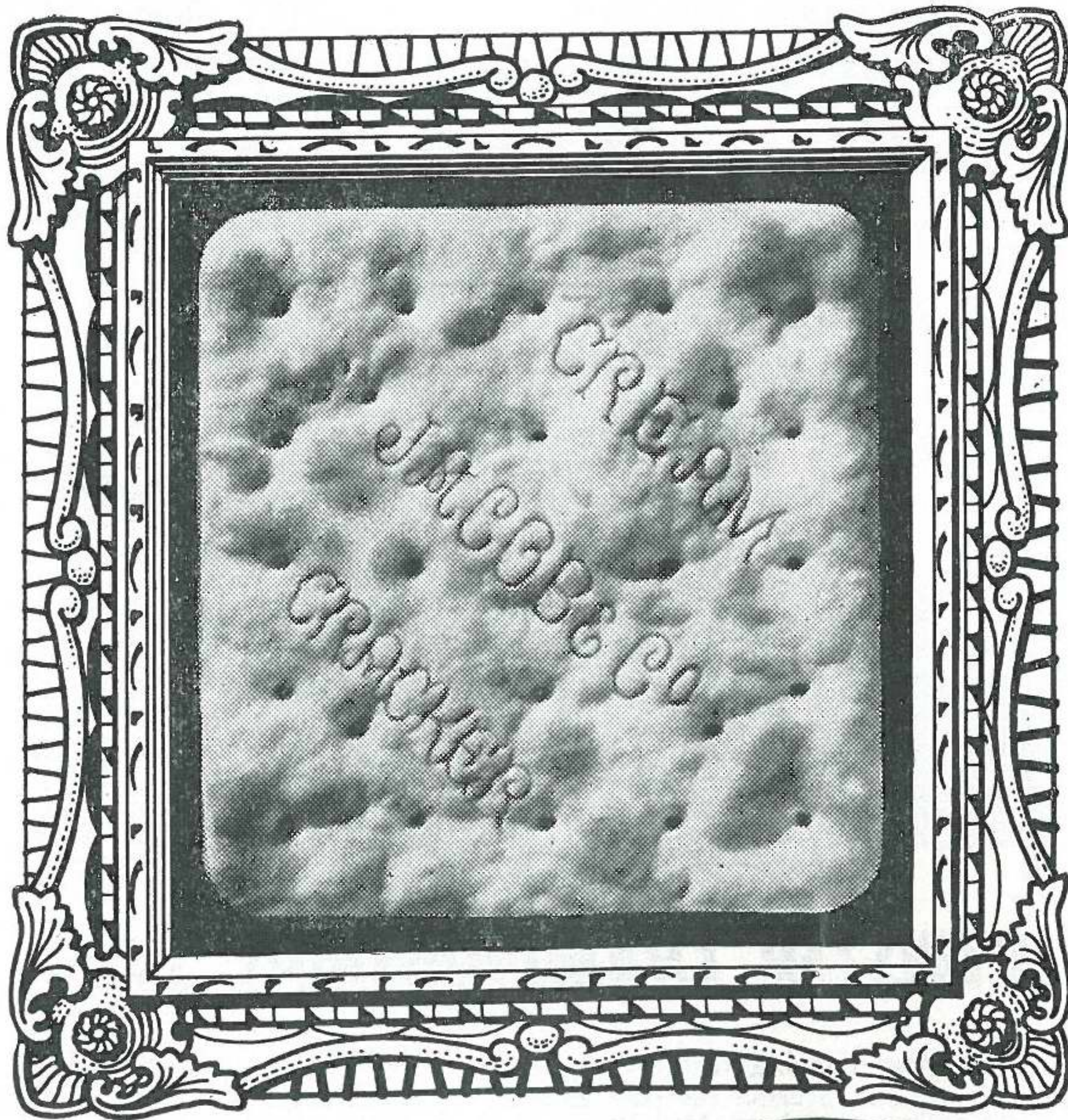
**Final, July 18.**

First rounds Under 21 Hurling, March 28.

- „ „ Under 21 Football, April 4 and 18.
- „ „ Junior Football, April 11.
- „ „ Intermediate Hurling, April 25; except Gaillimh v Ciarraí, April 11 or 25.

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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 8. No. 3. March, 1965.

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COMMENT

## THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

IF a good start is half the labour then certainly the new Hurling Scheme has already set itself well on the road towards ultimate success. All indications are that it has been enthusiastically received in all counties and that the idea that hurling can be brought back has been accepted at large.

Certain scepticism and a degree of lethargy might have been expected in some counties but surprisingly this has not been so. The members of the Hurling Commission who visited the various county conventions obviously succeeded in "selling" the Scheme and laying low any doubts which there might have been.

And so now we find virtually every county already well geared towards setting the Five Year Plan in motion at the prescribed time of early March. The presence of many prominent footballers on the various county Coistí Iomána is most encouraging and augurs well for the Scheme.

Perhaps in a way this is to be expected when one remembers that the entire effort is being led by a man who will always be remembered as a great footballer, the Association's President, Alf O Muirí.

One cannot help feeling that perhaps this type of great challenge was something which the Association really needed. Its entire resources, strength and ability to lead are now being called upon. When the Scheme has been successfully carried through, the G.A.A. will at least be fully conscious of its own strength.





\* TOMMY  
O'KEEFFE

## *The football star from Tipperary*

by

PATRICK CARVER

ONE of the sad things about life, particularly sporting life, is that we all have such short memories. Yesterday we were cheering a man on the playing field; to-day we have forgotten him and we are looking for new heroes to cheer. True, there are some men who span the years; men whose names live on long after they have passed from the sporting scene . . . but, invariably these are the men who reached the very top in their sports. These are the glorious few who have their national championship or All-Ireland medals to guarantee a place in our flagging memories.

But what about the men who never won national championship or All-Ireland medals; yet, who in their time were equally as good and, indeed, sometimes, far better than many of those whose fame has endured? How is it that we forget them so easily? That is a question someone else will have to answer; for all I am going to tell you here is a little story of a man I—and possibly thousands more—had forgotten . . . but who was remembered in fitting style recently by his own countymen.

This all began with a very kind invitation from John Kelly, the

managing director of the Irish Cider and Perry Co. Limited in Clonmel. His firm were presenting the Cidona awards to Tipperary's sport stars of the year at a banquet in Clonmel; would I like to come along and perhaps meet a few old friends? Or perhaps, make a few new ones.

Now, I am not going to tell you all that happened at this banquet; that has already been more than adequately covered. The various sport stars, including Tony Wall, Patsy Dawson and Anne Carroll, received their magnificent Cidona awards and, of course, they deserved them. But then that was to be expected for all these sport stars had been active competitors during the 1964 season. For me, however, the intriguing award of the evening was the one made to Tommy O'Keeffe of Kilsheelan, Clonmel.

Now, if you are not a Tipperary man, the first question quite a few of you will ask is: who is Tommy O'Keeffe? Or perhaps, who was Tommy O'Keeffe?

Now, to my eternal shame, I may as well admit here and now that I was asking myself the same question when I heard that the massive Knocknagow Award was to go to him. I asked someone

to point Tommy out to me but even that did not help. He looked to me to be a young man, extremely fit and rather quiet. And, above all, he seemed to be a little embarrassed at all the attention everyone was paying to him.

I had to ask again about him. Then, finally, the penny dropped and I remembered him. Not his name but the fact, that when I was growing up, he was the Tipperary man who was able to achieve almost the impossible. He was the man, who, in the golden age of Kerry football, was good enough to keep a Kerryman off the Munster Railway Cup football team. And, as I imagine you will appreciate, anyone who could do that in the halcyon days of Kerry football in the late 1920's and early 1930's, just had to be a great footballer.

I am not going to tell you that I remember Tommy O'Keeffe well; I was only growing up at the time and my chances of seeing a Munster or a Tipperary football team in action were few and far between. But, like so many other youngsters of my time in the South, to whom Kerry and all that belonged to it, was the last word in Gaelic sport, I was a prolific reader and I ate,





★ *SPORTS STARS ALL . . . the hurling men of the Premier County.*

drank and slept almost anything that had anything to do with the Kingdom's fortunes.

And I do remember being highly indignant that anyone, particularly a Tipperaryman—and, God knows, who in those years would ever associate first-class football with Tipperary—could be good enough to keep a Kerryman off the Munster team. This was little short of incredible . . . but as the records show, Tommy O'Keeffe did it. Many years afterwards, I saw him play football and I discovered that he was good enough. Better still I talked often afterwards to men who had played with him . . . and all of them, including Paddy Kennedy of Annascaul, agreed that Tommy was up with the best—at any time.

Hard though it may be to believe it, Tommy made his first appearance on the Tipperary senior team against Kerry in Dungarvan in 1927 and he was a member of the Tipperary team again in 1928 when they met Kerry in the Munster senior semi-final at Tipperary town.

How many of you remember that game? A lot of you will have

forgotten it . . . but I doubt if any Kerryman has. The Kingdom were riding on the crest of the football wave at the time and were regarded as being almost invincible. They had been All-Ireland champions in 1926 and, if you recall, they subsequently took four All-Irelands in a row between 1929 and 1932.

Just look at the team they had at the time. They had John Joe Sheehy, Paul Russell, Johnny Rioridan, Joe Barrett, Jim Baily, John Joe Landers, Johnny Walsh, Con Brosnan, Bob Stack, Jackie Ryan and Joe O'Sullivan and all the other great men of the time.

In 1931, Tommy O'Keeffe was a substitute on the Munster team that won the Railway Cup. In 1934, 1935 and 1936, he played on the Munster side and as late as 1938 he was again a substitute on the interprovincial side.

From 1931 to 1933, he was resident in Kildare and, of course, played with the Kildare senior football sides of those years. He was also on the Kildare junior hurling side and, with them, got as far as the Leinster final in which

they were beaten by Dublin, who, subsequently, went on to win the All-Ireland title.

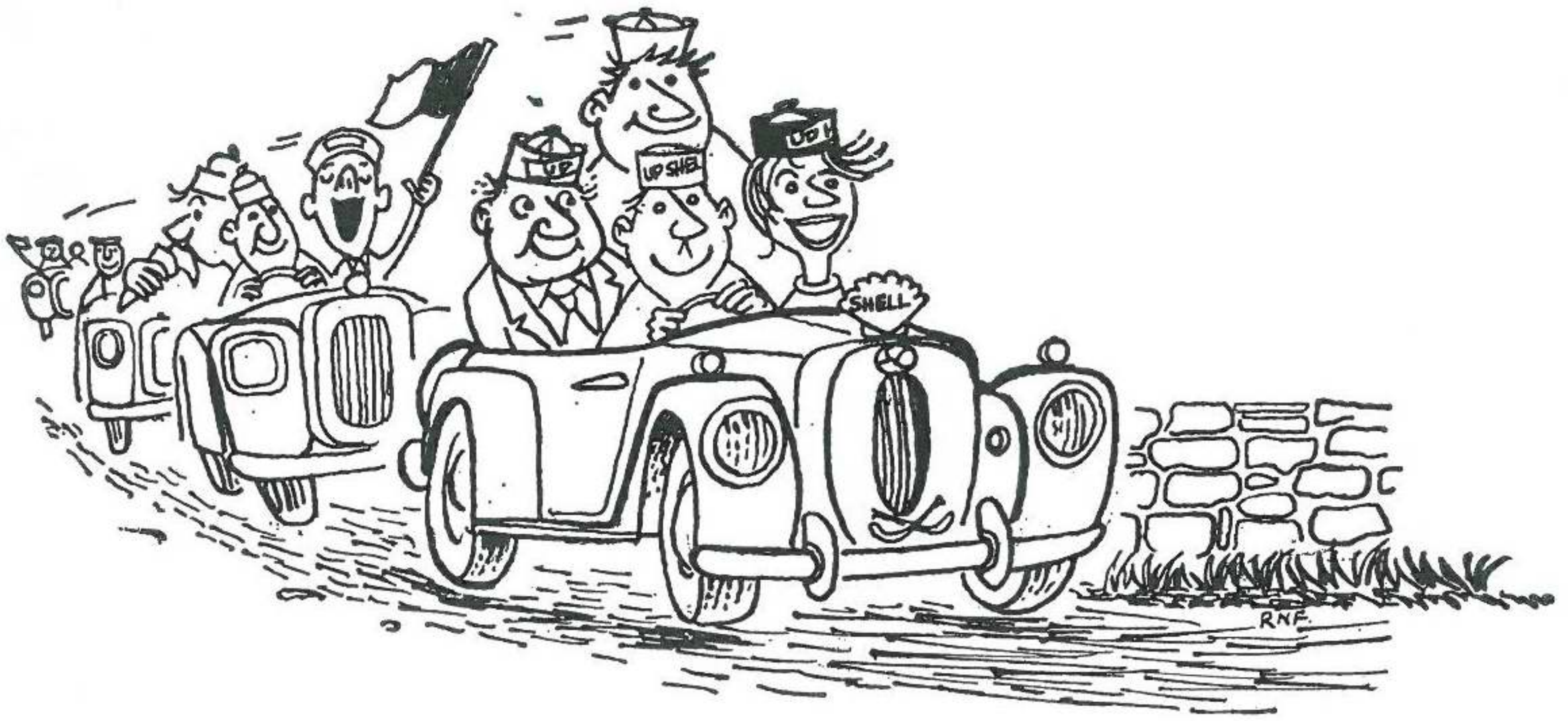
Tommy won county senior championship medals with his native Kilsheelan in 1930 and 1933 and took a third with Clonmel Commercials in 1944. It was a long playing career and happily his interest in Gaelic games is still as enthusiastic as ever. He rarely misses a game and is always on hand to give a little advice when required . . . particularly to his son, Brendan, who, to-day, is a prominent member of the Clonmel Commercials' team.

Tommy, of course, got a tremendous reception when he was called up to receive the Knocknagow Award, presented annually to a Tipperary sport star of the past. And I wish you could have been there to hear him speak in reply to the wonderful compliments that were showered on him.

In accepting the award, Tommy O'Keeffe was a model for any great sportsman. Rarely have I heard anyone speak with such wonderful dignity and such obvious sincerity.

● **TO PAGE 58.**





*Whatever the county you name  
When you shatter Croke Park with a yell,  
As you drive up and down to the game  
Be sure that your shout is for Shell!*

GO WELL...

GO





**'The  
Ban  
is as  
necessary  
in 1965  
as it  
was  
in 1905'**

I BELIEVE in Rule 27 and that the Ban is as necessary in 1965 as it was in 1905. It is not my intention to write a literary piece about it or to elaborate on the national aspects of the case. I agree that the national aspect of the Rule is the important thing but being an ordinary club member and former player I find the practical issues much more easy to deal with—so I will leave the “spiritual” side to more eloquent men.

I will begin by quoting Joe Sherwood of the “Evening Press.” Last year he wrote:—

“It is not for me to intrude on this question (the Ban), though one point does strike me. The G.A.A. is a flourishing organisation. At Croke Park last Sunday were over 70,000 people — a record for a League final.

“No big industrial firm if beating all others in output, as is the G.A.A. in amateur sport, would change its policy, even if it was arbitrary.”

Now as I understand it, Sherwood is an Englishman. He is not moved by national or spiritual issues of any kind. He looks at the G.A.A. with an impartial eye and asks “Why change a winning team”? I say that’s logic.

As I see it, these men who want to end the Ban are not really concerned about the Ban at all but are out to win for themselves publicity and notoriety. A copy of virtually

everything they say is sent to the newspapers who are only too glad to print it in big black type.

Take the recent case of Dr. Croke’s second letter and Michael Cusack’s reply. Our man down in Wicklow sent copies of the letters to the papers and they foolishly thought that they were on to a good thing and devoted almost a full page to them.

These letters were written in November 1885. The Ban was not even dreamed of then. Of course how could you expect the gentlemen of the press to know this!

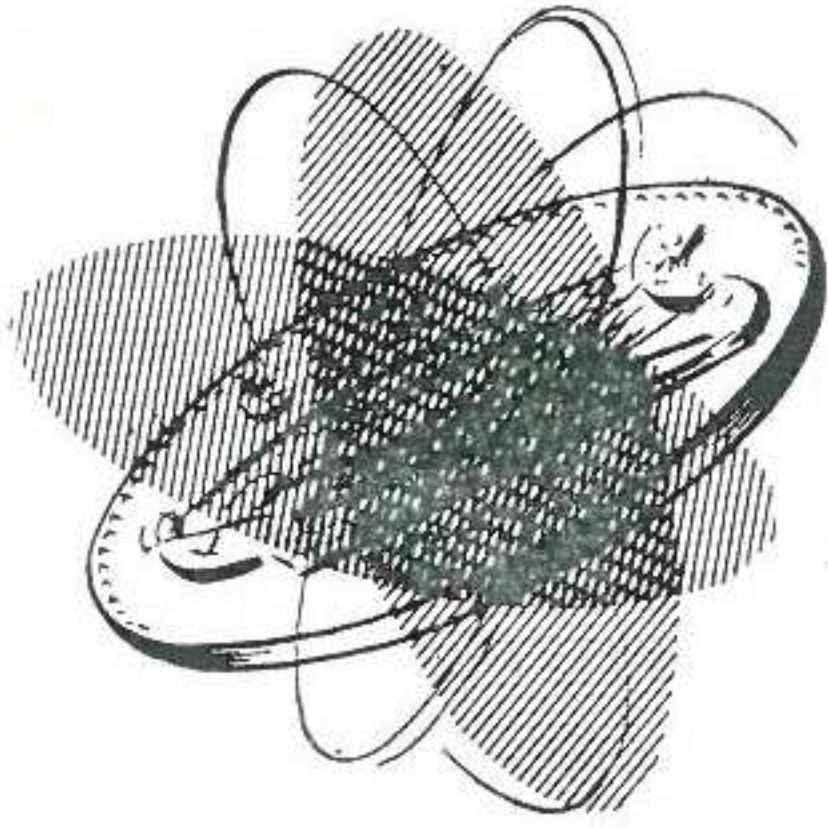
These famous letters had no connection whatsoever with the Ban and what fools the papers made of themselves. But then I suppose a lot of other people were fooled too and are still being fooled.

This whole anti-Ban business is a subterfuge. It was started by a few people in Dublin, who since late 1961 have kept up a carefully planned campaign of propaganda. They have the support of almost all G.A.A. newspaper writers and because of this their propaganda has been quite effective and an amount of naive G.A.A. members have been taken in.

The impression is given that there is a huge wave of demand to have the Ban removed. This is not true. There was no demand at all, nor had there been for

● TO PAGE 61.





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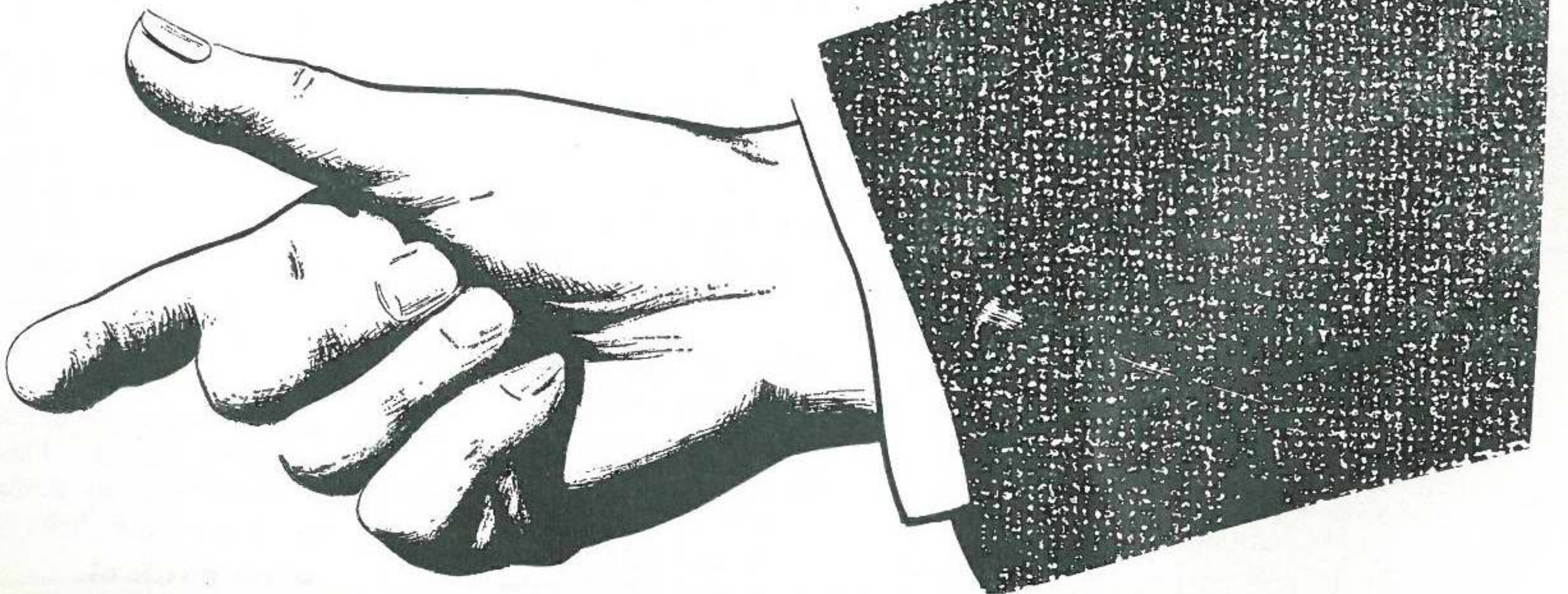
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# MUNSTER MEDLEY

## LOOK AFTER THE PLAYERS

says SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

THE feeling appears to exist in some Southern counties that the big hurling drive now getting into its stride only concerns the weaker counties.

This is far from being the case, and it is made quite clear in the very comprehensive report of "An Coiste Iomána" that each and every one of the thirty-two counties without exception are expected to play their part in the movement to extend the sphere and influence of hurling.

In a survey of the Munster hurling scene some time ago I got the impression that the game was fairly well catered for in the larger centres of population at primary school level, and that it was when these schooldays end that the greatest loss to the games was experienced.

In endeavouring to find a reason for this it was easy to see that the propagators of some of the prohibited codes were particularly busy and attracted as adherents many boys in their early teens.

What they had to offer that the G.A.A. did not supply was the next problem, and on questioning some of the youth two factors emerged. Soccer, particularly, was organised mainly on a street or dis-

trict basis and in this way made a special appeal. Eleven players were easily secured, a small pitch sufficed, and most important point of all, the games were regular and numerous.

Most of the boys with whom I spoke would have liked to continue hurling but they saw nothing wrong in playing the other code. They soon learned too that because of their soccer associations they could not continue with the camán.

They liked hurling but considered it an expensive game. The proposed subsidy would not help a lot for even at half price hurleys were dear when they got broken so frequently. And hurling competitions rarely guaranteed enough match play. If a team were knocked out in the first round that too often meant the end of activity for a season.

Could somebody find something like a hockey stick that would be virtually unbreakable it would solve one of hurling's major problems. And all boards—divisional and county must get right down to this question of a sufficiency of match play for every club.

A leading official recently asked if we were ruining our players by molly-coddling them. He was commenting on the cost of train-

ing intercounty teams and arranging trial games for the players.

I believe that where most counties fall down in this regard is in their failure to get their championships going early enough in the season.

The best possible preparation for any intercounty campaign would be a lively home competition. All the clubs in a county should be in action by the first Sunday in March at the very latest, and they should have a full programme of games to the end of September.

By this means players would be always fit, their prowess could be judged by the selectors in the most suitable environment, and training and trials would be a superfluity.

By all means give our players the best possible conditions for toying and actual play, and a meeting with their opponents after the game if even only over a cup of tea.

The best way to train, however, is with their clubs, and if we could induce former players to continue their interest at club level by coaching the up and coming lads,

● TO PAGE 13.



# THE FIRST RAILWAY CUP

by MICHAEL A. WALSH

**S**T. PATRICK'S DAY, Thursday, March 17, 1927, saw the first Railway Cup finals and in a matter of three glorious hours the new competition was firmly established.

The hurling contest — between Munster and Leinster was a mighty battle. From the throw-in Leinster attacked but the legendary Sean Og Murphy came through to clear. Again Leinster came and Mick Gill of Galway (but by now an accepted Dubliner) dropped the ball in the square. Once more Munster cleared.

Play moved up and down the field before Mick D'Arcy was inches wide for Munster. At mid-field Leinster appeared to have a slight edge and as a result the Munster defence was being constantly tested but they gave not an inch and Sean Og defied the Leinstermen time and time again.

After fifteen minutes Dinny O'Neill opened the scoring with a point for Leinster. Minutes later Phil Cahill equalised. The contest was now being fought at a great pace and Leinster again attacked for Matty Ryan to point. Dinny O'Neill added another from the puck-out.

Then as half-time was approaching Munster found their feet and Pat "Balty" Ahern slammed the ball past Tommy Daly in the Leinster goal. On the stroke of time Lory Meagher gained possession and from fifty yards out sent over straight and true.

And so at half-time the score-

board read—Leinster, 0-4; Munster, 1-1.

The princely Lory Meagher sent Leinster ahead on the resumption with a long-distant point. Matty Power performed a like feat and Dinny O'Neill left them a goal clear.

It called for drastic Munster action. Jim Hurley beat two men and dropped a high one into the square. In a flash Martin Kennedy had it in the net. They were level again.

Then it was Munster once more. Eudie Coughlan sent to Willie Gleeson who sent over the bar.

A minute later Lory Meagher had the sides level again and from the puck-out he placed fellow-countyman Roberts who gave Leinster the lead once more.

However, it was no sooner done than Eudie Coughlan from far out on the wing made it level again. Croke Park had rarely seen hurling like it and as time ticked away the excitement was tremendous.

But Leinster came again. A goal by Matty Power and a point by Lory seemed to have decided the issue—but wait.

The inimitable Eudie Coughlan was again in possession and he sent over the bar. From the puck-out "Gah" Aherne narrowed the gap by yet another point. The scoreboard read Leinster, 1-10; Munster, 2-6.

In the dying seconds of the game Munster tried desperately but Leinster held firm and on the stroke of time Lory Meagher sent

over from away out to leave the Eastern province narrow but worthy winners of the first Railway Cup hurling crown.

One wonders if there was ever since such a gathering of great players. To-day they are legends—Dr. Tommy Daly, Pat "Fowler" McInerney, Garrett Howard, Mick Gill, Dinny O'Neill, Ned Fahy, Jim "Builder" Walsh, Matty Power and Ed. Tobin were the Dublin representatives (although none of them were born in the Metropolis).

Kilkenny contributed L. Meagher, J. Roberts, H. Meagher, E. Doyle and W. Dunphy, while to complete the fifteen Laois had a lone representative in J. Byrne.

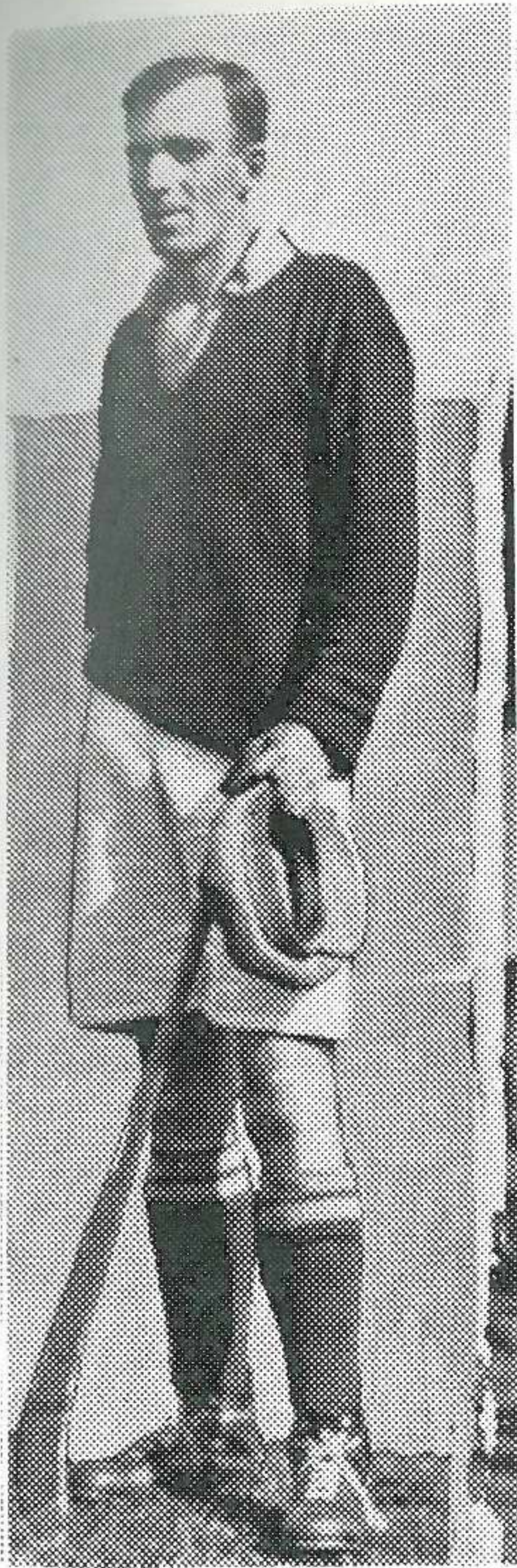
The Munster side was made up of S. Og Murphy, E. Coughlan, E. O'Connell, M. Murphy, J. Regan, J. Hurley, P. Aherne, M. Aherne (Cork), M. Murphy, J. J. Kinnane, M. Cross, W. Gleeson (Limerick), M. D'Arcy, P. Cahill, M. Kennedy (Tipperary).

In the football game it was Connacht versus an all-Kerry Munster fifteen and the Westerners had gone through a special training course at Ballinasloe.

However, it was Munster who set the pace and within a minute they were a point ahead as a result of a fisted point by Frank Sheehy. Connacht replied with a well-taken Mulderrig point.

The tackling was hard and it was obvious that Kerry were most intent on capturing the title. Their superior team-work gave them the





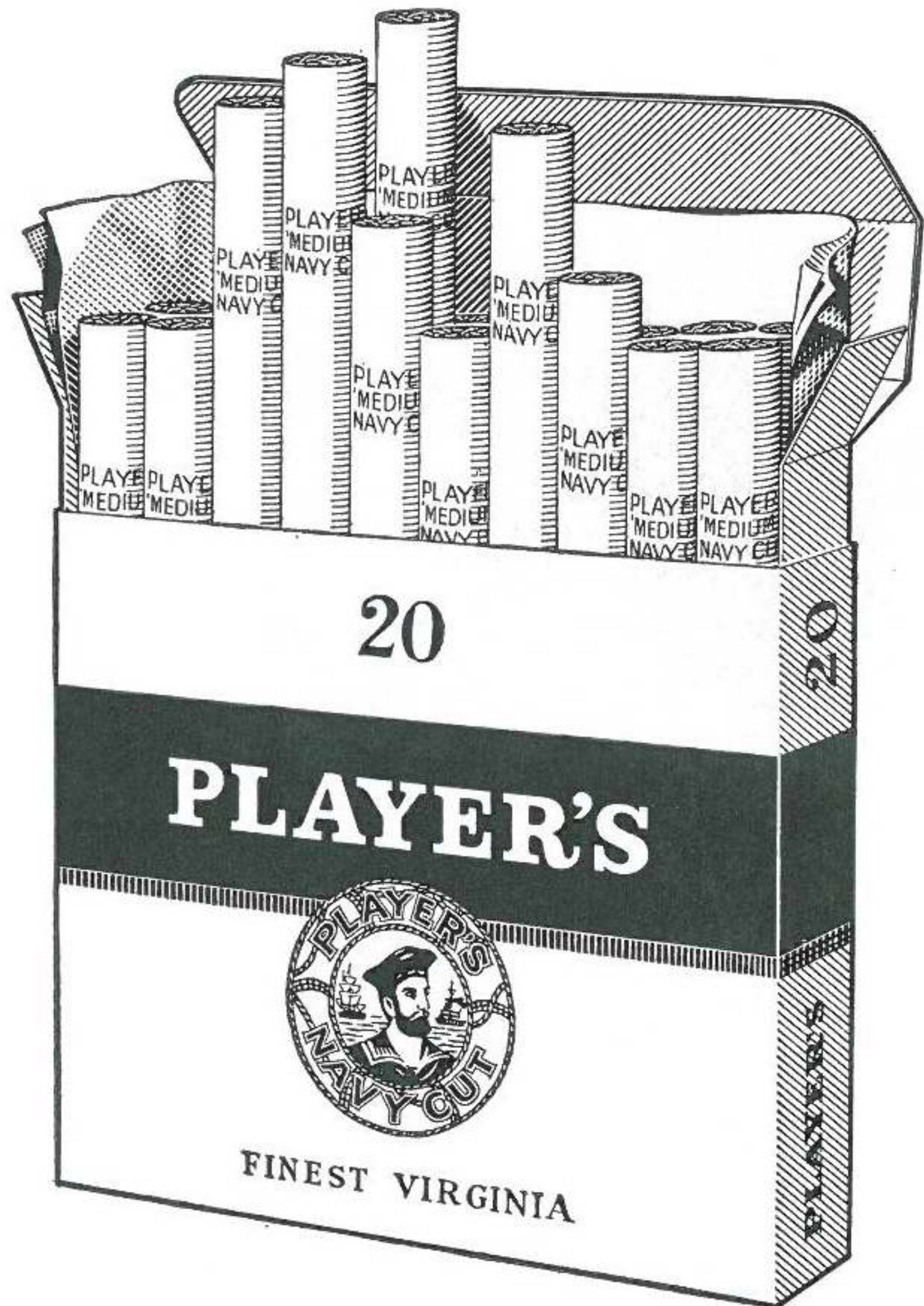
★ EUDIE COUGHLAN

edge and they showed no lack of fitness. At the interval the Southerners led 1-2 to Connacht's 0-3.

From the second half throw-in Connacht fought back in great style. Dolan had a point and three minutes later Colleran pointed a free to make it level scoring.

There was little between the teams during the next fifteen minutes. The play was hard and no quarter was given or asked. Then the great John Joe Sheehy

● TO PAGE 58.



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---



## MUNSTER MEDLEY

### ● FROM PAGE 9.

much of real value would be accomplished.

### LIVE IRISH

In his valedictory address as Chairman of Clare County Board, Mr. Jack Daly, M.Eng.Sc., struck a very vital note when he said the G.A.A. was facing many new challenges in the changing Ireland of today.

"The country is experiencing tremendous social and economic changes", Mr. Daly said. "The G.A.A. has always been to the forefront of our national life, but if it is to continue in this proud position in today's affluent society it must change also. It must not confine its activities to the playing fields alone, but it must enlarge its cultural and social activities. In this way, it would show the world that we are not ashamed of our great heritage and it would play its part in keeping alive that which is dearest to us, our language, our dances, our folklore, and songs. The G.A.A. was never as strong or as virile as it is today, let it continue to be the strength and encouragement of our nation".

Gaels would do well to ponder on these words, and those in a position to influence policy, be it at club or higher level, could not render better service to the Association than put in practice what Mr. Daly suggests.

The social side is of the utmost importance—it must be encouraged and expanded, and the emphasis must be on the Gaelic mode of life.

The current and long overdue injunction is "Be Irish, Buy Irish" but we are also badly in need of a "Live Irish" campaign. All the influences are striving to pull us in the opposite direction, so let us hope that 1965 will see a big step forward towards the establishment of a proper Gaelic code of conduct, embracing all that mark us as a nation apart.



★ TIPPERARY'S GOALMAN . . . John O'Donohue concedes a point against Galway in their recent National League game.





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Ireland's Gold Medal lager beer!**





★ *HURLERS NIGHT OUT . . . Jimmy Brohan, Mick Cashman and their wives at a recent function in Cork.*

## **JUST ANOTHER TEAM . . .**

by **EAMONN YOUNG**

**I**T was October 1954 and over in picturesque Cappoquin nestling cosily by the Blackwater under the blue shadow of the Knockmeal-downs—and Cork footballers were playing Waterford.

I had retired from football that summer after my very good friend Tom Rielly of St. Nicks had seen me play so badly in a tournament game that he waited specially till the crowd was gone to tell me to pack it up. I took his advice and Tom had me assisting the team as trainer that day in Cappoquin.

I remember Jim Hurley saying after the game was won that we

could go home and eat our dinner in peace. Jim is very ill as I write and I pause for a moment to wish the 62-year-old champion midfield hurler an early and complete recovery.

In the 1954 Munster championship Kerry footballers had destroyed Cork and the people in the south had a poor opinion of us. Yet it was obvious to many that the stuff was there if it were coached.

I remember my pet aversion was fouling and I decided to keep a tally on it, so there I was, a small plump balding man crouched on the sideline with thirty pebbles in one coat pocket, changing them to the other according as the lads fouled. And at half-time I would be able to tell the chaps who did foul, how often it occurred. Needless to mention one had to be very wise in the choice of words. The player who is out there giving his best—and not doing very well perhaps—takes kindly to advice only when it's carefully given.

Anyway all through the League we worked hard at the football, training and cutting out the faults until the following summer we had

a great game with Kerry in Killarney and nearly beat them.

Being a consistent admirer of the Kingdom I was delighted that year when they moved on to the final and I remember a week before the game telling Boiler MacGuinness and some more of the Meathmen up in Navan at a junior semi-final that Kerry's full-back Ned Roche would not be—as the whole country expected—"destroyed" by Kevin Heffernan who at the time was making good footballers look silly.

As the League of '55-'56 approached I realised that in Cork we had men good enough to go places if the luck was right.

There was Nealy Duggan, Paddy Driscoll, Niall Fitzgerald, Denis Bernard, "Toots" Kelliher, Sean Moore, Eric Ryan, Mick Gould, Dan Murray, Johnny Creedon, Paddy Harrington, and several more first-class men whose only fault was they had not been on the winning side more often.

It was in that League that we met Kerry the All-Ireland champions and, always in the winter if

● **TO PAGE 16.**

### **R.I.P.**

**JUST** as we were about to go to press the sad news came of the passing of the legendary Jim Hurley and the great Jack Young, father of Eamonn and Jim Young. We extend to both families our deepest sympathy.



# One

tobacco leaf isn't enough.

It takes a blend of

# ten

Virginia tobaccos to make  
a cigarette as good as

# Gold Flake

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GFE 196a

● FROM PAGE 15.

the team is fit give me Cork—and we won. They didn't like it.

So we met Dublin in Cork and as we waited for the teams to take the field I got the lads together out in the field next door and having divided them up in two teams had them playing with a tennis ball. By the time the referee called the team in, our men were nicely warmed up.

In those days (not so long ago) the value of warming up wasn't known so well and I remember one very well-known Cork official telling me for goodness sake to stop or the players would be tired before ever the game started. I didn't think the team would do well at all that day for all of them weren't able to train but they were on top from the beginning and the game ended in a draw after "Toots" Kelliher had nearly burst the ball off the bottom of the upright.

In the Croke Park replay a fortnight later I was much more confident. The boys had trained well, were better tuned up and rarin' to go. Dublin on their way to New York had vaccination trouble. We provided the rest and Neally Duggan, Niall Fitzgerald, Tommy Furlong, Paddy Murphy, "Toots" Kelliher and John Creedon put one goal (Murphy) and no less than sixteen points on the score-board.

For the final of the League against Meath in Croke Park a fortnight later Cork trained very hard for it was obvious that the men who had beaten good Mayo and Antrim sides would be tough. At the time Meath's Brian Smith, Mattie McDonnell, Pat McGearty, Ned Durnin, Kevin Lenihan, and Jim Ryan were playing great football and before the game I wasn't half as confident as before the Dublin re-play.

Cork won that League final all right but I remember when big Donal O'Sullivan went over to take the Cup to the cheers of fervent followers I was so disgusted with

● TO PAGE 25.



# THE MEDAL WINNERS . . .

**I**T might be correct to say that the number of Railway Cup medals a player has won is a better yardstick for measuring his greatness than All-Ireland medals. No player—no matter how great, can win an All-Ireland medal unless he is with a strong county. In Railway Cup competition such is not the case.

Here then is a list of the Railway Cup hurling medals won to-date. Medals awarded to substitutes are not included.

## LEINSTER

### Kilkenny :

Four each : P. Phelan, M. Power.

Three : P. Larkin, E. Byrne.

Two : E. Doyle, L. Meagher, J. Dermody, P. O'Reilly, D. Dunne, Tommy Leahy, P. Byrne, J. Walsh, J. O'Connell, P. Blanchfield, L. Byrne, J. Langton, O. Walsh.

One : W. Dunphy, J. Roberts, H. Meagher, P. Grace, R. Hinks, W. Burke, J. Mulcahy, S. O'Brien, J. Hogan, P. Hayden, P. Buggy, J. McGovern, J. Sutton, R. Carroll, P. Fitzgerald, M. Kelly, W. Walsh, S. Clohosey, R. Rockett, W. Dwyer, S. Cleere, D. Heaslip, P. Moran, E. Keher, T. Walsh, M. Coogan.

### Dublin :

Four : E. Wade.

Three : D. O'Neill, J. Walsh, C. McMahon.

Two : Lar Foley, Des Foley, F. Whelan.

One : T. Daly, P. McInerney, M. Gill, E. Fahy, S. Hegarty, D. Can-

niffe, M. Daniels, M. Butler, K. Matthews, H. Grey, P. McSweeney, M. McDonnell, N. Allen, L. Cashin, N. Drumgoole, M. Kennedy, A. Boothman, W. Jackson, M. Birmingham.

### Wexford :

Three : W. Rackard, E. Wheeler.

Two : T. Flood, J. English.

One : M. O'Hanlon, A. Foley, N. O'Donnell, R. Rackard, J. Morrissey, N. Rackard, O. McGrath, T. Neville, D. Quigley, P. Wilson.

### Laois :

Two : O. Fennell, C. O'Brien.

One : J. Byrne, P. Drennan.

### Westmeath :

One : F. White, J. McGrath.

### Carlow :

One : W. Hogan.

Years of victory : 1927, 1932, 1933, 1936, 1941, 1954, 1956, 1962, 1964.

## CONNACHT

### Galway :

One : S. Duggan, D. Flynn, P. Forde, W. Fahy, M. J. Flaherty, J. Brophy, B. Power, J. Killeen, P. Gantley, J. Gallagher, H. Gordon, P. Jordan, M. Nestor, T. Kelly, J. Gallagher.

Year of victory : 1947.

## MUNSTER

### Cork :

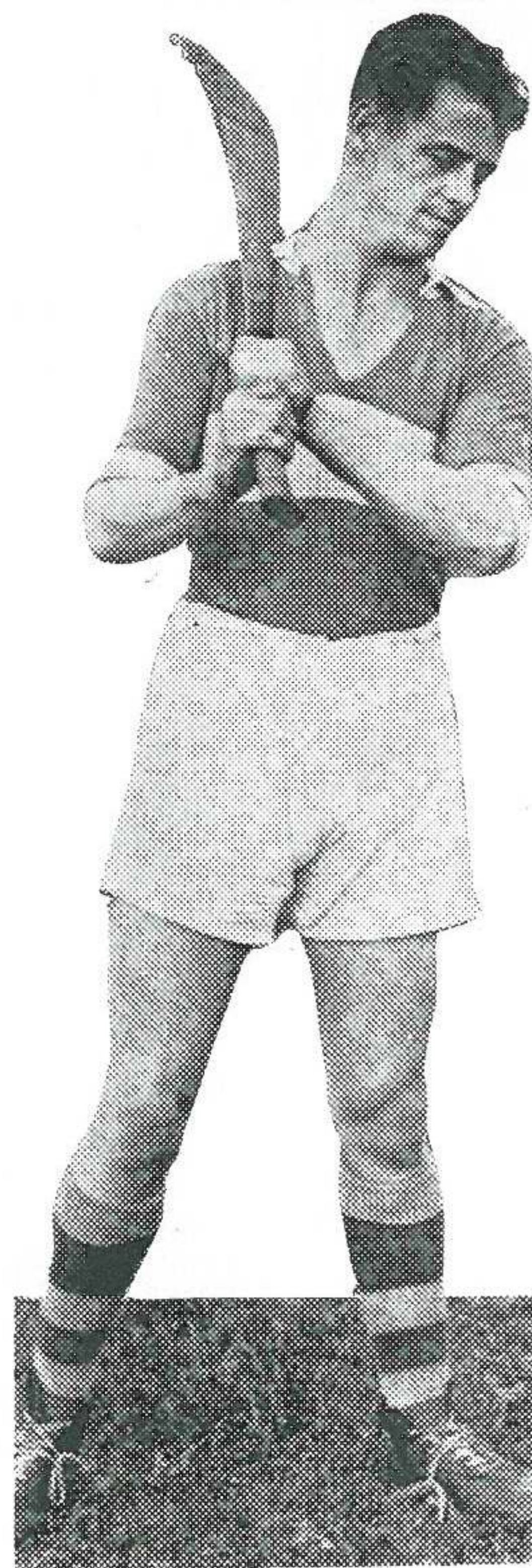
Eighteen : C. Ring.

Seven : J. Quirke, W. Murphy.

Six : M. Cashman.

Five : D. B. Murphy, J. Brohan.

Four : S. Barrett, J. Young, M. Brennan.



★ TOMMY DOYLE

Three : J. Hurley, E. Coughlan, B. Thornhill, J. Lynch, P. Donovan, M. Fuohy, J. Lyons, P. Barry.

Two : S. Og Murphy, J. Regan, M. O'Connell, G. Garrett, C. Cottrill, C. Murphy, G. O'Riordan, T. O'Shaughnessy, W. J. Daly, T. Kelly.

One : E. O'Connell, M. Aherne, P. Collins, P. Aherne, J. Kennedy, W. Campbell, S. Condon, T. Mulcahy, M. O'Riordan, G. Murphy,

● TO PARK 23.



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# HURLERS

## CAN BE MADE . . .



★ DR. DICK  
STOKES

SAYS

SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

SOME say that hurlers are born not made, and they are inclined to decry any efforts at introducing the caman code to new pastures, on the grounds that it can never be successfully launched in such areas.

Such line of thinking is not supported by facts, as several instances can be recalled of players with no hurling background at all becoming top-class exponents.

The outstanding example of course would be the case of Christy Ring, but it might be more in keeping with the current hurling revival theme to take inspiration from a member of An Coiste Iomána, who helped to draft the Five Year Plan designed to bring the hurling back to Ireland.

Dr. Dick Stokes of Limerick had no hurling environment in his youthful days in Oola, where football was the code that mattered. It is doubtful if he even saw a caman, certainly not at close quarters, until he went to Doon C.B.S. at the age of fifteen.

His first hurling efforts would have discouraged most lads, and

it is on record that his progress at the start was slow indeed. But he had the right spirit and the determination to make good, and literally hurled morning, noon and night. He rightly realised that constant practice was the only sure road to caman mastery.

At sixteen he only succeeded in getting his place on the school team because suitable material was in rather short supply—and he was played in goal. Twelve months later he was starring at midfield to such effect that he was a reserve on the Munster Colleges' team. The following year, 1936, he was partnering the late Vin Baston of Waterford in the All-Ireland Colleges' final, and played an outstanding part in returning the title to the South.

Dr. Dick's hurling talent might not have been so readily discovered but for the sound common sense of a Garda Sergeant—a Corkman, who was then secretary of the Pallas Club. He kept plugging the claims of the Oola lad and convinced the Limerick minor selectors of his promise. The result

was that he wore the Green and White in minor hurling and football ranks before the call to senior colours came in early 1940, when he was selected as a half-forward on a team to play Cork in a tournament tussle.

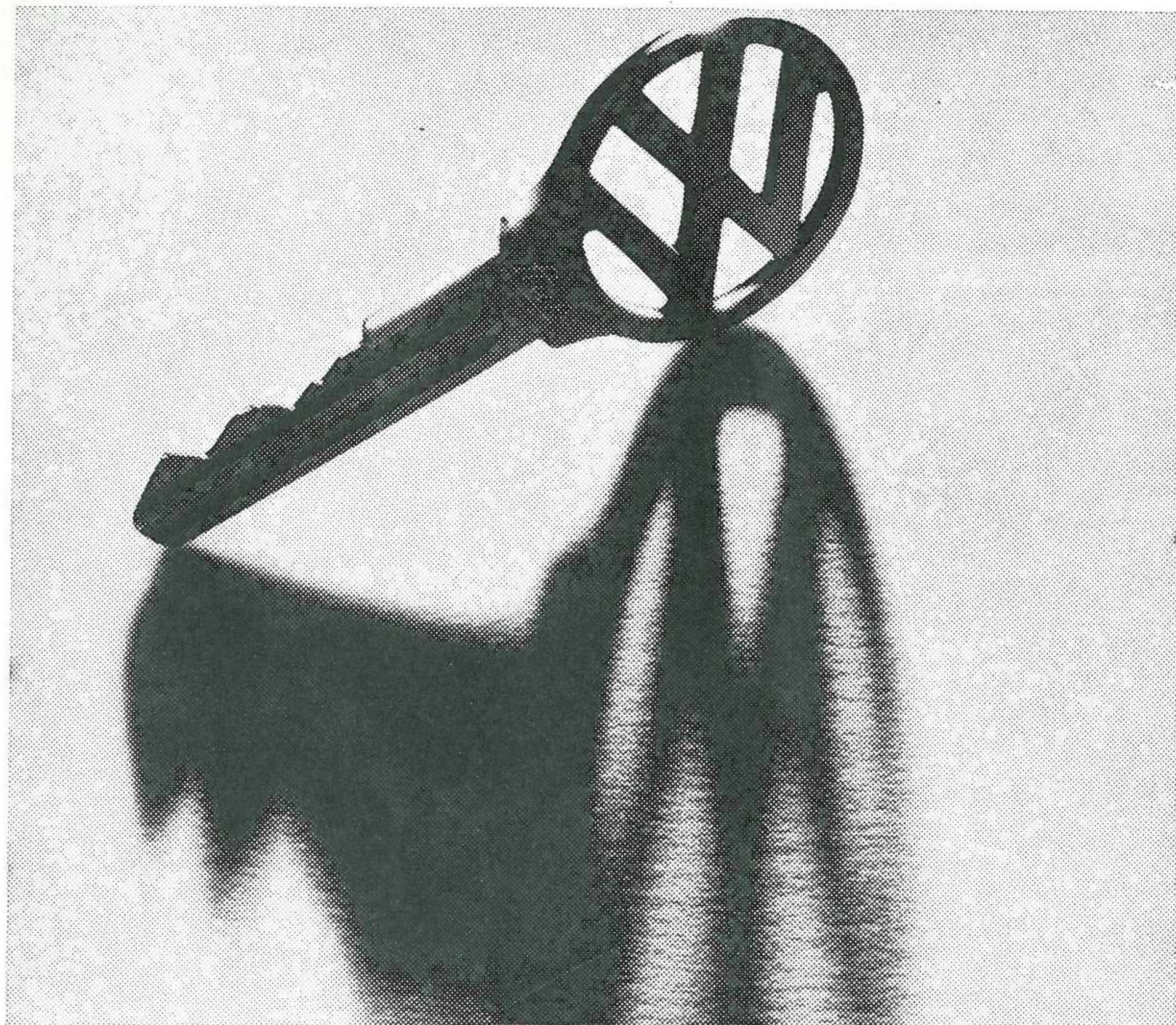
That was the commencement of an association with Shannonside hurling that gained lustre as the years sped on — a long span reckoned by caman standards but all too short as far as Limerick was concerned.

Dick made an auspicious opening with Limerick. His first championship outing was against Waterford, at Killarney and although the side gave a disappointing display they succeeded in forcing a division of the spoils.

The replay was at Clonmel and a much improved Limerick fifteen took the laurels after a thrilling tussle. The Munster title holders, Cork, who had lost the All-Ireland crown by a solitary point the previous year, were encountered in the Southern decider. This was the

● TO PAGE 21.





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# HURLERS CAN BE MADE

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## ● FROM PAGE 19.

star studded Rebel County fifteen, who were afterwards to prove their worth and the only hurling county ever to win four Blue Ribands in a row, and the gallant Limerick lads held them to level scoring.

The second meeting with Cork, again at Thurles, was a thrill packed affair full of colour and incident, and a great victory gave Limerick its eleventh Munster title.

Galway were encountered in the semi-final and the men from the Corrib could not withstand the power and dash of the Limerickmen who were by now the subject of hurling discussion all over the country. The hurling deeds of stars like the peerless Mick Mackey, the unconquerable Paddy Scanlon, Paddy Clohossey, Timmy Ryan, John Mackey, Paddy McMahon, Jackie Power, Mick Kennedy, and Jim Roche were re-told at cross-roads and firesides, and the knowing ones spoke of a fair haired half-forward that might one day eclipse them all—and that lad was Dick Stokes.

The 1940 All-Ireland final between Limerick and Kilkenny—despite wartime restrictions—attracted the then second biggest crowd in the history of hurling, tribute enough to the pulling power of a great Shannonside team, and who won in gallant style.

Picked by Munster for their Railway Cup bid the following season, Dick Stokes was on the side that lost to Leinster, 2-5 to 2-4, after a grand game. Dick wore the Munster jersey until 1946, and played no mean part in winning the Cup five years running.

Whilst a student at U.C.D. he helped the College lads in many engagements, and in 1943 was on

the senior football side that won the county title. A few years later he helped U.C.D. hurlers take the Dublin senior hurling championships of 1947 and 1948.

He helped the U.C.D. sides that won Sigerson Cup medals from 1944 to 1947, and gained Fitzgibbon Cup honours, also in U.C.D. colours, in 1941 and 1944.

Maybe, the greatest honour paid Dick Stokes was in 1952—a dozen years after he won his All-Ireland medal—when the University selectors elected him captain of the Combined Universities side that played Ireland in the first hurling game of the series.

When Limerick qualified for the final of the 1946-47 National hurling League Dick was in England—but that did not matter. He had travelled from the farthest ends of Ireland to help his county in even the least important engagements, and so it was no surprise to find him flying home through fog and winter winds to take his place against Kilkenny and contribute materially to the Limerick success. Despite several months out of the game, he was one of the fittest, speediest, most accurate of the thirty men at Croke Park that evening.

In 1950 he filled another role for Limerick when he helped the footballers win the Munster junior crown.

When I think of Dick Stokes it is not his wonderful hurling ability that comes first to mind. What left the greatest impression on most of his admirers was the splendid example and self sacrifice of the man, which contributed so much to the glory of Gaeldom.

It is easy enough for a great player to shine when opportunity

takes him to Croke Park or some other of the big venues and surrounded by team mates of proved ability.

A more difficult role to fill is the one that the big bulk of our players find confronting them, many at small almost unheard of venues, with teams that rarely win anything but the respect of their neighbours for tenacity and devotion to Gaelic ideals.

Typifying all these for many seasons was undoubtedly Dr. Dick Stokes, who never lost the opportunity of helping the "lame dog" during a long and brilliant hurling career, and covered himself with glory by his devotion to the cause.

Despite strenuous medical work, under Departmental direction, which carried him all over the country, Dr. Dick never failed to answer the call of club or county sometimes at great personal inconvenience and already aware that many of the "regulars" would be absent.

Things like that never worried the genial Doctor, and no matter who else was missing he was certain to be there, playing his part with earnestness and a "do or die" spirit that nothing could quench.

That his example was not lost on his own family circle can be appreciated from the fact that his four brothers—Eddie, Jimmie, Johnny and Nicky all followed his inspired leadership and gave outstanding service to both hurling and football over an equally prolonged spell.

It is very much in keeping with the man that even now when his professional duties are most onerous that he can still make time to play a vital role in the leadership of the new hurling revival.



ONCE more it is Railway Cup time and once more a few of us experience our yearly qualms of conscious about the value of the competitions. I really honestly wonder whether much of the glamour, usefulness and virtue of the Railway Cups has not drained away with the years.

On the score of glamour, it does seem that the appeal of the inter-provincial series of games—probably more so in hurling than in football — has waned. At a time when crowds have been steadily booming at club and inter-county fixtures throughout the country, there has been no noticeable rise in the gates for the inter-provincial games. The attendances are an indication of the lack of enthusiasm for these competitions, which are games between the very best players in the land. To me, in recent years, much of the pre-match speculation about the possible outcome of the inter-provincials which one hears in the normal course of events about club and inter-county championships and even league fixtures of minimal importance, is lacking.

There is, in fact, a lack of the sense of involvement in the games for the Railway Cup, which one has for parish or county, even for some parish other than your own or county other than your own. Nowadays, the main concentration of interest in these games seems to centre round the actual selection of the players: there is still a considerable amount of honour, both for the player and more especially for his county when he receives the selection for the province. And after all this honour could be conferred without playing.

From the viewpoint of completeness and unity, of course, the Railway Cup competitions gave a final grade to the hierarchy of honours to which in succession the Gaelic

## LET A CLUB FINAL REPLACE THE RAILWAY CUP!

player can aspire. But one must wonder if competitions for the top players in order to complete the top echelons of the hierarchial order of things is justified in conditions where there may well be a step or two in the ladder lower down which needs attention or replacement. The Railway Cups cannot be of any great assistance to the spread of hurling, certainly, since this is another competition for the top players, those already highly skilled.

All the time, nowadays, one can hear chairman after chairman at county conventions repeating the current philosophy that the basic unit, and the most important one since it is so generic, is the club. The Railway Cups highlight a tendency away from that. It would be my suggestion, then, that the club championships which are now blossoming to provincial level, ought to be carried a step further and played through to an All-Ireland for clubs. The champion club of the county would be discovered in September or October at the latest; and this would then leave the remaining months of the season and the early months of the new playing year from January onwards, to play the preliminary rounds and prepare for the finals on St. Patrick's Day.

One desirable result would be (though its bearing on the matter is of minor importance) that county championships would have to be finished in reasonable time instead of dragging on until the grey misery of the pre-Christmas weeks draw in upon it. Another thing is that it would liven and encourage in many

counties where the inter-county team has a poor record, but where there is a club which would turn in performances comparable with the best clubs anywhere. Dublin hurlers have no blazing inter-county record, but their county champions could scarcely be considered as anything less than lethal to the champions of most other counties.

Such a competition ought not interfere with the League competitions, if there is greater care taken of fixtures and possible clash of interest. It would whip along club spirit and eagerness to a level undreamt of; the mere winning of the county championship would be considered only a step on the way; more players than ever would get the opportunity which may be all they need to get to the top. And I don't think it would take a whit from the overall importance of the inter-county All-Ireland, which must remain the supreme reward of the game. I feel that an inter-club championship would be more beneficial than inter-provincials.

Of course, the championship of the champion clubs may not be the popular thing I think it would be; yet, every tournament run with the champion clubs of many counties taking part (like the Dunhill tournament) has been a great success in the crowds that it has drawn. In any case, we shall not have long to wait to see confirmation of our views — the new Munster club championships will be a strong and attractive measuring stick of possible crowd reaction to this kind of competition.



● FROM PAGE 17.

V. Twomey, J. Hartnett, P. Philpott.

**Tipperary :**

Six : M. Kennedy.

Five : P. Purcell, P. Stakelum, T. Reddan, John Doyle, Jimmy Doyle.

Four : P. Cahill, A. O'Donnell, S. Bannon, P. Kenny, T. Wall.

Three : T. Treacy, D. O'Gorman, T. Doyle, M. Maher, J. Devitt, P. Shanahan, M. Ryan, T. English.

Two : G. Gornally, J. Maher, T. Purcell, S. Kenny, J. Finn, M. Ryan, D. Nealon, L. Devaney.

One : J. J. Callanan, M. F. Cronin, T. O'Meara, J. Maher, J. Cooney, J. Lanigan, J. Coffey, J. Ryan, W. Carroll, J. Kennedy, J. Hough.

**Limerick :**

Eight : M. Mackey.

Seven : J. Power :

Six : P. Clohessy, J. Mackey.

Five : P. Scanlan, J. Ryan, R. Stokes, S. Herbert, T. McGarry.

Four : M. Cross, T. McCarthy, P. Cregan.

Three : M. Gibbons, T. Conway, T. Shinny, D. McCarthy.

Two : M. Kennedy, G. Howard, P. McMahan.

One : J. J. Kinnane, E. Cregan, P. O'Carroll, J. McCarthy, P. McCarthy, P. Fitzgerald, T. Cregan, M. Ryan, J. Sadlier, E. Stokes, D. Kelly, L. Moloney, T. Casey, P. J. Keane.

**Waterford :**

Seven : A. Fleming.

Six : J. Keane.

Five : C. Moylan, S. Power.

Four : J. Goode, J. Barron, M. Morrissey, F. Walsh.

Three : C. Ware, J. Ware, V. Baston, P. Grimes,

Two : M. Hayes, E. Daly, D. Walsh, T. Cheasty.

One : D. Wyse, M. Curley, W. Barron, J. Kiely, M. O'Connor, J. O'Connor, D. Whelan, L. Guinan, A. Flynn, J. Condon, J. Byrne.

**Clare :**

Six : J. Smith.

Four : T. Considine, L. Blake.

Three : J. J. Doyle, M. Nugent.

● TO PAGE 25.

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# EAMONN YOUNG

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## ● FROM PAGE 16.

our failure to meet Meath's rally that I turned to the dressing room. Our team was fit yet it failed in the end and led by only a point when we should have won by say, three. But then perhaps I was unreasonable.

That day John Creedon scored a goal which was disallowed. The score was discussed a million times afterwards needless to say and on the train home John ended the discussion by saying—

"It was a goal all right, but what harm; we won."

About a month after Owen Mulholland of Dublin showed films of various games at our request in Collins' Barracks, Cork. Most of the football team were there and we studied films of the games in which the team had taken part. We studied John Creedon's goal several times and I thought then he was inside the square. I remember the teasing that went on as one's friends commented often acidly on the efforts so clearly portrayed on the screen.

For instance how would you like to be sitting in the audience look-

ing at yourself moving up to a vital free which you and everyone else knew was missed. I'd walk out.

And so we got ready for the Munster championship of '56 when Kerry the champs of '55 would expect to beat us again. We drew with them in the Park in Cork after being ahead for the hour until that stick of dynamite Jim Brosnan raced through the backs and kicked a ball that hit so hard off the iron stanchions at the back of the net that it rebounded into play and we thought it wasn't a score. We were lucky to draw.

In the Killarney replay it was even a minute from full time. We got a free and corner back Paddy Driscoll took so long to place it we nearly went mad on the side line. He drove it well and centre-forward Niall Fitzgerald took it out of the air like a bird.

"Fitzie," playing on Tom Long, knew that something desperate must be done. He turned to the Kerry goal and soloed away with Long and a few more chasing him madly for all knew this was it—one way or the other.

"Fitzie" kept on going with

excited Kerry men bumping, and tearing at him. He over-carried and Kerry men fouled as Niall came nearer to the goal. Then at twenty yards the Corkman got the final jostle and toppled over. My heart sank for I couldn't see him get a free. It would be another draw.

But as the perfectly-fit Cork forward fell the lightning reaction which is the hall-mark of all good performers came to his aid and instinctively he tipped the ball with a delicate tap of the foot. To our delight it soared over the bar for the point that put Cork into the All-Ireland football semi-final against Kildare.

In two years Cork had gathered a bunch of big strong fast men who trained hard and who lacked only one thing to make them great—the habit of victory.

We didn't know then whether it would come or not. The public thought we were very good; I felt there were possibilities, but perhaps the following words of mine in the "Kerryman" of Summer 1956 give the real feeling!

"... we are just another football team that may yet win an All-Ireland, but may swallow many a bitter cup, before that Cup comes home."

## THE MEDAL WINNERS

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### ● FROM PAGE 23.

Two: J. Mullane, P. J. Quane, M. Daly, D. O'Grady.

One: M. Hennessy, J. Harrington, T. Loughnane, P. Lyons, A. O'Brien, D. Solan, W. McAllister, D. McInerney, D. Dillon, J. Greene.

Years of victory: 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

1927 Leinster 1-11, Munster 2-6.

1928 Munster 2-2, Leinster 1-2.

1929 Munster 5-3, Leinster 3-1.

1930 Munster 4-6, Leinster 2-7.

1931 Munster 1-12, Leinster 2-6.

1932 Leinster 6-8, Munster 4-4.

1933 Leinster 4-6, Munster 3-6.

1934 Munster 6-3, Leinster 3-2.

1935 Munster 3-4, Leinster 3-0.

1936 Leinster 2-8, Munster 3-4.

1937 Munster 1-9, Leinster 3-1.

1938 Munster 6-2, Leinster 4-3.

1939 Munster 4-4, Leinster 1-6.

1940 Munster 4-9, Leinster 5-4.

1941 Leinster 2-5, Munster 2-4.

1942 Munster 4-9, Leinster 4-4.

1943 Munster 4-3, Leinster 3-5.

1944 Munster 4-10, Connacht 4-4.

1945 Munster 6-8, Ulster 2-0.

1946 Munster 3-12, Connacht 4-8.

1947 Connacht 2-5, Munster 1-1.

1948 Munster 3-5, Leinster 2-5.

1949 Munster 5-3, Connacht 2-9.

1950 Munster 0-9, Leinster 1-3.

1951 Munster 4-9, Leinster 3-6.

1952 Munster 5-11, Connacht 4-2.

1953 Munster 5-7, Leinster 5-5.

1954 Leinster 0-9, Munster 0-5.

1955 Munster 6-8, Connacht 3-4.

1956 Leinster 5-11, Munster 1-7.

1957 Munster 5-7, Leinster 2-5.

1958 Munster 3-7, Leinster 3-5.

1959 Munster 7-11, Connacht 2-6.

1960 Munster 6-6, Leinster 2-7.

1961 Munster 4-12, Leinster 3-9.

1962 Leinster 1-11, Munster 1-9.

1963 Munster 2-8, Leinster 2-7.

1964 Leinster 3-7, Munster 2-9.





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# ULSTER SHOULD HAVE A LEAGUE LINK-UP WITH THE OTHER PROVINCES

SAYS  
OWEN McCANN

AS a Northerner "exiled" from the province, I am becoming more and more convinced with the passing of time that the chief reason Ulster football teams, other than Cavan, and, of course, Down in recent years, have made little impression on the national scene is that the North is to all intents and purposes a separate entity in football.

The nine Ulster counties compete in the Dr. McKenna Cup in the spring and summer. Then, after the Ulster championship comes the Dr. Lagan Cup (League Division I), in which all the Ulster counties, except Cavan, who are in Division II, compete exclusively with each other once again. Thus, except for visits of Division II teams to Cavan, Ulster's competitive scene is confined year after year to clashes of Northern sides. The direct result of this is that, other than Cavan, only two Ulster teams at the most (the Ulster champions and Lagan Cup winners) engage annually in competitive match-play with non-Northern opposition.

I hold that these regular clashes year after year of the Ulster teams, who now know each others style of play inside out, are not of themselves enough to equip the Ulster sides. More and more opportunities for the Ulster players to familiarise themselves with the style of play and tactics of non-Ulster counties is what is needed.

● TO PAGE 28



★ SEAN O'NEILL, who played a major role in bringing Down through the Ulster barrier.





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### ● FROM PAGE 27

Support for this view appears to be growing in Ulster, as in the past few months we have had instances of some counties playing challenge games with "outside" opposition at non-Ulster centres. But, while challenges are beneficial in their own way, the fact still remains that, no matter how keenly they may be contested, they are still not nearly as effective for bringing a side to the top as competitive match-play.

There is now some dissatisfaction with the current League groupings. Louth are to seek permission to compete in future in a Division other than Division III, and Kildare also want to change from Division IV Group "A". So, with at least two counties anxious for a change, and a new two-year cycle due to begin next October, this is surely an opportune time for the Ulster counties to combine in a bid to broaden the League set-up for the coming seasons in order that they would be in opposition with some non-Northern counties.

For instance, Donegal, Derry, Fermanagh and Tyrone could compete in a Group with, say, Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon and Longford, and Antrim, Down, Armagh and Monaghan could join with Louth, Meath, Dublin and Galway. The other counties could be grouped thus: Cavan, Leitrim, Westmeath, Offaly, Kildare, Laois and Wicklow in one section, and Carlow, Wexford, Tipperary, Waterford, Cork, Kerry, Limerick and Clare in a fourth division.

Under this arrangement each Ulster county would have a minimum of four competitive games a year against non-Northern opposition. And, the experience gained from such matches, allied to the natural ability and skill of the players—and none can deny that Ulster is rich in first-class football

### ● TO PAGE 51



# Scissors and Paste . . .

**M**OVING the proposal (that Rule 27 be deleted) Mr. Arthur Murphy quoted the Popes, the Welsh golfer Dai Rees and an unnamed French source in support of his case.

*The Frontier Sentinel, Newry.*

\* \* \*

## KNOWING FACTS

Followers of the G.A.A. are fed up to the teeth with all the raimeis lately about "honesty" in the observation of the Association's restrictive rules. In one instalment of a series entitled 'Masters of Mid-Field', published in a daily paper lately, Matty McDonogh didn't put a tooth in it when he declared that the 'Ban' should be abolished. In a Sunday paper, Matty's photograph, taken at a dance, was published. Now we will see if the Galway dictators will do what was done to my namesake in Wexford and suspend this great gentleman and sportsman. Hail to a man of courage: Matty McDonagh.—'Cheasty' Tuam.

*Letter to the Connacht Tribune.*

\* \* \*

## NOT MERELY FREE . . .

The Ban is retained as a "directive to remind the members of the Association, as to their responsibility and indeed their duty to uphold Gaelic culture of all kinds". This is the major and unassailable case for the Ban. It must be realised that the G.A.A. is not merely a sporting body like others, it is also a Gaelic movement, standing for Irish-Ireland in all its aspects. We cannot maintain our Irish identity and be opposed to this principle of nationality.

*Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan in a letter to The Kerryman.*

## HUMAN NATURE

Other speakers had referred to the fact that the ban was being broken wholesale. So also were the Ten Commandments being broken but that did not mean that they should be abolished.

*Co. Secretary, W. Brennan, at Laois Convention.*

\* \* \*

## FRENCH LEAVE

The chairman was asked how the committee had voted at the recent Football Board Convention.

Members were told that representatives had voted against the ban in its present form. There were shouts from the floor of "You had no right to do that without consulting us".

Put to a vote the members decided to retain the ban 26 for and 23 against.

*Graiguecullen club — report in The Nationalist and Leinster Times.*

\* \* \*

## THE PARTY LINE

Anyone who reads the National newspapers will be aware that since the Dublin Convention passed its anti-ban motion early in December the big majority of the sports-writers have been taking every opportunity of throwing their weight behind the new campaign. But however valuable their efforts and however eminent their claims to expertise on G.A.A. matters they are notably unique in that so few of them are, or were, G.A.A. men at all.

*P. J. O'Neill, Anglo Celt.*

● TO PAGE 71



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★ *The Kilkenny hurling team, substitutes and officials who visited the United States in 1934.*



## ***Why not an American trip for the Railway Cup winners?***

SAYS MOONDHARRIG

ONCE again we are coming towards St. Patrick's Day and the Railway Cup finals, and, looking back across the arches of the years on all the pleasure we have got from watching these representative games and recalling some of the great teams that have, from time to time, represented one province or another. I began to wonder if, perhaps those champion Railway Cup sides could provide an apt answer to a problem which, has, through the past decade and more, tended to crop up with ever-increasing frequency.

That problem is the finding of a basis for an annual series of

games between the Gaels of Ireland and the Gaels of the U.S.A.

The first step in this direction came in 1950 when New York were admitted to the National Leagues. This scheme did not prove satisfactory and the St. Brendan Cup games were instituted instead. Then the St. Brendan Cup series more or less fizzled out, and, rather unexpectedly, a couple of seasons ago New York were brought back into the National League finals.

Now there may be some ordinary followers of hurling and football who find this a satisfactory arrangement, but I have yet to meet such people.

To me, as to many others, it seems ludicrous that a county should battle through the winter months here at home and come out best of the thirty-two counties in a hard-fought league competition and then, perhaps months later, have to battle for the title and the medals against opponents who have not played a single game in the competition until then.

If any one doubts what the average Gaelic games follower thinks of this arrangement, let him go and count the number of spectators who turn up to see such

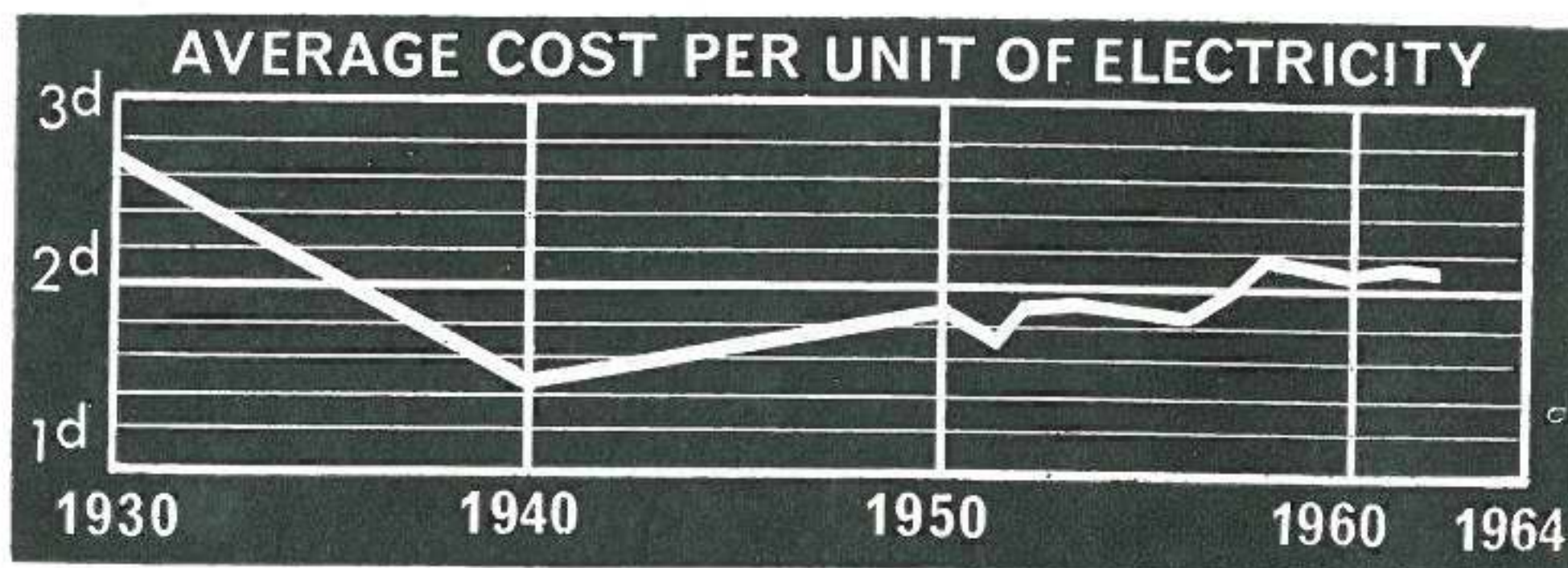
● TO PAGE 33





## What else is cheaper now than it was in 1930?

The average price of a unit of electricity is lower now than it was in 1930. A remarkable achievement when you consider the increases which have occurred in the costs of labour, materials and fuel. How is it done? Efficient organisation, a close watch on technological developments, and the application of the latest techniques in every phase of the organisation; these are the factors which keep operating costs down — which keep electricity cheap.







★ *The Kerry team which toured America in 1931.*

● **FROM PAGE 31**

league finals in Croke Park. What is even more telling is the fact that these league finals are losing their attraction on the other side of the Atlantic also.

The net result is that this arrangement of New York taking part in the National League finals is collapsing, if it has not already collapsed, for sheer lack of public support, and, the sooner the whole idea is written off, the better for all concerned.

On the other hand I think it is essential that annual games between the Gaels of Ireland and of the U.S. must be continued. But on what basis?

The ideal would, of course, be on full international lines with the

pick of Ireland's hurlers and footballers playing the best that the States can produce—but I do not think that the standard of play in New York is as yet good enough to enable the exiles to match up to a full Irish selection.

But it seems to me that a reasonable alternative at the moment would be to arrange annual hurling and football matches between the St. Patrick's Day champions and the pick of the United States. Such an arrangement would, to my mind, have many advantages over the present system, advantages that would hold good on both sides of the Atlantic.

It would increase the interest in such games both at home and abroad, for a whole province and

the supporters of all that province would be directly interested, instead of the supporters or natives of a single county as is the case at present. Surely a Munster football team would draw a bigger crowd to New York's Gaelic Park than even a Kerry team would?

Moreover, the sending of a provincial side would give a chance of a trip to individual stars from the weaker counties, a chance that would hardly ever come their way otherwise.

In addition, the prospect of an American trip for the winners would provide added zest to the Railway Cup games here at home, not that zest is lacking in these games as they stand.

● **TO PAGE 34**





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● FROM PAGE 33

Anyway, with the present arrangement for annual games with New York on the point of breaking down yet again, it does seem to me that an annual match between the Railway Cup winners and a U.S.A. selection provides a very reasonable alternative. Or has anyone a better suggestion?

A few of us were discussing lately the best 'non-All-Ireland' man we had ever seen playing in Railway Cup football. Mind you, we listed quite a few names — Georgie Comerford of Clare, Kevin Armstrong of Antrim, Mick Carley of Westmeath, Jim Morris of Carlow, Jim Rogers of Wicklow and countyman Gerry O'Reilly, Packie Brennan of Tipperary, a whole series of Laois and Offaly men, Pakie McGarty of Leitrim, "Sticky" Maguire of Derry, Hudy Beag Gallagher of Donegal, Desie O'Neill of Wexford, Mickey Geraghty of Kildare, Sean Brennan of Kildare and Kilkenny . . . and many more. But in the long run we cut the list down to four, Tommy Murphy of Laois, Eddie Boyle of Louth, and two Armagh men, Alf Murray, the present President of the G.A.A., and Jim McCullagh.

We argued long and heatedly, let me tell you, over their respective merits and we came to no real conclusion except this—that if the Railway Cups had served no other purpose than to enable us all to see these great footballers at their greatest, the institution of the competitions would have been amply justified.

One interesting point did emerge at the end of our argument however, and it was this. If all of us, who took part in the discussion, were allowed to recall just **one** of all those players to line-out, at his best, for our own particular province in present-day football, we all agreed we would recall the same man—Tommy Murphy. For the very good reason that he could play with equal brilliance anywhere, back, forward or midfield.



# FACTS

## ABOUT THE RAILWAY CUP

---

NOVEMBER 14, 1926, saw the playing of the first ever Railway Cup games. On that day Munster and Connacht qualified for the football final at the expense of Ulster and Leinster respectively. A week later Leinster beat Connacht to qualify for the first hurling final. Both finals were played on March 17, 1927, with Munster winning the football and Leinster the hurling.

\* \* \*

The list of titles to date is:

	H.	F.	Total
Munster	28	6	34
Leinster	9	17	26
Connacht	1	7	8
Ulster	0	8	8

\* \* \*

Kerry and Galway share the unique record of having won Railway Cup titles on their own. It was an all-Kerry Munster team which won the first football title in 1927. Oddly enough, that fifteen was little changed from the team which had lost to Kildare in the All-Ireland final six months earlier. An all-Galway Connacht team caused a sensation by winning the hurling crown in 1947. That team, however, went quite close to winning an All-Ireland title. They failed to Kilkenny by a point in the semi-final the following August. Kilkenny beat Cork in the final.

\* \* \*

Ulster's lone hurling final appearance was in 1945 when they



★ LAR FOLEY . . . he's starred for Leinster in both hurling and football.

scored a shock win over Leinster in the semi-final. However, they were beaten by Munster in the final.

\* \* \*

Des Foley is the only player to have won two Railway Cup medals on the same day. However, he is not the only man to have played in both finals on the same afternoon. Nick Rackard performed this feat in 1950 but Leinster lost both games.

Garrett Howard, Mick Ryan, Tommy Treacy, Paul Russell, George Comerford and Bobby Beggs share the distinction of having won Railway Cup medals with two provinces.

\* \* \*

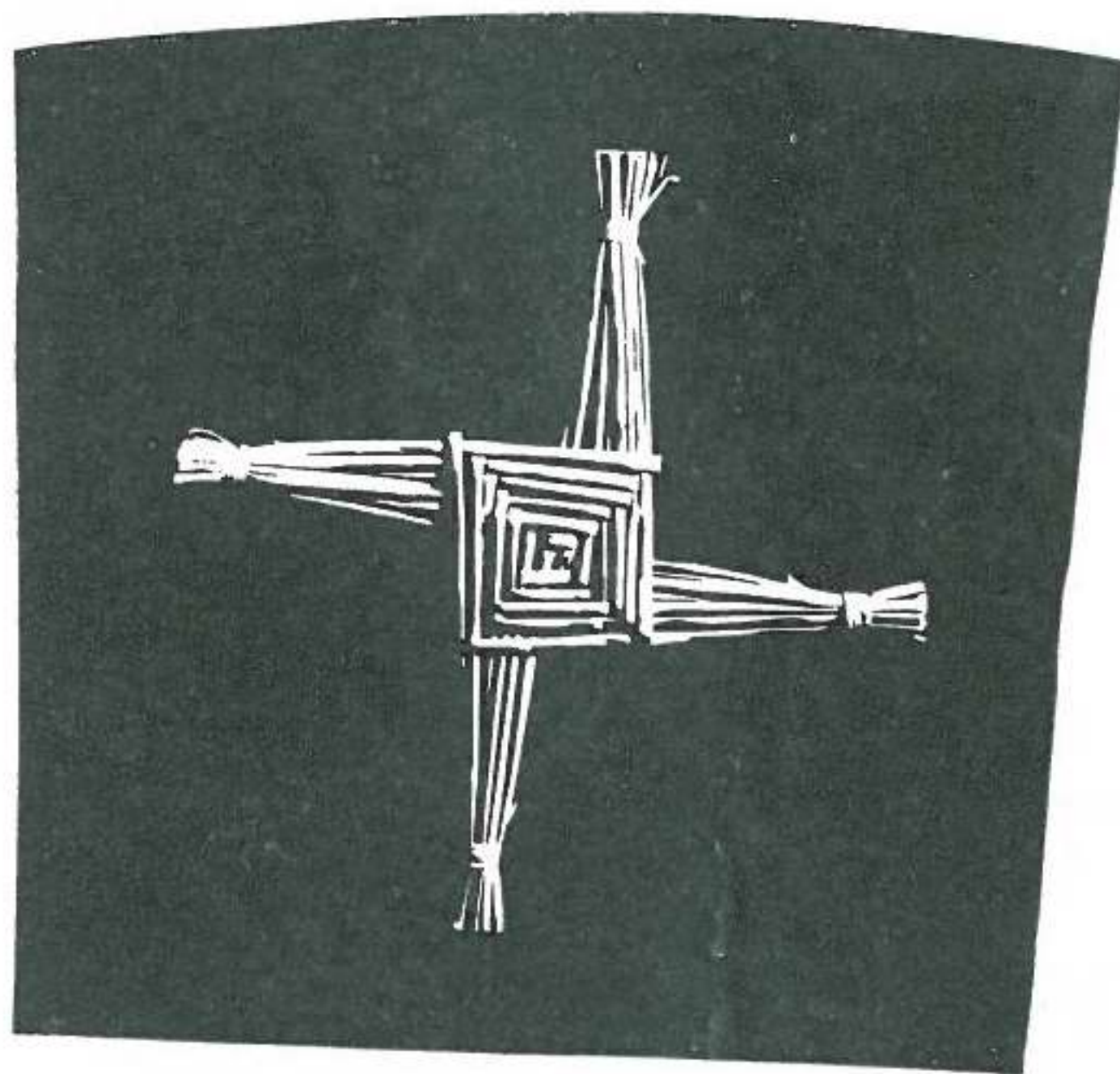
Paul Russell has the unique distinction of having been selected with different provinces in the same year. Both Munster and Leinster picked him in 1928 and it took a Central Council ruling to decide which province he should play with. Leinster got him and he won a sensational final for them when, with Ulster leading by two points and only the same number of minutes remaining, he scored three long distance points. The amazing part of it all was that he was playing as a half-back.

\* \* \*

Only once was a Railway Cup game unfinished. That too was in 1928. Munster were leading Ulster by two points at Croke Park and little time remained. The ball went over the line for a throw-in (side-line kick had yet to be introduced). An Ulsterman threw in the ball before the linesman had signalled, but the referee did not notice that the linesman had not signalled. Munster protested but play went on and Ulster sent to the net. Munster refused to kick out the

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# LET'S BE OLD-FASHIONED

---

*... and leave hurling and football the way they are!*

SAYS PATRICK CARVER



★ JOE LENNON . . . an advocate of coaching.

AT the risk of annoying all those people who have been preaching the gospel of coaching in G.A.A. games, I am beginning to wonder whether we are going a little "hog-mad" on this particular subject. I may be a little ignorant about coaching but, to my uneducated brain which, thank the Lord, has not been "white-washed" yet, it seems to me that hurling and football, if the ultimate goal of these "hot-gospellers" is achieved, will, in time, become chess-board affairs with thirty men moving according to pre-arranged stratagems.

I may be wrong—and I trust I will be forgiven for being middle-aged and a trifle old-fashioned—but I cannot see how this intense coaching, with all its accompanying talk of pulse rates, heartbeats and work-to-exhaustion, is going to make either hurling or football a more enjoyable game to watch or to play.

Fitness, I can understand, skill I can appreciate . . . and most of



our All-Ireland footballers and hurlers have both. Otherwise we would never see them in Croke Park on All-Ireland day. And no one is going to tell me that a year or two of intense coaching is going to make them all that better.

Just for argument's sake, let us take a look at Mick O'Connell of Valentia Island as an example. On his day, I wonder if many of you have seen a better footballer? There have been times when I have suspected that he could have been a little bit fitter but he did not have any of this intense coaching . . . and has it done him any harm so far? Devil a bit.

Or take Christy Ring. No one is ever going to tell me that he was coached. What he had, his wonderful fitness and his breath-taking skill, he always had. Would he have been better if he had undergone a year's coaching? You would have a hard job to convince me.

Or take some of the All-Ireland teams we have had in the last twenty years? No one is going to tell me that this year's All-Ireland hurling champions were that much better than the Tipperary teams of 1949, 1950 and 1951. And, personally, with the exception possibly of the Galway team that took the All-Ireland title last September, I have not seen an All-Ireland winning football side that could come even close to the great Kerry and Roscommon teams of the 1940s.

Now if the G.A.A. were a professional organisation, I might be able to see some point in this intense coaching. But it is still an amateur game and it is there to entertain not only the players but also the thousands who pay to see those same players in action.

So let us enjoy our Gaelic games . . . and let us not clutter them up too much with all this talk of coaching. Let us be old-fashioned

. . . and please just leave hurling and football the way they are.

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coaching . . . and nothing is surer than that they will go along famously in the years to come—without the talk of coaching.

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# Fifty million American viewers will see the Railway Cup finals on coast-to-coast TV programme

By MIKE BURNS

WHEN Telefis Eireann's Head of Sport, Michael O'Hehir, was in the United States last year to report on the internationally famous Laurel Park race meeting, he went along to interview Carl Hanford, the trainer of Kelso.

But to Michael's amazement, the man behind the success of America's Horse of the Year didn't want to talk about racing. Instead, and much to Michael's delight, the trainer insisted on chatting about HURLING!

He'd seen his first hurling game a few weeks earlier on the ABC Television programme, *Wide World of Sport*. It was the All-Ireland hurling final. And trainer Hanford was so impressed by the dexterity of the hurlers that his first question to Michael was: "When are we going to see more of that game with sticks on American television?"

At the time, Michael didn't know. But now arrangements have been completed to include a 35-minute edited version of the Railway Cup hurling and football finals on the coast-to-coast *Wide World of Sport* on the Saturday afternoon after St. Patrick's Day—March 20.

\* \* \*

The complete Telefis Eireann coverage of both games will be recorded for American showing on video tape at the Donnybrook studios. There will be "natural" sound, but the commentary for Irish viewers WON'T be recorded.



**MICHAEL O'HEHIR**  
*Hurling—not horses!*

In other words, the cheers and music and other familiar Croke Park sounds will be recorded as things happen, but the commentary, by Michael and an American commentator, won't be recorded until the following day.

This is so that the video tape can be edited, and Michael can explain some of the finer points of each game for the benefit of American viewers.

More than 50 million people throughout the United States will see the programme. In fact, the viewing audience could well be many millions more. For after last year's programme on the All-Ireland hurling final, audience measurement figures showed that the programme had the highest rating of the entire *Wide World of Sport* series during the year.

And the network was swamped with requests to show more Irish games.

\* \* \*

Here at home, roughly one mil-

lion viewers will see the 'live' coverage of the big games on St. Patrick's Day. The telecast will start at 2.20 p.m. and will continue until five o'clock.

The St. Patrick's Day programme is one of TE's longest and biggest Outside Broadcast operations of the year. Again this year it will be in the capable hands of American-born producer Burt Budin, the man who once produced baseball games but now finds hurling "the most exciting game in the world."

Burt and his team of technicians will be moving into Croke Park a few days before the game to set up cameras, lay cables and look after the hundred-and-one other problems the viewer never hears about, but which mean the difference between success and failure.

And when the games are over on St. Patrick's Night, the spectators and the viewers will still be discussing various aspects of the play. But at silent Croke Park, the technicians and riggers will be dismantling cameras and taking up cables, so that everything will be ready overnight to move on to the next location.

\* \* \*

Both Telefis Eireann and Radio Eireann will be giving extensive coverage to Gaelic games in the coming months.

In the weekly *G.A.A. World of Sport* there'll be specially filmed reports on the state of the games

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★ IN NO WAY CAMERA SHY . . . hurling stars Donie Nealon and Tom Neville.

● FROM PAGE 41

in various counties, and during the early and mid summer, TE hopes to show a coaching series on hurling.

Of course, there'll be filmed reports of the big games of the day in the usual *Sunday Sports Final*.

Radio Eireann will, as usual, provide live coverage of many of the big games. And, where two or more big matches fall on the same day, there'll be commentators at the various grounds to come "into programme" with on-the-spot, up-to-the-minute reports on play and scores, giving listeners a complete picture of how each game is going.

\* \* \*

Looking still further ahead to the All-Ireland finals: both games will



**BURT BUDIN**  
*The producer.*

again be covered 'live' by Telefis Eireann and Radio Eireann, and the BBC's second television network will be taking relays of both games, so Irish people in Britain will be able to see the action as it happens.

Last year, BBC-2 was only operating in the London region. But by Finals time this year, it's expected that the second service will be available in most parts of Britain, so there'll be a continually growing audience in Britain for our games—and not only among Irish men and women.

When last year's hurling final was broadcast by BBC-2, they hadn't made any plans to take the football final relay. But there were so many phone calls and messages of congratulation that the programmes for the last Sunday in September were immediately revised, and within 24 hours the BBC sports chiefs were ringing Michael O'Hehir and requesting the football final relay!



## FACTS

### ● FROM PAGE 35

ball and the game ended prematurely.

It was an all-Kerry Munster team and they were later suspended by the Central Council. Ulster went on to contest the final. The sideline official explained that he had been about to give a Munster throw when the Ulster player beat him to it—but it was another case of the referee's decision being final. Still Paul Russell sort of balanced matters for Kerry in the final.

\* \* \*

Jack Higgins and John Joe Sheehy hold the record of having captained three victorious Railway Cup football teams.

\* \* \*

The most one-sided Railway Cup hurling game was the Munster Ulster semi-final of 1947. Munster won 9-7 to nil. This was the only game in which a team failed to score. Yet, despite their decisive victory Munster lost to Connacht, 2-7 to 1-1 in the final.

\* \* \*

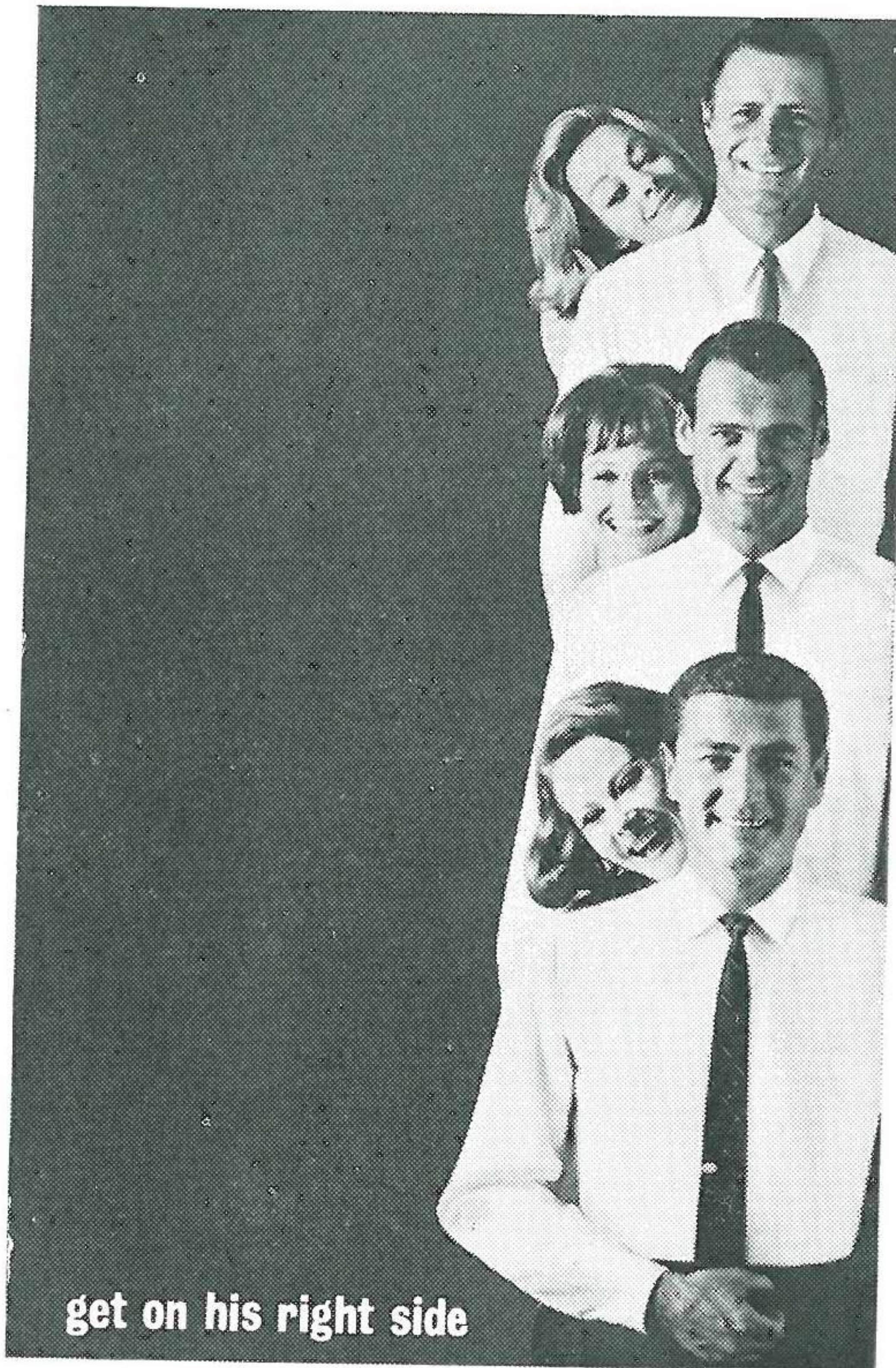
In the 1932 football semi-final Leinster beat Ulster 4-11 to 1-3. Munster beat Leinster by the same seventeen points margin (5-6 to 1-1) in the 1937 semi-final. These were the most one-sided football games.

\* \* \*

Christy Ring's record of twenty-two years' service with Munster is by far the longest period of inter-provincial service. The only other player to come remotely near it is Dan O'Keeffe who had seventeen years in the Munster goal.

\* \* \*

Although Munster are at the bottom of the list with regard to football titles they have in fact played in 23 finals. The football final appearance list reads: Leinster 26, Munster 23, Ulster 15, Connacht 11.

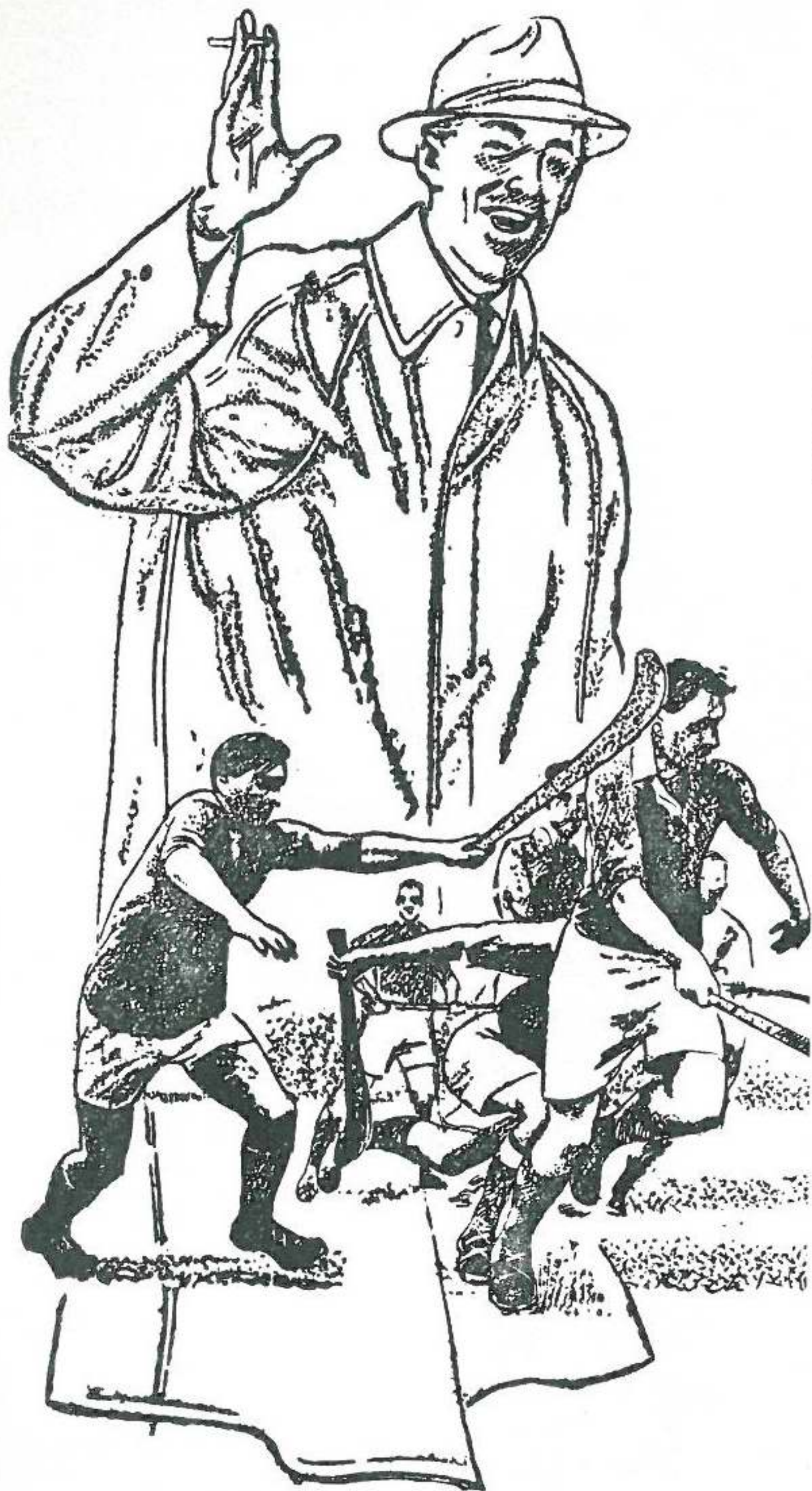


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★ Castlewellan St. Malachy's, Down Senior League and Taggart Shield winners. (Back row, left to right): J. Fitzpatrick, B. Steele, C. McGreevy, T. McGrady, Pat Rice, T. Doran, J. Rice, H. McAllister, George Glynn and Dan Rooney (club secretary). Front row: C. Keown, P. Brannigan, G. Doherty, D. Farley, Mal McInerney (capt.), J. Rooney, D. McCabe, F. Rooney, M. Magorrian, Aiden O'Neill and P. Small.

## Pioneers of the club bus idea . . .

by MATT FITZPATRICK

CASTLEWELLAN St. Malachy's, the present Down senior football league champions, have a proud record to uphold. Nestling at the foot of the Mourne mountains and within a stones throw of the famous seaside resort of Newcastle, this club pioneered the idea of a club bus; was the first club in Co. Down to supply a player on a winning Ulster Railway Cup side, and more recently in Down's victories of 1960 and '61 they again had a constant representative in Pat Rice.

The present Castlewellan Club was reformed in 1940. Long before that the village had been a strong Gaelic stronghold. There had been a club there as far back as can be remembered. First championship win was in 1924 when the

Hearts of Down, as the club was then known, won the Down title and it is interesting to relate that one of the stars of this team was Liam Ferguson, father of Des, who is now a household name in Dublin circles.

Even before that there was the O'Rahilly's famed as five-a-side experts. In the early '30's the team hit a golden period and won the title in 1934 and '36. Among its players was Tom McCann who got a medal as a substitute on the winning Ulster team of 1943 and a youthful John O'Hare who was later to win two Railway Cup medals with Ulster and regarded by many as the greatest 'keeper our Northern province ever produced.

From 1936 until 1940 the club

disbanded and it was in this second year of the war that the present St. Malachy's was founded. With travel at a minimum they entered a local league with Dromara, Gargary and Aughlalisfin and the men behind the club then were Pat Savage (still a committee member) Seamus and Tom Fitzpatrick, Phil Rogers and Eddie J. Campbell. With a very young side in the field they lacked experience but they kept going until 1945 and with players like John O'Hare, Mickey King, Pearse McConvey, Willie McKibbin, Eddie Steele, Kevin Owens and Willie Guinness lining out Castlewellan were on the way up. In fact the next year Willie McKibbin made it another first when he was a member of the

● TO PAGE 70.





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## A YEAR FOR SATISFACTION . . .



*CAPTAINS ALL . . . Dublin camogie captains receive their trophies at a recent Dublin Board presentation. From left: Doreen Rogers (Austin Stacks), Maureen McEvoy (Presentation), Anne Purcell (U.C.D.) and Brid Hanbury (Celtic).*

**T**HIS month of March will see the annual Congress of the Camogie Association at which the work of the past year will be reviewed and plans will be finalised for the year to come. As far as the year past is concerned there must be a great deal of satisfaction, for the Diamond Jubilee year of the Association had many high-lights.

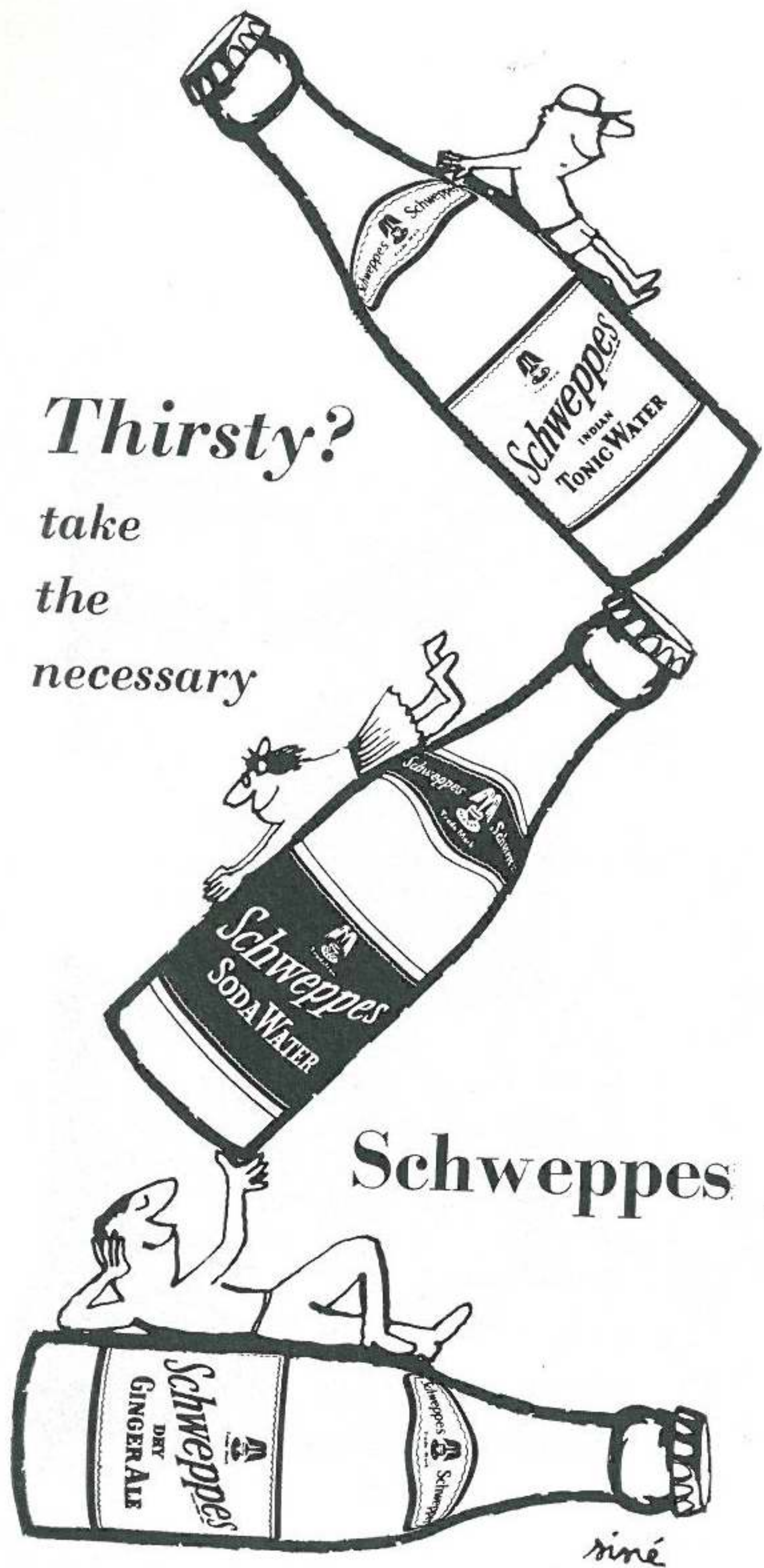
Yet there can be no cause for complacency, for the fact still remains that we are still far short of the ideal at which we aim, of a camogie board in every county as a necessary preliminary to a camogie club in every parish.

**By AGNES HOURIGAN**

As things stand at the moment we have Antrim, Down, Armagh, Tyrone, Derry and Monaghan all active in the North, with Cavan, Fermanagh and Donegal the 'slack' counties. In Connacht Mayo, Gal-

● TO PAGE 59





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# LET'S BOOST THE FOOTBALL UNDER-DOGS . . .

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SAYS JAY DRENNAN

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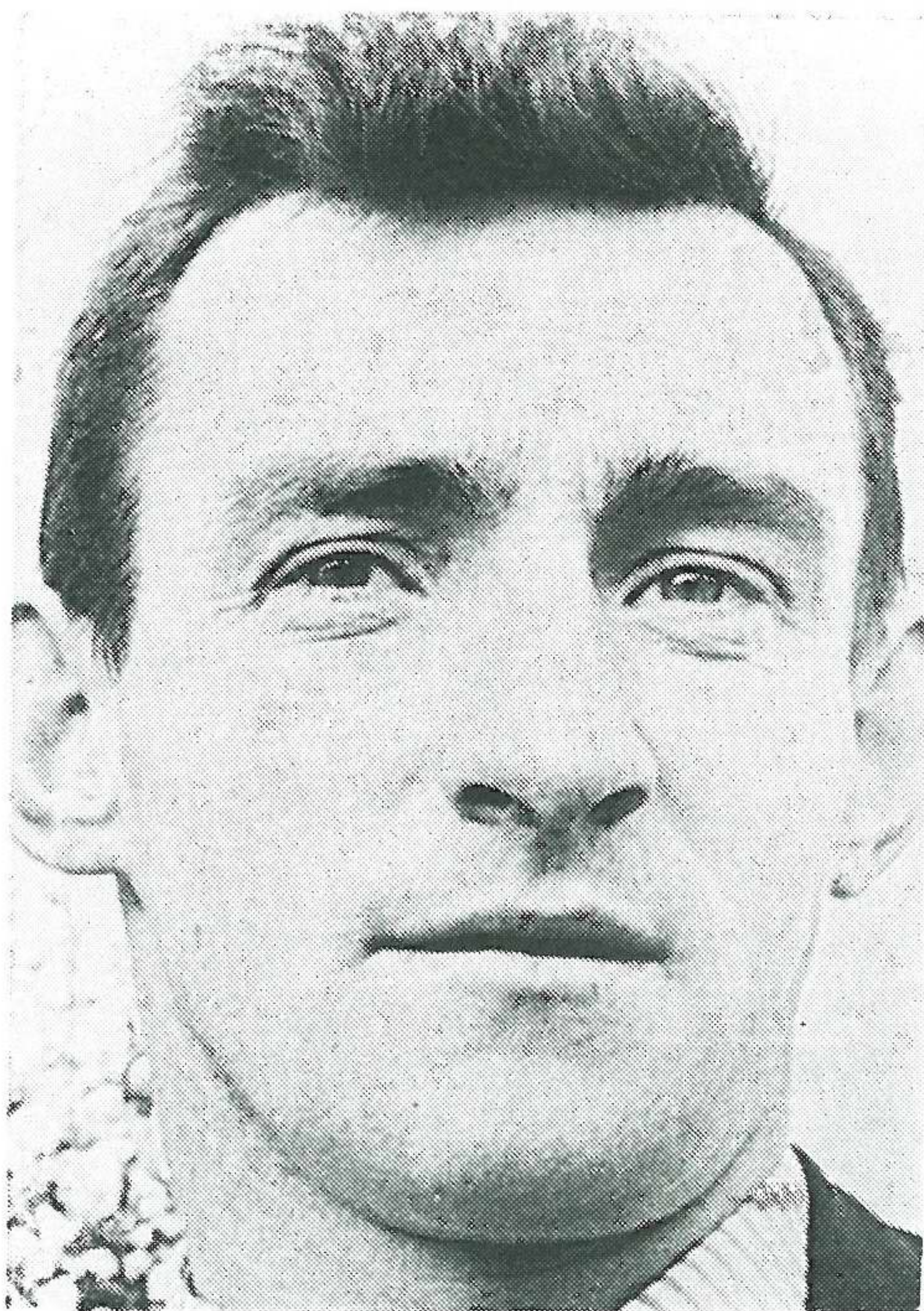
A PLAN for hurling has emerged from the deliberations and the heartaches of recent years about the decline in that game; yet, all is not so rosy in the garden of the other code that it could be left to grow on its own. The success of the hurling plan will, of course, be a pioneering effort which will give an indication of what points of its policy or its organisation would be suited to football, too.

There are a great many counties in which football never seems to rise above the mediocre, and whose inter-county ambitions are only of the most rudimentary nature.

These are counties in which a great deal of the game is played, where it is, in fact, in many cases, the leading sport in participation and in crowd attraction, yet, where the game seems to make little or no progress. They are counties—many of them—where one would expect that the general enthusiasm for the game which exists would cause at some stage an upsurge in form such as many of the Ulster counties have shown in more recent years.

There was a long time when Ulster was dominated by Cavan, when no one could believe their ears or eyes to see a county other than Breffni in the All-Ireland semi-finals in representation of the north. Now, it is a far different proposition, as almost any one of

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★ HERO of a "weak" county . . . Packy McGarty.



● FROM PAGE 49

the nine counties in the province could surge through to the Ulster championship without causing any undue surprise. This has been a

most welcome and entirely satisfactory state of events as far as Ulster is concerned, but it only serves to underline the lack of the other provinces.

Take Munster, for example, where the football game is played to a greater or less degree in all the six counties; where they all take part in the championships and where the hopes of all are dimmed in the shadow of Cork and Kerry. Things have become so that people will begin to discuss the outcome of the Munster final between Cork and Kerry even before Tipperary, Waterford, Clare or Limerick have kicked a ball in the first round.

And in Connacht Sligo and Leitrim show only patches of the sort of form which is sufficient to worry unduly the big three; and when they come the patches are too infrequent and too inconsistent. While in Leinster the number of counties which are cannon-fodder for the giants is somewhat alarming—Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow at times, Westmeath, Longford and Kilkenny.

It is surprising that only in Ulster has the face of things changed and the under-dog pushed his way through the pack to the top. Is it possible to give any reasons for this? And is it possible to bring something of the same resilience to the game in the non-successful counties of the other provinces?

Perhaps it is, in the case of the Munster counties, that the simplest explanation is that football is the "poor relation", receiving far less attention than hurling, of far less prestige value: certainly this is probably true for all four counties—Waterford, Tipperary, Limerick and Clare. Yet, it is true that in all these counties that there is a considerable playing personnel and a considerable public for football.

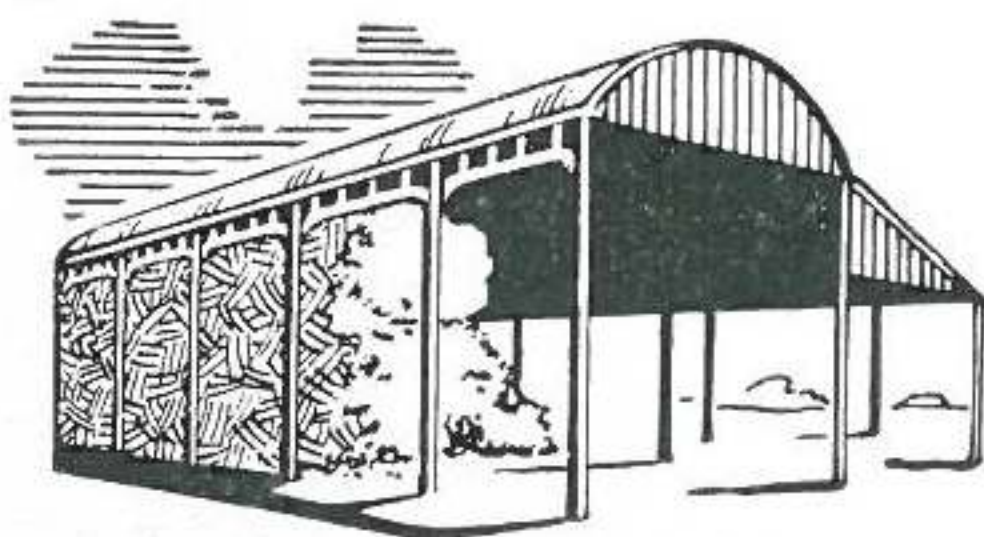
Waterford is a case in point: here every part of the county, especially the country districts, play football with passionate interest: hurling at the present time boasts no more than one senior hurling team of calibre in the whole of the western end of the county where football is strongest, and indeed, the whole hurling

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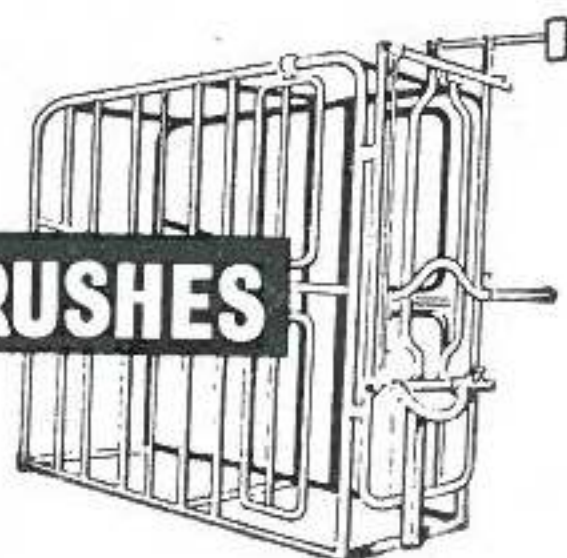
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## OWEN McCANN

● FROM PAGE 28

talent—would be invaluable in bringing all the Northern counties, in time, to new heights of achievements.

I am convinced, too, that this plan would create new interest in football all over Ulster, for it would naturally afford greater variety there, and also enable followers to see in action many players known to the majority of them by reputation alone. Fans in Leinster and Connacht would also, I have not the slightest doubt, warmly welcome opportunities of seeing the Ulster teams in action.

As for the extra travelling involved, this would not impose too severe a strain on the players, and the additional expenses would, I believe, be more than offset by bigger gates all round.

All in all, then, I am convinced that football in Ulster would enter a bright and successful new era through a League link-up with teams in the other provinces, and that the all round standard in Leinster and Connacht would also benefit greatly from a merger with the Northern teams in this competition.

## NOT FAIR!

Sir,—In "Ulster Spotlight" this month your correspondent praised various Ulster newspapers for their coverage of Gaelic affairs.

However, it is very pointed that among the many papers mentioned there is not one "foreign" one.

This is not fair. Many of these papers are giving good coverage to the G.A.A. I would mention in particular the "Weekly News" which carried a first-class column right through the closed season and, in fact, had quite a few "scoops" with regard to G.A.A. news.

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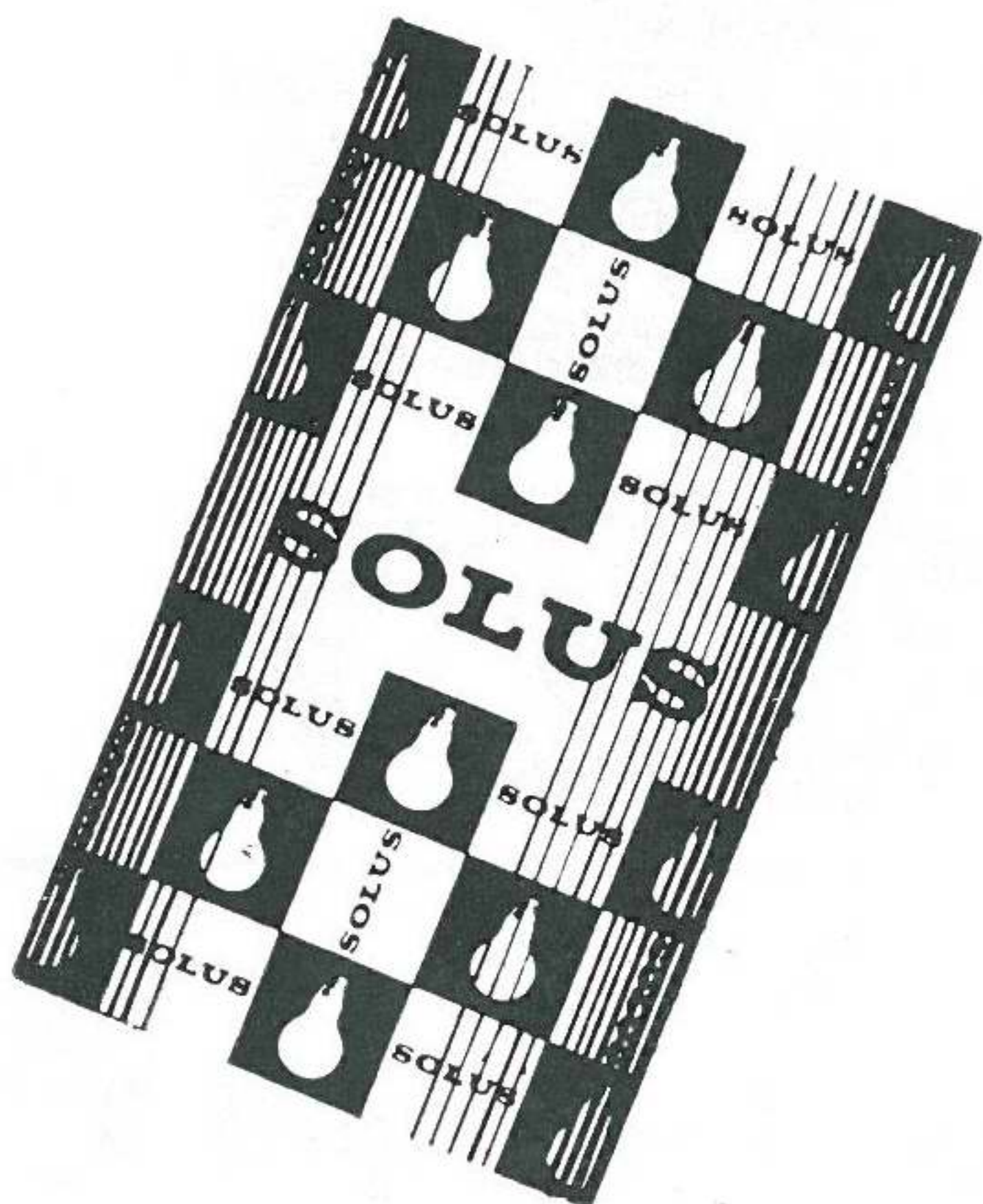




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# TIME, gentlemen, PLEASE . . .

by  
EAMONN YOUNG

IT was a lovely summer evening. The game was over and the boys had togged on. The full-back and goalie looked at each other inquiringly, and then, without a word, drifted towards the pub door. Time for one before going home. A small man tying his laces watched them with a quiet smile. The goal-mouth dust was still in his throat. (Note: Any likeness to living characters is quite deliberate).

"What'll it be, Danno?" said the big full-back.

"Pint, Ned," answered the goalie.

They both went down two inches in the big black glasses. "Begor they nearly beat us. Our forwards are terrible".

"But **We** were okay in the backs. You played a great game. How did I play?"

"Outstanding. Nick was only fair and 'Skinless' Donnelly was awful."

"What did you think of Youngy?"

"Youngy? Ah, the same as usual, twisting and turnin' and drivin' 'em wide".

"If he had half the talk and more of the action . . ."

"Ah, the boy himself. Make way for the doyen of Cork forwards. Youngy boy, you were flying. The fittest man on the field. What'll you have?" asked the full-back.

"Well . . . I'll have a half-pint so lads", said the small man who had tied his laces.

"Not at all Ned, he'll have a half-one".

"Alright so, I'll have that too".

"Miss, give the gentleman a pint. Are you tired Youngy?" "I am. How about you, Danno?" "I'm not really. I did a lot of training. When I was running around the landing field at Ballincollig, I met a hare who was training for the coursing season. So we gradually licked each other into shape".

"Well . . . good luck lads. Did ye hear about the Kerryman with the inferiority complex? He thought he was no better than everyone else". "No, but did you hear about the Corkman named Eamonn? He took his kids out on Croke Park, showed them Block 'E' on the Cusack Stand and told them that part was named after him".

"Pay for the drink, Ned", said Danno, and continued:

"Larry Flaherty, the Cork All-Irelander of 1903, he's as lively today as that old hare in Ballincollig. Larry was having a drink with a pal, who had called two pints, but showed no sign of paying. After a long while the proprietor reminded him. Your man paid no heed. After

another reminder the proprietor said to pay up. "Pay up?" says your man. "Did you pay for them yourself?" "Of course", said the proprietor. "Of course I paid for them". "Ah, well", says your man. "There's no point in two of us paying for them".

"'Twould be no harm to call your bluff, Danno", said the small man. "One day we were playing Glanmire in the championship, and the ref. never turned up. We tossed between our man and theirs. Theirs won but we didn't mind too much. He gave us a free in the first minute but his own crowd got on to him so much that he got wise to himself, and that was the last free we got in that half.

"'Twas terrible. Our boys were being 'ate', but were still trying to play football and managed to keep in front. When the half-time came I ran on the field in a rage. I would tell that — ref. what I thought. Ten yards away I got a grip on myself—just in time. I walked past, laid my hand gently on his shoulder.

"Good man Tim", says I, "You're doing fine".

"The second half was worse and I remember Donal Madden on the ground with two men down on top of him. One of our lads wanted to take the team off the field. Anyway it ended at last, we won. The boys held a meeting straight away and instructed me to give out hell at the County Board.

"On the following Tuesday night the ref's report wasn't in, but that did not stop me. I gave him the works—with both barrels, and sat down happy.

"A week later the report was read. It gave the vital statistics, etc., and finished with:

"I am deeply hurt to hear that the Collins' delegate saw fit to criticise my refereeing, and accuse me of partisan behaviour in this game. His attitude is all the more puzzling when I recall that at half-time I was complimented on

● TO PAGE 55.



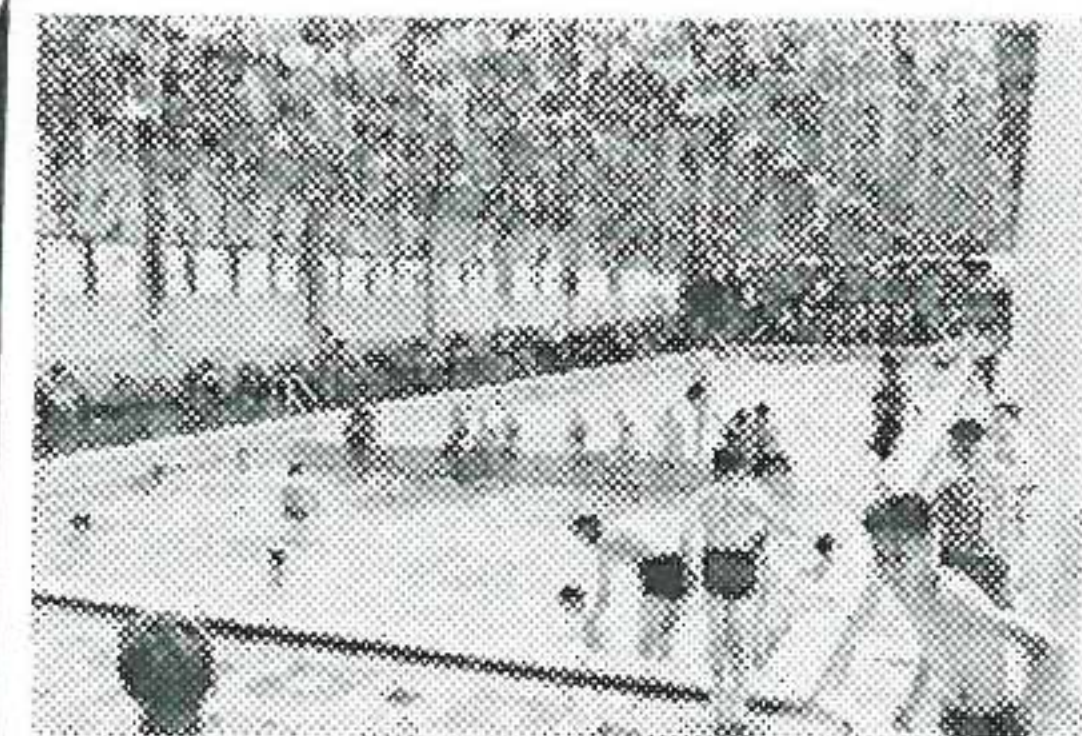


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● FROM PAGE 53.

my handling of the game by the very same gentleman.' "Boy was there a laugh?"

Danno called a drink and sipped it for a moment and began for Ned's sake, to discuss the great full-backs he had played behind.

"Paddy Bawn was playing left-full against Connacht in a Railway Cup in Dublin," said Danno. "The day was very greasy. The fair-haired chap from Mayo who was on Paddy Bawn was a grand player, and could run well. Early on, he raced over towards the Cusack Stand for a ground ball with the Bawn thundering close behind him. The lad slipped just as he got to the ball and Paddy Bawn ran into him. The ref. blew against the Bawn for fouling your man. In fact he hadn't. Paddy was mad, and of course, the lad was delighted.

"As they ran back to be ready for the free, the Bawn caught up with your man, took him by the jersey and ground out: 'Listen, ladeen, don't you be throwing your head under my boot or, by heavens, or I'll kick if off you'. Them's not the exact words, if you know what I mean".

"There was once a ref", said Ned, 'who got into fierce trouble during a game. At full time they were out for his blood. Going off the field he looked cautiously over his shoulder, and was delighted to see a strong comforting member of the Garda Siochana, who escorted him right to the ref's car.

"'Thanks, Guard,' said the ref. 'That was very kind of you'.

"'Not at all, friend', said the Guard quietly, 'it's part of my duty to look after the blind'.

Danno went down an inch in a new pint. "There's one about the reporter in Cork who used write also for the Dublin papers". Said he: "The Corkman was an old hand at the game and used get very annoyed when a very fussy man in Dublin sent him wires asking questions—when the answers were



★ TONY WALL . . . whose book on hurling is expected to be published shortly.

in the records if he'd only look them up.

"One night the veteran reporter was in very bad humour. In came a message from Dublin.

"'How-old Christy Ring?"

The reporter wired back:

"'Old Christy Ring fine. How you?"

"There's another about Ring. True, this time, Danno—It was in the 'forties and the Cork hurlers had beaten Limerick in Thurles. They had a meal in Cahir and were on their way home tired but happy. Two miles out from Mitchelstown they stopped for a moment. It was a beautiful summer evening, and

the boys, Jack Lynch, Billy Murphy, Paddy O'Donovan, Jim Young, Johnny Quirke and the rest, looked across the glorious valley of North Cork.

"'A lovely sight', said Sean MacCarthy. "Surely a beautiful sight. Ah what a grand thing 'twould be to be able to paint it'. There were a few half-hearted murmurs of assent, but the reply came from the rear of the group:

"'Twould take an awful lot of paint, though', said Christy Ring in a quiet, innocent voice.

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le SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN

## ATHRÚ RIALACHA

**A**N bhfaca tú cic caoga slat á bhualadh riamh tar éis d'imreoir an pheil a chur thar a chúl-líne féin? Nó poc seachtó slat san iomáint? Aisteach na ceisteanna iad seo! Ach caidé an freagra atá orthu? An freagra ceart atá ar an dá cheist, a léitheoir, ná "Ní fhaca mé." Táim dáiríre agus anseo thíos an cruthúnas.

Bíonn línte ar a dtugtar an 'líne caoga slat' agus an 'líne seachtó slat' trasna gach páirce imeartha ó imeall go h-imeall. Tógaimís an 'líne caoga slat'. Tá aon phointe ar bith ar an líne sin caoga slat ó phointe ar an chúl-líne díreach ós a chomhair. Ach ní féidir cic saor caoga slat a bheith díreach ós chomhair. na cuailí ariamh mar go nglactar an cic in aon líne díreach leis an ionad ar chuaig an pheil thar an chúl-líne.

Má théann an pheil thar an cúl-líne (agus gur bhain cosantóir leis, ar ndó!) abair fiche slat amach ó na cuailí 'sé an fhaid a bhíonn ar fhear glactha an cic an pheil a bhualadh ná beagnach 54 slat, má theastaíonn uaidh an pheil a chur thar an trasnán. Dá bhrí sin ní cic caoga slat atá ann ach cic ceithre slat is caoga.

Níos measa fós má théann an pheil thar an chúl-líne gar don chúinne. Cuirim i gcás gur páirc ochtó slat ar leithéid atá ann. Sa chás seo tá an phointe ar an chúl-

líne ós cionn sé slat is triocho ón chúille is giorra don chúinne i gceist. Glactar an cic ar an líne caoga slat cóngarach don imeall agus 'sé an fhaid ón ionad sin go dtí na cuailí ná breis is slat is seasca.

Má théann sliotar thar an chúl-líne san ionad céanna is atá luaite thuas 'sé an fhaid ón phointe glactha an poc go dtí na cuailí ná beagán fé bhun 79 slat.

Ait le rá tá difear os cionn aon slat déag i gcás na peile dhe agus níl ach difear fé bhun naoi slat i gcás na hiomána; agus tá an uille níos géire i gcás an pheileadóira freisin.

Ar aon chuma tá an riail mí-chothrom. Má bhíonn cosantóir glic ann agus brú an-dian ar a chúl, tig leis an pheil, nó an sliotar, a threorú thar an chúl-líne cóngarach don chúinne.

'Sé mo réiteach ar an scéal ná go nglacfaí le h-ionad ar an bpáirc atá leath-bhealach idir na cuail, agus an taobh-líne atá díreach caoga, nó seachtó slat ó na cuail, agus gur cuma sa tsioc cá háit ar an chúl-líne a théann an pheil nó an sliotar trasna go nglacfaí leis an cic nó an poc ón ionad sin. Chomh maith le gach rud eile béidh deire leis an sodar bheag ag fear an bhrait chun an phointe a thaispeáint don réiteoir.



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## **THE FIRST RAILWAY CUP**

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● FROM PAGE 11.

regained Munster's lead with a point.

It was still anybody's game—but not for long. Paul Russell went high and sent to Sheehy. John Joe flashed past two men and crossed to Eamonn Fitzgerald who shot straight to the net.

Connacht made a valiant attempt to rally but the Kerry defence was supreme — Barrett and Russell clearing in turn. And so it ended with Munster becoming the first Railway Cup football champions.

The fifteen Kerry men who performed the extraordinary feat were—J. Riordan, J. J. Sheehy, J. Barrett, J. Walsh, P. Russell, E. Fitzgerald, J. Slattery, C. Brosnan, R. Stack, J. Ryan, J. Sullivan, T. Mahony, J. Baily, F. Sheehy, P. Clifford.

The Connacht side was made up from—T. Molloy, M. Walsh, M. Bannerton, T. Leech, T. Hegarty (Galway), P. O'Beirne, R. Creagh, J. Forde, M. Mulderrig (Mayo), T. Shevlin, G. Higgins, M. Murphy (Roscommon), P. Colleran (Sligo), W. Martin, M. Dolan (Leitrim).

## **THE TIPPERARY FOOTBALL STAR**

● FROM PAGE 5.

His speech summed up the man himself . . . magnificent.

I started out by saying that one of the sad things in life, particularly sporting life, is that we all have such short memories. That is human frailty and I dare say we must be forgiven for it.

All the same, how nice it is to have around an association like the United Sports Panel of Tipperary. If they never did anything else, they do jog our memories and remind us of some of the wonderful men we have forgotten . . . men we should never forget.



## ● FROM PAGE 47

way and Sligo are affiliated, but that does not conceal the fact that the game is at a low ebb in the West which failed to field a team in the interprovincial series for the Gael Linn Cup.

In many respects Munster is now the most fortunate province of all, for the six counties are affiliated, but even here there is no cause for complacency. Despite requests from Congress, no attempt has been made to organise a colleges' competition and the result is that many well known schools in the southern province are playing hockey to the exclusion of camogie.

Leinster is good in spots, like the parson's egg. Dublin, Kildare and Louth are well organised, with Wexford not far behind. Kilkenny is reorganising, Meath is gathering enthusiasm again and Westmeath made the most progress of all in 1964 and this despite a veritable torrent of the most unpleasant publicity. However, I am sure the devoted officials who, in a very short time, have done so much to put camogie on the map in County Westmeath will be only all the more determined now to bring the county further to the fore.

But the position in the remaining

five Leinster counties is far from satisfactory. Offaly for some seasons past has done remarkably well in intercounty competition, but no amount of support seems to succeed in extending the number of clubs in the county past the single one which has done so well. In Laois, a county with a wealth of talent, nobody seems to be willing to make any effort to revive the spirit and the organisation that was there just a few seasons ago.

Much the same applies to Longford, which has dropped out of intercounty competition and where even local competition seems now to have lapsed. Carlow has been 'out of court' following an endless round of internal differences and Wicklow, after winning the Leinster junior championship, also ran into some internal dissension. However, that seems to have been solved now and I expect the Wicklow girls will quickly become a force to reckon with in Leinster camogie.

Where Leinster and Ulster lead the other provinces, however, is in the matter of colleges games.

In Munster and Connacht only Cork, and to a much lesser extent Galway, cater for the schools at all. On the other hand, both Leinster and Ulster have decided in

recent years to base their hopes on the schools and each province now runs successful championships in both senior and junior grade. The purpose of such organisation is two-fold, the spread of the game and the ultimate provision of officials who have been accustomed to administration from their school-days and who thus will be able, in time, to organise their own areas at higher level.

But one of the big problems camogie faces at the moment is how to organise the weaker areas. I for one, had hoped that the G.A.A., in its drive for a hurling revival might have recognised the part that camogie could play in such an endeavour. Unfortunately no official liaison seems to have been established thus far between the G.A.A. and the Camogie Association.

Surely it should be obvious to two Associations with common ideals, principles and aspirations that the revival of hurling and the spread of camogie go hand in hand. Paradoxically camogie has made outstanding progress in several 'football' counties but is notoriously weak in several 'hurling' areas. Surely there is plenty of opportunity for a co-ordinated effort between the G.A.A. and the Camogie Association in this particular matter, or must what is everybody's business always remain nobody's business until it is too late to do anything?



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# 'THE BAN IS NECESSARY....'

## ● FROM PAGE 7.

almost a generation, until the Dublin clique started off three-and-a-half years ago.

It is human nature. I am a casual drinker and drink was often the farthest thing from my mind when I met somebody who was thirsty for a pint. Given a little encouragement and enticement I would then discover that I was thirsty, too.

This is, I suppose, a crude example but as I said earlier, eloquence is not my great gift.

However, the point is that the Dublin clique created a thirst in certain sections of the Association. It is like advertising on the television. They keep shouting and singing it at you night in night out so that in the end they convince you that you really do want or need something which in fact you do not require at all.

The Association was quite happy with the Ban. It was a source of strength to the G.A.A. over the years. The Association grew to become the largest amateur sports body in the world. The Ban helped—let no one fool you about that.

So now some want to take it away. The naive members, who have fallen for the Dublin propaganda, think it should go. O.K. so it goes, what good does this do us?

I would like to ask this question in particular of those who voted against the Ban at the Roscommon Convention. Roscommon is an all-G.A.A. county. With this monopoly of manhood I don't see the Roscommon colours in Croke Park too often.

If the Ban goes there will, within months, be quiet a few soccer and rugby clubs in Co. Roscommon. Where will these newcomers get players? From the G.A.A. clubs of course. The G.A.A. players who

will try to play soccer on Saturday and Gaelic football on Sunday will soon find that it is somewhat of a physical impossibility. Some will stick by soccer.

Have Roscommon club players to throw away? Are the clubs who voted to have the Ban removed so plentiful in talent that they can afford to give players away? Or are their parishes so rich that they can afford to support one or two more amateur sporting groups.

Roscommon may be strangers to Croke Park these years but if the Ban goes the national stadium will certainly see even less of them. I wonder if this is what they voted for in the C.B.S., Roscommon, some weeks back.

The same applies to every other county. There is not room for G.A.A., soccer and rugby in every parish. If soccer and rugby come in it will be at the expense of the G.A.A. club. Surely this is as plain as a pike-staff.

A vote against the Ban is like taking away part of the foundation under your own house. If the Ban goes at Congress, the G.A.A. house, as we know it, will collapse and clubs will be lashed by the wind and the rain.

When I think of how hard it is—and in this I speak from experience—to keep a club going even with the protection of the Ban and then I hear people saying it should be removed, I can only wonder if these people have any idea at all of how the Association operates.

Keeping a club going in these days is not easy. There is television and dances to contend with. Some players are not inclined to train, others are even difficult to get out when there is a match on. Then there is the cost of hurleys.

Add to that the trouble the County Boards have in keeping

a fixture list up to date. Few counties can do this. In fact we often find senior finals being played in November.

And now there are those who want to bring soccer and rugby in on top of all that. Just imagine a club getting a match put off because half of its members want to travel to a rugby international in Dublin; or because they are away for the week-end playing with the local soccer team.

Take away the Ban and we have chaos—utter chaos. Within a few years I could see 1,000 of the weaker G.A.A. clubs out of business.

Yes, as I said earlier, I know that there are great national principles involved in the case for the Ban, but I personally do not have to contend with such issues. I am an Irishman and I therefore want Irish games first and last and it is as simple as that.

However, I do have to contend with the more practical aspects of the Ban. I am, with a few others trying to keep a rural club going. We can barely do it. Take away the Ban and we will not last six months.

I don't think those members of the Association, who at some conventions voted against Rule 27, gave these practical issues any thought. If they did and still voted against the Rule, then I can only conclude that they are either fools or else are out to damage the Association.

As for the Dublin clique and their press friends, I will say this—ask yourself who they are and what did they ever do for the Association?

They are now trying to dictate to the lot of us and most of them not even members of the Association at all. We will give them our answer at Congress.



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## END OF A GREAT CAREER

IT was a nostalgic occasion at the Tuam Stars annual general meeting with Sean Purcell announcing his retirement from club competition. And so one of the greatest football careers of all-time came to an end.

In his farewell address Sean said that he hoped to put as much back into the game as he got from it. Certainly Tuam have now got themselves a great mentor.

### NEW CHAIRMAN

New Chairman of the Leitrim County Board in succession to the late Fr. Manning, is former Leitrim star centre-half back Fr. Bernie Doyle. Fr. Doyle started with Leitrim as a full-forward in 1957 but in 1958 was at centre half-back at Roscommon when he became the first Leitrim man to contain Sean Purcell. A great clubman too with Melvin Gaels, Fr. Bernie will, no doubt bring great enthusiasm to the Board and should make an ideal chairman.

### REV. FR. P. TIERNEY

Home on holidays from Korea is Columban Missionary, Rev. Peter Tierney, a brother of Noel's of Galway fame and himself a former Galway star in the early 'fifties. Fr. Peter, though not of the same physique as Noel, was possibly more durable and certainly more versatile than his renowned younger brother. In fact I would love to see a duel between the two with both in their prime of course



★ GERRY O'MALLEY . . .  
Roscommon's new Central  
Council delegate.

and I have no doubt but that Fr. Peter would prove Noel's master, even at full-forward. For Fr. Peter was pound for pound the best-hearted footballer I have seen. He was no Sean Purcell in style or skilful approach. Rather was he a Padraic Carney in miniature and we saw him all too seldom in his greatest days. We wish him an enjoyable holiday.

### YEARBOOK

The 1965 Galway Yearbook is on sale—bigger and better than last year's initial venture. Contributors include Rev. Fr. J. Solon, John Donnellan, Mick Gill, Jack Mahon, Johnny Geraghty, Seamus Cul-

linane, Rev. Fr. P. Mahon, Eileen Naughton, Miko Kelly, J. K. Hehir, Very Rev. J. O'Dea and Enda Collieran among others.

### NEW CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hats off to the Munster Council for inaugurating their intercounty club championship. Connacht's sole representatives Turloughmore, the Galway S.H. champions are eagerly awaiting their tilt with Glen Rovers (presuming the Glen get over the first hurdle against the Kerry champions). Turloughmore have a very strong club side.

### THE MONTH AHEAD

The month ahead brings us the Railway Cup finals, the Galway v.

● TO PAGE 65.



★ MATTIE McDONAGH . . .  
Chairman of Galway Coiste  
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# DOES PAUL RUSSELL

## HOLD THAT CLUB RECORD?

by PHILIP RODERICK

THERE is nothing like a bit of an old argument and I am hoping that I can start one this month. Just a small one and it could happen that we might all get a little information out if it before we are finished.

Not so very long ago I was reading an article on records in the G.A.A. by that great historian from Limerick, Seamus O Ceallaigh, and I came across a claim that "Eamonn Boland of Roscommon must hold the record for playing with different clubs. He played for a total of five clubs—Tarmoon and Kiltoom in Roscommon, St. Margaret's in Dublin, the Lees of Cork and a Meath club."

Now, personally, I find that very hard to believe and I am almost certain that when Paul Russell reads it, he may have a fit of apoplexy.

If my old memory is not gone too far, I think Paul can whip that claim without the slightest trouble. I know he played club football in Kerry, Westmeath, Dublin, Meath, Wicklow, Galway and Waterford and I am quite sure that he could also have played club football in a few more counties.

And if Paul is not the record holder in this field, how about Dick Hearn, the former Irish boxing champion. Dick, who was a substitute on the Mayo team that



★ DICK HEARNS

played in the All-Ireland final of 1932, played for quite a few

counties in his time. I remember him telling me some years ago that when he was in the Irish Army he was transferred around the country quite a lot and that he played Gaelic football in at least eight counties.

But there may be someone in Ireland who could beat both Paul Russell and Dick Hearn. Do you know of anyone.

If you do know of any footballer or hurler who has played for more than five clubs, why not drop me a line. Between us we might be able to get a "record holder".

But somehow or other, with all due respect to Seamus O Ceallaigh, I have a feeling that Eamonn Boland will be a long, long way down the list.

## CONNACHT COMMENT

### ● FROM PAGE 63.

Dublin match in Tuam on March 28, more colleges' games and a really good introduction into the playing year. Don't be surprised if St. Nathy's beat St. Jarlath's or if Dublin beat Galway at Tuam or if St. Jarlath's beat St. Mary's in hurling.

### DUNMORE FOR BELFAST

Dunmore McHales, who last year went to London for Easter and accounted in successive days for

the London team and Naomh Mhuire's (the London champions) are going North this coming Easter to play St. John's, Belfast on Easter Sunday and Clann Eireann, Lurgan at Lurgan on Easter Monday. Further details in this column next month.

### CORRECTION

Last month in my Connacht Top Ten I referred to Roscommon handballer Kevin Fullard as "Jim". Sorry Kevin.



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# IT'S TIME FOR STOCK-TAKING

By ALLEYMAN

**T**HIS time of year, is about the most interesting in the handball calendar. It finds all sections of the game in a brace of enthusiasm and speculation. Many clubs hold their annual meetings, counties and councils their conventions, while Annual Congress, which takes place in March, is the culmination of these events.

Traditionally, these meetings give the cue for the commencement of the competitions, thus completing the cycle, that sends another season on its way.

Congress holds a special appeal for us all particularly the Secretary's report, detailing the previous year's activities, recommendations, advice and hopes for the future.

This year's Congress is significant in so far as it marks the termination of the statutory three year term of office of President Rev. Fr. E. Neville.

In that context it is somewhat of a melancholy occasion, for the Rev. President has graced the position, with shrewdness tempered with a youthful enthusiasm that saw handball make ever further progress.

His most significant contribution, was the open-forum of all handballers, which he convened at his own discretion in Portlaoise before Christmas. The purpose of the meeting was to rudimentally examine the game, in its own context and its supposed analogy with the G.A.A.

While nothing definite did or could emerge from such a meeting it gave a wonderful opportunity for free discussion.

Fr. Neville may see the benefit of it at Congress in March, by way of well-constructed and positive ideas, for the general improvement of the game.

The playing rules, basically applicable to handball, have caused a deal of contention in latter years. In fact there are at present three schools of thought on the matter.

There are those who contend that if handball is to be developed from a spectator interest angle, the rubbers of twenty one ace games, which can last indefinitely, will have to be eliminated and time-basis handball substituted instead. A little more conservative is the school of thought, which says that

a change is necessary all right, but rather than eliminate the traditional system, reduce the rubbers as is thought necessary.

The trio is competed by the satisfied squadron, who are adamant, that "well enough" should be "left-alone", or that changes should not be initiated just because we live in an age of change.

I have heard arguments representing the pros and cons of each category, and can only assume, that if the question rears its head on the current Congress agenda, we will have a very interesting session.

Meanwhile, the players are not to be forgotten either, for practically en-masse they are in the throes of preparation for local championships, the Gael-Linn competition and for those with their sights set a little higher—the All-Ireland plane.

Presently, the Gael-Linn tournament is in its final stages, which rarely fail to satisfy the most discerning handball fan.

With tempus the dictator in most of our everyday routines, the Gael-Linn competition turns up trumps for with all matches played on the half-hour system, the customer knows the exact time the programme will finish an advantage, which in handball terms is enormous.

The present competition to-date has been very successful, with an original entry of well over a thousand competitors.

It speaks volumes for them that they lined out regularly. Sunday after Sunday, during the severe winter months, when sportsmen in many other categories were sheltering from the elements.

Joe Maher is the present holder of the Gael-Linn Cup, but as he is now playing in Canada, he will not of course be defending his title.

The start of the provincial championships is upon us also, so that for the next couple of months, it can be appreciated that the handball calendar is a full one.



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### ● FROM PAGE 50

strength is concentrated in the city area and the eastern end of the county. Admittedly, it was not always thus; but the fact remains that the larger area of the county has football for its first love.

Tradition for football, too, is deeply ingrained in the men of Waterford, for they as well as Tipperary and Limerick had turned out outstanding teams in G.A.A. competitions before Kerry ever fielded a winning combination. Nowadays, then, it is rather sad and depressing to watch the spiritless and haphazard way in which these counties fulfil their inter-county fixtures.

It is hard ever to see any improvement if the prospect offers only a few grey and bitter mid-winter League matches against weak opposition, and one round of the Munster championships—at most two. The playing in the second-grade division of the League is not any use to them either, for though the hope for success in their own group may be enhanced, the further prospect is nothing better than an annihilation by Kerry in the inter-group play off.

There is another point still, and on this I take issue with those who think that it is better to play with equally bad teams in your division rather than face the almost hopeless task of combating the better teams. This is the sort of attitude which will forever damn these weaker counties to mediocrity. There never was a better way of improving at any game than playing with those who are better at it. Perhaps, if Waterford and Tipperary and Limerick and Clare were planted in groups with the better teams of the country they would realise that football stardom is not some far-off unrealisable dream; that Kerry and Galwaymen are not more than flesh and blood, too. And in a few years or many years—it doesn't matter how long if the hope is there, they will feel no inferiority in taking on the best.



## AN HISTORIC CONVENTION

By CONALLACH

**T**HE 1965 Armagh Convention was an historic one. Firstly the county had Alf Ó Muirí, a native son, in attendance in the role of President of the Association and secondly Crossmaglen Rangers were not represented for the first time in memory. The club is still "at war" with the County Board. Let us hope wiser counsel prevails during the coming months. Crossmaglen must return to the fold. They have made their point. Without this great club the county can make no impression in the intercounty scene.

### NEW SECRETARY

Derry has a new Secretary in Pat Mullan of Glenullen—a man of wide experience and firm national ideals. Another new appointment in the county is star footballer Leo O'Neill who joins Phil Stuart on the Ulster Council. I look to a new era in Derry football.

### NEW CLUB

....The Park, Co. Derry football club has been revived. The man behind the move is Fr. McNally, former Derry representative on Comhairle Uladh. The club has the services of quite a number of college players and should make its presence felt.

### NORTH DOWN

The North Down League which was begun only last year has made great progress. Teams such as Bangor, Newtownards, Darragh Cross and Killyleagh have laid the foundation here in an area where Gaelic football was once unknown.

Let us hope to see teams in Donaghadee, Combor and Dundonald in the not too distant future.

### THIRTEEN-A-SIDE

Once again we have had a call for 13-a-side teams at Conventions. This always surprises me. I played 13-a-side for years in Ulster colleges' competitions and never liked it. In my book the full back and the full-forward are necessary. Games are scarce enough for many counties and clubs without having to confine them to thirteen players.

### N.A.C.A. SUPPORT

It will be interesting to see what happens at Congress to the Down motion which calls for more support for the N.A.C.A. Many members of the G.A.A. are inclined to forget that the N.A.C.A. was set up by the G.A.A. and is therefore much more than a distant cousin. The G.A.A. does of course lend moral and, at times, financial support to the N.A.C.A. and N.C.A. but no doubt more could be done. Perhaps something will come out of this motion.

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## MATT FITZPATRICK

● FROM PAGE 45

Down junior football team to win the All-Ireland title.

It was during those war years that the club got a great boost when a young man by the name of Eamonn Young of Cork "guested" with the team.

In 1946 they were grouped in the South Down and Mourne League and the steady progress of the club was noted by county officials and when in 1950 the Down all-county senior league was formed Castlewellan were included in the premier grade. It was in this year that the present club had its first taste of success when they captured the county title.

That year proved to be the turning point in more ways than one both for the club and county. The Board decision to put all the strong teams into a premier league where opposition and competition was keen paid handsome dividends.

Men who helped in that historic victory were John Guinness, John O'Hare, Jim Rogers, Jim Jennings, R. Crozier, Pat Rooney, Dan Rooney, Cyril Wells, Patsy Ferguson (a cousin of Des), Eddie Steele, Brian Corrigan and Patsy Burns.

Castlewellan won the Down senior league in 1955 and regained the championship in '58 but in 1961 the club hit a bad patch and ended up bottom of the league dropping to the "B" division for the first time in their history. However immediately they set about rebuilding and with such a wealth of talent available they returned in 1964 to win the "A" division in their first season back.

Since their re-formation in 1940 the club has always had a "cosmopolitan" flavour. In the war years Eamonn Young wore the green and white of the club. Then in the '50's they had Denis Delaney of Laois, Frank O'Neill of Tyrone and Derry's Sean Young while the

● TO PAGE 72

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

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

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

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



## SCISSORS AND PASTE

● FROM PAGE 29

### TRIAL MATCH

Despite the miserable weather conditions, there was a good turnout for the match between the non-Residents and a selection of home-based players in Pearse Park last Sunday. It was by no means a classic trial, still it could be described as a satisfactory beginning to the 1965 season.

Thick fog did not help the players and selectors and a handful of spectators had to peer through the fog and at times it was impossible to sort out the players. To make things more difficult for the onlookers, both teams were wearing Blue and Gold jerseys, and

the only distinguishing mark was that the Non-Residents wore the Shroid Slashers jerseys inside-out—showing no numbers.

The referee gave the final scores as nine-points to four in favour of the Non-Residents. I made it 7-3, but Nially McKnight was in a better position to judge.

*Longford Leader.*

\* \* \*

### HARD HITTING

We have a great tradition for criticising officials, and if the chairman in the course of the year, has to make a ruling that effects any club, he gets a kick in the backside at the end of the year. That is wrong.

*From Donegal Convention — Donegal Democrat.*

### TELEFIS EIREANN

Two years ago he had reason to say that Telefis Eireann was doing a good job. He was afraid, however, having looked at many of its programmes in recent months, that he must now seriously change his mind on that point. The outlook of Telefis Eireann was anything but national, anything but Irish and racy of the soil. He felt that if Telefis Eireann did not change its approach, it would serve them a great deal better if the whole thing was scrapped, and a booster added to the English television stations.

*Senator Sean Browne at Wexford Convention.*

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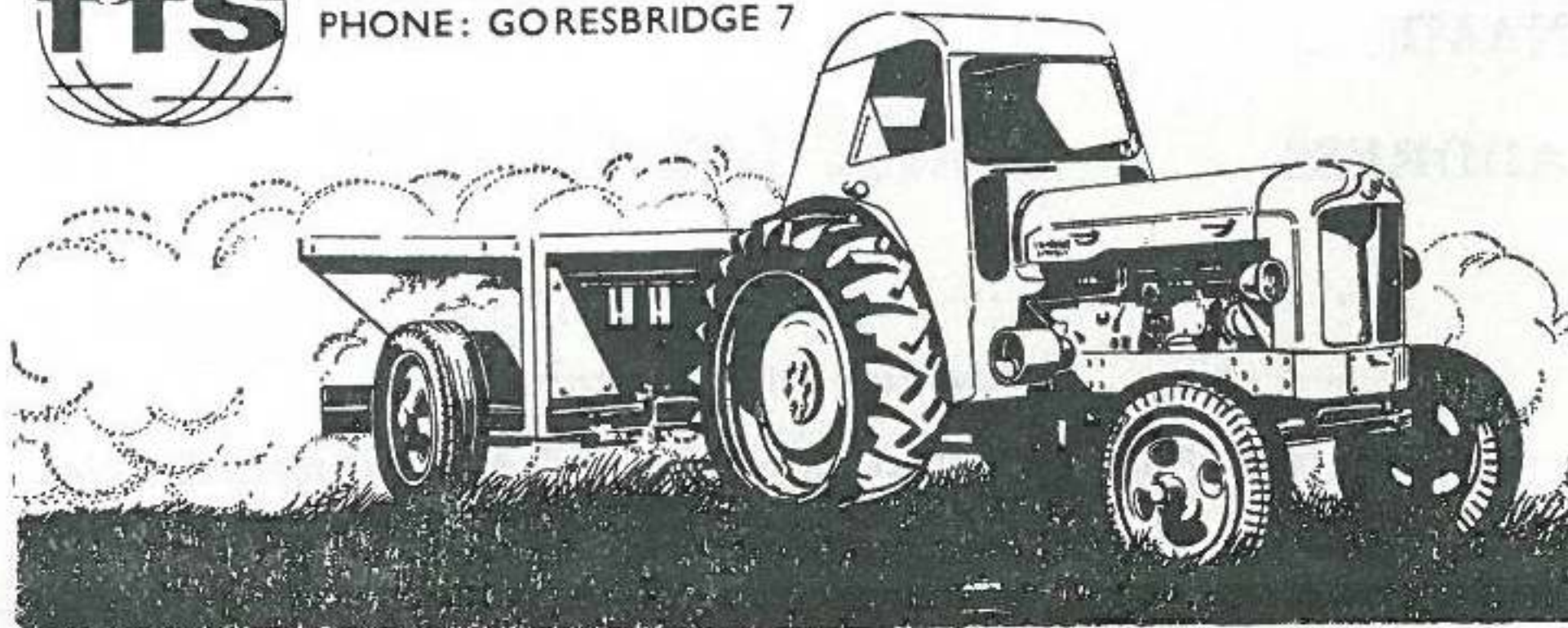
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# MATT FITZPATRICK

## ● FROM PAGE 70

present champion side has Galway's George Glynn, Tyrone's Aidan O'Neill and Armagh's Des Farley.

Castlewellan are a family team too and families like the O'Hares, Jennings, Rogers, Guinness, Rooney, McKibbin, Burns and Rices have and are bringing fame to this mid-Down club. The club run minor, junior and senior sides and as well as the minor's success in 1957 the juniors won the East Down league in 1952.

Once a strong hurling stronghold, big efforts are being made to revive the game and the club hope to lead the way in the new revival. A camogie club also flourished but is now extinct while the town boasts a handball alley and of late interest has been renewed in alley cracking.

The club has as yet no ground of its own while the parish hall offers all facilities for other games like basketball, snooker, etc., and

the club have their own meeting room there. Their aim now is to acquire their own ground and club rooms.

Other features of the club activities are the regular ceilidhe and annual football tournament both of which are voted the best in Down. It was after their first championship win in 1950 and with so much travelling involved that Castlewellan set a headline and bought their own bus and so became the first club, not only in Down, but in Ulster to have its own mode of conveyance. It was through the efforts of long serving club official Hugh McKelvey that this action was possible and the now famous cream and blue vehicle is a familiar sight not only on the roads of Down but on the way to Croke Park as it conveys players and supporters to the various games.

Recently Castlewellan had another first and a very fitting one

indeed in this their Jubilee year. A few months back the Fr. Taggart Shield was given to the East Down Board to be awarded to the most sporting club in their area and that award was presented to St. Malachy's who now have the proud boast of being the first club to have their name inscribed on the trophy.

Very many players from the club have worn with distinction the red and black of Down. Tom McCann, John O'Hare, Mickey King, Willie McKibbin, Pat Rice, Dan and Pat Rooney, Mal McInerney, James McKinney and Dermot Jennings and many more too numerous to mention. A feature of the club is the fact that club membership cards are in operation, something which should be done by all clubs.

Under the present committee St. Malachy's are looking to the future and I know that the Association games are safe and will prosper in this now famous mid-Down area.

Club officials are: chairman, Rev. S. Murphy; vice-chairman, T. Steele; secretary, Dan Rooney; assistant secretary, Pat Rooney; treasurer, P. F. McCabe. Committee: Pat Rice, P. McGreevy, P. Keown, J. O'Higgins, J. Branney, C. Wells, J. McEvoy, J. O'Neill and B. Magorrian.

To Dan Rooney, John O'Hare and Pat Rice (surely a model for all young players and a faithful member of the club from his school days) I say thank you for giving me this all too brief look at your famous club and I hope that your jubilee year will bring further success.

Next month I will visit Clonoe O'Rahilly's, champions of Tyrone.

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