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GAA

Gaelic Sport

MAY, 1966

Vol. 9. No. 5.

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Frankie Walsh

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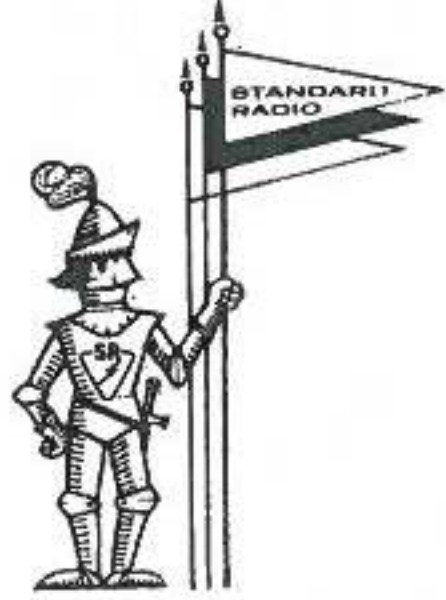
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COMMENT

MEMBERSHIP DEFINED

CONGRESS 1966, despite its lack of excitement and controversy, may yet be remembered as one of the most significant of our time. The reason for this is because it defined membership of the G.A.A.

Membership of the Association is now “confined to those who have applied for and have been admitted to membership of an affiliated club under such regulations as the Central Council of the Association may from time to time lay down”.

It will be some time before the full benefits of this decision are apparent—but they will be many.

Firstly, clubs will be strengthened. No longer will they be indistinct bodies of people congregated around a team, or a number of teams. With defined membership, clubs will acquire a more orderly and functional formation.

Secondly, the Association at large will in future be defined rather than an abstract conglomeration of “Gaels”. One will either be or not be a member of the G.A.A. As a result control and administration will be more effective at all levels.

Thirdly, there will be added strength, and a new realisation of strength, in the unity which defined membership will provide. There should also be a considerable increase in the number of participants in the Association's work. Heretofore there appeared to be room for only players and officials. Now there is a place for everybody who believes in what the G.A.A. stands for and is about.

Thanks to Congress 1966, the G.A.A. can now reach its full potential as a force for national good.

COVER PHOTO

THE ACTION PICTURE on our front cover this month features those two great stalwarts of Kerry and Down, Bernie O'Callaghan and Patsy O'Hagan respectively, in a race for possession during the recent Railway Cup Football Final, at Croke Park.

THE EDITOR ASKS . . .

A survey of the falling attendances at major games. And the conclusion? That live Television broadcasts cost the G.A.A. possibly £20,000 per annum.

HOW much is Telefis Eireann costing the G.A.A.? A huge fortune if we are to judge by the attendance of only 24,312 at this year's Railway Cup finals. There were, for example, twice that many at the 1954 finals. However, let us not jump to any sudden conclusions. Instead let us examine attendance at all games which have been televised live by Telefis Eireann and compare those figures with attendances immediately prior to the advent of television.

Telefis Eireann first arrived in Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day, 1962. Since then all Railway Cup finals, All-Ireland football semi-finals and All-Ireland football and hurling finals have been televised. This is a total of four Sundays annually.

Let us begin with Railway Cup figures. There were 36,639 at the 1958 finals. In 1959 only the football final was played on March 17—the hurling final being held over until the official opening of the new Hogan Stand on Sunday, June 7. An attendance of 35,002 turned up for the football final while 23,248 attended the hurling final to give a total of 58,250. However, it would be misleading to accept this as the figure which would have turned up had both games been played together. Something in the region of 45,000 would surely be a fairer figure. Let us then accept this as the 1959 attendance.

WHAT DOES T.V. COST THE G.A.A. ?

In 1960 there was a crowd of 40,473, while in 1961 the attendance dropped to 34,856. Then came television.

Attendance was not effected by the presence of Telefis Eireann at Croke Park, on March 17, 1962. There was a crowd of 40,429. It was to be the last of big gatherings on the national holiday. Many who were at Croke Park on that day went home and learned that television was a reasonable substitute—so they stayed at home on such occasions in future.

The figure for the 1963 Railway Cup finals was 30,680. In 1964 it dropped further to an extraordinary 23,621. In 1965 there was a weak rally to 30,734 (probably due to the fact that the four provinces were represented). However, this year it was down to 24,312.

It is clear that there has been a very definite fall in March 17 attendances.

The average attendance at Railway Cup finals during the four years prior to television was 39,242 and since television 27,337. A drop of 11,905 has been established. And now let us try to convert this into pounds.

A percentage of those who did not turn up for the 1963, '64, '65 and '66 finals would normally have gone on to the stands and paid from 5/- to 7/6. Most of them would, of course, have stood and so paid 2/- to 3/- (general ad-

mission prices changed twice during the years in question). However, let us take 3/6 as the average price which would have been paid. In other words the G.A.A. has been dropping 11,905 3/6s each St. Patrick's Day since, and including, 1963. This gives us a total loss for the four years of £8,333—or approximately £2,100 per annum.

And now let us move on to the All-Ireland football semi-final figures. In 1959 Kerry and Dublin drew 70,148 for their semi-final meeting, while Galway and Down attracted 62,688—a total semi-final attendance of 132,836.

In 1960 Kerry and Galway drew 57,128 Offaly and Down added 68,023 in their replay and 64,232 in their drawn game. Taking the former figure only, we have a semi-final total of 132,255 for 1960—almost exactly the same as 1959.

In 1961 the figures went up. Offaly and Roscommon drew 64,112, while Kerry and Down topped it with 71,573 to give a total of 135,685.

Then came television and there is an immediate fall. In the 1962 semi-finals, Kerry and Dublin attracted 60,396, while Roscommon and Cavan added 46,926 to give a total of 117,322—down 18,000 on the previous year.

In 1963 the decline continued. Dublin and Down drew 70,072 but Kerry and Galway were as low as

37,193. This gives a total of only 107,265. But worse was to come.

In 1964 Kerry and Cavan attracted 45,578, while Galway and Meath drew 52,547—a total of only 98,125. This was 35,000 down on what were steady and increasing figures in 1959, '60, and '61.

Last year's semi-finals were not much better—51,541 at the Galway-Down game and 49,208 at the Kerry-Dublin encounter, to give a total of 100,747.

Again working out the averages, we find that prior to television the average annual football semi-final figure (both semi-finals) was 133,588 and since television the figure is 105,865. This gives an average per annum fall of 27,723.

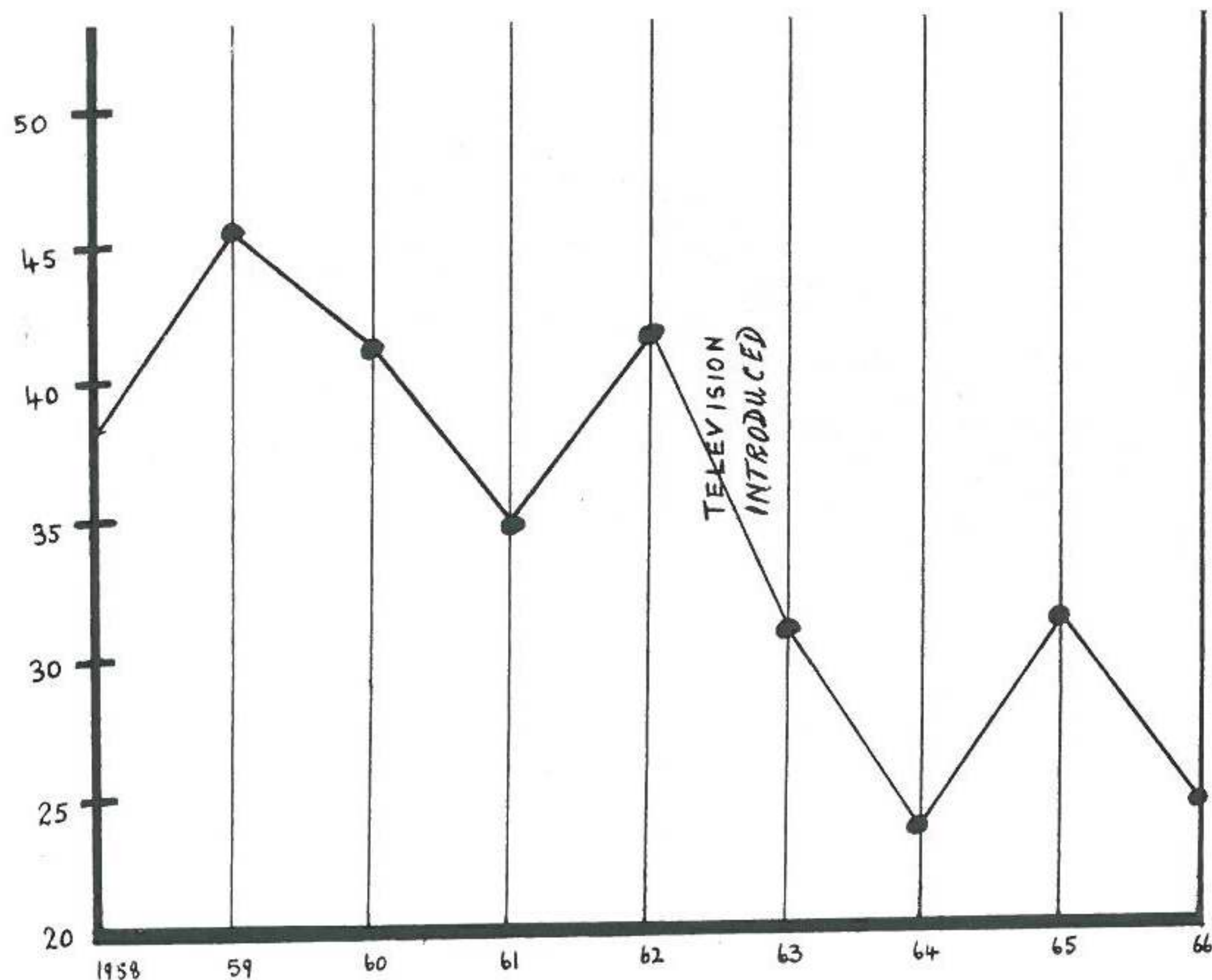
Calculating this in pounds we can accept 4/6 per head as the likely amount which would have been paid. Unless we are mistaken there have been vacant stand seats at every semi-final since the advent of television. This gives a per annum loss of £6,237 on All-Ireland football semi-finals—just short of £25,000 for the four years since 1962.

And now we move on to football finals. Here the attendance drop is not quite so great. This is to be expected for All-Ireland finals provide a unique occasion and few will accept television as an alternative.

In 1959 Kerry and Galway drew 85,897. Kerry and Down topped that with 87,768 in 1960. In 1961 there was an all-time record when Down and Offaly drew 90,556. Then came television.

In 1962 Kerry and Roscommon were down to 75,771. Dublin and Galway brought the figure back up in 1963 to 87,106, but in 1964 it was down again when only 76,498 turned up to see Kerry and Galway, while last year the same pairing was not much better with 77,735.

There has been an average yearly fall of just over 8,000 and in calculating this into cash we can accept a figure of 3/- per head, as



Graph shows the fall in attendances at Railway Cup finals.

all stand seats were sold for all the games in question. An average yearly loss of £1,200 has, therefore, been incurred at football finals.

However, before moving on we should, I think, take a closer look at these football figures. One point is fairly clear. When Dublin are involved television does not greatly upset attendance figures.

The reason for this is fairly obvious. The Dublin follower has little difficulty or expense in getting to Croke Park. Television is no real alternative as far as he is concerned. For a few shillings he can have the real thing. Not so the countryman for whom a visit to Croke Park means much travel and considerable cost.

Whether or not the country follower turns up at Croke Park on the day when the game is being televised is a most elastic business, and the football figures offer some frightening examples of just how elastic it is.

Take the 1962 football final as a first example. Kerry and Roscommon drew only 75,772. Yet when

these same counties met in 1944 they attracted 79,245—and that was during the War when private cars were off the road and trains were at the minimum.

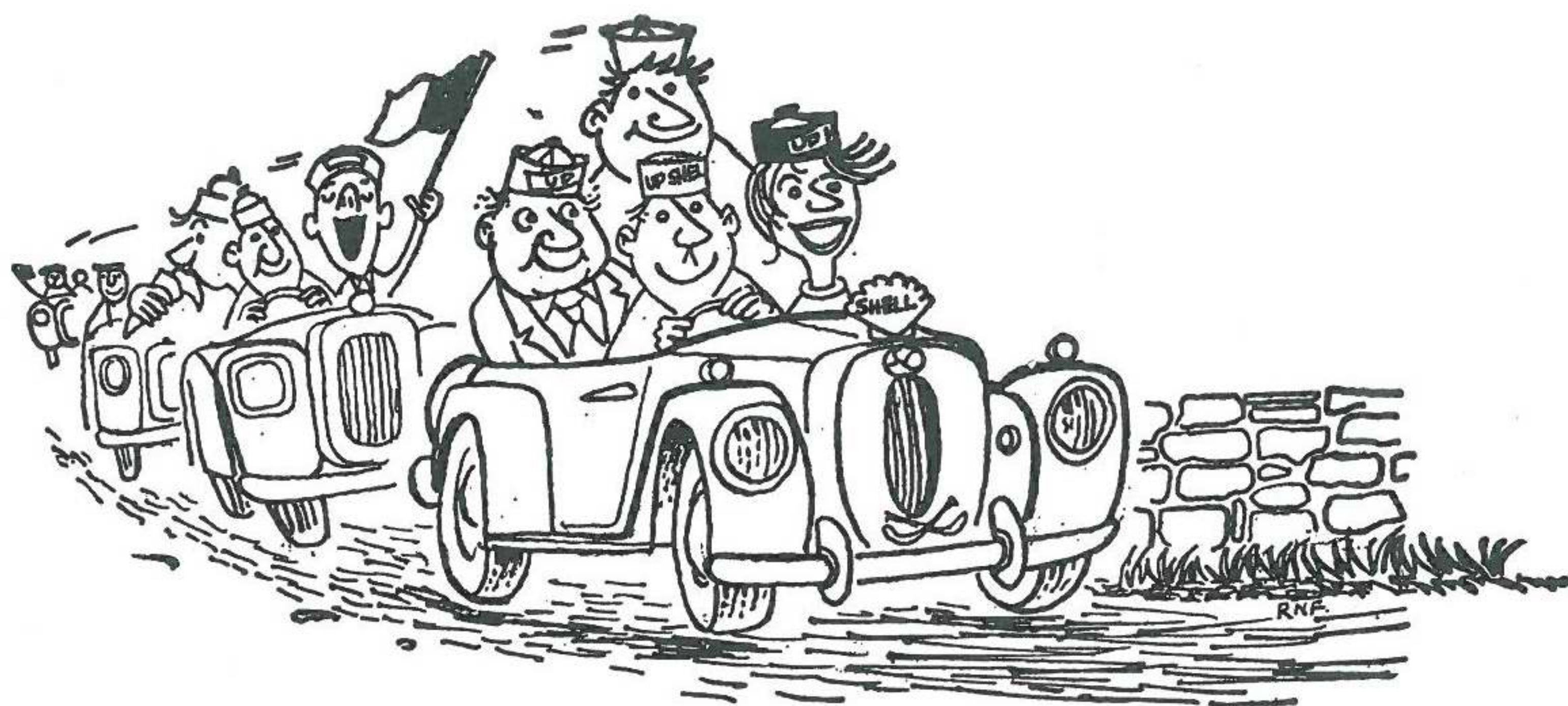
Then take Kerry and Galway. In the 1959 final, when the then Galway team was over the hill and everybody knew it, they attracted 85,897. Yet in 1965 they could draw only 77,735.

As we see it, that Galway-Kerry final of last year had everything. It was the greatest attraction for many years, yet television was capable of knocking what would surely have been an all-time record back to a very average figure.

Kerry and Galway were always a great attraction in a final. If we go back as far as 1938 we find that they drew just short of 69,000—yet in 1964 and '65 they added only 7,000 and 8,000 respectively to the figure of a quarter of a century previous.

In moving on to the hurling finals we come to the only anomaly in this entire analysis. Hurling

(Continued Page 7.)

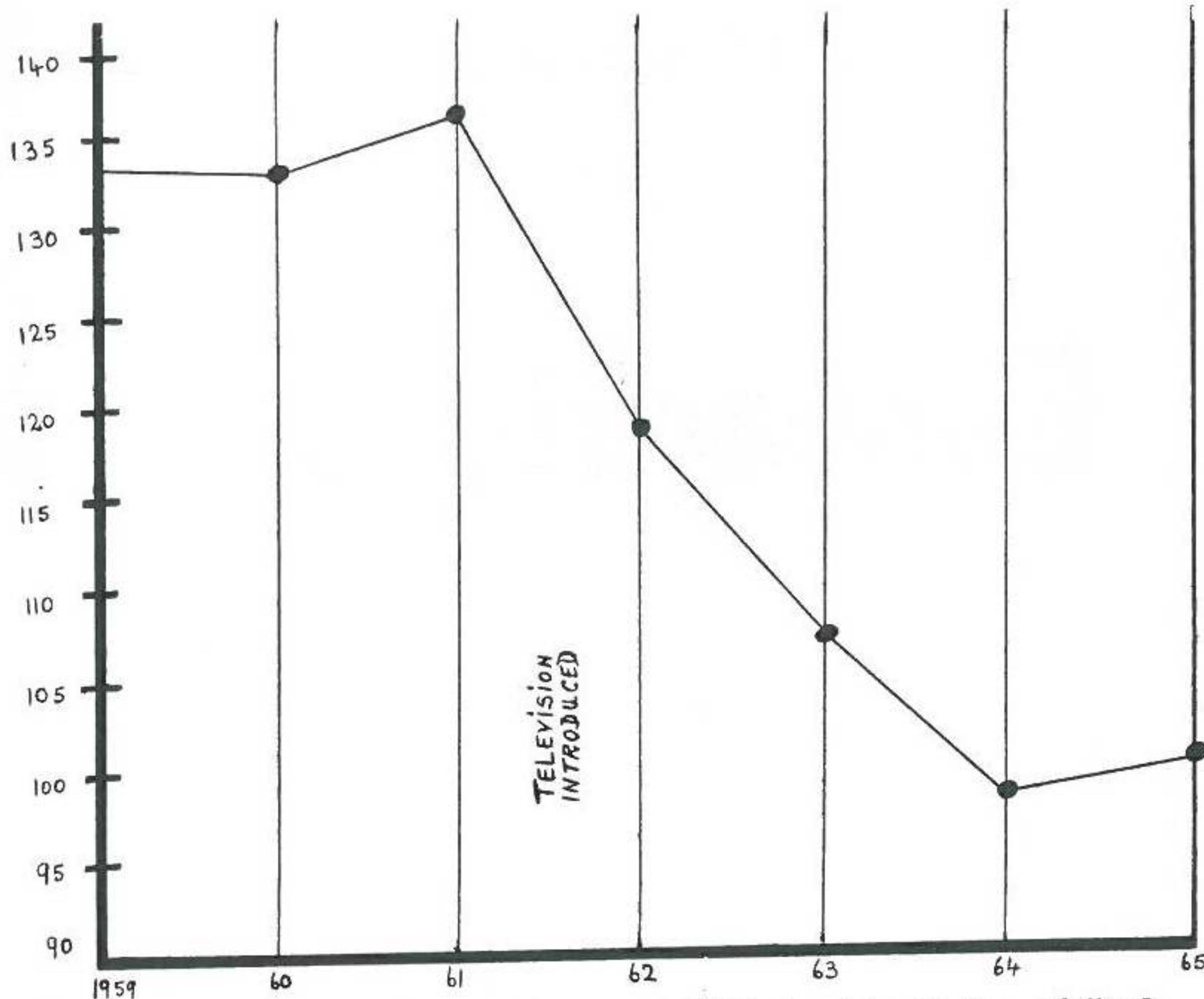


*Whatever the county you name
When you shatter Croke Park with a yell,
As you drive up and down to the game
Be sure that your shout is for Shell!*

GO WELL...

GO





Graph shows the fall in attendances at All-Ireland football semi-finals.

finals since television have, in fact, averaged a greater attendance than those during the years immediately prior to television. The average hurling final attendance since, and including, 1962 has been 71,559 with 69,575 being the figure for the years immediately prior to television.

How come hurling attendances have not fallen? The most obvious answer might be that the game does not lend itself to television as much as does football. But we think it goes deeper than that.

We suggest that football has much more of a casual following than has hurling. For example, the average Dublin soccer follower will turn up at Croke Park for a major football game, while he will have little interest in hurling. Then there is the long established fact that there really is little trouble getting into a hurling final, while at a football final there can be a lot of pushing and congestion (or should we say that there used to be prior to T.V.).

Anyway, whatever the cause, facts are facts. Hurling final

attendances have not fallen since television, while those of St. Patrick's Day, All-Ireland football semi-finals and football finals have tumbled.

But does it end there. Not by any means. Television at Croke Park is also hitting club games and every county board has lost to some degree or other. Games which have been played on days when television was operating have shown huge losses.

In 1962 quite a number of counties put on county championship fixtures on the days when the football semi-finals and the hurling final were being televised. Gates were halved. Since then most counties have stayed clear of these dates as far as county senior championship games were concerned.

This did not mean avoiding a loss in gate receipts. The fact that two important Sundays in August and another in early September could not be availed of for club games meant that games had to be played on less attractive dates; championships running late, etc. Either way television has cost

county boards money and there is no way of avoiding it.

What these "invisible" losses come to we do not know—a few thousand pounds per annum probably.

But then there are other "invisible" losses too. We can compare figures during the television era with those of the years prior to it and this we have done, but what about the natural increases which were taking place year after year and which would surely have continued had not television arrived.

The economists tell us, and there is every obvious proof of it, that the affluent era began in 1959. Wages have increased steadily since then. Cars have become common-place, and G.A.A. attendance figures were increasing steadily since 1959. Just look at the All-Ireland football semi-finals graph. Up and up went the line. Would attendances not have continued to rise in 1962, '63, '64 and '65 were it not for television? Of course, they would.

In other words the money which these increases would have provided has been lost too. How much this would have represented is difficult to calculate. As far as football finals were concerned there was definitely a limit dictated by the accommodation. But with Railway Cup finals and All-Ireland semi-finals there was plenty of accommodation to absorb the increase.

It is probably safe to say that Railway Cup finals would have moved up from a pre-television average of 39,242 to 45,000 and semi-finals from 133,588 to something in the region of 150,000. In short many thousands of pounds more have been lost by the elimination of this natural increase in attendances which had been taking place prior to television.

And then look ahead for a moment. Recently attendance prices for semi-finals and finals were substantially increased by the Central Council. General admission

(Continued Page 43.)



Connacht—or to

SEVEN years ago it was, over in the hotel in Rineanna. There were Kerry men, Cork men, Tipperary men, Limerick men, Waterford men and a loquacious bunch of boys from Clare. It was the Munster Convention of 1959.

The big motion of the day was tabled by Cork and it asked that Galway be allowed play in the Munster hurling championships in all grades. In the agenda booklet there was a sheet telling us that there had been formal discussions between the Munster Council and the Galway County Board resulting in an instruction by the Munster Council to its runai, Sean Mac Carthaigh, to invite Galway into the provincial hurling championship for a period of three years starting in '59. The Munster Convention had, of course, to first agree to this and if the body threw out the Cork motion that would finish the matter.

The conditions governing the invitation included grants to Galway hurlers if they got to the Munster final as to other Munster counties, grants too for each juvenile hurling team in Galway, and grants to fields at half the amount given to Munster counties (this has since been doubled I hear). Injuries were covered in the normal way and the Westerners would have the usual two delegates to the Council with their right of speech naturally enough confined to hurling championship matters.

Sean Barrett of Kinsale, who became Munster Council chairman that year, spoke strongly in favour of Galway's entry. Most of the delegates agreed, and Galway were anxious to come.

I didn't feel very warmly about the motion but couldn't deny it had a lot of sense.

Since then Galway have played very enthusiastically in the Munster championship after their annual League campaign in which they usually did as well as some other of our reputedly strong counties but they never qualified for that finalists' grant.

At Congress a month or so ago they tried to get back into Connacht. One of their delegates indeed made the historic suggestion that they be sent to Connacht or to

hell. In fact they were sent to neither.

Michael Silver of Galway thanked the Munster Council for its help, but stated that since they had gone into Munster the county and club spirit had been reduced to its lowest level. The spirit which had made the western side so tough an obstacle in the All-Ireland semi-finals had gone, and he felt that only by restoring them to their rightful place in Connacht would the county regain it.

Jack Barrett, stating that it wasn't the intention to keep Galway in Munster against their will, pointed out that the Tribesmen were making no real alternative proposal. If they had no real success in Munster neither did they win a semi-final from 1924 to 1953 while representing Connacht.

Jim Ryan of Tipperary felt that the Western county had brought great variety to Munster hurling and reminded the gathering that Galway had done pretty well in the intermediate and under-21 competitions. In addition this was the first year of the hurling plan and he felt that Galway should await the outcome of it. He also felt that the other counties of the West would suffer if Galway returned.

Pat Fanning, of Waterford, recalled that in some cases the All-Ireland final could be a poor game (if Galway, representing Connacht, got a bye into it) and just to show that all the opposition to the request wasn't from Munster,



Jimmy Duggan . . . Galway's longest-serving hurler.

hell!

Paddy Mullaney of Mayo told the gathering that if the appeal were granted Mayo would fade out for Galway minors would beat them every time.

Galway lost the motion and will stay in Munster until next year anyway when I expect another effort will be made to fly from the cage entered so gladly in 1959.

Galway have spent seven years in purgatory (a place or state of punishment where some suffer for a time before going to heaven). If I had my way I would send them back to Connacht and to heaven.

The main reason is emotional, not financial or organisational. They want to go back; they regret coming. Surely they are entitled to guide their own destinies.

It is said that there is strong opposition to the request in Galway itself. That doesn't matter. The fact is that a motion arrives at Congress as a result of a majority vote and the number that were sent unanimously could, I'm sure, be counted on the fingers.

Sending this gallant Western county back to its own province would generate that independent spirit which sends out on the field hard fit teams likely to give a good show. Keeping them in another province against their will has, of course, the very reverse effect.

If Galway go back to Connacht they should now work to raise the standard. After all with a fair spell of good competition and tough

(Continued overleaf)



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(From previous page)

league campaigns they should be better than seven years ago. And what matter if they win out in Connacht. What about Laois and Offaly and Carlow? They haven't thrown in their sponge because of Dublin, Wexford and Kilkenny.

If a one-sided All-Ireland final is feared why not have Congress decree that for the moment Galway will play in the All-Ireland semi-final? For this game played before a big Croke Park crowd in the summer have no doubt that the county would work very hard to play well. And I remain convinced that fifteen well-trained Galwaymen form as tough an obstacle as one could meet.

Before sitting down to write the column I drove over to the North Infirmary in Cork to see Denis Conroy the well-known Cork delegate to Congress and one of the Corkmen on the Munster Council.

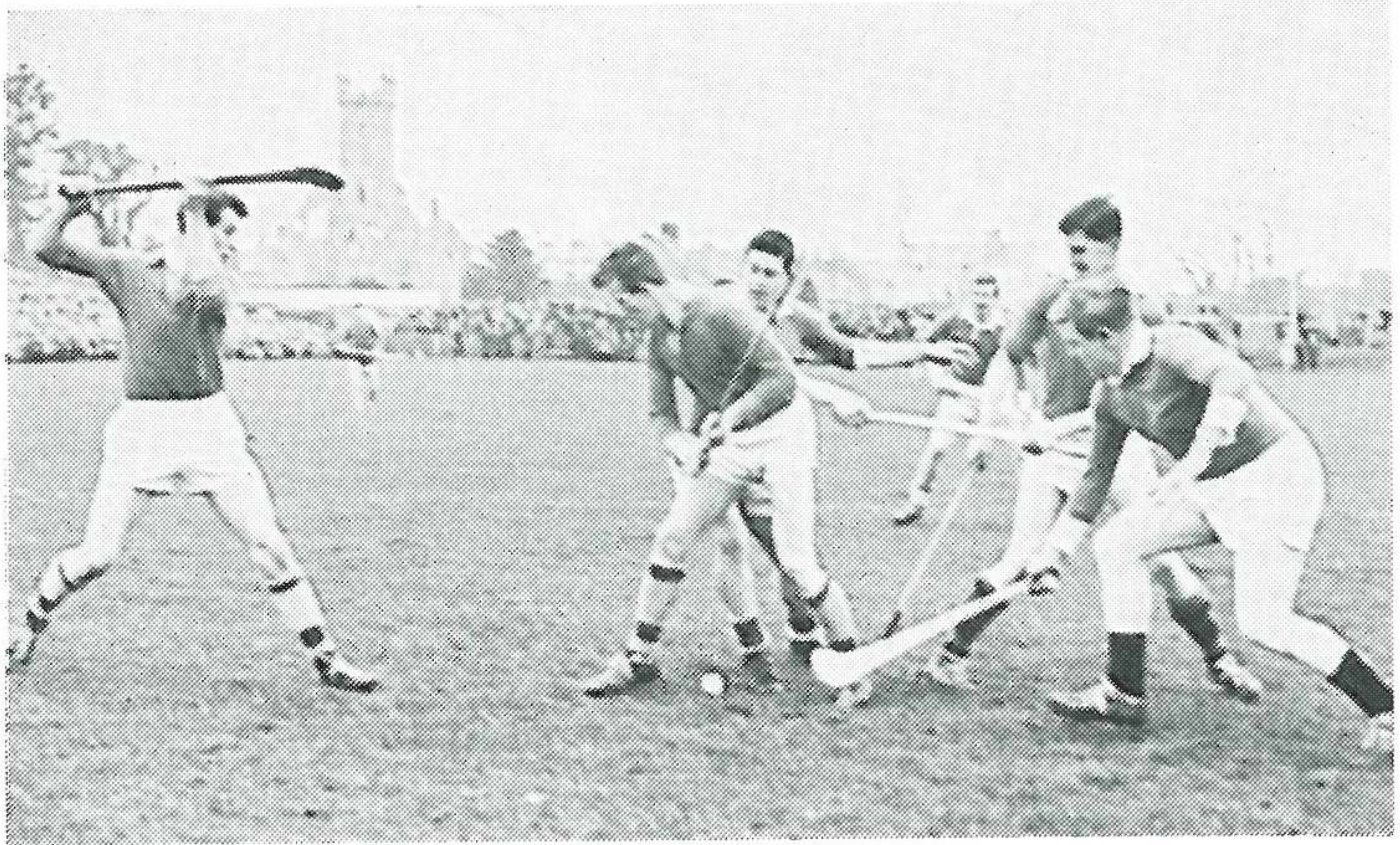
Lying in the bed from which I hope he has risen by now, Denis was ready to talk about Galway's request for as long as I liked.

As usual he can see both sides of the story, but feels that the vital thing is that hurling in Connacht must not be harmed and this is possible on the return of Galway as Paddy Mullaney indicated.

Denis Conroy's solution is that the Galway senior team should remain in Munster and that the minors, the under-21 and the intermediate sides should play in Connacht.

Perhaps the compromise gives our western friends something on which to chew in the next twelve months. In the meantime I hope that the men in maroon will train hard for this Munster championship in which after seeing them in the League they have as good a chance as anyone else down here of knocking Tipperary.

And if they become that good we'll all be glad to see them get to hell out of here.



Clare and Limerick in action in the Hurling League at Ennis on March 20th.

MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

CLARE THE SURPRISE PACKET OF LEAGUE

NOBODY was surprised to see Tipperary and Kilkenny come through to the semi-finals of the first division of the National hurling League from their division, but the arrival of Cork and Clare from the other section must have surprised some people.

Cork certainly provided no great shock by qualifying, although after Clare had beaten the Leesiders before Christmas, I for one thought that the odds must be on Clare and Limerick going through to the final.

But Cork came back to earn their place in the semi-finals, and indeed I know some men by the Lee who are quietly confident that Cork will beat Kilkenny and thus advance to the decider.

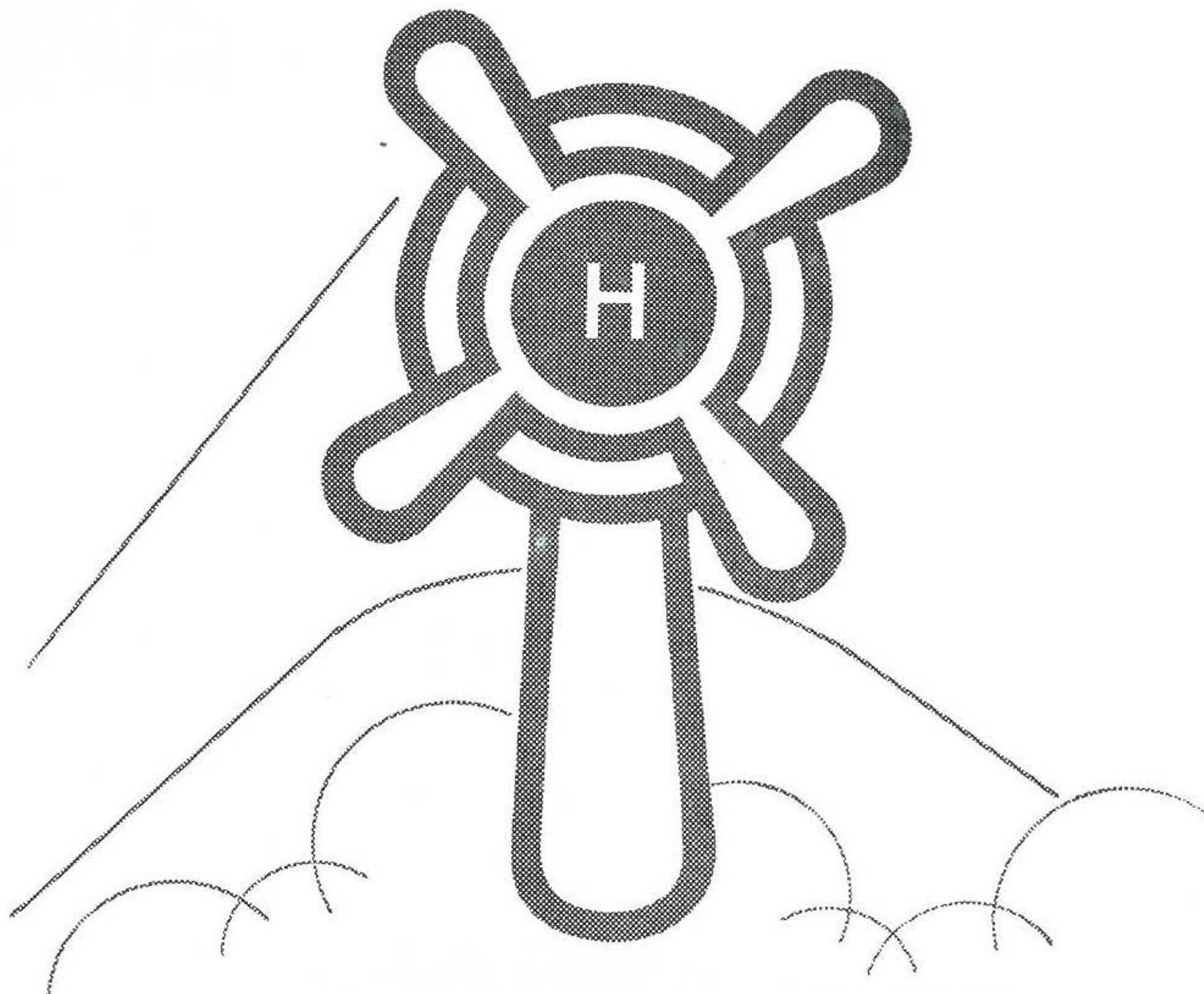
Clare, on the other hand, have proved themselves the surprise side of the League thus far, and while it might be asking a bit much of them to bring off the sensation of

the hurling decade by defeating Tipperary, I am well prepared to bet that they will give the champions a run for their money at Croke Park.

After all, these Clare lads shaped extremely well on their last visit to Croke Park, when they gave Dublin a well deserved beating, and a repeat of that form might be more than even Tipperary had bargained for.

And it is well to remember that, on the only occasion thus far that Clare have won the National League, it was in Croke Park that they achieved their victory. That was in the 1945-'46 season and Dublin and Clare qualified for the final. The decider was played in Limerick and resulted in a draw, Dublin, 1-6; Clare, 1-6. The replay was fixed for Croke Park, and Clare supporters did not think their favourites would stand much

(Continued page 13).



HOT WATER

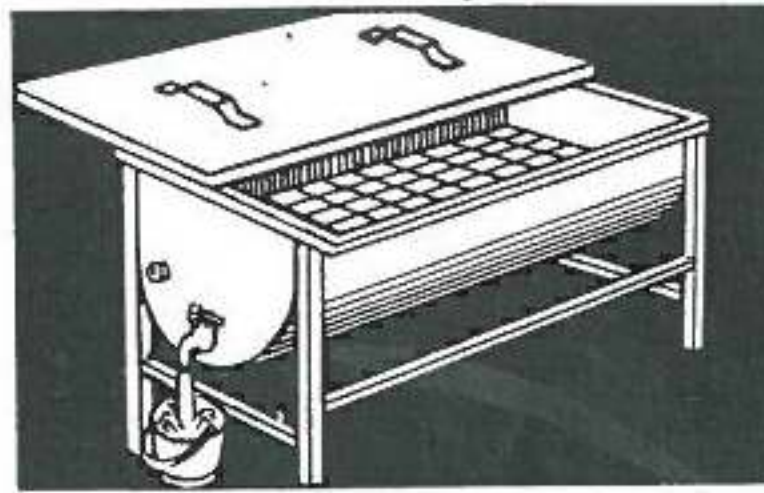
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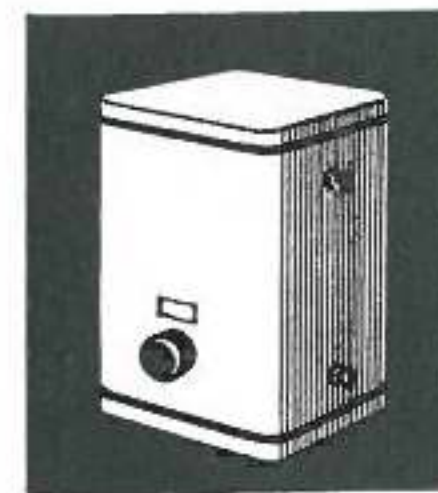
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(From page 11)

chance against Dublin on the latter's home ground.

But all the gloomy prophets were proved wrong, for, despite a torrential shower in the second half, Clare won well over the better-fancied Dubliners to take the National Hurling league trophy for the one and only time to date.

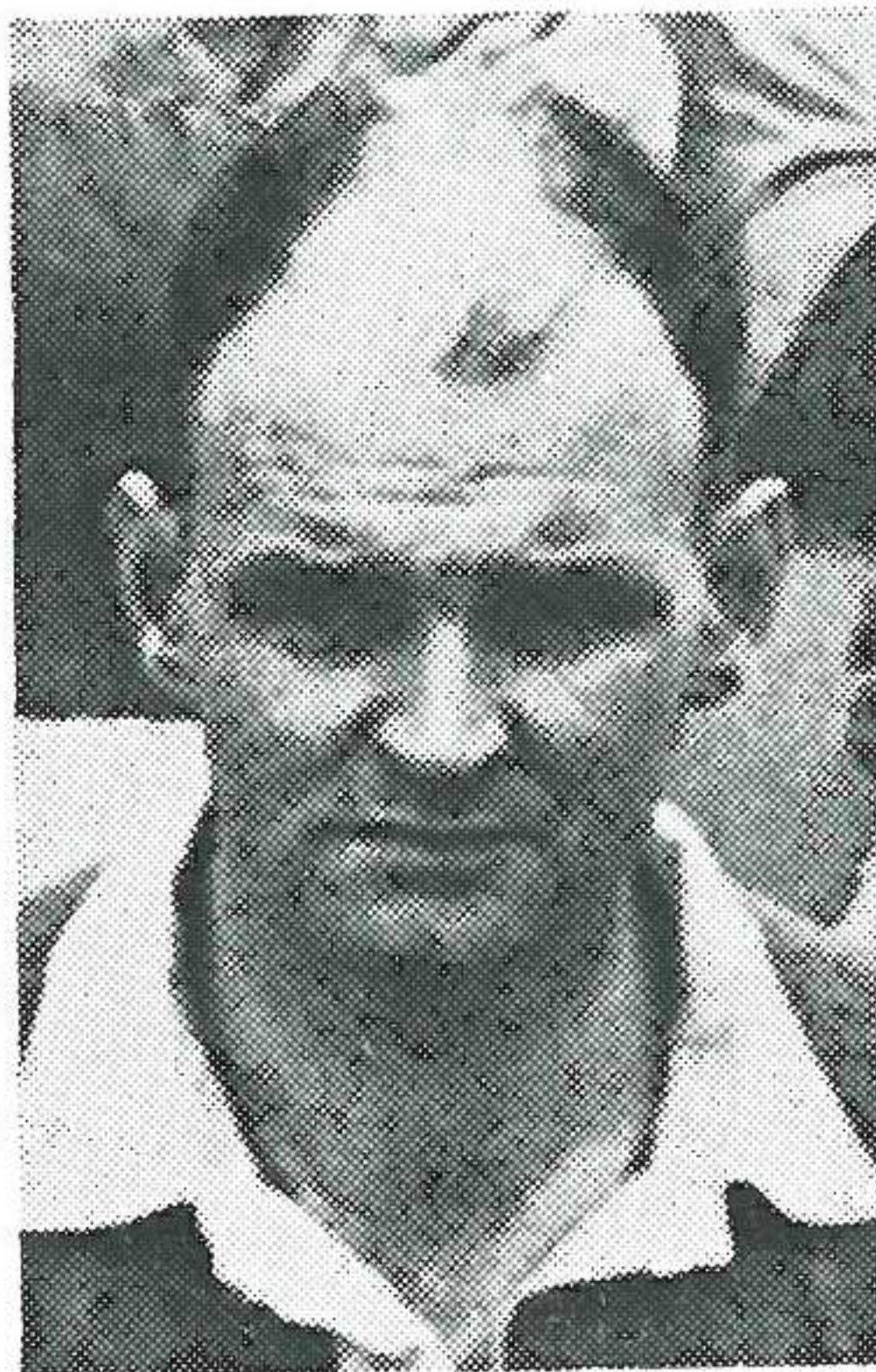
Stars of that victory were the Solan brothers. One of them, Fr. Jackie Solan, is now chairman of the Galway County Board and a great force behind the hurling revival, while the other brother, Dermot, is a well-known professional man in the Midlands.

In the defence that day no man played better than Dan McInerney, who can hardly have foreseen at that time that he would yet be so closely associated with the building of the wonderful new Hogan Stand, for it was the McInerney firm that gained the contract about a decade ago for that massive structure. But then neither Dan McInerney nor Dermot Solan found anything strange about playing in Croke Park, as both had often starred there with the hurling teams of University College during their Dublin student days.

The odds seem to be against the present team of Clare hurlers doing as well as their predecessors of 1946, but it is good to see Clare in the closing stages of the National League, even after a lapse of twenty years.

There are some very promising hurlers on this Clare side, and from what I have seen of them I was particularly impressed by Pat Cronin a forward fit to hold his own in any company, while Pat Henchy, recently back on the side, was very prominent when playing for the U.C.D. championship side a couple of years ago along with Donie Nealon of Tipperary and Ted Carroll of Kilkenny.

But no hurling team will be more welcome back to Croke Park than the Kerry hurling side that we saw defeat Antrim in the League



Niall Sheehy . . . better than ever—as a hurler !

Division II semi-final the other Sunday. These lads from the Kingdom played fine hurling indeed, and one man to whom I take off my hat is Niall Sheehy. Niall, after a very distinguished career, has retired from the intercounty football scene. Now I don't know whether it is that he has more time

now to devote to the camán game or not, but he certainly seemed to me to be a better hurler that day against Antrim than he had ever previously shown himself to be at Croke Park.

It is a grand thing, anyway, to see hurling resurgent in Kerry, and a great thing, too, to see the leading football county setting such a magnificent example to all the other football counties in this respect.

I for one, am extremely glad that the earlier decision to hold the All-Ireland football semi-final at half-four were reversed and that the game will start in future at three-thirty. That hour would have made a vital difference to a great number of people, and very particularly to the people in Dublin, who start work fairly early on Sunday evening. We are too often prone to forget that, for a certain percentage of the population, "Monday morning" means six o'clock on Sunday evening. In many country areas, "milking time" is usually between five and six o'clock, and I do not think the half-four start would have been very welcome in those places either.

Twelve players on trip to U.S.

FOR the second successive year a group of Gaelic Sports journalists attached to the national newspapers have selected eight footballers and four hurlers to visit the United States where they will appear in a series of games in aid of Cardinal Cushing's Latin American mission fund. As a scheme of awards for playing ability and service to the games this is something which has not yet received the publicity and commendation it deserves — certainly not anything like that conferred upon other awards of a less worthy nature.

The players will travel to the U.S. on May 19th and will take part in games in New York Boston, Chicago and Hartford. They are: Football—Donie O'Sullivan (Kerry), Con O'Sullivan (Cork), Jimmy Whan (Armagh), Sean Ferriter (Donegal), Cathal Flynn (Leitrim),

Tony Whyte (Roscommon), Mick Carley (Westmeath), Pat Collier (Meath). Hurling — Austin Flynn (Waterford), Bernie Hartigan (Limerick), Pat Dunny (Kildare), Christy O'Brien (Laois). The players were presented with their air tickets at a banquet in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin on April 23rd.

In choosing the group the selectors were unable to consider members of teams who might be engaged in the Hurling League home final on May 22nd and the hurling and football matches at Wembley Stadium on Whit Saturday.

The Cardinal Cushing games were inaugurated by Mr. John (Kerry) O'Donnell in 1963. Twelve players from Ireland also took part in the fixtures last year and helped to raise 27,000 dollars for the Cardinal's mission fund.

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LIMERICK hurling should be on top of the world just now. Primary school activity on a very extensive scale has been the pattern, particularly in the city area, over a lengthy period. The Christian Brothers and some dedicated national teachers are doing wonderful work in this regard and it is true that every boy between ten and fourteen has the opportunity of playing Gaelic games and is urged to do so.

The position after that was not altogether satisfactory for some years and it was felt that many were being lost to the G.A.A. at this stage.

The activities of the City Juvenile Board has been stepped up considerably over the past few seasons and now a sufficiency of competitions are being organised at Under-14, Under-15, Juvenile and Minor levels to see the average youth over their school years.

The other areas of the county are now also keeping pace and the opportunities certainly exist to a greater degree than at any previous period.

On the Colleges front Limerick C.B.S. are, of course, very much in the Gaelic picture all down the years but mention too must be made of the good work being done

says

Seamus O Ceallaigh

in the Diocesan College of St. Munchins, by the boys of the Salesian and Redemptorist Colleges, by Adare and Doon C.B.S. and Hospital De La Salle.

The four divisional boards are doing a splendid job and the City Board in particular is rated one of the busiest G.A.A. bodies in the country. This year it has thirteen different competitions in progress and a grand total of 122 teams participating.

Some years ago concern was expressed at the small number of senior teams in the county and it was feared that too much interest centered in the junior championships, which attracted considerable attention.

There has been a spectacular rise in senior teams in recent years—the hurling line-out advancing from 12 in 1964 to 22 last year, and 31 this season. In football 16 teams are now in the lists—the result no doubt of the good showing by the county senior team last year.

Lack of a sufficiency of playing fields has been a big difficulty by

Shannonside for some years but this has been remedied to a large extent, and even the city, with four first-class venues, is not experiencing the same troubles as in other days, although much still remains to be accomplished in this respect.

In the intercounty field, apart from the spectacular improvement shown by the senior footballers in 1965 perhaps the greatest achievement has been the success of the minor hurlers, who have contested three All-Ireland finals since 1958—their only previous appearance in a national decider in this grade being in 1940.

Limerick C.B.S. have returned as a powerful force in College ranks, winning the Dr. Harty Cup in three successive seasons, following a lapse of over thirty years.

Limerick with 164 clubs is one of the best organised counties, being only headed by Cork (238), Wexford (191), Galway (184) and Dublin (177).

Local interest in the games was never higher than it is at the moment in Limerick and the gate receipts from championship matches last season created a new record.

I have been asked the question: "What is wrong with Limerick hurling?" and all I can say is that never was progress less measured by the performance of the county team than in this instance.

Limerick have certainly failed to hit the hurling headlines in recent years and it is not easy to pinpoint the reasons.

As a first step towards solving the problem I think what is badly needed is one individual to take charge of the team and accept full responsibility for changes, etc., during the course of a game.

In these days when the position of team captain no longer means what it did in the long ago the

(Continued overleaf)

(From previous page)

appointment of one man to take complete control is absolutely essential. We have all seen too many games lost by a multiplicity of bosses not to realise the importance of this move, which has been stressed time out of number and in almost all counties.

Too much chopping and changing by the selectors has not helped Limerick. We have had some very good teams and individuals who showed plenty of promise, and would I am sure with a bit of patience and perseverance have produced results. The mentors panicked following even some good performances and the opportunity of building valuable team experience was lost.

The players too must shoulder

their share of the blame. Many of them suffer from a lack of confidence in their ability to measure up to the best in other counties, and this has undoubtedly affected their approach to the big games.

The inferiority complex has resulted in a carelessness about training and a couldn't-care-less attitude towards the sacrifices demanded of any players destined to get any place in the Gaelic world.

Maybe that's taking the charitable viewpoint but anyway the fact remains that all too many of our present-day exponents are not prepared to put enough into their preparations to get anything worthwhile out of their games.

The County Board are doing everything in their power to pro-

vide training facilities but so far the response of many of those invited to participate has been most disappointing.

A big challenge faces the players early next month when they meet All-Ireland champions, Tipperary, at Cork in the opening round of the Munster Championship.

There is no doubt the county has the material to win this game but the big question mark remains the approach of the players to the engagement. If they go into it with the right spirit, train earnestly and with dedication, and turn out fit to stick the toughest hour, then I have no doubt but that victory will be theirs.

If they fail then the question "What is wrong with Limerick hurling?" will remain unanswered.



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Presidents of the G.A.A.—1

This is the first article in a new series which will spotlight, month by month, the men who have held the highest office in the Association since its foundation on November 1st, 1884.

PECULIARLY enough, with the passing of the years, the name and fame of Maurice Davin seems to have faded considerably within the ranks of the G.A.A. Nowadays we tend to recall Michael Cusack a hundred times for every time we mention the name of Davin. Yet, they were co-founders of our Association and, if Cusack was the first Secretary, Davin was the first President, and in fact was still President long after Michael Cusack had ceased to be an officer of the Association which the pair of them brought into being at Hayes's Hotel in Thurles, on November Day, 1884.

Maurice Davin's name, however, had been famed in Ireland and far beyond before the G.A.A. was ever dreamt of. He was born in the family home at Deerpark, just outside Carrick-on-Suir, on June 29, 1842, an era in which the Davins had been living for two hundred years, having settled in the Suir Valley after coming South to fight with Hugh Dubh O'Neill's Ulstermen against Cromwell at the siege of Clonmel.

He was a child during the worst of the Great Hunger, but grew up to be a magnificent specimen of Irish manhood, six feet in his

MAURICE DAVIN

—By—
TERENCE ROYNANE

stockings, and fourteen stone in his prime.

Despite his later fame as an athlete, Maurice Davin was far better known as an oarsman in his younger days. His family were closely associated with the river-trade on the Suir, and, as a stroke on racing boats, it is stated that he was only once beaten. Indeed his reputation as an oarsman was only equalled by his fame as a builder of boats.

In his twenties, Davin also had a tremendous reputation as a boxer. He beat various British army champions around Carrick and Clonmel and is said to have gone a few rounds, and very creditably at that, with John Heenan, "the Benecia Boy" in an exhibition bout.

His athletic prowess had long been evident, but he was 26 years old before he ever appeared in competition. That was in 1868 at Gurteen, where he tied for first place in the high jump. In the following year at Tramore he won the high jump, but it was not until the early 1870's that he really made his mark on the athletic fields.

Having showed his versatility at

many meetings in the South, Maurice Davin first came to a Dublin sports meeting in 1873, winning the hammer event at the Civil Service sports. In 1875 he won two Irish titles, the hammer and the 16 lb. shot, two events which he also won in the first athletics international between Ireland and England in Dublin in 1876. Incidentally, three of the Davin brothers, Tom, Pat and Maurice were on the Irish team that day, and Maurice challenged to a test of strength, walked forty yards carrying the two biggest members of the English team on his shoulders!

Through the next few years he was virtually unopposed in the hammer and shot events when he appeared and, in 1879, retired from active competition.

Yet, in 1881, when his brother Pat crossed to Birmingham for the British championships, Maurice, who travelled with him, decided at the last moment to compete both in the hammer and the shot, and, though then in his fortieth year, won both events so that the Davins won four titles between them, for Pat took both high and long jumps.

But it was after his retirement
(To Page 19).

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(From Page 17).

that he really became the doyen of Irish athletics. He was in demand everywhere as a sports judge, for his reputation for sportsmanship and fair play was nation-wide. Once, when brother Pat seemed likely to break the world record, Maurice would not let him go on in the high jump because he believed the fall of the ground favoured the competitors.

When the question of founding a National athletic association was mooted, Maurice Davin was one of the first men consulted. He was strongly opposed to basing such an association in Dublin and it was probable that his influence had a great deal to do with the foundation taking place in Thurles. When the Association was founded, he was the obvious choice for first President, and his tremendous personal prestige throughout the country brought the cream of the country's athletes behind the new movement from the start.

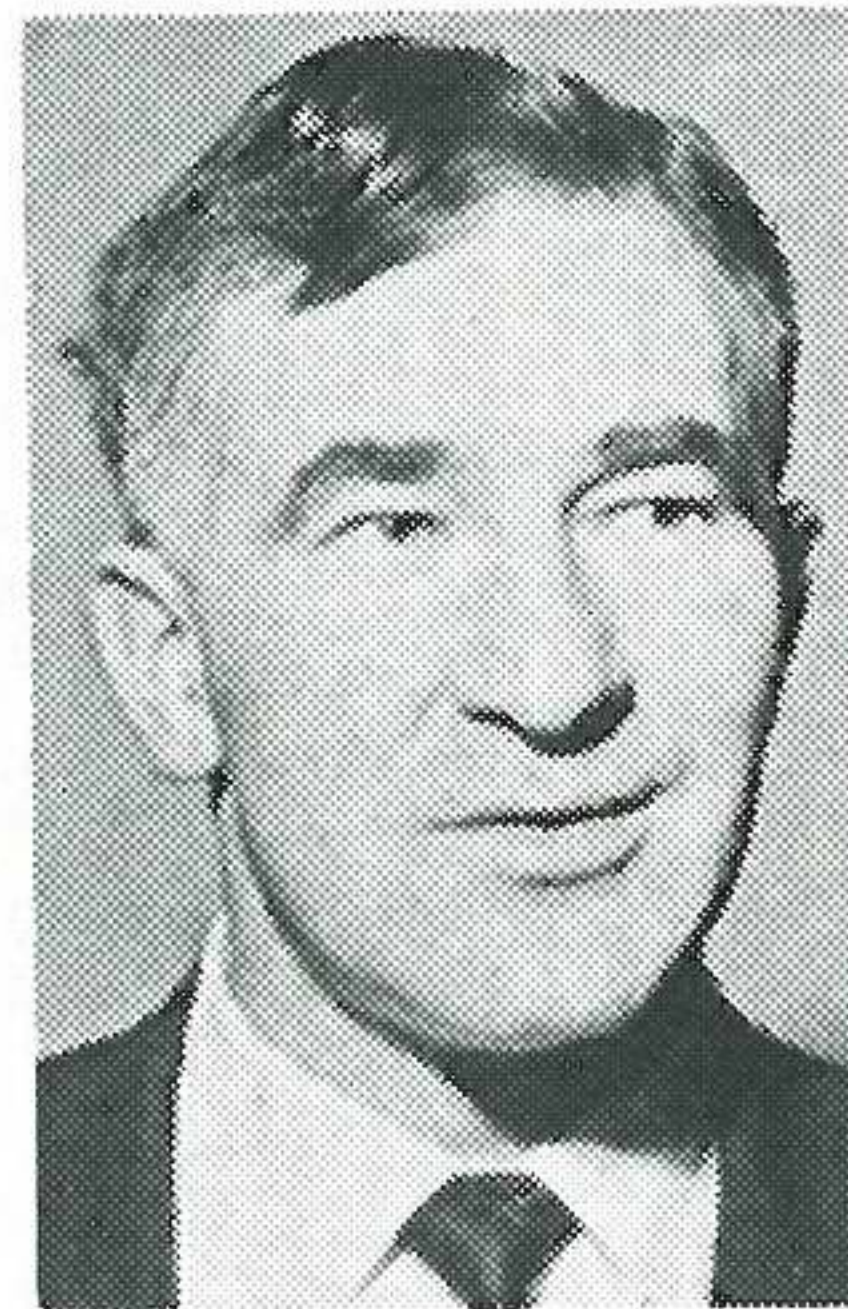
He remained as President for some years, but, when the Association found itself something of a battleground between the Fenians and the Parliamentary party, he resigned from office, and took no personal part in the stormy Thurles Convention of 1887. Yet he gladly returned when the controversy ended, to become President again of the reunited Association. Following criticism of the losses on the American "Invasion" of 1888, he resigned again in 1889 and never again resumed an official position in the G.A.A.

At that time, there were those who accused Maurice Davin of running away from difficulties that faced the Association. But they completely misunderstood the man. Davin hated contention and controversy of any kind. The friendliest of men, he would not willingly make an enemy of anyone, and preferred to retire from the scene rather than in any way cause further dissension.

After resigning for the second time from the Presidency, he remained a great friend of the Gaels for nearly forty years, and was a noted figure for decades at many a big game and athletic meeting. An All-Ireland final was played on a pitch he made available near Deerpark. He was long in demand as an athletics judge, and was the only Irishman chosen to officiate when the Olympic Games were revived in 1896.

In private he was a genial and kindly man, a noted traditional violinist and the best of good company. He is still remembered in his native Carrick-on-Suir as one of the "real old stock", and he should never be forgotten by the Association he did so much to found.

This series on Presidents of the G.A.A. will be continued each month.



Dr. Jim Brosnan, chairman of the Kerry Co. Board, who was elected a Trustee of the G.A.A. for the second successive year at Congress on March 20th.

MEN AT THE TOP IN ULSTER

Sean Stinson of Antrim

By JOHN O. GRANT

NO person has played a greater part in Antrim G.A.A. affairs during the past twenty-five years than Sean Stinson, present vice-chairman of the Co. Board. Since his election as Secretary of the Eire Og club in Belfast in the early 1930's, to the present day, he has held a variety of official positions in the county.

The majority of G.A.A. officials only consider taking office when their playing days are over. Such was not the case with Sean Stinson. As he himself says, "Although I played some hurling with Eire Og, my sole ambition was to become a successful legislator."

His worth as an official was soon recognised. In the late 1930's he became Registrar of the South Antrim Board. Then in 1943 he was elected Co. Secretary, a position he held with distinction until

1963. In that year he was forced to retire for health and business reasons. Since then he has been Antrim vice-chairman.

Sean's election as Co. Secretary coincided with the beginning of a golden era for Antrim hurling and football. In 1943 to the amazement of Gaels everywhere, Antrim hurlers defeated both Galway and Kilkenny to qualify for the All-Ireland final. However in the final they encountered a brilliant Cork side, powered by such stars as Christy Ring and Jack Lynch, and were well beaten. The spotlight then switched to the footballers and their efforts to capture highest honours in 1946 and 1951 won for the county many admirers.

In recent years however, the football performances of the Antrim team have given little

(Continued Page 47).

Face to Face

with SEAN O'DONNELL



MICHAEL GLEESON

IN the old days Kerry footballers used to be found rather than developed. But things have now changed. The Kingdom now finds that, if it is to stay at the top in the football world, it needs its juvenile and minor grades and needs to develop its football talent from an early age so as to make sure that when required there will be men ready and able to don the green and gold.

Still there are the exceptions—like Michael Gleeson, whom the Kerry selectors produced out of the hat a few months ago and launched into top grade senior competition. Michael, like so many great Kingdom stars of the past had never previously represented the county in any grade.

Like many Kingdom heroes of other days too, he is a student of St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, and will shortly graduate as a teacher to take his place in what must surely be the traditional profession of Kerry footballers.

I recently had the following conversation with Michael:—

O'Donnell — Were you surprised to be selected for the Grounds Tournament semi-final?

Gleeson—Very surprised—and, of course, delighted.

O'D.—Why do you think you were selected?

G.—I understand it was on the strength of a game with East Kerry a few weeks previously.

O'D.—What did it feel like stepping out in Croke Park for such an important game?

G.—Well it was a bit nerve-wrecking but I was very conscious of the honour of wearing a Kerry jersey.

O'D.—And, of course, ye were beaten. What do you think is wrong with Kerry football of late?

G.—I don't really know. I suppose a county cannot be on top all of the time. If they were, things would go kind of dull.

O'D.—Do you agree that Kerry's traditional catch-and-kick style is on the way out?

G.—I certainly hope not. A lot of people seem to think so but I doubt it. It would take only a good Kerry team to put it back into fashion again.

O'D.—What player have you most looked up to while growing up?

G.—Mick O'Connell. Also John Dowling who gave so many lion-hearted performances.

O'D.—What do you think made Kerry a great football power down the years?

G.—Tradition which bred great footballers and consciousness of the responsibility to live up to the deeds of the previous generation.

O'D.—But there was no tradition at the turn of the century. One might say that tradition did not come into it until the 1920 era.

G.—Nationalism contributed much to the early development of the game. From the early 1920's it was joined by tradition.

O'D.—Are you convinced that Kerry will remain a football power?

G.—I am.

Ransomes

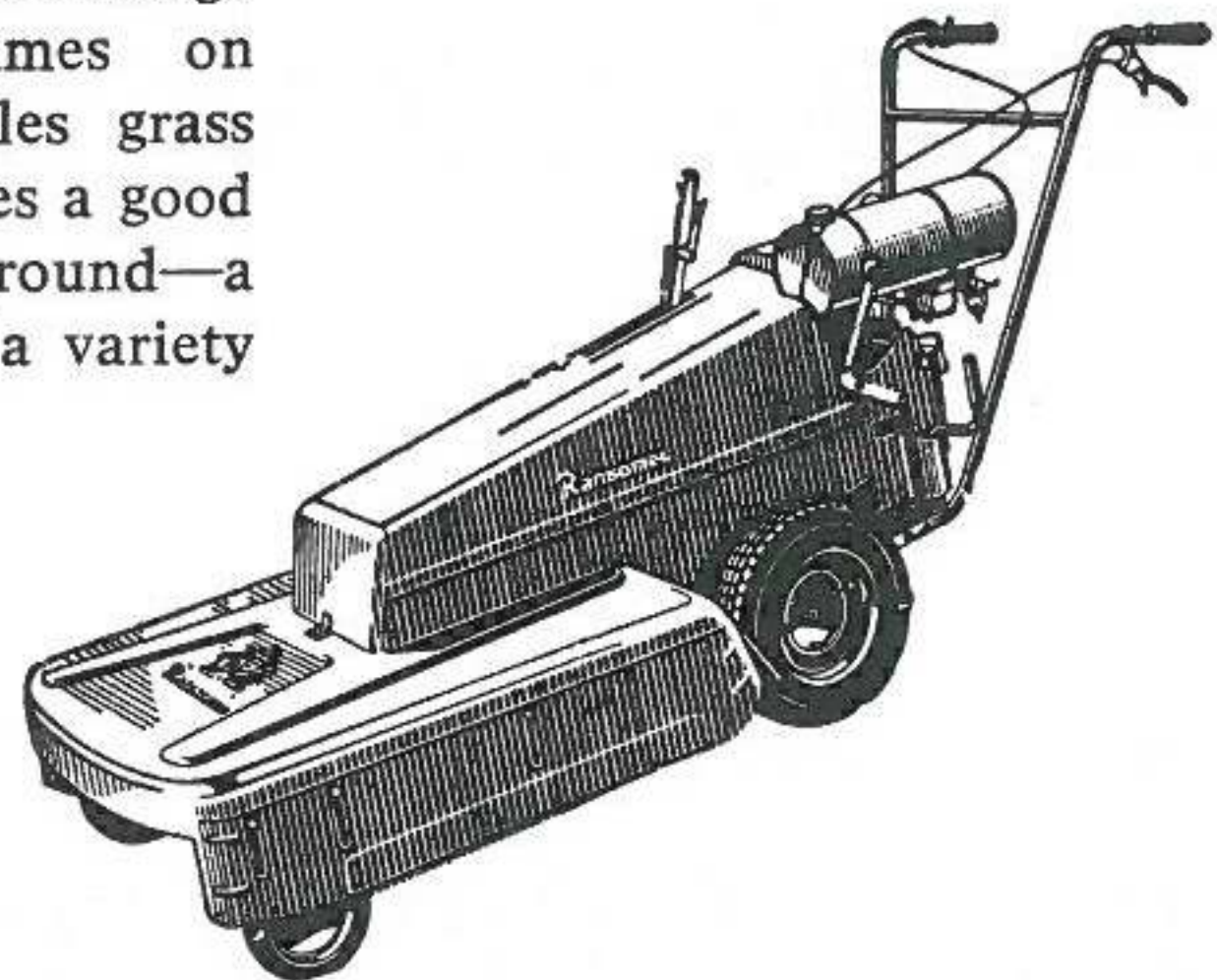
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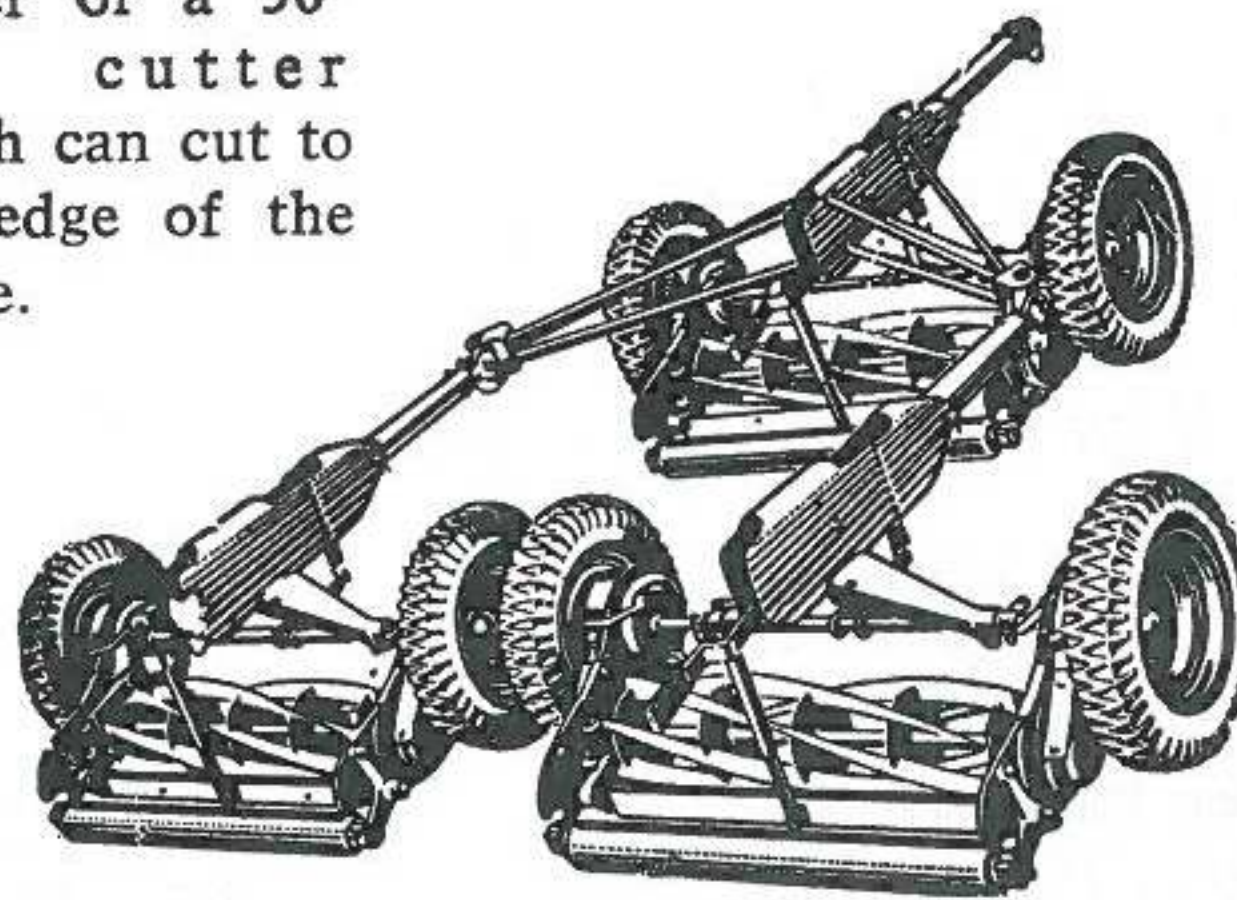
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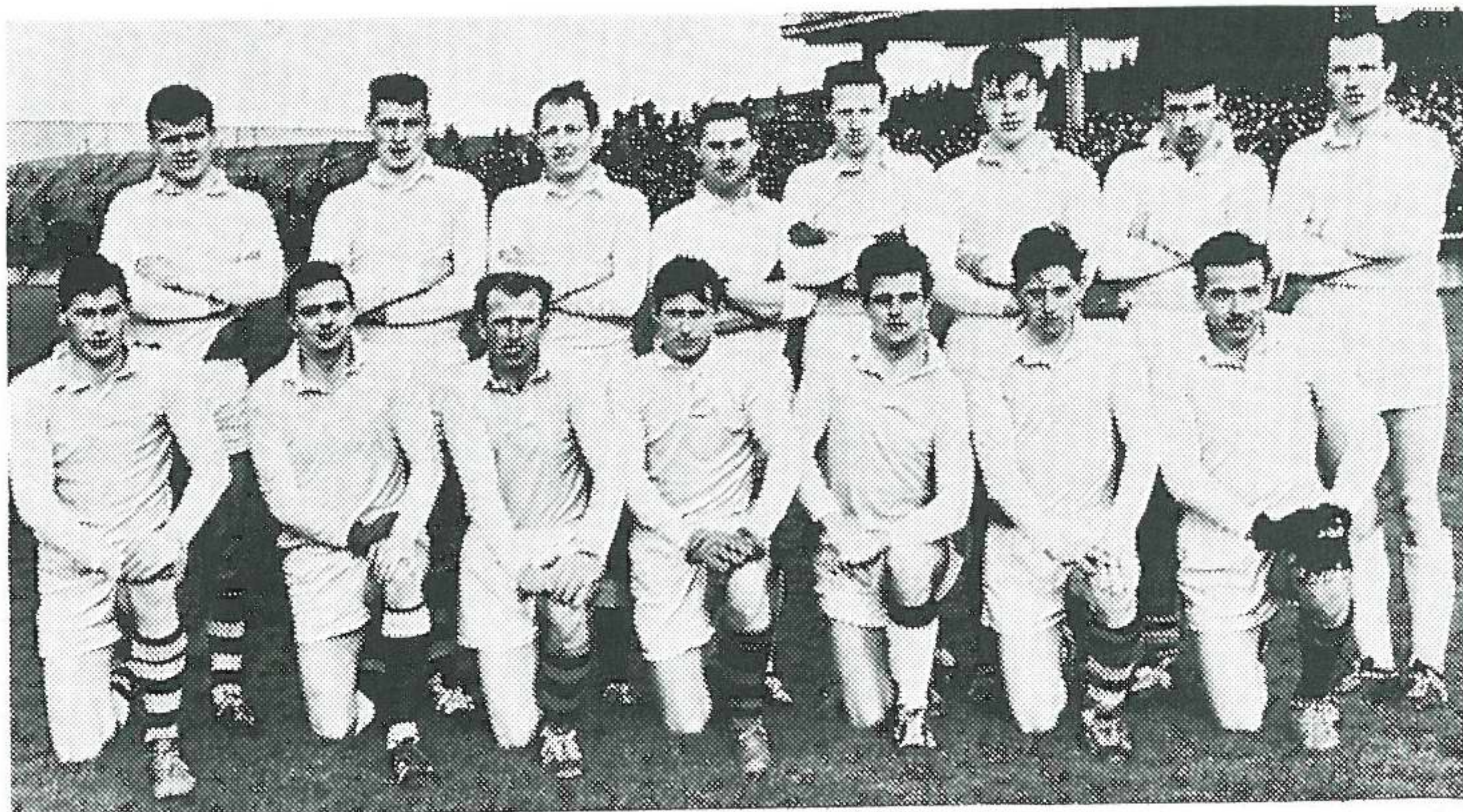
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The Ulster team which defeated Leinster and went on to overcome Munster and so recorded their fourth successive Railway Cup victory.

More honours for Doherty

By
OWEN McCANN

AN Ulster inter-provincial footballer apart from all others . . . that's Paddy Doherty. When Ulster equalled on St. Patrick's Day the Leinster 1952-'55 record of four Railway Cup football titles in a row, the dynamic Down marksman added a number of noteworthy distinctions to his ever-growing and highly impressive list of achievements.

First of all, he was the only player to figure in all eight games in that record equalling run. What's more, he was not forced to go off in any one game. However, while this is a record for the North, two Leinster men, Ollie Freaney (Dublin) and Stephen White (Louth), also played in all eight games in their province's four-in-a-row success, and, like Doherty, neither had to retire at any stage in any one game.

Then, the Ballykinlar man, who filled the left half forward post in every one of the eight ties and set a new scoring record for a four titles in succession run. Kevin Heffernan was Leinster's chief marksman in 1952-55 with 5-25 (40 pts.) in seven games (he was

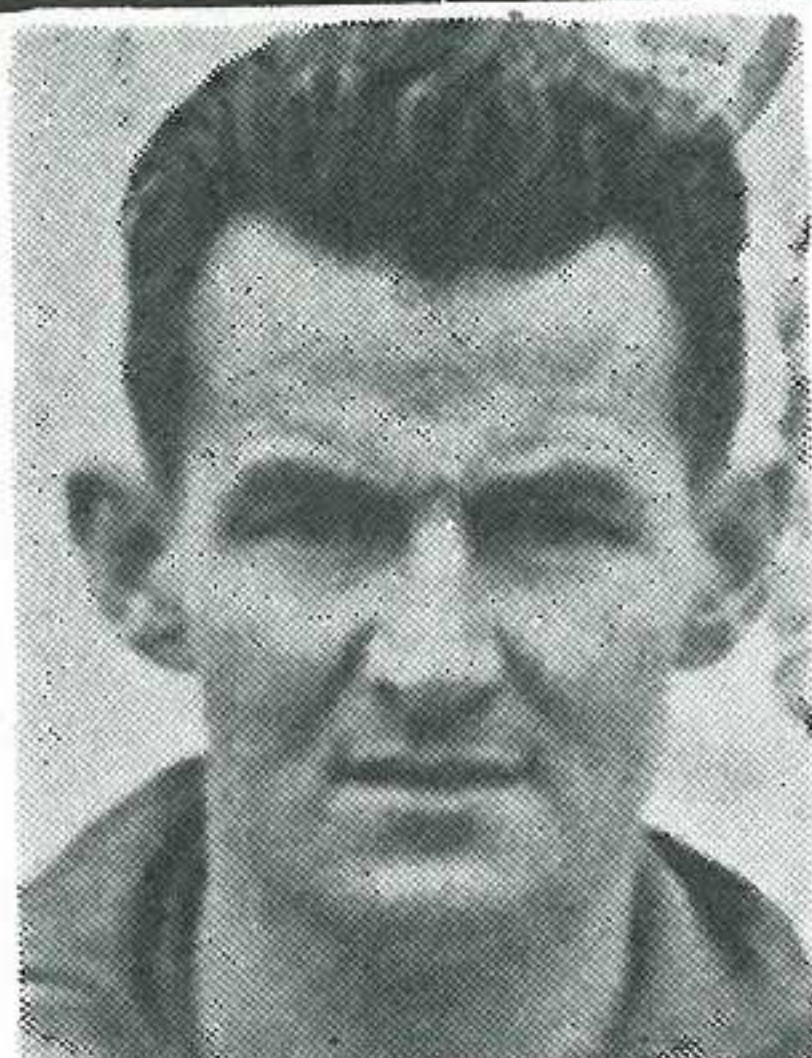
dropped for the 1955 semi-final), at an average of 5.71 minors an outing. This total gave him a lead of 30 points over his nearest rival in the scoring chart, Ollie Freaney.

Doherty landed seven points more than Heffernan at 4-35, although, of course, he played one game more than the Dubliner. Even so, he still also has slightly the better match average at 5.87 points. His most successful scoring hour was against Connacht in the 1965 final, when he recorded at 12 points the highest total by one player in a football final in the past 11 years.

This bachelor of the scoring science from the Mourne and his county-mate Sean O'Neill were both in victorious Ulster teams for the fifth time in a Railway Cup final last St. Patrick's Day. Both won Railway Cup medals on the actual field of play for the first time in 1960. Until this year, Tom Maguire was the only Ulster man to figure in five successful Railway Cup finals. The Cavan stalwart won his first medal in 1956, and his last in 1965. However, Doherty

(Continued Page 45).

TWO CONFLICTING OPINIONS ON THE CURRENT STRENGTH OF WATERFORD



FRANKIE WALSH.

FRANKIE WALSH (In with

WE ARE BUILDING A GREAT TEAM

MARCH, 17, 1965, was Frankie Walsh's day. Many had said he had gone well over the hill—even the Munster selectors appeared to have held that view when originally they sat down to select the provincial side. But all were wrong. On March 17 Walsh was magnificent. He gave to Croke Park that touch of class which had been missing since they took away Christie Ring.

Afterwards I sought him out and we had the following conversation:—

O'Donnell—What makes a great hurler?

Walsh — More than anything else, I would say a love of the game.

O'D.—How does one go about acquiring skill like that displayed by you in Croke Park to-day?

W.—By using his hurley constantly. And I don't mean that as a short answer. What I really mean is that the hurley must become almost part of the player. He must use it on every possible occasion—be it to play a ball or simply cut the heads off daisies.

O'D.—Do you expect Waterford to return to the big-time in the near future?

W.—We are in the big-time. As far as I am concerned we are never out of it. There can be only one All-Ireland champions each year

but there can be a lot of contenders aspiring to be the champions the following year. Waterford always aspire to be champions—and at times are champions.

O'D.—You must agree that the county has been very inconsistent of late?

W.—If we won them all we would be champions. No, what is happening in Waterford at present is that we are going through a transitional period. We had a great team from 1957 to 1965. The team was little changed during all of those years. But changes had to come and the selectors are now trying to blend together another great team. This cannot be done overnight. The material is there—at least I believe that it is. As soon as the team finds its feet so to speak we will be off again. This is not inconsistency—it is the closing of an era and the opening of another.

O'D.—How soon could you see the new-look Waterford side finding its feet and slipping into gear?

W.—It is impossible to put a date on such a thing. But it can happen any time and a county must always be ready for it. One day you are nowhere and then suddenly you are on the way.

O'D.—Tipperary appear unbeatable at present, but, of course,

the day will come when they will fall. What county do you see bringing them down?

W.—Waterford, and I mean that with all sincerity and conviction. All we need is to slip into gear and we will do it. And mind you this could happen sooner than many people expect. You just wait and see.

O'D.—How come you are so convinced of this. It seems a bit of a tall order so to speak?

W.—Because when Waterford are going well they can invariably beat Tipperary. Ourselves and

A

WHEN shall we again see Waterford contesting one of the major finals at Croke Park? When shall we have the special pleasure which their appearances in big games give to those occasions? The answer, it seems, must be in the vaguest terms, for by all appearances of their latest outings, the glory has waned and the touch has vanished, while the fine edge of super-speed has forsaken many of their stars, pursued by advancing years.

Recently I saw them play Wex-

a conversation
with Sean O'Donnell)

SAYS:

ENDING ANOTHER

Wexford are the only counties of the modern era who can claim this. Seeing as we are in Munster we will naturally have the first chance of lowering the Tipperary colours in the championship.

O'D.—Could it happen in the 1966 championship?

W.—Many will not agree, but I believe it could.

O'D.—Are you satisfied with the present groupings in the National League?

W.—I am. It is grand meeting counties like Wexford, Kilkenny and Laois whom we would

normally not meet in the championship.

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

W.—Of course I am. And, incidentally, one should not just be satisfied with the G.A.A. one should be proud of it.

O'D.—Who do you rate as the most difficult opponents you have met in intercounty competition?

W.—There have been so many. However, Paddy Buggy, Jimmy Finn, Jim English, Seamus Cleere and Mick Burns spring quickly to mind.



LARRY GUINAN.

farewell to glory?

By Jay Drennan

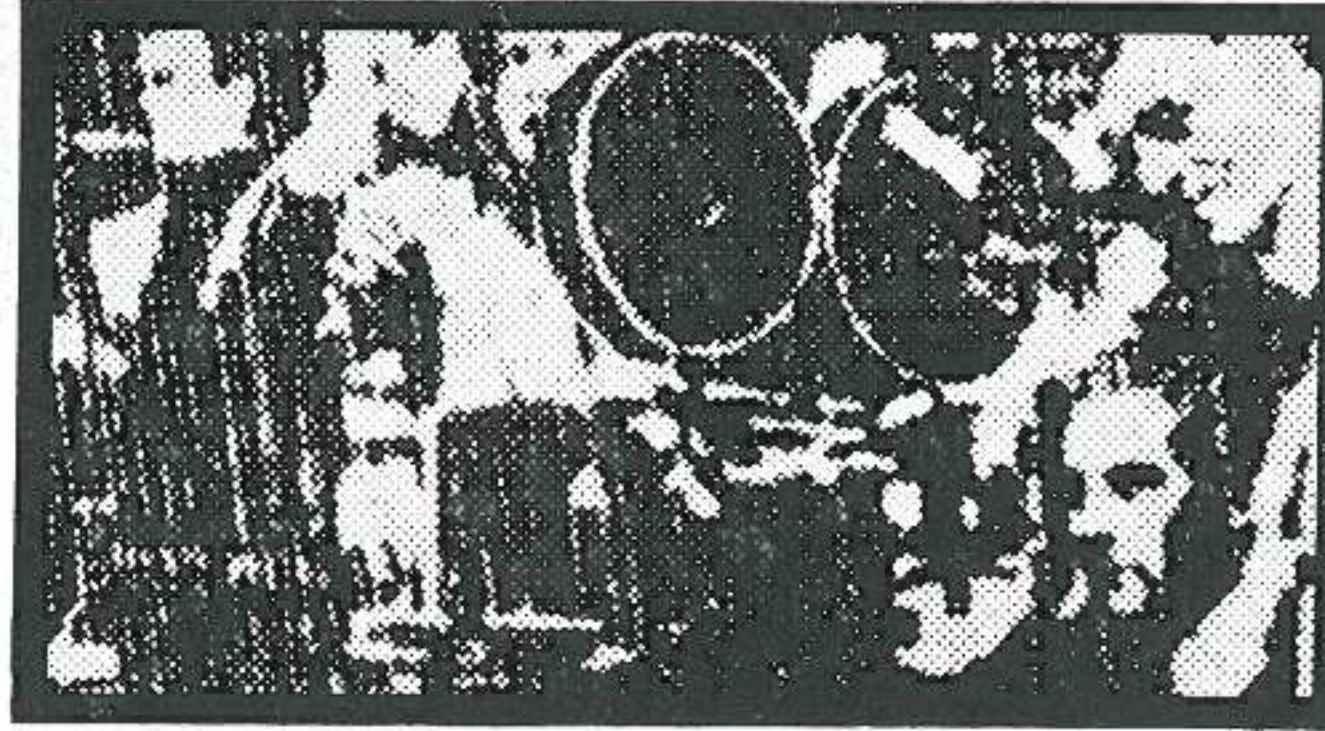
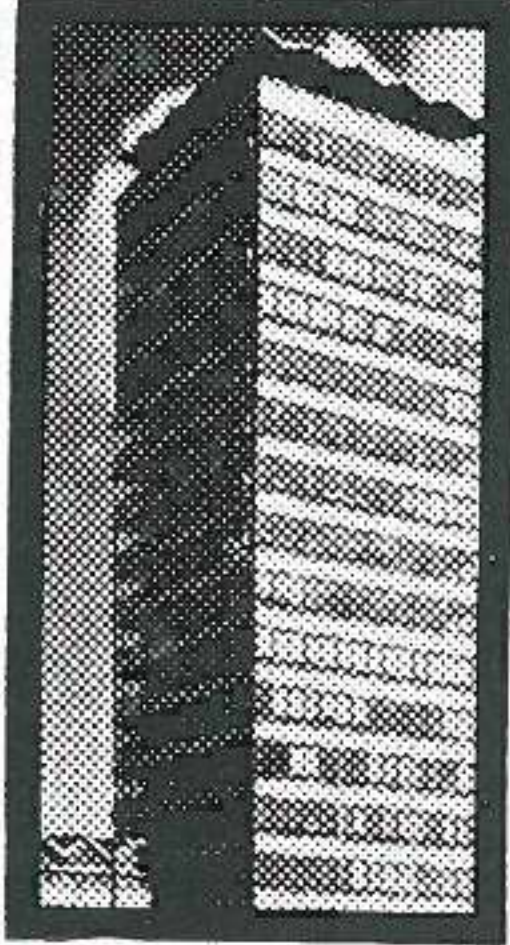
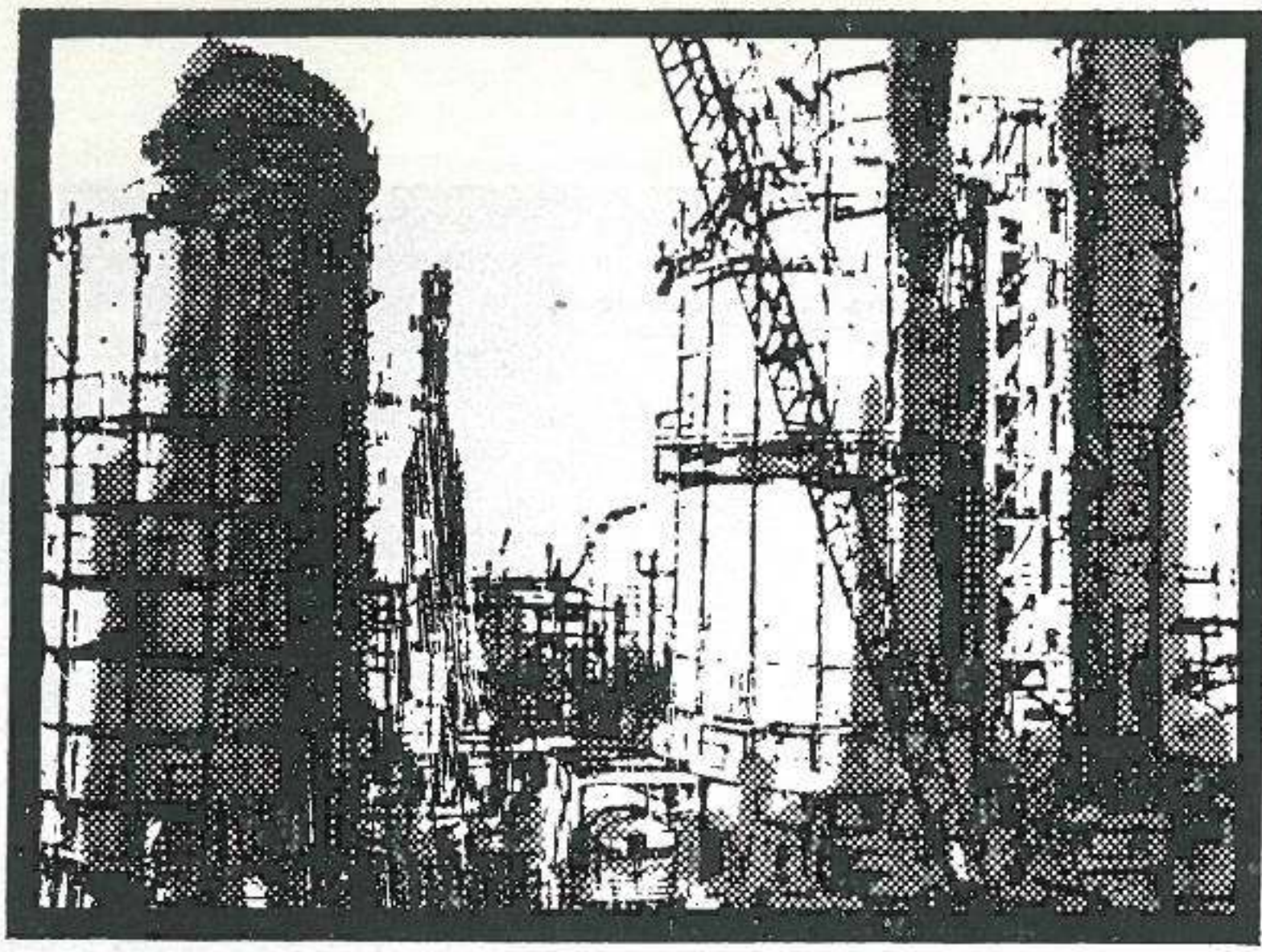
ford in the League and Cork in the Wembley Tournament qualifying round, and the signs were there for all to see, of weakening power and the absence of reserves good enough to take the places of those who have reached and are approaching the age of honourable retirement. In spite of defeat against Tipperary before Christmas in the National League, I found

many supporters of Waterford hurling in high spirits, all very hopeful that they had not reached the end of the road. They were chortling about the form of Tom Cheasty, who has always been looked upon as somewhere like the equivalent of any three men among the Waterford fans, and, indeed, in truth, the form of the team as a whole has so often depended on

his form that they often seemed justified in their view.

It was the opinion of most knowledgeable judges that his play against Tipperary was of the one-man team variety, and many were severely disappointed at the subsequent selection of the Munster team without giving him a place. But, besides his good form, your Waterford man had plenty of other things to make him winter with some hope: the promise of the newcomer at centre-field — then

(Continued next page).



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WILSON HARTNELL

(From previous page)

only a junior hurler at club level—Willie Walsh of De La Salle. (the city club). There was also the good form of John Kirwan left over as one of the few things worth remembering from the disastrous two games in the Munster championship against Cork, in the previous summer. There was Austin Flynn, indisputably the finest full-back in the game, and Tom Cunningham, one of the most stylish and safe backs playing, and Jimmy Byrne, still a young man with plenty of quality hurling in him.

Frankie Walsh was playing at club and county level as though he was far from finished; Joe Condon was showing fine form at centre-back; Ned Power was still in the top rank of goalkeepers; Larry Guinan had much of the power and finesse of his best days; Seamus Power could still hit a



SEAMUS POWER.

mean ball when needed; and even if Mick Flanelly were considering retirement, he was even at this stage near enough to the complete hurler.

Then there were newcomers who were promising big things: a hard and skilful John O'Donnell from Ballyduff-Portlaw, who had had a very successful year in the Intermediate championships for the county; and two clubmates of his Jackie and Frank Whelan. Sonny Walsh has clearly the makings of an accomplished corner-back; Tommy Hearne could reach the heights at times; Enright of Abbey-side had shown much promise when tried in a few winter-time games; while, from Tourin, a club in the Western end of the county

which had produced an uncompromising team of great physical strength and hurling skill in the early fifties but had since fallen on evil days, came a first-time hurler of the old school in Ollie Wilkinson.

All in all there was time and reason for hope during the Christmas season: the turkey must have tasted better withal. But, thus early in the new season, the pleasant taste has changed to rue in the mouth as almost every player has failed to live up to expectations, and the team as a whole has failed to knit. None but the most confirmed gambler or the most rabid fanatic would lay much upon a Waterford victory in this year's All-Ireland championship.

It was, perhaps, the pathetic performance against Cork which finally confirmed the disillusion. It would not be such a serious business being defeated by Cork any other year, or any other time, for Cork are always good triers and enthusiastic hurlers even when not of the first quality as a team. But this game put Waterford hearts properly in the dump because of the pathetic quality of the Cork team, which could play so badly and still have some three goals to spare over the Decies men in a low scoring game and in the home of Waterford hurling, and with a big

and victory-hungry crowd waiting for something to cheer about.

Waterford will, doubtless, mould a moderate team before the championships come round: good enough to have a very good chance against all but Tipperary. They must be, yet, as good as anything Cork, Limerick, Clare or Galway can produce, for they have some players of massive experience and great skill, in spite of some slowing down with the passage of time. But Ned Power, if recovered fully from a rather serious injury in the early minutes of the Wembley preliminary, Austin Flynn, Tom Cunningham, Larry Guinan, Joe Condon, Tommy Hearne, Tom Cheasty, Frankie Walsh, and possibly Mick Flanelly and John Barron, are players of such know-how that any team formed around them will not be easily beaten by any but the best.

But, it can only be a temporary flurry even if they attain some success this year. The root of the problem lies in the absence of good enough young players snapping at the heels of the veterans, impatient for their places. Too few, alas, too few. And this is inevitable in view of the fact that hurling within the county has been on the downward slide for years. Senior clubs have been dwindling in number and declining in quality with a

startling suddenness. Only five played in the county championship last year; and outside the city area and its immediate hinterland there was only one. The traditional strongholds of hurling in Dungarvan, Cappoquin, Lismore, and all the western end of the county could only muster one club of senior quality—Abbeyside.

Next year—this year, now—there will be a number of extra senior clubs, mostly the product of groups of junior teams in amalgamation, and thus it is hoped that many of the good juniors will get some beneficial experience of the senior grade with its greater demands on speed and stamina. It will increase too, the senior championship, and should do so without loss of quality. In all, it is hoped that this will bring several of the more promising players in the intermediate and junior grades more into the reckoning for intercounty senior places.

Attention will have to be concentrated on the outlines of the hurling plan to rebuild the fabric from the ground up. It could be a long and weary struggle back to the top. It cannot be achieved too soon for the ordinary paying customer: to him Waterford's dashing, attacking style has always been welcome as a most enjoyable part of the pattern of hurling.

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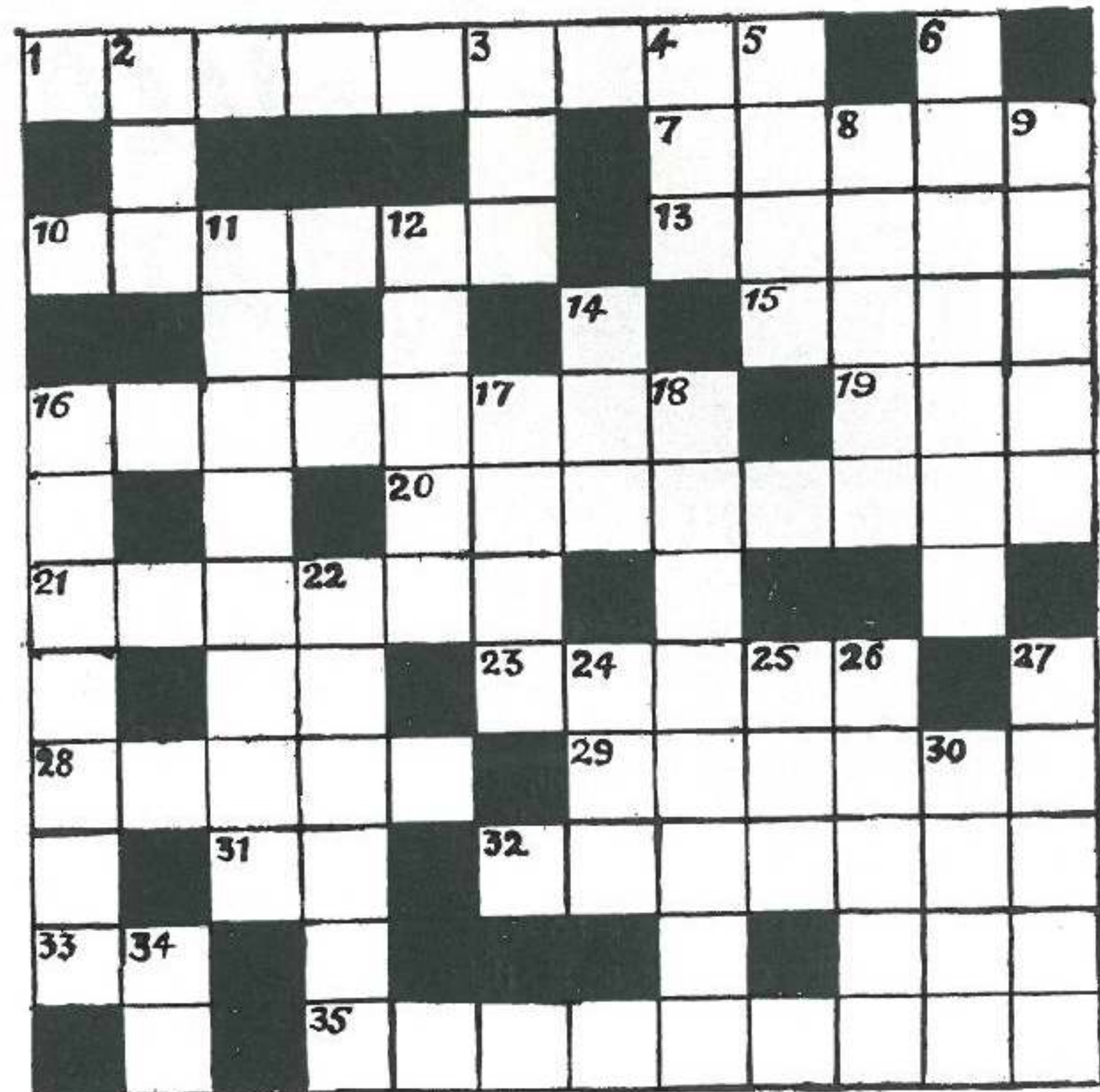
BY PERMUTER

CLUES ACROSS :

1. Illness could cause a player's withdrawal from a team, thus. (9)
7. Louth forward who has been drawing blood for his team with regular scores. (5)
10. A Roscommon goalkeeper from their golden era. (1, 5)
13. A Laois centre-half with name remarkably similar to that of 10 across. (5)
15. Kerry star, recognised as one of the great half-backs of all time, who also played in various forward positions with almost equal distinction. (4)
16. A full-forward for his county and Ulster, who developed into one of the best wing backs, and then turned his hand to refereeing in which he was outstanding. (1, 7)
19. Late son of the Aga Khan? (3)
20. Player of Gaelic games who holds more All-Ireland medals than even Christy Ring or John Doyle. (1, 7)
21. Mode of entertainment which is occasionally the subject of controversy for Gaelic games players. (6)
23. How to select the officers of your club—democratically. (5)
28. Substitute—in the language of the film world. (5)
29. A former Louth star, at right-half back. (1, 5)
31. Mayo centre or full forward at the turn of the fifties. Initials. (2)
32. Right back for Cavan when they won the All-Ireland in New York (1, 6)
33. Kilkenny half-back, captain of the 1963 winning side. Initials. (2)
35. Brilliant centre-field of Tipperary, in the period of their ascendancy in the early fifties, whose career was cut short by injury. (4, 5)

CLUES DOWN :

2. What the final whistle brings. (3)
3. Healthy colour from sun and wind. (3)
4. An age more suited to the hurler on the ditch. (3)
5. Noel seems a bit mixed up. (4)
6. Limerick 'keeper whom many consider one of the best of all hurling goalkeepers (7)
8. A new young Cork football star, at wing forward. (1, 4)
9. Dixon who played at centre-half for Mayo; but he does seem disturbed. (5)



11. The man in charge of Tipperary's fitness; a fine job he does, it will be agreed. (1, 7)
12. You must never disagree thus with the referee. (5)
14. Three parts of a defender. (3)
16. An emotion not unknown to those who have suffered defeat in important matches. (7)
17. Facial organ which is sometimes in the wars. (4)
18. Part of the referee's equipment. (4, 4)
22. Pillar of Roscommon defence in their title winning years—and later of many a New York team. (6)
24. The magical letters which make treasurers smile. (3)
25. If players cannot keep absolutely cool, they should keep three-quarters so. (3)
26. A Limerick hurler and footballer of to-day. (5)
27. Another part of the referees essential equipment—though he might opt for a more valuable coin. (5)
30. The sort of surface which ought be ideal for hurling; it seems to be ideal for tennis, at any rate. (4)
34. Prolific-scoring Cavan forward. Initials. (2)

(Solution Page 48).



JOE MAHER.

JACOBS VERSUS MAHER AT AN IRISH VENUE!

IN his "Looking Around" column last month, colleague Brian Doherty, gave some very interesting facts about Jimmy Jacobs, the American and World Handball Champion, and queried the chances of getting him to Ireland, so that our own fans could see this wonder-man in action.

When Jacobs won his world title at the championships in New York

in October 1964, rumours were rife that the Great Maestro, had suggested to our officials who went out with Joe Maher and the late Des Dillon, that he hoped to visit Ireland in the following spring.

Unfortunately, those promises came to nought and 1965 came and went without any sign of Jacobs.

However, just as friend Brian would like to see him test his

mettle against our top men, so too is the Central Handball Council equally anxious that he should visit our shores.

Only a month ago, at the last Council meeting, the question of a Jacobs visit was again mooted, and so enthusiastically was it received, that there is every chance we may see him in action over here before the year ends.

In fact there is a school of thought which suggests that Jacobs cannot really be termed the greatest player in the world until he has beaten our men on Irish soil, and that includes, Joe Maher, who played him such a fine game in the 1964 championships, even though he was quite unfamiliar with the smaller type courts.

Joe, who went to Toronto in January '65, as a result of representations made to him at those same world championships has been cutting a clean swathe through all opposition in Canada.

In 1965 he won a number of tournaments, as well as the Canadian closed doubles and the Y.M.H.R. singles, and followed up this year, by retaining the latter title, the Quebec Open Championship, the Toronto City Singles, and the Canadian Open and Closed Singles held in Vancouver a few weeks ago.

Some record for one, used to playing in the big thirty by sixty court, and with only fifteen months familiarity with the smaller court.

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What a boost it would be for Irish Handball

Says ALLEYMAN

As yet, Joe does not consider himself capable of accounting for Jacobs, though if the match were played here, it might be an entirely different proposition.

Writing home recently Joe commented:—"If Jacobs decides to come to Ireland, let me know well in advance so that I can take a sudden holiday.

And at home, to challenge Jacobs also will be a former partner of Maher—Fintan Confrey, who also hails from Drogheda. He in fact is the epitome of the perfect handballer.

In the Gael-Linn final recently, I saw him at his very best—the complete player, flawless and perfect in his every movement. In accounting for the cream of the country's players, he kept a packed gallery spell-bound, a silent mass, just marvelling at the genius of a player who never put a foot (or hand) astray.

For over ten years now Confrey has been to the forefront, and though he has always been recognised as a perfectionist, never did he turn in such a performance as in this Gael-Linn final.

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GO CIE

A SYNTHETIC HURLEY: WHY NOT?

Says Séamus O Ceallaigh

RESPONSIBLE committees running under-age competitions in both Waterford and Limerick have expressed dissatisfaction with

the standard of the juvenile hurley supplied by An Coiste Iomána.

The whole kernel of the hurling revival is the ability to put a

worthwhile stick in the hands of every youth and at a reasonable price. If we give them rubbish which breaks at almost the first impact then much of the good work being accomplished is all too quickly undone.

We must be realistic in this matter and realise that a youngster is not going to fork out three or four shillings at all too frequent intervals in order to play hurling when so many other games can be played without the need for any such expenditure.

This situation is all too often met in the counties where the hurling tradition is strong, like those mentioned at the outset, and it must be encountered with even greater emphasis in what might be termed the non-hurling counties.

Facing facts squarely we must agree that the only lasting solution to the hurling problem is the provision of a stick that would be virtually unbreakable. In order to secure this we may have to break with tradition and go away from long accepted standards but I hold it is much more preferable to do this than allow the game disappear entirely, which could be the fate in store for it under the circumstances complained of.

Not so very long ago I had a discussion with an executive of a plastics factory in this country and he assured me there was no unsurmountable difficulty in the manufacture of a hurley in some of the new materials now appearing on the market and which are practically unbreakable.

A short time afterwards I saw a child's hurley stick produced in a Gaeltacht factory and made of one of these plastics. It was very ser-

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viceable and practically unbreakable. Designed for very young children it is intended for use with a ball of similar material, but it just shows what is possible in this field.

I am firmly convinced that all the money we are spending at the moment on the revival scheme will be completely wasted unless we can provide the hurley that will give our youth value for their money. I am satisfied it is possible to get this stick but the Association must provide some encouragement to manufacturers to produce it. A worthwhile prize of something in the nature of £5,000 should be offered for a hurley that would be both reasonably priced and durable. If we succeed in getting that then the work of propagating hurling will be on a solid foundation and must succeed.

WATERFORD EXILES

Waterford Gaels in New York, through their County Association, are presenting two splendid Cups for the Waterford County juvenile championships in hurling and football. They intend this as a special gesture in the Golden Jubilee Year of 1916.

Jimmy Madden of Parteen has presented a beautiful Silver Cup to Clare County Board for the County Junior Hurling Championships.

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A tidy £23,593 is the bill the Kerry County Board must foot for the magnificent new pavilion they intend erecting at Austin Stack Park, Tralee. A two storey job, the accommodation will include four dressing rooms complete with showers, first aid and referees rooms on the ground floor, with a lounge, diningroom and kitchen overhead.

AR DHEIS DE

Two great old stalwarts of the games have passed to their reward. William McInerney of Kilrush, who had almost reached the ninety

mark, was in his day a noted footballer with the Kilrush Shamrocks, and was known far and wide as "Footballer Mack". Mooncoin-born Larry Cantwell was a well known hurler with a Waterford City club

of two score years ago and on one occasion he was known to rise at dawn to cycle fifty miles from Carlow in order to play in a championship match with his club. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



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ROS GOILL. 24 míle ó Leitir Ceanainn. Bus.

Coláiste Ros Goill, Na Dúine, Leitir Ceanainn, Tír Chonaill.

(Eolas ó: An tAthair Mac Giolla Earnáin, St. Patrick's Academy, Dungannon, Tyrone.)

Cúrsaí: (a) 27 Meitheamh—22 Iúil, 1966; (b) 23 Iúil — 20 Lúnasa, 1966; (c) 22 Lúnasa — 27 Lúnasa, 1966. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Táillí: Cúrsa (a), £14; Cúrsa (b), £20; Cúrsa (c), £5. Aois: Cúrsa (a), faoi bhun 18 mbliana. Cúrsaí (b) agus (c) os cionn 18 mbliana. Bíonn ranganna do thosaitheoirí ann.

RANN NA FEIRSTE. 40 míle ó Leitir Ceanainn. Bus go hAnagaire, 1 míle ó Rann na Feirste.

Coláiste Bhríde, Rann na Feirste, Leitir Ceanainn, Tír Chonaill. 'Fón: Anagaire 25.

(Eolas ó: Seosamh Ó Searcaigh, Lann Léire, Co. Lú. 'Fón: Dunleer 67.)

Cúrsaí: 5 Iúil—29 Iúil, 1966; 2 Lúnasa — 26 Lúnasa, 1966. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Táille: £14. Aois: 10-18 mbliana.

Co. na Gaillimhe

AN SPIDÉAL.

Coláiste Chonnacht, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe. 'Fón: 24.

(Eolas ó: An tAth. N. Ó Donnghaile, S.P., An Spidéal. 'Fón: 9 nó 24.)

Cúrsaí: 5 Iúil—29 Iúil, 1966; 2 Lúnasa — 27 Lúnasa, 1966. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Aois: 10-18 mbliana. Bíonn ranganna do thosaitheoirí ann.

TÍR AN FHIAIDH.

Coláiste Tír an Fhaidh, Tír an Fhaidh, Leitir Móir, Co. na Gaillimhe. 'Fón: Leitir Móir 3.

(Eolas ó: Tomás Mac Ruairí, 3 Bóthar Mhullach Íde, Ard Aidhin, Baile Átha Cliath 5. 'Fón: 338414.)

Cúrsaí: 4 Iúil—30 Iúil, 1966; 3 Lúnasa — 29 Lúnasa, 1966. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Táille: £15. Aois: 10-18 mbliana.

Co. Chorcaí

TRÁ BOLGAN

Trá Bolgan, An Geata Bán, Co. Chorcaí. 'Fón: Corcaigh 61203.

(Eolas ó: Cormac Mac Cárthaigh, 25 Sráid Phádraig, Corcaigh. 'Fón: 20412.)

Cúrsaí: 4 Iúil—29 Iúil, 1966; 2 Lúnasa—27 Lúnasa, 1966. Cailíní amháin. Aois: 10-18 mbliana.

Co. Luimnigh

FAING.

Áras Íde, Faing, Co. Luimnigh.

'Fón: 10.

(Eolas ó: An Rúnaí, Áras Íde, Faing, Co. Luimnigh. 'Fón: Faing 10.)

Cúrsaí: Seachtain na Cásca (daltaí os cionn 16 bliana). Táille: £6; 1 Iúil—27 Iúil, 1966; 29 Iúil — 24 Lúnasa, 1966. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Táille: £18. Aois: 11-18 mbliana.

Co. Phort Lairge

AN RINN.

Coláiste na Rinne, Rinn Ó gCuanach, Sna Déisibh. 'Fón: 4.

(Eolas ó: Mícheál Ó Dómhnaill, Coláiste na Rinne, Rinn Ó gCuanach. 'Fón: 24.)

Cúrsaí: 29 Meitheamh—23 Iúil, 1966; 27 Iúil—20 Lúnasa, 1966. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Táillí: £21-10-0 (seomra singil); £20-10-0 (seomra beirte nó triúr); £19 (suanlios). Aois: os cionn 12 bhliain. Bíonn ranganna do dhaoine fásta ann. Dáil na Mumhan: 20 Lúnasa—27 Lúnasa, 1966. Táille: £7.

Co. Átha Cliath

BAILE BRIGÍN.

Coláiste Phádraig, Halla Hampton, Baile Brigín, Co. Átha Cliath.

(Eolas ó: Éamonn Ó Murchú, Coláiste Phádraig, Teach Y.P., Rotunda, Baile Átha Cliath 1. 'Fón: oifig—47771; baile—334051.)

Cúrsaí: (a) 19 Meitheamh — 9 Iúil, 1966; (b) 10 Iúil—30 Iúil, 1966; (c) 31 Iúil—20 Lúnasa, 1966. Buachaillí amháin, cúrsa (a); cailíní amháin, cúrsaí (b) agus (c). Táille: £18. Aois: 12-18 mbliana.

Co. na Mí

BAILE GIB.

Brú na Midhe, Baile Gib, An Uaimh, Co. na Mí.

(Eolas ó: Seosamh Ó hÓgartaigh, 10 Bóthar na Daraí, Dún Droma, Baile Átha Cliath 14. 'Fón: 981772.)

Cúrsaí: (a) 19 Meitheamh — 2 Iúil, 1966; (b) 3 Iúil—16 Iúil, 1966; (c) 17 Iúil—30 Iúil, 1966; (d) 31 Iúil—13 Lúnasa, 1966; (e) 14 Lúnasa—27 Lúnasa, 1966. Buachaillí amháin, cúrsaí (a), (b) agus (e); cailíní amháin, cúrsaí (c) agus (d). Táille: £9. Aois: 10-15 bliana.

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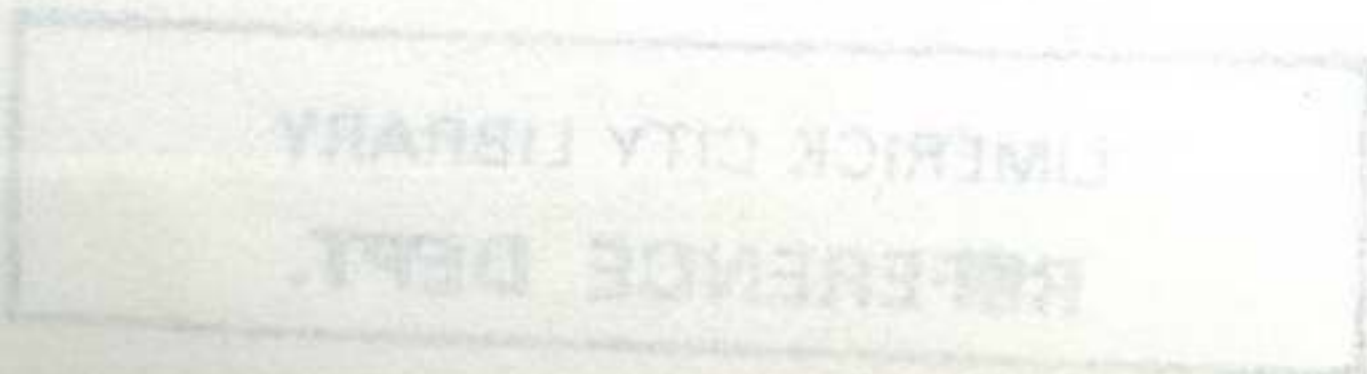
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CEANN de na hadhmannna atá ag an gCumann Lúchleas Gael ná an Ghaeilge bheith ina gnáth-theanga ag muintir an Chumainn. Ag an dtaca seo, fiú amháin, tá cuid mhaith de gnó an Chumainn dá dhéanamh tré mheán na Gaeilge ach tá an lá ag druidim orainn nuair a bhéas an taosóg, a d'fhoghlaim an teanga náisiúnta ar scoil, i gceannas cúrsaí agus annsin déanfar an gnó riararcháin ar fad as Gaeilge. B'fhéidir gur as Gaeilge, freisin, a bhéas gnó chruinnithe, síos go dtí na Coistí Chontae, déanta. I gceann scathaimh eile beifear ag súil le Gaeilge ins na Clubanna—ag cruinnithe, cursaí caidrimh agus ar na páirc-eannt imeartha.

Tá furmhór d'ógánaigh na tíre, go háirithe iad siúd atá ag freastal méanscoileanna nó a gcomhionann, in ann an Ghaeilge a scríobh agus a léamh. Ach níl taithí aca ar an dteanga a labhairt; lasmuigh de na Gaeltachta is beag caoi a bhfaigid leis a dteanga a chleachta. Ach tá deiseanna aca, sa Samhradh, chun an cleachta sin d'fháil tré freastal ar Choláiste Samhraidh

éigin. Tá furmhór na gColáistí úda sa Ghaeltacht ach, peaca sa Ghaeltacht nó lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht dóibh, is múinteoirí éifeachtachta, líofa, díograiseacha, atá mar oidí ionnta.

Níl aon bhac ar an mac léinn saoire sonasach a bheith aige maraon le beagán ceachtanna mar is tre'n Gaeilge a labhairt, fé stiúru na n-oidí, fhaid is atá sé ag tabhairt faoi gháth-chursaí, cosúil le cluichí, snámh, siúlóidí fán dtuaith is a leithéid, go bhfagann sé teagasc. Gan stró, tagann líofacht chuige i nganfhiós dó. Má leanann sé leis an dteanga, pé uair is féidir leis, taréis an Coláiste fhágaint, ní thiocfaidh meirg ar a chuid Gaeilge uaidh sin amach. Má tá feith thaoisigh ann agus gur mian leis a chion a dhéanamh don gCumann Lúchleas Gael, sna blianta rómhainn, beidh sé ar a chumas aidhm an eagrais sin, maidir le Gaelige dhe, a chur i gcrích.

Dóibh siúd gur mian leo freastal ar Choláiste Samhraidh i gCúige Uladh tig leo dul chuig Abhainn Dála, i gContae Aontroma, Ros Ghoill, Fálcharrach, Cloc Ceann Fhaolaidh, Gaoth Dobhair, Coláiste Bhríde Rann na Feirste, Loch an Iubhair, Anagaire, Teileann, Col

áiste Loch Súilí, Gleann Bhárr nó ar Oileán Árainn Mhór i dTír Chonaill.

San Iarthar tá Coláistí ag An Spidéal, ag Cárna agus ar Oileán Inis Thiar. I gCúige Laigheann tá dhá cheann, eadhon, i mBaile Gib i nGaeltacht na Mí agus Coláiste Phádraig i mBaile Brigín, Co. Átha Cliath.

Tá rogha mór i gCúige Mumhan, mar atá, Baile na nGall, Fionntrá, Baile na Sceilig, Ceanntá, agus Cnoc Bhréanainn, Baile an Bhuineanaigh i gContae Ciarraí; Cúl Aodha, Trá Bolgan, Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh agus Coláiste Chorca Dhuibhne i gContae Chorcaí; Coláiste na Rinne ar na Déisibh; Coláiste Íde i bFhaing, Co. Luimní, agus ag Carraig an Chobhaltaigh in gContae an Chláir.

Ar ndóigh, is féidir le duine tuille eolais faoi na cúrsaí fháil ó Chomhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge a chuireann leabhrán ar fáil faoi'n gcéanna. Má bhíonn deacracht ar bith ar dhuine, tig leis scríobh chugam-sa faoi chúram 'Ghaelic Sport' agus cuirfead an t-eolas in iomlán ar fáil dó. Ar aon bhealach molaim go gcuirfí iarrataisí isteach go lua.



Dromara football team, winners of Down "B" league. BACK ROW (L. to R.): Michael McCullough, Joe Cunningham, Patsy McGrillen, Eamonn Lundy, Terry Greene, Tom McKay, John Magean, Tony McAllister, Vincent O'Hare, Seamus McEvoy. SEATED (L. to R.): Joe Loughran, Pat Mallon, Michael O'Hare, Terry Lawlor, Seamus McKay, James McKenny (capt.), Seamus McEvoy, Sean Cunningham, Felix Quigley, Stephen O'Hare. FRONT: Michael O'Donnell, Arty Lundy.

CLUB FOCUS : DROMARA—————**by MATT FITZPATRICK**

Founded on a soccer pitch!

THE Dromara club in Co. Down may well be unique in that the decision to found it was made on a soccer pitch. That was back in 1941 when the area was dominated by soccer. Twenty-five years have brought great changes.

Dromara lies in the foothills of Slieve Croob—close to where the River Lagan rises and it was men like Mick Darby, James McKenny, John Rogan, Barney McCann (Sen.), Jim Kelly, Josie McEvoy and the late Barney McAllister who brought the G.A.A. club into

existence a quarter of a century ago.

Among the first players to wear the royal blue of the club were Peter McCann, John Gilmore, Dan Braniff, Tom Jennings, Hugh Orr, James McGrillan and probably the best known man in the club, Charlie Gilmore, who still plays for the team and has a record all his own of having giving Dromara 25 years of faithful service.

The club really got organised in 1942 and they entered in the East Down J.F.L. but apart from win-

ning the odd tournament or "sevens" no major successes came their way.

In those years of the early 'forties many men came to work at the local flax mill and among them were Paddy Farrelly (Cork), Jack Synnott (Wexford), the Brady brothers (Cavan) and Gerry Cooke. These men brought a new brand of spirit and enthusiasm which remains in the club to this day. Although all have since left the district they are well remembered and wherever they are today the

Gaels of Dromara send their best wishes.

In the late '40's the club had the services of men like Hugh Toland (Donegal) and Mickey Downes (Dublin) but it was 1951 before Dromara really hit the headlines when they won their first trophy—the Down junior championship. The members of this victorious team included the six Gilmore brothers (John, Charlie, Eamonn, Pete, Art and Jimmy) as well as Dan who was a substitute, Jim and Tom Kelly, Peter, Barney and John McCann, Sean Lavery, Dan Flynn, Paddy Toner, Mick and Hugh O'Hare.

But emigration drained the club in the years which followed and although they continued to carry on they did not gain their next success until 1956 when they won the East Down League with the assistance of men such as Eamonn Lundy, Michael McCullough, Tom Mulholland, Stephen O'Hare, James McKenny and Owen Callaghan the Fermanagh star and an uncle of Felix Quigley now playing with Dromara and Down.

The club had ups and downs during the next seven years but came 1963 and a new spirit was born and constructive planning began. Under the guidance of long-serving Secretary, Frank McAvoy, Dromara began to look ahead and work towards the future.

The result became obvious as early as 1964 when the club won its section of the county league and the county junior title. However, they later lost the latter title on an objection.

Dromara is now one of Down's most progressive clubs and appears set to take its place among Glenn and Newry Mitchels in the near future.

Probably the best known player in the club is Eamonn Lundy who has helped Down win two All-Ireland senior medals in 1960 and '61. Now he is joined by Felix Quigley who has Ulster medals at senior and U-21.

The club fields teams at senior, minor and schoolboy level and in the coming year club officials are hopeful that something can be done about hurling in this truly rural area.

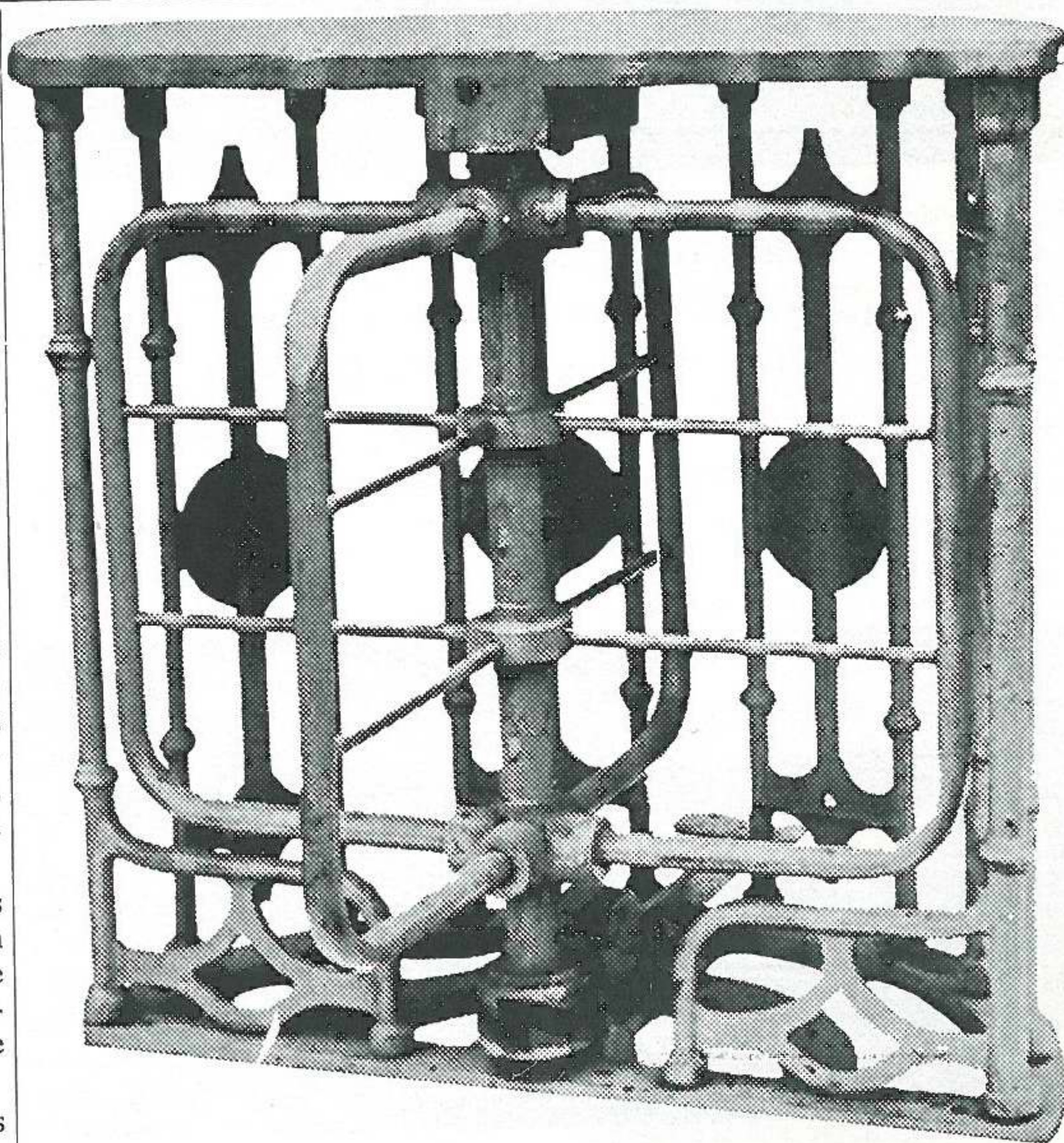
The old school-house has been given to the club for use as committee rooms and for training and the club fosters ceilithe, table-tennis, and badminton.

The club's officers are:—Chairman, Rev. Canon McMullan, P.P.; Vice-Chairman, Eamonn Lundy;

Secretary, Frank McAvoy; Treasurer, John McKenny. Committee members: Peter McGrady, Michael McCullough, Seamus McAvoy, Patsy McKay, Mick Darby and Seamus McEvoy.

To Frank McEvoy, Mick Darby, Eamonn Lundy and John McKenny, I say thank you for having me and assisting in this short history of your club.

Next month I hope to have a look at Keady, the hurling champions of Armagh.



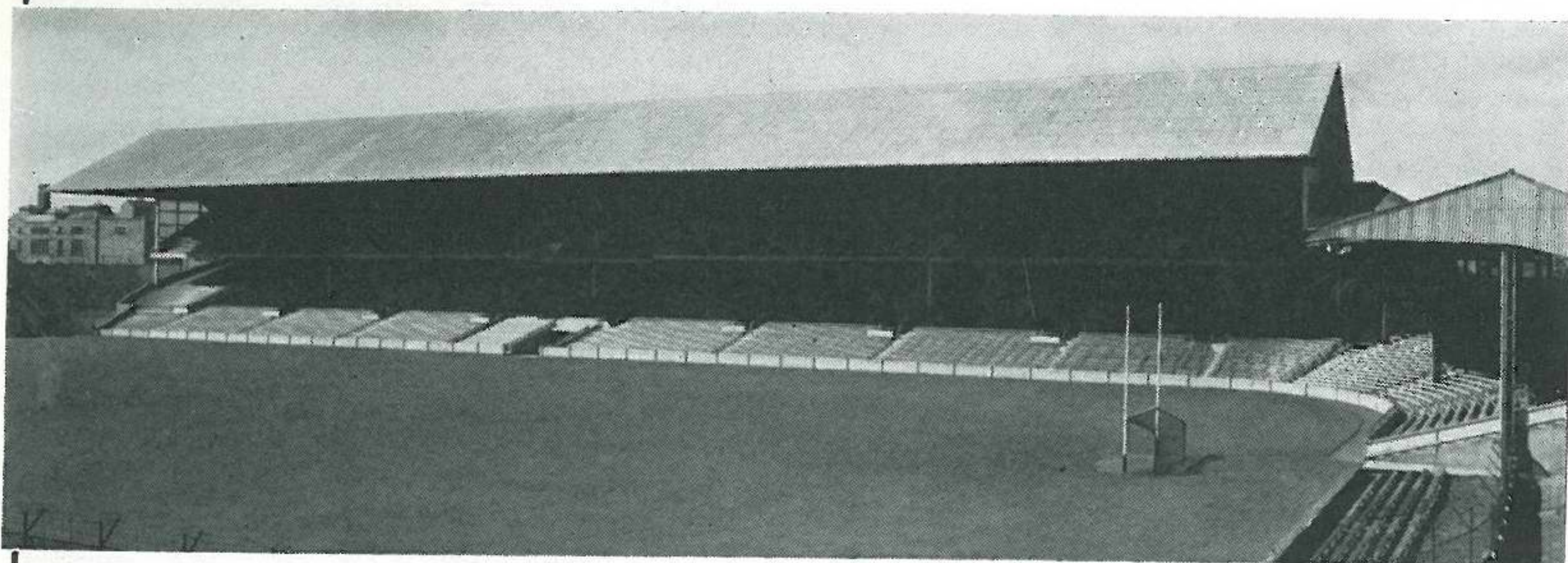
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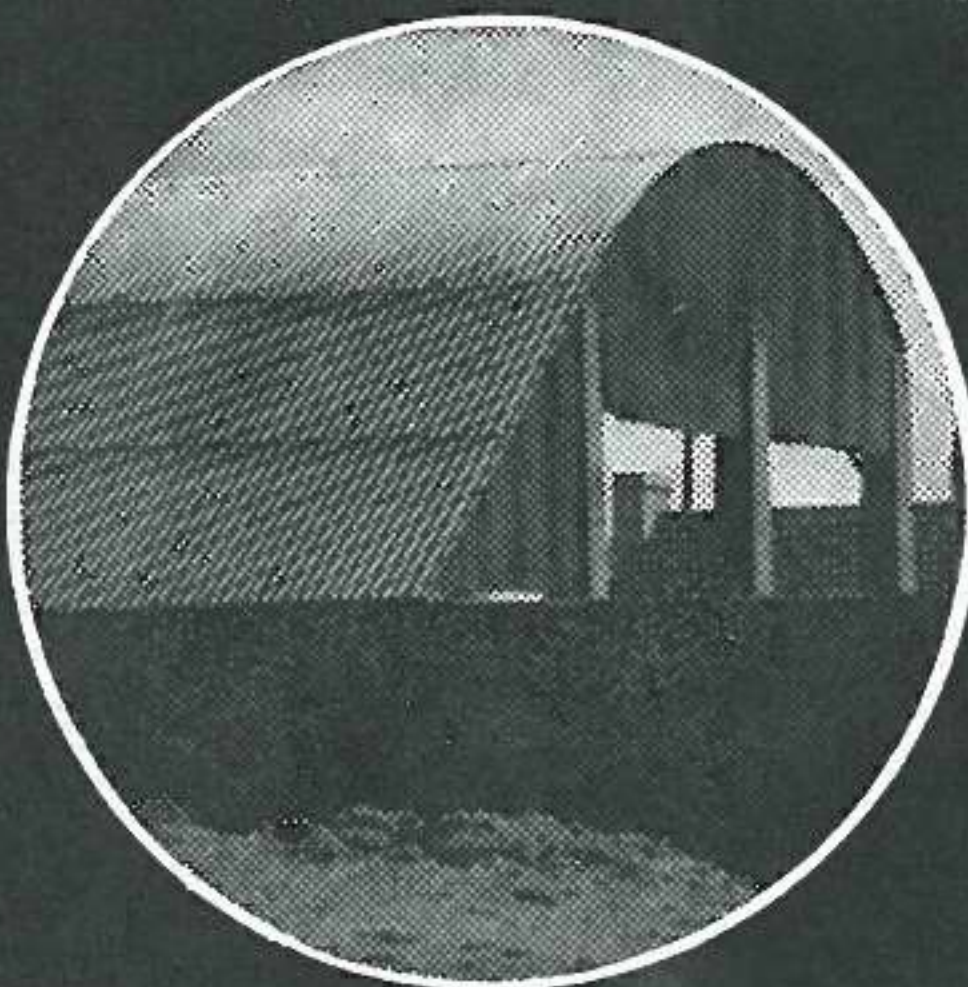
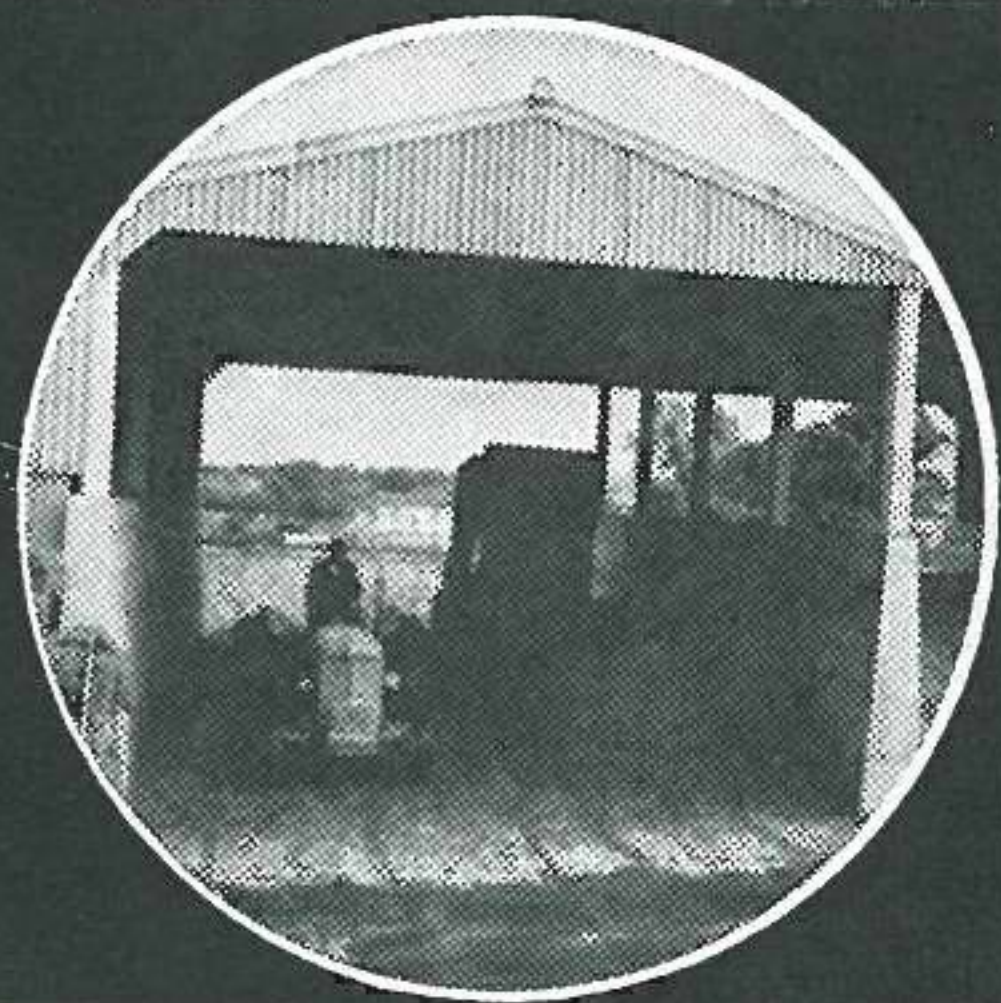
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VAST IMPROVEMENT IN WESTERN PITCHES

GROUNDS FOR PRIDE!

by CHRIS MURRAY

TIME was when the provision of a playing pitch was considered the great achievement. Very few G.A.A. administrators worried too much about the provision of proper dressing facilities or sanitary amenities. Players took it for granted that the ditch was for togging in Summertime, while the local hall might be made available for the wetter and colder months of the year. This was the accepted thing. In fact the player who voiced adverse comment on the system was considered a "sissy" and "what was good enough for our fathers should be good enough for you" was the usual reply.

But gradually the light was seen and here in Connacht I think we are as well equipped with grounds and the required facilities as in any other province. In fact I think we are better equipped but there is work still to be done.

Let us, therefore, take a brief look at the position.

Co. Galway is particularly well endowed and Tuam Stadium really set the headline for the rest of the province in this respect. Opened in 1950, it is a superb playing pitch, capable of standing up to any weather hardship and was

equipped with dressing rooms from the outset. The big man behind it in the early years was Dr. M. I. Mooney, now President of St. Jarlath's College, Tuam and a wonderful funds organiser.

The current man in charge is Rev. Fr. Brendan Kavanagh, another St. Jarlath's College man and also a fine organiser.

Tuam Stadium is all the time improving. New and better equipped dressing-rooms (h. & c. water supplied and centrally heated) were built in 1958 and a stand erected in 1964, while sanitary amenities for men and women are provided.

Other well equipped grounds in Co. Galway are Ballinasloe, where John Dunne works very hard; Galway's Pearse Stadium, being re-surfaced at the moment, with Canon J. O'Dea and Con Crowley at the helm; Stephen Jordan's Kenny Memorial Park at Athenry; Fr. Solon's pitch at Kiltormer; Mick Dillon's "Páirc an Chreagáin" at Mountbellew. All are equipped with dressing-rooms.

Then there are the pitches at Kilbeacanty, Kinvara, Loughrea, Ballygar, Dunmore, Gort, Oughterard, Renvyle, Clarenbridge and I am sorry to say that many of

these are not properly equipped as yet.

But Galway is not alone in providing excellent stadia. McHale Park in Castlebar, where Gerry McDonald did such fine work; Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada in Carrick-on-Shannon where Georgie O'Toole and Tommy O'Riordan have worked so hard; the pitches in Sligo, Athleague, Ballymote, Charleston, Roscommon, Ballinrobe among others deserve to be mentioned but some of these have still to be equipped with dressing facilities.

Many are on the move. Sligo's Markievicz Park is setting plans afoot to rectify the situation. Crossmolina, with Dr. Mickey Loftus at the helm, has bought a field. Ballina, too, is getting to work.

The players want and deserve better conditions. The public have come to realise this and better conditions are being provided. We are moving in the right direction but perhaps not as quickly as we would like. Certainly we are far better off in this matter here in Connacht than we were ten short years ago. In ten years time perhaps every club will be on its way to providing a properly equipped playing pitch. Let us aim at this.

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CON MURPHY'S 'SPANNER'



—By BRIAN DOHERTY

FOR a good many years now I have been among those who favoured the removal of automatic suspension. I believed that the game would benefit greatly and that it would provide a new deal for our referees. I further felt that Congress, 1966 would bring about the desired change. But it didn't and now I am glad.

Never before can I recall having my mind changed so utterly and so convincingly as was done on this question at Congress.

Dan McAreavey made a fine case when putting the Armagh motion asking for the removal of the automatic suspension. When he concluded I was sure the necessary two-thirds majority was clinched. Then came the discussion.

First Con Murphy, the Cork Co. Secretary, attacked the motion and he did it in a manner which shattered the case. Laois Co. Chairman, Jack Conroy, then got to work and by the time he was finished there simply was no case at all.

What amazes me now is why I and a host of others, who for years have been advocating the removal of automatic suspension, never saw the other side of the story.

How come we never realised the chaos which would result? Let us just take two examples:

There is a county senior football semi-final in progress and in the course of the game the referee orders a prominent player to the line. However, the player's team

WE KNEW IN ADVANCE?

Sir,—I purchased a copy of your April issue in my local newsagent's on the last day of March. I found the front cover very interesting. There was a fine drawing of the G.P.O., etc.—but no Nelson, who in the normal course should be visible in the picture.

Now I happen to know something about colour printing—how long the entire process of art-work, block-making and printing takes and I calculate

that the drawings for your April cover were completed at least two weeks before Horatio made his lively descent from the late Pillar.

How come this? I can only conclude Mr. Editor that you and your artist knew that there would be no Pillar when your April issue went on sale.

I congratulate you on your clairvoyance.

A PRINTER

Dublin, 6.

still goes on to win and so qualify for the county final due for two weeks later.

Now the question arises, will this prominent player be playing in the final or not? It depends on a number of points. If, for example, the County board does not meet prior to the final and deal with his case, then he will certainly be playing, irrespective of what he did in the semi-final.

The player's club will naturally not want the board to meet, while, on the other hand, their opponents in the county final will be most insistent that the board should meet prior to the final and suspend the player.

There will be a great tug of war with the board under pressure from both clubs? What, for example, if the county chairman is

a member of one of the clubs in question?

Surely a case which could result in no county final being played at all.

Or let us take the case from another angle. Let us say that the county board had already fixed the date of its next meeting before the semi-final incident and that the meeting does take place.

Here again there will be pressure on all sides—and especially on the referee whose report, more than anything else, will decide the issue. Again it could end very nasty with the poor referee more at the receiving end than ever before.

That is one example. Let us take another. A prominent county player is put off in a club game a week or two before the county is

(Continued overleaf.)

(From previous page.)

due to engage in an important game.

Here we have an instance of where everybody within the county is on the same side. Nobody wants Paddy suspended. So the chances are that there will be no county board meeting until after the county has played its game.

And one could go on bringing up one weird example after another. No longer would it be a question of a referee putting off or not putting off a player. It would be a situation where everybody would be under pressure and where the worst in human nature would be brought forth.

Even the poor referee would be worse off than before. Prior to every county board meeting he would be subject to every sort of plea and pressure not to be too hard on Paddy in his report. And when the report came up for discussion it would be attacked and contested as never before.

I agree that in counties Cork and Dublin the situation would not be quite so bad as in these counties there is a board meeting every week and suspensions, etc., would have to be dealt with—except, of course, in the cases where the referee's report had not come in!

Yes, my mind has been utterly changed on this subject. The automatic suspension system may have its faults, but it is still the dividing wall between order and complete chaos.

MEMBERSHIP

And still on the subject of Congress, there was that other very important Armagh motion on the question of deferring membership of the Association. This motion was probably the most important on the entire agenda and it was passed. It cannot be but of immense benefit to the G.A.A. in a variety of ways.

DUNDALK EXAMPLE

Congratulations to Cumann Peile

na nOg, Dundalk, who recently brought Micheál Mac Liamóir's "I Must Be Talking To My Friends" to the town for one night. What an extraordinary example of progressive thinking and initiative.

MARTYR'S SISTER

Mrs. Catherine Hanly, of Tullamore, who died recently, was a sister of Bloody Sunday martyr, Michael Hogan. Ar dheis Lámh Dé go raibh sí.

JOHN BOSCO McDERMOTT

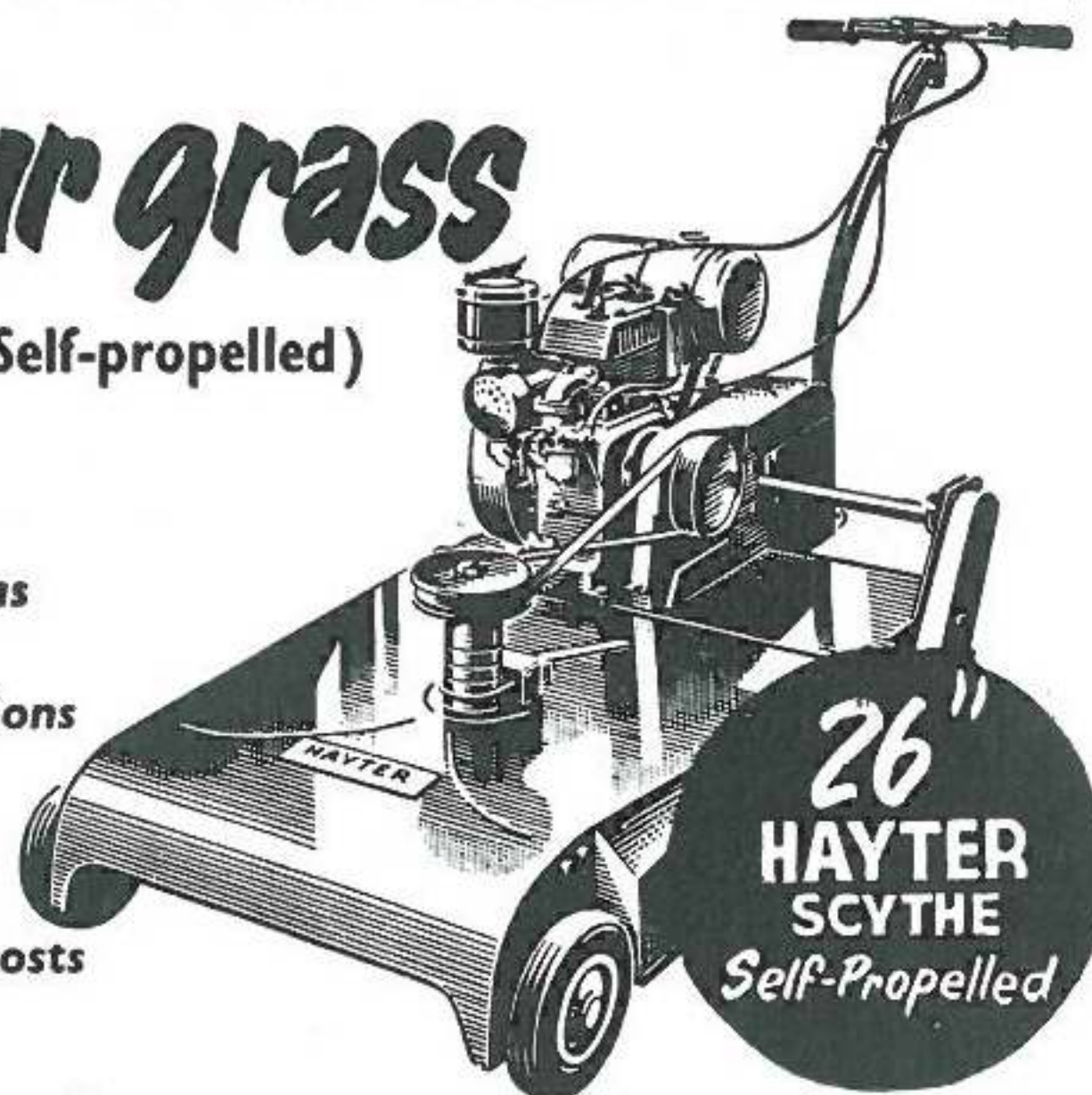
A fine example of loyalty to the "little village" has been provided by John Bosco McDermott who has returned to play with Williamstown, his native parish, in junior ranks. Bosco played with Williamstown originally, but when the club went out of existence he joined neighbouring Dunmore with whom he has won fame and fortune as it were. However, Williamstown are now back in business again and Bosco has returned to the old colours despite their lowly state.

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WHAT DOES T.V. COST THE G.A.A.?

(From Page 7.)

to a final is now 5/- and for a semi-final 4/-. Stand prices have also been increased.

The hard cash losses in 1966 will therefore be greater than ever—and this is not taking into account the added loss which will almost certainly come about following a further fall in attendance.

If we were to couple the new prices with the hypothetical attendances which we figure would have come about had there been no television, then it is probably correct to state that Telefis Eireann will cost the G.A.A. in the region of £20,000 in 1966.

And before we conclude there is yet another point which we feel should be considered. It has been proven in other countries that television causes sports followers to lose interest in local events. If one sees four-minute miles every now and then on television, the

five-minute mile in the local arena becomes an unattractive affair. Who wants to view third-raters.

Or taking the same point from a G.A.A. level—those of us who reside in Dublin seldom go to a Dublin club game because we are too accustomed to seeing all the great games at Croke Park. Hence the poor attendance at the average Dublin club game.

Now supposing our down-the-country cousins continue to grow accustomed to seeing the Paddy Dohertys and the Noel Tierneys on television, will they not, as time goes on, think less and less of the fumbling efforts of the local lads. Perhaps there is even some of this happening already and a further "invisible" loss in revenue as a result.

Then there is the fact that people grow lazy. They get used to getting their G.A.A. thrills while sitting in

an arm-chair and some such people lose the willingness to journey to any game—be it televised or not. In other words attendances at large may be suffering from the effect of this habit of having Croke Park in the living-room.

However, we rest our case, not on these intangible issues, logical though they may be, but on the hard facts. It is clear that St. Patrick's Day and the All-Ireland football semi-finals are most vulnerable to television. From these three Sundays alone the G.A.A. is losing £9,000 per annum as a result of television.

The All-Ireland finals are much less vulnerable—to the tune of £1,200 per annum. If we include the recently increased attendance prices and again allow for the natural attendance increase which would have come about this figure is considerably increased.

In short live television costs at least £10,000 per annum. However, taking everything into account £20,000 per annum might be a much more realistic figure.

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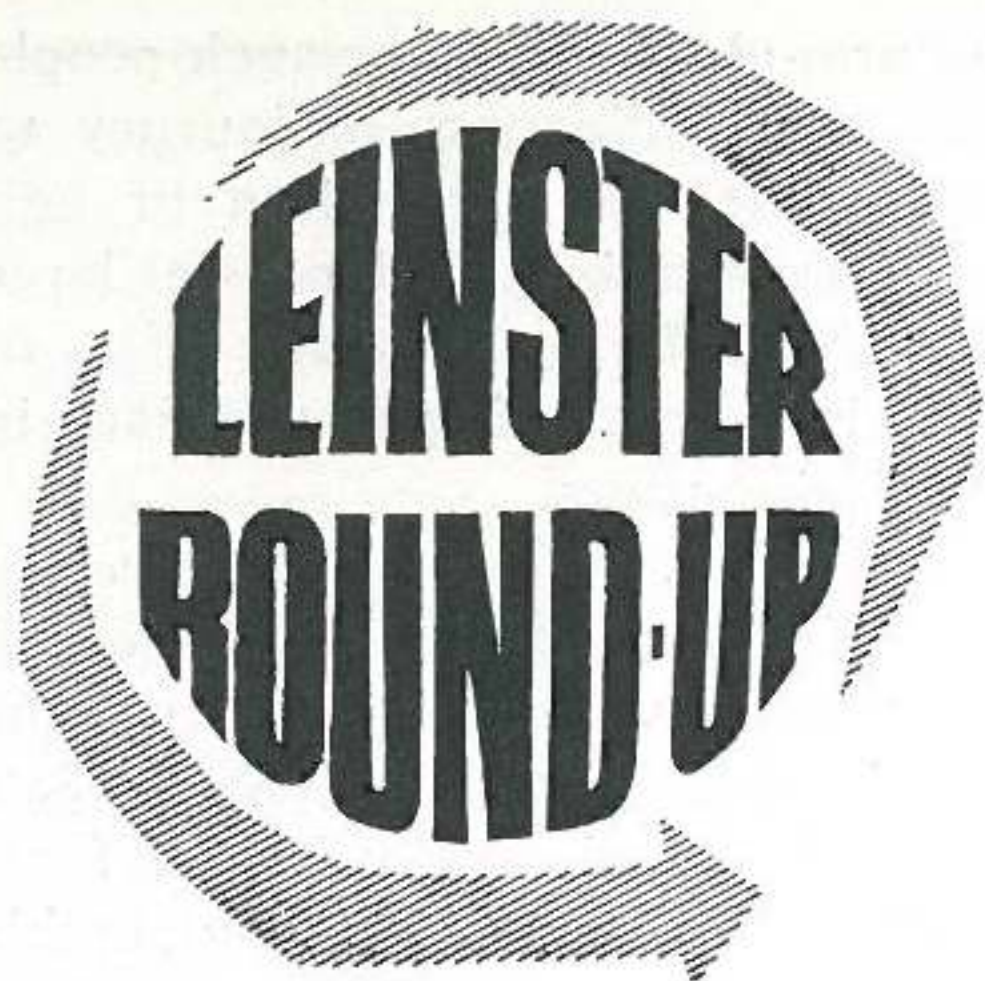
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LONGFORD, BEWARE OF LOUTH!

By FRANK HUGHES

IT falls to referees, Jimmy Haddon and Paul Kelly, to sound the first note of the most open Leinster senior football championship in years when on Sunday, May 1, they take charge of the Westmeath-Carlow and Wexford-Wicklow games respectively.

However, with all due respect to these four counties, I doubt if either of them are going to make a major impact on the championship. As I see it, the first of the decisive games comes the following Sunday at An Uaimh when Longford play Louth.

As regular readers of this column are aware, no one holds a higher respect for Longford's football ability than I. Four months ago I was forecasting that they would make a bold bid for National League honours. But despite all of this I say to Longford—"Beware of Louth".

For some years now Louth have been out of the picture so to speak but never to the extent to which some people thought. There has

always been plenty of football talent in the Wee County and it was simply a question of getting moving and once moving Louth are a hard county to stop.

I detect indications of movement in Louth of late. Their O'Byrne Cup win over Meath was one such indication and then there is the fact that there is a much more serious approach to this first round outing this year than ever before.

Louth will be fit and ready to go on May 8. They will be meeting a Longford team slightly tired from their hectic League campaign. Anything could happen.

Then on Sunday, May 15, we will have another lively one, which will have quite a bearing on who will wear the Leinster crown, when Offaly play Kildare at Portlaoise.

Things went poorly for Kildare against Galway in the League semi-final. In my book the defeat was no reflection on the ability of this young Kildare side. I hope they themselves believe this too, for a loss of heart and of confidence at

this stage would end what promises to be a return to the football forefront by the Lily Whites.

At their best, I figure Kildare to edge Offaly. At any point below their best and Offaly could turn the tables.

The other two counties whom I see very much in the Leinster championship race are Dublin and Meath. Dublin meet the winners of Longford and Louth, while Meath will have their first outing against the winners of Wicklow and Wexford. By all accounts the Royal County will be there in the latter stages.

But before we reach those latter stages we will have some hectic games. Yes, the month ahead will be lively in Leinster.

BOHERMEEN 1916-1966

Bohermeen certainly marked the 1916 Golden Jubilee in a fitting and somewhat personal manner when recently they defeated Oldcastle, 1-6 to 0-4, at An Uaimh in the 1965 Meath junior football final. The point is that the last occasion they won the title was 1916.

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(From Page 23).

is now one ahead of all others in the Railway Cup medals stakes for Ulster, as he also gained a souvenir as a substitute in the 1956 team.

Sean O'Neill and Gabriel Kelly were, other than Doherty, the only players chosen for all eight games in Ulster's four in a row success, but each was forced to miss one encounter. The Down man had to cry off the 1965 semi-final, and Kelly was forced to stand down last St. Patrick's Day. The Cavan defender was in the 1960 title winning team, as well as those of 1963-'64-'65, and he filled the same position in all those games—right full back.

An interesting sidelight on the semi-final with Leinster was that it was the first game in almost three years in which Charlie Gallagher did not put his name on the scoring sheet. Prior to that match, we had to go back to a Cavan-Longford National League tie at Longford on March 10, 1963, for the last occasion in which the Cootehill man left the field without a single score to his credit. In that match, as in the Railway Cup semi-final, he was right full forward.

Between that League tie at Longford and the Railway Cup semi-final, Gallagher had an impressive run of 51 games, scoring in each.

FARMING TALK

By LAR FOLEY



I HAVE just completed a test on the Fiat 415 tractor in the new diamond line range and straight away can say that I was very impressed by its performance.

What most farmers look for when buying a tractor is—that it has sufficient power and manouverability. And I add to these, comfort and versatility. In my opinion the Fiat 415 adds up to these requirements.

The controls are adequate and close at hand. The hydraulic is fast and accurate and has a very good max. lift for the type of tractor involved. Now all of these factors are very important, as the Irish farmer to-day is very particular of the type of tractor he needs, and, if it will measure up to his requirements. In this case I found the Fiat not lacking in any field.

The conditions that prevailed during the test period need little or no explaining, bearing in mind the weather this winter. This test was made over a wide range of implements and in all, without exception, the Fiat 415 came through with flying colours. I was extremely impressed by the way it handled the two furrow reversable plough in very heavy conditions with a minimum of wheel spin and with lots of power to spare. Also the hydraulic was very sensitive and it held its depth very well.

In conclusion I would like to recommend this tractor to any one buying in the 45 H.P. class as it conforms with all standards required by the average farmer.

MILL HILL

TOO OLD AT TWENTY?

Although many priests entered the seminary in their early teens to start their training, there are always generous young men who only realise that they wish to dedicate their lives to the service of God in the priesthood when they reach the age of 18, 20 or even later.

Many young men in this age group are struck by the tremendous spiritual and material poverty of the developing nations of Africa and Asia, and wish to make their contribution by becoming missionary priests.

The Mill Hill Fathers

welcome such young men, and suggest that they apply for further information to:

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MISSIONARIES

CAMOGIE

By AGNES HOURIGAN

NOW that Congress is over we are all set for another camogie season on the competitive fields. Congress made no changes. The All-Ireland club championship was retained and the move to have an All-Ireland junior series was turned down.

In Munster and Ulster the club championship has been a success, I think particularly so in Munster, but it has seemingly not caught on in Leinster or Connacht. In Leinster, which has more clubs than any other province, I am told

that the difficulty is the expense in travelling incurred. Perhaps those difficulties may be overcome in the Eastern province this year.

The difficulty about the junior championship was that, while secondary championships are played in three provinces, the standards are not the same.

Another matter that gave concern to Congress delegates was the position of the game in the schools and colleges and this is a matter that deserves serious consideration from all camogie councils and

county boards.

A couple of years ago, I feared that the spread of hockey in the secondary schools was the main danger, especially in Munster where the strength of the latter game was going ahead by leaps and bounds, for some reason that I cannot fathom.

One wonders if the founding of a Munster colleges league and championship would bring in many of the schools playing hockey at present.

Certainly the fact that eight schools from outside Dublin took part in the Leinster colleges competitions this year would seem to indicate that the schools will play if the competition is provided.

But an even more insidious threat to camogie is the spread of basketball and net-ball. Now, both are excellent games which I would like to see played in every school for girls that has the facilities. And both have the advantage that they can be played indoors and are therefore all-weather games. Most progressive schools nowadays have a gymnasium, and to the gymnasium both net-ball and basketball are admirably suited.

But while I have the greatest admiration for these games, which are a wonderful way of keeping fit, I cannot see why playing such games in the gymnasium should mean that all outdoor games are dropped. Outdoor exercise is essential for all of us, and the fact that a school plays basketball indoors should not be accepted as a reason for abandoning camogie, which gives healthy exercise in the open air. Yet, I have heard a rumour that some well-known schools are contemplating dropping camogie altogether in favour of net-ball and basketball. I hope it is not true, because I sincerely believe that outdoor recreation is essential to the physical welfare of the girls.

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(From Page 19).

cause for jubilation. It often promises much but inevitably, after a few successes, comes defeat. Commenting on this inconsistency Sean remarked, "Our biggest failing at the moment is lack of thrust in the forward line. The arrival of a few strong forceful forwards might solve our problem. We play stylish football but it lacks bite."

He has another theory for the slump in Antrim football fortunes. "Most of our club football is played during the winter months, to allow the hurlers the use of the pitches in summer time. This winter season, with games played in poor weather on badly cut-up pitches, has caused the standard to deteriorate," he said.

Sean feels that the standard of Antrim hurling has also fallen. Nevertheless the Hurling Revival Scheme has been enthusiastically accepted in the county. "It's too soon yet to forecast how successful the Scheme will be," commented Sean, "but the problem is being tackled in the proper manner by concentrating on the schoolboys and juveniles. Of course we in Antrim, especially in the Belfast area, have always had well run competitions for this age group," he added. For this satisfactory state of affairs he praised the work of the Christian Brothers and other local teachers who do such a magnificent job organising these competitions.

One of the high-lights of Sean's term in office as Co. Secretary was the opening of Casement Park in 1953. "When we set out to build Casement Park many people felt that the undertaking was too great," said Sean, "but we con-

sidered it a necessary one." He informed me that there are plans afoot at present to erect a hall at the rear of the stand in the park. This hall will be used for meetings and other G.A.A. functions.

Like some other G.A.A. personalities I have spoken to recently, he would welcome the introduction of paid full-time Co. Secretaries. "This development," says Sean, "would lead to far greater efficiency. The volume of work to be dealt with nowadays, together with the demands on time and energy make the job unsuitable for a part-time official. In my own case my health became impaired and I found I was neglecting my business. In the end I was forced to retire."

Keeping a closer check on the running of all clubs in the county would be one of the tasks he would allot to this paid executive. "At present," he pointed out, "some of our clubs are maintained in a most inefficient and haphazard manner. It would be one of the new Secretary's duties to rectify this situation."

Sean finds the responsibilities of vice-chairman much less onerous than those of Co. Secretary. Nevertheless this veteran legislator is still keenly interested in all aspects of the Association. One innovation he would like introduced is a training course in each county for new officials. "Training courses for players and referees are now the accepted thing, he says, "so why shouldn't the same facilities be provided for the young and inexperienced official?"

He also favours the introduction of an All-Ireland club champion-

ship. This competition would in his opinion be both popular and successful. "We have at the moment an unofficial club championship in Ulster," he said, "and it has produced some great football." However he would like to see an official championship in all the provinces, with the winners going forward to contest the All-Ireland championship.

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THE TOP TEN

THIS month's Top Ten lists are based on the period from and including St. Patrick's Day, March 17, to Easter Monday, April 11.

Frankie Walsh heads the hurling list as a result of his classical performance in the Railway Cup final when he scored 2-7 out of Munster's winning total of 3-13. He is followed by a newcomer to our lists, Clare's Vincent Loftus, who had outstanding games against Limerick and Cork in the National League.

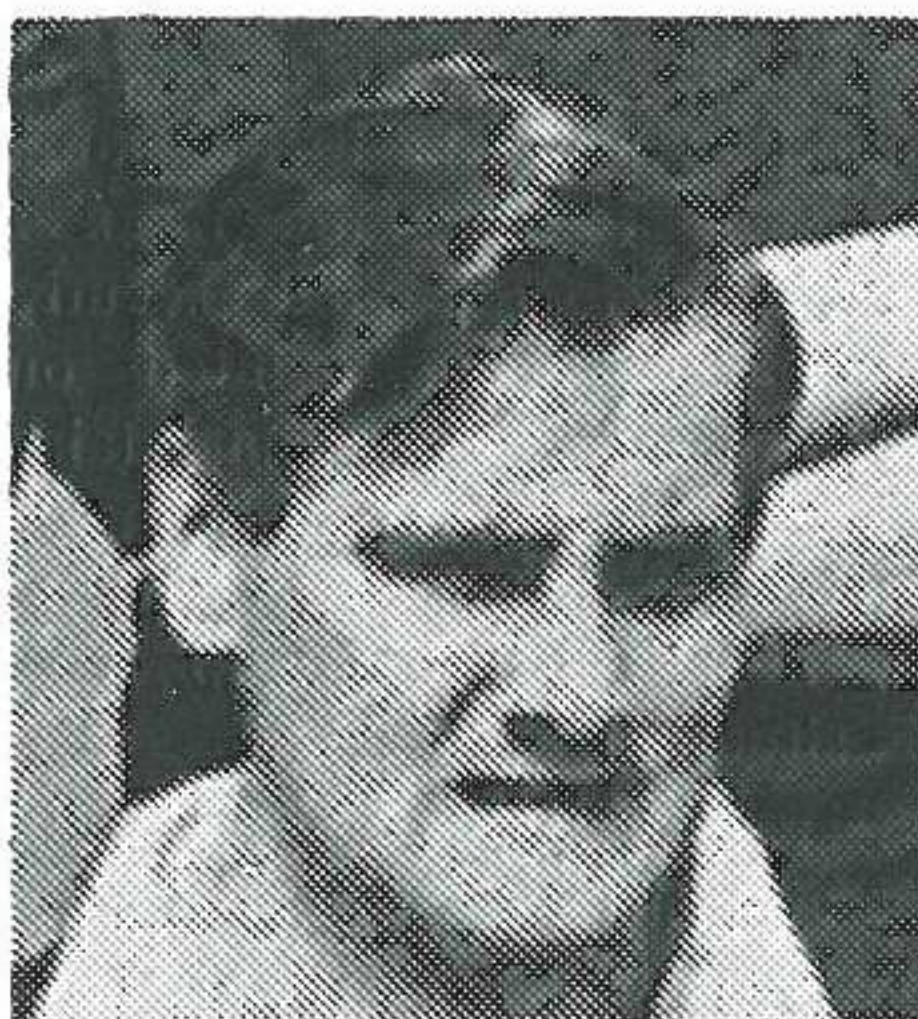
In football, Galway's Tom Sands takes top honours following his tremendous hour against Kildare in the National League semi-final. His fellow half-back, Mairtín Newell, is in second place.

HURLING

1. Frankie Walsh (Waterford).
2. Vincent Loftus (Clare).
3. Eamonn Cregan (Limerick).
4. Austin Flynn (Waterford).
5. Len Gaynor (Tipperary).
6. Sean Buckley (Kilkenny).
7. Tom Ryan (Tipperary).
8. Dick Shannon (Wexford).
9. Tom Corbett (Cork).
10. Declan Lovett (Kerry).

FOOTBALL

1. Tom Sands (Galway).
2. Mairtín Newell (Galway).
3. Mick Hopkins (Longford).
4. Jackie Devine (Longford).
5. Paddy Doherty (Down).
6. Mick Carolan (Kildare).
7. John Bosco McDermott (Galway).
8. Brendan Barden (Longford).
9. Bernard Brady (Donegal).
10. Sean O'Donnell (Donegal).



John Bosco McDermott.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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SPACE DIFFICULTIES

Because of pressure on space, our regular feature "Northern Spotlight" has been held over this month.

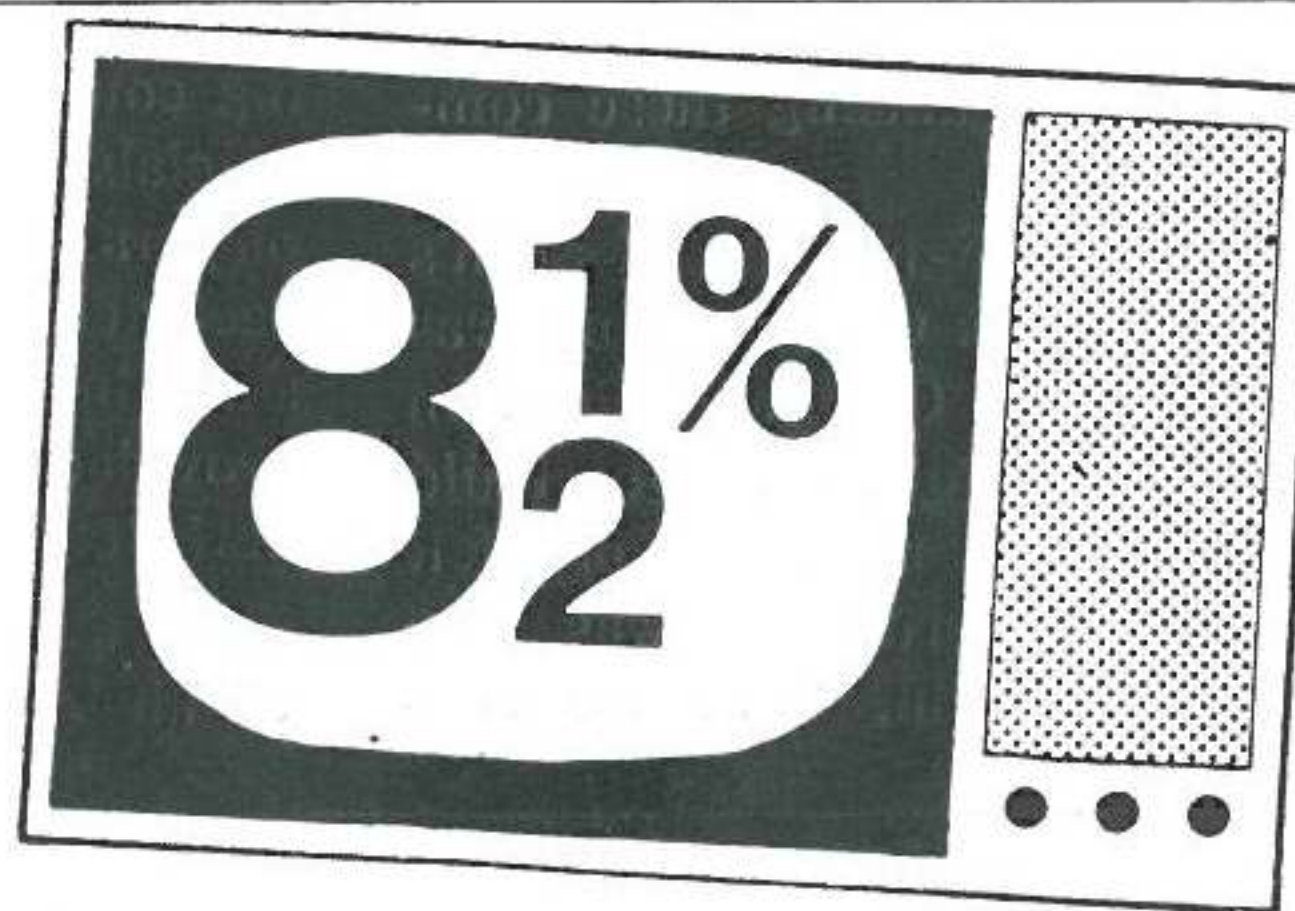
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Leitrim, at Roscommon

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at Sligo

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