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GAA

Gaelic Sport

JANUARY, 1966.

Vol. 9. No. 1.

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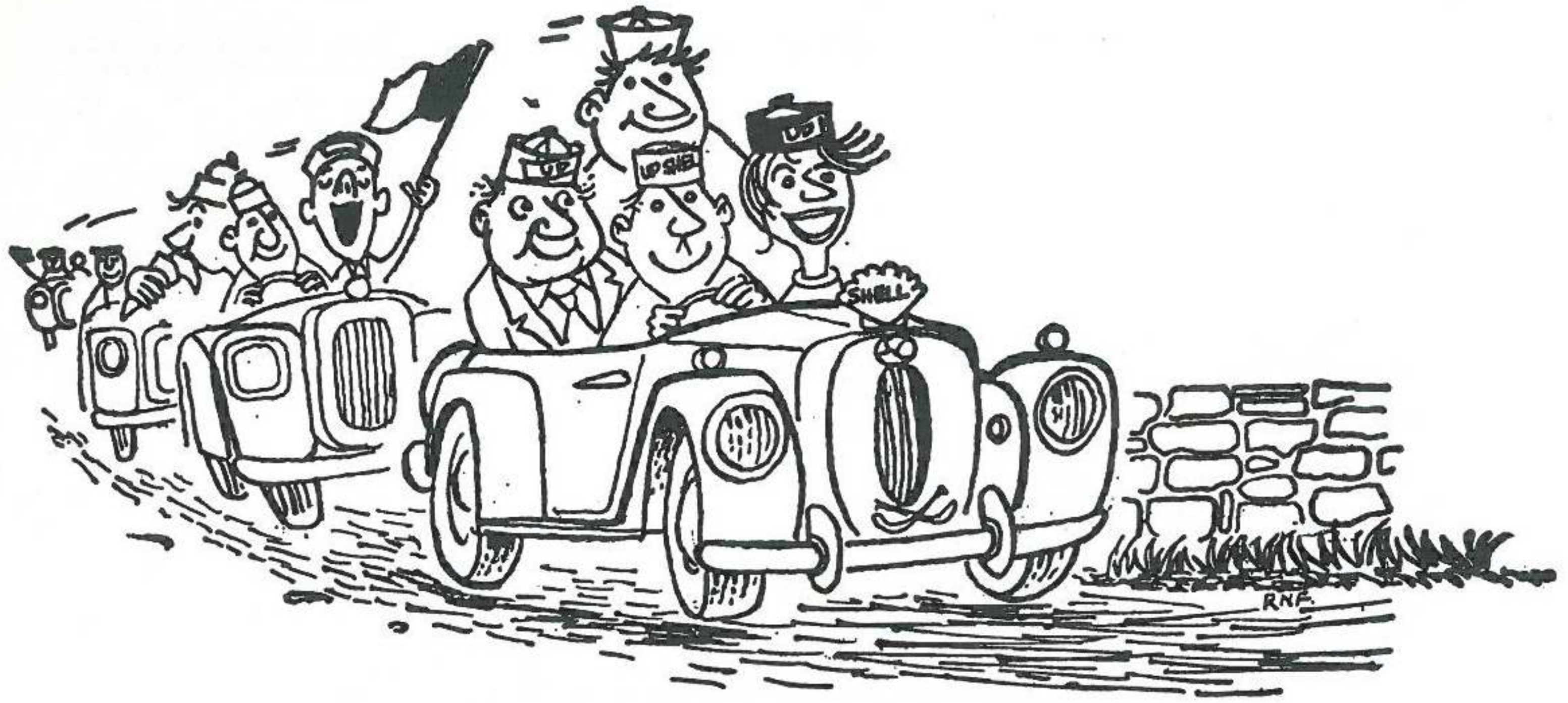
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GALWAY'S EXAMPLE

OF all counties Galway has had the most frustrating hurling history. Eight senior and seven minor final appearances bought but one lone victory in 1923. Fate and geographic situation seemed to combine to keep Galway down and, in a way, it was not surprising that eventually the county should slide backwards to a position not far removed from that of the weaker hurling areas.

But now things have changed. Galway is fighting back with greater man-power and resources than it has ever marshalled before. In doing so it has become the pace-setter for the entire national revival of hurling.

The current issue of "An Camán", the official organ of the Hurling Scheme, bears testimony of Galway endeavour and we would add our voice to that of those who have already said—"Well done Gaillimh".

It is in no way rash to suggest that by 1970-'75 Galway will be a major hurling power. The county must succeed if it continues its present programme. Great effort always bears fruit and there is certainly a great and determined effort behind Galway's hurling revival.

It strikes us too that Galway is the ideal county to lead the hurling resurgence. They are the football champions and as such they illustrate how both games should, and must, go hand in hand complimenting one another.

The hurling revival is certainly succeeding. It will continue to succeed while all counties follow the lead and the pace being set by the youth of Galway.

OUR COVER PICTURE

OUR cover this month features Gaelic Sport's Stars of Hurling and Football for 1965—Tony Wall and Johnny Geraghty. Special articles on the two men appear in pages 12 and 14. The full list of ratings in both games appears in pages 26 and 27.

Message

from

Alf Ó Muirí

UACHTARAN, C.L.G.

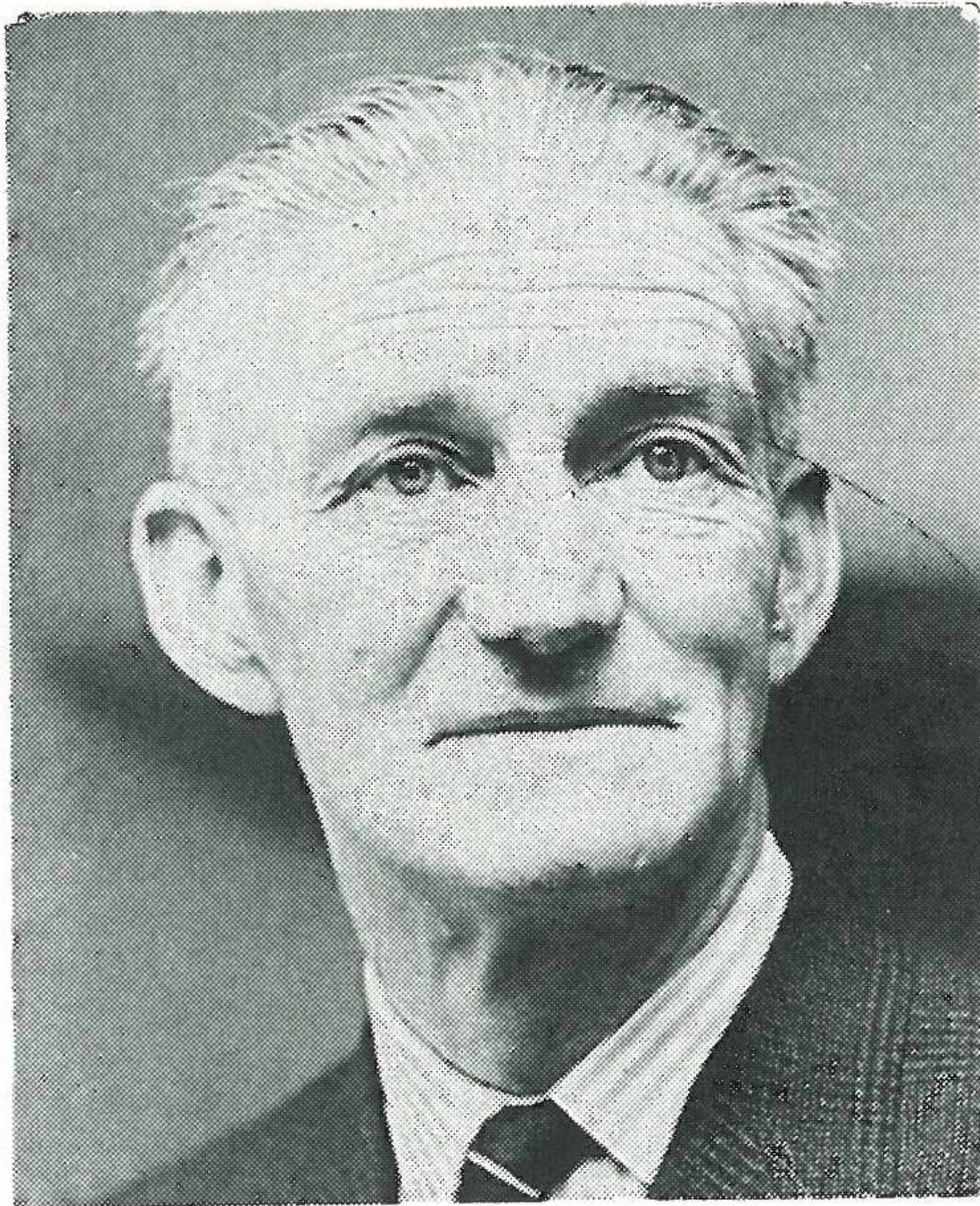
TÁ comóradh iubhaile Eirí Amach na Cásca builte linn anois agus tá sé riachtanach an ocaíd a chur chun mórchuid tairbhíthe. Éire saor is Gaelach a bhí uathu siúd a dhein iobairt fola 1916 agus go dtí go mbíonn san againn tá mórán le déanamh.

Mar thús is gá spiorad na Cásca a athmhúscailt agus má thagann linn san a dhéanamh sa bhliain atá romhainn beidh an taon saghas comóradh gur fiú é déanta againn ar Laochra 1916.

The invitation to address readers of GAELIC SPORT in this the first issue of 1966 gives me an opportunity to take a practical look at what we might do to make the year ahead, the Golden Jubilee of the Easter Rising, as memorable and as worthwhile as it should be.

None of us in the G.A.A., I am sure, would be content to merely revive the memory of the men who fought and died fifty years ago. We would, I hope, be anxious to revive the spirit that inspired them and be anxious too, if this spirit still lives in us, to seek some practical ways in which we can serve our country with their devotion.

Our first and most important duty must therefore be to bring home to our youth some understanding of the patriotic motives that inspired the sacrifice of 1916. We must see that they understand how the flame of National Pride



THE CALL OF DUTY

had flickered almost to extinction; how, little by little, it was revived amongst the faithful few; how, in the face of passive scorn and active opposition, the supreme sacrifice was undertaken so that our Nation might be cleansed and might live its own natural life again.

We must help them to see that apathy and cynicism and materialism may quench that flame again and that all may be lost.

We must show them that unselfish devotion to a National Ideal is the fuel for its brighter burning and for the illumination of the Ireland for which the men of 1916 aspired.

We are the generation to which the men of 1916 passed on the torch. We have failed them in many respects but our failure to revive the language is the one which most cries "Shame" upon us. Could not a great effort to

revive the language be our revolution of 1966?

There is not one in Ireland but could help the language in some way—either by showing an active interest in its revival; by creating an atmosphere in which speaking Irish becomes an accepted practice; or, best of all, by speaking what Irish we know. “Labhairim an Ghaeilge in onóir doibh” could be a Golden Motto for a Golden Year.

There are, of course, many ways in which love of country may be expressed. Every Irishman worthy of the name should select at least one way in this Jubilee year—making his service to it the expression of his own patriotism.

The way selected may have no direct link with the G.A.A., but sincere members of our Association, who value our connection with the events of 50 years ago, will think our organisation deserves some special care and effort in this year of re-awakening.

Despite the strength we have, there is still tremendous work to be done—especially if we are to achieve our ambition of reviving our great national game.

The complete revival of hurling calls aloud for enthusiasm, for sustained devotion and for patriotic determination. Handball requires more covered and lighted alleys. Clubs need to expand their activities. Grounds throughout the country need more facilities for both players and spectators. A literature on our games and on our Association is being built-up and needs every assistance. If there is the desire to serve a National Cause, there is certainly an opportunity for doing so in the ranks of the G.A.A.

The year ahead offers great facility but it will have little lasting effect unless we—each and every one of us, do our share to promote pure patriotism and unless we help to provide the opportunities for its expression.

Cuirimís chuige.

THE EDITOR ASKS

What has the old year yielded?

THE year 1965 has come and gone and in assessing it one is confronted by a variety of angles. Perhaps the best way of doing it is to approach it as one might the year's accounts, with the credit and debit entries. Let us take the credit side first.

1. The Hurling Revival. A very ambitious five-year scheme was begun last March. It set targets and demanded results. The past year did all that was required of it—and more.

The current issue of “An Caman” states that over 38,000 boys engaged in juvenile hurling during 1965. This is estimated as an 80 per cent. increase on 1964. There is no industrialist or economic planner who would not delight at such an upsurge in productivity. So too must the G.A.A. The hurling revival in 1965 qualifies for full marks.

2. Grounds Development: In this regard there was tremendous progress during the past year. Many grounds throughout the country enjoyed face-lifts, extensions and a variety of improvements. At the same time work at major venues such as Thurles and Limerick progressed rapidly.

Together with this there seems to have been a complete dispelling of the old ideas often summed up in clichés like “What was good enough for your father should be good enough for you.”

The G.A.A. at large now accepts that it must have only the best for its players and spectators. Once this idea was absorbed by all, the work had to go ahead. The past year has set a lively pace in this regard and so the foundation

has been laid for a period of great development, construction and general progress with regard to grounds.

Again full marks for 1965.

3. National Policy: This time last year an outsider would have to be forgiven for thinking that the G.A.A. was split right down the middle on the question of its exclusion rules. If one judged by newspaper reports and letters, the Association was all ends up and might never come back on its feet again.

Then came Congress and the entire apparent confusion was swept away. By an overwhelming majority the assembled delegates voted in favour of keeping the Association on its well-established national course. So decisive and convincing was the whole affair that it will be a very long time before another anti-Ban campaign of any significance can be mounted.

It is obviously a lost cause and few rally to these.

Again well done 1965.

4. Organisation and Planning: One gets the impression that the G.A.A. is now more sound from an organisational point of view than it has ever been. There are sub-committees of able men in charge of every aspect of the Association's work and planning seems to be just as much the thing in Croke Park these days as it is in Government circles the world over.

Much of the planning development came into being during 1965. Its fruits will not, of course, be seen until later years.

Under the heading of organisation comes the recent bringing

● TO PAGE 7



PARTY?

What's a party? Two people and a television (or seven and a celebration) – and **CLOVER** cooked meats. The perfect recipe



CLOVER

together of County Chairmen and it would appear that this is but the beginning of a general tightening up organisationally. It will all result in a more smoothly functioning G.A.A.

Again full marks 1965.

5. Publications: It would appear that 1965 marked the turn in the long battle for regular and worthwhile G.A.A. publications. It is some years since this magazine suggested that the battle would be a losing one until Croke Park itself took a hand. This was most definitely done in 1965 and so the tide has turned.

Heading the list of publications is Tony Wall's book "Hurling". It has already received all the praise it deserves and is now on its way towards selling out a second edition.

Then there were the new-type All-Ireland final programmes which displayed the best in Irish printing and design and projected a new image of the G.A.A.

As well as these Croke Park issued its monthly "An Caman"—a publication confined to the various branches of the Association and to the press. It provided a detailed report each month on the hurling drive and as a result kept everybody concerned both informed and on their toes.

From Croke Park too came the very readable little book "Ash Trees for Hurling" and "Hurling for Beginners," an attractive brochure which packed into its pages all a hurling beginner needed to know.

In addition Croke Park published another edition of the new-look "Our Games Annual," as well-produced and as attractive a publication as there is in the country.

Excluding these official publications there were of course the regulars such as "Gaelic Sport," "Gaelic Weekly," the "Cuchulainn

Annual," etc.—all combining to make it a record year for G.A.A. reading material.

Let us hope that 1966 will bring even more. There is room for all.

6. American Trips: Finally, I rate the success of the 1965 American trips of Galway and Tipperary as the last noteworthy achievement of the past year. Early in the year we were told that these trips were in danger due to the fact that they were losing money.

Then came the new deal with the two-game series for the League finals. The result was that the U.S. trips are now back on a solid financial footing and so they are likely to remain.

The confusion and chopping and changing with regard to trans-Atlantic trips seems to be finally over. So it is once again full marks for 1965.

However, now we come to the debit side of the ledger:

1. Incidents: The 1965 All-Ireland senior football final was very mild by comparison with some less publicised games. During the year I saw some club games which were frightening for their brutality and general rowdiness.

At least the football final did serve the purpose of drawing attention to the general state of things and it must have brought about an awareness of the fact that something must be done.

The age we are living in will not tolerate 19th century faction fights of the kind which I witnessed more than once during 1965. Parents do not want their sons involved and sons who know better have no wish to be involved either.

No mark in this regard for 1965. In fact, a large minus 100 would be more in order.

2. Radio and Television: At the beginning of 1965 the G.A.A. had

one television programme and one radio programme. Now it has neither. Why, we do not know.

It is a most surprising state of affairs. Gaelic Games are now mixed in with the rest on T.E. and R.E. and when one wants to get some G.A.A. reports it is necessary to sit there and absorb a variety of other sports results.

This is a most retrograde development and that it should be allowed happen is the most inexplicable feature of 1965.

Marks—minus one television and one radio programme.

3. Attendances: Attendances fell at Croke Park during 1965. The football final appeared set to draw up to 90,000—in fact most people expected a new record. Yet only 77,000 turned up.

However, there would appear to have been a general fall-off at venues other than Croke Park. This is not a very happy position—especially when we remember one attendance record after another was being set up in the early 1960's.

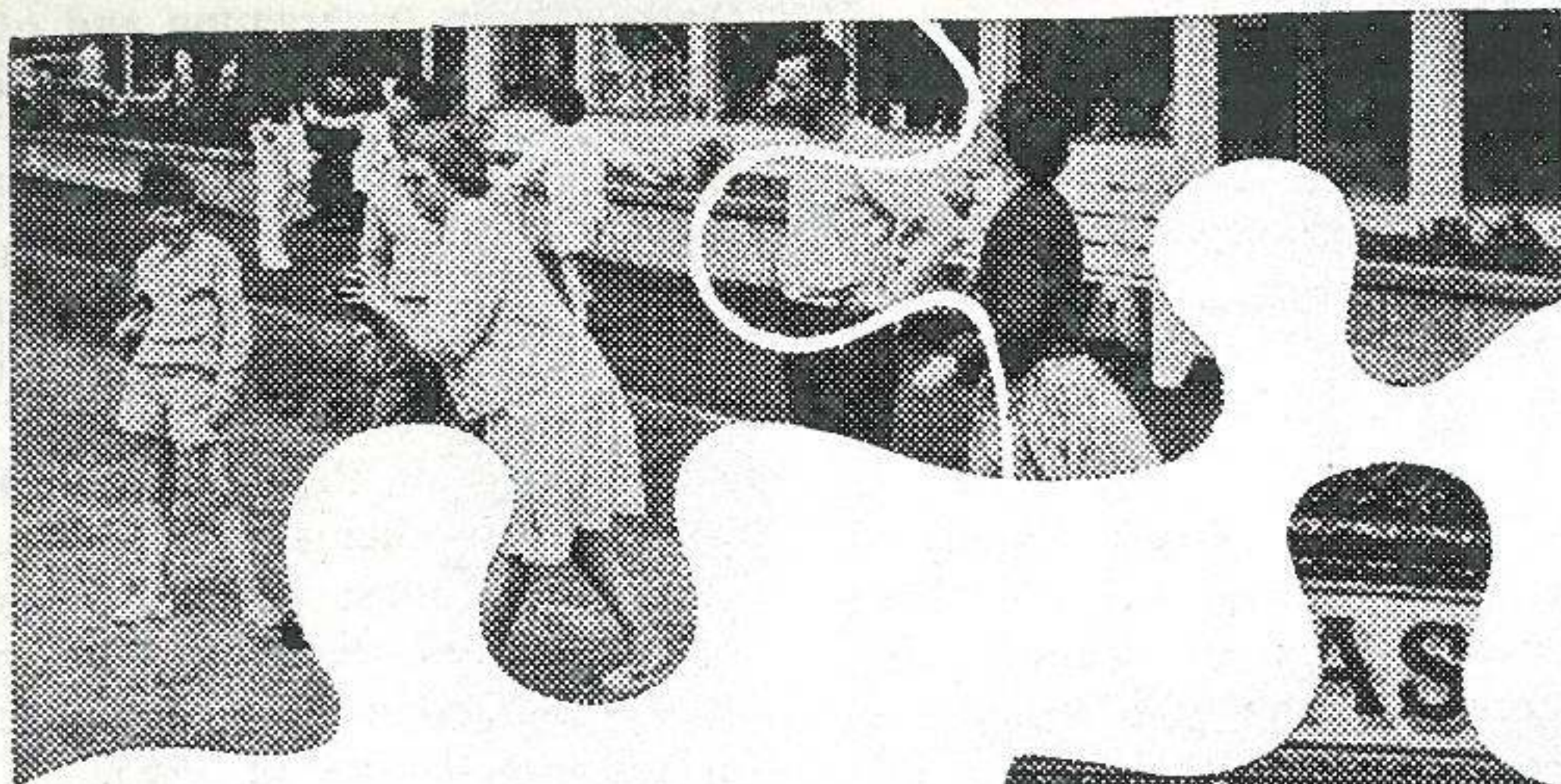
What caused it? Television probably, and, as the latter would appear to have come to stay, there may be nothing that can be done about it.

Still, no marks for attendances in 1965.

4. Hurling Competitions: Tipperary dominated senior hurling during 1965 and not a truly memorable game did I see. No one can blame Tipperary for being good—in fact they are due every praise—but the net result was a very poor year for senior hurling and no marks whatsoever.

Well, there you have it—1965 as I saw it. The credit side certainly outweighs the debits and the year showed a sizable profit. Still, we look forward to 1966 being an even better year. Who knows but that we may have to mark up only one side of the accounts and that there will be no debits.

Let's hope so.



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"HURLING" IS BEST-SELLER

G.A.A. literature has entered a new era with Tony Wall's book "Hurling" now on sale with a second edition. This is the first time in the annals of G.A.A. writing that a second printing of a book was required. Let us hope that it is but the forerunner to many.

Wall's book has already performed many a feat, not the least of which was its sales in the more exclusive Dublin bookshops. The "Irish Times" does a survey each month on the top-selling fiction and non-fiction books sold by these leading Dublin shops and the top-sellers each month are invariably the more outstanding imported publications.

This was still the case for the month of September—only that there among them in third place was "Hurling" by Tony Wall.

Of course, had the ordinary city newsagents and smaller bookshops, who sell the more popular publications, been taken into account, there is no doubt at all but that Wall would have topped them all in Dublin. And indeed if the entire country were included in the survey he would in fact have "drowned" them.

Almost the entire first printing of 5,000 copies was sold during the month of September. This could well have been a record for an Irish book whose sales were confined entirely to this country.

Incidentally, any readers who have not as yet acquired a copy of this book should do so without delay for from what we hear the second edition is already well on its way towards being sold-out. It can be had from any leading newsagent or direct from the author: Captain Tony Wall, 53 Westgate Estate, Bishoptown, Cork.

—EDITOR.



LOOKING AROUND

TEN YEARS AHEAD OF THE TIMES!

By Brian Doherty

KERRY have started something which may yet be adopted at most G.A.A. county conventions, namely postal voting. This year the county selection committees will be elected in this manner, thereby saving valuable convention time.

In a general tightening-up of county affairs, the Kingdom has now opted for special minor selection committees and a general concentration on under-age competitions which previously were not bothered with. In the past, star footballers simply grew up and required no nurturing. Now things have changed.

THE LATE "CARBERRY"

The recent passing of Paddy Mehigan ("Carberry") has robbed G.A.A. journalism of its father-figure and probably its ablest pen. He was also the first man to broadcast commentaries of Gaelic Games.

In his youth he starred for both Cork and London in hurling and football and was an All-Ireland champion athlete as well. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

WALL v. KEHIR

How doctors differ . . . Sean Og O Ceallachain was interviewing

Tony Wall and Eddie Kehir on a radio programme and he brought up the topical question of winter training. Wall considered it a "must" for every player who wished to improve on the previous year's performances. Kehir on the other hand was all against it. He felt that every player needed "a few months break." Yet both men are top stars. Still, I go for Wall's theory.

THOUGHTLESSNESS

I note that quite a few county minor finals and even one or two juvenile finals were played during December. This is outrageous—and suggests either very poor planning or little interest in under-age competitions in the counties in question. The mud and the cold of December is no time to send children out to play their finals. It is disrespectful to their parents and shows little consideration for the boys themselves.

TIPP. TOO GOOD

The price of being too good as far as the Tipperary hurlers are concerned is that they have not been invited to Wembley this year. Still, one can see the London Board's point of view—better see an evenly contested game between

two lesser teams than a devastating performance from Tipperary, brilliant though it may be, in a one-sided contest. So in its own way London's decision was quite a compliment to the Premier County.

TONY BRENNAN

God be good to Tony Brennan whose tragic death took place recently. Tony was the only hurler to win All-Ireland senior medals both as a full-back and as a full-forward.

Having first made his name as a full-back for Galway, he returned to Tipperary in the mid-'forties and won his first medal as full-forward on the 1945 team. He was at full-back on the great three-in-a-row side of 1949-'51.

IN BRIEF . . .

The Kerry County Board has presented a cup, to be known as the Paul Russell Cup, for an under-15 colleges' competition in the county.



Hearty congratulations to Kerry Chairman, Dr. Jim Brosnan, on his recent marriage.



Thurles is to have a G.A.A. museum. It will probably be housed in the new stand building.



"We hail you as the greatest" began a letter from the Tipperarymen's Association of Greater Boston congratulating the home county on its hurling triumphs. "What will Cassius Clay say," commented Chairman Jim Ryan when the letter was read at a recent Tipperary County Board meeting.



Soccer has found its way into Cavan town with a youths' team having been affiliated. Local G.A.A. scribe, P. J. O'Neill, attributes this turning away from the native games to lack of playing facilities—especially the fact that Breffni Park is always under lock and key to the youth of the town.



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ENDA COLLERAN

FACE TO FACE WITH SEÁN O'DONNELL

EENDA COLLERAN is the symbol of Galway success in 1965— young, stylish and a footballer from toe to finger-tip. The 23-year-old Mountbellew university student gave status and significance to the role of captain and his fine oration after receiving the Sam Maguire Cup was the finest we heard since Jack Mangan in 1956—in fact I would say that it surpassed Jack's.

Colleran is of a true football lineage. It was natural that he should don the maroon of Galway. In 1960 he won two All-Ireland medals—with the Galway minors and with St. Jarlath's, Tuam. It is most unlikely that he has yet reached his peak. When he does he may well prove himself to be one of the greatest defenders of all time.

I recently had the following interview with him:

O'Donnell—To what do you attribute Galway's success during the past two years?

Colleran—Team-spirit, comradeship and the fact that we developed into a closely-knit team. We know one another and one another's football; we enjoy one another's company and our football. It may be a cliché, but a true one in Galway's case—we are one big happy family.

O'D.—Galway seem to have an abundance of football talent in every grade. How come?

C.—I credit our colleges with it. They are a wonderful source of talent. Then, of course, there is a great football spirit in the county.

O'D.—Now that you have won everything that there is to be won, what are your plans for 1966?

C.—I have no specific plans other than that I intend to train right through the winter. I hope that we can repeat our 1965 successes in the New Year.

O'D.—What advice would you give to the young player who might hope to follow in your footsteps?

C.—Keep at it. Practice makes perfect—there is no other way. Footballers are made—or rather they make themselves.

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

C.—Mickey Whelan, T. P. Treacy, Mick O'Dwyer, Sean O'Neill, Paddy Doherty, Mick O'Connell and Mickey Kearns have all in turn beaten me at one time or another. Don't ask me which of them gave me the worst beating.

O'D.—If Galway were to lose their title in 1966, which county could you see succeeding them?

C.—It could be either Down,



Longford, Kerry or Sligo. The standard of football has greatly improved. It will take a good team to win out in 1966 and I very much look forward to it.

O'D.—What did you think of the trip to America?

C.—I enjoyed it tremendously. The second game will long remain a memory. It was one of Galway's finest-ever displays.

O'D.—Have you any recommendations with regard to improving the over-all standard of football?

C.—Yes, better facilities. Dressing-rooms, showers, etc., would encourage players to train more often. This, I believe, is something which is being overlooked.

TONY WALL:

GIANT AMONG BACKMEN

INDESTRUCTIBLE seems the only and most applicable word to Tipperary men: you have John Doyle, of course, but there are others no less gifted with eternal youth, and not much less durable than solid oak. Remarkable in his consistency, remarkable in his willingness, remarkable in his long-continued skill of performance, Tony Wall emerges as no surprise to anyone for the honour of the GAELIC SPORT "Hurler of the Year". The only thing that may be considered remarkable is that he has not come out on top before.

If I were a player I would prefer by far to be selected as the GAELIC SPORT hurler or footballer of the year, than chosen for the honour in any other of the various methods used nowadays. It must be emphasised that the method of this magazine is the one which makes sure of the best by the only truly satisfactory way—in giving monthly interim markings on performances while these performances are fresh in the memory.

One spectacular display at the psychological moment will not suffice to catch the eye in this system. And when it comes to the end of the year, it will not be the few

games which are recalled, or the more recent ones, while performances in dull early season league games are forgotten. All performances throughout the year are thus estimated in fair and mathematical manner. Oh, yes, I would prefer to get this honour than any other.

Not that one needs to tell Tony Wall anything about that. His record of performance over the years has shown the store he sets by being always prepared to the limit to give his best on every field and with every team in every game. I am sure he must be the most willing man playing. Many people go especially to see him play, as indeed they do many of the stars. But, fewer people have endured the disappointment of an absent Wall, than have endured the absence of any other player. He is always there, whether for Thurles Sarsfields or for Tipperary, and always giving a polished display.

This year, now that he is on the wrong side of 30, and with such a long record under his belt, it is quite extraordinary that he could so raise his game above his previous best performances. I saw him several times this year, and I thought that he was playing better

than ever before, while in the game with Kilkenny in the Oireachtas final, I thought that he surpassed, in driving and rallying his team, anything that he has done for a very long time.

Then, of course, he wrote and published a book, and it has surely become a best-seller among G.A.A. literature. It certainly deserves to. This fact may not enter into the estimation of his play, but it certainly lends added status to the star player that he is a star thinker and interpreter of the game as well.

Of course, it had to be a Tipperary man this year, and the great play of Theo English and of Mick Roche, Jimmy Doyle, John McKenna, and the piracy of Sean McLoughlin, all called for special mention in any summary of the year. Len Gaynor, too, for a newcomer, was a great new star in the making, and come to that, very nearly already made. But, just once or twice, one or other of those were absent or slightly below their sterling best, while Wall surpassed himself on all occasions.

In the last year or two, one notices that Wall has begun to use his experience more to add the role of general mop-up to his

**'Better than
ever before'**

many other qualities. Time out of number he has been seen to advantage back in the near-goal area, nipping on to breaks from the hard clashing full-back line, and sweeping the ball away with that whippy forearm stroke of his.

He is different in style from the glamour men of the centre-half back position, and because of this his value may at times have been confused in the minds of the superficial viewer of a game. Wall is a tighter hurler than some we have seen in the position; he lays greater store by the subjugation of his opponent than the all out commitment to a brilliant, though chancey, clearance.

A centre-half back can look quite marvellous and yet allow his opposite to win the game for the other team. He can be morale building and exciting in the execution of flourishes of overhead and out-of-hand clearances, but he can leave a horrible and fatal hole when the effort fails. Wall was, very frequently, excellently spectacular in his clearances, but never at the expense of safety and solidity. The record of the Tipperary defence bears eloquent testimony to the success of his methods.



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to move! Yesterday, aching muscles and joints made every move of the game sheer agony. But today he wields his hurley with swinging vigour — thanks to Sloan's Liniment. SLOAN'S cures aches and pains swiftly, completely. Just apply Sloan's to the affected part of the body, its healing, soothing warmth kills the pain at source. Why not follow his example?

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JOHNNY GERAGHTY

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AN APPRAISAL BY
DONAL Ó RIAIN

THERE used to be an old saying that all goalkeepers have to be a little mad in order to reach greatness. So much was their estimate of the difficulty of becoming a high-class 'keeper. They meant, of course, that there was surely some other part of the field that a young fellow with less courage and less nerve could choose to make his name, and might well do so even after several poor performances.

But, in goal, a player is exposed to all the most tricky situations, and all the deadly dangerous moments of his team's fortunes, and he may not, on pain of being cast into oblivion by selectors and supporters, make the slightest mistake at any time.

I admire goalkeepers as a breed; I admire them for their immense courage in taking on the job at all; I admire them for their great con-

fidence in their own ability to avoid mistakes and come through the crucial moments with clear records; and I admire their sense of mortification and self-denial which moves them to take up a position where they may only see the ball once in a blue moon, while others are enjoying themselves and frolicking with it a large part of the time.

Yes, your goalkeeper must be a man of special talents, and not only of body but of mind, too. His cool concentration must be of the deepest, for a momentary relaxation may be the difference between victory and defeat. All others can afford the odd lapse, for they often get the opportunity of rectifying matters for themselves, or somebody else may do it for them. But the goalkeeper's mistakes are final and deadly in their decisiveness.

I have seen a great deal of Johnny Geraghty since he came on to the Galway team, and I think that he must rank among the very best goalkeepers which the game has enjoyed. Others who have seen even more of him than I, tell me that in all the games which he has played since, he has been guilty of only one mistake—a misjudgment in Wembley which gave Meath a vital goal.

The finality of the one mistake, and its effect on the trend of that game, emphasise what a difference Geraghty has made to the Galway team by not making others. Imagine what a change of fortunes they might have had if only he had made a few others at very pardonable junctures in some of the more vital games. Who would have faulted him if he had. In view of many remarkable saves which he has made, who would even

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think of calling them mistakes.

His save from Jo-Jo Barrett in the final of 1964 was, perhaps, the turning point in the great days of Galway. Just at that point they were struggling for the top, and Kerry were threatening to deny them their foothold of the top-rung. A goal then would have made it a wide open issue, and, if Galway lost narrowly two years running in the final, who is to tell what effect it would have had on them, before they had reached their greatest hours.

Geraghty is a personality as well as a good keeper; he adds to the attractiveness of a game with the spirit of his play, the quickness of his reactions, and his bubbling confidence. He must have a great psychological effect on the whole Galway squad. There is no worry so disabling as the one that there is a goalie behind you who is unreliable.

Spectacular Geraghty may be at

times, but the basis of his success is laid in less dangerous ground than mere spectacle.

For the one save which calls for a heart-stopping dive, he brings off a dozen or more which depend on the greatest of all goalkeeping assets—sense of position. It is because of his sense of position, and anticipation of the move of the forward and the path of the ball, that he can even reach some of the shots which he has saved with comparative ease.

His handling of the ball is safe, of course, as it must be with all good keepers, but his judgement of when to punch clear is a greater asset still; I think that he is not the man to allow any set of circumstances to develop which might end in his being bottled to the net, ball and all.

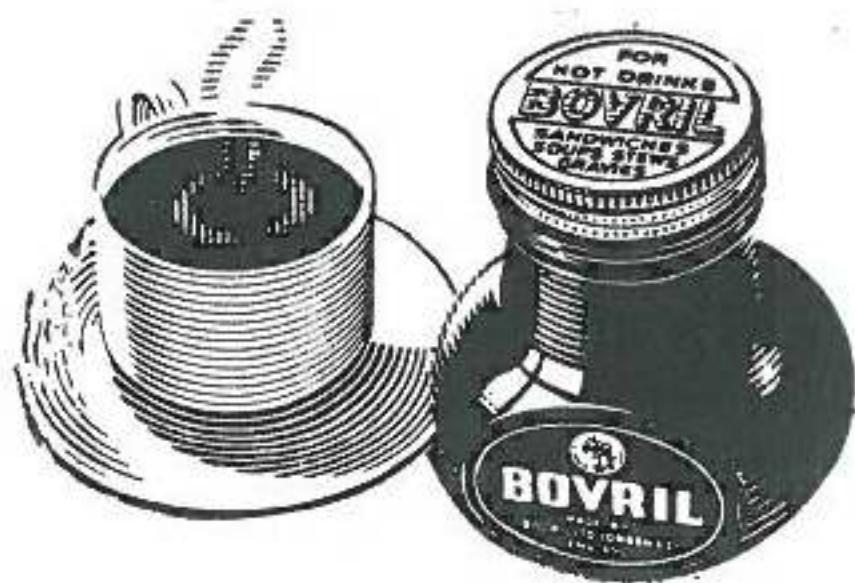
As a goalkeeper he has matured very early, and he shows little of the over-exhuberance that has

lead many a good young goalie into disaster: while he is full of exhuberance himself he keeps it well under control and subservient to the mundane needs of the moment. I suppose if proof were needed of his value to Galway, none better would be required than the result in his absence against Down in the Ground's Tournament final. It appeared to me that Johnny Geraghty would have probably saved two Down goals, which were just too tricky for a less experienced, less mobile and less self-confident substitute.

Nowadays, more than ever, you need a really sound keeper. The attacks are more varied, more calculated to give a forward an opening for a shot, more varied in angle and approach than the days when it rained high balls in the square all afternoon and the goalkeeper was considered an obligatory, though often unnecessary, adjunct to the full-back.

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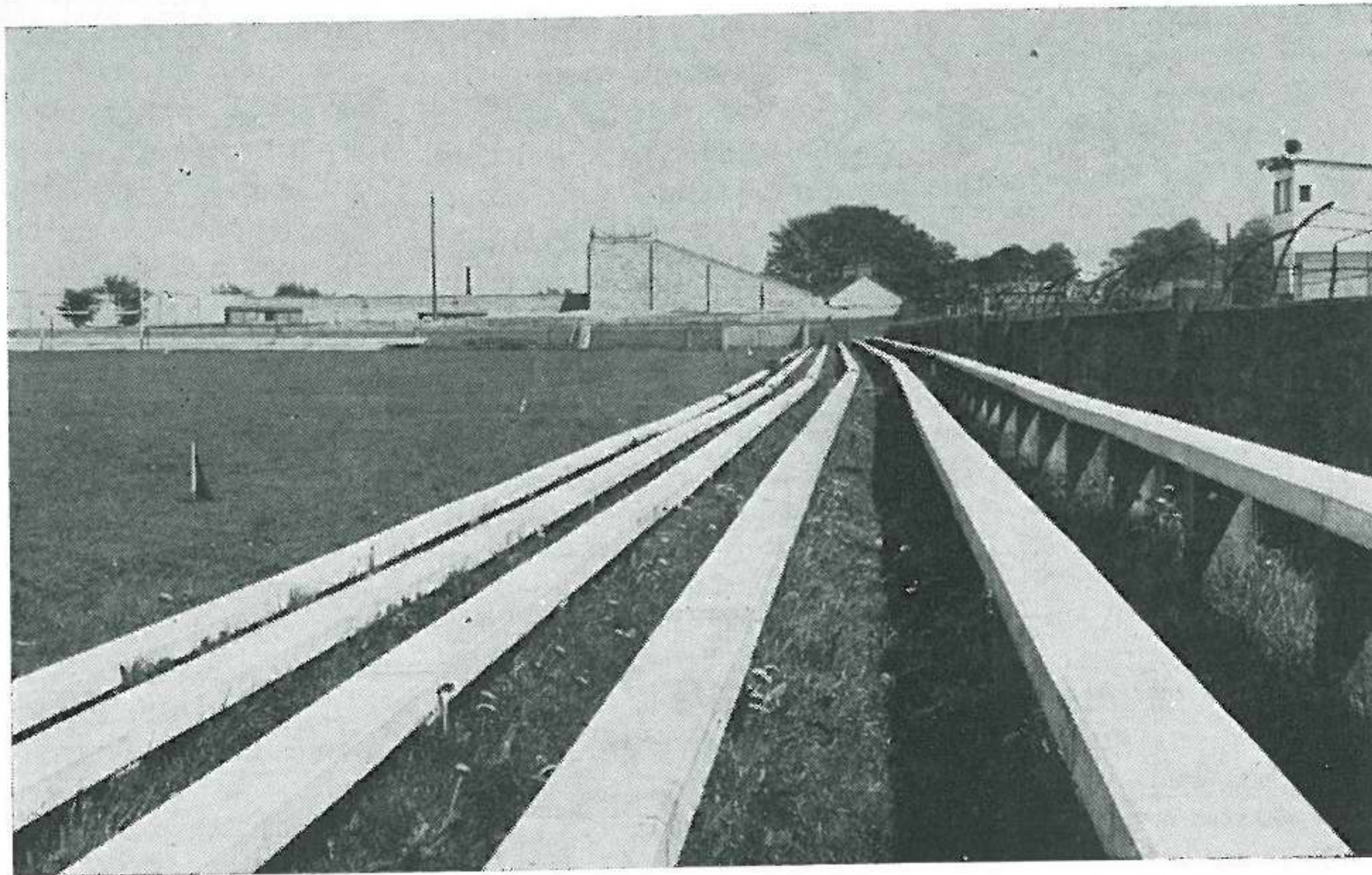


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Limerick's football revival

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

FOR almost three decades prior to 1964 Limerick were very definitely the "Cinderellas" of Munster football. This was certainly a big come down for the county who won the first-ever All-Ireland senior football title away back in 1887, a success they repeated nine years later, in 1896.

Prior to 1935, the Shannonsiders participated in thirteen Munster senior football finals, but then the County were regraded junior, a grade in which they figured without much success for very many years.

In 1964, the junior side failed to Kerry at Tralee rather miserably—the score, 2-6 to 0-2, in the opening round of the Munster championship. This heavy defeat did not seem to leave much room for hopes of football glory, but it opened the eyes of many Limerick fans to the futility of playing in the junior grade.

Later on, when Ballysteen displayed great spirit in winning the county senior football crown for the first time, the happy idea was born of throwing overboard the junior status and going the whole hog by returning to the senior championship. About the only argument in favour at the time was the old one: "Better be hung for a sheep than a lamb!"

Some violently disagreed with the idea but the County Board agreed with it, so when the draws for the 1965 Munster championships were announced there was Limerick right back in the lists after an all too lengthy absence. "Some cheek", the other counties must have felt, "when they cannot win a first round junior tie".

Limerick had a different angle. It was impossible to whip up enthusiasm for the junior battle maybe with the premier prize at stake the response would be better.

The new Limerick had its first game in the National football League against Clare at Askeaton on November 15, 1964. The Banner County boys were the fancied side but the Shannonsiders won that game. Their next outing was to Tipperary Town on February 14 last to play the Premier County. Limerick left their scoring boots at home and defeat was a big disappointment.

On March 7 they were at home to Waterford at Kilmallock, and started the long march back with a win, 0-10 to 0-6. The Limerick lads had to play every Sunday of that month. They met Clare at Ennis on the 14th and the result was a draw. The Banner County was at Limerick Gaelic Grounds the following Sunday, where they lost to Limerick narrowly, 1-7 to 1-6. That win gave the Shannonsiders their first National League football success—sectional honours and a set of trophies.

The knowing ones everywhere thought: "They are flushed with victory now but are in for a rude awakening when they meet Kerry in the group decider". That game was arranged for Askeaton the following Sunday and the Kingdom selectors paid them the tribute of fielding the strongest team they could muster.

The crowds at that game indicated that the cheeky Limerick men had at least aroused their own county and from every parish contingents travelled to give them

vocal encouragement against the mighty ball players from Kerry. They returned home voiceless—they had shouted themselves hoarse—but filled instead with a surging pride that a Limerick team could have risen to such remarkable football heights against the kingpins of the game. That was a day that will always be treasured in Limerick football history—and it was the greatest fluke that Kerry went home narrow winners, 1-9 to 2-4.

Limerick football truly regained its heritage in that thrill packed struggle, and the line out on the occasion deserved to be remembered. It was!

Joe Meagher (Oola), Liam O'Shaughnessy (Ballysteen), Seamus Cox (Old Christians), Tony Fitzgerald (Ballysteen), Basil Fitzgibbon (Ballysteen), John Meade (Ballylanders), Bernie Hartigan (Old Christians), John Aherne (Clann na nGael), Davy Quirke (Oola), Eamonn Cregan (Cloughaun), Pat Reidy (Ballysteen), Tommy Carrig (Ballysteen), Johnny Mullane (Athea), Mick Tynan (Cloughaun) and Pat Murphy (Old Christians).

Seven of the side—Fitzgibbon, Meade, Hartigan, Aherne, Quirke, Fitzgerald and Carrig had figured in the disastrous junior game at Tralee twelve months earlier, but they proved their mettle at Askeaton in no uncertain manner.

There were some who still wrote off the lively League challenge as a flash in the pan, but then came the championship to prove that Limerick meant business.

A first round and substantial

● TO PAGE 18

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● FROM PAGE 17

success over Waterford at Tipperary was followed by the dismissal of strongly supported Cork at Killarney, and the eager, spirited lively and well-trained Limerick side were back fighting fit and in determined mood to contest their first Munster senior football final in thirty-one years, with the mighty men from Kerry again providing the opposition.

It was as good a Munster final as was witnessed for years, and when the Limerick forwards lashed home two great goals inside ten minutes the Kerry supporters who travelled with any ideas of an easy victory had second thoughts. In fact the "Kingdom" mentors were very worried going to the dressing room at half-time with Limerick leading 2-5 to 0-6—and worth every score of it. Kerry won in the long run but Limerick captured much of the glory of that encounter.

The Limerick lads were next invited to participate in the Cuchulainn Cup competition and were drawn in the semi-final against Longford, whom they played at Pearse Park, Longford, before a great crowd. That was a stirring tussle which Limerick should have won. The sides, however, finished on level terms, and Longford made no mistake in the replay at Limerick, going on to win the Cup.

In the current League, the Limerick lads disappointed at Ballinrobe against Mayo, but gave a fine display at home against All-Ireland champions, Galway. They finished the season with a stirring and very satisfying win over Clare at Kilrush.

For Limerick it has been a wonderful football year, and has aroused remarkable enthusiasm and spirit in the County. Hopes are high that 1966 will prove even better, and see Shannonside regain the proud football place it held in those now faraway days when the G.A.A. was young.



Jimmy Doyle

ACE MARKSMAN

JIMMY DOYLE TOP SCORER OF DECADE

By Owen McCann

WHO scored most in intercounty competition during the past decade—1956-'65 inclusive? Somebody popped me this question recently and it took some hard work to produce the answer. While I was at it I worked out the top ten scorers in football and hurling for that period.

And the original question—who scored most during the past decade? The answer is Jimmy Doyle. Since becoming a senior he has worn the county jersey on 128 occasions and scored 89 goals and 537 points.

Next comes Paddy Doherty. He is well ahead of his fellow-footballers and of all hurlers too, other, of course, than Doyle. Doherty has had 152 senior intercounty games during the decade and scored 59 goals and 560 points. He is only 67 points behind Doyle.

Next comes Eddie Keher—103 games and 68 goals and 361 points. Close on his heels and in fourth place is Charlie Gallagher 34 goals and 427 points from 128 games. And so it goes.

Jimmy Doyle averaged 6.28 points per game and this is the highest average for either code. However, it is interesting to note that Doherty scored 23 points more than Doyle (excluding goals)—560 to 537.

Doherty's total for 1960—13 goals and 97 points from 24 games was the top football total for any single year of the decade. Charlie Gallagher comes next with 6-107 from 20 outings in 1964.

Nicky Rackard's great era barely touched the decade in question but his feat of scoring 35 goals and 50 points in 19 engagements in 1956 was still the highest one-year total for the last ten years.

The nearest Jimmy Doyle went to that was 10 goals and 87 points in 1964.

Breaking down the top ten lists to a provincial basis we find Ulster taking the two top positions in football and two other places as well. Connacht took three positions, Munster two and Leinster one.

In hurling it was an even break—five for Munster and five for Leinster.

HURLING

Points	Score	Games	Average
804	J. Doyle	89-537	(128) 6.28
565	E. Keher	68-361	(103) 5.47
421	O. McGrath	93-142	(129) 3.26
407	D. Heaslip	96-119	(117) 3.47
406	F. Walsh	51-253	(119) 3.41
402	D. Nealon	84-150	(115) 3.49
320	P. Grimes	34-218	(128) 2.50
273	S. Power	53-114	(130) 2.10
256	L. Devaney	23-187	(143) 1.78
252	T. Walsh	51-99	(54) 4.66

FOOTBALL

Points	Score	Games	Average
737	P. Doherty	59-560	(152) 4.84
529	C. Gallagher	34-427	(128) 4.13
472	C. Flynn	39-355	(106) 4.45
452	J. Timmons	23-383	(130) 3.47
370	C. Dunne	26-292	(92) 4.02
294	S. O'Connell	19-237	(82) 3.58
289	S. O'Neill	26-211	(118) 2.44
244	M. McDonagh	19-187	(151) 1.61
237	M. O'Connell	6-219	(118) 2.00
221	B. O'Callaghan	24-156	(57) 4.00

MUNSTER MEDLEY

By Séamus O Ceallaigh

THE Munster Colleges Council has made great strides with its principal competitions despite the poor weather conditions of recent weeks. The "field" in the colourful Dr. Harty Cup competition is down to four, representing the leading southern hurling counties — Limerick C.B.S. (holders), North Monastery, Thurles C.B.S., and Mount Sion C.B.S. An unusual feature is that the quartette are drawn exclusively from schools controlled by the Christian Brothers.

Only three teams are left in senior football—St. Brendan's, Killarney have qualified for the final, in which they will meet either Colaiste Christ Ri (Cork) or the holders, De La Salle of Waterford.

The senior competitions will be resumed in mid-January.

JACKY O'CONNELL

Illness has forced the retirement of one of the longest serving and most popular of our County officials—Jacky O'Connell, who has

been Secretary of Limerick County Board since 1939.

Jacky first came into the Gaelic limelight as a member of the great Limerick hurling team of the early 'thirties, and he helped in the winning of All-Ireland honours in the Golden Jubilee Year—1934. He also played in the All-Ireland final of the following year—the unforgettable "Wet Day", when Kilkenny were victors over Limerick by a solitary point.

He was prevented from making the American trip the following season because of an illness that terminated his hurling career, but a few years later he returned to the Gaelic scene when he was appointed Limerick County Secretary—a position he has filled with real distinction ever since.

He was never opposed, which is some indication of his popularity, whilst the work he accomplished speaks for itself. Perhaps the achievement that will best be remembered concerns his work for Limerick Gaelic Grounds, in the

Colleges games reach exciting stage

development of which he played a leading part.

CISTE NA BANBAN

A real Gaelic live-wire in Sean O'Leary, has taken over direction of the go-ahead Gaelic pools—Ciste na Banban, as full time Managing Director. Well known in Limerick where he did splendid work as secretary of Young Ireland club, he returned to his native Cork almost twenty years ago and shortly afterwards succeeded in reviving one of the great Leaside clubs of earlier days—the sporting Redmonds.

Deeply interested in youth activities, he has played a big part in the organisation of under-age competitions in Cork. Perhaps his greatest contribution, however, to Gaelic affairs, is the work he has already put into the organisation of Ciste na Banban, and now that he can devote even more time to this new departure the good that should result to the cause of the Gael could be immense.

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the question of gambling on matches following incidents at the recent intermediate hurling final between Eire Og and Glen Rovers, during the course of which seven players got marching orders from the referee.

This is not the first occasion on which allegations of gambling at matches in Munster counties have been voiced and I remember some years ago considerable disquiet in Limerick on this score.

The matter was fairly thoroughly aired around that period and whilst every effort was made to stamp out the practice it was found that there was really very little governing bodies could do beyond appealing to club members and supporters to discourage betting in any shape or form on the outcome of matches.

Happily these appeals had the desired effect and there is very little evidence of any serious gambling associated with matches now.

IN BRIEF

A Kerryman, Tom Kirby, as a result of helping St. Finbarr's win the Cork county senior hurling title recently, now holds senior hurling medals won in Cork and Kerry, for he helped his native Ballyduff to a three in a row success during the years 1959 to 1961.

Two popular Kerry footballers—Pat Cooper and Pat Ferris, have left for America.

Death has been busy in the ranks of Munster Gaeldom of late, and we have lost well-known figures in Jack Myers, of the first Kerry All-Ireland football winning side; John ("Doctor") O'Brien, of Cloughaun Club, Limerick; J. Forrest, President of Cork Nemo Rangers; Jack O'Connor, the Ballymacelligott footballer and referee; Donal Connolly, Ballinhassig hurler; and a Limerick Young Ireland trio in Jim Kinnivane, Joe McCarthy and Paddy Champion. Paddy captained the first Limerick C.B.S. side to win Dr. Harty Cup honours forty-five years ago.

Ransomes

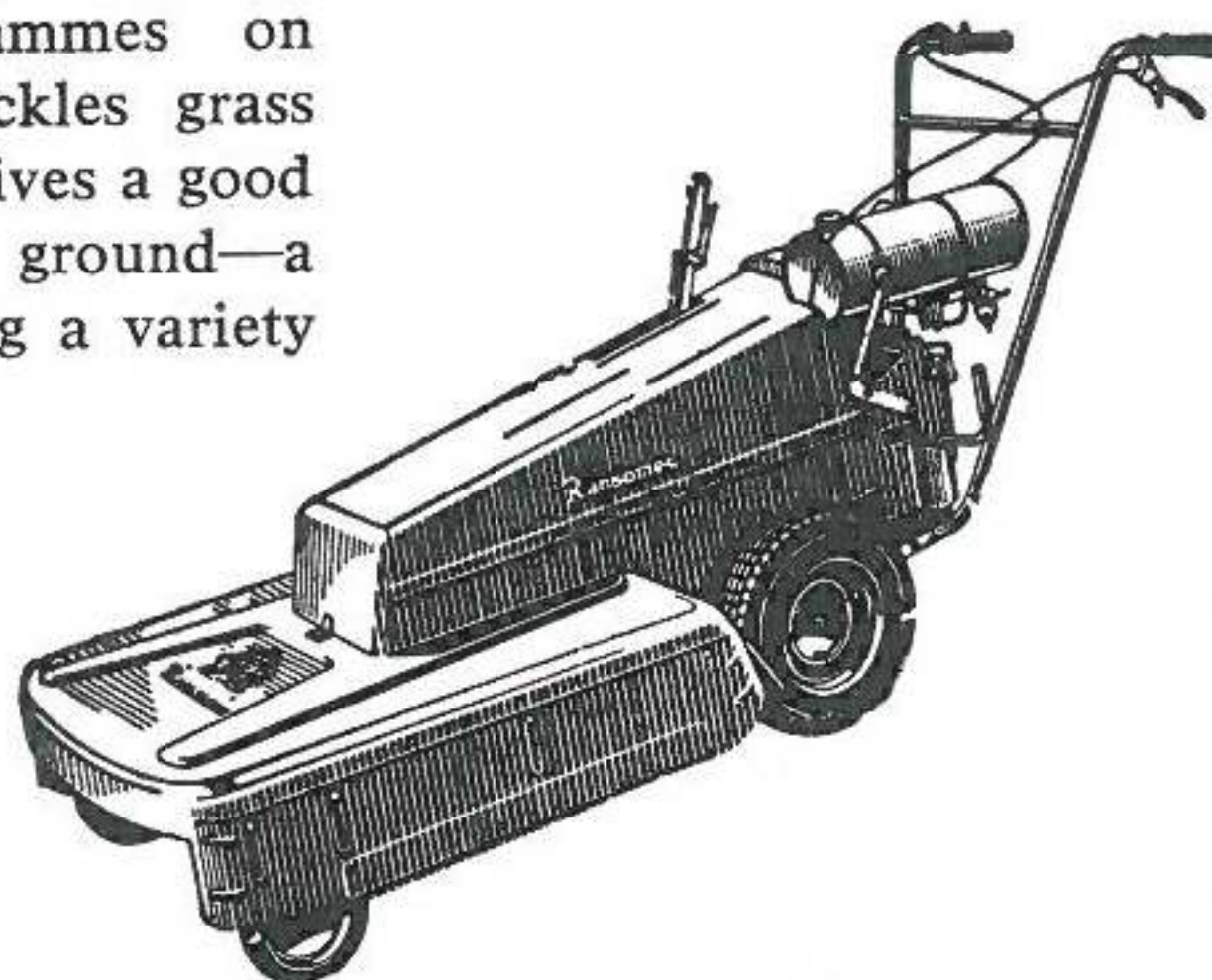
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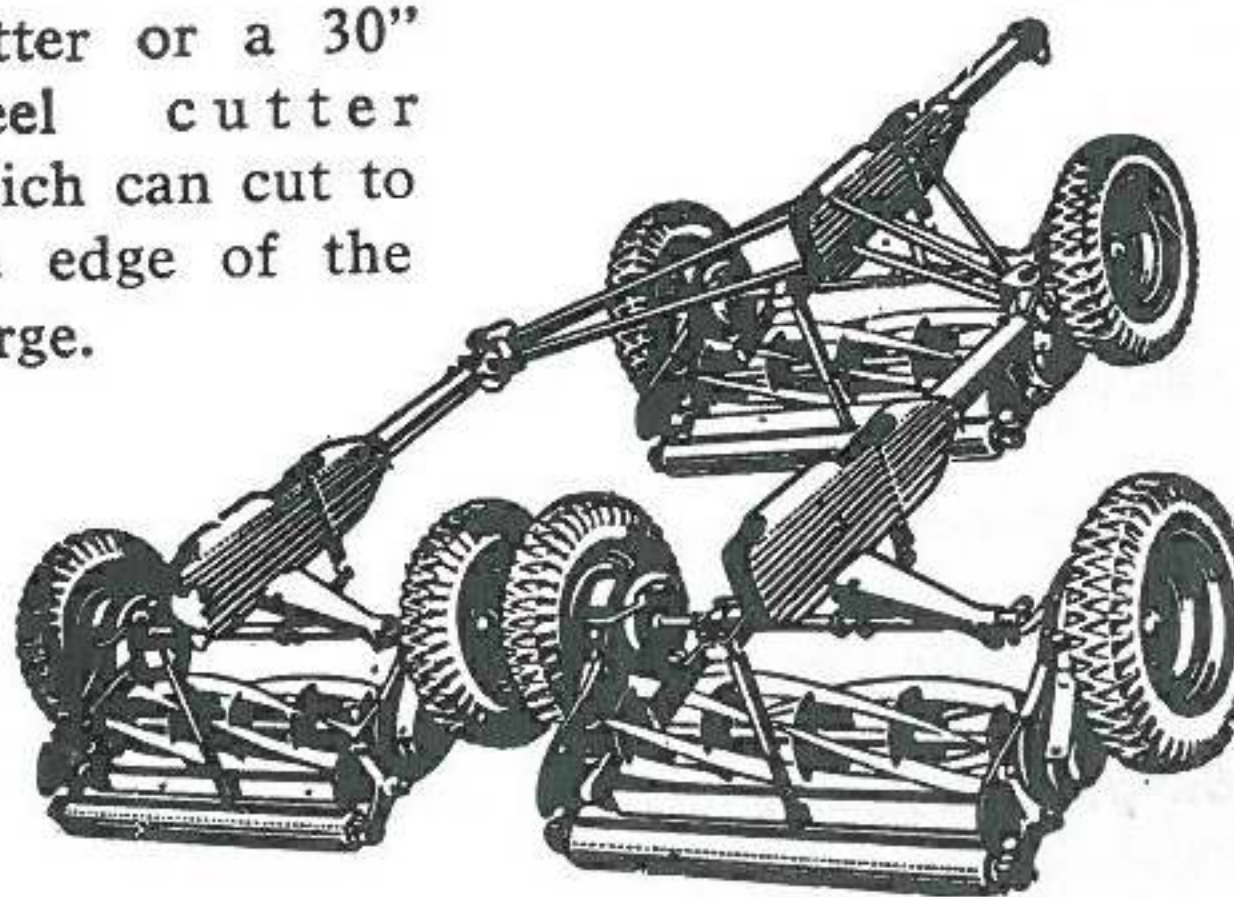
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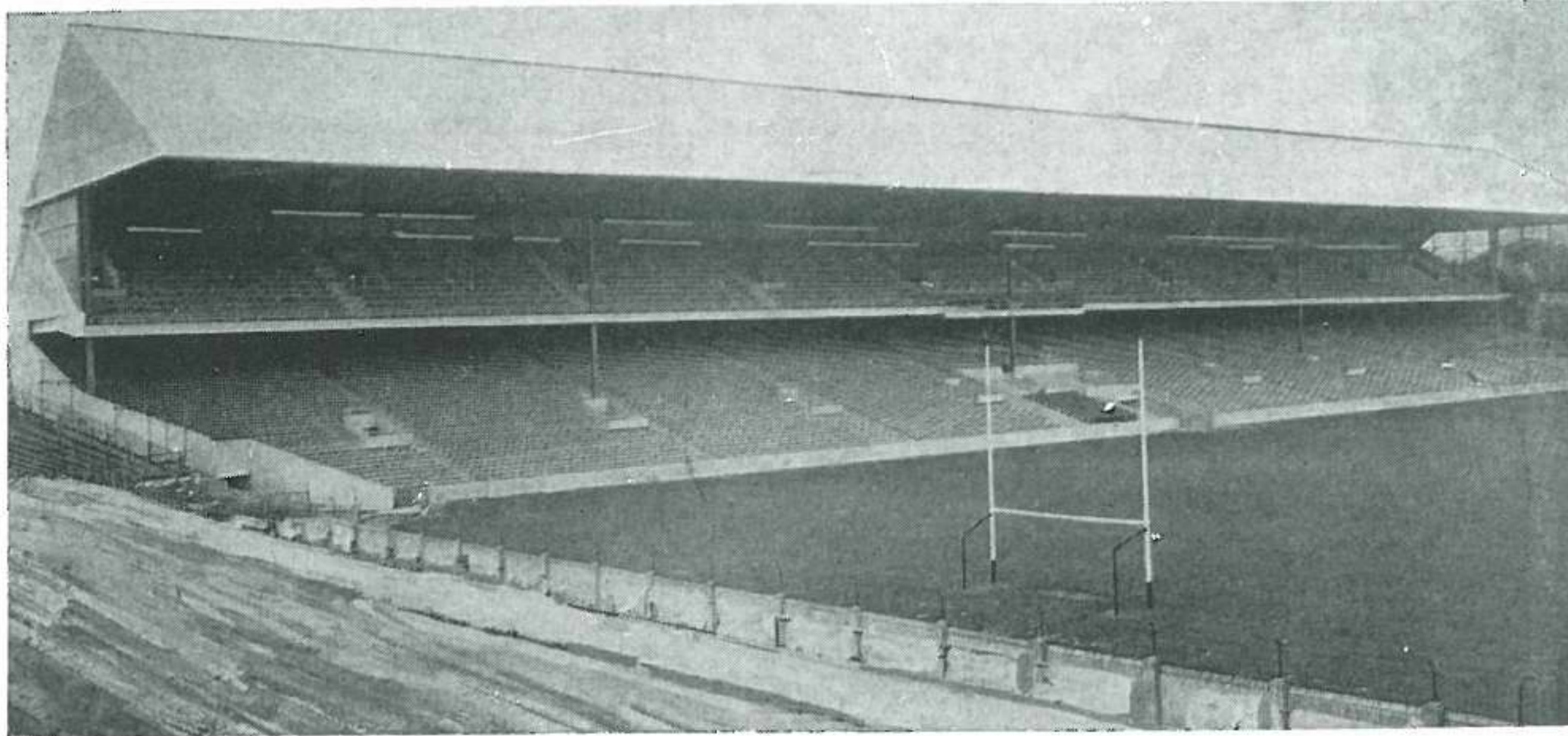
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By

FRANK

HUGHES

Croke Park . . . more seating?

Grounds

START OF THE BIG BOOM

“**W**HAT does the G.A.A. do with all of its money?”

The question is often heard—and not always answered properly. In short the answer, for those who might not already know it, is that the G.A.A. invests its money in its grounds. It is true to say that millions of pounds have been spent on purchasing and developing the Association's grounds throughout the country—and yet, despite this, the real grounds development is only beginning.

In the past the emphasis was on the playing area—now there is a much wider approach which includes facilities and amenities such as club-rooms, dressing-rooms, showers, etc., for players, and covered terracing, stands, car-parks, etc., for spectators.

Most players and spectators now want these sort of facilities. The times we are living in do in fact demand them — so the great development boom is on.

A Munster county board official recently stated that there is the best part of a million pounds required to complete current grounds development at the province's major venues. He is no doubt correct. The three lead-

ing Munster grounds — Thurles, Limerick and the new Pairc Uí Chaoimh in Cork will on their own absorb half that figure during the next year or two, and then there is the work being done, or about to be done at various other Munster venues such as Tralee, Killarney, Waterford, etc. When all of these present schemes are completed there will certainly be very little change left from the million pounds — and this still excludes any work being done at countless lesser Munster grounds.

The position in the other provinces, while not quite as ambitious, is still on similar lines. Even Croke Park itself is not immune from the development boom. The latest word is that further seating is being considered.

Finding the money for all of this work is going to provide the Councils of the Association with a lot of headaches but found it will be.

However, while it is the development at the major venues which get the headlines, it is probably true to say that the work which is being done, and which must

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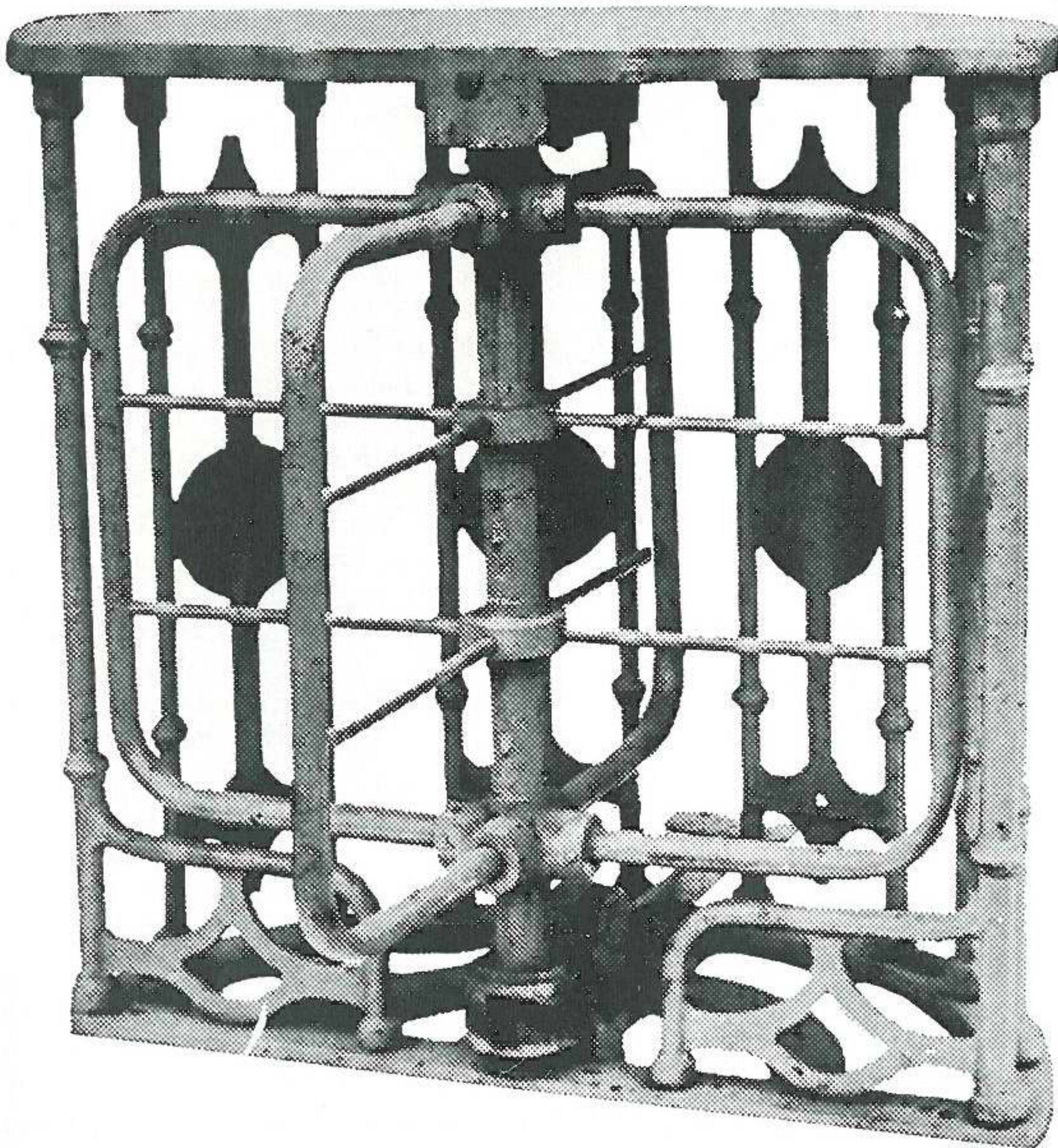
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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

continue to be done, at club level is even more important.

The day is gone when a reasonably level pitch and a few rows of wire were sufficient to meet the prevailing needs. Fully equipped dressing-rooms are now a must and it could be that club-rooms will, in the very near future, be considered another necessity.

The idea of club-rooms seems to have long been accepted in the North. Most of the leading clubs have premises, which they own or else have free use of. Similar ambitions are developing in other parts of Ireland.

Tralee is one example. Here the Kerry County Board plan a £30,000 structure which will incorporate full indoor recreational facilities, a bar and a restaurant. Many other counties will be keeping an eye on the development. If it is a success (as it surely will be) then it could be the forerunner to many like schemes.

As well as the development, extension and improvement of existing grounds there is, of course, another great task facing the G.A.A. and this is the acquiring of many more pitches. In some counties—and particularly in the larger urban areas, there is a great shortage of grounds.

Adding to this problem is the ever-increasing price of land. Land suitable for building purposes is now fetching astronomical prices—yet it is this very same land which more often than not must be acquired by the Association.

It will take a long time before the G.A.A. has satisfied its present requirements in this entire field. It will also take an awful lot of money. But done it will be, for basically the Association's resources are unlimited. It commands the allegiance of the vast majority of the young manhood of Ireland. These young men can move mountains . . . and make fine stadiums of them.

Looking forward to a year of further progress

FACING into this New Year of 1966, camogie players, officials and followers alike have every reason to look forward to the year ahead. The year past, 1965, was one of the most encouraging I have known for the game of the girl-Gaels and the prospects for the year ahead are even brighter.

By the time this article appears in print it is likely that the Leinster Council will have completed its plans for organising Offaly and reorganising Wicklow. Of the other Leinster counties that have fallen behind in recent years, there are hopes for a revival in both Laois and Carlow, and that leaves only Longford, which has for so long been able to keep the game going that there seems no good reason why a little extra effort would not bring them also back into the fold.

There need be no fears for Munster and it might therefore be a good idea for Central Council to concentrate during the year ahead on reviving the game in Connacht where, though a few hardworking enthusiasts have kept things going in Galway, Mayo and Sligo, camogie is still far from being the force it should be in the West.

If the progress made on the Colleges' front in 1965 is continued

in 1966 we shall be very well placed indeed as far as much of the country is concerned. The happy position in Dublin at the moment, as far as Colleges' competitions is concerned, is this, that so many teams and schools wish to play that the Committee in charge face something of a problem when it comes to fitting all the games in on the number of grounds available.

In the Leinster junior Colleges competition for Corn an Phuir-sealaigh there has also been a very heavy entry and, with so many week-ends lost through the bad weather, the problem the organisers also face in this case is getting the games played off to schedule, but that, surely, is a good complaint.

In the North the Colleges' competitions, both senior and junior, continue to be very successful as is the new intermediate schools' championship. It is, however, a great pity that we have nothing corresponding to the latter competition here in the Republic.

Those Northern Intermediate schools correspond to our technical or vocational schools here in the South. Now we have a flourishing competition under G.A.A. auspices for our technical schools

in both hurling and football, it should surely be possible to organise a similar competition in camogie between the same schools here in the Republic. I do not really know whose responsibility such a competition should be. Perhaps the members of the Vocational Schools Board of the G.A.A. would be able to give the Camogie people some advice on this matter.

Indeed if we could get the technical and vocational schools pupils to take the same interest in the game as do so many of the girls in our Secondary Colleges' it would be the greatest step forward that the game could possibly take, particularly in the rural areas. In addition, in this year of 1966, the first group of physical education teachers qualified to teach and coach camogie will be coming out of Sion Hill.

As, presumably, many of these teachers will be working in technical schools they should be able to provide their pupils with a useful knowledge of the basic skills of the game.

This year of 1966 will see the celebrations in commemoration of the 1916 Rising of fifty years ago. Some of us may think that the ideals of the men of 1916 have fallen well short of fulfilment in the years since then, but that is all the more reason why we should all do our part in bringing those ideals back to the forefront of national thought. The Camogie Association is to take an official part in the celebrations, though what that part is has not yet been decided, but I hope they do decide to march as a body in the Easter Sunday Parade. After all, the first time the Camogie Association ever marched in a public procession of that kind was in the funeral cortege of O'Donovan Rossa, a day that presaged the Easter Rising.

TOP TEN

Hurlers and footballers of 1965

WALL AND GERAGHTY

HERE they are—GAELIC SPORT'S Top Ten hurlers and footballers of 1965 as tabulated from our monthly ratings. As regular readers are aware, we maintained a monthly record of individual intercounty performances during the past year. These ratings are therefore based on the entire season. Every single intercounty performance has been taken into account.

The points are awarded as follows—ten for each occasion a player headed the monthly list, nine for a second placing and so on right down to one point for each tenth placing.

HURLING

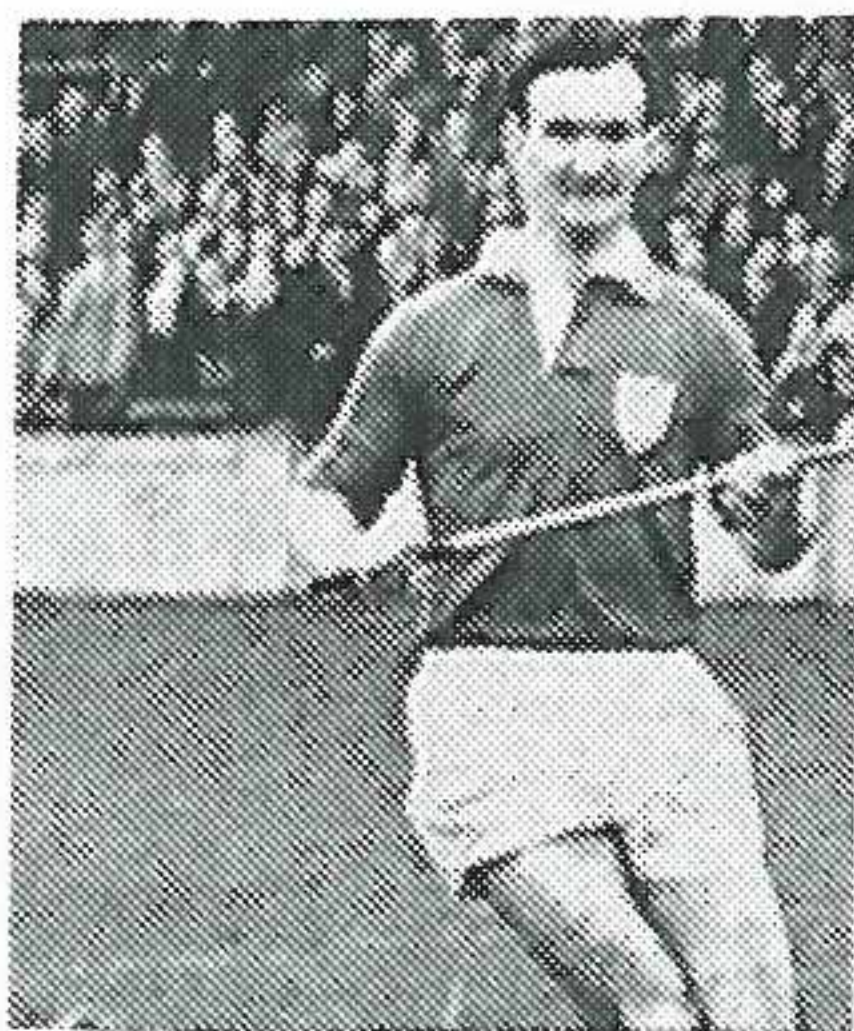
● TONY WALL (40).

The great Tipperary centre half-back was an easy winner. He finished eight points clear of runner-up Tom Neville. Wall had a series of brilliant performances during the year and as well as these he remained consistent throughout.

His 40 points total is the highest gained by any player since we began this tabulation system three years ago.

2 ● TOM NEVILLE (32).

The great Wexford captain did



Tom Neville

much to bring his county back into the hurling forefront and throughout the year remained the mainstay of the Wexford defence.

3 ● OLLIE WALSH (30).

The Kilkenny wizard of the net has never failed to make our Top Ten of the year. He was also third last year with 34 points and fifth in the 1963 ratings with 21 points.

4 ● MICHAEL ROCHE (26).

The Tipperary mid-fielder is one position higher than that gained by him last year when he, in fact, collected one point more.

5 ● JIMMY DOYLE (24).

Last year's hurler of the year with a total of 36 points, Doyle was

still most prominent throughout 1965 and he had, of course, the honour of captaining Tipperary.

6 ● SEAMUS CLEERE (19).

Like Ollie Walsh, Seamus Cleere has never failed to make the hurling list. He was third on our 1963 list and ninth on the 1964 list.

7 ● VIN STAPLES (18).

The young Wexfordman is a star in the making and gave some excellent performances throughout the year—especially in the championship.

8 ● LEN GAYNOR (17).

Another young man very much on the way up. Throughout the year he blended perfectly with his veteran fellow-countymen.

● DENIS O'RIORDAN (17).

Sharing eighth position is the earnest Cork defender, who, had his county enjoyed somewhat more success would probably have figured in a higher position.

10 ● SEAN McLOUGHLIN (16).

Goals have won the tall Tipperary forward a well-merited tenth position. He remained throughout the year the goal-getter of the game.



LEAD THE STARS

FOOTBALL

1 ● JOHNNY GERAGHTY (30).

Once again the honour of topping the football list goes to Galway. For 1964 it was Noel Tierney with 33 points and on 1965 performances it is Johnny Geraghty who is already hailed as one of the greatest net-minders of all-time.

2 ● PADDY DOHERTY (29).

A great rally at the close of the year brought the Down ace up to second position. Last year he was joint sixth with 19 points.

● JOHN DONNELLAN (29).

Sharing second position is Galway's ever-consistent John Donnellan, who got there despite being missing from the team during October and November.



Ollie Walsh

TOP: Johnny Geraghty, star of the football scene. RIGHT: Tony Wall, clear winner in hurling.

4 ● ENDA COLLERAN (28).

The Galway captain takes a well-merited fourth position. It will be noted that he is only two points behind Footballer of the Year, Johnny Geraghty.

5 ● MICHEÁL KEARNS (20).

For the first time Sligo is represented on our Top Ten of the year and no better man to take home the honour than the county's ace marksman Micheál Kearns.

6 ● MAIRTÍN NEWELL (18).

Despite being absent from the Galway team on a number of occasions during the year, Newell shares sixth position.

● BOBBY BURNS (18).

No man played a greater role in bringing Longford to the forefront during 1965 than the county's top forward, Bobby Burns.

8 ● MATTIE McDONAGH (16).

Mattie made history during 1965 by becoming the first Connacht footballer to win three senior All-Ireland medals. He was one of Galway's key men throughout the season. Also eighth last year, he was in fifth position on our 1963 list.

● SEAN O'NEILL (16).

The Downman may not have shown quite the same brilliant form as that displayed by him in 1960-'62 but despite this he was ever-consistent and continued to pick-up valuable points to share eighth position.

10 ● JOHN BOSCO McDERMOTT (15).

In virtually every game he was one of the pillars of the Galway defence.

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By
OWEN McCANN

BRENDAN HAYDEN

SETS PACE IN

LEAGUE SCORING

BRENDAN HAYDEN, of Carlow, is currently setting the pace out in front in the leading scorers "stakes" in the 1965-66 National Leagues. With 4-11 (23 pts.) from three football engagements he has a five point lead over his nearest rival, hurler Frank Coffey, and he is six minors up on his chief challenger in the big ball game.

Hayden, whose 23 points would have been good enough to put him alongside two others in tenth place in football last season, also has the best match average in football with 7.66 minors.

The top average score for the entire Football League last season was 7.60 points, achieved by Charlie Gallagher who took No. 1 position with 3-29 (38 pts.). The Breffni sharpshooter is somewhat down on that average this season, with six points in each of his two games, a total that does not qualify him to date for the top ten.

An interesting feature of the football chart is the high placings of Pdraig McShea and Tim Wilson. McShea, who last year played in the minor, junior and Under-21 and senior championships with Donegal, is bracketed in second place with two others at 17 points. Obviously, then, he is a coming score-getter. Wilson is joint fifth with Paddy Doherty at 15 minors—quite an achievement for a footballer from Kilkenny!

Carlow and Donegal are the only counties with two players each in the panel. Mick Kearns is

Connacht's standard-bearer, while Munster is unrepresented.

Coffey is six minors up on his chief rivals in hurling — Achill Boothman and Tom Walsh. A point further behind is Jimmy Doyle, who headed the chart last season with 7-42 (63 pts.) in 8 games, the two matches in New York being included. However, the Tipperary man has had only one outing so far, and this means he has the best match average in either panel at 11 minors. A point behind are Eddie Keher and Limerick's Paddy Carey, who also had only one game each so far.

Tom Walsh, who took second place last season with 10-13 (43 pts.) in six games, is currently averaging only four minors an hour, compared with his 7.16 minors a tie in the 1964-65 League. So, for once Kilkenny's hurlers must play second fiddle in the scoring lists to a Noreside footballer!

Declan Lovett, the Kerryman who took first place in last season's Division II of the Hurling League with 7-17 (38 pts.) in seven games, is in even better scoring form now. He has 1-15 (18 pts.) after three hours, for an average of six minors, as against his 5.42 points a game in 1964-65.

He is just one point ahead of Pat Spellman, whose 4-5 in two games with Offaly gives him the best average in the panel at 8.50 points.

Carlow and Kilkenny are the only counties represented in both

charts. Coffey's current total would have put him in sixth place in last year's league. No fewer than six of the top eleven marksmen in the 1964-65 Hurling League landed under 18 minors. Galway, by the way, was not represented.

The leading scorers entering the second stage of the 1965-66 National Leagues are:—

FOOTBALL

			<i>Games</i>	<i>Average</i>
1	B. Hayden...	4-11	(3)	7.66
2	T. McTeague	0-17	(3)	5.66
	P. McShea...	3- 8	(4)	4.25
	P. T. Treacy	2-11	(4)	4.25
5	P. Doherty...	0-15	(3)	5.00
	T. Wilson...	1-12	(3)	5.00
7	L. Leech.....	0-14	(3)	4.66
	S. King*	4- 2	(3)	4.66
9	M. Kearns	1-10	(2)	6.50
	D. O'Carroll	1-10	(4)	3.25

* Carlow.

HURLING

				<i>Games</i>	<i>Average</i>
1	F. Coffey	2-12	(3)	6.00	
2	A. Boothman	1- 9	(3)	4.00	
	T. Walsh	2- 6	(3)	4.00	
4	J. Doyle.....	2- 5	(1)	11.00	
5	P. Carey.....	3- 1	(1)	10.00	
	E. Keher	1- 7	(1)	10.00	
	M. Keating....	3- 1	(2)	5.00	
8	S. McLoughlin				
		3- 0	(1)	9.00	
9	J. Bennett	2- 2	(1)	8.00	

HURLING

(Division 11)

				<i>Games</i>	<i>Average</i>
1	D. Lovett	1-15	(3)	6.00	
2	P. Spellman	4- 5	(2)	8.50	
3	D. Hickey....	5- 0	(2)	7.50	
4	T. Dooley....	4- 2	(2)	7.00	
	L. Walsh	2- 8	(3)	4.66	
	Spellman and Dooley (Offaly); Hickey and Walsh (Carlow).				

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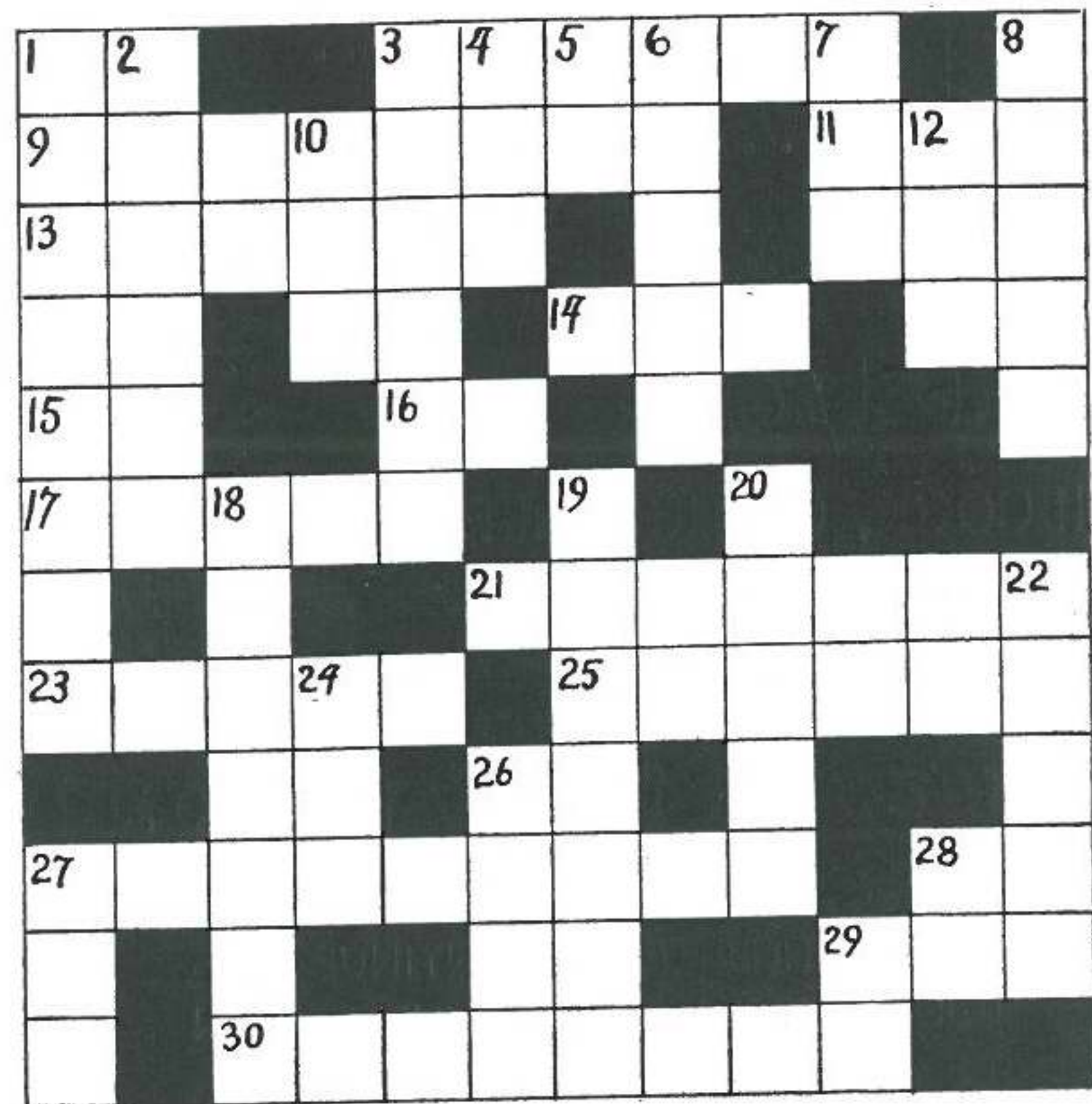
By PERMUTER

ACROSS :

1. Senior Football played in reverse. (2)
3. A team often maintains its lead thus in tight finish. (6)
9. The act of bringing about a draw. (8)
11. Commotion. Much of it about nothing. (3)
13. Tough contest might be described thus. (6)
14. If hurling is for him, for whom is camogie ? (3)
15. Inside right ? Hardly, but possible. (2)
16. Where shall we find the broadcast of to-day's game ? (2)
17. And 22 down. Star performer with Kilkenny; later with New York. (5, 5)
21. County for which 1 down plays. (7)
23. What all referees must know in theory and in practice. (5)
25. He played for Meath in the All-Ireland final of 1939. (6)
26. 1,050. (2)
27. Display resembling precious gem ? (9)
28. Exclamation of surprise, horror, pain . . . (2)
29. Take your choice of all. (3)
30. Lone dashes; well-exemplified by Seamus Leydon and other speedy attackers; occasionally over-used. (4, 4)

DOWN :

1. Ulster Railway Cup player who seems to be the terror of all rabbits. (8)
2. Geometrical figure vitally connected with hurling and football; a cause of many a "no-goal" decision. (6)
3. Galway full-forward. (6)
4. Cover, but hardly the kind that full-backs give their goalkeeper. (3)
5. Affirms existence. (2)
- 6 (and 7 and 12 down). Motto for those whose spirit is indestructible. Or is it a Derby winner of the fifties ? (5, 3, 3)
8. See 26 down.



10. The great leveller of players abilities; just as time is the great healer. (3)
18. Comebacks. Kerry were always famed for these late surges. (7)
19. Famous Mayo footballer. (7)
20. This is one thing which all goalies must be able to do quickly. (5)
22. See 17 across.
24. Fish to which many tricky forwards have been compared in their time. (3)
- 26 (and 8 down). Kerry star of 1928-'38 vintage; great forward who captained them to an All-Ireland in 1937. (4, 5)
28. Not off. (2)
29. Like. (2)

(Solution : Page 52)

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ANATOMY OF A JOURNALIST

A WEEK or two ago I received a letter from a lad of school-leaving age asking me how he could become a sports journalist. Now the answer to that is quite simple — by becoming a sports journalist, and I give that answer without intending to be funny.

Journalism is the only accepted profession in this country which has no specified way of entry and indeed it is a profession open to all.

Legally there is no reason why anyone who has ever written a line that has been published in a newspaper (and been paid for his efforts) cannot describe himself as a journalist. On the other hand, people who contribute to magazines often prefer to describe themselves as writers. The distinction is rather subtle.

To me, however, and I have been thirty years in the business, the problem posed by my young correspondent is complicated by the fact that he does not state whether or not he wants to become a full-time sports journalist or just wants to report sporting events in his sparetime as a profitable and reasonably pleasant leisure-hour side-line.

If his ambitions do not rise above part-time work, there is nothing to prevent him getting to grips with the problem here and now. Assuming that he can write grammatical English, knows thoroughly the sport or sports he is writing about, and has a reasonably ready market for his wares—by that I mean a local weekly paper—there seems to me no reason at all why he should not be

able to establish a small corner for himself in the local journalistic field.

Many of our local papers carry excellent little columns by part-time contributors and indeed the part-time sporting writer is the foundation stone of the sports columns of most provincial and local newspapers. Whether my young friend will find the rate of remuneration up to his expectations is another matter. With a few exceptions, the gulf between the rates of pay for contributors to a small local newspaper and Fleet St. dailies is a remarkably wide one.

There are agreements on salaries between the journalists' organisations and the newspaper proprietors but those agreements do not apply to contributors from part-time correspondents. Payment for such contributions is usually a matter of agreement between the newspaper and the correspondent and it is well-nigh impossible even to suggest a standard figure.

But I have the feeling, from the tone of his letter, that my young friend wishes to become a *full-time* sports journalist. So, how does he go about achieving that ambition?

Well, I do not wish to disillusion or discourage him in any way, but there can be no harm in pointing out that there are, at most, no more than 150 full-time sports journalists in Ireland, and that number (which includes Belfast and Dublin and Cork, and the representatives of the English papers) is probably an optimistic

estimate—125 might well be nearer the mark.

The most direct way for any youngster, without experience, who may wish to join that restricted band is to apply for a post as a learner in the sports department of one of our daily or evening papers.

For his information Ireland can, at the moment, boast of six morning and four evening papers, but opportunities of joining some of those are rather infrequent.

A necessary qualification, as far as Dublin at least is concerned, is a pass in the Leaving Certificate, with honours in English very desirable. Personally I would like to see him have honours in Irish, too, though he will rarely, if ever, have the pleasure of writing in his native language in the course of his subsequent career.

If our candidate is fortunate enough to be taken on, he will then serve anything from six to twelve months apprenticeship in a capacity that is hard to define. He will be a kind of glorified office-boy. He will have to do all kinds of chores from making-out duty lists and the like, to brewing tea.

But, though he may often think otherwise himself, he will not be wasting his time, for he is being given his chance to learn, as he goes along, both the working basis of his trade and the normal routine of the newspaper in which he finds himself.

If he survives his probationary period, our candidate will then be

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

● **FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

signed on the staff as a junior and, if he is lucky enough to be based in Dublin, will then be eligible to attend the course in Dublin which is jointly sponsored by the newspaper proprietors and the National Union of Journalists.

It is, however, a rather remarkable situation that the only course on journalism available in Dublin should be rigidly confined to those who already have been accepted on the newspaper staffs. There is, as far as I know, no provision whereby any other youngster, who may wish to be a journalist, can attend such a course.

By this time our would-be sports journalist will have had made up

his mind as to which of the two branches of the profession he wishes to grace, reporting or sub-editing.

Each has its advantages. There is more glamour in reporting, especially nowadays when names of reporters are given much more frequently than of yore. On the other hand there is a great deal of travel involved, a great deal of exposure to the weather, an immense amount of Saturday and Sunday work, and, often as not, a day's work, if travelling is involved, may stretch over twelve hours or even more.

On the other hand, the sports reporter sees all the best games, meets all the top names in his

particular sport and quickly gets to be something of a public figure himself.

Moreover, a sports reporter can specialise while a sports sub-editor whose duty it is to rewrite, cut, expand or throw-out, according to instructions of his chief, all the "copy" that comes in, has to be a reasonably competent expert on every single sport his paper carries.

The sub-editor works to fixed, if often peculiar hours—5.30 p.m. to 1 a.m. is possibly the most usual "shift" on the Dublin dailies—and he has the ultimate responsibility of actually producing the paper. Incidentally, most senior sports sub-editors have been sports-reporters in their time.

Anyway, whether he is a reporter or a sub-editor, our junior member of the sports staff will have to spend two years attending his journalists' course one day a week, with a reasonably stiff examination at the end of each year. When he passes this course—which is actually a recent innovation—he is, technically, a fully qualified journalist.

But he is still a junior, from a salary viewpoint. Junior rates on our metropolitan newspapers start at approximately £11 a week and, after a minimum of five years as a junior, with an annual increment, he qualifies for the lowest senior rate which is £17 per week.

Thereafter he advances by another annual increment until he reaches the normal maximum for senior journalists in Dublin, at the moment £22-19-0.

So there, for my young friend, are the basic facts about sports journalism in Ireland. If he still wants to be a sports journalist, good luck to him. I won't advise him one way or another except to say this. If he does become a sports journalist, he'll never be a millionaire, but he will find few more satisfactory ways of making a hard-earned livelihood.

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CAN YOU WHACK IT?

(I have my doubts)

SAYS EAMONN YOUNG

ANY idiot could pick a great football team from the stars of the last twenty-five years but only a fool will try picking the greatest. Only a complete madman will say he's right.

With those thoughts I go to pick heroes of the game from the hundreds of faces that flit across the mirror of the mind and brighten with their deeds the grey of this Christmassy evening.

Truly God, gave us memory that we might have roses in December.

In trying to find the best, I have cared not for medals or publicity though they all got their share, and most of them didn't give a damn whether they did or not.

Another thing: I considered a man for his regular place and not for any other. For instance if a centre-fielder played elsewhere (and which of them didn't?) I didn't take very much notice unless he was better in that place, which of course put him down as a star performer in the new position. And now to work.

I'll pass over the goalie and leave him to the end, but what mighty full backs we have seen, During the last twenty-five years? There's Paddy O'Brien that really wonderful ball-player from Meath; Paddy Prendergast the fair-haired

Mayoman whose lack of inches made no difference to a tremendous spring which reminded people of Joe Barrett of similar build. There was Eddie Boyle of Louth, Tom MacEvoy of Offaly, Greg Hughes and Lar Foley of to-day. And there's a big man from Tralee now living in Limerick named Joe Keohane to whom I would give the all-important full back spot. Playing here demands a technique which very often has little to do with pure football. The full back must be a rogue, a strong man and a real ball-player also. He must



JOE KEOHANE
(Kerry)



have a long kick-out, a pair of safe rugged hands and an indomitable will to beat all comers.

It would take too long, and a possible action for defamation, were I to attempt proving my points in Keohane's case so I'll pass on.

At right corner back we had a mighty man from Meath named Mick O'Brien, a superbly strong chap from Roscommon, now a fit sergeant-major named Bill Jackson, a tall man from Killarney called Billy Myers, whom God has taken away, and a length of thorny wire from Ballycotton named Paddy O'Driscoll to whom I give the spot. The outstanding trait in Driscoll's football was fire. There was gritty determination in his leap, greediness in his hands and an exciting whip in his clearance.

At left full back there's Paddy Bawn Brosnan the lion-hearted, Tom "Pook" Dillon carved out of western rock, and the late Caleb Crone of Cork and Dublin, shrewd, and punishing in the tackle. The champ here is a tidy, thoughtful footballer from the western seaboard named Sean Flanagan, who wasn't really tall and not magnificently strong but who had a

● TO PAGE 37

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CAN YOU WHACK IT?

(FROM
PAGE 35)

great pair of hands, perfect ball control, good positional play and above all a colossal neck. How often did we see the Mayo captain suddenly turn defence into attack with an unruffled solo downfield finished by a cheeky and well-played delivery. About one in twenty know when to solo. Flanagan used up the quota for a long time.

At right half back you had a swarthy devil from a county that should have won more in the 'forties. He was Billy Goodison of Wexford town whose headlong style gave him great games at

centre and right half back. There was big Brendan Lynch of Roscommon who is now a Garda Inspector, and there was the weighty man from Killarney who for a while was the greatest all-round player in the country. I mean Jackie Lyne.

"That's the best of the lot of them" a famous Kerryman once said to me. What exactly he meant I wasn't sure but I had no doubts about the man. Anyone who saw the uncanny anticipation, the snipe-like dash to the ball, the safe handling and the jack-knifed delivery that often drove a sixty

yard kick while another would be thinking of it cannot rule out Sean Murphy of Camp now a doctor in Dublin as one of the great players. He's my right half back.

Bill Carlos of Roscommon had the height, weight and football that made him a great centre-back in the early forties. John Joe O'Reilly, who ran the hundred in ten and a fifth, was as clean as a whistle and dedicated to training, had a very honourable and long career. Billy Casey of Dingle was bad in the off-season and magnificent in the summer when, of course, the man's real merit was shown. Gerry O'Malley can hold his head up in any company for a number of reasons. Any Roscommon man will pay grateful tribute to his art and ball-play. The late Tadgo Crowley of Clonakilty, big, fast and a fine ball player was another champion. My choice, however, is a tall iron-boned fellow from Armagh who was almost unbeatable in the early forties. His name was Jim McCullagh and I never envied the men who played on him in championship or Railway Cup competition. "Mac" was the tough type who liked carving his way to freedom. Forwards don't like that breed. Yet he was a fine ball-player.

Simon Deignan, who started, I think, at full forward for Cavan, had a great career in many places. Superbly fit he studied the game a lot and technically was very sound. Stephen White, the Louthman, could play anywhere. His service to Louth and Leinster at left half-back was out of the top drawer. Earlier we had Micky Geraghty of Kildare, fast, elusive and a delightfully fast kicker. However, my man here is an iron chap from Oughterard named Tom O'Sullivan. Tom had a very long kick even by star standards, a great fetch and a dour determination to beat the other fellows off the field.

In the days before the kick-in from the sideline became law Tom

● TO PAGE 39



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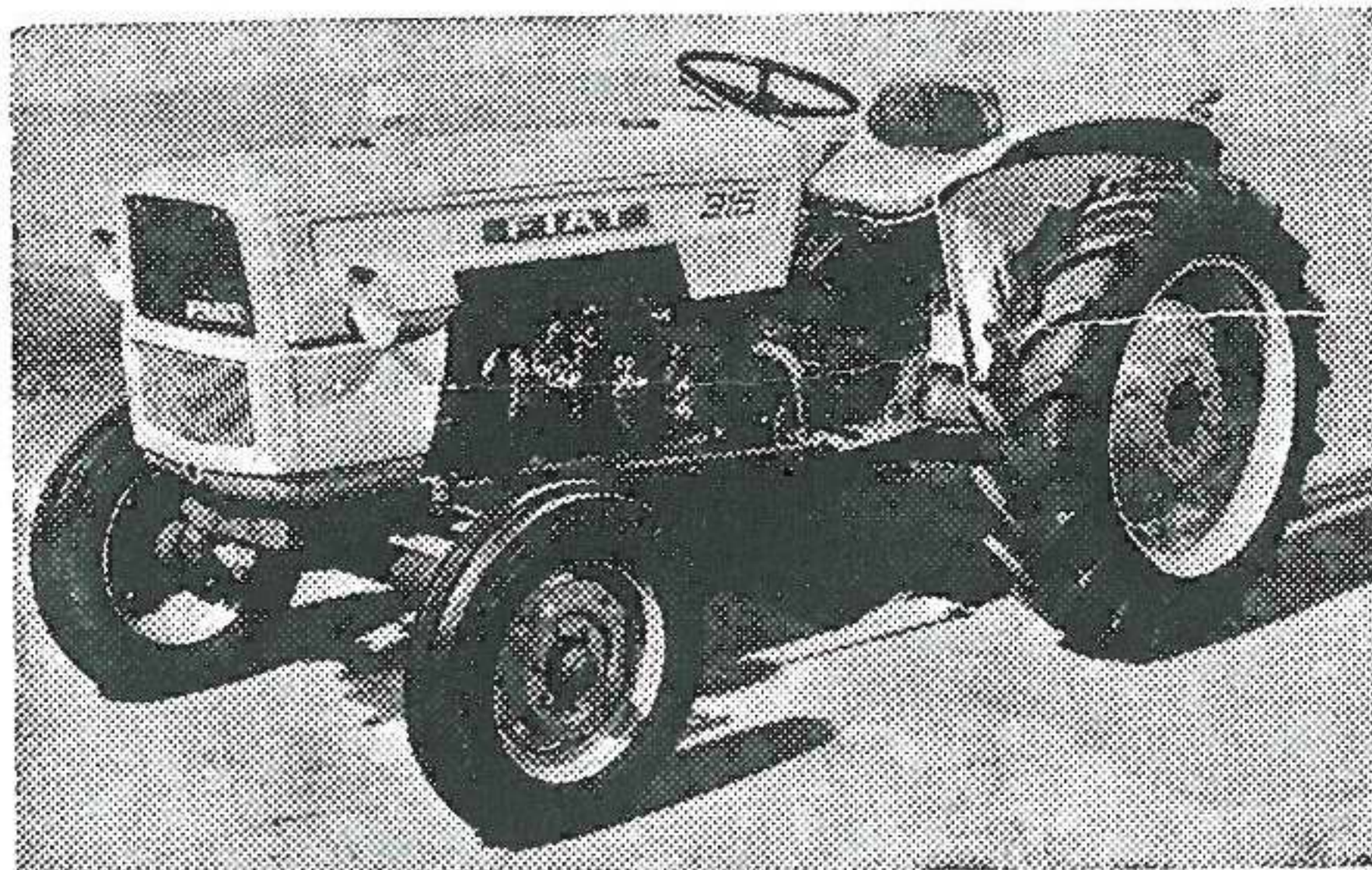
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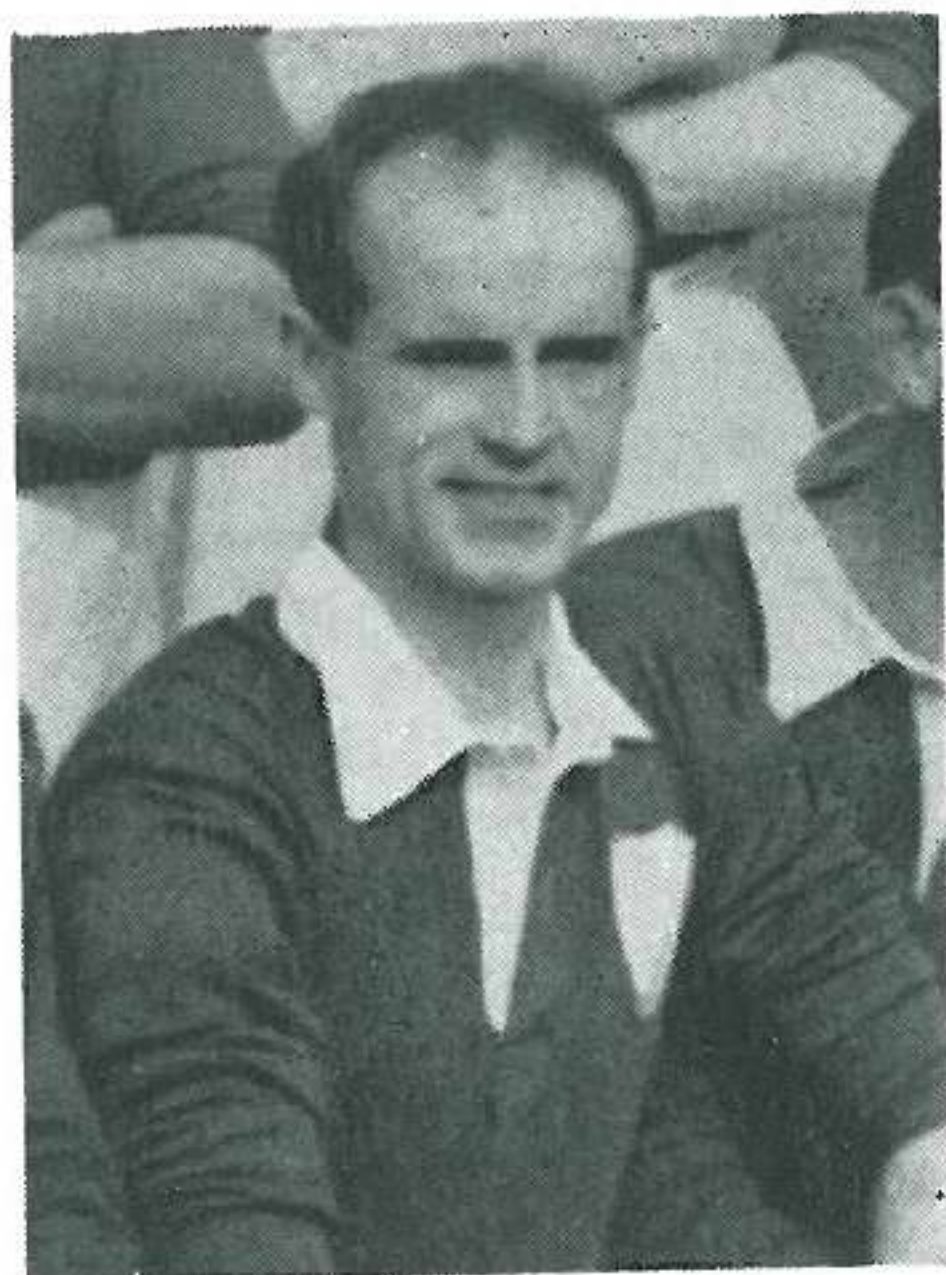
(FROM)
(PAGE 37)

had another valuable skill. He could throw the ball at least forty-yards in a semi-overhand. It was so valuable I saw him throwing them in from right half forward.

Let's not go through the names of the great men who took them out of the sky on the half-way line. I played with and against so many of them myself. I wonder how I escaped an inferiority complex. I have no desire to relive the experience.

Bill Delaney, Jim Morris of Carlow, Eamonn Boland of Roscommon, Victor Sherlock of Cavan, Jimmy Rogers of Wicklow, Jim Crowley of Dublin, Sean Brosnan and Johnny Walsh of Kerry . . . one could go on and on. However, the pair I picked first were Tommy Murphy of Laois and Paddy Kennedy of Kerry.

Murphy, a lean lanky lad with a slouch, was simply impossible to handle and the fact that he starred elsewhere must add to his greatness. Paddy Kennedy of Aunascaul, had a great football sense, a tough fighting heart, and a football education that started in school and as far as I could see during his playing days never finished. He



FRANKIE BYRNE
(Meath)

had a magnificent leap and his timing was perfect. Like all great players he was clean.

In the fifties Derry gave us a great midfielder and memories of Jim McKeever's athletic football are too vivid to need illustration. Likewise the perfect foot-passing of Valentia's Mick O'Connell, his immaculate fetching, his accuracy of long frees and his ability to best ride centre-field on his day make Mick O'Connell a man apart.

Which will I pick? For steadiness, and an ability to score goals which each of them showed, I will pick Kennedy and Murphy and leave the rest to argument.

The centre-forward is the most important man on a football team. So many won't agree and I don't care. He brings the others in to the play and steers the scoring machine. In our game where points are so common it's impossible to win on defence alone. No wonder so many stars operated on the forty.

There was Alf Murray of Armagh (He's a Downman isn't he?), Jimmy Murray of Roscommon in the early forties, there were Padraic Carney of Mayo and Mick Higgins of Cavan a little later. Either of those lively brains on livelier feet would be welcomed in any of our sides to-day. My man came just a little later. He played everywhere; he starred everywhere and the men who beat him, few enough, were stars in their own right. For brains, cheek, acceleration and good shooting give me Sean Purcell of Galway.

Before passing on let me say again that I'm not considering the non-selected stars for any other place. It would be hard to keep them off any side but I go for the craftsman, the technician, the man who gave the best performance in his own place.

At right wing we had Tony Tighe of Cavan, burly Kevin Arm-



PADDY DOHERTY
(Down)

strong of Belfast who drove many a backline out of it's mind, Phelim Murray of Roscommon, and the man whom I select, the slim black-haired chap from Meath—Frank Byrne of the twinkling feet and the steady shot.

Over on the left side there was another batch of fliers headed by Packy McGarty of Leitrim with heart enough to run a bus, Tadg Lyne of Killarney, whose ball-control and swerve was beaten only by his accuracy, Donal Keenan the Roscommon scorer,

● TO PAGE 40

RACING FIXTURES

The racing fixtures which appear on these two pages cover the most important events due to be contested during 1966 and to our race-going readers, we suggest you hold on to these notices for reference during the current season.

Phoenix Park Races

FIXTURES 1966

Sat., March 19th
 Sat., April 9th
 Sat., April 30th
 Wed., May 4th*
 Sat., June 4th
 Sat., June 18th

Wed., June 29th*
 Sat., July 9th
 Fri., July 22nd*
 Wed., August 3rd*
 Sat., August 6th
 Sat., September 10th
 Sat., October 8th

* DENOTES EVENING MEETING

MULLINGAR RACES

FIXTURE LIST, 1966

(Six Meetings)

Sat., February 26th
 Wed., June 1st
 (Evening Meeting)
 Mon., June 20th
 (Evening Meeting)

Tues., June 21st
 (Evening Meeting)
 Mon., August 8th
 (Evening Meeting)
 Sat., December 10th

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KEVIN HEFFERNAN
 (Dublin)

● FROM PAGE 39

and Seamus Leydon of the present day who seems very very hard to mark. The palm I award to my favourite footballer, slippery, accurate, scheming Paddy Doherty of Down.

The corner forward positions are those which are most inadequately filled in most football sides. Perhaps it's because the job needs such technical skill, such self-control when the back is playing outside the rules, such patience when the ball isn't coming and such ability to use it from an acute angle when it does. The men who excelled in the corner were few enough though many a mighty-hearted man played there.

The late Mick Flanagan (remember they called him "Two-Goal"), Joe Stafford of Cavan, Brian Smith of Meath, "Roundy" Landers of Tralee whose best days were really before the forties, Noel Crowley of Clare, and Murt Kelly of Killorglin, were as good as any but then my choice is a broad-shouldered small farmer (he may have five hundred acres) from Meath with jinking feet and a flash of speed named Paddy Meegan.

On the other side we had bustling virile Jim Brosnan, with the deadly shot.

Congrats to Jim and his wife, by the way, on their recent marriage. Also there was Peter McDermott of Meath and of course the player who caused many a back to grit his teeth, the Vincent's man, Kevin Heffernan, whose speed, shooting ability and deadly swerve gave him a long honourable career in top football. He is my choice for left corner.

The full-forward in football has often been an unskilled man. I'm not taking from the courage, and the readiness to take punishment which many of them have shown but they were not craftsmen. Still we had a fair number of good ones during the last twenty-five years, but I don't think anyone will deny that Frank Stockwell, Peter O'Donoghue and Tom Langan were among the best.

Stockwell, small exceedingly lively and able to get his own score was more formidable than ever because of his partnership with Sean Purcell. Needless to say Frank was also a star in his own right.

Peter O'Donoghue, big, cunning and a great man with the dead ball, scored a million shots for Cavan, but my man is the gaunt, bony chap from Mayo, who could run, swerve, kick, and fetch with even the best of them—Tom Langan. He was a clean, hard player, had wonderful ball control and the fact that he spearheaded a winning team for a number of years gave him the greatest advantage a full forward can have: practice at scoring goals. Last time I saw Tom Langan he was in the Garda in Dublin. I hope he's well.

And now to the goalie. There was Danno Keefe of Kerry, who was born in Fermoy. Seven medals testify to his worth and dedication. Aidan Brady of Roscommon was really a bit out of the ordinary, a big active man with great reactions, Johnny Geraghty is a lively keeper with a good record

● TO PAGE 52

UNDER THE RULES OF RACING

CURRAGH RACES

FIXTURES 1966

SAT., APRIL 2nd
 WED., APRIL 20th
 SAT., MAY 14th
 THURS., MAY 19th
 WED., JUNE 8th
 SAT., JULY 2nd
 FRI., JULY 8th (E.)

SAT., JULY 23rd
 SAT., AUGUST 13th
 SAT., AUGUST 27th
 WED., SEPTEMBER 14th
 SAT., SEPTEMBER 17th
 SAT., OCTOBER 1st
 SAT., OCTOBER 22nd

SAT., NOVEMBER 5th

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Saturday, 2nd July.

The Irish Guinness Oaks

Saturday, 23rd July.

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FIXTURES 1966

SAT., JANUARY 15th
 SAT., JANUARY 29th
 SAT., FEBRUARY 19th
 SAT., MAY 7th
 MON., MAY 9th (E)
 SAT., JUNE 11th
 FRI., JULY 15th (E)

SAT., JULY 16th
 SAT., JULY 30th
 WED., AUGUST 24th
 SAT., SEPTEMBER 24th
 SAT., OCTOBER 29th
 SAT., NOVEMBER 19th
 MON., DECEMBER 26th

TUES., DECEMBER 27th

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THE MEN OF THE WEST

THIS is the time of the year for selecting the Sportsmen of the Year, etc. I will be "with it." Here is my Connacht G.A.A. Top Ten for 1965.

- 1—Mattie McDonagh (Galway).
- 2—Gerry O'Malley (Roscommon).
- 3—Enda Colleran (Galway).
- 4—Mickey Kearns (Sligo).
- 5—Martin Newell (Galway).
- 6—Peadar McGee (Mayo).
- 7—Jim Keane (Roscommon).
- 8—Pat Donnellan (Galway).
- 9—Packy McGarty (Leitrim).
- 10—Jimmy Duggan (St. Jarlath's College and Galway).

The near misses include the popular and efficient Leitrim Co. Secretary, Tommy O'Riordan; Brian McNeill, the brilliant Galway Vocational School star; Johnny Geraghty for courageous and brilliant goalkeeping; Joe McLoughlin, the St. Mary's College, Galway, hurler; Mickey Durkin and Sean Durkin, the Sligo footballers; Pat Clarke, the Roscommon minor footballer and handball star; Dermot Earley, another Roscommon minor star; Joe McMorrow, the young Sligo chairman who infused so much life into Sligo football; Brian Geraghty, captain of Galway's successful junior All-Ireland side, and those knights of the whistle, Aubrey Higgins (Galway) and Mickey Loftus (Mayo).

There are many others whose efforts deserve mention, but space does not allow. Many will not agree with my choice but then again no top ten would satisfy everybody.



Gerry O'Malley

Mattie McDonagh heads my list for the very simple reason that he became the first Connachtman to win **three** senior All-Ireland medals for a Connacht county. Besides, he had a great year, playing one of his greatest games in the Connacht final and rallying Galway to a grandstand finish against Down in the semi-final. In the final, after being "in the wars," he played on with the courage of a lion and is the most popular man in Connacht at the moment.

Gerry O'Malley got his All-Ireland medal at last and we were all delighted when the sporting Roscommon man realised his ambition. Enda Colleran's play against Down in the championship, his sportsmanship at all times whether with club or county and his memorable acceptance speech

at Croke Park stamped him as the ideal captain.

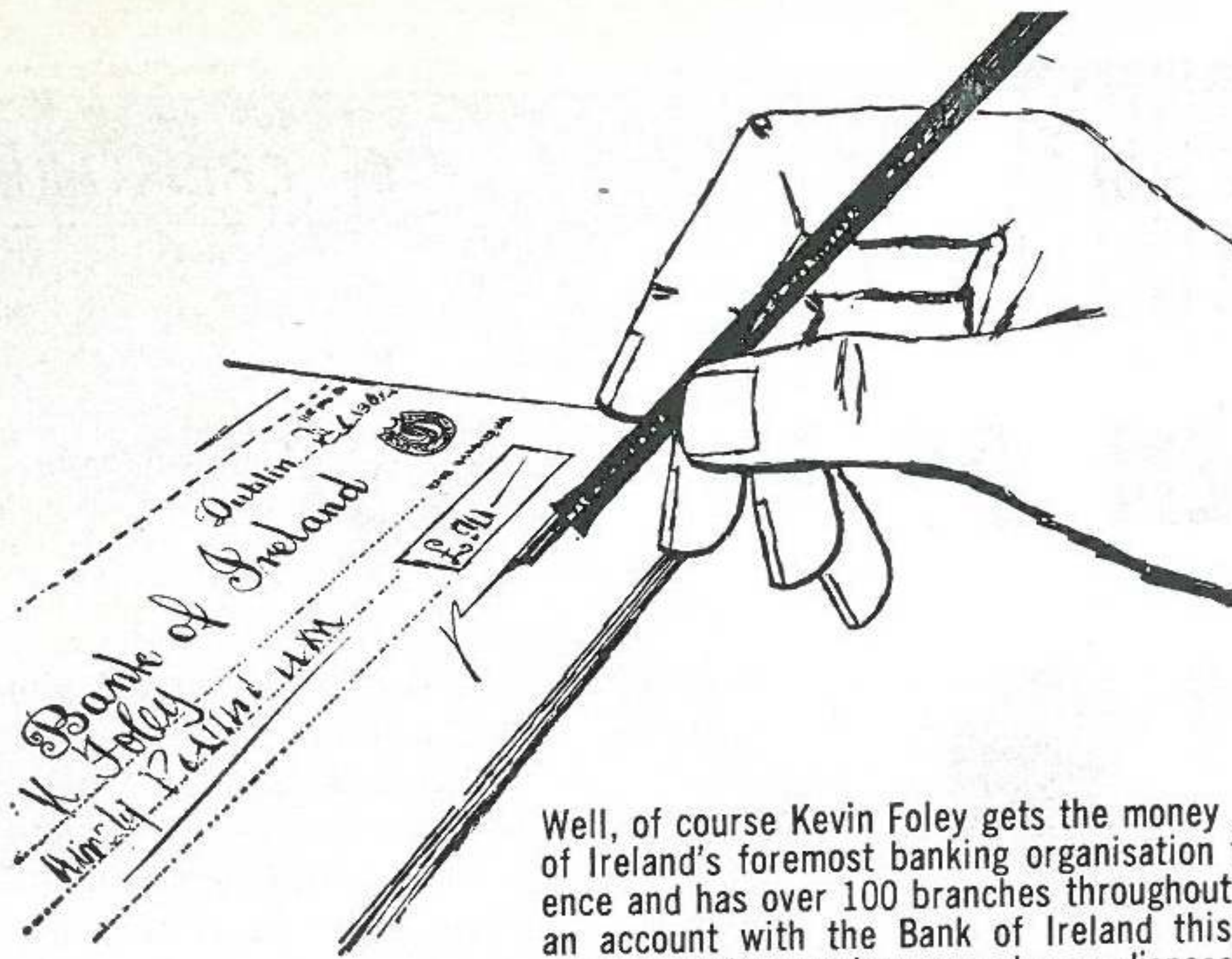
Mickey Kearns may have bowed the knee to John Donnellan in the Connacht final, but more than any other player he steered his county back to the limelight and a Croke Park appearance, besides playing some fine Railway Cup football and gaining a trip to the States for the Cardinal Cushing games. Martin Newell's play in the All-Ireland final shone like a jewel, the best display of wing half-back football in a final since Sean Murphy's wonderful exhibition from the other wing in the 1959 final.

Peadar McGee's heroic deeds in bringing senior All-Ireland titles (singles and doubles in partnership with Paddy Bollingbroke, another excellent sportsman who has been playing now for many years) to Mayo have rightly made him a hero in his native Newport. Nothing succeeds like success they say, and now one of the most flourishing handball clubs in Ireland is in Newport.

Next in line comes Jim Keane, the Roscommon minor full-forward. Only a substitute in the Connacht final against Mayo, his glorious play especially in the first half of the All-Ireland semi-final versus Derry should have yielded success. It yielded some tremendous scores, however, and provided me with one of my finest memories of 1965.

Pat Donnellan is a very popular man in Galway too. Never more popular than now. He really ful-

● TO PAGE 49



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GAELIC GAMES IN THE BANKS



Eddie Keher

By DOMHNALL Ó HÓGÁIN

THE problem of the proper use of leisure is largely a twentieth-century one. A hundred years ago, hours of work were long and laborious, pay was small, transport facilities were still primitive and participation in organised sports and pastimes was thus largely the prerogative of the middle and upper classes, with a small admixture in Britain of professional games players—mostly footballers and cricketers. The Irish workingman—whether in the factory or on the farm—had neither the leisure nor the spirit to emulate those who were considered his betters and it was not until the founding of the G.A.A. in 1884 that a more rational view was possible in this country of the rights of the worker as regards the use of his leisure hours.

Since those far off days, the length of the working week has

been cut by approximately one-half to its present figure of about 40 hours, and, with growing prosperity, it will no doubt shrink further still. Trade unions and enlightened employers' associations are increasingly concerned that the abundant free time should be used for participation in sports and games, rather than spent in watching others playing them. In this matter, the Banks have a good record. Not only are individual members of their staffs readily released to play for country, province or club, but every encouragement, including that final test of sincerity, hard cash, is given to teams participating in inter-Bank competitions.

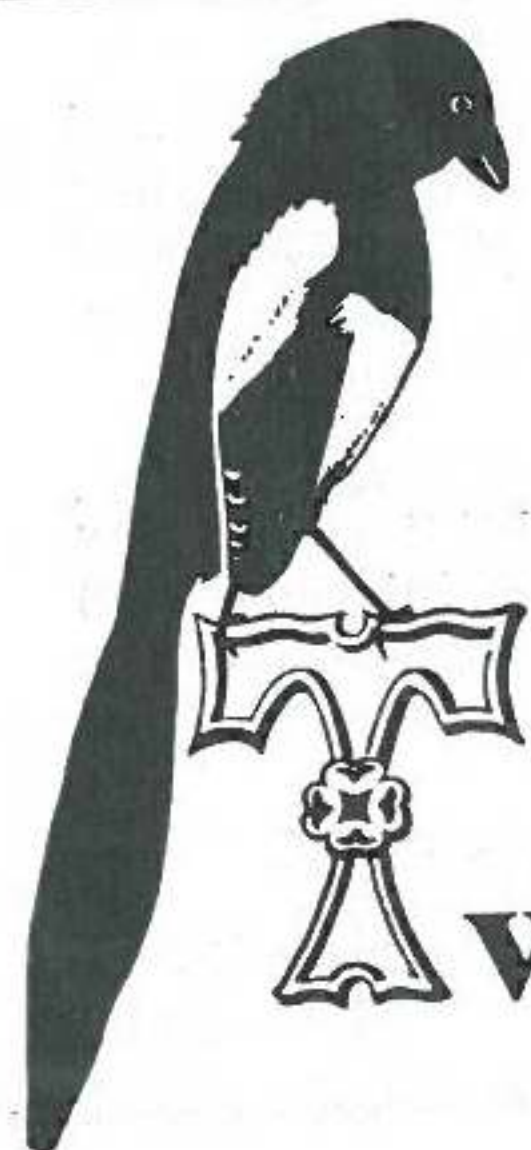
The games at which the ten Irish commercial banks now meet each other range all the way from bridge and table-tennis to rugby football and golf, but in none of

them is the rivalry keener on or off the pitch, than in two sports not always regarded as suitable for bank clerks—Gaelic football and hurling.

Handsome trophies have been presented for both games by the Irish Bank Officials' Association, the senior of which is the football cup, first played for in 1951. Since then, it has been won seven times by the National Bank—five times on their own and twice in collaboration with the Hibernian. National are in the final of the 1965 competition, bidding for their third win in a row, and must be regarded as favourites against the Provincial, who appear in the final for the first time ever.

Well-known players who are expected to turn out in the final include—National: Mick Burke (Cork), Benny Keating (Tipperary),

● TO PAGE 47



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● FROM PAGE 45

Pat Ahern (Kerry), Jim Fallon (Westmeath); Provincial: John Ahern (Limerick), Michael Curran (Cork) and Jim Phelan (Waterford).

In the semi-finals, Bank of Ireland, who have found National to be their bogey-team in recent years, went under again, but their youthful side was not disgraced—Dan McSweeney (Mayo), Harry McKinney (Kerry) and Eamon Gallagher (Leitrim) playing well. Munster and Leinster, even though short of the services of their Railway Cup forward, Dermot Gannon (Leitrim), cannot have expected to lose to Provincial in the other semi-final, but that's the way it goes. Their stalwarts of former years—Sean O'Connell (Cork) and Bernie McBride (Longford)—did not field in the 1965 campaign; it is hoped that their retirement is not final.

It will be a matter for regret to friend and foe alike when the ever-green John Nallen (Cavan, at present) pulls off his red Ulster Bank jersey for the last time. In the 1965 campaign, he appeared as indestructible as ever and was ably assisted by Jimmy O'Donnell (Cavan) and Brendan Needham (Louth). Hibernian's Tom Magee and Northern's Eugene Keenan also caught the eye during the past season, but there were signs of a levelling-up of talent in all the teams, probably attributable to the increasing number of young men joining the service of the Irish banks who have played Gaelic games in school.

It is noteworthy, too, that nearly all the players appearing on these bank teams turn out regularly for club or county and that there is now no need—as in the early days of the competition—to fill out teams with temporary converts from other varieties of the foot-

ball games, whose skill seldom measured up to their enthusiasm.

The play nowadays in bank cup-ties, usually decided by kind permission either at the Civil Service ground at Islandbridge or at the St. Vincent's ground at Raheny, is approximately equal to Dublin senior club standard.

As in the wider inter-county field, bank hurling appeals to a smaller section than does football and it is unusual to find more than four teams for the Cup, which was first competed for in 1960. This trophy has tended to shuttle backwards and forwards between the Munster and Leinster and the holders, the National, who, however, got a bad fright from the Provincial in the 1965 final—only a point dividing them at the finish on the scores 5-9 to 4-11.

To his side's total of 23 points, Eddie Keher contributed no fewer than 16, an astonishing feat, even against a defence of somewhat less than inter-county stoutness. Jim Phelan and Michael Carew gave the Kilkenny maestro full support, while best for National were the legendary Sean Clohessy, Pat Murphy (Limerick), Terry Moloney, former Tipperary All-Ireland goalkeeper, and Tommy Monahan, present Cork junior goalkeeper.

Bank of Ireland, who are passing through a lean period in inter-bank sport but who will surely rise again, made no impression in the competition, while the 1964 winners, Munster and Leinster, went out to National in the 1965 semi-final. Munster and Leinster can call on Conor O'Dwyer (Tipperary) and Pat Hanafin and Seamus Fleming of Civil Service and not many years are likely to elapse before their names appear on the hurling cup again.

The one Gaelic game at which Bank of Ireland might win an inter-bank title is handball, but, alas, no cup has yet been presented for competition at this ancient sport. Their leading exponent is Ray Doherty of Roscommon, who

twice won the All-Ireland minor softball title and was narrowly defeated in this year's junior All-Ireland final by Pat Sheerin (Offaly). However, handballers—like marathon runners—mature late and Ray may yet win not only junior, but senior, All-Ireland honours in his chosen sport. All bank sportsmen will wish him well in his quest.

Bank officials have had, and will no doubt continue to have, differences of opinion with their employers about matters of mutual interest, such as salary scales and the like, but they will be the first to agree that in this matter the Banks have shown a spirit in which self-interest plays an appreciably smaller part than it often does in staff-management relations. That this spirit will continue and develop should be the wish of everyone who has any interest in the proper use of the worker's leisure or in the strength and vigour of our Irish games.

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LONGFORD'S PROSPECTS ARE VERY BRIGHT

THINGS are quiet so we might as well pass away the time with a bit of forecasting. How, for instance, are the Leinster counties going to do in the National Leagues. Let us start with football:

Longford strike me as likely to just about edge Meath in their Division II semi-final at Croke Park on February 13 and so qualify to meet either Kerry, Sligo or Cavan (probably Kerry) in the Divisional final. I give Longford a great chance of coming through here too.

In Division III, I fancy a Dublin-Kildare final provided the latter survive against Cork in their play-off at Cork on February 6. While in Division IV I expect Offaly to find their feet again and qualify for the final against Galway.

In hurling Kilkenny and Wexford are still there with a chance but it does look as if Tipperary must hold one of the semi-final positions with either Kilkenny or Wexford having to bow the knee. I take Kilkenny to hold on and contest one of the semi-finals

against either Limerick, Cork or Clare.

KILDARE CONFIDENCE

The Kildare Association, Dublin, brought the entire under-21 team to their annual dinner and it was quite a night. There was no mistaking the optimism—there is great confidence that these young men will put Kildare back into the football forefront.

LOUTH CHAIRMAN

Louth County Chairman, Mr. J. L. Reilly, received an overwhelming vote of confidence at the recent County Convention and by huge margins was returned to office both as Chairman and Central Council representative. Mr. Reilly is generally regarded as one of the Association's most progressive county chairmen and it is good to see that this fact is full-well realised in his own county.

BACONSTOWN CLUB

The Baconstown, Co. Meath, club was formed in 1963 as one of a number of clubs in the parish of Enfield. Since then this great little club has sent five hurling teams and one football team regularly into action. They have a hurling team in every grade from juvenile to intermediate. In 1964 the club won the county junior hurling crown and last year went one better by contesting the intermediate final in which they were beaten. However, they then came back to win out the losers' group.

It is clubs like this which make the G.A.A. great.

CONNACHT COMMENT

● FROM PAGE 43

filled all his college days' promise in 1965 if we remember his League final display against Kerry in the second half, the second game against New York in Gaelic Park, the second half of the Down game and the manner in which he negated Mick O'Connell after cancelling out the much-vaunted Denis O'Sullivan in the final. Pat's greatest year.

Packy McGarty is still going strong in club and county fare. With Round Towers (Clondalkin) he reached the Dublin Co. Final and is still Leitrim's inspiration. In Railway Cup fare his presence on

the field at Navan against Leinster changed the trend of the game, and again in the final, while not the man he was in 1958, he was one of Connacht's best. Leitrim's greatest player surely.

My final choice is Jimmy Duggan, the St. Jarlath's College football star, still the best college player in Ireland as he was last year and the year before possibly. In senior club fare he won a Mayo medal with his native Claremorris. In inter-county fare he was one of the pillars of the Galway Under-21 team so narrowly beaten by Cork. Now they tell me he is making a name for himself in hurling with St. Jarlath's College where the game is picking up no end. Certainly one of the greatest prospects in the West at the moment.

Well, there they are. A happy New Year to all of you.

Because of pressure on space, two regular features — Seán Ó Dúnagáin's Irish article and Handball by Alleyman — have been held over until our February issue.



Fit Remoulds team. Front row (left to right): B. Nolan, M. Brennan, T. Lacey, N. Devlin, M. Byrne, L. O'Brien, M. Doherty, P. Lacey. Back row (left to right): M. Byrne, M. Walsh, F. Lalor, O. Nolan, N. Nolan, L. Hehir, L. Delaney, S. Power, P. Connors, E. Buggy.

BIG HONOUR FOR FIT REMOULDS

ON the inter-factory hurling scene, Fit Remoulds of Kilkenny have the honour of being victorious in the first of the competitions decided to date. The Kilkenny men have a good side and before they could take hold


of the Products Cup, which, incidentally, was donated in 1965, they had to overcome some very stiff opposition. Among their victims were Mahon and McPhillips, Kilkenny Products, Smithwicks, Roadstone, Keenans,

Worsted Mills and Power's Distillery.

By virtue of their victory, Remoulds now take their place in Section A of the competition, and here they will meet such well-proven sides as Clover Meats, Banagher Tiles, Waterford Glass, Roscrea Bacon and Antigen, to name but a few.

Fit Remoulds had a convincing 12 points victory in the Section B final against Mahon and McPhillips. Nevertheless, it was a most enjoyable game and both sides are to be complimented both for the standard of hurling and the spirit of sportsmanship displayed throughout the hour.

Following the game, both teams were guests of the management of Fit Remoulds Ltd. at a reception in the factory's canteen, when Mr. Frank Duggan, of Kilkenny Products, presented the trophy to the winning captain, Ned Nolan. Among the well-known personalities present at the reception was Jim Langton of Kilkenny hurling fame.



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ULSTER

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**SPOTLIGHT**

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By Conallach

HOW time has flown. It seems only the other day since we were forecasting the outcome of the 1965 Ulster championships and now the 1966 competitions are just around the corner.

The first championship game, Tyrone v. Cavan in junior football, is listed for March 27 at Coalisland and from there on there will be championship outings virtually every Sunday until the senior football final on Sunday, July 31.

Forecasts? Well at this point it does look like Down to retain the football crown. Still a lot of things could happen between now and July.

RESURGENT ARMAGH

For example—by all accounts Armagh are on the way back. They put up a fine performance against Down in the Lagan Cup and they could improve a lot more in six or seven months.

In the championship Armagh meet the winners of Fermanagh and Monaghan on June 26 and if they survive this one they are in the provincial semi-final against either Cavan or Donegal.

Antrim, Derry, Down and Tyrone will provide the other semi-final pairing.

Yes, it should be Down but I have a feeling that they will earn it.

RAILWAY CUP

Speaking of Armagh football reminds me that Armagh City is becoming quite a hurling venue. For example, last year the Armagh-Wicklow All-Ireland junior hurling semi-final was played there, while on February 27 next it stages the Ulster-Leinster Railway Cup hurling semi-final.

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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● FROM PAGE 31

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● FROM PAGE 51

ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

FINAL ON T.V.

The news that the Ulster senior football final is to be televised by the B.B.C. has been welcomed by all whom I have heard discuss the arrangement.

It is safe to say that at least half of the population of the Six North Eastern counties have never attended a Gaelic match. However, they liked what they saw on television last September—especially the All-Ireland hurling final. An exciting and well-contested Ulster final will do much for the spread of Gaelic games in the province.

MINOR HURLING

Five Ulster counties will field minor hurling teams in the 1966 championship—Antrim, Armagh, Donegal, Down and Monaghan. The hurling revival is certainly succeeding in the province and while Antrim must be taken to retain the title once more, they may have to fight hard against Down in the opening round.

It will probably be another year or two before Cavan, Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh join in to make it a full house in Ulster.

CAN YOU WHACK IT?

● FROM PAGE 41

which is likely to grow better, and there's Jack Mangan, who could save a ball and cut his way through against the best of them.

Anyway my man is five feet ten with strong hands and a great football rearing. He played outfield for Cork and Tipperary and was selected on a Munster Railway Cup team before he left Brendan's in Killarney. He had ten consecutive games — important games for Cork without a goal being scored though he himself was the first to say it was the back's fault. He saved penalties many a time, including one in an All-Ireland semi-final and when he guarded a twenty-four foot net, an occupation for which he received just reprimand; he starred there also. He's from Cullen near Millstreet and strangely enough he's another Danno Keeffe. So there's my fifteen. I know you don't agree any more than I would with yours.

Perhaps you can pick a better

team from the past 25 years, but it will take a hell of a side to beat this one.

Danno Keeffe (Cork).
Paddy Driscoll (Cork).
Joe Keohane (Kerry).
Sean Flanagan (Mayo).
Sean Murphy (Kerry).
Jim McCullagh (Armagh).
Tom O'Sullivan (Galway).
Paddy Kennedy (Kerry).
Tommy Murphy (Laois).
Frankie Byrne (Meath).
Sean Purcell (Galway).
Paddy Doherty (Down).
Paddy Meegan (Meath).
Tom Langan (Mayo).
Kevin Heffernan (Dublin).

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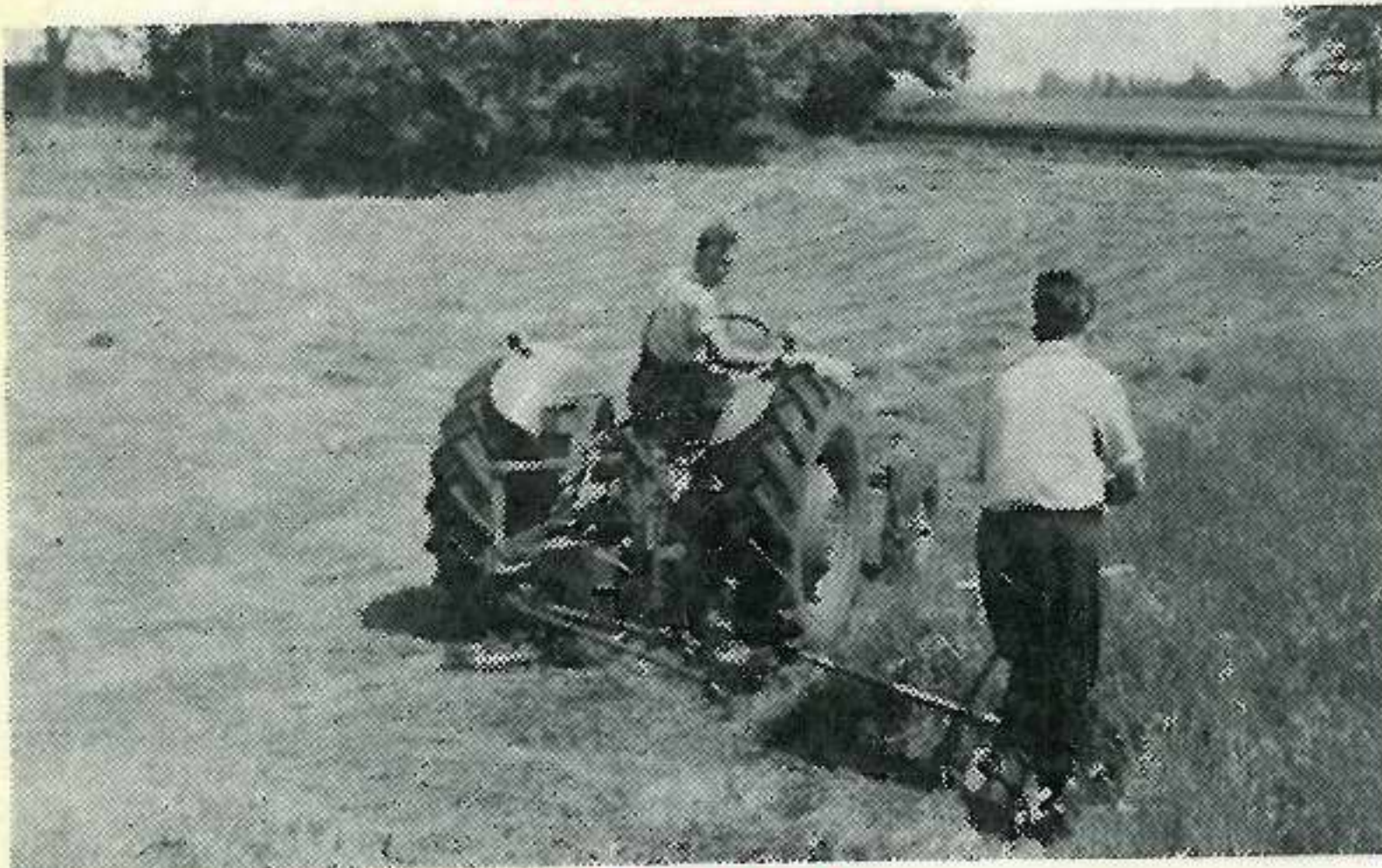
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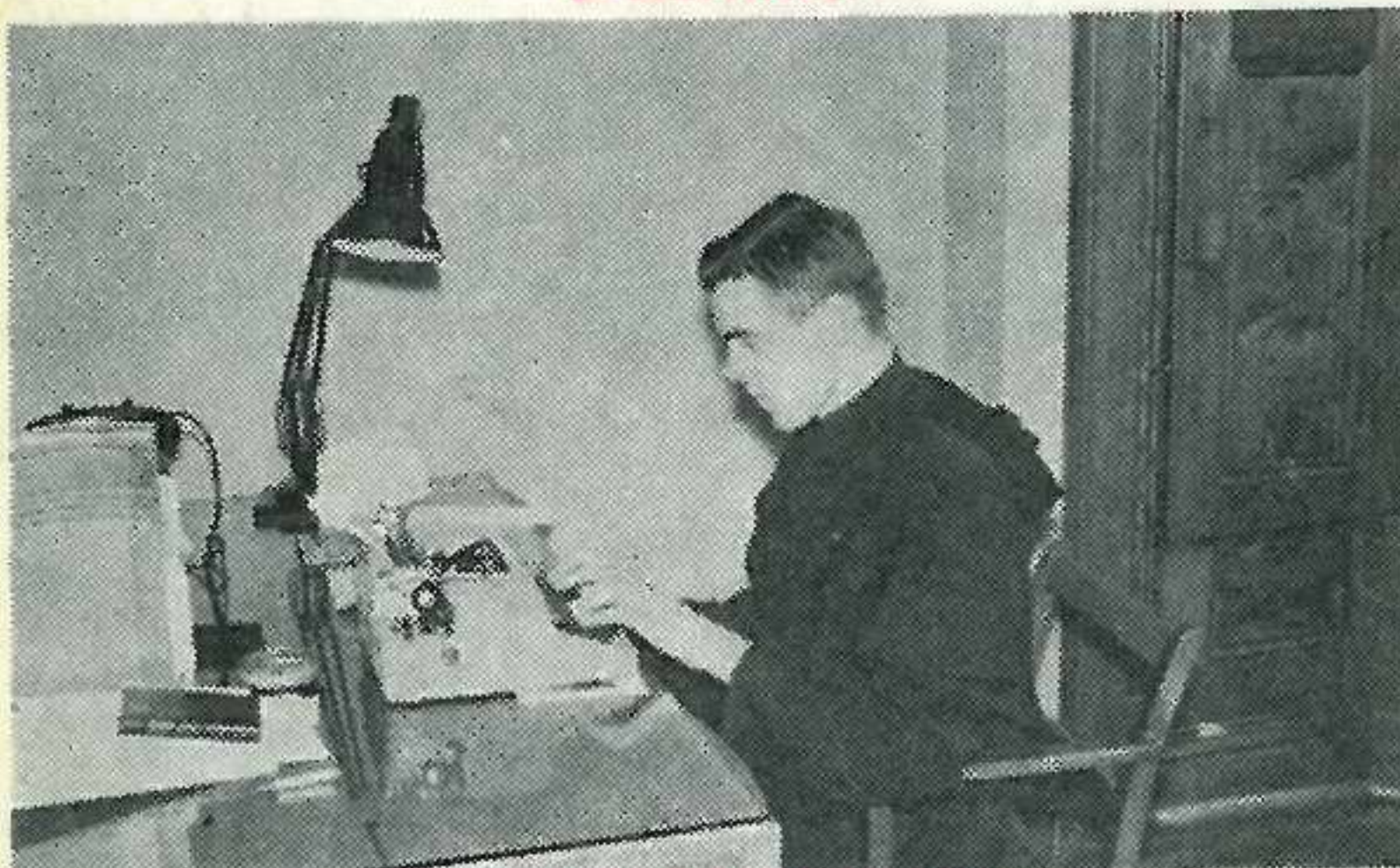
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