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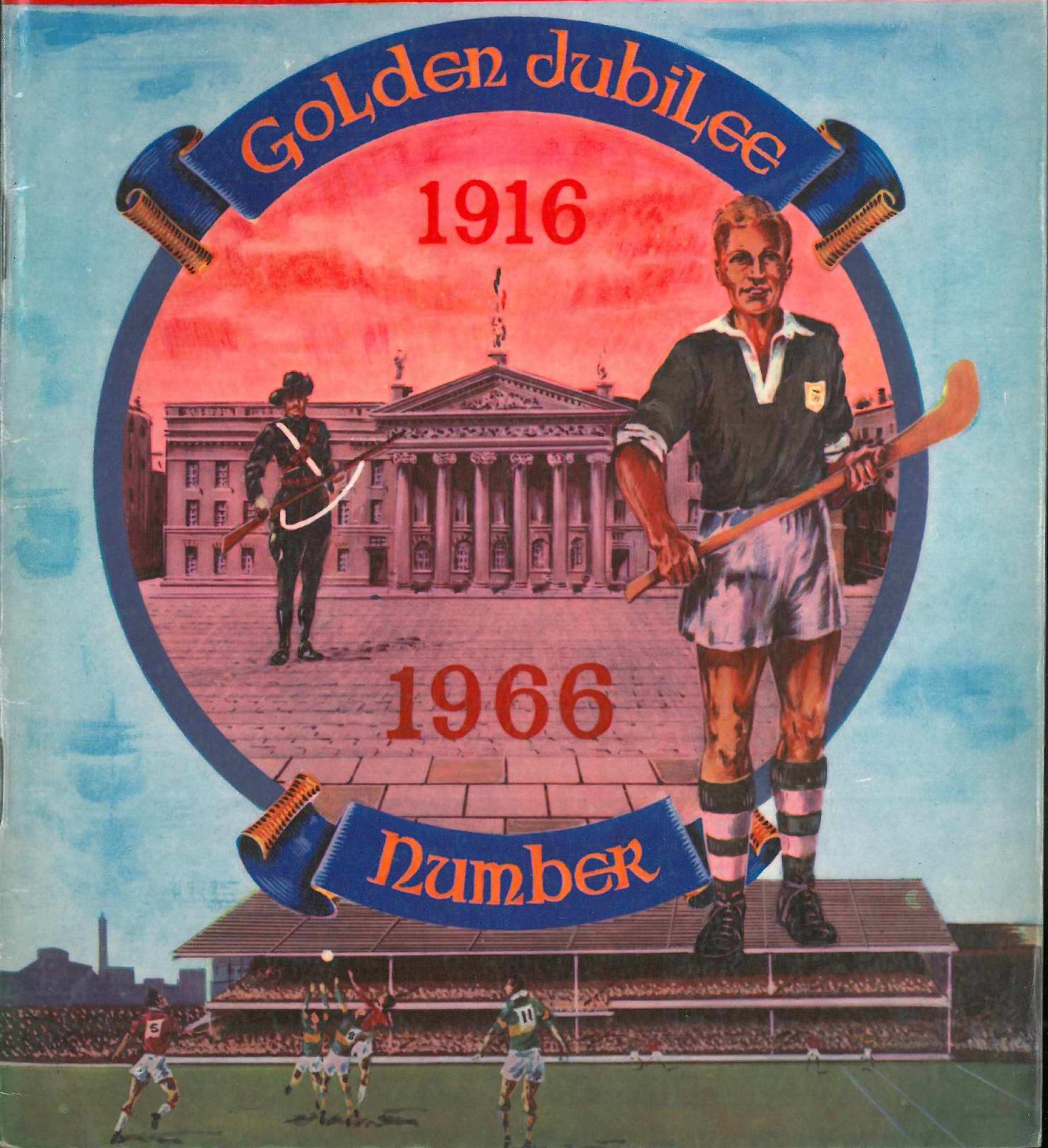
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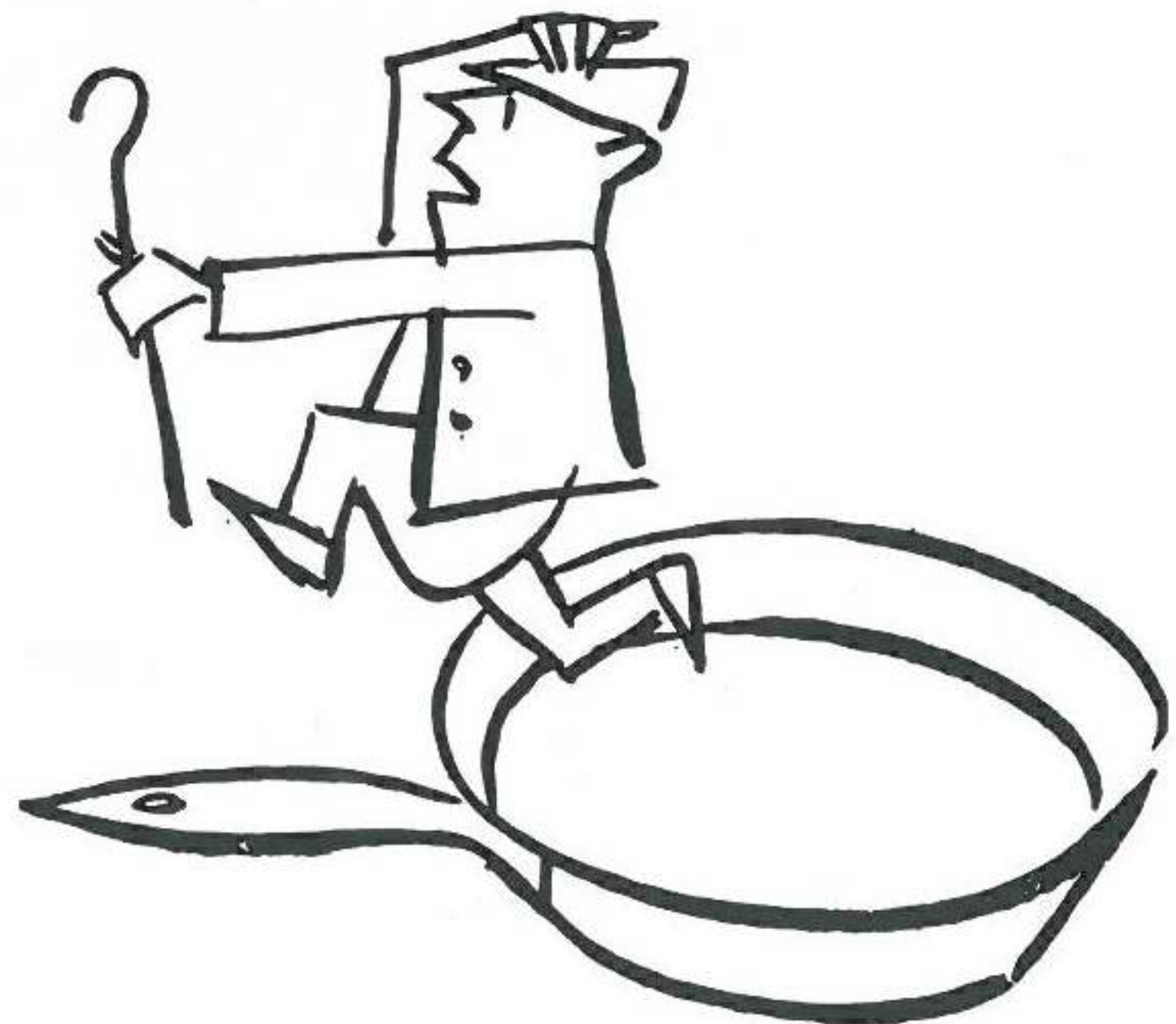
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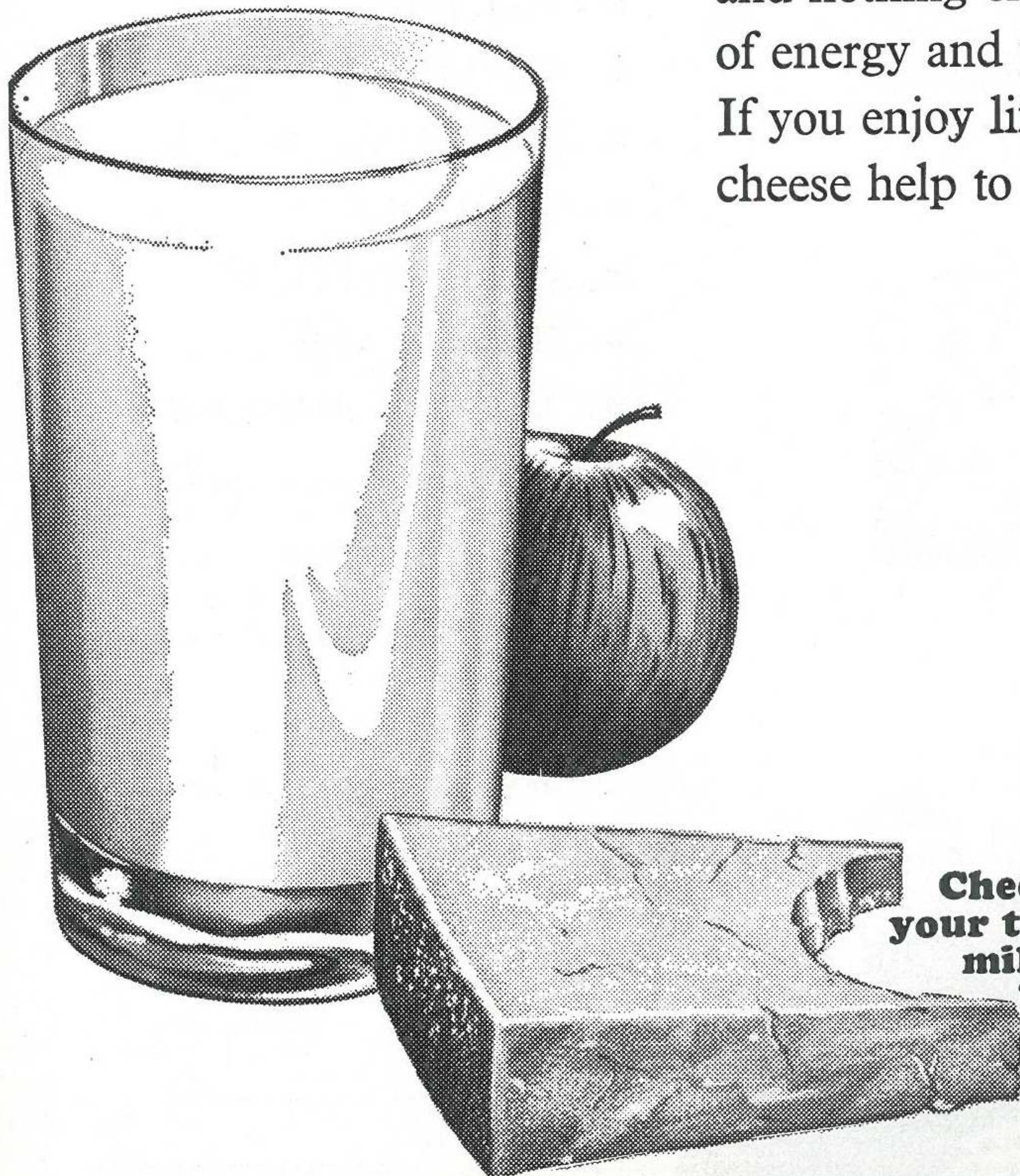
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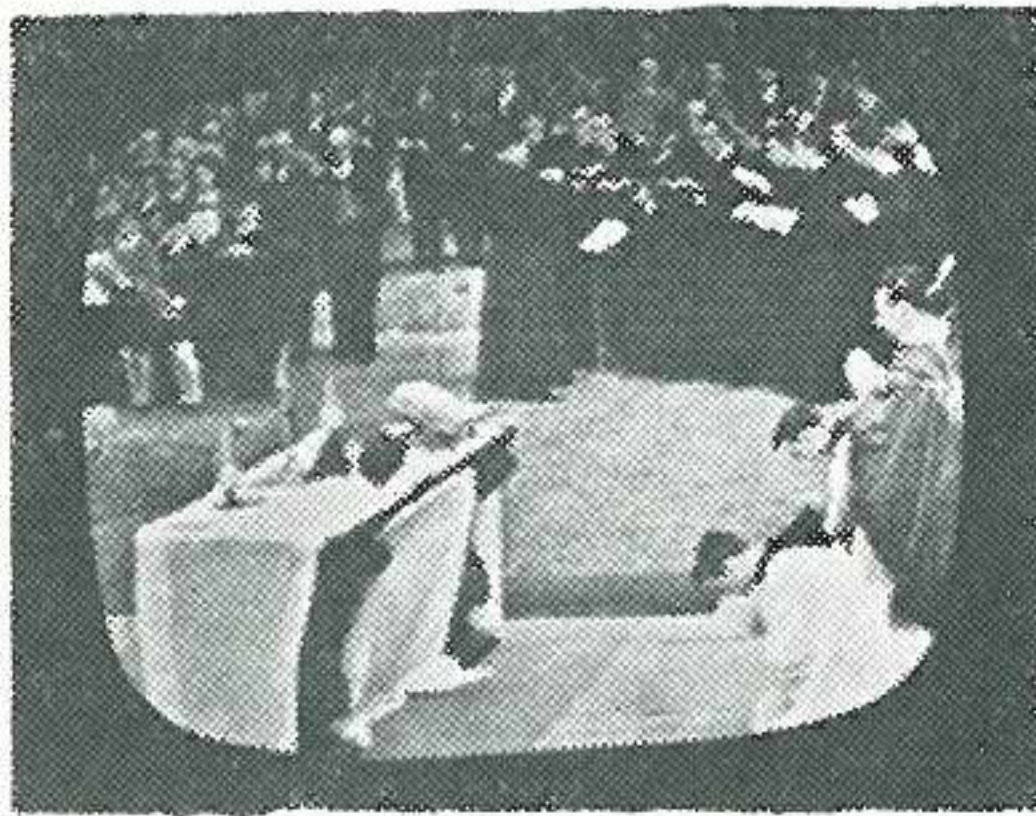
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Gaelic Sport

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THE NEXT STEP ?

RAUDIO EIREANN - TELEFIS EIREANN are a progressive lot. Could it be that their next move in that direction will be to have soccer summaries given during the half-time break in G.A.A. commentaries ? “ And now over to Tolka Park where Philip Green is standing by to bring us up-to-date on the Shelbourne-Drumcondra game.

They will never do that you say. Of course they will—in fact, if progress is to be continued, it is the next step.

It must be remembered that we are now living in an era of great enlightenment and technological progress and having a while back succeeded in producing that most difficult of things, the mixed sports programme, T.E.-R.E. have since progressed rapidly to the stage where twice recently they reviewed the weekend G.A.A. games from Lansdowne Road. This being so, the future offers endless possibilities.

There was a time when it was considered necessary to treat Gaelic games as something distinct and special—entitled to their own programmes and to the greater part of sports broadcasting time. The reason for this was because the vast majority of the Irish people followed these games and these games alone.

However, that was some time ago. The great influx of non-nationals to Telefis Eireann during the past few years has offset the previous population imbalance. Hence the necessity for the current ecumenism.

OUR COVER :

This issue of GAELIC SPORT coincides with the official celebrations of the 1916 Golden Jubilee. Our front cover, specially designed for the occasion, symbolises the close connection between the G.A.A. and the Men of Easter Week.

BETWEEN GOD AND MEN

LIKE most other editors whose task it is to produce a publication in this month of Golden Jubilee, I have been much concerned with how best to do honour to the men of 1916.

During the past few weeks, I considered a variety of possibilities—most of them hinging on men who, because of their age, or their knowledge of history, or their deep sense of nationalism, might write authoritatively on the Easter Rising and what it meant and should continue to mean.

Eventually I found the most qualified writer of them all—and the fact that he is for some time dead does not in the least lessen his availability as a commentator, nor does it make his comments less topical.

The man I chose was Pearse.

Pearse was a very wise man. He had vision and foresaw many things including the manner of his own death. Perhaps too he foresaw that many people would come after him and, in interpreting his ideals and motives, would in fact misinterpret them. So, wise man that he was, he wrote it all down in indelible print.

One does not therefore have to rely on historians, politicians or

anybody at all to find out what it was that 1916 was all about. One has but to turn to the source—the writings of Pearse. It is all there and more.

He put it like this :

Now what Tone taught, and the fathers of our national faith before and after Tone, is ascertainable. It stands recorded. It has fulness, it has clarity, the sufficiency and the definiteness of dogma. It lives in great and memorable phrases, a grandiose national faith. They, too, have left us their Credo.

And what then was Pearse's Credo? In 1915 he wrote :

Even had the men themselves (the politicians of the Home Rule Party) been less base, their failure would have been inevitable. When one thinks over the matter for a little one sees that they built upon an untruth. They have conceived of nationality as a material thing, whereas it is a spiritual thing. They have made the same mistake that a man would make if he were to forget that he has an immortal soul. They have not recognised in their

people the image and likeness of God.

Hence, the nation to them is not all holy, a thing inviolate and inviolable, a thing that a man dare not sell or dishonour on pain of eternal perdition.

They have thought of nationality as a thing to be negotiated about as men negotiate about a tariff or about a trade route, rather than as an immediate jewel to be preserved at all peril, a thing so sacred that it may not be brought into the market places at all or spoken of where men traffic.

He who builds on lies rears only lies. The untruth that nationality is corporeal, a thing defined by statutes and guaranteed by mutual interests, is at the base of the untruth that freedom, which is the condition of a hale nationality, is a status to be conceded rather than a glory to be achieved; and of the other untruth that it can even be lawful in the interest of empire, in the interest of wealth, in the interest of quiet living to forego the right to freedom.

By The Editor

The contrary is the truth. Freedom, being a spiritual necessity, transcends all corporeal necessities, and, when freedom is being considered, interests should not be spoken of. Or, if the terms of the countinghouse be the ones that are best understood, let us put it that is the highest interest of a nation to be free.

Elsewhere he wrote:

Our patriotism is measured, not by the formula in which we declare it, but by the service which we render. We owe to our country all fealty and she asks always for our service; and there are times when she asks of us not ordinary but some supreme service. There are in every generation those who shrink from the ultimate sacrifice, but there are in every generation those who make it a joy and laughter, and those are the salt of the generations, the heroes who stand midway between God and men. . . .

The generation that is now growing old in Ireland had almost forgotten our heroes. We had learned the great art of parleying with our enemy and achieving nationhood by negotiation. The heroes had trodden hard and bloody ways: we should tread soft and flowering ways. The heroes had given up all things: we had learned a way of gaining all things, land and good living and the friendship of our foe.

But the soil of Ireland, yea, the very stones of our cities have cried out against an infidelity that would barter an old tradition of nationhood even for a thing so precious as peace.

But then these are only brief extracts and as a result are incomplete in their full impact. We suggest that any reader who wishes to understand for himself what Pearse and his comrades were about should acquire a copy of his "Political Writings and Speeches." It costs fifteen shillings—but at such a price truth is cheap.

TOP TEN

THIS month's Top Ten lists are based on the period from and including Sunday, February 20, to Sunday, March 14. There were a series of outstanding football performances during those four weeks and top place goes to Donegal's P. J. Flood who performed magnificently against Antrim, Leinster and Down.

Longford's ace half-back and captain, Brendan Barden, takes second place on the football list, while he is followed by Kildare's star midfielder, Mick Carolan.

Con Sullivan's outstanding performances with Munster in their two games against Connacht win him fourth place, while for the first time Clare's youthful Senan Downes is included in fifth position on the strength of his performances with Munster.

Padraic McShea also appears on our list for the first time and all indications are that he will be a regular from now on.

In hurling Galway's Mike Sweeney takes the honours—despite the fact that his performances were with losing sides. He had outstanding games with Connacht against Munster and with Galway against Cork in the National League.

Further down the list in fifth position is veteran Galwayman, Jimmy Duggan, whose form in recent games shows that he is still one of the game's finest exponents.

FOOTBALL

1. P. J. Flood (Donegal).
2. Brendan Barden (Longford).
3. Mick Carolan (Kildare).
4. Con Sullivan (Cork).
5. Senan Downes (Clare).
6. Padraic McShea (Donegal).
7. Enda Colleran (Galway).
8. Paddy Doherty (Down) .



ENDA COLLERAN

9. Michael Kerins (Sligo).
10. Paul Kelly (Donegal).

HURLING

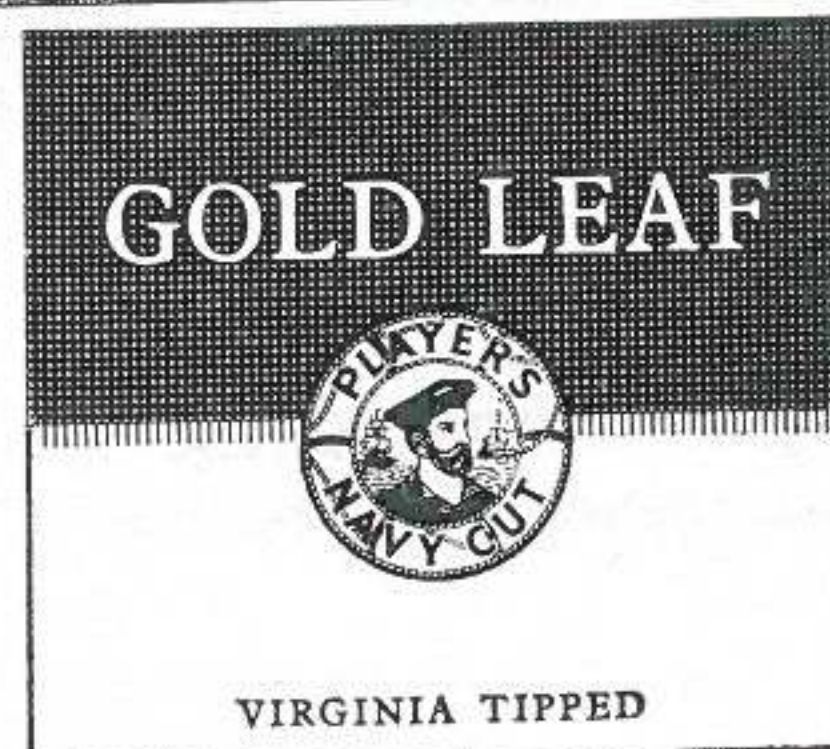
1. Mike Sweeney (Galway).
2. Tom Neville (Wexford).
3. Pat Fitzgerald (Cork).
4. Vin Staples (Wexford).
5. Jimmy Duggan (Galway).
6. Jimmy Camphill (Antrim).
7. Tom Cheasty (Waterford).
8. Denis O'Riordan (Cork).
9. Paddy Molloy (Offaly).
10. Ned Colfer (Wexford).

There are just two
words to remember about
tipped cigarettes:

GOLD
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MADE IN IRELAND BY PLAYER'S OF DUBLIN



ON THE BALL!



By Frank Hughes

COME to think of it that was a neat bit of forecasting of mine back in the January issue. I was weighing up the prospects of the Leinster counties in the National football League and I suggested that Longford would win out in Division II; Kildare and Dublin would contest the final in Division III and that Offaly would find their feet and qualify to meet Galway in the final of Division IV.

By the time you read these notes Kildare and Galway will have met in the first League semi-final but we are ahead of the second semi-final in which Longford face Donegal.

LONGFORD FOR FINAL?

On the form displayed in crushing fancied Down, Donegal will start favourites in this game but despite this I still stick by Longford.

The Leinstermen will be much more at home in Croke Park and the wide open spaces will be more to their liking. Consistency has been the hallmark of this Longford side, while Donegal have been anything but, in recent years.

So it is Longford for the final—as I see it.

DUNDALK LECTURE

The Dundalk Gaels club heard a stirring lecture entitled "Nationalism and the G.A.A." delivered by Croke Park Executive Officer, Brendan Mac Lua, on Sun-

day, March 13. The lecture was one of a series organised by the club and each of them proved an outstanding success.

This progressive club has set a headline which other clubs could certainly follow for if there is anything which the G.A.A. lacks at club level it is educational functions of this kind which will clearly define and explain what in fact the Association is all about.

I also understand that the Kerry County Board recently brought club chairmen and secretaries together at a special meeting and did much to streamline the administrative affairs within the county. There is something to be learned here too and let us hope Leinster



SEAN MURRAY
(Longford)

counties consider following the lead.

LOUTH 1916 PROGRAMME

The Gaels of Co. Louth will honour the men of 1916 on Sunday, April 17, when a fleet of buses will bring members of the Association from all parts of the county to Ardee. A massed parade will assemble at the town's Fair Green at 1.45 and led by bands they will march to a site near St. Mary's Church where the Proclamation will be read by the County Board President, Tom Burke, himself a survivor of the Rising.

This will be followed by an address by Louth Chairman, J. L. O'Reilly. There will then be a special Mass at 3 p.m. to be followed by an intercounty football game for the McKeever Cup.

The County Board is to spend in the region of £100 providing transport for the occasion.

MULLINGAR FUNCTION

On Easter Sunday the new stand at Cusack Park, Mullingar, will be dedicated to the memory of the soldiers of 1916 and a plaque expressing these sentiments will be unveiled.

LOUTH IN TRAINING

Louth break with tradition this year by sending their senior football team into training for the first round of the Leinster championship against Longford at An Uaimh on May 8. The team will have three weeks special training prior to the game.



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JIMMY FLYNN

FACE TO FACE WITH SEAN O'DONNELL

YOU may remember my interview with Longford's Sean Murray in the March, 1964, issue of GAEILIC SPORT. Here is a brief quotation from what Sean said:

"Like a good many teams without a tradition, Longford lack that confidence which is ever so necessary. Furthermore, there always seems to be a limited number of players from which to choose. Team-craft and understanding has always been wanting over the years. Still things are now taking a definite turn for the better and who knows, we may well be within reach of that long awaited hour of glory."

Well that was two years ago and while Longford may not have yet reached the "hour of glory" which Sean Murray was referring to, they are certainly within reach of it and this is what prompted me to go and interview another Longford star to get an insight into the hopes and beliefs of these young men who are quickly putting their county into the football forefront. Jimmy Flynn was the man I picked.

Jimmy is a product of St. Mel's College and a former county minor. He plays with Clonguish in club competition.

Our discussion went like this:

O'Donnell — *To what do you attribute Longford's rise to fame?*

Flynn — Confidence, comradeship and Mick Higgins strike me as being the things which have most contributed to Longford's rise. Mick Higgins has done wonders with the team. Confidence came gradually but once acquired the team has never looked back, while all the players are

now close friends and there is a great spirit of comradeship.

O'D.—*Cannot a team become over-confident as well?*

F.—I suppose it can but we have a long way to go before we go near reaching that stage. Confidence is far removed from over-confidence. I believe that before a team can go any distance it must have confidence in its own ability. It is lack of confidence which keeps many teams down. It kept Longford out of the big-time for years.

O'D.—*Were you disappointed at Longford's defeat by Dublin in last year's Leinster final?*

F.—Not really. I knew that we had done very well and that it was inexperience that beat us. I also believed that we were on the way up and that it was only a question of time.

O'D.—*How do you expect Longford to do in this year's Leinster championship?*

F.—We have a good chance of winning the provincial title but we will have to earn it. I consider Dublin and Louth our most dangerous opponents in Leinster.

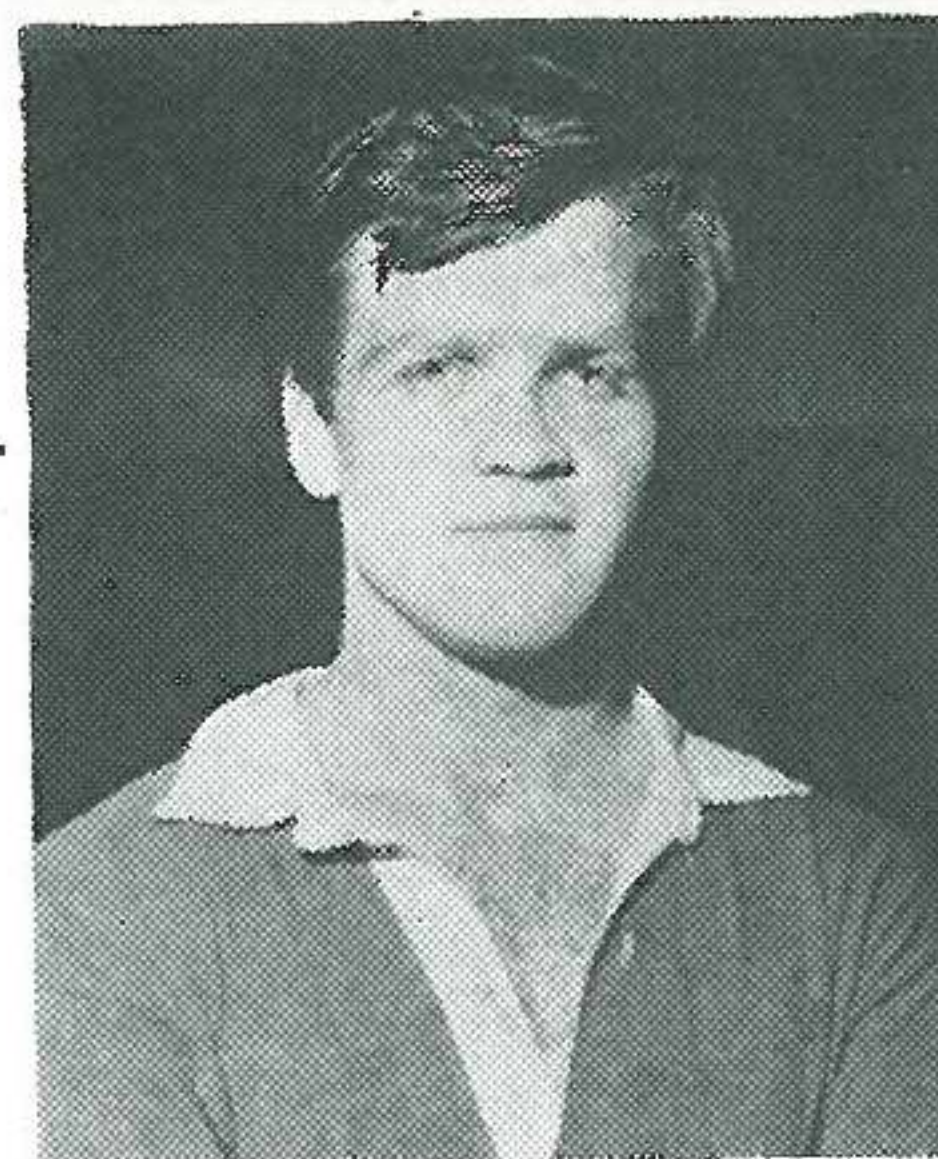
O'D.—*Have you been doing any special training during the off-season?*

F.—No, not this year. Due to a back injury I did not do what I normally do—namely train in a gym.

O'D.—*If you had to train a county team what tactics would you advocate?*

F.—Those used by Mick Higgins. I would train for speed and for short accurate passing. I would also put a great emphasis on free-taking.

O'D.—*Now that Longford are*



moving into the forefront you have had an opportunity to view the social side of the G.A.A. What do you think is lacking?

F.—There should be much more intercourse between the players—even to the extent of having both teams staying at the same hotel. There is considerable improvement to be made in this entire social side of the G.A.A. but a beginning is being made.

O'D.—*Are there any other changes you would like to see in G.A.A. affairs?*

F.—Yes. I would like to see umpires and linesmen given more power so that they could keep the referee informed of happenings which he may not have observed.

O'D.—*Who were your idols as a schoolboy?*

F.—Packy McGarty, Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell.

O'D.—*Who would you consider the best players you have played against?*

F.—Des Foley and Sean Ferriter. Both of them are fine, clean players.

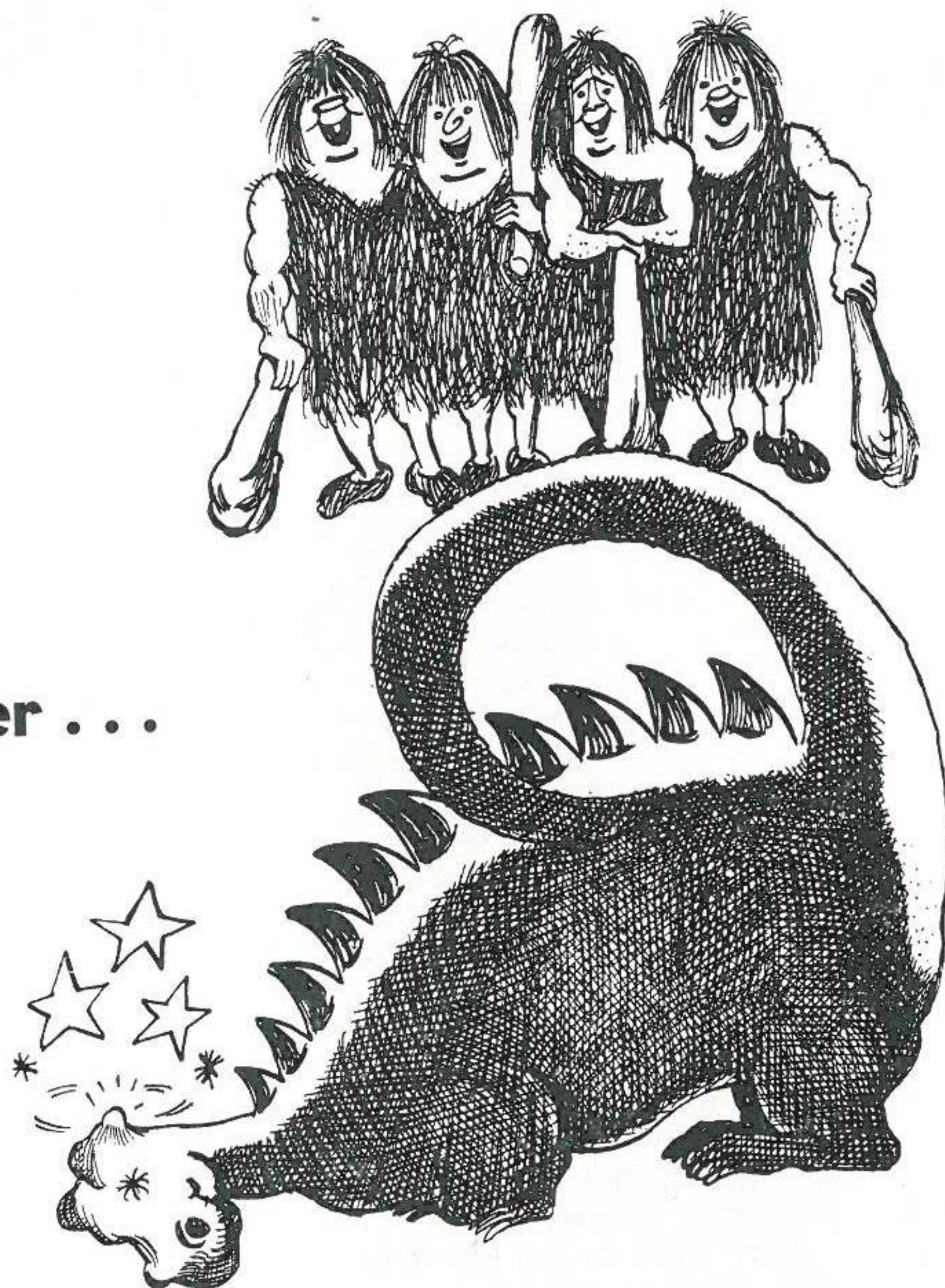
O'D.—*What game do you best like to recall?*

F.—The 1961 Leinster colleges final in which St. Mel's beat St. Finians.

O'D.—*What happened to St. Mel's after that?*

F.—We were beaten by St. Jarlath's in the All-Ireland final. There were only two points in it and it was a major disappointment.

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CAPS

SHAMEFUL CONDUCT

LAST year in this journal I chose to chastise the Down supporters for their unsporting habits and also condemned some of the Down players for too much gamesmanship. For this I incurred the wrath of Sean O'Neill writing in a Belfast Sunday newspaper and Joe Lennon both of whom tried to condone the unsporting habits of their supporters and the players concerned. Just to show that I am not biased, that I do not think that unsporting habits are peculiar to Down or Ulster I must at this stage condemn wholeheartedly recent occurrences in Tuam and Tralee. Let's take Tuam first when Galway were hosts to Offaly.

As I saw it, Greg Hughes incurred the wrath of the home support for charging downfield to engage in doubtful combat with Mattie McDonagh just as the game ended. By a strange coincidence Greg actually got possession of the ball before the final whistle sounded. Then after the final whistle sounded he seemed reluctant to part with the ball to referee Eamonn Moules of Wick low thereby focussing the attention of an irate crowd on himself once again.

I understand that he was assaulted by a spectator or spectators at this stage. This is shameful conduct in my opinion and we should do all in our power to eradicate this type of hooliganism from our G.A.A. fields. No spectator should be allowed to take the law into his own hands irrespective of what happens between



GREG. HUGHES

players on the field of play. There is a referee chosen to deal with altercations in the field of play. More is the pity that the linesmen are not empowered to acquaint him of the many vicious fouls and brief flareups which take place behind his back. Anyhow I think it is high time that the Garda Siochána were available at all major games to prevent barbaric attacks such as happened at Tuam. We do not want a recurrence of this in Tuam ever again. Now for Tralee.

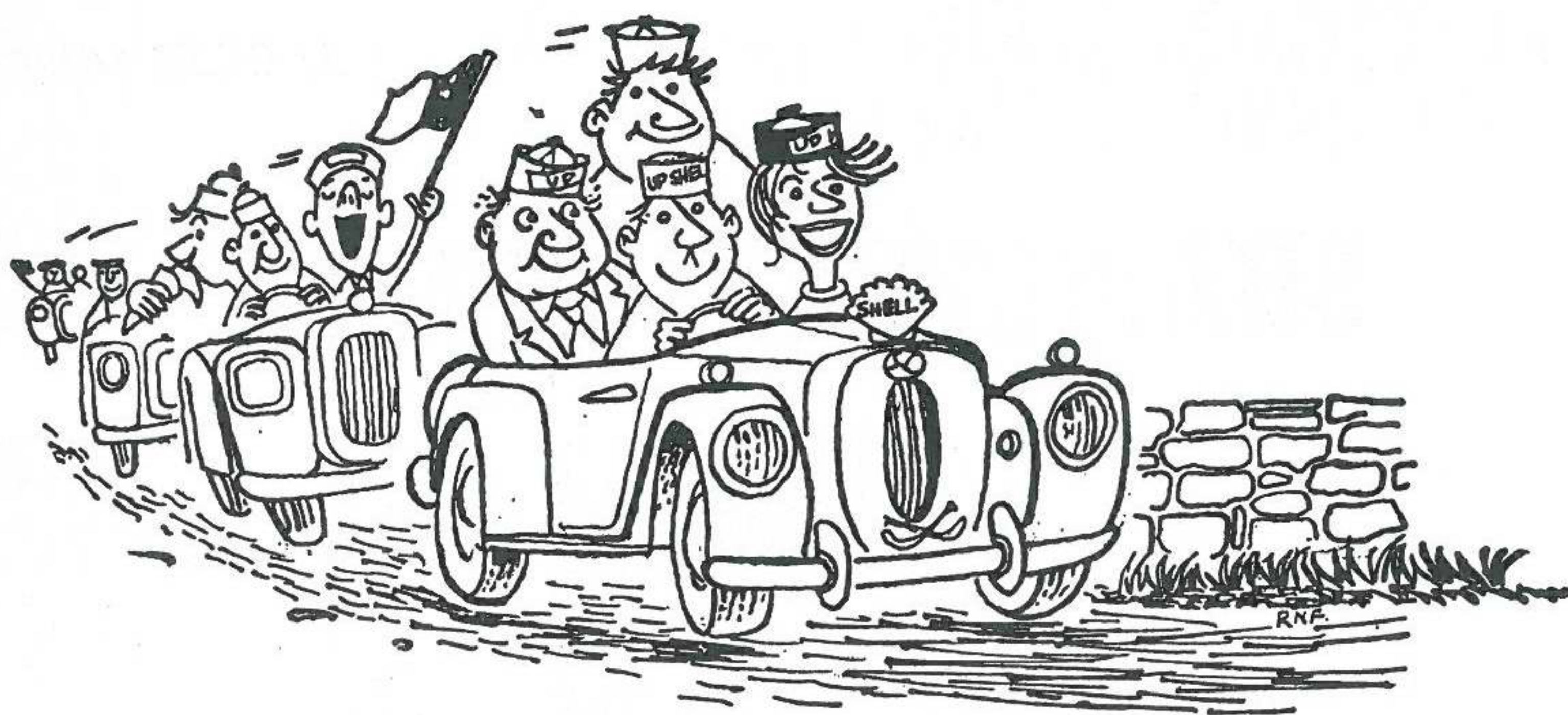
The fair name of Kerry sportsmanship took a low dive when Connacht drew with Munster in Tralee in February. I say Kerry for it was very much a Kerry

support which chose to booh every Connacht player, to jeer at the Galway players incessantly, to laugh loudly when Pat Donnellan was shouldered into a pool of water and to "deify" almost a Munster man for going to blows with his Galway adversary.

Poor Kerry. Has your support really taken the last two All-Ireland defeats so badly? Until recently Kerry has always held its name high in sportsmanship. Travelling to Tralee we expected to meet a discerning public, one used to seeing good football, one appreciative of a champion side, one eager to pay tribute to talent whether it be from their own or their rivals.

Such was not the case. Connacht were greeted with boohs and catcalls as they raced on to and off the field of play. Our spectators are certainly "going to the dogs" what with attacking players in Tuam and barracking and jeering opponents in Tralee could it be that we will hear Kerry or Galway supporters engage in the slow handicap within five years' time?

Spectators please let us grow up. Remember we are watching what is supposed to be a game. Let us not get too serious about it. If our side wins let us be happy. If it loses, sure it's not the end of the world. One team must lose. Let's applaud rather than booh and for God's sake let's leave it to the players and the referees to settle the inevitable differences that arise.



*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



ON THE BANDWAGON

WE here in Ulster—in that part of Ulster still occupied by British armed forces, have no doubts at all of where we should stand in the question of who should organise and take part in the 1916 Jubilee Commemorations. Any party or group which has continued to consider this part of Ireland to be a foreign country is certainly not worthy to be associated in any way with honouring the men who died for a free and Gaelic 32-county Ireland.

Those sports organisations, which have down the years confined themselves to 26 Counties, have played no small part in maintaining the partition of our country—and now these same organisations have the audacity to force their way on to the bandwagon. It is an insult to the memory of the dead.

CHAMPIONSHIP PROSPECTS

The championship season is just around the corner, in fact by the time you read these notes, the first round of the Ulster junior championship will have taken place. The big interest is, of course, in the senior championship and despite the dominance of Down and Donegal in the Lagan Cup competition, there are quite a few "dark horses" in the race.

CAVAN'S HOPES

What of Cavan? They were not in the Lagan Cup division of the National League so we cannot assess them too well against the teams which face them in the championship. They face their first (or maybe their last) outing on Sunday, June 19, when they play Donegal.

Opinion is greatly divided on Cavan's current policy of "bringing

'em back." Jim McDonnell and John Nallen did serve Cavan well in the League and now there is every likelihood of Tom Maguire being persuaded to return. There are those who say that it is a very shortsighted policy which will serve little good. Still I do believe that the majority of Cavanmen are for it.

THE DERRY SELECTORS

And then there is Derry. No selectors have come under such fire in recent years as those men whose task it was to decide the Derry team. However, this year the county has a selection committee which few will have the gall to criticise. It consists of Jim McKeever, Sean O'Connell, County Chairman; Tommy Mellon and Harry Gribben, while McKeever is also the team-manager.

It is certainly a neat and compact combination and one which will enjoy every confidence. These four men strike me as being ideal to utilise the great talent which Derry now has and I expect them to do it gradually and patiently until the minor and college stars of 1965 are ready to bring the Derry colours back to Croke Park—as seniors.

THE DOWN MENTORS

Down's 1966 mentors are Brian Denvir, Jerry Browne, Dan Rooney, T. P. Murphy, P. J. McElroy and George Lavery. Surely another excellent combination which blends players and officialdom. Incidentally Brian Denvir is also team-manager, while, of course, Paddy O'Hara is in charge of training.

PADRAIC McSHEA

It is a few years back since I first wrote of Donegal's Padraic McShea in this column. He was



GEORGE LAVERY
(Down Selector)

then only 17. Now he is one of the brightest stars and has still a long way to go before reaching his peak. It is difficult to see how he and John Hannigan were kept off the Ulster team.

I found myself quite recently involved once again in this question of the ideal venue for the Ulster football final. No one has more respect for the Gaels of Antrim and I fully realise the labour which went into Casement Park—but despite all of this, I suggest that it is not a logical venue for an Ulster final.

Casement Park is tucked away in one corner of the province—almost a day's journey from the far points of Donegal and then on top of that there is the prevailing situation whereby catering facilities are almost non-existent in Belfast on a Sunday.

I said it before and I say it again. Clones is the ideal venue for the Ulster final and the local committee should waste no effort in developing their field to its full potential.

UNUSUAL SCORING FEATS

THE number of annual senior intercounty challenge games, and tournaments each year has grown steadily during the past decade or so; yet, surprisingly, in view of the increased number of matches, we still must go back to the mid-1950's for a number of individual scoring records on a county level.

Niall Fitzgerald takes the top spot for football in Cork with 4.35 (47 pts.) in 15 outings in 1956, and busy though Galway football teams may have been in the 1960's, and effective though their attack has performed in a number of recent campaigns especially, the Corrib County record is still held by Sean Purcell, with a 1958 total of 11-74 (107 pts.) in 22 engagements.

Similarly, another great forward of that era, Ollie Freaney, heads the lists for Dublin with 5-86 (101 pts.) in 17 games in 1959, the only above the century of points total to the credit of any Liffey-sider so far.

Hurling's longest-standing record stands to the credit of Nick Rackard, but here his tally is really a "score-and-a-half" at 35-50 (155 pts.) in 19 outings in 1956. Whatever about those other

longstanding scoring records, this is one total that will certainly take a deal of beating.

Here, then, are the scoring records for each county. The points total in each code is shown first, with the player's name, the actual score, the number of games played in recording that total, and finally the year the record was set up.

Antrim		
<i>Total</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Games</i>
F. 36:	S. Rice 8-12	(12) 1964
Armagh		
F. 45:	J. Whan 9-18	(16) 1961



CATHAL FLYNN

Cavan		
F. 125:	C. Gallagher	6-107 (20) 1964
Cork		
F. 47:	N. Fitzgerald	4-35 (15) 1956
H. 104:	C. Ring 22-38	(13) 1961
Carlow		
F. 58:	B. Hayden 5.43	(14) 1962
H. 23:	W. Hogan 6-5	(8) 1963
Clare		
F. 24:	R. Pyne 1-21	(7) 1963
H. 69:	J. Smyth 17-18	(8) 1963
Derry		
F. 63:	S. O'Connell	4-51 (17) 1958
Down		
F. 136:	P. Doherty	13-97 (24) 1960
Donegal		
F. 80:	M. McLoone	10-50 (19) 1965
Dublin		
F. 101:	O. Freaney	5-86 (17) 1959
H. 65:	M. Bermingham	12-29 (14) 1964
Fermagh		
F. 37:	P. T. Treacy	3-28 (9) 1963
Galway		
F. 107:	S. Purcell 11-74	(22) 1958
H. 52:	P. Egan 11-9	(11) 1955
Kerry		
F. 79:	B. O'Callaghan	9-52 (17) 1963



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JOHN TIMMONS

- H. 37: D. Lovett 4-25 (8) 1965
Kildare
- F. 75: K. O'Malley 5-60 (14) 1959
Kilkenny
- F. 19: T. Wilson 0-19 (6) 1962
H. 127: E. Keher 16-79 (20) 1965
Louth
- F. 67: K. Beahan 11-34 (16) 1961
Longford
- F. 60: S. Murray 4-48 (20) 1965
Leitrim
- F. 81: C. Flynn 2-75 (17) 1959
Limerick
- F. 49: E. Cregan 7-28 (10) 1965
H. 56: L. Maloney 13-17 (12) 1958
Laois
- F. 72: J. Kenna 4-60 (16) 1959
H. 48: C. O'Brien 10-18 (13) 1965
Meath
- F. 79: D. O'Brien 5-64 (18) 1958
Mayo
- F. 68: J. Curran 5.33 (11) 1955
Monaghan
- F. 33: G. Fitzpatrick 1-30 (9) 1965
Offaly
- F. 120: H. Donnelly 7-99 (24) 1961
H. 52: T. Errity 14-10 (6) 1956
Roscommon
- F. 92: Don Feeley 3-38 (22) 1961

- Sligo**
F. 116: M. Kearins 4-104 (17) 1965
- Tipperary**
F. 30: L. Connolly 4-18 (7) 1958
H. 117: J. Doyle 10-87 (17) 1964
- Tyrone**
F. 117: F. Donnelly 5-102 (22) 1957
- Waterford**
F. 17: T. Kirwan 2-11 (7) 1962
H. 87: P. Grimes 10-57 (14) 1963
- Westmeath**
F. 59: T. Monaghan 6-41 (18) 1959
H. 44: T. Ring 1-41 (10) 1964
- Wexford**
F. 26: M. O'Neill 3-17 (5) 1961
H. 155: N. Rackard 35-50 (19) 1956
- Wicklow**
F. 63: J. Timmons 8-39 (12) 1957
- Total* *Score Games*
Total *Score Games*

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COMPLACENCY—THE KILLER

By JAY DRENNAN

GOOD news about the hurling plan is splendid to hear, and gives us hope for the future of the game than which none is more thrilling, none more beautiful to watch, and none more fulfilling to play. Some counties are doing a very fine job by all accounts which we can gather, and the reports in "An Caman" would seem to give the impression that there are few counties which do not feel that they are doing their adequate best.

I do know from experience that there is an amount of splendid work being done in some places—and it is, I am glad to say in the crisis areas, those areas which most need it. But, I also know that there is simply not enough being done in other places where perhaps, the need does not seem to be so pressing because the crisis in hurling fortunes is not yet reaching the stage of paralysis.

The casual calling of a meeting or two and the decision to hold under 14, 15 or 16 championships next year is not enough. That sort of thing, I know is the amount of what has occurred in a couple of counties. They must be naive, indeed, to think that it is enough to comply with the ideal of the Hurling Plan to merely let it be seen in the local paper that there will be a championship and that entries will be taken on such and such a date. The result, if they do not know it will be that the entries will not be forthcoming because there will be no teams, no getting together of boys to

encourage them to try out their skills and to brace the big step on to their first team.

The election, or appointment, or more likely the seeking out and bullying of men in every small area to take on the job of organising the young lads is at the very core of the Hurling Plan, and its success will depend on that and not on the high-flown statements of a few men at a board meeting. You must get down to the grass roots in this, and it is the **only** way to encourage hurling in places where it never was before, and to perpetuate it with added vigour where the tradition already exists.

Maybe the most dangerous areas of all are those where the game has not so far dropped into the doldrums; such counties or parts of counties may find that they are free from all dangers, that it could never happen to them. But, it could never have happened in many another place too, and look at them now.

Complacency can be the killer, and complacency is an easy and unworrying frame of mind, and causes no effort. I have in mind the problem of finding the men to guide the hurling destinies of the youth in all areas: it is not an easy task, and this age we live in with its emphasis on relaxation and leisure, does not in return for this leisure give a measure of effort to society. Leisure seems to breed laziness, certainly modern life breeds selfishness. If you are "All

Right, Jack," why worry about others.

It is the same in finding the dedicated souls to guide the programme of instruction and training and encouragement which is necessary to make hurlers where hurlers were not before. Are there enough to be found of such men? The teachers in country districts used to be the bulwark of the Association, forming the rallying ground for all association activities, and especially with their interest in the youths with which they have constant contact, they would be invaluable. But where are they? Mr. Colley's statistics tell us that they are off to the nearest town to live. And anyone familiar with the rural areas can well believe his figures. But their loss in the social scene is not reparable. To the Hurling Plan's success it could be crucial.

Not that teachers should be expected to do all; certainly not in this age when so many people have the education and experience for leadership — young men in Macra na Feirme and the various rural organisations have ability and confidence. The question is whether there are enough of them now pulling their weight to bring hurling back to all the counties. I am sure that the generous spirit will prevail throughout the land, but just at the moment, I write this article, simply because I know of one or two areas where enough has not and is not being done. Perhaps my words may awake these places to better things.

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Family record?

MUNSTER MEDLEY

By SEAMUS Ó CEALLAIGH

RECENTLY the Bennis family of Patrickswell, Co. Limerick, were a lot in the news, when all seven brothers played in the course of last year's senior hurling championship and six of them helped Patrickswell win the title.

Now comes news of another family—this time of eight brothers—the Colmans of Ballinhassig, Co. Cork—who are all currently playing hurling. They are: Donal, who is also Secretary of the Club; Martin and Brendan, who are twins; John, Kevin, Derry, Pearse and Declan.

We have heard of teams drawn from as few as two families and it would be very interesting to discover where the record in this regard lies. Readers who know of seven or more brothers playing together on the same team might submit particulars and we will try and establish the record holder.

A famed old Gael from Tipperary Town was widely regarded by friends of his time as holding the record for unbroken attendance at All-Ireland hurling and football finals. Recently we have heard of other claims for both Railway Cup and All-Ireland finals and it would be interesting to hear from any reader who can throw worthwhile light on what is becoming a vexed question.

PROGRAMMES

Arising out of the recent publication of the list of G.A.A. papers and books needed to help in the formation of a library at Croke Park a reader has written me ask-

ing if I could establish the holders of big match programmes dating back twenty years or over. This reader has a splendid collection and he is anxious to find out if it can be bettered.

Still on the question of records the query was recently posed as to what player holds the greatest number of county senior championship medals in hurling or football or in both combined. I could name a few Limerick men who won twenty between both codes with the famed Ahane club, and if anyone can better that it would be interesting to hear about it.

Longest serving County Secretary in Munster is Declan Goode of Dungarvan, who has been chief executive officer of the Decies County since 1938. A prominent player for many years previously, Declan has worthily upheld the name and fame of a great Waterford Gaelic family.

Scariff is the latest Clare parish to secure its own playing field. And a man who played a big part in bringing the idea to reality was Thomas McInerney, himself a great old Gael and now head of the great building firm, known far and wide, which bears his name.

GREAT REVIVAL

The hurling revival movement is making great headway in Limerick and an all-time record of twenty-seven teams are competing in this year's County senior hurling championship. The number last year was twenty-two and in 1964 it was only twelve. An even

greater number—thirty—are participating in the county senior hurling cup. Football teams are also on the increase and fourteen are figuring in this year's senior championship with sixteen playing in the county cup.

Limerick City G.A.A. Board has often been described as the busiest Divisional Board in the country and it is certainly living up to its reputation this year with thirteen competitions currently running in which a grand total of one hundred and twenty two teams are participating. In addition, the Juvenile and School Boards are operating their own competitions so Shannonside playing fields will be kept going this season.

Clare Board na nOg hope to distribute four thousand youths' hurleys during the current season.

South Limerick Board are holding special instruction courses for their referees. The hurlers will gather at Kilmallock under the guidance of Tom O'Sullivan; whilst the footballers, meeting at Ballylanders, will be coached by John Moloney of Cahir.

Recently appointed a Knight of St. Gregory by Pope Paul, Alderman Denis O'Dwyer of Dagenham, a native of Limerick City, has been actively associated with the promoting of Gaelic games in the London area for very many years. Before leaving Ireland he was prominent as a member of the Limerick Young Ireland Club, in the activities of which he has continued to take a keen interest.



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CAMOGIE

By AGNES HOURIGAN

THE Camogie Association had not a prominent part, on the surface, in 1916, and for the very good reason that it had been founded only a very short time before. Organisation had really only begun when the 1914 war broke out, and the Association, without financial resources, had to struggle on as best it might.

But it is worth recording that the first public appearance of the Dublin Camogie Board as a body was at O'Donovan Rossa's funeral in 1915 and, when the Rising came some months later, many Dublin camogie players saw service in the ranks of Cumann na mBan. But, from another aspect, camogie had a very close connection with the Rising.

In 1916, as he is still to-day, Sean O'Duffy was National Organiser for the Camogie Association. Sean, like the vast majority of the T. W. Croke hurling and football Club, of which he was so faithful a member for so many years, was out in the Rising and saw plenty of very busy fighting indeed in the North King Street area.

Through the next seven years or thereabouts Sean was busy with National matters, but, when he was at last in a position to return to camogie, which was not until a couple of years after the Civil War, he soon began to get the game built up all over again.

The Tailteann Games of 1928 might be said to mark the real start of a camogie revival on a

widespread scale, although it was not until the Tailteann Games of 1932 that his years of patient work really began to tell. The big success of camogie at Aonach Tailteann that year led to the foundation of the All-Ireland championships and subsequently, to the foundation of the provincial championships and Provincial Councils and the general nation-wide build-up of the game that we have to-day.

It is sad to have to say, however, that, fifty years after 1916, we still have a number of counties that have no camogie board, and surely the best way that the cailini of those counties (there are not very many of them, about half a dozen all told), can honour 1916 is by setting out here and now to revive camogie in their counties.

There are also a great number of schools and colleges that could examine their consciences in this year of 1966 and ask themselves why they cannot see their way to allow their pupils to take part in a native game for girls. Although the colleges themselves cannot be held entirely to blame, for it is extraordinary that at this hour of the day, there are still no provincial Colleges competitions in either Munster or Connacht.

However the scene, generally, continues to brighten. There is fine enthusiasm in Offaly where a County Board was recently set up. A similar reorganisation is taking place in Wicklow, and it is hearten-

ing to see in the Leinster Colleges competitions, schools from Kilkenny, Callan, Naas, Droichead Nua, Celbridge, Athboy and Oldcastle, surely a widespread "field," which shows how well the game is taking on in the Eastern province, and makes one wonder how the authorities in other schools in the province can explain to their pupils why it is that they too are not able to field a camogie team.

However, no precept is better than example and the example set by the country schools I have mentioned is bound to be followed by others. Meanwhile, with Congress upon us, the keen followers will already be looking forward to the championship season ahead. Considering that in successive years Dublin's supremacy has been so keenly challenged it is obvious that this year's competitions will be even keener than ever.

Antrim look almost bound to come out of the North yet again, and Dublin will start favourites to come through in Leinster where, however, their supremacy grows ever less pronounced year by year. Galway must be favourites to win through again in Connacht, though Mayo's challenge is reviving, but it would take a wise prophet to predict whether Cork can regain the Munster title or whether Tipperary will succeed in retaining their crown, so hard-won last year.

BETWEEN THE LINES

THE connections of the Gaelic Athletic Association with the 1916 Rising are too well known by now to need any retelling here, but I have of late been reading back over the newspaper files of the time, and found that, with the knowledge of what was to come, there is a certain fascination in reading between the lines of the newspaper reports of the time.

Through those early months of 1916 there was no public evidence in the papers that a Rising was in prospect, in fact the Dublin dailies were so taken up with the War in France and with the things the Irish members had to say beyond in the House of Commons that there was rarely a great deal of space left to record the meetings, parades and marches of the Irish Volunteers or the Irish Citizen Army.

But there were signs and tokens for those who chose to interpret what lay behind the printed word. At that time there was a weekly newspaper "The Gaelic Athlete," devoted entirely to G.A.A. games. Though not an official publication, it was very closely connected with certain members of Central Council, particularly with Dan McCarthy, who was at that time one of the top-ranking men in the Association, and also a member of the I.R.B.

It was significant then, when on February 12, 1916, the "Gaelic Athlete," in a leading article advised its readers to join the Irish Volunteers, which it described as "the one force standing for Ireland and Ireland only."

In the following month, on March 19, the Leinster final of the Wolfe Tone Memorial Hurling Tournament was held at Tullamore. This competition had already produced some great games and this one was no exception for Laois, then All-Ireland champions, had a very close call from a rising Dublin side, whom they only beat by 5-2 to 3-4 after a most exciting hour. But there was more excitement yet to come.

Tullamore in those days was a garrison town that had its fair share of those who were described as "hangers-on" of the British Army, but where there was also a spirited section of Irish Volunteers.

The latter body had held their greatest parade in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day, just two days before, and feeling was already running high in Tullamore between the Volunteers and the pro-British element. At the hurling match, a tri-colour, then just becoming popular, was displayed, and a spectator made an attempt to seize it. He was promptly and properly dealt with by the local Volunteers.

Next day, after some British soldiers had been seen off on the train by their relatives, a small crowd, some of them carrying Union Jacks, proceeded from the Railway Station to the Volunteers Hall where they first indulged in cat-calling and then began stone-throwing. The Royal Irish Constabulary soon arrived on the scene, but instead of dispersing the small mob, attempted to search the hall and to disarm the Volunteers. In defence of their premises, the Volunteers fired, a policeman was wounded, and a number of Volunteers were afterwards arrested.

And so Tullamore can properly claim to have fired the first shots of the 1916 Rising.

Meanwhile, of course, the ordinary business of the G.A.A. was going on as usual. In the weeks immediately before Easter the Provincial Conventions were held and showed that very heartening progress was being made by the national games. In Leinster receipts were up by £600, the province had £250 on hand for the Wolfe Tone Memorial Tournament, had given a further £55 to the Croke Park Memorial and still had £100 to credit. Munster had a profit of £293 on the year's working, while Ulster had paid £44 off old debts.

And the games still continued on the playing fields. The Croke Cup finals were staged at Athlone on April 9 and Dublin brought off a fine double, easily overcoming Clare in the hurling decider, 6-5 to 2-0 and then defeating Roscommon in the football final, 0-8 to 1-1. On the Dublin football side that day were two Roscommon-born players Jack Shouldice and his brother Frank.

In fact Jack Shouldice must have made the most remarkable G.A.A. record of all in relation to

that Croke Cup medal. He was sentenced to death for his part in the Rising, but the sentence was remitted, and he "came back from the dead" to collect his medal more than twelve months later.

Just a week after the Croke Cup finals, the printing offices in which the "Gaelic Athlete" was published was raided by the police, and the last number of the paper appeared on April 15. It was revived briefly in later years.

The Annual Congress of the Association was due to take place in Dublin on Easter Sunday, April 23, but some old-time Gaels came to the capital earlier that weekend to attend the funeral of a former President and Secretary of the Association, Frank Dineen.

Dineen, who had for some years previously been Gaelic Games editor of "Sport," had died at his desk while preparing his "copy" for the printers on Good Friday, April 21. He was only 54 years old, although he had been with the G.A.A. from its beginnings. His greatest day's work for the Association had been his purchase of Croke Park, to which he had held on to until the Association was in a position to purchase the ground itself. He had then sold it to the G.A.A. for the same figure which the ground had cost him.

Although, if the original plans for the Rising had gone according to schedule, many of the delegates would have been otherwise engaged, the Annual Congress was held strictly to time at the Dublin City Hall on Easter Sunday. But the business was got through with such expedition (the whole agenda had been disposed of by 2.30 p.m.) that one feels the Executive were well aware that some delegates must soon have to deal with urgent matters elsewhere.

Receipts for the year were £1,783, but the expenses were heavy. Croke Park had taken £222, half for turnstiles, the other half for increasing the height of the Railway Wall, while the Income

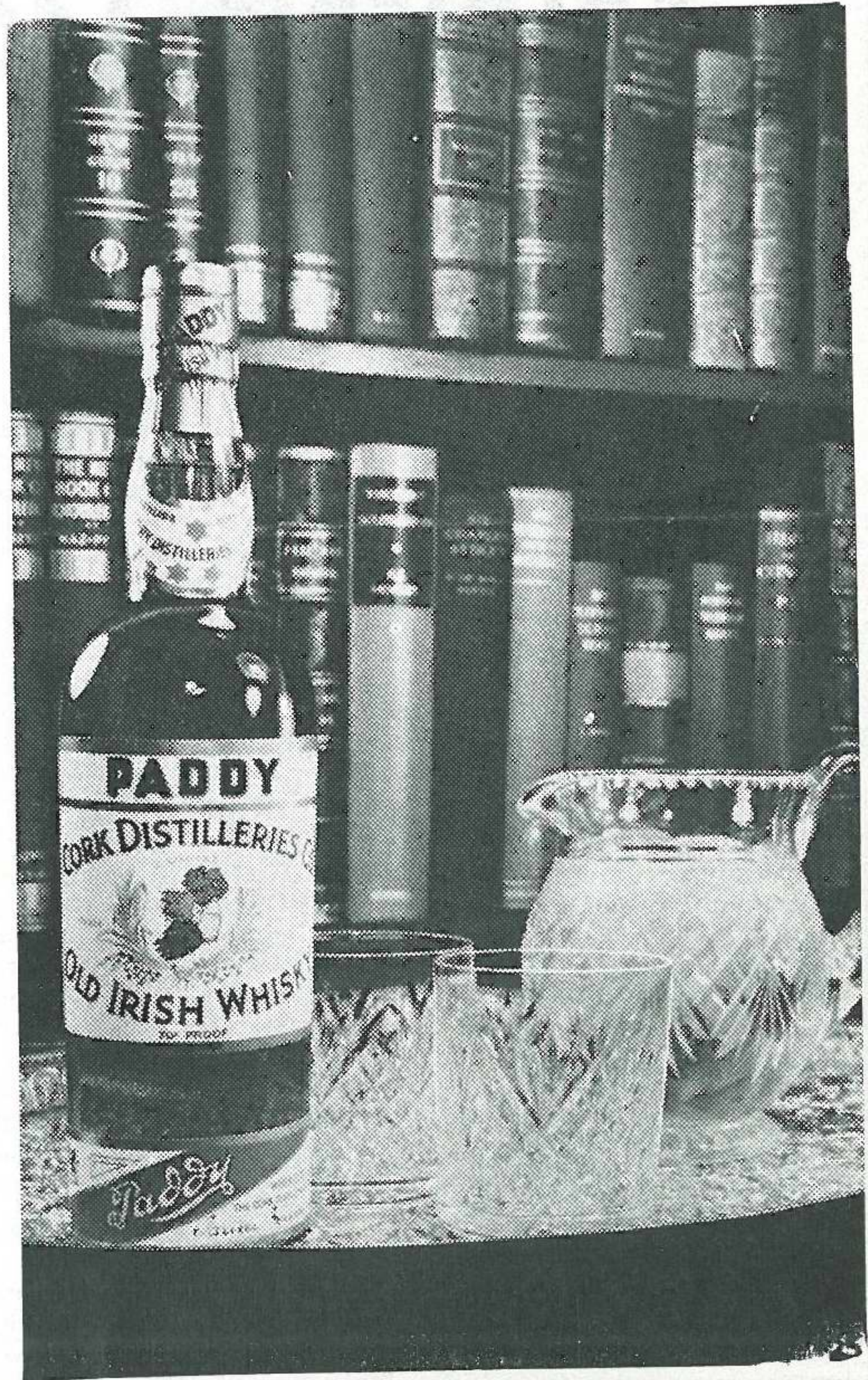
Tax authorities had taken £153.

All the outgoing officers of both the Central Council and the Athletic Council were re-elected, and it was decided that a speech in praise of the national games, delivered at Belfast on March 13, by Most Rev. Dr. MacRory, then Bishop of Down and Connor, should be incorporated in all future editions of the Official Guide. A

proposal by Sligo that the value of a goal be reduced to two points was not moved, while a motion that would have permitted goal-keepers to pick the ball off the ground was defeated.

The only inter-county event that day was a hurling tournament at Thurles in aid of the Christian Brothers Centenary. There Dublin

(Continued page 48)



A SOLDIER'S ACCOUNT OF EA

EASTER, 1916. It was my father, God be good to him, that told me almost everything I knew about it, for they didn't teach much on it at school.

To-day the position is different and we can look forward to knowing a lot more about it in the years ahead. Meanwhile let me add my little piece specially for the younger folk of sporting Ireland, gleaned from those excellent books, the "Capuchin Annual", Dorothy McArdle's "Irish Republic", Desmond Ryan's "Rising", Caulfield's "Easter Rebellion" and some gallant old friends of my own.

Liberty Hall the headquarters of the Citizen Army had been maintained by James Connolly, Michael Mallin and their men as a kind of fortress for some time before Easter of 1916. A Dublin Metropolitan Police Inspector attempted to raid a small news-agent's shop attached to the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union on Eden Quay. When James Connolly ordered the inspector out he went, but as he was expected to return with help the Citizen Army leader sent out mobilisation orders to his men, who arrived in no time on foot and

bicycles from all over the city. From that day a permanent armed guard, day and night, was kept on Liberty Hall and the safety of the printing press was of particular importance for it was on this that many of the "rebel" pamphlets were printed and on which the Proclamation eventually saw the light of day in Holy Week.

Connolly, who was a student of revolutions, and the fighting that ensued therefrom in the cities of the Continent, gave lectures on street-fighting and Dr. Kathleen Lynn, who fought right through the week in the City Hall, taught first aid. Arms of all kinds were being gathered and an armoury room was set aside for the sorting of weapons and the manufacture of hand-grenades. These grenades by the way, about two pounds in weight, were encased in condensed milk tins. The thrower struck the sulphur top on a wall, counted three and let it off. Needless to mention there were accidents.

* * *

The door-keeper at the Rialto end of the South Dublin Union was a very surprised fellow when the stern-faced man with the moustache took the keys from

him on that Easter Monday at noon, when half of Dublin was at Fairyhouse and most of the other half just taking it easy.

Commandant Eamonn Ceannt, the thirty-four year old Galwayman who had spent most of his life in Dublin, took the keys from the door-keeper, who poor man, thought like so many other folk on that noonday, that the Volunteers, often the subject of derision were once again on their manoeuvres.

This South Dublin Union had an area of about fifty acres, with its streets, court-yards, lanes, dormitories, sheds, corridors and churches. The inmates by the way numbered three thousand, two hundred and eighty-two souls and these did not include the many officials and nurses. Until the fighting ended there on Sunday the British military and the Volunteers fought many times hand to hand in the confused jungle-fighting from passage to passage and house to house. Nobody could say from what corridor or passage the next shot might come and many were shot at point blank range by day while at night just about anything could happen, one Volunteer blazed away at the first man he

STER WEEK



saw in the room to find that he had blasted a full-length mirror. Eamonn Ceannt had at the most sixty-five men under his command while the British numbered about four hundred.

"Thank God", said Nurse Keogh, "there will be no bloodshed here", as she saw that the military were not attacking the building in which she and her companion were watching. Suddenly a volley rang out, for the soldiers were firing on two Volunteers escaping from the ground floor. Down went the nurse to see if her patients on that ground floor were safe. Down she stepped, along the high stone stairs to the porch and the doorway that opened at right-angles on to the long corridor. Tensely the two British soldiers aiming their rifles waited for the person to step into sight. There was a flash of white linen uniform, the crack of two rifles, and Nurse Keogh with two bullets in her body was probably dead before she hit the ground.

Some British officers surrounded in a bakehouse escaped by night, but one soldier was left behind, and also the corpse of a companion. On the following day the dead soldier was removed in a

coffin to the mortuary at Rialto. As the coffin was being placed on the Union hearse an empty one happened to be beside it. When that coffin was opened soon after a very live soldier emerged. After the surrender he was able to tell his captors of a few days earlier all about it.

* * *

Padraig O Ceallaigh of Laois, who fought in Jacob's Factory, was deported when the Rising was crushed, to Knutsford Jail near Manchester. He was in his cell for twenty-three and a half hours each day, and silence was strictly enforced during the half-hour's exercise in the prison yard. In about one month he was released. He found out afterwards that it was in mistake for a Redmondite volunteer of the same name. This, far less guilty, rebel was arrested in error and not released for two months after.

* * *

There was a great fight at Ashbourne in North County Dublin and this action was distinctive because it was completely successful and also because the tactics of

Thomas Ashe, Dick Mulcahy, Joe Lawless and their men set a headline for the successful actions of the subsequent War of Independence a few years later. During the attack on the R.I.C. at Ashbourne, Joe Lawless's section came under fire and he returned it. After firing for some time he found to his consternation that their targets were their own comrades but whether because of the excellence of cover or the bad marksmanship (Colonel Joe Lawless says) nobody was hit. Still it was no great cause of joy to find that one of his targets behind a fence was Frank Lawless, the battalion quartermaster, who was his own father.

* * *

It was shortly after noon on Easter Monday that Joe Guilfoyle and his friends gathered. There was only a fraction of their company on parade, but when the news was announced that the chips were down, only one man decided to drop out. The remainder marched off to the positions allotted to them. After a while along came a jarvey driving his horse and cab. The Volunteers stopped him. He

★ CONTINUED IN PAGE 32



1916 — 1966

Do thugas mo ghnúis

Ar an ród so romham

Ar an ngníomh do-chím

'S ar an mbás do-gheobhad

CORAS IOMPAIR EIREANN

SHAPING THE FUTURE

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

THE increased admission charges for the big Croke Park games has been a live topic of conversation at G.A.A. gatherings since the announcement was made. Generally, the reaction had been favourable, in view of the many good uses to which increased revenue could be put.

The only reservation in some quarters concerned general admission prices. Some felt this was too steep at five shillings, even for an All-Ireland final. However, it was agreed that if tickets were issued for this portion of the grounds and distributed through the County Boards in the same manner as stand tickets with attendance limited so that all ticket holders would have a guarantee of comfortable accommodation, much of the objections of the patrons from "down the country" would be removed.

As regards the Dublin-based supporter it was the general feeling that he had no grouse. The only inconvenience he suffered was the necessity of a slightly earlier lunch, so that he could be in Croke Park in time to take up the best viewing position. His other expenses were almost negligible.

The proposal to seat the portion under the Cusack Stand would also have the support of the country patrons, who feel that sufficient seated accommodation could not be provided. It is the general feeling that the day of the super crowds is over and that a ceiling of 80,000 at any venue is reasonable. The aim should be comfort for the greatest number all the year round

rather than any attempt at catering for the very rare occasions when an overflow crowd may wish to view a particularly attractive game.

The very bad weather of the early portion of this season has brought home rather forcibly the absolute necessity for proper dressing-room accommodation and hot showers at all venues. Some of our older members may not be inclined to agree on the urgency of this problem, but, believe me, it is a real one and demands immediate solution.

Competition for the allegiance of the youth is far keener now than it has been at any previous stage, and other codes are peddling their wares in places where they were unknown previously. We must hold the youth and the only way of doing so is by giving them the facilities others are so keen to offer.

Things that another generation were satisfied with—and probably enjoyed, are not meeting the needs of the present-day players. This changed attitude is evident in every walk of life and is not confined to the playing fields.

Our homes are different now from what they were twenty or thirty or forty years ago, and few can visualise what it was to be without electricity in these days when gadgets of all kinds are so commonplace.

We have happily with us still some grand old G.A.A. figures who often walked twenty miles or more on a Sunday just to play a match. They did it because they had no other means of transport — and they got a kick out of it! They

cut and fashioned their own hurleys into the bargain and if any expenses had to be met in was from their own very slender resources.

Many of our present-day players would hardly walk across the road unless a car called to fetch them, and almost everything has to be laid on. We cannot lay personal blame at their feet for this—rather is it the times in which we live—and that is the fact we have to face.

Competition in every walk of life is growing keener daily and if we are to hold our players we have a fight on our hands. The old complacency must be relegated to the limbo of forgotten things and a big move forward substituted.

The aim for every pitch must be a proper pavilion equipped with all modern conveniences. The Central Council must tackle this question at top level and if they devoted some of their increased revenue to financing a nation-wide scheme for improved amenities of this nature all would have to agree it was money well spent.

This matter should be tackled in a really businesslike way, and the aim should be the securing of the best possible value for the money available. This could be the more readily achieved were the governing body to employ a firm of architects to draw up a few sets of plans from which ground committees could choose to suit their particular requirements. The Central Council should indicate the grant they would be prepared to give with each plan, and it should at least be fifty or sixty per cent.

(Continued overleaf)

(From previous page)

of the total cost, with the local committee providing the balance.

In recent discussions on this question, the matter of providing hot water was raised and the difficulties examined. From enquiries subsequently made it appears that a rather simple gas installation is possible in most places and that a cylinder of gas can give prolonged and cheap service. The cost of installation is reasonable, so there is no real obstacle to that hot shower, which players would so much appreciate following a game.

It has been truly stated oftentimes that social life within the G.A.A. is not anything like what it should be, or what it is in other circles. An ideal way to further this would be the incorporating of a common room in the Grounds Pavilion where teams could be entertained together following a game. A cup of tea and a sand-

wich is not too difficult to provide and look at the difference it would make to the success of an occasion. Who will set the headline in this respect?

A little bit of organisation could work wonders at most of our venues and create an atmosphere that could make all the difference in propagating the games. Here is where many of the older Gaels—and some of our lady supporters (God bless them!) could render valuable help.

When discussing the increase in admission charges another important point was made. The Association is only getting token payment for the televising of its games. There is no sense in such generosity, and we are getting nothing in return for it in relation to the appeal of our games and the fact that the G.A.A. is the only Association that can claim adherents in every parish of the land.

The G.A.A. are entitled to more than they are getting from the big bosses who control this vital national service and they in return would have more respect for us if they had to pay top price for the opportunity of putting on the big games. After all, they are one of their great attractions and must command a very wide audience.

The Association could use the money and it might very profitably be earmarked to finance some of the things we have been mentioning.

Another very necessary amenity at our sportsfields is a set of good goal nets. They are really an essential for the proper control of games and I am informed that a set to suit even the most advanced centre can be purchased at most sports shops for less than twenty pounds. Any go-ahead field committee should be able to meet a necessary expenditure of this nature.

Most counties are fairly well equipped with fields now but a lot still remains to be accomplished before they become the ideal venues we would like them to be.

Self help is very important in this respect. All the go-ahead fields were developed mainly through local effort, and I am firmly convinced that the great bulk of those in charge of fields are not using them half enough and that many opportunities are there but neglected of raising funds. Energy and enthusiasm have worked wonders in many centres and there is no reason whatever why others could not harness the same effort and command equal success.

This should be a year of great national endeavour and I see no better way for members of the G.A.A. to mark the occasion than by a united drive to make our playing fields all they should be in relation to the modern go-ahead Ireland of to-day.



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Jay Drennan on the Football League

NEW SYSTEM HAS WORKED

WATERFORD and Carlow footballers playing in Croke Park, Tipperary playing a vital part in an exciting and well fought out triangular contest with Roscommon and Offaly while the country looked on taking an interest in pairings which they would never have considered to have been worthy of a second thought; exciting fare between the big-time teams at an early stage of the competition; improvement by several counties — the above-mentioned Waterford, Carlow and Tipperary, and also by Mayo, Antrim and Cork. Surely any football league which produces all these worthwhile things in the same short few months deserves from us some sort of recognition and credit where credit is due.

I know we were harsh on it—so was I—when it began and was first disclosed. But, I must admit, that I have been shown the light by some of the things which I mentioned above. It may not be perfect, it may not be all that someone could invent as the ideal for the winter competition, but you must admit it has some points in its favour. That there are several satisfying points shows that those who thought it out were not such nincompoops after all, and that they were aiming at certain things and probably achieving some, while failing to achieve others. But, that's life isn't it?.

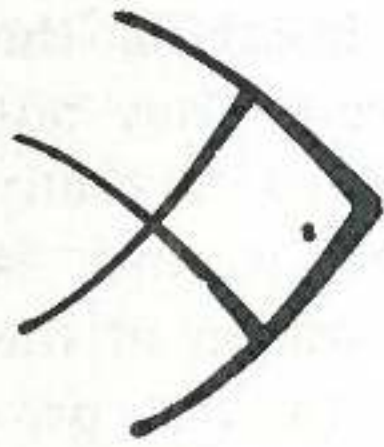
I think that it is a great and very important thing in football (and in hurling, too, for that matter) that the weaker counties get some kind

of showing sometime. Disheartening eclipse over an unbroken series of competitions has, in turn, the effect of further breaking the spirit of the unfortunate. They not only feel inferior, they actually become inferior. Every county is concerned with the problem of the weaker clubs and with the provision of some sort of escape route by which they can have some sort of competition, with the chance of improving themselves.

Some counties introduce a losers' group after the first round of the championship, in order to get at least a game for everyone. Some play their championships even on a league basis. Some play their own winter league competitions, or other domestic tournaments on a league basis. Some others divide their grades into a manner which seeks to give equality of standard in the groups even at the risk of reducing the worth of the championship—say primary and intermediate groups within the junior grade, even where the county's strength in number of clubs would not otherwise warrant it. And the result of all these efforts has been that they have justified themselves at some time or another, and in some part of the county or another.

The emergence of a good team may turn on the moment of crisis several years before when the crossroads of decision had been reached—whether to go on or to pack it in. I think the same holds good in the inter-county scene, and while it is not so easy, nor so feasible to keep giving the poorer teams several extra bites at the cherry,

(Continued page 31)



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(From page 29)

some concession to infirmity must always be in the mind. Charity, simply. But, this sort of charity is an investment, too, of the richest reward.

While honours are scarce, small honours are great. Consider the case of Waterford's footballers. In over eighty years of participation in the All-Ireland and every other competition which the Association promoted—remember that it was Waterford who played in the first ever championship game played under G.A.A. football rules—they had never been to Croke Park. Never within the railings of the grounds which to all Gaels is the Mecca. To play there is an ambition of life; to compete there for one's county a high honour indeed; to win an All-Ireland there the greatest day in a whole lifetime, often. Just think then what it meant to the lads from the Decies to trot out on to the field of their dreams, and there may have been one or two who were never even in the ground before to see a match.

Such an honour—to be one of the first fifteen men who represented your county in Croke Park

—is a matter of intense pride to those boys and this despite the fact that they were well beaten.

An arrangement which brought Waterford out of their group with Carlow and to Dublin to play the winners of the group in which Dublin and Kildare came through was an inspired one. Other years Waterford had won their group — they were usually paired with Tipperary, Limerick and Kilkenny and Clare—only to suffer brutal elimination at the hands of Kerry in what was called a quarter-final and sounded good, but was no more than a mopping up of the minnows before the big fish got to grips. And what's more, it always happened at some near-home venue, where the crowd was small and the honour of playing no more than the always considerable one of opposing Kerry.

From the same group as Waterford in other years came Tipperary this winter to raise a very considerable stir by their spirited displays against Roscommon and Offaly; it earned them a high rating and they were well received and admired also when they appeared to play a Bloody Sunday commemoration at Croke Park.

Then there is the question of

some of the bigger names knocking each other out too early: I am not at all sure that this is a bad thing. But certainly I am all in favour of some of the interesting new pairings which this League competition brought about—Cork-Kildare and Cork-Dublin, Offaly-Roscommon, Galway-Clare, Kerry-Louth, and so on. That must be good for the game. The same tired old pairings which occur in League and championship frequently, make little appeal in the middle of the 'flu season, and the players seem to know that the patterns will be the same as before, for they play with a sort of languid disinterest which is catching.

This League was something towards the view of the people who advocate an open draw in the All-Ireland; but, I wonder whether they are not some of the loudest now in the condemnation of the League.

What's more I shouldn't be surprised to find that this League will be a better proposition financially than those in previous years. And, of course, that, in turn, would mean that the followers were more pleased. Until a better system is shown me I think I would like to see this set-up tried again.

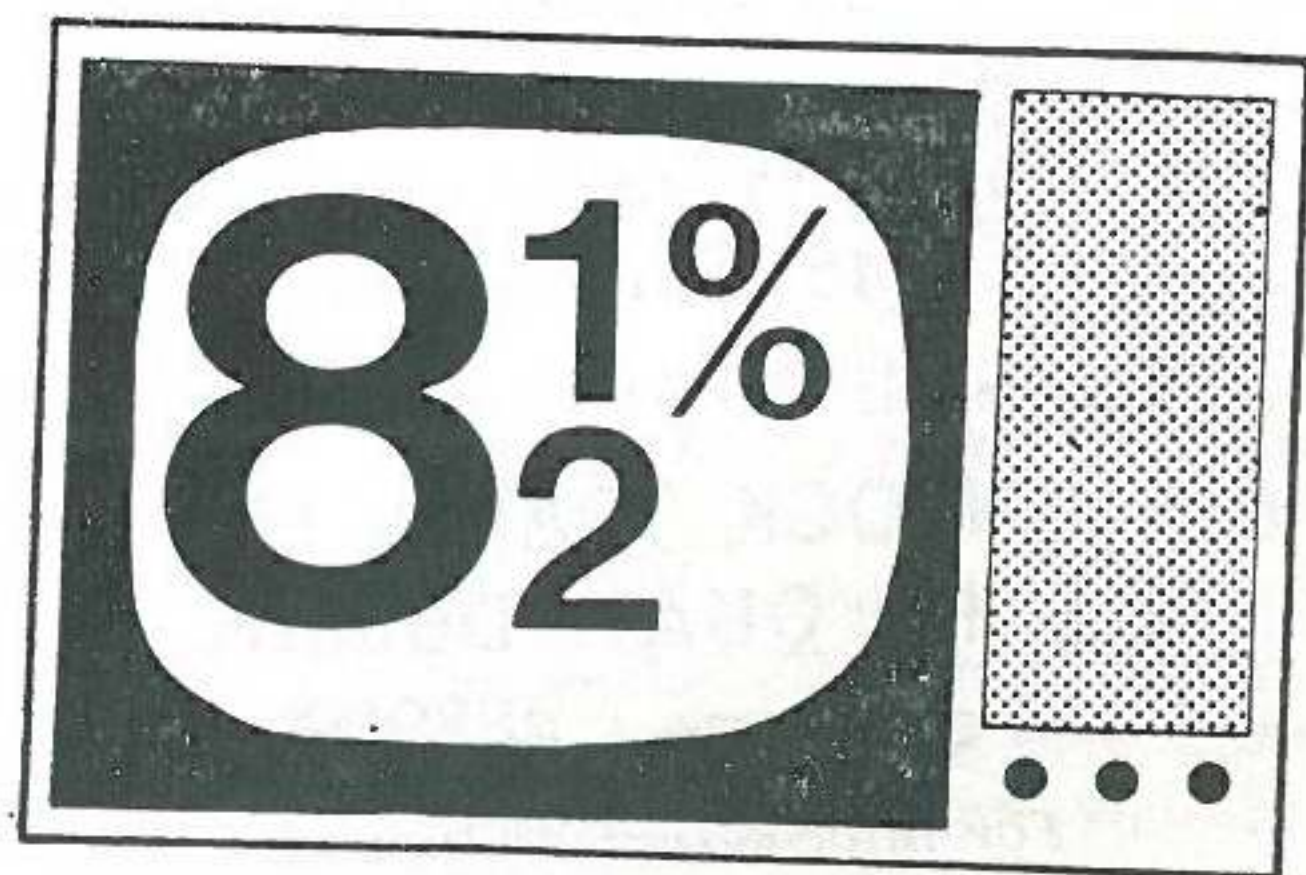
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COMMDT. YOUNG ON THE RISING

(From page 25)

could go no further; he was very annoyed. Easter Monday, a good day to make a few bob and here were the Sinn Feiners in the way.

"Ye are carrying these bloody manoeuvres too far", says the jarvey. "It's hard enough to make a living without having interference from our own".

The Volunteers told him gently that this time they weren't on manoeuvres and just to prove the point asked him to listen.

Away towards the centre of the city, probably in O'Connell Street, at the G.P.O., could be heard the sound of rifle shots. The jarvey got the message, paused for a moment then leaped on to his cab calling back to the Volunteers:

"By janey, that's alright, but

there'll be someone pulled over this".

How right he was.

* * *

The late Commandant Paddy Holahan was a senior officer in the Fianna Eireann when the Rising started and as such knew more about the plans than very many of his comrades. He used tell the story about his journey through the city during that week. It seems that he and his volunteer friend were moving from one side of the river to the other and came to the Ha'pney Bridge which got its name from the ha'pney toll levied on the user by the firm which erected and maintained the structure. Anyway as the two volunteers came to the bridge there was an old man sitting there. His job

was to collect the toll. With the crack of the rifle, the staccato rattle of the machine-gun and the roar of artillery echoing through the stricken city there weren't many using that bridge.

Up came the two young men armed, grim-faced and ready to sell their lives at the dearest possible price. The first fighter looked at the old man, paused a moment, and then put his hand down into the pocket. The little coin changed hands. Just to show that he too was essentially law-abiding Paddy Holohan did likewise and passed on. A few weeks afterwards over in an English prison, the Rising all over and the cup of tragedy drained to the dregs, the resilience of the human spirit re-asserted itself and the humour of the Ha'pney Bridge incident struck the young volunteer. He began to laugh, and laugh so uproariously that the warder came along to see if he had gone mad.

* * *

Fourteen leaders were executed in Dublin; Tom Kent was put up against a wall in Collins Barracks, Cork; Roger Casement swung at the end of a rope in Pentonville Prison, London in August. One thousand, seven hundred and six people, more than took part in the Rising, were deported to England. The country confused and stunned, lay dormant.

* * *

And thus ended an epic we call Easter, 1916, when the fires of heroism, quenched it seemed by the power of military might, were kindled anew by an angry people, 'till they burned a path to freedom and singed an empire.

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TRAINING A CLUB TEAM

Eamonn Young
replies
to a reader

"I LIVE in a town of two thousand people. We have a senior club football team. Thirteen of them work in or near the town. We have our own ground and I am in charge of the team for the first year. I have read all I can about training teams but no one tells me how to train a club team. Give me a hand. I am reading you for years though I don't agree with you half the time."

His name is Peter and upon this rock the fortunes of the team must be built.

So here goes Youngy to lay the foundation stone. I'll bet he still won't agree with me, and I won't even get an invitation to sing at the victory dinner.

My advice for this all-important first round game is to start the final phase of preparation three weeks beforehand.

So on the Monday evening the boys gather in the local pitch and with summer time smiling (we hope) on the clock's face the practices will be daylight ones.

Let's hope the field has a clubhouse where a man can hang his clothes and it's not too much to look for hot and cold showers in 1966. (It's eighteen years since I looked for them at a county convention).

A track-suit which can be bought for about £3 keeps a man warm but a sweater and old flannel pants is a fair substitute. No need to say that one of the surest ways of getting a chap to play a bad

game is to catch cold during training.

If possible the players should turn up at the same time and you'll find that they will if you let themselves select the hour most suitable to the majority. The odd man will then be late for a number of reasons but whether its his own fault or not, getting excited about it will do no good.

Somebody should keep a record of the training each man does, so that an assessment of his fitness can be made. When a man misses a night he will tell you (usually in truth) whether or not he did a spot of work on his own.

A weighing scales costs about £2-10-0 and there's no need to say it gives a good indication of a player's fitness. I hate to say it, but we put one in a clubhouse a few years ago and scorned the suggestion that we should fix it to the floor. It walked—the scales I mean.

So at last your team is on the field for the first night. They should all be fairly fit already from the games and other preparations since January. Still there will surely be a few lazy lads who haven't done anything and they'll have to be watched. Get to know as much as possible about each man's condition. Your non-playing friends should find this out for you and the rest can be filled in by a friendly talk with the man himself.

The players should start off with a few laps of the field to warm-up cold muscles and put them in

humour. Then the ball practice should start. The various facets of ball training are outlined in the books written by the late Dick Fitzgerald, Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan and Joe Lennon. No need to dwell on them so we'll just run through the list. There's the fetch (high and low), the kick from the hand (high and low), the various ground kicks (long and short), the hand-and-foot pass, the solo-run (no need to practice it; the trouble is to stop them from doing it), the block-down (couldn't be practiced too much).

To allow fifteen or twenty men to practice these vital skills of the game the first essential is a number of footballs. At £4 a ball the club treasurer may not want to give one to each four players but maybe the turnstile serenade will soften his heart and loosen his purse-strings. The ways of practising the various skills need no discussion.

If you want to improve the fetching say a word about keeping the eyes on the ball and drawing it down to the chest quickly. Tell them to take a look at the Monday morning photos and watch the eyes. After that put half around the goalmouth and the other half fifty yards out and give them two footballs. But don't stay at this all evening.

There's is so much to be practiced that half-an-hour will go nowhere but remember there's always the following evening when the

(Continued Page 35)

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MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

FIXTURES 1966 :

SENIOR HURLING :

"A"—Clare v. Cork, Limerick, June 19.

"B"—Tipperary v. Limerick, Cork, June 5.

Semi-finals—Waterford v. Galway, Limerick, July 3; "A" v. "B", July 10.

Final—July 24.

SENIOR FOOTBALL :

"A"—Waterford v. Tipperary, Dungarvan, May 29.

"B"—Clare v. Cork, Ennis, May 15.

Semi-finals—Kerry v. Winners of "A", June 26; Limerick v. Winners "B", June 26.

Final—July 17.

Minor Hurling—Clare v. Cork, Limerick, May 8; Tipperary v. Limerick, Fermoy, May 15; Waterford v. Galway, Limerick, May 8.

Intermediate Hurling and Junior Football—Clare v. Limerick (I.H.), Ennis, April 24; Clare v. Limerick (J.F.), Limerick, April 17; Waterford v. Tipperary (I.H. and J.F.), Clonmel, April 24; Cork v. Kerry (I.H.), Kenmare, April 17; Cork v. Kerry (J.F.), Macroom, April 17. **Football semi-finals**—May 29. **Final**—July 31. **Hurling semi-finals**—May 29. **Final**—August 7.

Minor Football—Waterford v. Tipperary, Dungarvan, May 29; Clare v. Cork, Ennis, May 15. **Semi-finals**, June 26. **Final**—July 17.

Under 21 Hurling—Cork v. Waterford, Fermoy, May 15; Clare v. Tipperary, Ennis, April 17; Kerry v. Limerick, Tralee, May 1 or 8. **Final**—August 14.

Under 21 Football—Waterford v. Cork, Lismore, April 3; Tipperary v. Clare, Tipperary, April 3; Limerick v. Kerry, Askeaton, April 3. **Final**—August 7 or 14.

Munster Club Championship (Hurling)—May 1 or 8—St. Finbarrs v. Ballyduff, Cork; May 15—Patrickswell v. Thurles Sarsfields, Limerick; May 1 or 15—Newmarket v. Mount Sion, Newmarket.

Football—May 11—St. Nicholas v. Waterford winners, Waterford venue; On or before May 11—Askeaton v. East Kerry, Askeaton; Commercials v. Cooraclare, Clare venue.



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CRESTED TEN

by JAMESON

(From Page 33)

skills that did not get adequate practice can be done.

For instance an essential skill for your left corner-forward is an ability to run outfield from his place and having made an angle for himself screw a right-footed shot over the bar. The right corner likewise with the left foot. Give these lads a spot of pressure training by giving them thirty of these kicks all in about five minutes. To do this will demand a man to throw the ball to the player and another to recover the leather when it has been kicked.

Needless to say half a dozen balls are better than two. After the skills training, which as can be seen, demands footballs and assistants and the division of players in different parts of the ground, there should be a small game. Some prefer the forwards and backs practice which is very useful but bores a little after about ten minutes. The players are happiest when they are playing a game and even though it may be only seven-a-side, creating situations and plays which don't normally occur in the bigger game, the lads derive much benefit from it all the same.

In this seven-a-side game it may be wise to curtail the solo-running or you'll have everyone at it. You might decide to blow after one hop on the toe, which considering the players may hop on the ground

before and after gives him enough ground.

Warming up (five minutes), skill training (twenty-five minutes), backs and forwards (ten minutes), the match (twenty minutes) gives an hour of training. In the change-over from one period to the other you'll lose about five minutes overall.

Then starts the running and exercises. Some folk have a horror of exercises or physical jerks as they call them and they'll always tell you about the army man who some time after the battle of Clontarf had a team over-trained for the county final because he killed them with physical jerks. The result is that the wise man (army or otherwise) just doesn't do any jerks at all, physical or otherwise and tells the players to work out a set of the usual exercises himself and do them every day. This has always been my advice.

Each one of us, whether or not we play, should have a set of these wonderful exercises and perform them every day. Those who have practiced that set of exercises which originated in the Canadian Air Force, called the Five BX will testify to their worth.

The running is really important. There are four kinds, lapping, interval running, sprinting and darting. The lapping is a good exercise but done around the field I always found rather boring. I much preferred a run over hill and dale

through woods and beside streams. A three-mile spin in that kind of country can be a joy and it's not hard to find such a circuit. Your men will do the three miles in about twenty-three minutes and you should have a two mile spin (fourteen minutes), a mile and a half (nine minutes) and a mile jaunt (six minutes), as well so that you can decide which to do according to the time, the state of training, the weather, the general morale, etc., etc. Sometimes groups will run different distances according to their state of training and general attitude to running.

Sprinters often dislike middle-distance running while the slower men usually like it. It won't do anyone any harm if it's not done in the last week of training and if a man gets unhappy because he doesn't do well in the run, tell him that you're training footballers not runners and not to worry. He may get three goals in the game.

Anyway the cheetah is the fastest thing on four feet and he gets caught by men on horseback because the poor beggar just runs out of breath.

Now Peter, my friend I'll finish this next month so in the meantime get the lads into good trim by plenty of exercise which very seldom hurts anyone under ninety and I'll write part two for you before that championship.

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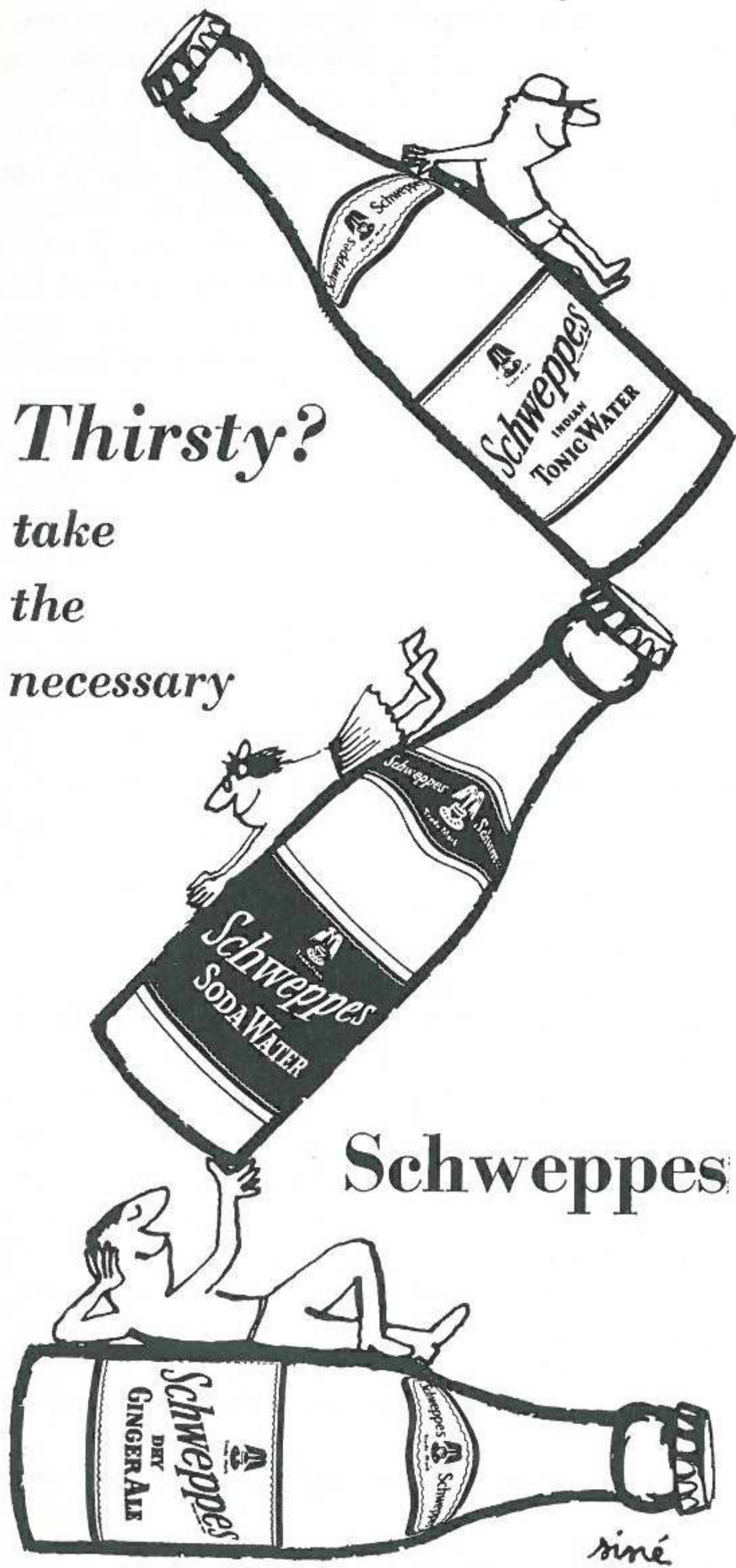
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Dan McAreavey of Armagh

By JOHN D. GRANT

ARMAGH's defeat by Down in the Lagan Cup at Newry just before Christmas ended the Orchard County's interest in this year's N.F.L. However most critics agreed that the Armagh team's display on that occasion augured well for the future. Small wonder therefore that Armagh folk view the coming season with hopefulness. If the improvement shown against Down is maintained then Armagh will surely trouble the best. But there is another reason for the optimism now prevalent in the county. Internally Armagh football is undergoing tremendous changes — changes which everybody hopes will yield beneficial results. One of the men most intimately connected with these changes is Armagh youthful Co. Chairman, Dan McAreavey.

Since his election two years ago a gradual transformation has taken place in Armagh. The Convention which elected him to office also made another important decision. It set up an Administration Committee to examine all aspects of the Association within the county. As a result of this Committee's recommendations a new style Co. Executive was inaugurated at the 1965 Co. Convention.

This twenty-one member Executive consists of the elected officers of the county together with hurling, handball and league (football) officials. It replaces the old Co. Board which was composed of the elected county officers plus two delegates from each club. "The old system," says the Co. Chairman, "was democracy gone mad. Meetings were overcrowded and a

whole night could be spent wrangling over a few referees' reports!"

Such routine business is now in the capable hands of the League Committee, leaving the Executive free to deal with more important matters. Clubs with an appeal or a grievance of any kind still have the right however, to put their case to a meeting of the Executive.

The coming season will also see important changes in Armagh League football. When Dan McAreavey came to office in 1964 one of his first actions was to introduce an All-County S.F.L. This proved so successful that now all League football in the county will follow a similar pattern. The League will be comprised of four Divisions with promotion and relegation in each Division. "This," stated Mr. McAreavey, "will keep teams on their toes all season, for, whether they are near the top or bottom of their Division, they will have something to fight for."

Another innovation on the Armagh football scene this year is a new knockout competition, in which all clubs participate. This competition for the O'Hare Cup, with gold medals for the winners and silver ones for the runners-up, has already given rise to much speculation. It is an open draw all the way, with first teams drawn having a home venue. With the possibility of some "giant killing" acts by the lesser clubs, interest is extremely keen. The proceeds from all matches will go towards supplementing the referee's funds.

Refereeing is a subject dear to

the heart of the Armagh Co. Chairman. Even before his election to office in Armagh he was well known as a referee of exceptional ability. When he became Co. Chairman he decided for obvious reasons to cease refereeing. "I began refereeing whilst a pupil at St. Colman's College, Newry," said Mr. McAreavey, "firstly because I knew after a few attempts that I would never become a footballer, and secondly because it gained me a free trip on the school bus to college matches." He was only twenty years old when he refereed his first senior Co. Final. Concerning this game he remarked, "I regard it as my best ever refereeing job, although it was my first big assignment."

On the question of recruitment of young referees he had this to say: "I feel that the young referee has many advantages. He is usually in better shape physically than his older counterpart. Furthermore it is more likely that he will have the sympathy of the spectators who will make allowances for his mistakes on the grounds of youth." Like most other counties Armagh could do with more referees. In an effort to recruit some new ones a six-month course of lectures and meetings was begun recently. "It is essential that we recruit new referees," said the Co. Chairman, "for no referees means no matches."

Dan McAreavey would like to see a paid full-time Co. Secretary in each county. "This idea will bring cries of 'professionalism'

(Continued overleaf)

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(From Page 37)

from some people," he remarked, "but after all the Association already employ paid officials. The task of each of these men," he continued, "would be to develop every aspect of the Association to the full in his particular county. I would offer a high salary but in return would expect results."

He also believes that each county should possess its own offices for the holding of meetings and other G.A.A. business.

The year 1965 will always be remembered by Armagh Gaels as the year the county hurlers reached the All-Ireland junior final. Admittedly they went under heavily to a fine Roscommon side but their achievement in reaching the final gave hurling in the county a great boost. It was a lucky coincidence that this achievement should be accomplished in the year that saw the Hurling Scheme launched.

Nevertheless Armagh has a long tough struggle ahead. "The absence of a hurling tradition and the fact that many of the hurlers must also act as officials, are our main drawbacks," says the Co. Chairman. However, he is full of admiration and praise for the Hurling Scheme. "It is one of the most imaginative efforts ever undertaken by the G.A.A. and deserves to succeed."

Many of the recent changes in Armagh have been made at Dan's instigation. However he himself is lavish in his praise of the men who work alongside him — men like Sean Hart, Gerry Fagan, Joe Canning, Peter McParland and Harry McGarry. "They are all hard working, devoted Gaels who are striving earnestly to further the aims of the Association in the county", states the Co. Chairman.

Dan McAreavy has one burning ambition—to steer Armagh back to the top. When addressing the delegates at this year's Co. Convention he had this to say, "I will never rest until Armagh are back as kingpins of Ulster football." I believe he will keep his promise."

THE PURCELL CLAN

HAVE you ever been to Ballymore-Eustace in Co. Kildare? Perhaps on your way to better-known Blessington, you may have fringed on the village, but certainly if you have had any handballing interests, its compact ballcourt must have been your rendezvous at some stage or other.

I watched a game there a few Sunday's ago and as the marks came rolling back in crystal-clear tones from the front of the gallery, I paused for a moment and looked for the marker.

Here, in fact, was an official who, for so long has passed unheralded and unsung, that it was time to focus the spotlight on him for a spell.

For such is Doctor Purcell. Unobtrusively he has worked zealously for handball in Ballymore-Eustace and Kildare, and like many great officials has invariably shirked the limelight. Yet, when there is a game to be refereed or marked, a journey to be made to any alley in the country, or a word of encouragement required by a Kildare player, the esteemed Doctor is always at hand.

Thus the Purcell story commences, and it is hardly just coincidence that the Doctor's sons, Dan, Billy, Matt, James and Paddy, were not alone proficient players

from an early age but, like their father, keenly interested in every aspect of the game.

Their early development in a handballing sense makes interesting reading, their latter escapades are marked with triumph, but as in all successful stories, with tragedy also.

On February 21, 1963, Paddy who had reached the minor hard-doubles final the previous season, was abruptly snatched from this earthly scene, and at once an irreplaceable void appeared in the Purcell family and in the Kildare handballing picture.

I remember Paddy turning in a few magnificent performances—he was equally good at both softball and handball — and his stylish touches earmarked him as a player who would reach the top.

Modesty was his greatest characteristic, for he appeared completely oblivious to his own capabilities — a fact which probably accounted for the nerves he was inclined to show in the ballcourt.

Besides handball Paddy was also a recognised cross-country runner, and while at school was not found wanting at football either.

The young Purcells spent their earlier days in Dublin, but in 1947 moved to Naas and in 1950 to their present home in Ballymore-Eustace. The encouragement of their father and the proximity of

the alley spurred in them a desire for handball.

From 1953 onwards their names have in turn been making handball news whether in colleges, club or inter-county competition.

Matt, who was the best player in the family, had the unique distinction of representing Kildare in all four minor grades for four successive years. In 1958 at the tender age of 15 he took his first All-Ireland title when partnered by Robin Winders, a feat which he repeated in 1960 with Jackie Byrne.

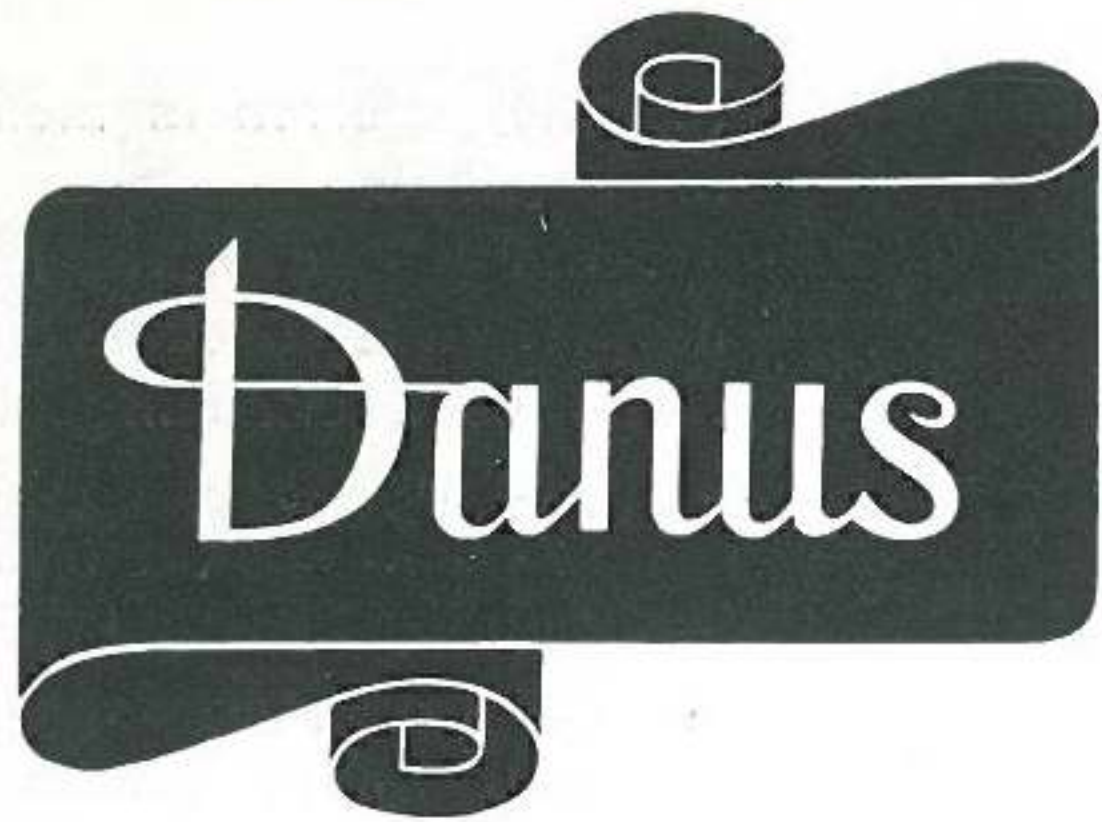
That same year Matt also landed the elusive hard singles trophy. His final year in the minor grade, 1961, should have been the crowning one of his career but having qualified as the Kildare representative in the four grades, injury and illness caught up with him and it proved to be rather a nightmare season.

In 1963 Matt transferred his allegiance to Dublin, the county of his birth, and played in both the hard singles and doubles. In the latter, with Mick Sullivan as partner, he won a Leinster title, but was beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final by the Gilmores of Cavan.

While Matt is best remembered as a player, anybody who attended the Annual Congress in 1962 cannot forget the efforts he made to revolutionise the game with his "time-basis" motions. He was unsuccessful, but there is no doubt that the changes which have taken place in the meantime can be partially attributed to him.

Meantime, the other members of the family still continue to give unstinted service to the game. Indeed one could write a volume on the "Purcells of Handball."

As a unit they have spared no effort in fostering the game and it in turn has greatly benefitted by their presence.



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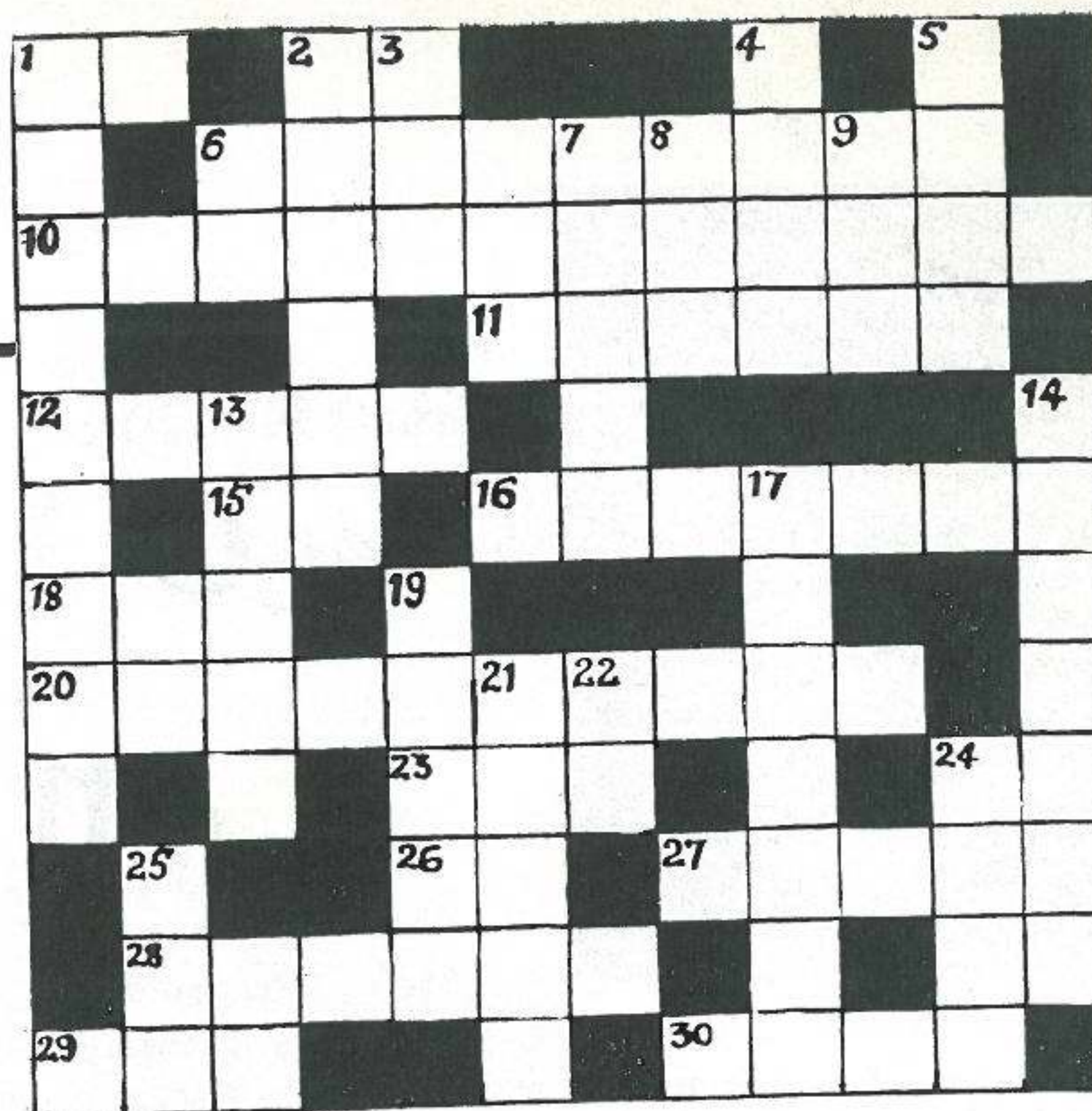
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GAELIC GAMES CROSSWORD

By PERMUTER

CLUES ACROSS

1. A small advertisement.
2. A qualification possessed by people who have never been lacking in their support of the Association nor in the coaching of the young. Of course, it could be the Galway full-back too. (2)
6. Strong beginning which is so necessary to a team in every match. (4, 5)
10. This could be where Dermot O'Brien played for Louth, though, for once he seems to be late starting. (5, 7)
11. A Roscommon player certainly and a defender, though whether Brendan or Batt, is not clear. (1, 5)
12. Ramon turns out to be another Roscommon defender—a corner-back, this time. (5)
15. Little Alfred turns out to be a sterling Cork half-back—initials. (2)
16. A solid man in Galway's backline for a number of years, centre half or left back. (1, 6)
18. When a player is unwell he will be absent, no doubt. (3)
20. To do this one does not need to be a professional salesman, just a clever forward. (4, 1,5)
23. You can't be a footballer, or hurler for that matter, if you cannot do this. (3)
24. At centre-field for Tipp. Initials. (2)
26. Second to Tony Wall in GAELIC SPORT'S placings for hurler of 1965. Initials.
27. There was one on the first team that ever won a football All-Ireland (Limerick); and there was one on the first team that brought the title to Kerry. (5)
28. Galway exile who gave no end of trouble to his native county recently. (1, 5)
29. For championship games all goals must be equipped with one. (3)



30. Many a battle has left one; so has many a hurling injury. (4)

CLUES DOWN

1. Document which every team must present to the referee before the game begins. (1, 4, 4)
2. A player's ordinary form. (6)
3. Wet ball shows the treachery of such a method of kicking the ball. (3)
4. Paddy Brosnan of Dingle. (4)
5. Four-fifths of a third. (4)
6. A Kerry back from the forties, with a surname the same as a Kilkenny forward of present day. Initials. (2)
7. Hard or Firm. (5)
8. That they endeavour to do their best is all one can ask. (3)
9. Regional Automobile Club? (3)
13. Might be something held by 9 down, or a comeback from apparent defeat. (5)
14. One of the best Clare and Munster forwards in the last couple of decades. (1, 6)
17. Very nearly the All-Ireland champions of 1940. (7)
19. Ball-playing and clever Meath forward. (5)
21. As good a place-kicker as there is in football. (5)
22. International Peace-keeping Organisation? (Initials). (2)
24. Many a one shed in disappointment. (4)
25. A short league. (3)

(SOLUTION: PAGE 48)



C.L.S. AGUS AN NÁISIÚN

AR imir Pádraig Mac Piarais peil Gaelach ariamh? Ní fios dom. Cén club de chuid an Chumainn Lúchleas Gael lena raibh baint ag Tomás Mac Donncha? Ní heol dom go raibh sé 'na bhall d'aon chlub. Seachas Micheál Ó Coileáin, a d'imir iomáint in Londain, níl aon eolas agam faoi'n bhaint a bhí ag Taoisigh 1916 leis an gCumann; agus ní dóigh liom go ndeineann sé difir ar bith.

Dúbhras cheana san iris seo agus deirim arís gur féidir le duine ar bith bheith 'na fhíor-Éireannach gan cluichí na nGael d'imirt **ach go mbíonn deis níos fear ag duine claoi le cultúir na nGael** má bhíonn sé 'na bhall de cheann de na Cumainn a bunaoidh d'aon gnó chun leasa an Ghaelachais, pé aca i dtaca le cluichí, ceol nó teanga iad.

Aontóidh gach duine gurab sár-fhir iad laochra an Éirí Amach 1916; gurab daoine iad le meanma, crógacht agus éirim aigne than an gcoitinn. Bhí dúil chun báis aca go ndéanfaí náisiún neamhspleach den dtír seo. Ní dóigh liom go gcuirfeadh an chineál cluiche a d'imríodar isteach ar an bpríomh-sprioc; ní dóigh liom go raibh an tam ná an deis aca bachaint le cluiche ar bith. Ach má bhí

'Ceistiúchán Poiblí' ann lena linn agus go gcuirtí ceist mar seo ar dhuine aca "An gceapann tú an bhfuil cumann peile ar bith sa tír than aon cheann eile, a mhúnlódh aosóg na tíre chun na cuspóirí Náisiúnta atá in aigne agat a chur i gcrích?" is dóigh liom go nabródh sé "Sea, an Cumann Lúchleas Gael."

Táid ann adeir nach raibh aon bhaint oifigiúil ag an gCumann le Cogadh na Saoirse. Agus ní raibh. Is ionann é agus ag rá nach bhfuil aon bhaint oifigiúil leis an gCumann Staonadh ón Oil leis an iarracht chun méid na gceadúnas tábhairne do laghdú. Ach tá's ag an saol fódhlach go bhfuil gach ball den Chumann úd, mar bhall, i bhfábhar a leithéid.

B'iad na cumainn saighdiúirachta agus na cumainn polataíochta a ba cionntsiochair, go hoifigiúil, le Cogadh na Saoirse. Is Cumann neamh-pholaitiúil é an Cumann Lúchleas Gael agus is fearde mar sin é. Conus a fhéadfadh sé blianta an Chogaidh Chathardha a chur de marach nach raibh baint oifigiúil aige le drong ar bith? Ach, níor chuir an Cumann in aghaidh an Éirí Amach. A mhalairt ar fad. Más Cumann é 'na dtagann

daoine le chéile chun gné amháin den Náisiúntacht a chleacta an gceptar nach dtugann sé caoi agus deis ag na baill gnéithe eile den Náisiúntacht a phlé agus gníom- artha chun leasa na tíre a bheartú?

Sa lá atá inniu ann tugann an Cumann cabhair go hoifigiúil do ghluaiseacht aithbheochana na teanga agus, ar fud na tíre, comhoibríonn baill an Chumainn le gruaiseachtaí eile mar Chomhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann agus tá ag gach mac máthar an snaidhm atá eadar náisiúntaigh an Tuaiscirt lena gcomhmhuintir sa Chumann taobh ó dheas den teorainn.

Ar aon bhealach is dóigh liom nach bhfuil dream eile ar bith sa tír a leanann teagaisc an Phiar-saigh, eadhon, Saoirse agus Gaol- achas, chomh dlúth daingin leis an gCumann Lúchleas Gael. Ach faríor tá na "saoi" ann anois adeir nach raibh an Ghaeilge chomh tábhachtach sin in aigne an Phiar-saigh mar gur scríobhadh An Fhórógra as Béarla!

Mar adúirt Barnum beirtear amadán gach noiméad agus, do réir deallraimh, tá níos mó ná a scar féin ag Éire bocht.



LOOKING AROUND

THE ROSE OF TRALEE DID IT IN STYLE

By BRIAN DOHERTY

HATS off to the Drumaness football club. "Never heard of 'em," you say. Well they are Down junior football champions and what is more they know a good-looking girl when they see one.

You remember the "calendar affair" and the smashing looking model whom a certain copy-writer thought was the odd-woman-out because she was a keen follower of Gaelic games? Well, while it was all happening the Drumaness club was celebrating its junior championship victory and the medals were presented at the annual club céilí.

Who do you think was there to present the medals—the President of the G.A.A.? Definitely not. The calendar model? Yes, now you are on the right track—but it wasn't she. It was in fact Teresa Gillespie, the reigning "Rose of Tralee."

Teresa is a native of Belfast and also a keen follower of Gaelic games. She also favours céilí dancing. So the club had her along and she did the honours with style. It was almost as good as getting two medals.

Drumaness are a particularly progressive club. As well as being to the forefront on the field they run regular céilí dances and an Irish class which is well attended.

HANDBALL GENIUS

I was reading recently of Jimmy Jacobs who is the undisputed American handball king and

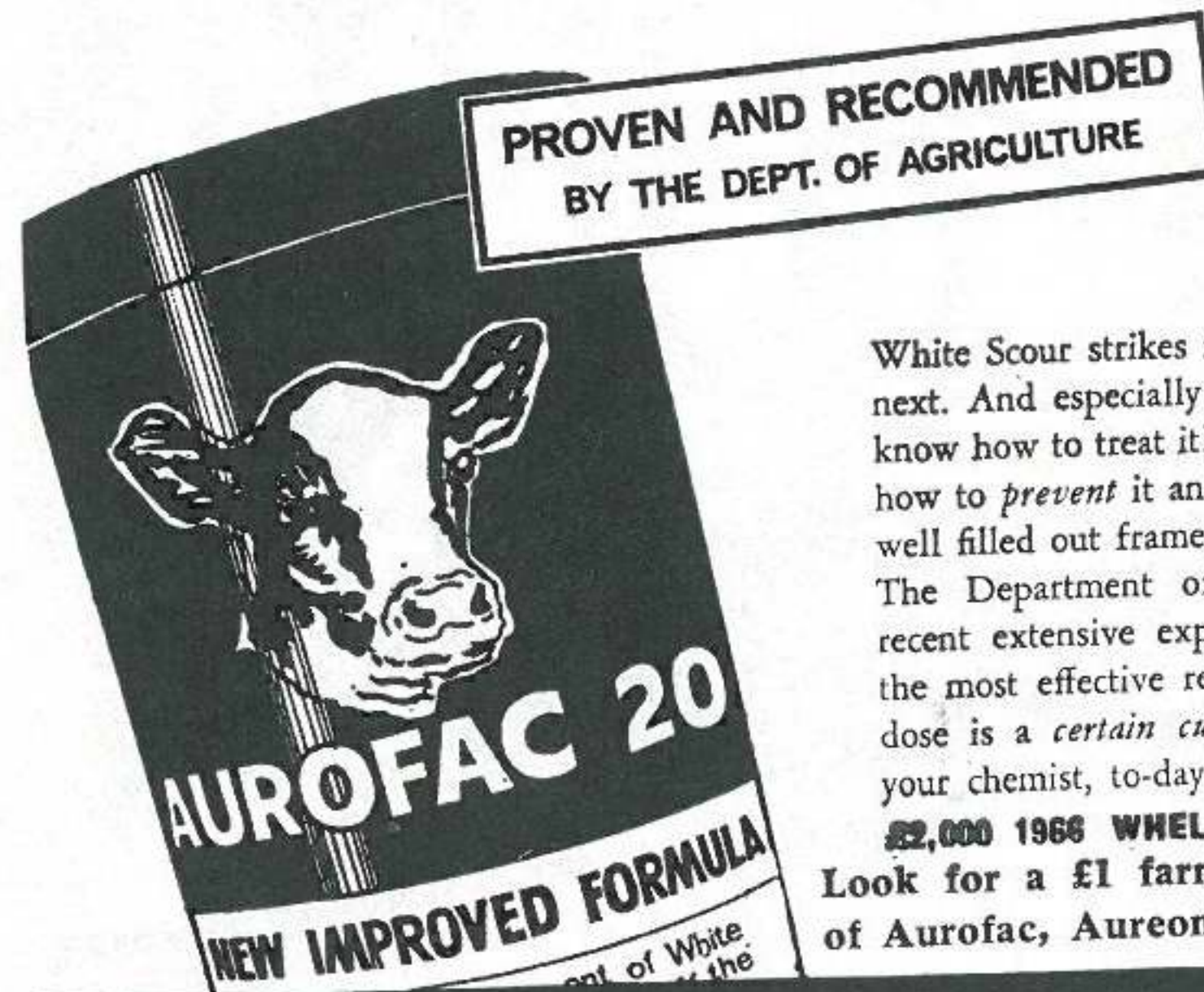
generally regarded by those who know, as the greatest player of all time. You may be interested in hearing something about him.

Jimmy's game is four-wall hand-

ball. (My colleague, Alleyman, wrote all about U.S. handball in the November issue). He has won six U.S. Handball Association singles

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● **FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**
titles and, partnering Marty Decatur, has shared in four doubles titles.

The doubles partnership is unbeatable—and I mean unbeatable. In four years they have never been beaten—not alone that but they have not dropped a single game.

But that is not the half of it. On his own Jimmy Jacobs is also a star doubles player. Recently he took on one of America's leading doubles pairing, Ruby and Carl

Obert, and on his own whipped them without having to work up a sweat.

Back six years ago, before Jacobs struck up his unbeatable partnership with Marty Decatur, he was partnered by Dick Weisman in the 1960 U.S. doubles final. They lost the first game and were down 15-3 in the second game when Jacobs asked Weisman to stand at the back of the court and leave the rest to him. He then went on to win that second game and then

polish-off the decisive third and so take the championship.

Jacobs is now 35. He stands 5'-9" and weighs 12 stone 7 lbs. It is said that he could have been a world-beater in almost any sport he might have chosen. He was once invited to take part in an Olympic basketball trial. As a youth he used to run the 100 yards in 9.8 seconds.

I wonder if there is any chance of Irish handball fans getting a look at wonder-man Jimmy Jacobs. How about it Alleyman. I would like to hear your views next month.

CLUB FIGURES

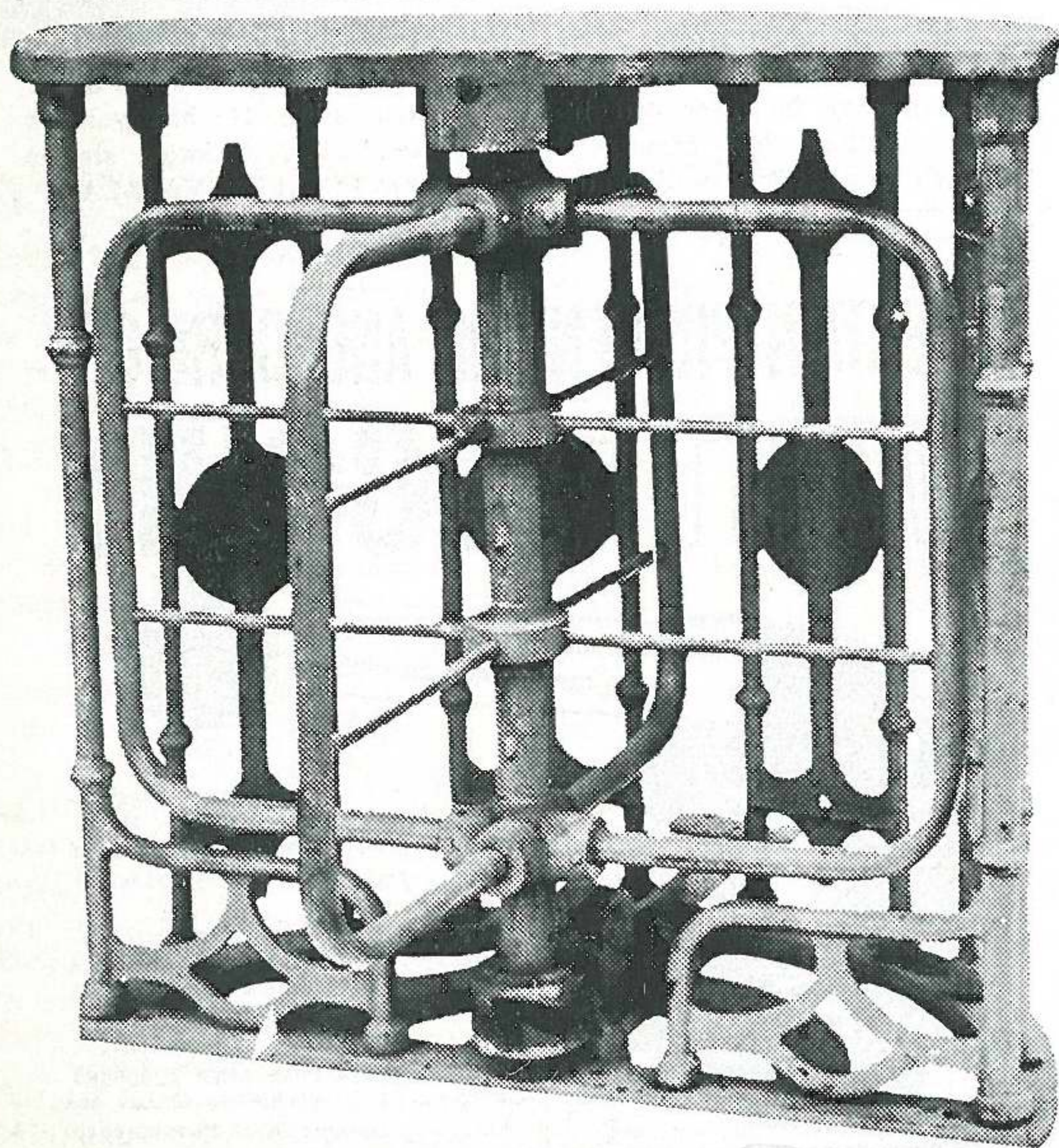
I have been going over the list of club appearances in Sean O Siochain's Annual Report and have worked out the following tables. Not included are the lesser units of the G.A.A. such as Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, the American Board, etc.

Cork, as has been the case for many a day, heads the list with 238 clubs but a cross-check with the 1964 figures shows a drop of three applications. Wexford holds second place with an unchanged figure of 191 but Galway have jumped into third spot and ahead of Dublin with a current total of 184 clubs. The Tribesmen show a huge increase of 15 on 1964 figures.

However, the biggest increase was in Glasgow which had only four clubs in 1964 and now has 25. Other noteworthy increases are Warwickshire — up thirteen; Antrim—up eleven; Donegal — up seven and Waterford with an increase of six applications.

The biggest drop came in Meath—down 17. This, in fact, is the only noteworthy fall in applications and one can only conclude that it had something to do with the angry mood which has prevailed in that county of late.

It is interesting to note that, with 68 clubs, London is listed above no less than fifteen home counties—including such as Louth, Down, Cavan and Derry.



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It would also appear that club strength does not necessarily have a bearing on intercounty success. Cork, for example, has two and a half times the club strength of Tipperary, while Wexford, Limerick, Waterford and Kilkenny (all primarily hurling counties) are also well above the All-Ireland champions.

It is also to be noted that Warwickshire has more clubs than Monaghan, Fermanagh, Leitrim or Longford. But then I suppose that there are many more Irishmen in Warwickshire than there are in most home counties.

	1965	1964	Change
Cork	238	235	(- 3)
Wexford	191	191	(-)
Galway	184	169	(+15)
Dublin	177	179	(- 2)
Limerick	164	167	(- 3)
Waterford	147	141	(+ 6)
Kilkenny	130	130	(-)
Antrim	126	115	(+11)
Meath	112	129	(-17)
Tipperary	95	105	(-10)
Clare	92	90	(+ 2)
Laois	84	84	(-)
Donegal	82	75	(+ 7)
Mayo	77	77	(-)
Kerry	76	75	(+ 1)
Offaly	74	76	(- 2)
Kildare	70	69	(+ 1)
London	68	70	(- 2)
Louth	67	68	(- 1)
Derry	67	66	(+ 1)
Down	66	66	(-)
Cavan	60	56	(+ 4)
Wicklow	60	60	(-)



A new action picture of the Dublin forward, Brian McDonald.

Westmeath	60	57	(+ 3)	Warwickshire	47	34	(+13)
Roscommon	55	55	(-)	Monaghan	45	41	(+ 4)
Tyrone	52	52	(-)	Fermanagh	44	43	(+ 1)
Carlow	50	50	(-)	Leitrim	43	43	(-)
Armagh	47	52	(- 5)	Longford	41	41	(-)
Sligo	47	47	(-)	Glasgow	25	4	(+21)

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TALKS TO

SEAN O'DONNELL

EVER since Donegal ran rings around Cavan in the 1963 Ulster semi-final, football followers throughout the country and Donegal supporters in particular, have been expecting a major breakthrough by the men from Tír

Chonail. Why has it not materialised? Who knows! Big-match nerves, inexperience, bad luck, injuries to key-men, etc., etc. One could go on and on and maybe still not come up with the right answer. Make no mistake about

it, Donegal have fifteen men good enough to win an All-Ireland title.

Watching them defeating a much-fancied Down team in the Dr. Lagan Cup final at Dungannon last month I got the feeling that perhaps 1966 would finally see the Donegalmen emerge as the great team we all know they are capable of being. I got this feeling not so much by their display of football or the manner in which they set about winning but more important to me was their spirit. They played like a TEAM, they functioned like one unit, and it is this team-spirit which, to my mind, will eventually transform Donegal from being a very good team into a great one. With trainer Gerry Griffin to urge them on, my tip for 1966 is—watch Donegal!

Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing that great Donegal man who over the years has given such loyal service both to his native county and his province, Sean Ferriter. Sean who learned his football at St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny, has also represented his county as a minor and is currently playing club football with Dungloe. Our interview went as follows:—

O'Donnell—Are there any special plans for the coming championship in regard to training?

Ferriter—No, Sean, we have no special training lined-up at the moment. I don't think there will be as much training done as last year, but I intend to train about two or three nights a week, at least.



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O'D.—What county do you fear most in Ulster and do you think this will be Donegal's year?

F.—No members of the team, myself included, fear any county in Ulster, we respect their potential and naturally hope to do better than any of them but I am not making any predictions about Donegal or our prospects.

O'D.—Are you satisfied with the standard served up by the county in recent games?

F.—Yes indeed I am, they have done us proud in almost every match and I am glad to say that even in that tough hour against Down every man kept a cool head and that perhaps helped more than anything to win this all-important game.

O'D.—To what do you attribute the all-round improvement in the team?

F.—I attribute our improvement to our trainer, Gerry Griffin, he is a great inspiration to the side and the players have great confidence in him. In fact I don't think you would find a better man for the job anywhere in Ireland.

O'D.—What do you consider to have been Donegal's biggest handicap down the years?

F.—Yes, that is a good question Sean and one which many people have been asking for some time. I believe the answer is that because of the long distances which the players have to travel is, of itself, a serious handicap and I have no hesitation in saying that that is why we have not made the progress expected of us.

O'D.—Do you believe challenge games are of any benefit to a county team?

F.—I think they could be of great benefit providing both teams turn out at full strength and give of their best, but you cannot expect the players to turn up unless there is something to be won and believe me this is most important, especially in challenge matches.

O'D.—Are you satisfied with the talent available to the selectors at the moment and do you believe we can look forward to seeing the county bring off that long awaited All-Ireland success in the not too distant future?

F.—I am satisfied with the talent available to the selectors and I believe our future chances are very bright of taking an All-Ireland, that is providing we keep at it and spare no effort.

O'D.—Is there a particular game that stands out in your memory?

F.—Yes, the 1963 Ulster semi-final when we beat Cavan was a wonderful thrill and it will remain forever in my memory.

O'D.—How about disappointments?

F.—The Ulster final of 1963 was perhaps my greatest disappointment. After that great win over Cavan we thought Down would be a push-over, but the Mournemen had other ideas.

O'D.—Who is the best player you ever had to play on?

F.—There are two, Jarlath Carey and Raymond Carolan.

O'D.—How do you manage to keep fit during the winter?

F.—I usually train by running up and down on the strand near my home and I find by the time the football season comes around I've worked-up a wonderful appetite for the game.

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DUTY OF THE G.A.A.

WHEN the G.A.A. was founded in 1884 it might be said that one of the first blows was struck in the cause of Irish freedom. We cannot measure the value of native games, native speech and music, but until we have the spirit of the men of the past generations leaping in the hearts of our youth the unity and strength of Ireland will never be restored. It is our duty at all levels of the Association to try to infuse that spirit into our youth by having them study more closely the men of 1916 and help them understand what they set out to achieve.

"Let us not fool ourselves. The spiritual conquest of Ireland which the British for so long failed to achieve, seems to be almost complete. Are we conscious of our own strength? How long more are we going to stand by and allow ourselves to be carried away in this mad rush of aping the foreigners? We must do everything humanly possible to beat every influence that is anti-national remembering

the words of the Bishop O'Dwyer of Limerick when he said: "Ireland will never be content to be a province. God has made her a nation and while grass grows there will be men to dare and die for her. It is the national spirit that will yet vindicate our glorious country."

[Extract from the Connacht Convention address of Chairman Denis Gallagher of Mayo.]

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

● FROM PAGE 41

1	A	D		2	N	3	T		4	B	5	I					
	T		6	G	O	O	D	7	S	8	T	9	A	10	R	T	
11	E	N	T	R	E	F	O	R	W	A	R	D					
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		28	G	L	Y	N	N			I		A	T				
29	N	E	T						30	S	C	A	R				

● FROM PAGE 23

beat Cork, 6-1 to 3-3 and Clare defeated All-Ireland champions Laois, 5-4 to 4-2.

Due to damage to the tracks and cutting of telegraph wires around Ballybrophy, some of the trains returning from these matches were held up that Sunday night. Then on Easter Monday, the Dublin Brigade of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizen Army and the Hibernian Rifles "came out" in Dublin, and a new era in Irish history had begun.

The Rising itself need not concern us here, but it is interesting to note the fate of the G.A.A. men who took part. Padraig Pearse had been at first Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the Leinster Colleges' Council.

Of the other executed leaders, Con Colbert, Michael Hanrahan, Thomas Ceannt and Sean McDermott had all been connected with the Association. Also sentenced to death were J. J. Walsh, Chairman Cork County Board, Jack Shuldice of the Dublin football team, and Con O'Donovan of the Dublin Collegians, but these sentences were commuted. Harry Boland, Chairman of Dublin County Board and Austin Stack the former Kerry captain and Central Council representative were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, while hundreds of other G.A.A. men did shorter terms in gaol, including Alderman Jim Nowlan, President of the Association.

Dan McCarthy was so grievously wounded that his life was despaired of, while amongst the dead were many almost unknown members of the Dublin hurling and football clubs, including the first to fall, Sean Connolly the actor, who was also a well-known goalkeeper.

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Leitrim, at Roscommon

June 19th : Sligo v. Mayo,
at Sligo

SEMI-FINAL

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Roscommon or Leitrim

Venue to be arranged

FINAL ON JULY 10th

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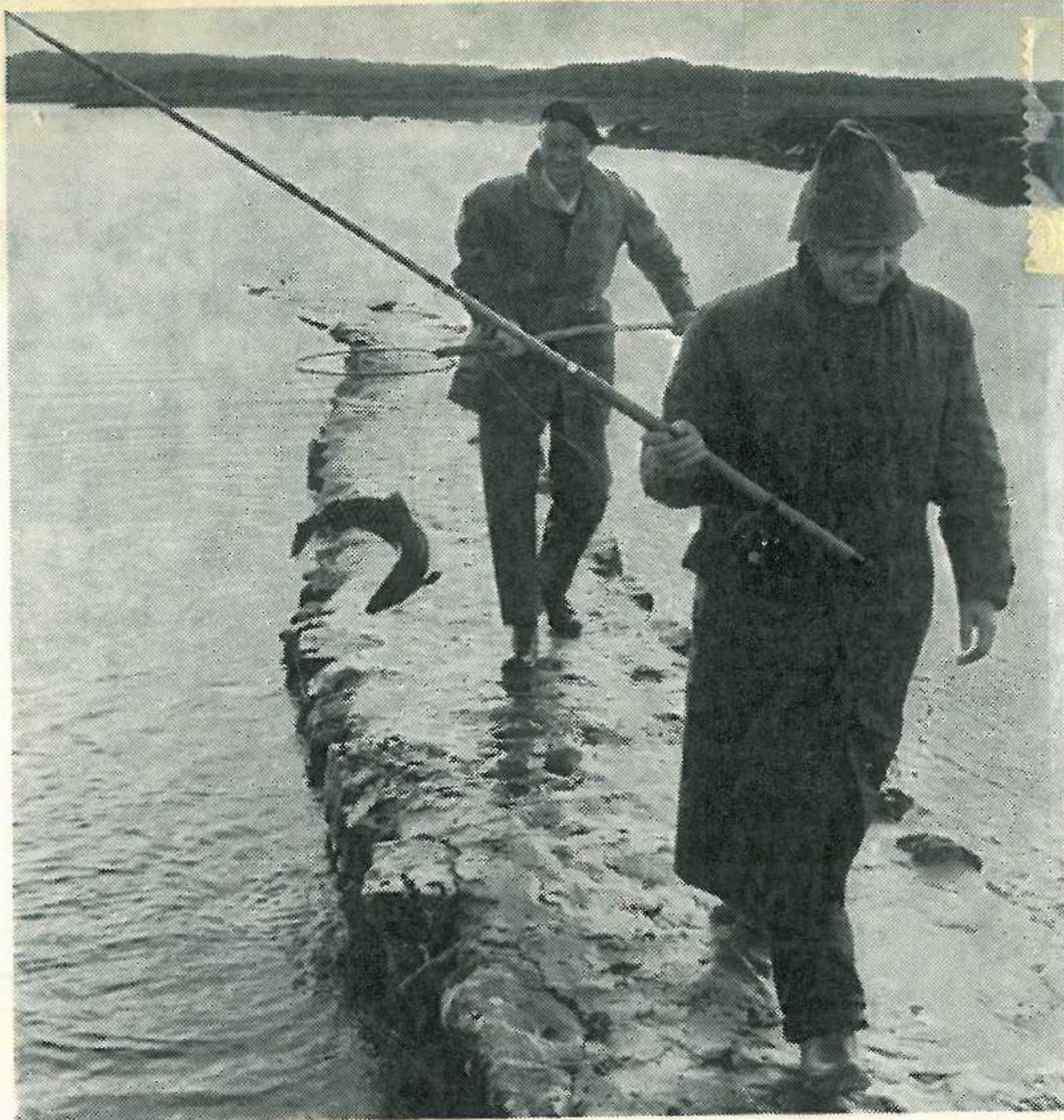
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