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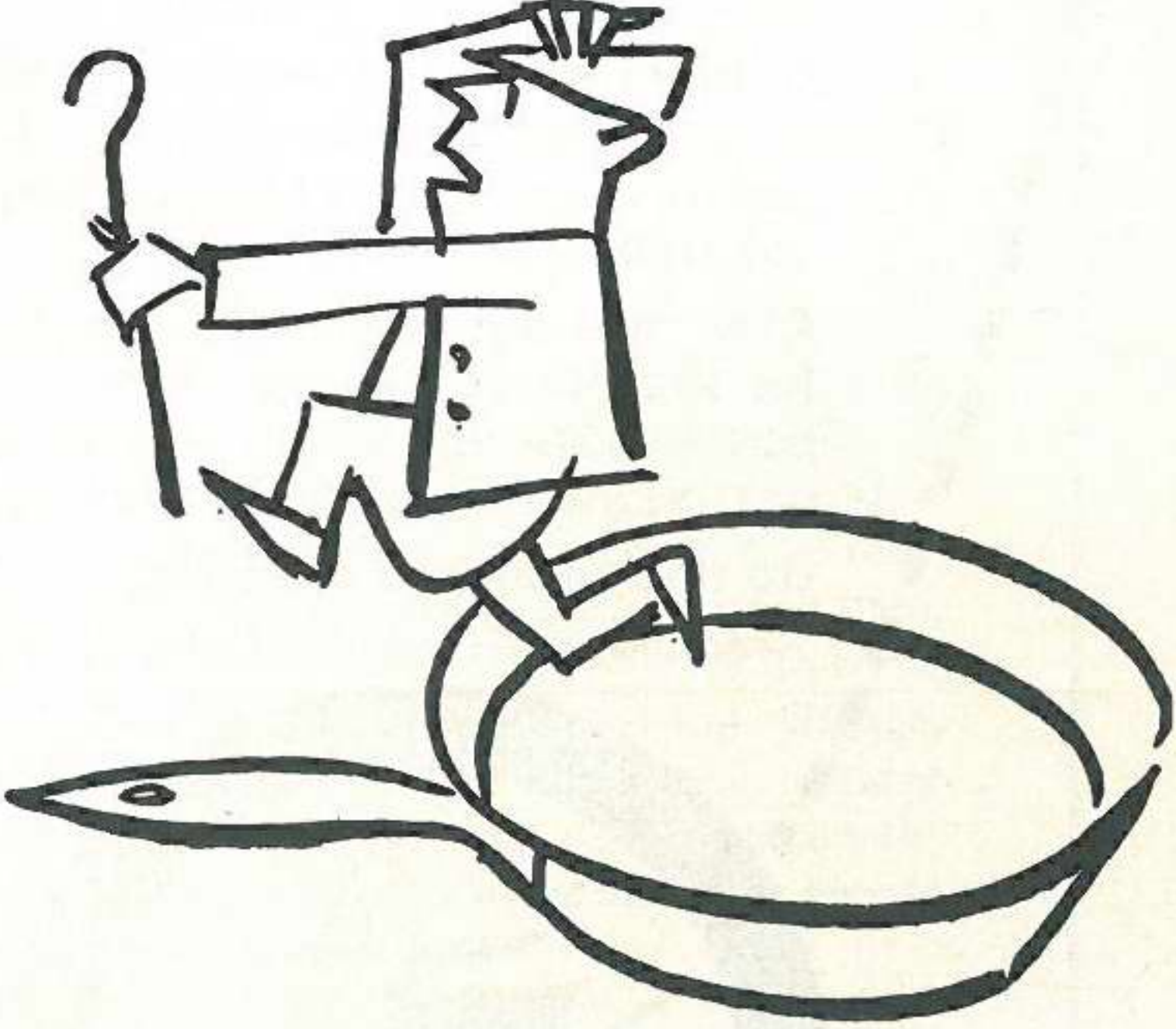
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Brindley Adv.

WHEN we think of Wexford we automatically think of names like the Rackards, Nick O'Donnell, Tom Neville and many more such great hurlers that have represented the Model County but come the 2nd and 3rd of November and there will not be a hurley in sight for on these dates the All-Ireland Ploughing Championships will take place. The venue, Wexford or to be more precise Rosegarland Estate, by kind permission of Mr. Francis Leigh.

The National Ploughing Association's Secretary, Miss Ann Brennan, whose name on the camogie field is well known to our readers, tells us that this year's Ploughing Championships promise to be the most successful to date. The N.P.A. considers that this year's senior championship will be the keenest ever contested and the ultimate winner will represent Ireland in the World Ploughing Championships which will take place in New Zealand next May.

An added attraction this year is the introduction of a new class for students of agricultural colleges and the winner of this event will take away a prize of £300, with the runner-up receiving a prize of £150. This event is sponsored by Messrs. Henry Ford and Sons Ltd.

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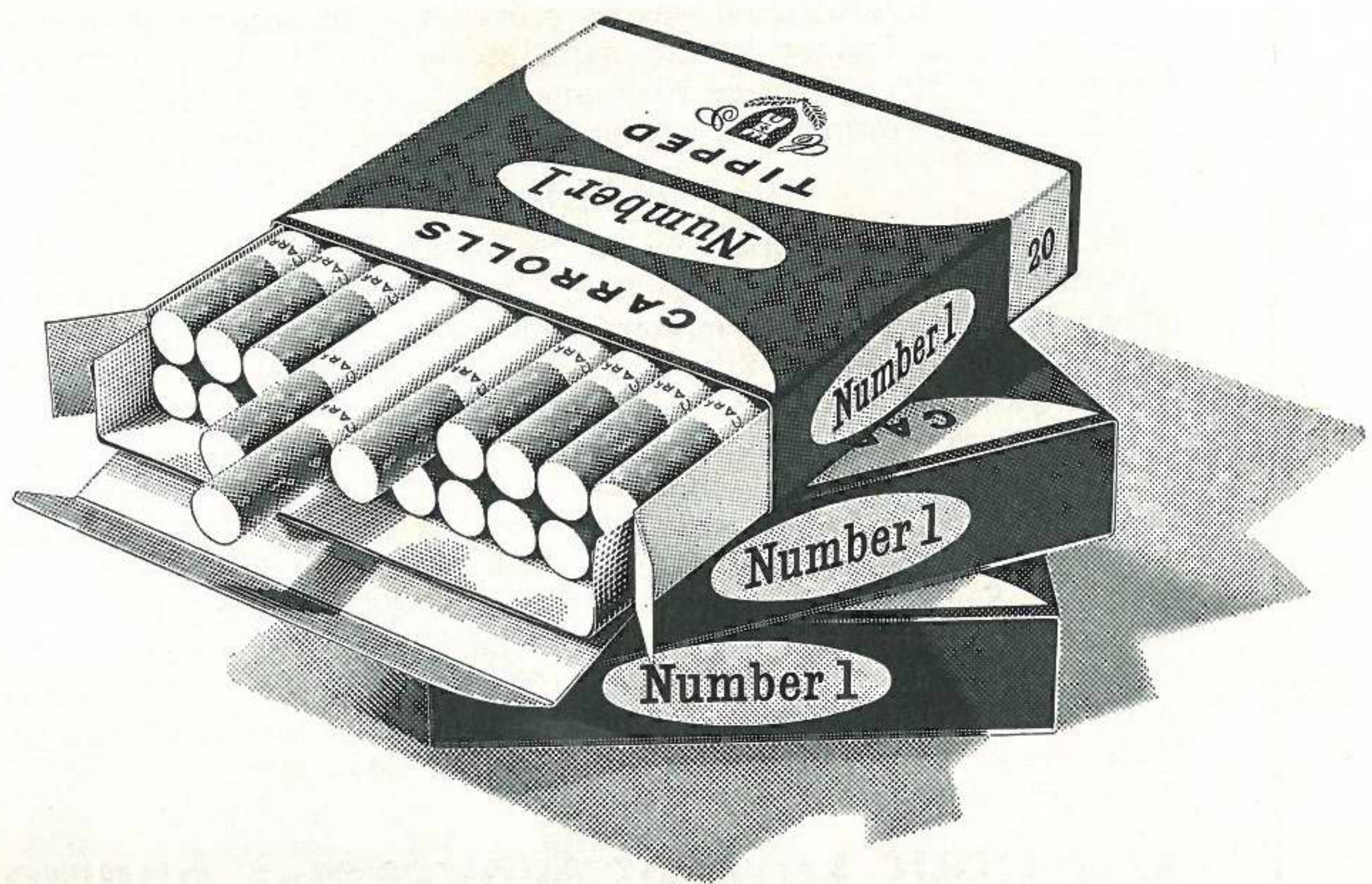
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Gaelic Sport

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WE APOLOGISE . . .

THE publishers of GAELIC SPORT wish to apologise to readers that, as a result of the Government's introduction of wholesale tax, your monthly copy of the magazine will henceforward cost 2/2d. We would like to emphasise that the extra 2d. goes directly to the Government and no portion of the increase accrues to ourselves or to the newsagents.

A wise move

FOR over eighty years the G.A.A. has depended on a system of natural evolution to produce its leaders at all levels. This system, haphazard though it may have been, worked satisfactorily and, down the years, the G.A.A. has, in the main, been served by outstanding men.

However, times change and the Association, if it is to remain the great organisation that it is, must regulate itself accordingly and equip itself to deal with the multiplicity of social obstacles which modern society presents. Hence Leadership Courses.

It is a very wise move and, while the plan recently announced does not provide for as many officials as might be hoped, it can at least be acclaimed as a first step in the right direction.

The decision to approach the task at club level is also to be endorsed. The club is the basic and the most vital unit in the Association. A solid club structure means a solid foundation and in that regard it is probably correct to suggest that many of the 3,000 odd clubs currently affiliated to the G.A.A. are, in fact, anything but clubs in the full meaning of the word.

The most practical result which might be forthcoming from the current series of Leadership Courses would be a clear-cut realisation as to the duties and functions of a club—duties and functions which, as we see them, stretch far beyond simply fielding a team on half a dozen occasions each year.

Let us then hope that we are about to enter a new era—an era of planned leadership and planned development—so that the G.A.A. becomes geared to contend with those problems which currently confront it and which will continue to confront it while it aspires to remain Ireland's foremost national organisation.

THE NEW YORK AFFAIR

(A look at the other side of the story)

By THE EDITOR

I HAVE yet to come across a story which did not have two sides to it. It is not that both sides are always of equal worth—in fact, they seldom are. But for true objectivity on any issue it is best to consider both sides prior to passing judgment.

The New York footballers were unanimously condemned following the second leg of the National League final. It appeared a cut and dried case of downright vicious football of a kind which no one would wish to see again.

But can it be that there is another side to the affair? If not, then perhaps there is at least something which mitigates the gravity of the New York performance—something which explains why a team took the field in the mood in which they so obviously were, and performed in the manner which they so regretably did.

Let us then, purely as a form of mental exercise, try and approach the entire affair from the New York man's point of view. His version will, naturally, be as prejudiced as the next—but at least let us hear what might be his version. It could be that we will be the wiser for it and in the better position then to pass final judgment on what was the affair of October 9.

There is usually a background to an event. This case is not an exception. As a starting point let us take the setting up of the new two-game structure for National League finals. This was begun last

year with the purpose of increasing income so as to clear a debt of some £5,000 which the International Fund had incurred.

The new agreement specified that, when a final was being decided in New York, a home referee should travel out to take charge of both games and, when a final was being decided in Ireland, a New York referee would be in charge.

Furthermore, it was agreed that, in the case of the games in Ireland, one would be played at Croke Park and the second at a provincial venue.

The new scheme worked wonderfully in New York last year. The Tipperary hurlers and the Galway footballers made the journey and there were four excellent games. The home teams were lucky to come back with the titles.

Gaelic Park drew bumper crowds for all games with the result that, not alone were expenses covered, but the £5,000 debt on the International Fund was cleared with a surplus of approximately £2,000 being left on hand.

Nobody could have asked for more. The Gaels of New York had turned out in strength, saved the International Fund and everything in the garden was rosy. Now it was Ireland's turn.

Having gone so near to winning both titles last year, the Gaels of New York had every reason to hope that 1966 might be their year. They spared no efforts towards that end. They picked

their panels months in advance and went into training.

As will be realised, training of this kind requires considerable sacrifice in a huge city such as New York. It means much travel and inconvenience. But the New Yorkers made the necessary sacrifices because they had their hearts set on Croke Park and the glory which it represented.

Try and get inside the mind of a New York player. With the exception of one, all were emigrants. The emigrant has a particular attitude towards the mother country—and there is a lot more to it than nostalgia. There is, for example, the desire to come back home and impress. This can be a great driving force. It would take a psycho-analyst to fully explain it, but there is this drive to prove that he has been a success in exile—that, as an emigrant, he is not an object of pity but someone who has benefited from emigration, who is better for it. What better way of proving this than before the assembled thousands in Croke Park.

Then out of the blue came the Clare affair. One of the results was that the Central Council suspended the Clare Club in New York. This meant that the New York hurling team would be without some key players when facing Kilkenny in the League final. It was a major blow.

Naturally New York sought for a way out. What home county would not in such a case? They considered the matter and came

to the conclusion that seeing as the New York G.A.A. has not been given either County Board status or representation on the Central Council, that it is not, in fact, formally affiliated to the home Association at all. This being so, what right did the Central Council have in suspending a New York club?

This was how New York saw it—believed it. But they knew that unless they accepted the Central Council ruling regarding the Clare Club there might be no League finals at all all this year—so reluctantly they accepted. There was no real choice.

The Clare players were left out and the New York hurlers travelled. On Sunday, September 11, they took the field at Croke Park for the first game with Kilkenny. A few thousand people turned up to see it.

There is one thing about the New York Irish—be they G.A.A. or otherwise—and it is that when someone or some group from here goes out they do really put out the red carpet. When it comes to a welcome, and laying on everything that goes with it, New York have never been known to spare anything. Anybody who has ever been there, in any capacity, will endorse this.

It is, therefore, only natural that when they come over here they expect a fairly warm welcome in return. If they don't get it they naturally feel slighted and even insulted. This is only human.

The New York hurlers did feel slighted—and perhaps insulted—for not alone was our welcome a very dead and alive affair but few of us even bothered to turn up to see them play.

What the New Yorkers may have failed to realise was that they could not have come at a worse time. Playing Kilkenny at Croke Park just seven days after the excitement of the All-Ireland final

—an All-Ireland final in which Kilkenny had played rather poorly—was not the sort of game to bring hurling fans rushing back to headquarters. Many of them had their fill the previous Sunday and were still thawing out so to speak.

However, the New York point of view was that this was a National League final. National

A CHIP ON BOTH SHOULDERS

League finals rank second only to the All-Ireland finals. They always drew crowds of from twenty-five to thirty thousand. Where were they all on September 11?

Yes, and where was all the excitement—the press publicity, etc? The press had treated it as just another game—giving it, in fact, a lower rating than they would a run-of-the-mill first-round championship game, or an Oireachtas semi-final.

Why were they being practically ignored? Had they not almost beaten Tipperary last year—Tipperary whom no county in Ireland could give a match to? Had they not trained as never before for this year's final? Surely they were serious contenders.

And they had been so looking forward to Croke Park and the roar of the huge crowd. The Croke Park of so many dreams—dreamed three thousand miles away. They had come home to—yes, let's admit it—cut a dash before all the friends and neighbours. Only no friends and very few neighbours turned up.

So it was one great anticlimax, and on top of it all it rained and the New York hurlers simply could not get in touch with

the conditions following the years of Gaelic Park with its bone-dry sod and smaller area.

They were under-strength, disappointed, deflated and depressed, and so they lost to Kilkenny by six points. Seeing as the second game was to take place at Nowlan Park, there was now no hope at all. A dream had died. New York simply had a fixture to fulfil.

And they fulfilled it and Kilkenny beat them by 7-5 to 0-8. But it did not matter now. Croke Park had been the one that mattered—or had appeared to have mattered.

In short, the New York hurlers were sore. They felt that they had been let down badly and treated as what they hoped they were not—as the poor emigrants. No dash had been cut, no point had been proven—except, perhaps, that Ireland had as little time for them now as she had some years earlier when she sent them from her into exile.

Naturally the New York footballers learned all about the hurling trip and they, as a result, developed a chip on their shoulders even before setting out on their journey. But that was not all.

The New York footballers had nominated seven provincial venues—any of which they were agreeable to—for their non-Croke Park game against Longford. The Central Council did not pick any of the venues on the New York list. Instead they picked Longford.

New York were greatly annoyed. Their reading of the National League agreement clause was that “at a provincial venue” did not surely mean a home venue for their opponents. If this was the case why had it not been specified? Surely “at a provincial venue” meant some provincial venue other than Longford.

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

● FROM PAGE 7

But once again New York had to toe the line. By now they had a chip on either shoulder and the everybody-is-against-us feeling had grown to huge proportions. It was an odd feeling for men who had been looking forward for so long to the fatted calf.

The New York footballers came over early and went into training at Tullamore. This too was quite a sacrifice for players so long away from home. But the footballers felt that it had to be done. Amends must be made for the hurlers—in fact, the standing of the entire New York G.A.A. seemed to be at stake and it was the footballers' task to save the day. They would do it or die.

The Longford Urban District Council decided to officially receive the New York footballers at 5 p.m. on the Friday before the first game. New York replied that it would not be convenient for the team to turn up, but that representatives would. They seemingly never did.

The following morning (the eve of the match) the LONGFORD NEWS carried on its front page a scathing attack on the New York G.A.A. and particularly on John Kerry O'Donnell who was referred to throughout as John Kerry O'Sullivan. It was a well-written article—blending clever satire with hard and inciting words. It said in conclusion that Longford must give these New Yorkers a lesson in football and that this must be done despite the fact that the referee had two brothers playing with New York—at least words to that effect and put together much more effectively.

And so it was that New York were anything but popular in Longford. Referee John Nolan had his every move booed—to such an extent that Micheál O'Hehir, who rarely refers to such things, stated that it was unfair

and that the Longford fans were refusing to accept even obvious fouls committed by their own players.

Longford won. In the end everybody agreed that John Nolan had done a wonderful job and was a fine referee. Some Longford supporters even went so far as to remember that their County Board had, in fact, agreed to John Nolan, knowing well at the time that he probably would have two brothers on the New York team.

Following the Longford defeat—a game which they felt they had to win to hold out in the wide open spaces of Croke Park—New York were a truly disappointed bunch of players. Everything had gone wrong—even their own play had not come to near top form. And the crowd had been so partisan. New York felt like intruders—they who had expected to feel like returned heroes were now like unwanted refugees in an alien land.

So between the first Longford game and the second one at Croke Park the chip on either shoulder grew even larger. Frustration

began to ferment and grow into bitterness. The bitterness grew to anger . . . and the anger spilled out all over Croke Park.

This somewhat lengthy article has not been written in an attempt to justify what happened at Croke Park on Sunday, October 9—but purely in an effort to understand why it did happen.

Furthermore, it is necessary to put on record that its author has never been in New York, is personally acquainted with no member of the New York G.A.A., nor has he spoken to or communicated with a single person who might be connected with or disposed towards the New York G.A.A.

The intention here simply is to try and honestly present what might have been a New York point of view. We feel that it is necessary that this should be done for the very simple reason that we have not read or heard a single comment which might suggest that there could be such a thing as a New York point of view—or, if there was, that anybody was interested in hearing it.

THE TOP TEN

THIS month's Top Ten ratings are based on individual inter-county performances during the period from Sunday, September 11, to Sunday, October 9, inclusive.

As might be expected, Galway dominate the football list, taking six of the ten positions—Longford and Meath filling the other four places.

The hurling list is headed by Seamus Cleere as a result of his two fine performances against New York and also for the game against Waterford. In second place is Offaly star Paddy Mulloy.

FOOTBALL

1. Noel Tierney (Galway).
2. Pat Donnellan (Galway).

3. Pat Collier (Meath).
4. Johnny Geraghty (Galway).
5. Jimmy Duggan (Galway).
6. Jimmy Hannify (Longford).
7. Jack Quinn (Meath).
8. Brendan Barden (Longford).
9. Mattie McDonagh (Galway).
10. John Bosco McDermott (Galway).

HURLING

1. Seamus Cleere (Kilkenny).
2. Paddy Mulloy (Offaly).
3. Pat Cronin (Clare).
4. Willie Murphy (Wexford).
5. Mattie Fox (Galway).
6. Eamonn Fox (Offaly).
7. Danny Mahon (Waterford).
8. Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny).
9. Achill Boothman (Dublin).
10. Andy Gallagher (Offaly).

ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

By Conallach

NOT a title went North this year. The Down minor footballers had been the brightest hope but they went under to a brilliant young Mayo side. However, it was the sort of game where there was honour for vanquished as well as victor.

Almost all the Down team were in their last year as minors. Still there was one outstanding exception—16-year-old midfielder John Murphy who is a nephew of County Secretary T. P. Murphy. I have no hesitation in forecasting that John will be another Jim McKeever one day. Look out for some great duels between this lad and Galway's Jimmy Duggan in a few years' time.

LEADERSHIP COURSES

The news that the Central Council will shortly begin a series of leadership courses is very welcome. I can think of nothing which could benefit the Association more. The first courses will cater for counties in Ulster and North Leinster. A total of eight counties will send four representatives each. The course will be a residential one with the Central Council paying all expenses other than travel costs.

COUNTY TITLES

The evergreen Frankie Donnelly led Carrickmore to a great victory in the Tyrone county final. They defeated the reigning champions Derrylaughan.

The most disappointing of the Ulster county finals was surely that of Cavan where Ballyconnell, led by veteran Tom Maguire, failed to score against a fine Crosserlough side. It ended 3-13 to nil. Star of the game was Pauric Boyle who has failed to hold a permanent place on the county team. He scored 1-6. Look out for him in future Cavan sides.

**There are just two
words to remember about
tipped cigarettes:**

**GOLD
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P.G. 51d



*Three of the Galway team,
whose overall display in the
recent All-Ireland final left
us speechless (left to right):
Mattie McDonagh, Pat
Donnellan and Cyril Dunne.*

THE ARGUMENTS ARE OVER

WHATEVER shall we talk about now? How are we to fill the winter every time we gather to talk football? For, the arguments are over, and only a crackpot will dissent when the merit of Galway is passed over in silence. Enda Colleran's men have left us, literally, speechless, for they have shown that there has been nothing to equal them for half a lifetime. It is possible we may be reduced to arguing whether they are the greatest team of all-time; I am sure the motion would be adequately supported, even in downtrodden Meath—maybe most of all in Meath.

I really did expect a close game and a tense one in the All-Ireland final. If it were close I thought Galway would pull out their special brand of experience and skill in tight corners to win; but, I thought that if there was any chance of a substantial margin, it would be Meath who enjoyed it, and that they well might. In all honesty, I did not feel that Galway had it in them to produce such a 'tour de force', such a whirlwind display of power football on top of all their well-known skills, so as to sweep the Meath challenge away with the fury of its torrents.

It was a game, of course, which Meath never could win from the initial sprint opening which Galway sprang on them. There was no doubt about the superior quality of the psychology of the Galway backroom boys, sending out their men at the last minute, primed with moving and stirring words, and tingling with pent-up desire to unleash their whirlwind at the sound of the whistle. They raced out, whipped the ball about a minute or two, all getting a feel of it and getting a kick and a fist to test their reactions and feel of the object which was to be their pursuit.

Meath however, raced out before the official 'gun', men who had found the hours before the game unbearably long; they trotted about, were shepherded back to the tunnel, and, at their second entry engaged in some desultory lofting of the ball in a manner which helped neither to loosen out nor to find the pace of sod and ball. The match-whistle began a game which went, in its early and vital stages, in exactly the same pattern as the preliminaries.

Galway's dominance was, indeed, an eye-opener to all. We shall have to revise our notions about Kerry

in the two previous finals. Consensus of opinion has tended to the view that Kerry were poor in those years, and that their victories over the Kingdom were no more than Galway ought have accomplished. Whatever doubts there existed because of the general poor opinion of the Kerry opposition, must now be completely dispelled, and, incidentally, some measure of restitution done to Kerry as well. They were not as bad as some thought, and the performance of Cork this year adds strength to the point.

Yet, the hour is Galway's and no other team should intrude into quiet contemplation of their virtues. Not least among these is their remarkable consistency, their remarkable ability to maintain the height of physical conditioning which is so necessary at the top nowadays, and yet which seems to burn out many a team before its time. Or, is it, perhaps, the atmosphere and the strain of the constant big pressure, as we ordinary folk would feel soon the strain if we were to be thrown into the throes of some major family crisis every week of the year and for four years running? Is it this which is the greater hazard?

'They've left us speechless'

says

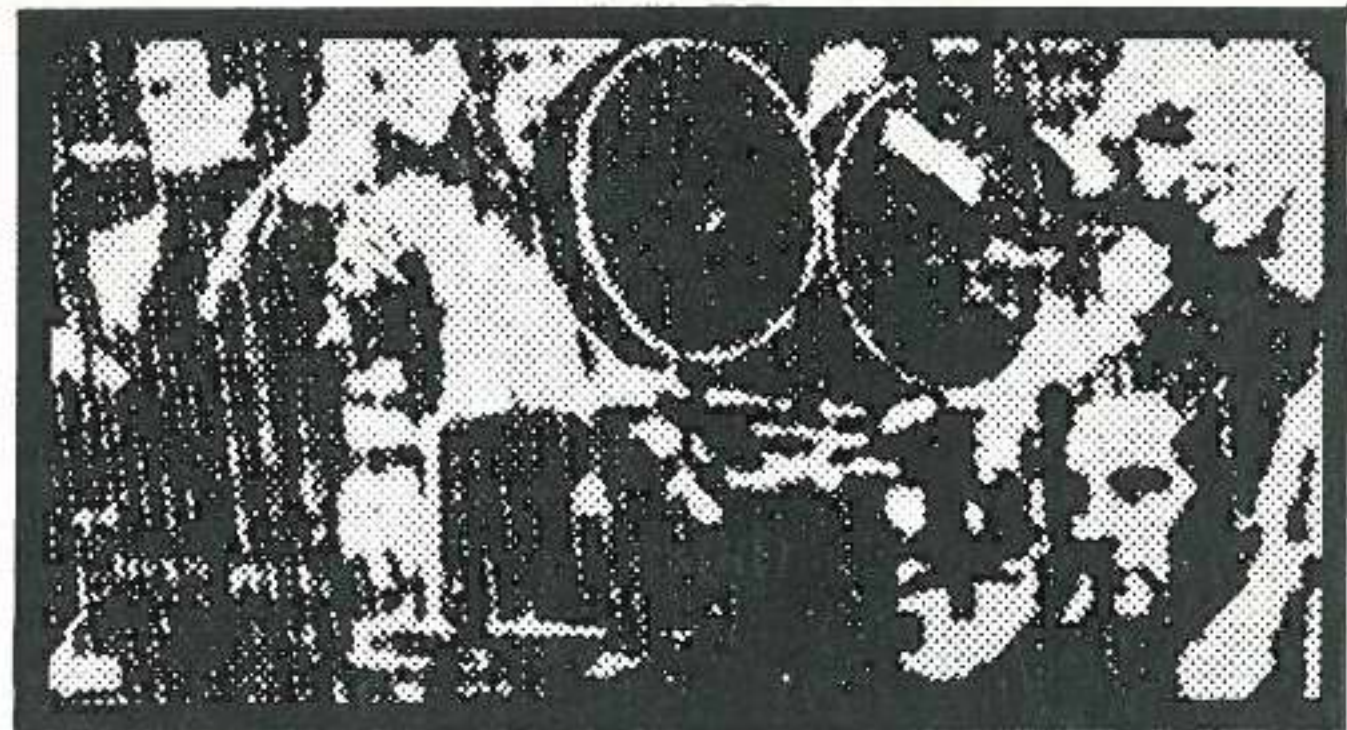
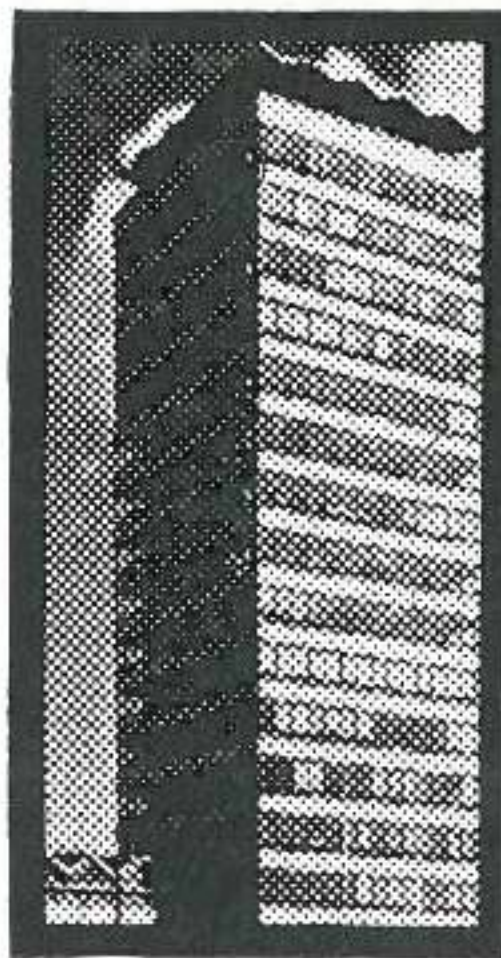
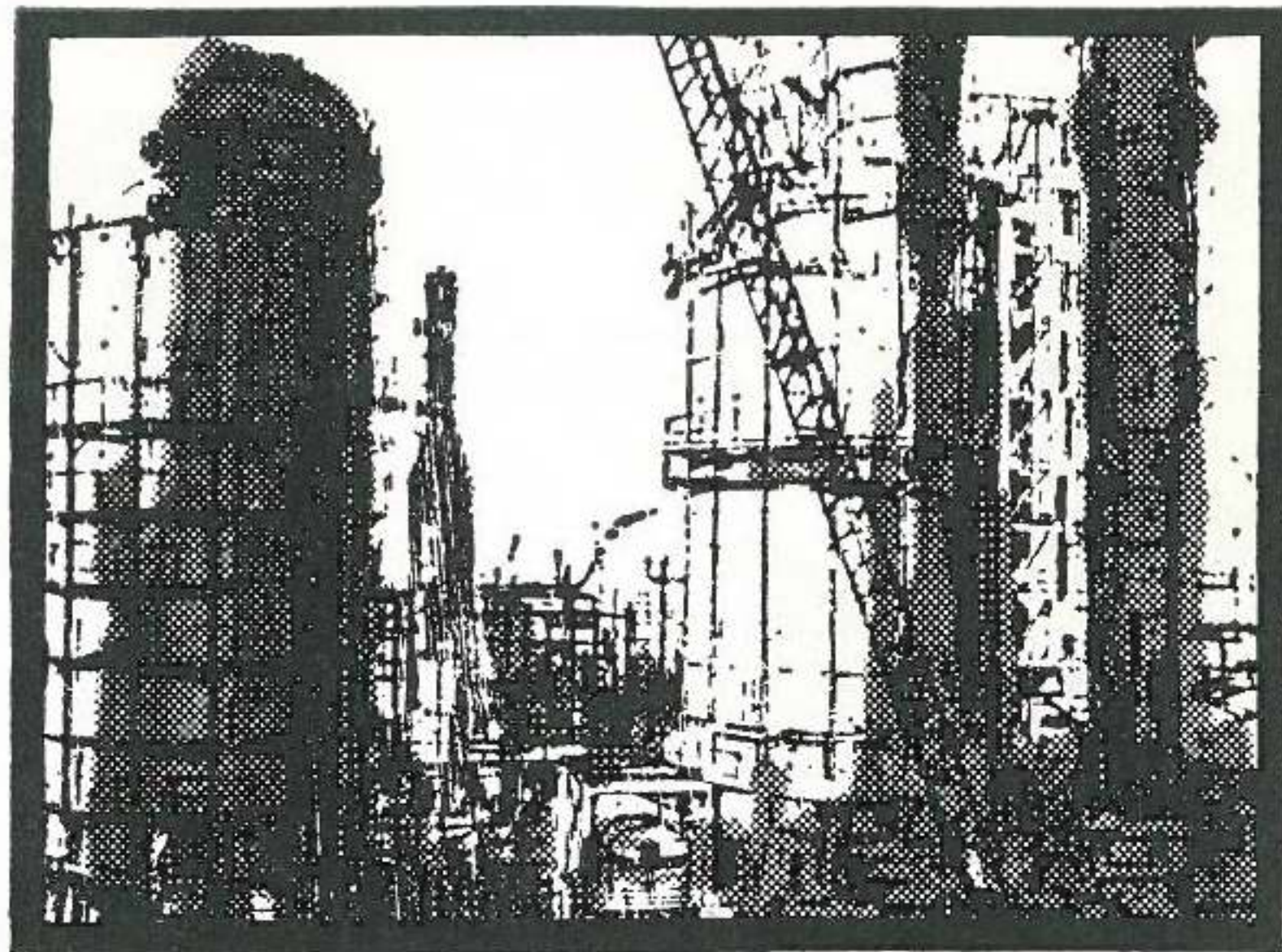
JAY DRENNAN

Either way, it is necessary to remember in any estimation of the constancy of Galway, that they may be champions three years in a row, but they have been in the maelstrom of big-time action for four championships, for their defeat at the end of 1963 did not come until the last gasp of the final.

I ventured to muse in these pages last month about the powers and gifts, inborn and acquired, of the great trio of half-forwards, Dunne, McDonagh and Leydon. It was no misplaced faith in them: they again were the greatest single factor in Galway's final greatness, for without them even the wonderfully buoyant and spirited play of Donnellan and Duggan at centre, or the cutting intrusions of Keenan, would have remained still-born efforts for victory. Again the half-line were the men who built the edifice of victory even if all the others were jostling merrily to provide the bricks.

In any age, in any style or speed of football, there surely never was so good, so complete, so continuously successful a half-forward line. I stand to be corrected—they may have had their peers—but certainly they never had their

● TO PAGE 46



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(Captain)

Face to face . . .

Paddy Barry (St. Vincents) :

Paddy Barry isn't as new to Cork hurling as some people think. In fact, he first made the senior team in 1962 when Mick Cashman was injured. However, a spell in hospital cost him his place, but he regained it in 1963 against Kilkenny in the League. In the drawn championship semi-final against Waterford in 1965, he was replaced between the posts by Finbarr O'Neill of Glen Rovers. O'Neill was picked for this year's game with Clare, but when the team took the field at Limerick, it was Barry who wore the number one jersey, as O'Neill had to cry off because of the after-effects of vaccination he received for his trip to the States with the Glen Rovers club. Paddy, who is 25, was one of the real heroes of Cork's wonderful All-Ireland triumph. He is married with one child and is a Laboratory Technician at University College, Cork.

—By— SEAN O'DONNELL

Peter Doolan (St. Finbarrs) :

Peter was one of the six St. Finbarr's men on the side and is easily the most travelled. He had the unusual distinction of playing for New York before he donned his native Cork jersey. The St. Finbarr's man emigrated to the States, having played in the Cork county final for the 'Barrs. While in America he played with the Cork Club — and, when he returned with the New York team in 1963, he stayed at home.

In 1964 he made the county team, and became a permanent fixture on it. Peter is aged 26, is unmarried and of the six St. Finbarr's players on the team is the only one who does not play senior football as well as senior hurling.

Tom O'Donoghue (Sarsfields) :

Tom, a minor in 1958, joined the

senior team in 1964. Although the 26-year-old Sarsfield's man is quite small for a full back, standing only 5'-9", he is, at thirteen and a half stone, the heaviest man on the side. However the bold Tom is seldom if ever caught for speed and this could be because he is also an amateur boxer. He is, as well, a bowler of distinction. Corkmen now feel satisfied that the problem full-back position has at last been filled. Not since the retirement of John Lyons and the arrival of Tom O'Donoghue was this so.

Denis Murphy (St. Finbarrs) :

This 27-year-old insurance official learned his first hurling lesson at his local National School near Blarney. Denis first represented the county as a minor in 1957 and two years later graduated to the senior fifteen. Among his many achievements on the sports field, was his winning of the Poc Fada competition over



P. Fitzgerald



J. McCarthy



M. Waters



S. Barry



D. Murphy



A. Connolly



J. O'Sullivan

... with Cork

PEN PICTURES OF THE CHAMPIONS

the Cooley Mountains last year. However, Denis again made the long journey this year, after flying home after the Wembley tournament game with Wexford, only to be beaten in to second place by Cork's reserve 'keeper Finbarr O'Neill.

Tony Connolly (St. Finbarrs):

A Cork minor in 1959 and a cabinet maker by profession, Tony is 25. He had a great game against Limerick in this year's Munster semi-final, which to my mind was Cork's toughest match of the championship. Connolly marked Limerick's most dangerous forward, Eamonn Cregan, and the fact that Eamon saw little of the ball was due in no small measure to this lad from the 'Barrs, who that day was stationed at right half-back. It is strange to relate that during his schooldays in Sullivan's Quay and North Monastery, Tony had little more than a passing interest in hurling but when he went to

Blackrock he worked up a little enthusiasm for the game and won a county medal with them in 1961. So it was that between them, "Barrs" and the "Rockies" made Tony into a very fine hurler indeed.

Jerry O'Sullivan (Glen Rovers):

Jerry, who has been a regular on the senior team since 1960, also captained the Cork senior football side which won the Munster championship. However, in that game he received an injury and consequently had to miss the All-Ireland football semi-final against Galway. This versatile Glen Rovers man also won an All-Ireland junior hurling medal in 1958. Jerry, who is aged 26, is married with one child and is employed by a city furniture firm. One of the truly great dual players of our time, Jerry O'Sullivan must surely be Cork's most valuable athlete.

Pat Fitzgerald (Midleton):

Pat Fitzgerald can, I suppose, be termed as Cork's great utility

hurler, for not only has he given some wonderful displays from his usual left half-back position, but on numerous occasions, lent a helpful hand at centre-field and also at left half-forward. I recall in particular the game against Limerick, when Cork were in a spot of trouble at centre-field. However Pat came to the rescue with his brilliant first-time pulling and soon Cork were on the high road to success. Aged 26, Pat is married with one child, and is employed by Calor Gas at their Midleton depot.

Justin McCarthy (Passage West):

At twenty-one, one gets the key of one's own front door, but 21-year-old Justin McCarthy must have got a hurling stick instead, and with it he opened the door for Cork's entry to the All-Ireland final. Certainly, only for him Cork would not have been in the final. Just cast your memory back to Cork's first round drawn game

● TO PAGE 47



J. O'Halloran



C. McCarthy



Colm Sheehan



J. Bennett

ONE of the major problems that confront the hurling fortunes of many counties is the transition of minor stars into the senior grade. Many of the youngsters who show most promise in under-age competitions never emerge as stalwarts in the premier ranks, and it is not unusual to find players, who did not excel as minors, rising to great heights as seniors. But a man who survived the change with flying colours is Charlie McCarthy, one of Cork's best minors of all-time and a member of the victorious senior team in the 1966 All-Ireland final.

The diminutive corner forward from the Rebel County began his career with the venerable hurling club, Redmonds, one of the oldest promoters of the game in Ireland. His father, Jack McCarthy, was a prominent player with the club in the 'thirties, and Charlie was introduced to the game at a very young age indeed. He began his career in competitive hurling at the age of ten, when he lined out with Tower Street in the City under-15 championship and led the team to several juvenile successes in subsequent years.

Charlie's prodigious ability as a hurler brought him to the notice of the Cork minor selectors when he was sixteen, and he made his first appearance on the county team in 1962. In a Munster championship match he entered the limelight with a flourish as he scored three goals and three points in the first-half alone. He was forced to retire with a head injury shortly after the respite, but the delighted Cork followers accorded him a prolonged ovation as he walked to the sideline, for they knew that a star was born in the county. It was their silent hope that the star would not fade all too quickly as so many others had done before him.

WEE CHARLIE

By TIM HORGAN

But two years later Charlie McCarthy was at his zenith in minor hurling, and had established himself as a top-notch footballer also. He was the guiding light of Sullivan's Quay C.B.S. and shone brilliantly in the black and amber colours in Munster Colleges hurling and football. He joined St. Finbarrs at the beginning of the year and thus started a new phase of a triumphant career. When the Munster championships began in 1964 the Cork minor selectors honoured Charlie with a place on both the hurling and football teams. By the end of the year he had collected two provincial medals and an All-Ireland minor hurling medal, having scored 3-1 in the final against Laois. A few months later the dark-haired 'Barr's man made his debut on the Cork team.

There are many who contend that Charlie McCarthy was too young when he began playing for the Cork seniors. He was introduced as a substitute in the Munster semi-final against Waterford last year and played so brilliantly for the quarter-hour that he retained his place on the side for the replay. However, in the second outing the young corner-forward was held to a standstill, and was listed as a substitute once again when the Munster final came around.

But Charlie's hour of glory was

yet to come. In the county final between St. Finbarrs and U.C.C. at the Cork Athletic Grounds on a rain-swept October afternoon, the nippy corner forward was placed on the "forty" in an effort to offset the College centre-back. But Charlie not only led the centre-back a merry dance. But spear-headed the 'Barrs first county victory in ten years and scored an impressive 2-6 himself. The 'Barrs were Leaside kingpins once again, thanks to the superb display of Charlie McCarthy, and the outlook was bright for Cork hurling.

The former Redmonds' star was back on the county team for the Oireachtas and the League games during the winter, but at no stage did he exhibit the deft touches that had enraptured the Cork spectators earlier in the year. The soggy underfoot conditions were not to the liking of the pint-sized marksman, whose speed and scoring ability were seriously impaired by the slippery surfaces. He was dropped from the team which qualified for the National League semi-final and consequently missed the first game against Kilkenny at Croke Park this year. But on that occasion the Cork forwards struck a new "low" as they chalked up 16 wides in the first-half alone and went on to suffer a four goal defeat by the Noresiders.

When Limerick inflicted their

historic defeat over Tipperary in the first round of the Munster championship this year, the competition became wide open for the first time in years. Cork set their sights on the provincial crown along with three other counties, but survived the first game against Clare only with a goal from a free by Justin McCarthy in the closing stages. New forwards had to be found to inject some badly needed life into the attack for the replay, and so it was that the selectors looked to Charlie McCarthy once again.

He did not disappoint them. The game was less than two minutes old when Charlie blazed home Cork's first goal, and on the sun-drenched Ennis Road pitch the will o' the wisp forward went on to offer one of the finest displays provided by a Leaside player since Christy Ring. In the semi-final against Limerick, Charlie notched Cork's first goal once again, and the Munster final saw him breaking through for another vital major. He was held to one point by Jim Treacy in the All-Ireland final, but Charlie's contribution to Cork's successful campaign was enough to earn the respect and gratitude of countless Leasiders at home and away.

Charlie McCarthy is one of the craftiest players in the game, a man whose knacks and wiles are sufficient to break the heart of any defender. His slight build can be used to great advantage on a hot sunny afternoon, when the 20-year-old sharpshooter literally runs rings around his opponent, and it is on such occasions that his genius can be seen at its best.

He has fitted in extremely well on the Cork team, which includes Seanie Barry, Justin McCarthy and Gerald McCarthy, players who have "grown up" in the red jersey with him, and it is in their young stars that the Rebel County places its trust for many more successes in the future.

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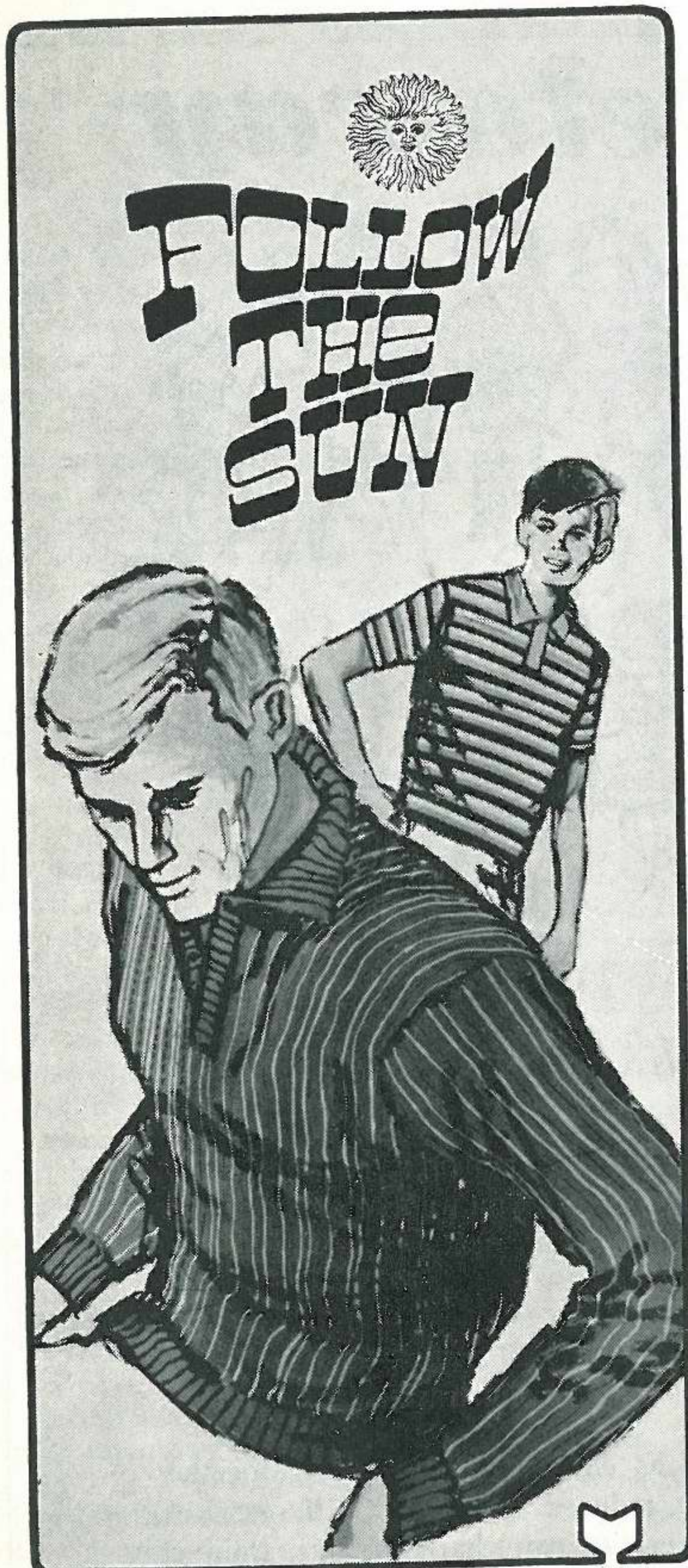
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A CALL FOR COACHING

MUNSTER MEDLEY

By SÉAMUS Ó CEALLAIGH

MUNSTER was very poorly represented at this year's coaching courses, and I was particularly disappointed at the miserable support accorded the course in Gaelic football, in view of the low standard of the code in the province.

Southern players have a lot to learn about the finer points of football, and our dismal record of late years in the Railway Cup competition, which we have not won since 1949, pinpoints how backward we are in relation to the other provinces.

I know some of the older players and legislators may look on coaching as a new-fangled idea and may not fully accept the necessity for it. That is a wrong approach and completely unworthy of the largest sports association in the country.

We hear regular complaints from club and county selectors of the difficulties expressed in inducing players to train nowadays. The position is entirely different from that of a dozen or twenty years ago when training fields were crowded.

The reason, of course, is that there are a lot more attractions nowadays to draw our young men away from the pitches. Dances are almost nightly affairs, motor-cars are plentiful to take them even to distant ones; interesting items on television and a hundred and one other things are all playing their part, so if the youth are to be induced back to the sportsfields an entirely new approach is needed.

The trouble with the G.A.A. is that too many of our Boards and Councils are content to be "care-



*Joe Lennon . . .
the man who
pioneered
modern
coaching.*

taker" bodies. They do their best to maintain the structural but fight shy at any suggestion of improving it. In fact, in many instances they give the impression of being almost terrified at taking any action of a forward nature.

This is a completely wrong approach, and like water that becomes stagnant if not on the move, the G.A.A. must wither if it is not prepared to progress with the times.

Coaching is not a luxury now—it is a necessity if the standard of play is to be improved. And we must not stick our heads in the sand and say the standard is what we would wish it to be. It is far from that—and we have only to go back to this year's All-Ireland finals, and many of the provincial games, for confirmation.

This question of coaching must be put in the forefront, and every secondary school worthy of the name should have a gamesmaster skilled in the art of coaching, just as the other members of the teaching staff must have their qualifications.

The go-ahead club should also give serious thought to this vital matter and at county level I feel

coaching is an absolute essential, if teams are to be properly prepared and skilled in the arts of the game.

The answer to the problem of getting players to the training field is in the type and variety offered them when they get there. The old methods have failed but those willing to try new ideas have discovered that the right response can be achieved with the correct approach.

Recently I heard of a Cork City club who had a bunch of under-age lads who normally would not be regarded as all that promising. They had a few mentors, however, with a bit of imagination who decided on a plan to counter the lack of interest in training.

It was very simple—but it worked. They introduced a bit of variety into the exercises, and when the session was over they treated each of the participants to a bottle of milk and a few biscuits. At the start some of the boys could not complete a lap of the field. Within a few weeks all of them without exception were able to do ten laps and had become quite expert at short sprints as well.

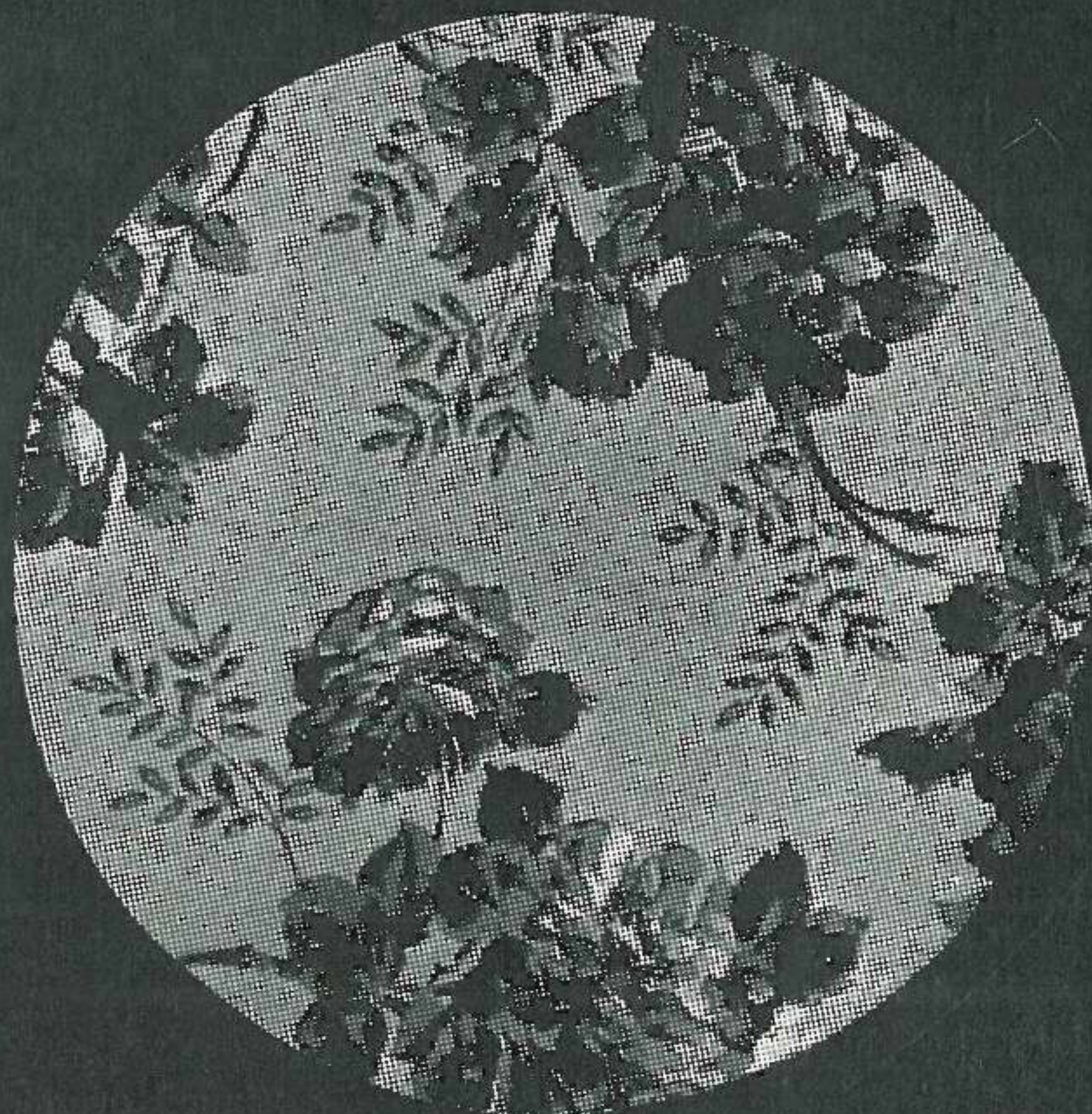
The upshot was that they came from virtually nowhere to win the championship, beating all the fancied sides in the process. The secret of their success—fresh as daisies in the last quarter when all their opponents literally had their tongues out.

They proved conclusively that a team with the proper coaching and training who are prepared to make

(Continued overleaf).

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Kildare wallpapers

(From page 17).

the necessary sacrifices, are really capable of getting places. There is a lesson to be learned from these Cork lads.

YOUNG IRELAND BEREAVED

The Limerickmens Association in London recently erected a memorial over the grave of the late Paddy O'Donoghue (who died in March, 1965), in Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, Limerick. Ald. Denis O'Dwyer of Dagenham performed the unveiling ceremony and the Mayor and members of Limerick Corporation were in attendance. Also present were a large contingent of past and present members of Young Ireland Club of which Mr. O'Donoghue was a member before going to England, where he became Secretary of the Provincial Council of the G.A.A. in Britain and one of the best known Gaelic workers there.

Ten days later an even greater muster of old and young members of Young Ireland Club had another sad meeting because of the unexpected death of their President, Denny Lanigan, one of the most popular Gaels in the province, who had been connected with the club for well over half a century. The old members carried his coffin, whilst the present day players, wearing black arm bands, formed a Guard of Honour. G.A.A. representatives from every Munster County, and from Galway, Kilkenny and Dublin, attended the funeral, one of the largest witnessed in Limerick for a long time.

The same week another great Young Ireland stalwart of fifty years ago died in America. He was Jack Purcell, who had only returned to New York a few weeks earlier following a long holiday in Limerick. Members of the club met his remains and escorted them from Shannon Airport.

Rev. Fr. John Sheehy, S.M.A., who has died, was born in New

(Continued page 35).

NEW PLAN FOR THE LEAGUES

THE introduction of the Under-21 grade in football and hurling some years back was hailed throughout the country as the saviour of secondary grade competitions and looked forward to as the inevitable replacement of the junior competitions. Yet, after four years of trial and effort, what has been saved? What has been replaced? Absolutely nothing. In fact, the only achievement has been the adding of yet another headache to an overlaid programme of very secondary and most unattractive competitions.

The semi-finals of the 1966 Under-21 hurling championships were the prime examples of how ridiculous this grade really is. At Casement Park, Belfast, Wexford swamped Antrim 4-13 to 1-5, while on the very same day at Cork, the homesters crushed Roscommon by 11-18 to 5-1, thus piling on the embarrassment, not alone on Ulster and Connacht hurling, but even on Wexford and Cork, who really had to step on the brakes to prevent themselves from winning by even bigger margins. A senior Wexford official immediately called for an investigation and a change—how right he was and how much everybody wants to see one.

Certainly changes are necessary—if hurling is to survive, and even if football is to survive in many of

the weaker counties. But survival will never be achieved by the adding of yet another secondary grade, such as a secondary championship, as has been suggested by some officials. In fact, the already-made increase in secondary competitions has only brought about a deterioration of standards in both codes. So, I say—scrap all secondary grades in intercounty competitions, and by that I mean Intermediate, Junior and Under-21 grades of hurling and football.

Senior is the grade which really is the attraction; senior is the grade that draws the crowds and swells the gate receipts and senior is the grade wherein, ultimately, all worthwhile honour really lies. So why not give both players and spectators what they really want—more, and still more, senior games. Not more competitions, but more games—the number of competitions is already much too great. This can be achieved by concentration on the two main senior competitions that we already have—the championships and the leagues.

As they are at the moment, both football and hurling leagues are not very attractive, mainly because of the unequal tests of strength in each section, so a complete overhaul would not be out of place here.

Why not a football league like this:—

Division I, North (Leath Chuinn)—Down, Cavan, Donegal, Mayo, Sligo, Louth, Meath and Longford.

Division I, South (Leath Mhogha)—Kerry, Cork, Galway, Roscommon, Dublin, Kildare, Offaly and Laois.

Final—North winners v. South winners.

Division II, North (Leath Chuinn)—Antrim, Armagh, Monaghan, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Derry, Leitrim and Westmeath.

Division II, South (Leath Mhogha)—Clare, Limerick, Waterford, Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wicklow and Wexford.

Final—North winners v. South winners with the Dr. Lagan Cup as the trophy.

With eight teams in each division and with “home and away” system to operate, each county would be assured of fourteen games throughout the leagues which could commence in August—immediately after the second championship semi-final and continue right into the following summer, making full use of dates on which the present Junior and Under-21 competitions are played. With promotion and relegation also operating, the interest—even at the bottom of the league tables—would prove of exceptional interest.

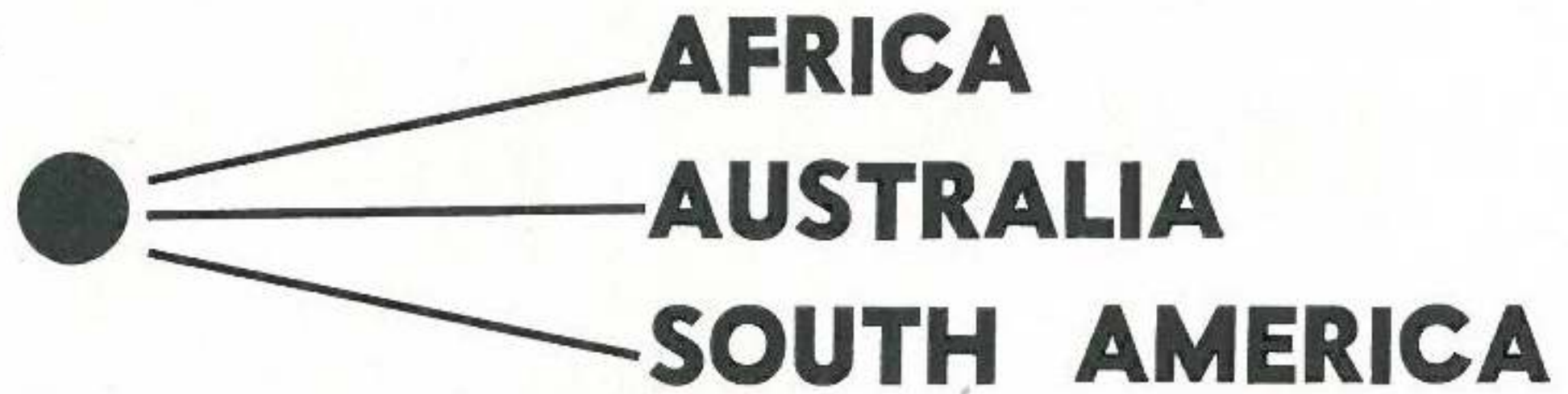
With the inevitable levelling-off of standards, games would become much more attractive, bringing with it a swelling of gate-receipts, and counties, which presently make their usual first-round exits in practically all grades of football, would have something to interest them throughout the year.

Some time ago, the G.A.A. President, Alf Ó Muirí, made the suggestion that bigger and more centralised clubs should be the

● TO PAGE 21

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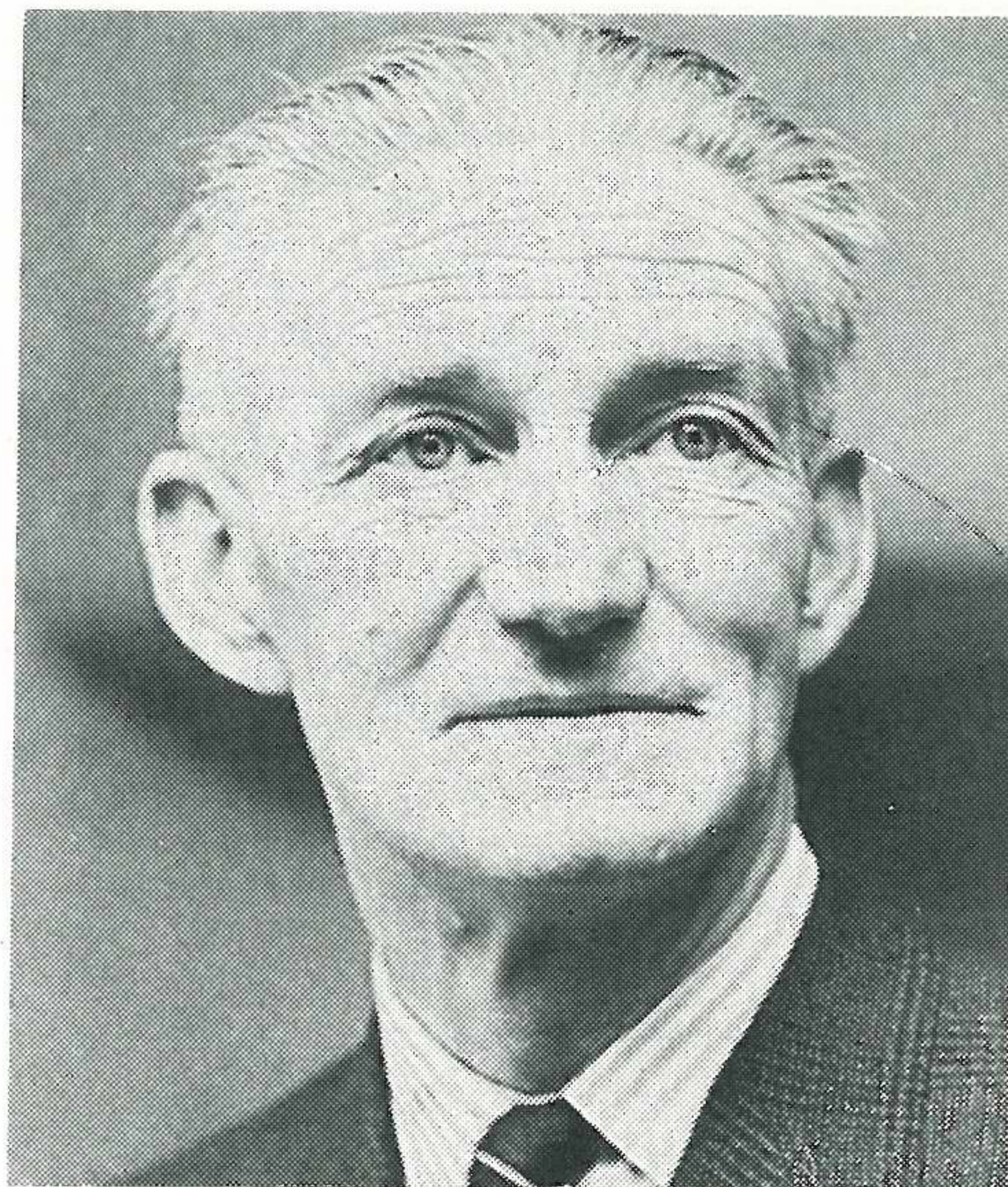
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● From page 19.

ideal. I think the above league suggestion would really be the solution to the problem and the best answers to his suggestion. Clubs, as visualised by our President, would still only hold interest within the county boundaries, whereas, if emphasis were laid on the county as the attractive unit, interest would be much more widespread and, from the financial aspect, the County Boards would stand to gain a lot more. Certainly they would cut their losses on travelling teams to play Junior and Under-21 games that attract nobody.

From the individual player's point of view, this abolition of secondary grades and increase in the number of senior games, would open new fields. The great ambition of the average club player is to play on his county's senior team—there is little honour for him to be selected on a secondary grade team that is never going to reach the limelight (minor grade being the exception), which explains the usual big numbers of defections from county selections in these grades. A chance of a place on the premier side, however, is something that he will really go for, and the fact that there would be many more games in this grade would also increase his chances of being selected. These increased chances would increase his interest in the game and even the clubs must, inevitably, benefit.



Alf Ó Muiri . . . call for bigger clubs.

In hurling, there could be a similar set-up, but in this case the problem might not be so straightforward. Three Divisions would appear to be the ideal answer—Division I—Cork, Clare, Waterford, Limerick, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Wexford, Dublin and Galway. Division II—Offaly, Laois, Carlow,

Westmeath, Antrim, Kerry, Roscommon, Wicklow and Meath. Division III—Down, Donegal, Louth, Kildare, Armagh, Monaghan, Mayo, Cavan and Leitrim.

Perhaps the idea is too revolutionary, but it certainly is worth considering.

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*Can
Galway
win
fourth?*



JOHNNY GERAGHTY.

ON the last Sunday in September I walked down Jones's Road hemmed in by the thronging thousands of homegoing Galway and Meath supporters. The Galway folk were jubilant and they had every reason to be. The Meath people were despondent—to my mind without due cause. As for myself, I was rather deep in contemplation, because I had just reached a rather remarkable landmark in my life. I had just witnessed my 75th senior All-Ireland final.

Now 75 finals may seem an awful lot, and I can visualise some of my readers imagining me tripping over my beard as I stumble, on two-sticks, out of G.A.A. Headquarters.

But, when you count in hurling finals and football finals, add on

the occasional replay, and remember that I was attending All-Irelands finals before ever I was into my teens, you may come to the true conclusion that, while I am no youngster now, I am still spry enough to climb to the top deck of the Hogan Stand Sunday after Sunday.

But what I was actually thinking of as I walked down Jones's Road on the afternoon of the last Sunday in September, 1966, was this, that, in all my years going to Croke Park, I had never seen a Galway team play better football in a final than Enda Colleran's men did when they made Western football history by taking their third title in a row.

That is not to say that the 1966 football final was a great final. It could not be, because, as the day

went, there was too great a disparity between the teams.

Galway led from start to stop and, in fact, Meath really only matched them through the opening minutes of each half. Many people have asked me since what happened to Meath. Nothing happened except that they met the best football team in Ireland, playing the most effective football that Galway have played since the All-Ireland final of 1964.

Certainly there could be no comparison between the football Galway played in the semi-final against Cork and the football they played in the final.

Now Cork supporters may claim, and with good grounds for their belief that Cork were unlucky not to win. After all they did outplay the champions for long periods and

in vital sectors, and, with a little luck forward, could indeed have reached the final.

But, while paying tribute to the worth of the Corkmen I do think it fair to say that there was no comparison between the fitness of Galway in the semi-final and the final. Three players in particular seemed to me to have shed a great deal of weight in the interval, Bosco McDermott, Mattie McDonagh and Sean Cleary, and they all showed the signs of it on final day.

And that reminded me of something Mattie McDonagh had said at the back-end of last season, when some one asked him about Galway's prospects. He said, in effect, "We can win the championship again, if we don't expend too much energy in trying to keep our unbeaten record".

Well, whether deliberately or not, the Galwegians certainly paced their run in the championship to perfection and they were at their very best on the day their best was called for, in the final.

Can they make it four-in-a-row? It is far too early yet to even explore that question, though on their form against Meath who



SEAN CLEARY.

would be so bold as to say they are not good enough to do so?

The hurling final, which, to my mind, the rather unfancied Cork team won quite convincingly, was overshadowed to some extent afterwards by a matter that was, I thought, blown up out of all proportions, the question of whether or not some of the Kilkenny players took sleeping pills the night before.

Now, leaving sleeping-pills out of it altogether, I would like to know exactly what proportion of the

present population of Ireland can truthfully raise its right hand and swear that it has never taken a pill or a drug of any kind?

To come down to particular cases. In a certain office the question of Kilkenny and 'the pill' was being hotly debated. There were six people at the table. All of them were asked had they taken any kind of pill or tablet that day. And five of them had to answer 'Yes'. One had taken tablets to stop the pain of a toothache, one had taken tablets to 'break' a cold, one had taken tablets to cure a headache, and two had been busily chewing anti-acid tablets of one kind or another to deal with stomach trouble.

Yet these were the very men who had just been arguing that athletes should not take tablets of any kind, not even glucose!

Surely it is high time we all stopped trying to cod ourselves. Like every other modern people we are now a nation of tablet-takers, whether we are athletes or pen-pushers.

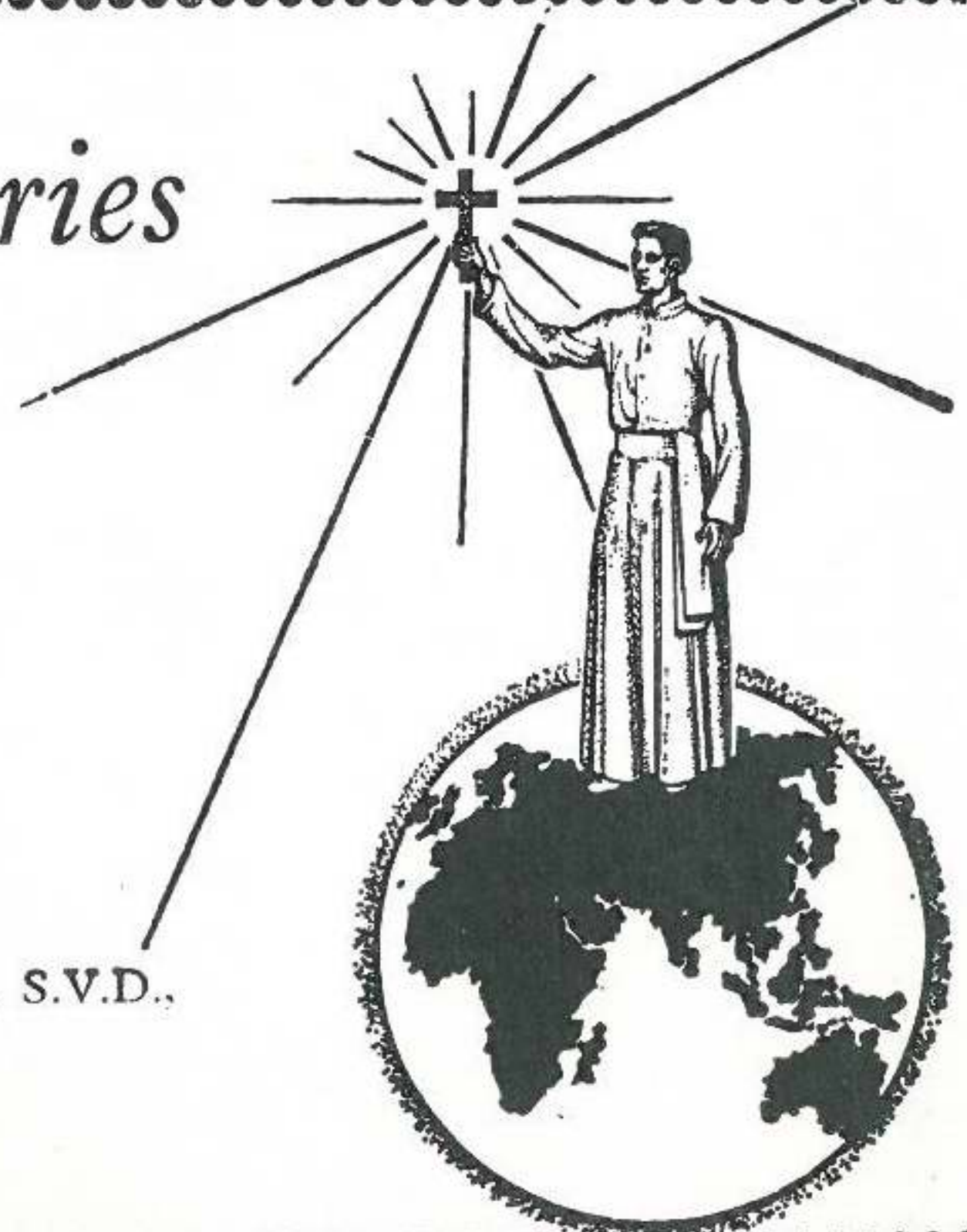
As the Kilkenny players themselves were the first to point out, they were beaten in the hurling final by a better team.

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Presidents of the G.A.A. : 8

P. D. BREEN

(1924 — 1926)

By **TERENCE ROYNANE**

THROUGH the past forty years the Presidency of the G.A.A. has been held more often than not by a National Teacher, so that it is a little difficult to believe nowadays that the first N.T. to assume office as head of the Association did not do so until 1924.

That man was P. D. Breen of Wexford, known to all south Leinster for most of his long and useful life as Paddy Breen of Castlebridge. But though he was associated with Castlebridge for more than 50 years, Paddy was born in the extreme South-West of Wexford, at Carrig-on-Bannow, shortly before the foundation of the G.A.A.

Coming to Dublin in his late 'teens as a pupil of St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, he quickly made a name for himself on the Metropolitan football fields. He won Dublin junior and intermediate championships and gained

successive All-Ireland football victories in 1915, '16, '17 and '18. A member of the G.A.A.'s Athletic Council from 1912, he became a prominent N.A.C.A. (I.) official on the formation of the new athletic body and retained his connection with the N.A.C.A. for the rest of his life.

When he was elected President of the G.A.A. as Dan McCarthy's successor in 1924, Paddy Breen found himself faced with many difficulties arising from the political differences and bitterness that followed the Civil War. But, with fine courage and impartiality, he led the Association successfully through every crisis. He saw the first Tailteann Games revival to a successful conclusion in 1924, and dealt sensibly with the crisis that surrounded the All-Ireland football series in 1925.

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mediate championships and gained his place on the Dublin senior side, winning an All-Ireland medal with the Bray Emmets selection that took the 1902 championship. He subsequently played for Leinster in one of the opening games of the old Railway Shield competition.

Moving home to Wexford to take up a teaching post at Castlebridge, Paddy Breen soon made his mark on the G.A.A. fields. Almost equally good a hurler as he was a footballer—he voluntarily cried off the Wexford team that won the 1910 hurling All-Ireland because he felt another player was a greater asset to the side than himself. Paddy was also a very useful athlete and was also keenly interested from his youth in the revival of handball under G.A.A. auspices, a dream he finally brought to realisation under his own Presidency.

He became Secretary of Wexford County Board in 1914, a year in which he played a sterling game against Kerry in the All-Ireland football final.

He then retired from the inter-county playing fields and, as County Secretary, played a major part in steering Wexford to four

enough defeated for the Presidency in 1926, P. D. Breen continued to give selfless service to the Association, acting as President on more than one occasion during the illness of his successor. He later became a Trustee, a position he held from 1930 to 1950.

Paddy Breen, a member of Central Council from 1914 to 1952, was a Wexford representative on Leinster Council for nearly 50 years and was Chairman of that Council in 1921-23. In 1955 he was one of three men honoured with a plaque by Leinster Council to mark 25 years continuous membership of that body.

On the field and in the forum Paddy Breen, equally interested in hurling, football, athletics and handball, gave immense service to the Gaelic Athletic Association at every level. Moreover, not alone was he the first National Teacher to become President of the G.A.A. but he was also the first All-Ireland medalist to hold the Association's highest office.

And one small sidelight of Paddy Breen's career. It was he who brought those now so familiar purple and gold jerseys to Wexford.

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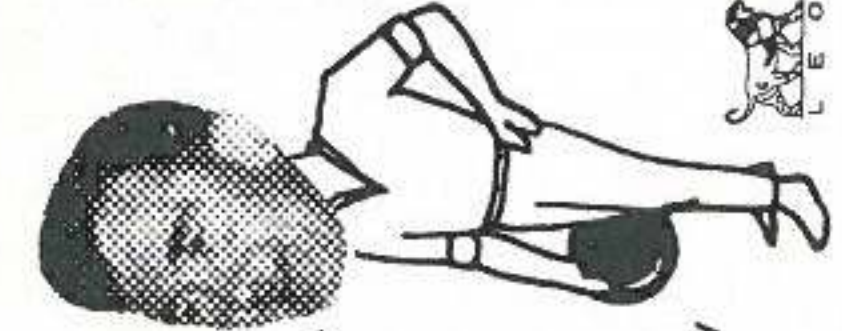
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The Armagh team and substitutes who met Kerry in the 1953 All-Ireland football final.

A MEMORY OF '53

By JOHN O. GRANT

THE voice of Michael O'Hehir coming from a well worn radio set was my link with the 1953 All-Ireland final. On that Sunday afternoon thirteen years ago I was one of the few people left in county Armagh to listen to the broadcast. The vast majority of the county's population was in Dublin, crammed tightly into Croke Park—and for one very good reason. Armagh, appearing in their first ever final, were taking on the mighty men from Kerry for the senior championship crown.

The result of that epic clash is now history. A single line in the record book tells us that Kerry defeated Armagh by 0-13 to 1-6. But behind that bare statement of fact lies a story of excitement, controversy and drama.

Few people would have forecast a Kerry versus Armagh final at the outset of that championship season. The likelihood of Kerry's appear-

ance in yet another final was a reasonable possibility. But few would have guessed that their opponents on final day would be Armagh.

Indeed, Armagh's initial outing in the championship against Antrim gave little indication of greater things to follow. True they won by four points — 1-8 to 1-4, but their performance was ragged and colourless. Memories of that display were soon forgotten however, when they thrashed Derry 4-11 to 1-4 in the Ulster semi-final. This victory gave them a place in the Ulster final and a tilt at All-Ireland champions Cavan.

It was their narrow but deserved victory over Cavan which really made people sit up and take notice. That final, played in atrocious weather conditions at newly opened Casement Park, Belfast, was a close hard battle all the way. With seven minutes left for play, Armagh

were clinging grimly to a single point lead, 0-6 to 0-5. Then Armagh full-forward, Art O'Hagan, scored the only goal of the game to put the issue beyond doubt.

Next hurdle to be negotiated was the All-Ireland semi-final against Connacht champions Roscommon. Again Armagh got home narrowly 0-8 to 0-7, after a ding-dong struggle. But Armagh fans weren't complaining. That one point victory had sent their county into its first ever senior final.

Meantime in Munster Kerry had once again accounted for all opposition. In their semi-final game they encountered Leinster champions Louth. Well taken goals early on got them away to a flying start and they won convincingly. So the stage was set for what promised to be a thrilling final. Could newcomers Armagh gain their first title by overcoming the seasoned warriors from the

Kingdom who were seeking their 17th. That was the question which brought a record crowd to Croke Park on September 27.

The size of the crowd at headquarters that day was proof of the tremendous interest this novel pairing aroused. By 2.15 p.m. with almost 87,000 people inside, the gates of the stadium were closed. Thousands of bitterly disappointed fans were turned away and had to make do with the radio commentary. The minor final between Mayo and Clare completed, the senior teams took the field to great roars of approval. The preliminaries over, the referee threw in the ball and the game was on.

Kerry were first to attack. They opened the scoring with points from Brosnan and Ashe. It looked as if Kerry were trying similar tactics to those used against Louth—a quick goal or two which would demoralise the opposition. But the Armagh defence held firm, with McMahon in goal particularly brilliant. Gradually Armagh began to settle to their task. They opened their account with a point from a free by O'Neill.

Then came the score which really set the game on fire. Good work by O'Hanlon and McCorry sent Armagh's midfield stalwart McEvoy racing goalwards. He fired in a shot which was deflected by a Kerry defender into his own net. Armagh were ahead.

Croke Park went wild. Hats, coats and rosettes soared into the air as Armagh followers gave vent to their joy. Another point from McEvoy and Armagh were a goal clear and going great guns. But Kerry refused to panic. Two pointed frees by Tadgh Lyne kept them in touch, and as the teams trooped off to a well earned rest at half-time Armagh still had their noses in front 1-3 to 0-5.

If the first-half was exciting it was mild stuff compared to the high drama of the second. Kerry were soon on level terms with a

Brosnan point. Armagh forged ahead once more with points from Cunningham and McEvoy, the latter a magnificent effort. But the great Armagh effort began to take its toll, and they began to tire. Kerry on the other hand were pacing their game to perfection. Furthermore their attack, especially the half-forward line of Tadgh Lyne, John Joe Sheehan and Jim Brosnan, kept picking off their points with deadly accuracy. With ten minutes or so remaining Kerry were two points up.

Then came the most dramatic moment of the game. An Armagh attack ended with Seeley sending a lobbing shot goalwards. Kerry

goalkeeper, Foley, parried the shot but allowed the ball to bounce out of his hands onto the ground. (Armagh people to this day claim that it fell inside the goal-line). He recovered the ball quickly and cleared, but referee Peter McDermott of Meath, after consultation with umpires Peter O'Reilly and Bill Goodison, awarded Armagh a penalty. A deathly hush came over the crowd as Bill McCorry stepped up to take the kick. But to the horror and dismay of the huge Armagh following he blazed it wide. What a disaster for Armagh and what a let-off for Kerry!

Armagh never really recovered

(Continued page 48).

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DAN McAREAVY, Armagh Chairman, on . . .

PRESS RELATIONS

WHATEVER about the general truth of the old adage that the pen is mightier than the sword I feel it has scant application to the relationship which exists between the press and the everyday workings of the G.A.A.

The service which the Association—with its standing, strength and importance—receives from the press and the use which it makes of this most influential publicity medium is just about the worst imaginable.

I am not thinking now of the coverage of our intercounty games which ranges from adequate to very good and I am satisfied that the coverage of the All-Ireland series is ample.

In common with tens of thousands of followers I have

relished reliving many of these games from the pens of John D. Hickey, Mick Dunne and Paddy Downey to mention only three of our leading commentators. And who has not been captivated by the magnificent eloquence of Pdraig Puirseall as he talks about—writes is too cold a word—a particular game?

And to a lesser extent I am happy about the reportage of our provincial championships and the concluding stages of the National Leagues.

But I am far from satisfied with the coverage of our club games which of course is the responsibility of the provincial press.

In my most recent article, in another context, I asked was it to be club or county? Apparently the local press (with

a few notable exceptions) have decided that it is to be county—and county only—as far as their columns are concerned.

These papers publish reports of Convention after Convention in which it is reiterated time and again that the club is the basic unit of the Association. And the possibility is that the next time a club is mentioned in their columns will be at the following year's convention.

That the activities of our clubs deserve more publicity is obvious and therefore there must be a fault somewhere in the relationship between the local paper and the local G.A.A. authorities.

I am convinced too that there is a ready made readership for club publicity and I find it hard to

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believe that a full coverage of our various committee and board meetings would not be of much interest.

Apparently newspapers are opposed to putting on a full time reporter on the grounds of expense. Personally I believe he would pay his way many times over. It is therefore necessary for our clubs to prove that such a move would be beneficial to a paper.

But even if a newspaper did agree to put on a full time reporter to cover G.A.A. activities he would require full co-operation from all concerned in the general running of affairs.

Would he get such co-operation? Candidly I believe it would take a great deal of time and a great deal of new thinking by most of our club officials before this would be achieved.

It would be necessary for our meetings to be held regularly and with sufficient notice. It would be equally necessary for our fixtures to be known well in advance, and, most important, it would be necessary for them to be played on the dates fixed.

These things are not happening now and this makes the task of previewing a nightmarish task.

If therefore the idea of a full time appointment by the local papers is to be ruled out at the moment how can we best set about getting the publicity we deserve.

I do believe that newspapers are prepared to publish copy if submitted even though they may be reluctant to go out and "trawl" for it.

Here the responsibility rests with the club secretaries and the performance of these hard-working officials as press officers can be very disappointing.

They may ring through a result if their side wins but as often as not they allow the local grape-vine to convey the news of victory or defeat throughout the district.

What a boost they could give the

game generally if the secretary or someone appointed by the club would send in a dozen lines about a game.


Sometimes it is only at meetings that clubs learn how matches have gone and as far as league tables are concerned these appear with the most monotonous irregularity—if at all.

Clearly a new press-consciousness is required at club level.

Let our clubs therefore make a

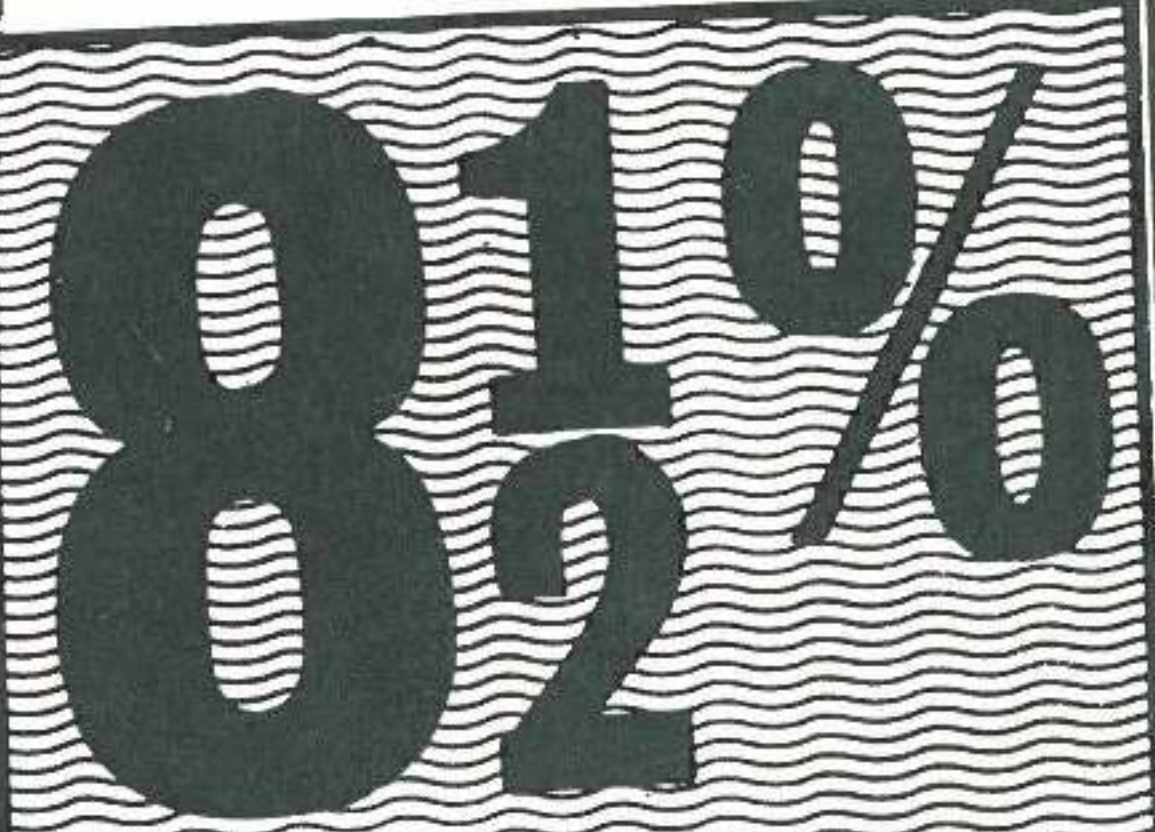
new start in their relations with the local press! Let matches be reported regularly and promptly! Let reports of our meetings from club to county board level be issued! Let our supporters be made more aware of a really living club in the parish or district.

Such a move would, I am convinced, hasten the time when the day-to-day activities of our Association would get their rightful place in the sun.



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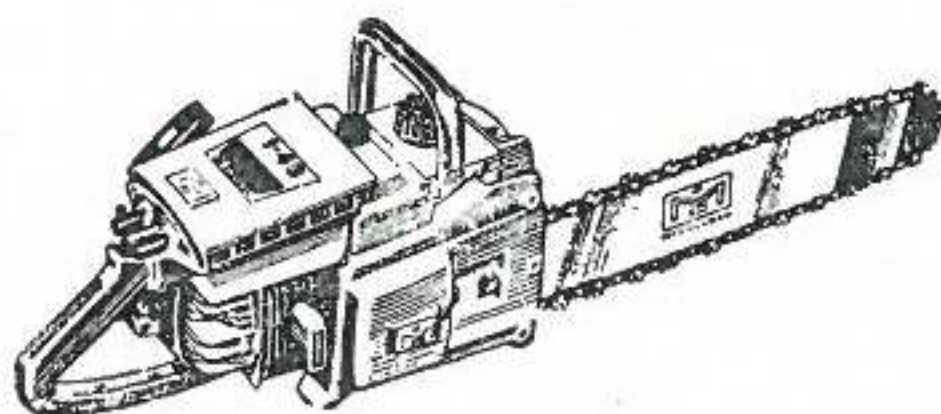
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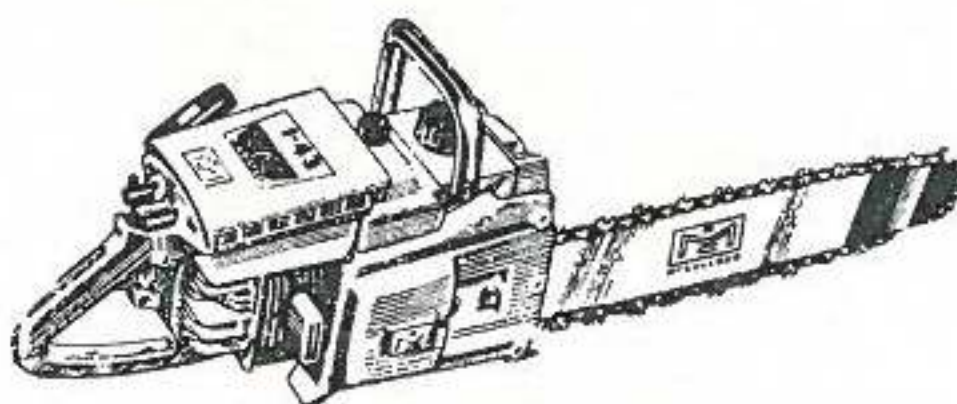
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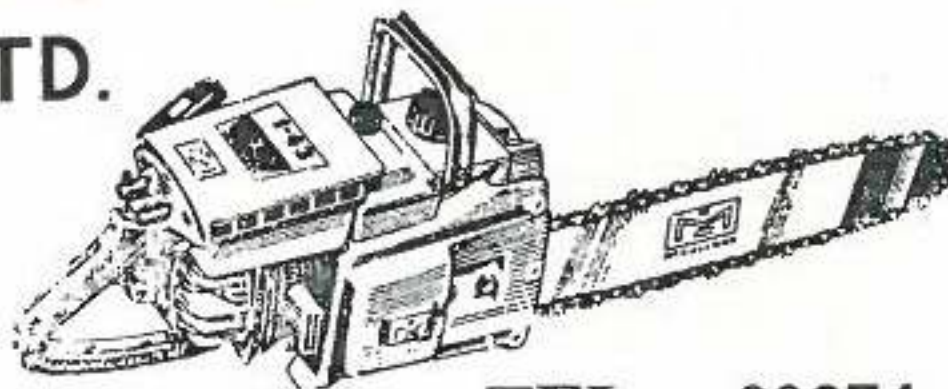
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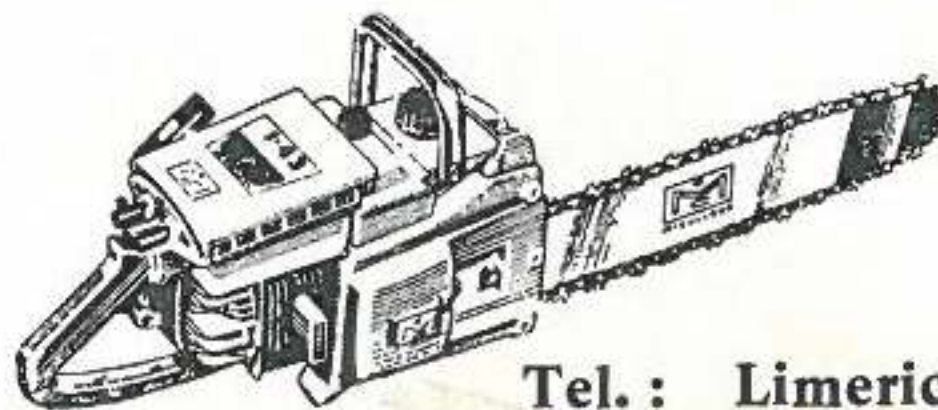
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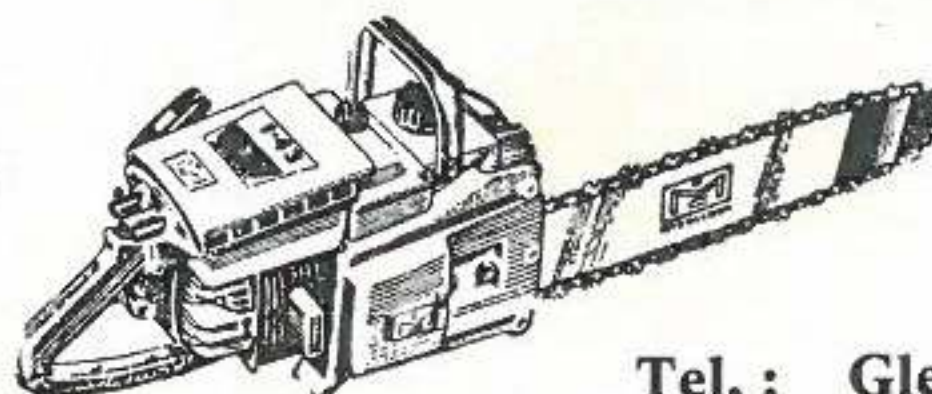
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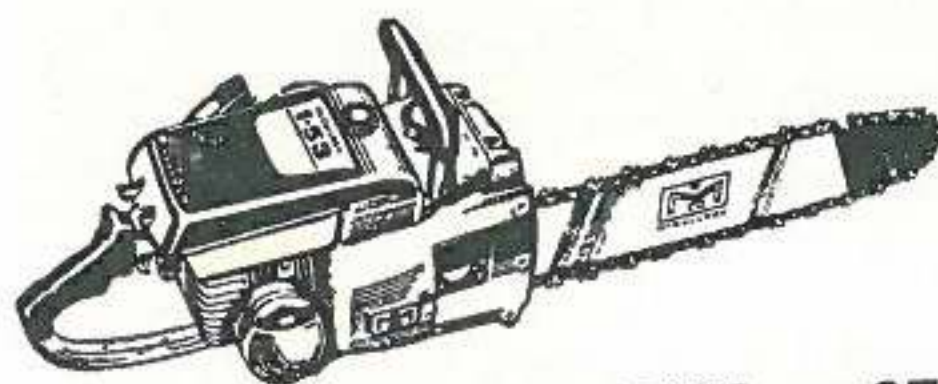
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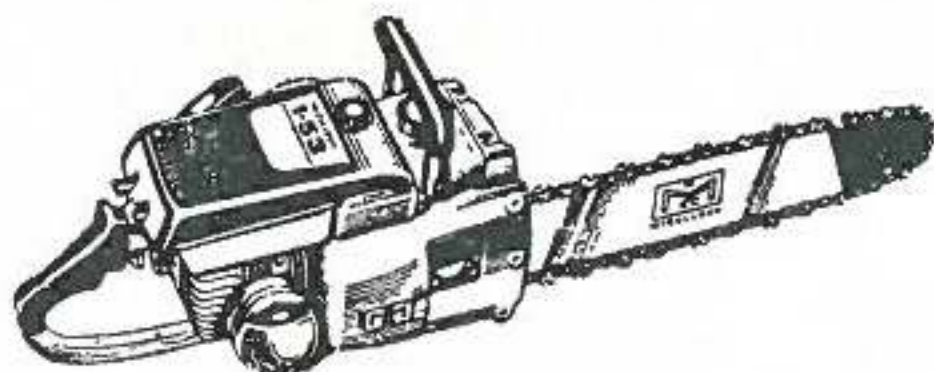
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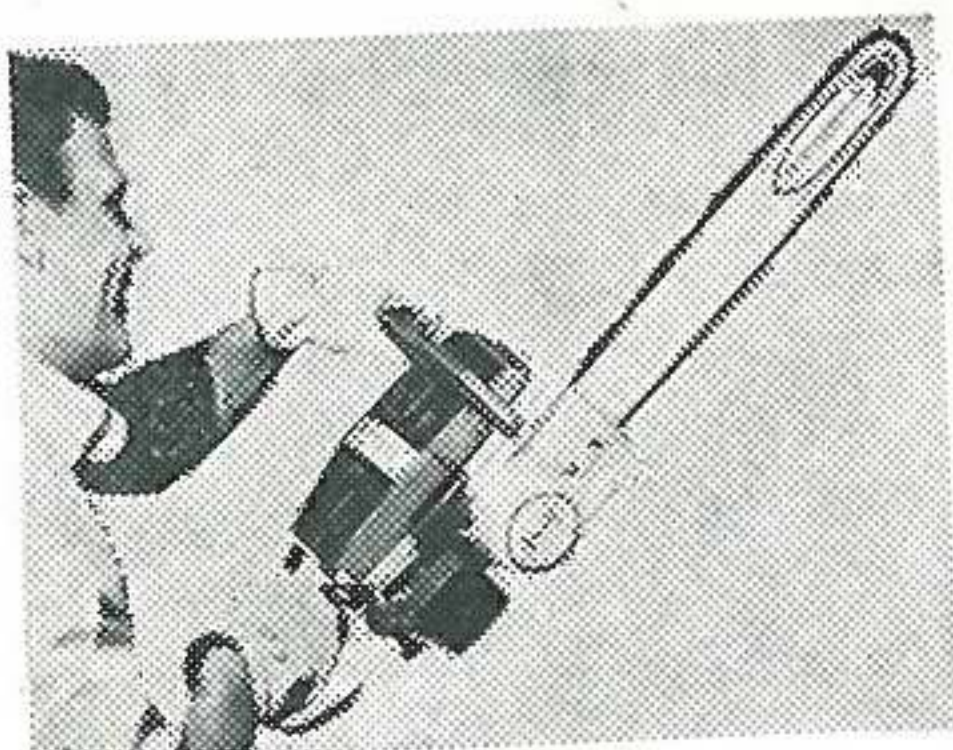


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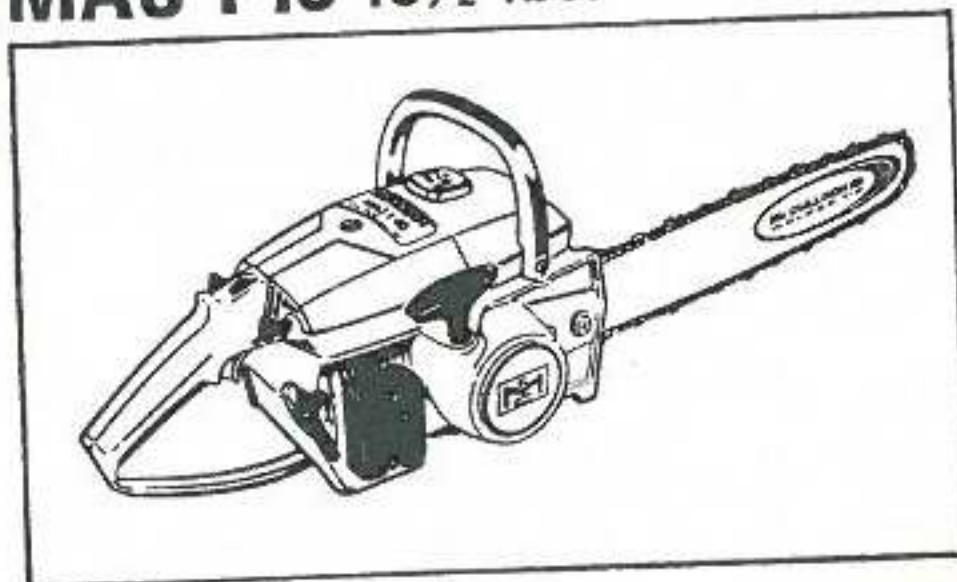
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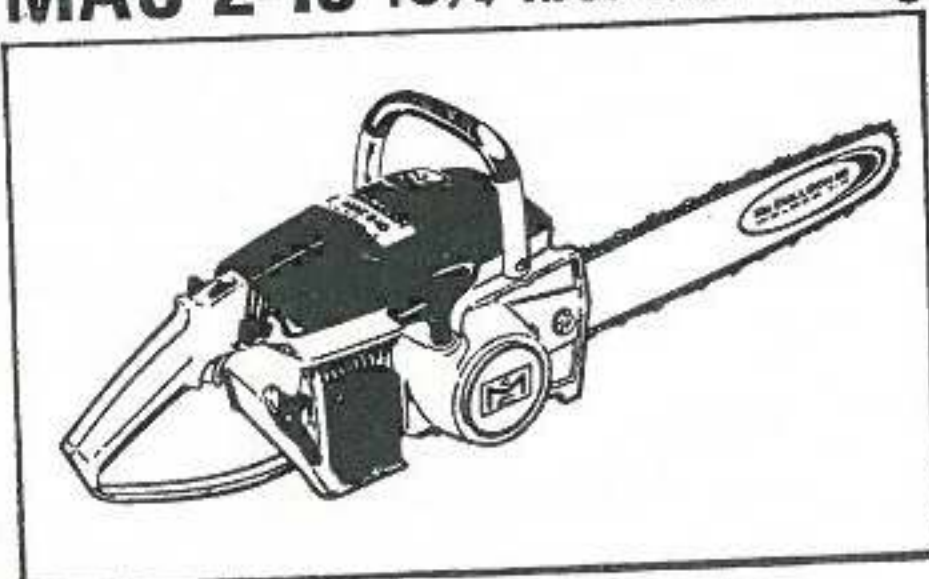


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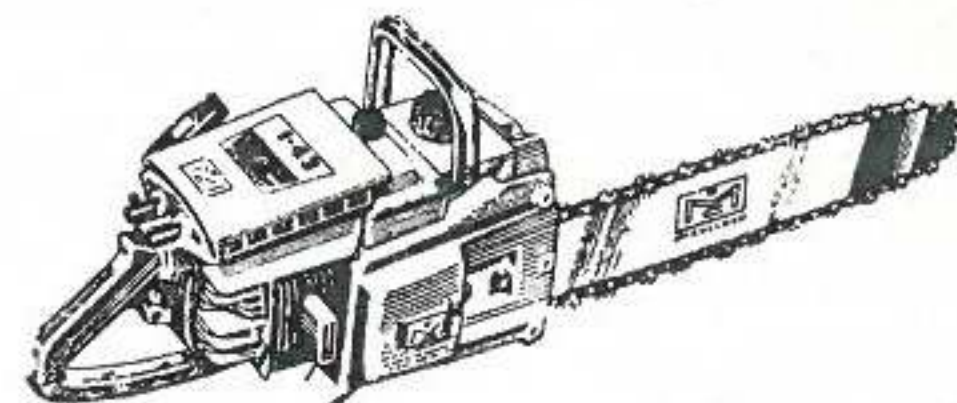
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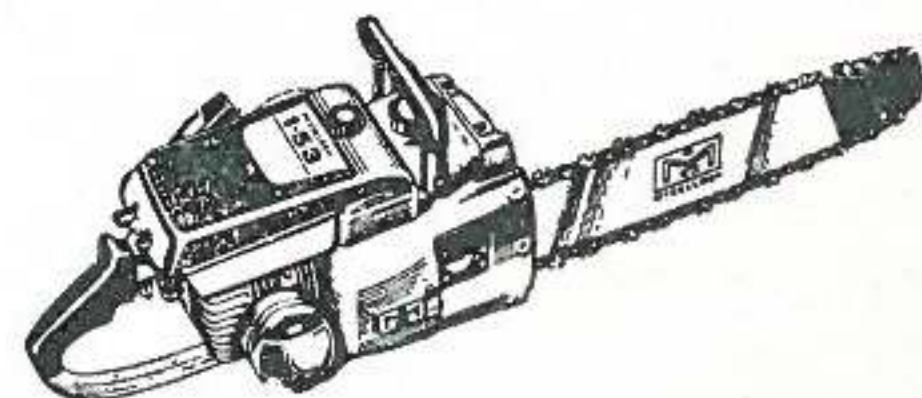
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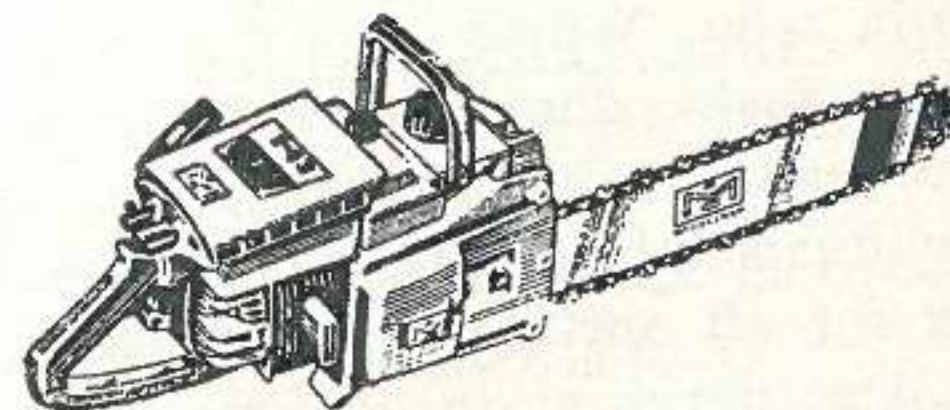
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Dublin's grip must be broken

CAMOGIE

by

AGNES HOURIGAN

AND so, after all, Dublin retained the All-Ireland camogie title. Tipperary should have beaten them in the semi-final, Antrim could have beaten them in the final, but still the champions kept their grip on the O'Duffy Cup and made history by winning the honours for the tenth successive year.

Now it is obvious to everyone, whether closely connected with the game or not, that not until Dublin's supremacy is broken will we see the crowds back again to big camogie matches. The simple fact of the matter is that the ordinary games-follower is taking it for granted that Dublin will win, and just stays away from the games in consequence. But the fact also remains that there must be reasons for Dublin's long supremacy and until these facts are faced Dublin will not be beaten.

And never were the reasons for Dublin's long string of victories more obvious than they were this year, when in both semi-final and final they beat teams that were, through the field, longer and more stylish strikers than they were themselves. Moreover, Tipperary and Antrim were, I thought, rather stronger teams than Dublin, yet Dublin won. Why?

The main answer is simple—team-work. Dublin never play as individuals; they play as a team, each for all and all for each, and that was never more obvious than in the All-Ireland final against Antrim. At the end of the game it

could be truthfully said that Dublin had no star, and yet they were all stars, because every player backed up every other player in every part of the field. Yes, team-work is Dublin's first secret, and I think that steadiness is the second.

Both Tipperary and Antrim had the chances to put the issue beyond all reasonable doubt, but hasty shooting killed their hopes. The Dublin forwards on the other hand, rarely if ever take a chance shot. When in possession, they always try to work in to the best possible position, or else look for a teammate who is better placed than they are themselves.

And above all, this Dublin team does not panic. In both the semi-final and the final, they found themselves trying to hold on to an ever-narrowing lead with the tide of play flowing strongly against them in a hectic finish, yet they kept their heads and, what was more important, they kept their places. There was no sign of the backs crowding in on top of the goal-keeper or the mid-fielders massing on the edge of their own 'square'. They played it cool, and won two matches they could, and maybe should have lost.

Tipperary and Antrim are as good, if not better, than Dublin now. But they must perfect their team-work and keep their places on the field if they are going to beat Dublin. And the day Dublin are beaten by a team playing the same

brainy game as they play themselves will be a great day for camogie.

And that day may not be as far distant as many people choose to think. I have seen some fine camogie played last season by club teams and county teams from unconsidered areas. Indeed I saw a club game at Naas between the Kilkenny champions and the Kildare champions and I was frankly amazed at the standard of those counties. True neither side might be mapped against top-class opposition at this stage, but they had advanced so much in twelve months that in another year they could well be fit to challenge the best.

Now the Colleges' season has come round again, and on the schools and Colleges the whole future of the game depends. I sincerely trust that the camogie authorities have their eyes open in those counties where the new 'comprehensive' schools are opening. In those schools there should be every opportunity of fostering the game.

Arrangements should be made as soon as possible for giving those schools, when they are in full operation, an opportunity of fielding teams in the local Colleges' competitions. Of course, the ultimate aim should be, when enough of those schools are in existence, to provide them with a separate competition all their own.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Westmeath and Leinster centre-field. (1, 6)
7. Material for banding hurleys, perhaps. (3)
10. Recent Past President of the Association —Wicklow representative. (6)
12. Recently deceased Kilkenny All-Ireland hurler considered one of the best wingers the game has produced. Initials. (1, 1)
13. Another regretted death in recent times was that of Tadhgo, the Clonakilty and Cork captain. (7)
15. Limerick full-forward—initials. (1, 1)
17. Organisation for Earthly Health, perhaps. (3)
18. The misbehaviour of a pal would dismay one often. (5)
20. Many of them have played for Tipperary and Limerick, especially. (5)
21. Your privilege re. the ball if you are awarded a free-kick. (5)
22. Such moral and vocal assistance makes a big contribution to the team's performance. (7)
24. Dublin corner or full-back. (1, 6)
25. (and 29 down). These are games which are obviously not postponed. (2)
26. Kings of the game wear the All-Ireland hat. (5)
28. (and 2 down). Limerick forward or mid-field kept out of this year's team for a period of injury. (5)
30. Relative from the name of a sharp Roscommon forward of the forties—without the lake. (3)
31. Longford full-back. (1, 6)
35. Two fifties in succession. (2)
36. Bring about or achieve in two letters. (2)
37. Clerical centre-field for Galway's best hurling team of the last quarter of a century. (1, 6)
38. Important factor in any game as far as the referee is concerned particularly.

CLUES DOWN :

1. Very consistent Offaly defender who rejoices in the name of one of Ireland's greatest singers.
2. (See 28 across).
3. To propel the boat causes violent disagreement. (3)
4. Leitrim player with a benediction in his name.
5. Co-ordination of sight, reaction, and skill sometimes called by vision. (5)

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6. Young Religious Yogi? (3)
8. (and 39 down). Little Tyrone forward star—initials. (1, 1)
9. Angle slightly altered for a footballer's name. (5)
11. Work—the Association gives a considerable amount, when all involved are considered. (10)
14. Fair-haired Offaly centre-forward in their champion years in Leinster. (7)
16. Boxing attitude which some players take when the subject of a few raps. (4)
18. Recourse to higher authority which is always open to teams and players. (6)
19. Mayo forward from the thirties and forties, who seems to perform uninterrupted. (5)
23. Fiery and effective Donegal wing-half back, who is a regular Ulster selection. (1, 5)
27. Westmeath hurler with a famous name. (4)
29. See 25 across.
32. Sicknesses, and the troubles which beset the associations, perhaps. (4)
33. "Blackie" was a brilliant Dublin minor, if not so successful in senior ranks. (4)
34. Number of Connacht championships won by Leitrim. (3)
36. Cork and Munster corner back in football during the fifties—initials. (1, 1)
37. Well known G.A.A. correspondent—Initials. (1, 1)

SOLUTION—Page 48

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Another Cork Success

WHEN Cork decide to hit the headlines apparently they do not believe in half measures. The form of the Rebel County hurlers this year, in all grades, has been nothing short of phenomenal, and when it comes to football there is many a shrewd judge who thinks the Sam Maguire Cup should this year be nestling by the banks of the Lee. No doubt Eamonn Young will put that right in 1967.

The latest Cork success has not been gained on the sportsfield but is an industrial one. It is the Castlemore Limestone Brick which has been introduced to the market by Castlemore Quarries of Crookstown, Co. Cork.

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(From page 18).

York sixty-six years ago. Educated at Tralee C.B.S. he became an ardent devotee of Gaelic football and played many great games with the local John Mitchells. Although serving on the foreign mission field it was his proud boast that he saw many All-Ireland senior football finals.

THURLES RE-OPENS

It was good to see the storied Thurles pitch again in use for the County Tipperary senior hurling finals after its closure for almost two years. Although work on the new seated structure is far from completed portion of it was in use, and this along with sideline and embankment provide ample accommodation for the present.

All were delighted to be back in the old popular meeting place, the scene of many great gatherings in the past, and the only criticism voiced was at the admission charges—2/6 to the field, 5/- for a seat on the sideline or new erection, which many considered steep for local games, no matter how attractive.

The Gaels of Ballyheigue are to re-seed their pitch. As a first part of the work all tractor owners in the parish have been asked to bring at least one load of turf dust from Kerry Head to be spread over the pitch, which is now the property of the Association. Chairman of the local committee is John Joe O'Sullivan, and the Joint-Secretaries are J. O'Connor and D. O'Sullivan.

Emigration continues to take a heavy toll in the southern counties and the latest to go is the great Kerry midfielder, Mick O'Connell. Many of his Valentia team-mates have also left and the club have informed the South Kerry Board that they will be unable to fulfil any fixtures until the Spring, when they hope a number of their members who have gone to help in the English sugar campaign in East Anglia will return.

MEET THE CHAMPIONS OF '68... (says Young)

UNKNOWN in Dublin, almost unknown in Munster. That's the bunch who played football for Cork this year. Last October five of us in our forties who had played a fair amount in our time were told to organise a football team. The usual searching went on and the usual mistakes were made. The first league game against a very nice Laois team was a flop and we went forward after some more work had been done with a stronger team to play a tired Dublin at home. Cork won and people began to say we had a team. We knew better and when the boys faced a lively Kildare outfit, which incidentally must come next year, we were shown very forcibly that fifteen very enthusiastic men of some ability don't always make a team.

That day Cork scored five goals, three of them against themselves and Kildare were far craftier.

In the Munster championship the team was faced by an under-strength Clare team at Ennis and won rather handily after showing a lot of weaknesses.

Then came the game against Limerick which was vital for the team and selectors as it was last year's defeat by Limerick which had stung the County Board into action.

At half-time Limerick were leading and our men looked very unconvincing. In the second half when Niall Fitzgerald had come on at centre-field the team steadied down and won well. Then came Kerry. The approach was again pretty enthusiastic, which in the case of Cork footballers is completely necessary until the skills and craft which are fundamentals of the game in the counties regularly visited by Sam Maguire's cup, are acquired.

Kerry bored holes in the Cork



defence in the first twenty minutes but failed to strike. Their point lead at half-time meant nothing but with two good men injured the selectors weren't happy. We brought strong Con Sullivan to centre-field, where the 28-year-old has spent all his career until we took over the team, and put Niall Fitzgerald in full forward. It worked and Kerry obliged us further by having a man put off. Our half-back John Crowley carried the ball along the right wing, belted a grand shot across to clubmate John Carroll who stuck it in the net. That finished the game though there were scores after.

Everyone said that Galway would chew us in small pieces but we ourselves knew that this team of ours would either win or put up a fine show. Our friends pretended to believe us.

Cork's speedy backs matched the Galway forwards in everything but craft, something proved by those two fine fisted points by Galway early in the second half and that excellently fashioned Pat Donnellan-McDonagh-Dunne goal.

The tide had begun to run against Cork in the centre of the field and again Con Sullivan stemmed it for a while allowing 20-year-old Mick O'Loughlin, who had a good game there, to move in to the corner where he soon fisted a neat goal.

Niall Fitzgerald came on for Batt O'Keeffe, a twenty-year-old corner forward who tried to fill the gap created by Eamonn Ryan's disast-

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rous departure through concussion in the first seven minutes. Soon after Niall Fitzgerald went on he manoeuvred himself skilfully into a perfect position, something incidentally which our men had usually failed to do up to that, but failed in the shot. The player thought that agile Johnny Geraghty got his foot to it but the umpires saw no fifty.

There was nothing in the game after that but the chance was gone and the clock combined with sporting and skilful Galway to beat us.

The players fall into the usual professional categories. There are factory workers, insurance, bank, E.S.B. officials, gardai, university students, tradesmen, teachers and we're glad to have in the ranks one sailor who like his father before him, a good friend of mine, never minds the stormy weather.

Six of them Billy Morgan (goal) Jerry Lucey (F.B.); John Crowley (L.H.B.); Mick O'Loughlin (C.F.); Eric Philpott (R.H.F.); and Batty O'Keeffe (sub R.C.F.) are under 21.

Brian Murphy (R.C.B.); Frank Cogan (R.H.B.); Kevin Dillon (L.H.B. sub); Flor Hayes (L.H.F.) Eamonn Ryan (R.C.F.), John Carroll (L.C.F.) and Davy Moore (C.Fd. sub) are about twenty-four. Jerry Sullivan (R.H.B.) the captain who was injured for the semi-final Mick Burke (C.F.) and Gunner O'Leary (L.C.B. sub) are about twenty-six and the old men Gene McCarthy (Cen. Fwd.), John O'Mahony (L.C.B.) and Con Sullivan (F.F.) are about twenty-eight. Add Captain Niall Fitzgerald's venerable thirty-five and the average age is twenty-three. This team has a lot to learn but most of them have a long time to learn it.

Bank official Mick Burke was very busy in the Patrick Street office when I rang.

I asked what he thought of the team and the prospects.

"It will be very hard to get out

of Munster next year," he said "and the team hasn't settled down yet. If the boys maintain their enthusiasm and continue to keep their nose to the grind-stone we may go places. I prefer not to talk about winning All-Ireland titles. We'll take each match as it comes."

Tall full back Jerry Lucey, from the quiet valleys of Ballyvourney, is an insurance official.

"With a bit of luck we would have beaten Galway and I think we could do it next time. We need a lot more experience and coaching. We could win it in '68."

Donie O'Donovan, a five and a half foot wedge of a man who plays in goal for the Cork champions St. Nicholas even though he was a very valuable Railway Cup man almost twenty years ago, has quite a lot to say of the team in that soft-spoken measured way of his.

"These men have come a long way in a short time," he reminded me. "We must not expect too much too soon. If they are prepared to continue their football education and learn the lessons of each game they will be a fairly good team in two years."

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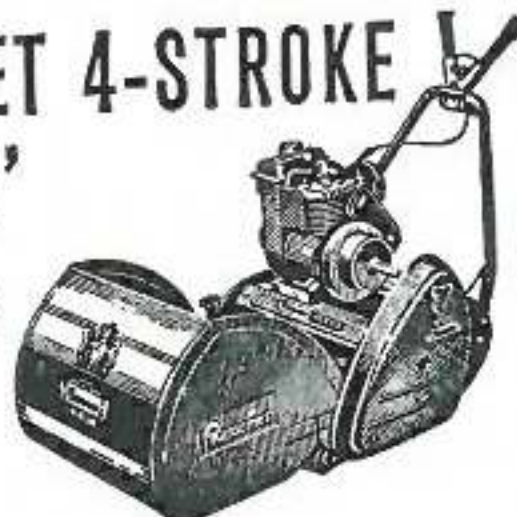
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GALWAY SET THE EXAMPLE

RIGHT away let's be fair and say that there has been a great improvement on the Gaelic fields in the mode of dress in recent years, especially among the seniors and even more so among the leading counties. Pride of place, I feel, must go to Galway footballers whose appearance on the field in every respect is a credit to themselves and to our great Association.

I feel it should be the aim of every young lad and indeed those not so young, to try and emulate the Galwaymen, to make it their aim to appear on the field looking like an Enda Colleran and don't tell me that the extra confidence and poise that comes from being well groomed will not eventually have some effect on the standard of their playing.

Ours is a great Association and our playing members should realise when they are out on the field that they are its representatives in the eyes of the public and consequently they should be satisfied with only the best.

A team that goes out on the field properly groomed right away has a psychological advantage over their more dishevelled opponents and the amazing thing about "looking the part" is that it does not cost all that amount of money.

Quite recently I had a long chat with ex-Dublin player Paddy Coyle, manager of Boylans of Aungier Street, the well known sports outfitters, and Paddy is more qualified than most to comment on

these matters. Paddy reckons for an outlay of less than £4 any young man sufficiently interested can purchase a complete playing kit let it be hurling or football, and with proper attention this will last him for at least three years. This means for an average of 26/-

a year or 6d. a week any young lad playing our national games can be togged out equally as well as Cyril Dunne or Eddie Keher.

An idea that comes to mind and perhaps worth mentioning at this point is why couldn't club secre-

● TO PAGE 40



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● FROM PAGE 39

taries start a "playing gear" fund. The idea being that each week members contribute a nominal sum, say for example a half-crown a week, this would add up to £4-10-0 by the end of the year, 10/- more than is necessary to do the job and it is conceivable that Paddy Coyle of Boylans, staunch Gael that he is, might be able to do the job even cheaper if he were dealing with fifteen men rather than one individual customer. I don't know, it's just an idea; anyway Paddy has the whole range at his Aungier Street premises, jerseys, shin guards, hurleys, sliothars and all the leading brands of football boots including Paddy's personal favourites, the "Blackthorn" and the "Bantam," and as he says himself: "It won't do any harm for the lads to come in and look around and I will always be glad to give them any advice that I can about their personal requirements."

For heaven's sake let's get away from the old idea of the "twine in the boot" days and begin to realise that we represent the greatest sporting amateur Association in the world and resolve to do something about it and the "playing gear" department is one that we can put right ourselves, each and every one of us. We do not have to get a ruling from Congress to buy a new pair of boots or whatever else it might be, so why delay; we represent the best, let's look the best.

Before bidding goodbye to Paddy Coyle he was anxious that our readers should know about the great strides that are being made by his own club, Na Fianna, who have their headquarters and playing fields at Glasnevin. Paddy was particularly proud of his club's achievement in building a new magnificent clubhouse at a cost of £4,000 and which will be opened officially at the end of November.

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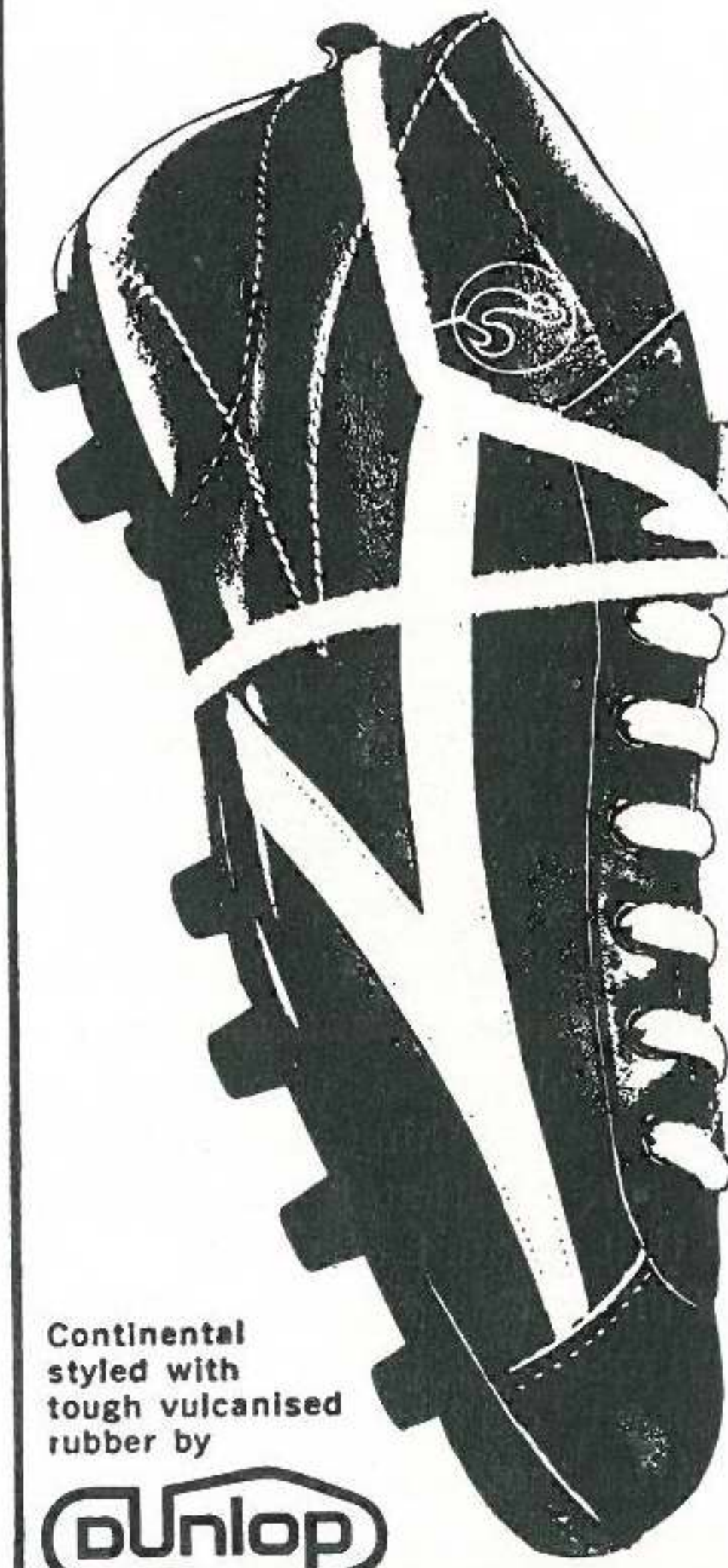
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HANDBALL

By ALLEYMAN

A SHORT time ago, I had the pleasure of meeting Walter Wiechec, one of the most recent recruits to Dublin's lengthening list of new players. A member of Na Fianna, the Mobhi Road Club, this affable personality certainly takes his handball seriously.

When I met him, Mr. Wiechec had just come from a knock-up at Croke Park—his third that week, which is an indication of the seriousness with which he treats his game.

That in itself is only relevant for Walter played most of his handball in Detroit, a city which commands an historic tradition with the ancient code. It will be recalled that when handball spread to the Middle West around the start of this century it was in Detroit that the fever of the game, which was later to assume contagious proportions, was first fostered.

The Detroit Athletic Club led the way, erected wonderful four-walled courts and, at considerable expense, invited prominent players from various parts of the country to compete in tournaments. The first of these was held in 1915 and was won by Fritz Seivered of Cleveland who repeated the feat in 1917. In 1918, another representative of the East, Bill Sakmann, was crowned champion.

It is also interesting to note that the Amateur Athletic Union held its first championship in Detroit in 1919, and this was won by Bill Ranft of the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

The same city is one of the few which promotes three-walled handball, and the U.S.H.R. holds a championship there each year.

Hence, it should not be sur-

prising, that an exponent emerging from such a traditional stronghold should be playing a major part in promoting the game in the country of his adoption. Such is the way with Walter Wiechec.

Since arriving in Dublin some months ago he has given his unstinted support to the County Board in organisational spheres, fund-raising ventures, and latterly came to the rescue of the new Minor Board by presenting a trophy for the under-10 League.

His views concerning the game of handball as played in this country and America are calculated with a definite emphasis on the fact that it is rather difficult to make a comparison.

"The size of the courts in both countries", he says, "dictates the trend of the game".

The smaller forty by twenty-foot American court calls for sharper synchronisation of the reflex system, while, to command a top place in our handball the Irish player must be an infinitely harder-hitter, and a lot fitter, in order to gain mastery over the larger sixty by thirty feet floor space area.

Walter, who is a Director in the computer component manufacturing company of Core Memories, at Coolock, opines that the only phase in which the American game scores is that it encourages players to participate actively right into middle age, and away beyond it. The smaller dimensions of the American court is the reason.

I then sought his views on our two codes of handball, namely, softball and hardball, the latter type not being played in America at all. While stressing the fact that

he had seen some very interesting games of hardball, Mr. Wiechec at the same time was adamant that in the broadest terms it did not present the same spectacle as softball.

"For my part", he said, "I would like to see your game of hardball as such, abolished and substituted for by the smaller American type ball". With this change you would be overcoming the well-nigh perpetual shortage of this type of sphere, and at the same time gearing your players in a gradual and proficient way for international competition".

Naturally our conversation drifted towards great personalities and the impact our most recent ambassador, Joe Maher, the former Louth star was making on the American game. We agreed that Joe by his decorum on and off the court was a credit to Irish handball.

But very shortly it may be a case of the Maher brothers making good. A few weeks ago, Eoin, brother of the Louth ace, and by coincidence also a member of Na Fianna, took flight to Toronto. A good player by any standards—he won a Dublin senior championship this season and went to the final of the Leinster championship.

Eoin told me some time before his departure that his big ambition is to strike up a winning partnership with brother Joey, and test the mettle of the top men in the United States.

So here's extending best wishes to them in their winning ambitions and at the same time bidding míle fáilte to Walter Wiechec into the handballing ranks of this country.

In the Cork dressing-room

IN the September issue I promised I would be in the winners' dressing-room as soon as the hurling final was over. I was—but it took some doing. Eventually I got inside. One had to push. This invariably brought a push in return and we were back where we started.

There was still no sign of the team. They were out on the field with some twenty or thirty thousand other Corkmen. Their cheers echoed in the dressing-

room and complemented the joy that was expressed on every face.

Eventually the players arrived—with the Cup. The whole of Croke Park seemed to come in with them. By now the heat was so great, and being added to by the spotlights for the television cameras, that you could have fried rashers—had there been sufficient room.

But who wanted rashers.

Jerry O'Sullivan, whom I was pushed into, said it was second-

half luck which won the day. Colm Sheehan put it another way. "We got the breaks," he said, "and Kilkenny did not."

John O'Halloran did not agree with Colm Sheehan. He said: "Colm Sheehan got the goals which won this game. They were wonderful goals and they gave us the confidence we needed."

Only Denis O'Riordan had cause for not being overjoyed. His injury had resulted in him being on the substitutes' bench rather than at centre half-back. Still, he could not but express his pride in the feats of his team-mates. I reminded him that, were it not for his own fine performances in Munster, Cork might never have reached Croke Park.

Justin McCarthy told me that he had expected Kilkenny to have been better. Seanie Barry held the same view but was obviously not particularly worried. Cork had won and that was what mattered.

By now Nick Purcell, the Kilkenny County Chairman, had succeeded in making his way into the dressingroom. Eventually he managed to climb on to a table and all Cork went quiet. It had been twelve years since the leader of another county had come to pay them tribute and homage as champions of all Ireland. They were not going to miss a word.

So they drank in every eloquent sentence. "I don't want to sound like Casius Clay," says he, "but as soon as Cork survived against Clare I knew they would reach the final. However, I must say I did not expect them to win it." They cheered and the Cusack Stand above seemed to shake.

Con Murphy replied with equal eloquence on behalf of Cork. They cheered that too.

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WEXFORD ARE BACK

By FRANK HUGHES

FOR security, put money in a Swiss bank and hurling in Wexford. The senior hurling crown may have gone to Cork but who would have thought so watching the Slaneysiders playing ducks and drakes with the All-Ireland champions at Croke Park on October 16 in the Oireachtas semi-final. Certainly Wexford are back.

And there can be no doubt but that they are back to stay. That fight-back, from being down 1-7 to 0-1 to a 4-1 to 1-8 victory against Cork in the minor final replay, shows that the county has the talent necessary to back up a major era of great hurling. And don't forget the under-21 side either.

Agreed Cork had held over their under-21 players from the Oireachtas game but, despite the brilliance of Seanie Barry, Charlie McCarthy and company, I could not have seen them making all that much difference.

Anyone down Munster way who was wondering how Tipperary failed to Wexford in the first Oireachtas game should have been at Croke Park on October 16. Then they would have realised how it happened.

PROMISING OFFALY

And speaking of a hurling comeback, let's not forget Offaly who

have made such progress this year. At the time of writing their Walsh Cup final replay with Dublin has yet to be played—but, win or lose in that game, I think we can look to Offaly making a great bid to win a place among the major hurling counties. They and neighbours Kildare are certainly playing their part in the hurling revival.

THE KILDARE HURLERS

Kildare's junior hurling victory was, of course, another tremendous performance and it made amends for the extraordinary failure of their under-21 footballers. Incidentally, more on this game anon.

What most impressed me about the junior hurlers was that they are virtually all youngsters. It speaks well for the county's hurling future.

The only veteran on the team was full-forward Jimmy Quinn. The rest are very young—in the late 'teens or early twenties.

UPSET OF THE DECADE

The defeat of the Kildare under-21 footballers was, in my book, the upset of the decade. In saying what I am going to say I am not trying to take anything away from Roscommon, but this was certainly a game which Kildare should not have lost. Prior to that game I was at one with those who said that Kildare were the coming side. Now I am not too sure.

They have the football ability—but have they the mental make-up necessary to scale the heights? Perhaps the defeat by Roscommon will have taught Kildare the necessary lesson. I certainly hope so. Football needs a second glamour side like Galway. Kildare looked like being that team. Now I, and quite a few more, need to be convinced again as to Kildare's future prospects.

MEATH'S DEFEAT

And what of Meath? Their defeat was a cruel and shattering one. To have gone out by a point or two would not have been too bad, but to have been outclassed, as indeed they were, was cruel fortune—especially when it is taken in the context of the huge build-up which the team had got, not alone from the press but also from their own supporters and officials.

The pain was eased somewhat by the manner in which the county rallied to the team afterwards. On the route home from Dublin there was a fine turn-out in every town and in An Uaimh they were met by a band and paraded through the town.

When it was all over and done the Meath players may have realised that they were still the best team in Ireland—bar one. It is not an unpleasing thought—especially when allied to the fact that this Galway team cannot last forever.

However, I do hope that the Meath selectors do not panic. As I saw it, there were far too many changes for the National League game against Kerry. Signs on the performance given was only mediocre.

These notes are being written just prior to the Grounds Tournament game against Cork. I will feel much surer of Meath's future having seen that one.

SEANIE BARRY

TOP SCORER

By _____
OWEN McCANN

SEANIE BARRY'S ability as a score-getter not only made a major contribution to Cork's march to the 1966 All-Ireland senior hurling title, but also earned the U.C.C. hurler two notable records. His tally of 3-23 (32 pts.) from five games is the highest championship score by a Cork man since scoring charts began to be recorded eleven years ago and also gives him the distinction of being the first Leesider to head both scoring charts for a senior championship campaign.

The previous best by a Cork man is 6-13 (31 pts.) in four games that earned Christy Ring second place in both codes in 1956 to the championship record for both games of 12-15 (51 pts.) by Nick Rackard in four outings. Barry's is the fifth highest total for an entire campaign.

While the Cork sharpshooter has a good match average at 6.40 points, he still only takes fifth place in this respect. Tops is Paddy Molloy, who headed hurling's chart last year with 4-12, the highest by an Offaly man until then, at the best average of all at 12 minors. Only Nick Rackard with 12.75 points in that record-breaking 1956 run, has bettered that Molloy average.

Molloy improved on his 1965 total by three points for 4-15 (27 pts.), the second highest score in both hurling and football, but as he had one more outing this year, his average is down by three points at nine minors. This is still good

enough, though, to leave him the only hurler or footballer to top the match average table in the championship two years running.

Forwards in football had not so successful a campaign scorewise. P. T. Treacy takes first place with 4-13 (25 pts.), but, while this is noteworthy in that it is a record for a Fermanagh player, the score still is one of the lowest for a No. 1 spot in the period in question—1955-'66. The lowest is 1-20 (23 pts.) by Mickey Whelan in five games in 1963, and next come Treacy's tally, and 3-16, also 25 points, by Don Feeley in four games in 1962.

Charlie Gallagher set the football peak last year when he took first place with 3-29 (38 pts.) in five games. The top football average is 10.50 points by Carlow's Brendan Hayden in 1962. Treacy also leads the way with the highest average this year at 8.33 minors.

Molloy and Eamonn Cregan share the highest individual total in one game this year. The Offaly man landed 3-5 against Westmeath at Mullingar, and Cregan exactly the same score in that shock defeat of Tipperary at Cork. Two players are also bracketed in football, Tony Brennan, with 3-2 against Wexford at Croke Park, and Paddy Dunny, also 3-2, against Dublin at An Uaimh.

Of last year's championship hurling panel, only Molloy, Eddie Keher and Frankie Walsh again figure in the top chart. Keher jumps from sixth place with 1-9 in

two games to third position, while Walsh, who shared the final spot with Phil Grimes last year with 2-4 in three games, fills the same roll with ten points also.

Mickey McLoone and Cyril Dunne are the only football survivors. McLoone moves from third place with 1-18 (21 pts.) in three games to the runner-up spot, and Dunne, from eight with two others at 0.15 in three games, to joint third.

Here then are the 1966 senior championship top scores:

HURLING

Points	Score	Games	Ave.
32	S. Barry 3-23	5	6.40
27	P. Molloy 4-15	3	9.00
22	E. Keher 0-22	3	7.33
19	T. Dooley 6-1	3	6.33
15	E. Cregan 3-6	2	7.50
14	L. Walsh 2-8	2	7.00
13	C. Sheehan 3-4	5	2.60
12	C. McCarthy 3-3	4	3.00
11	J. Mitchell 3-2	2	5.50
10	P. Cronin 1-7	2	5.00
	F. Walsh 0-10	2	5.00
	L. Walsh and J. Mitchell (Carlow).		

FOOTBALL

Points	Score	Games	Ave.
25	P. T. Treacy 4-13	3	8.33
23	M. McLoone 3-14	3	7.66
21	J. Donnelly 0-21	4	5.25
21	C. Dunne 1-18	4	5.25
17	M. Ruane 4-5	3	5.66
16	P. Dunny 4-4	3	5.33
16	A. Brennan 4-4	3	4.00
16	G. McCarthy 3-7	4	4.00
16	C. O'Sullivan 2-10	4	4.00
16	M. O'Sullivan 0-16	5	3.20



SAM MAGUIRE CUP GOES TO CORK!

By **BRIAN DOHERTY**

THE record book says that no county has won the All-Ireland senior football or senior hurling titles in the same year since 1900, but you would not have believed that had you been at Cork's Intercontinental Hotel on a morning at the end of September, for there in all its glory stood the Sam Maguire Cup, while only a few miles away the McCarthy Cup glistened on the sideboard of Gerald McCarthy.

How did it happen? Well, it was a special occasion — the wedding of Dr. Martin Newell, and, to fittingly mark the happy event, Enda Colleran, Bosco McDermott and the Donnellans brought along the football trophy.

A CHOICE OF WORDS

There was a lot written in an attempt to tell of Meath's defeat by Galway in the All-Ireland football final—many, many thousands of words—but Paddy Smith, writing in the "Drogheda Independent," summed it all up with one brief descriptive phrase. I quote:

"The unlit bonfires throughout Meath on Sunday night spoke eloquently of the dismay experienced by the Royal County supporters everywhere."

CLARE'S SOLUTION

A gentleman named John G. Fahy recently sent a few thousand-word letter to the "Clare Champion" suggesting how the banner County might get back on glory road. The following extracts are surely worth quoting:

"And, of course, England had Alf Ramsey. Clare never had a team manager like him, to make all the difference. I'm sure if the Clare County Board flew Ramsey over to Shannon Airport to give a few words of advice to the Clare team, in the lounge there, he would tell the boys three things in his cold calculating manner: (a) good home-work, (b) good field-work and (c) plenty of fight.

Thought: Why bother with Mr. Ramsey now seeing as Mr. Fahy has told everybody precisely what he would say?

The letter then went on to give a five-point recipe for success. Point one simply must be quoted:

"To call a general truce for all individuals involved in spleens,

factions, fights and suspensions. Let them all meet in Bunratty Castle, or at Shannon Airport, have a good feed and shake hands all round. Then with each man holding up his right hand, all shout aloud: 'Here's to Clare's All-Ireland'."

THE GALWAY FORWARDS

Galway are a great team. Surely one of the greatest ever. But it is still interesting to note that from the entire 1966 championship campaign Seamus Leydon and Sean Cleary scored only two points each, while Liam Sammon had but three points to his credit. Could it be that great as is this Galway team that they are not quite so brilliant when it comes to scoring?

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betters. Teamwork, naturally, has developed to a point of automation; but team spirit, a matter which never can become a matter of pure reaction, but must be worked on and fostered and carefully contributed to by every single member of the squad, is a matter for far greater congratulation. And team management, selection and guidance has very clearly played an immense part in bringing the ship so often to happy landfall.

The next topic we shall be discussing will be the possibility of a fourth in a row. On face value the evidence is that there is nothing to cause any doubts that they could do it. But, I feel that one should wait a little. It may be that some allow themselves to unwind after achieving this year's great ambition: perhaps one or two may think that they owe themselves and their people that they relax some little from the constant high tension—if they do so they well deserve their relaxation and have every right to it.

But, even those who are still steadfast could also, involuntarily, taper off just a little in dedication and form, simply because of the long hard stint and the achievement of an ambition which until its achievement was their great goal.

In other words, for those who would persevere, the big—maybe the only—problem will be the setting of new goals which they can enlarge in their minds to make their desirability great enough. But, when great ambitions are achieved it is not always so easy to rouse oneself from that satisfaction in their fulfilment and to supplant them in importance by other objectives yet to be conquered. Yet, if Galway can change the focus of their great yearnings from the number "three" to the number "four" without loss of the quality of the image, they should win again next time. It would truly be a memorable feat.

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against Clare, and recall how McCarthy goaled from a free in the last minute, to earn a reprieve for his county, when in fact they looked like making an early exit. Yes, Justin McCarthy did play his part in bringing that Cup, which aptly bears the same name, back to Leaside.

Michael Waters (Blackrock):

Denis O'Riordan's loss was Michael Waters' gain. But, of course, he earned it. The absence of O'Riordan on final day resulted in Jerry O'Sullivan moving back to fill the centre half-back position and Mick Waters being brought in to replace him at mid-field. Rarely has a man wearing a substitute's jersey done more to send his team onto the victory road. By final day 1967, Michael will, please God, be a priest.

Seanie Barry (U.C.C.):

If ever a hurler bore resemblance to Jimmy Doyle, well then Seanie Barry must be that hurler. Not only for his crew-cut hair style, but also in the way he crouches to strike a low ground ball and especially when he is taking a free. Were it not for the different colour jerseys one might be forgiven for thinking that it was Doyle. Seanie was introduced to the senior team this year against Clare and was without doubt the Leaside's star forward throughout the championship.

John O'Halloran (U.C.C.):

It is not often that you get two players from the same club on the same line of a county team but such is the case with John O'Halloran and Seanie Barry, who combined so effectively in Cork's All-Ireland

COVER PICTURE

IT gives us great pleasure to devote our front cover this month to the victorious Cork hurlers who, by their success over Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Final, have put new life back into the game and especially into Munster hurling.

Already we can visualise "house full" notices at any of the Munster venues next July when the champions appear to defend their title.

march. In fact, so effective was O'Halloran in the final that Kilkenny found it necessary to switch Pat Henderson out from right full position to mark him, and from then on we had a battle royal between the two of them. O'Halloran, who is aged 23, has been playing for the county since 1964. He is equally brilliant at football and starred on the victorious Cork Junior team. He is a research student and is single.

Gerald McCarthy (St. Finbarrs):

Yet another of those "Barrs" men, Gerald captained the team. A product of street leagues and under-age competitions he was also a member of the under-21 hurling team. Prior to All-Ireland day, Gerald was just another young hurler but by the time the game was over he had become one of the county's finest prospects.

Charlie McCarthy (St. Finbarrs):

Charlie who at 20 is the youngest member of the team, makes up for his lack of weight

and height with skill which one day may develop into something comparable to that of Christy Ring. A former student at Sullivan's Quay, with whom he won numerous medals, he did not become a permanent member of the senior team until this year. Charlie together with Seanie Barry, gave to Cork this year what it has lacked during the previous decade—fast forwards with the ability to pick-off the vital scores. This Charlie did during the 1966 championship campaign and it played quite a part in making Cork All-Ireland champions.

Colm Sheehan (Eire Og):

Colm Sheehan was the only member of the Eire Og club to wear the red jersey on All-Ireland final day, but, of course, his brother Finbarr, played with Cork a number of years ago. A very loyal club member, he first donned the senior county jersey in 1962. In the final it was Colm, perhaps more than any other player who beat Kilkenny. We have a feeling that Ollie Walsh would second that opinion.

John Bennett (Blackrock):

John at 32 is the oldest member of the team and no doubt Cork's most experienced player. He first joined the side in 1954. A salesman with a Cork milling company John is also a singer of repute, having broadcast from Radio Eireann on several occasions. However, we doubt if there has ever been sweeter music in the estimation of many a Corkman, than the roar of the crowd following those fine scores picked-off by the Blackrock veteran since the Leaside selectors had the wisdom to recall him.

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A Memory of '53...

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from that miss. Kerry finishing the stronger tacked on three further points. Armagh's reply was a solitary point by Seeley. Thus ended a fascinating final with Kerry victorious by four points.

That game took place thirteen years ago, but the arguments still continue. Was Seeley's shot over the line when gathered and cleared by the 'keeper? Armagh people are convinced that it was. Why did the referee award a penalty kick? It looked as though the 'keeper had caught the ball on the bounce and could not, therefore, have been penalised for touching the ball on the ground—a foul in those days. Would Armagh have won had McCorry scored from the penalty?

These were some of the ques-

tions I put to Bill McCorry himself recently. "I feel certain that Brian Seeley's shot was at least a foot over the line before the 'keeper cleared it," he replied. "I was fourteen yards away and had a good view of the incident."

He smiled ruefully remembering that missed penalty and remarked: "I followed my usual pattern of taking penalties. I tried to steer the ball past the keeper's right hand side. Unfortunately it went too far to the right and wide. I feel certain that we would have won had I got that penalty. A goal at that stage was just the tonic we needed."

But Bill was unstinted in his praise of the Kerry men. "They were a very fine side," he said. "The back line in particular, I thought, was tremendous. It was almost impossible to shake them off."

Armaghmen will always recall that missed penalty with regret. They have one cherished memory of that final however. At centre-field Mal McEvoy gave one of the greatest displays of midfield play that Croke Park has ever witnessed. Without doubt he was the man of the match.

Kerry, too, had their stars. None more so than their brilliant half-forward line of Tadgh Lyne, John Joe Sheehan and Jim Brosnan. One man who can vouch for their brilliance is Frank Kernan, Armagh's left-half back on that occasion. "They were a really dangerous trio," he told me. "They were able to pick off their points from any angle."

Frank also believes that the missing of that penalty was the turning point of the game for Armagh. "That miss, coupled with the retiral of Sean Quinn, our captain, shortly afterwards, were two body blows from which we never recovered," he said. "It was a wonderful game to play in. Kerry played it hard but clean. They were a grand side."

That Kerry versus Armagh final has been rated one of the best ever. One scribe put it in a nutshell when he said: "It was the sort of game you wanted to go on and on."

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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