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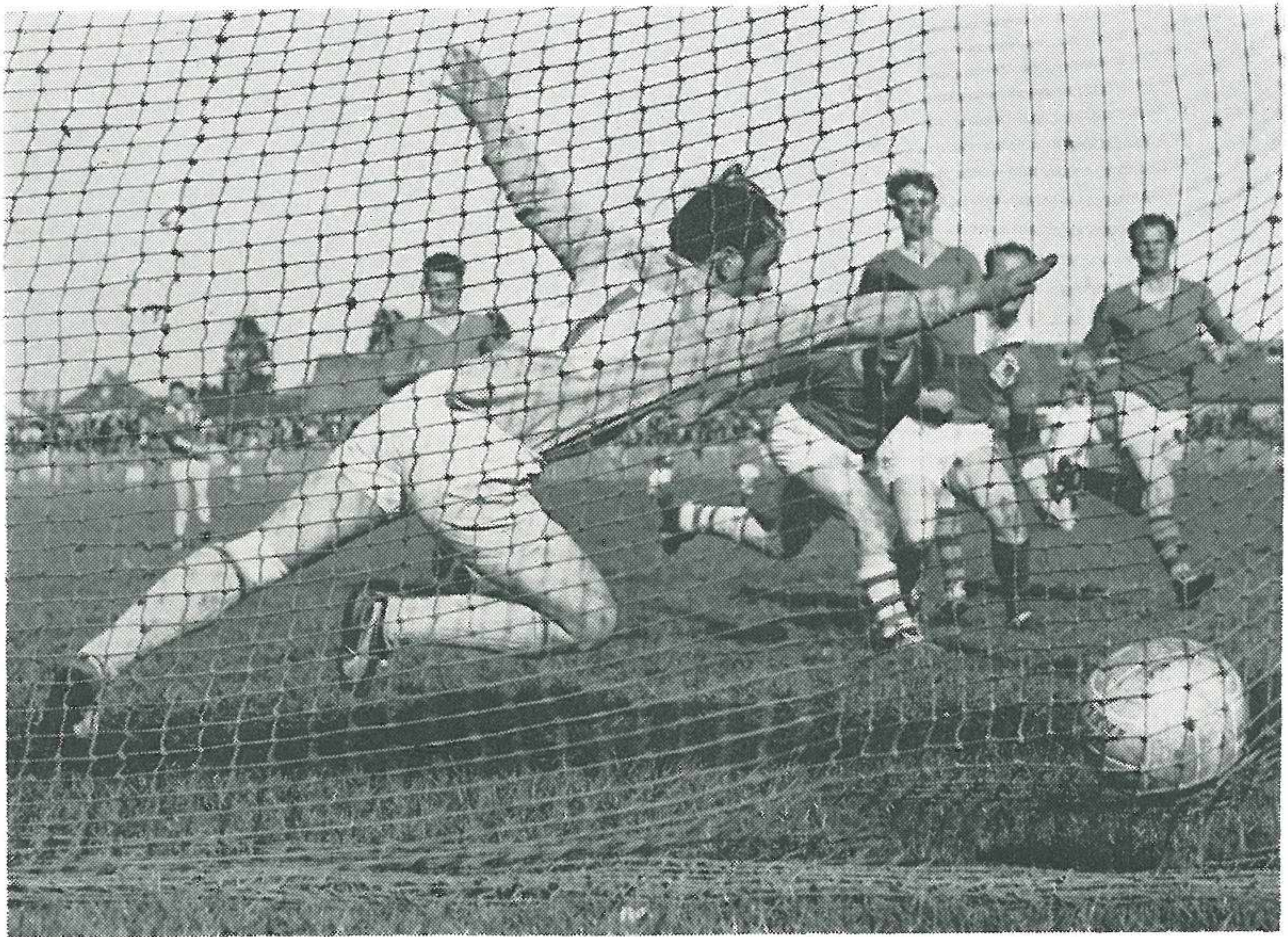
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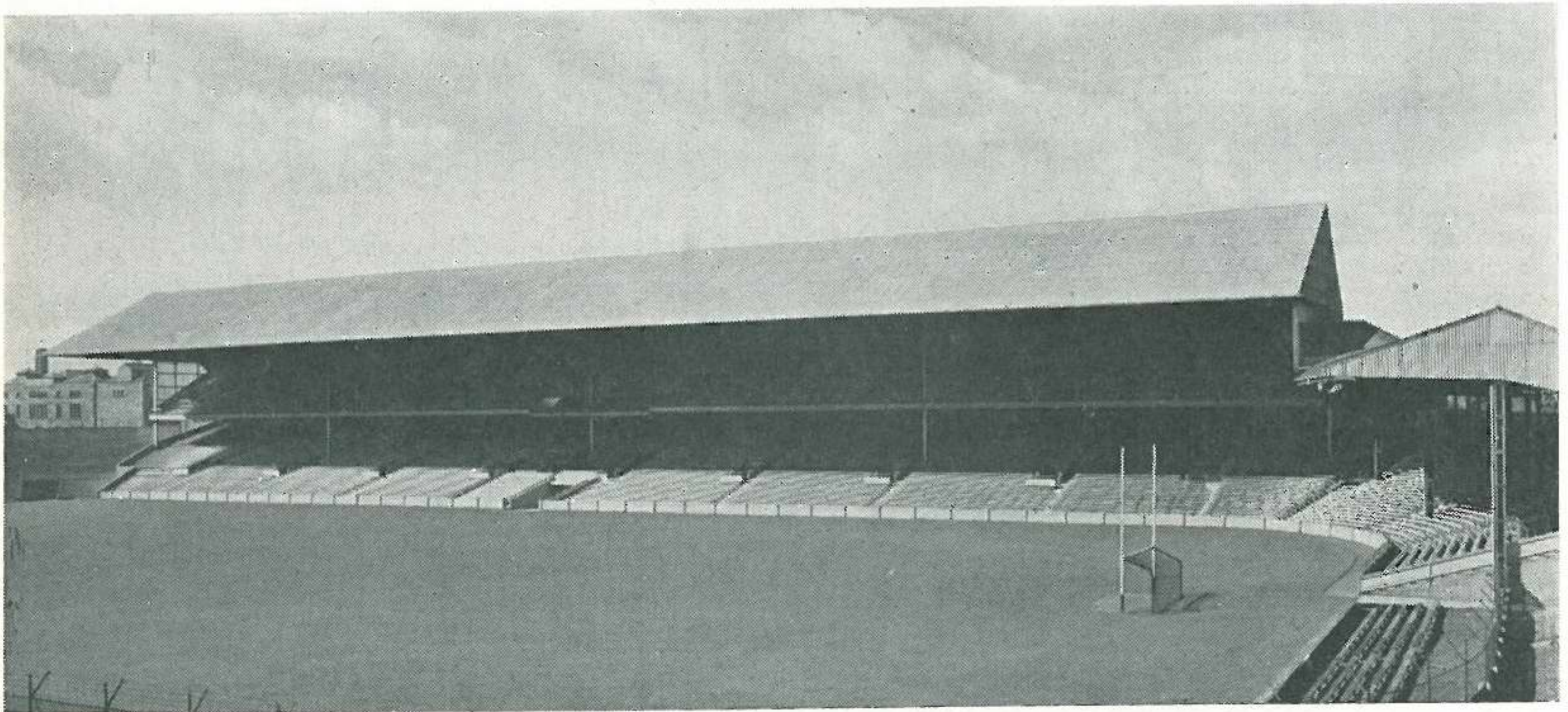
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The 22nd President

A day or two before this issue is on sale, the G.A.A. will have elected a new President—the twenty-second in the history of the Association. We wish him well.

It is significant that he should be the twenty-second man to hold the office, for it can, most assuredly, be said that the G.A.A. came of age with Alf Murray. He gave it the key which opened up great visions and he left it abounding with all of the enthusiasm necessary to go forth and realise those visions.

The new President has the advantage of taking over an Association which is already on a well-charted course. That is not to say that the three years which lie ahead will not require outstanding leadership and a firm hand on the rudder. They will. For what has been done during Alf Murray's term of office is to make a great beginning in a new departure.

That great beginning must be brought to a great end, while this may take a decade or more, the twenty-second President has a vital role to play in expanding and developing the work begun by his predecessor.

We pledge him our whole-hearted support in that task.

COVER PICTURE

A photographic memory of the Cork-Waterford Munster final of 1966 at Limerick—Mick Foley, the Waterford goalkeeper, coolly saves a high ball although closely pressed by the Cork full forward, Colm Sheehan.

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yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel
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And that has made all the difference.*

Robert Frost.



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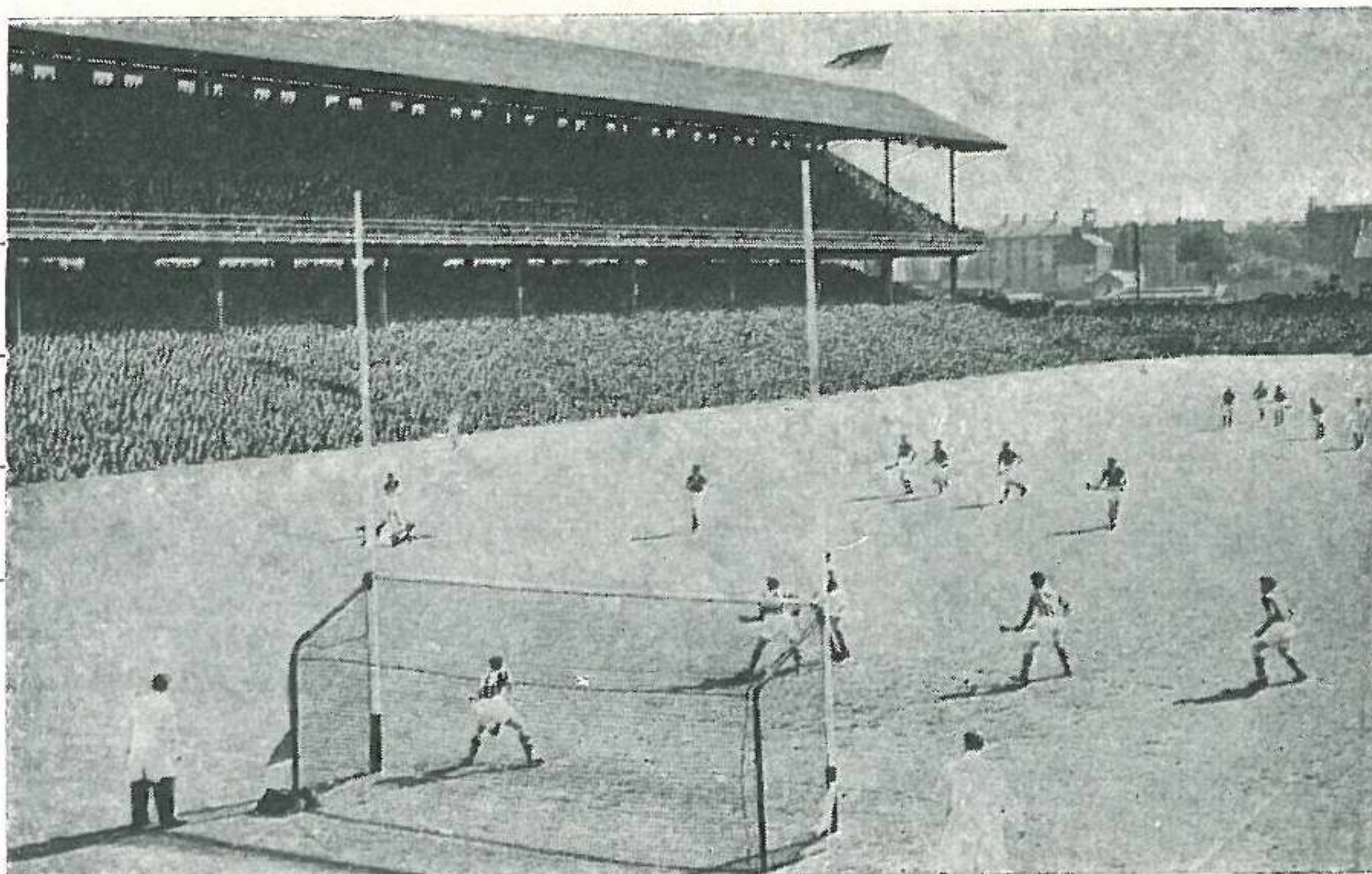


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THE
EDITOR'S
FORUM



Croke Park: part of the "empire."

TURNING THE MILLION

IT is not generally realised that the G.A.A. has an annual income of something in the region of one million pounds — and this could even be a conservative estimate. To provide the exact figure would involve a totalling of the receipts of every club and county board—something we, naturally, are not in a position to do.

However, allowing every club an average income of £200 per annum (many clubs have ten times that figure but against that there are, in many instances, two, three or even, at times, four affiliations from what is essentially the same club) and allowing every county

board an average annual income of £5,000, we reach a total of £750,000.

And to this the income of the Council bodies, such as Central Council, Provincial Councils, etc., and a further £250,000 is provided to make the grand total of £1,000,000 per annum.

The 1967 Annual Report shows the Council bodies having a total income of £259,318 for 1966. This is made up as follows:—

	£
Central Council	120,742
Leinster Council	48,391
Munster Council	36,513
G.A.A. Ltd	21,964

Ulster Council	14,376
Connacht Council	13,048
Colleges Council...	2,638
Handball Council	855
Council of Britain	793

These figures are to the nearest pound.

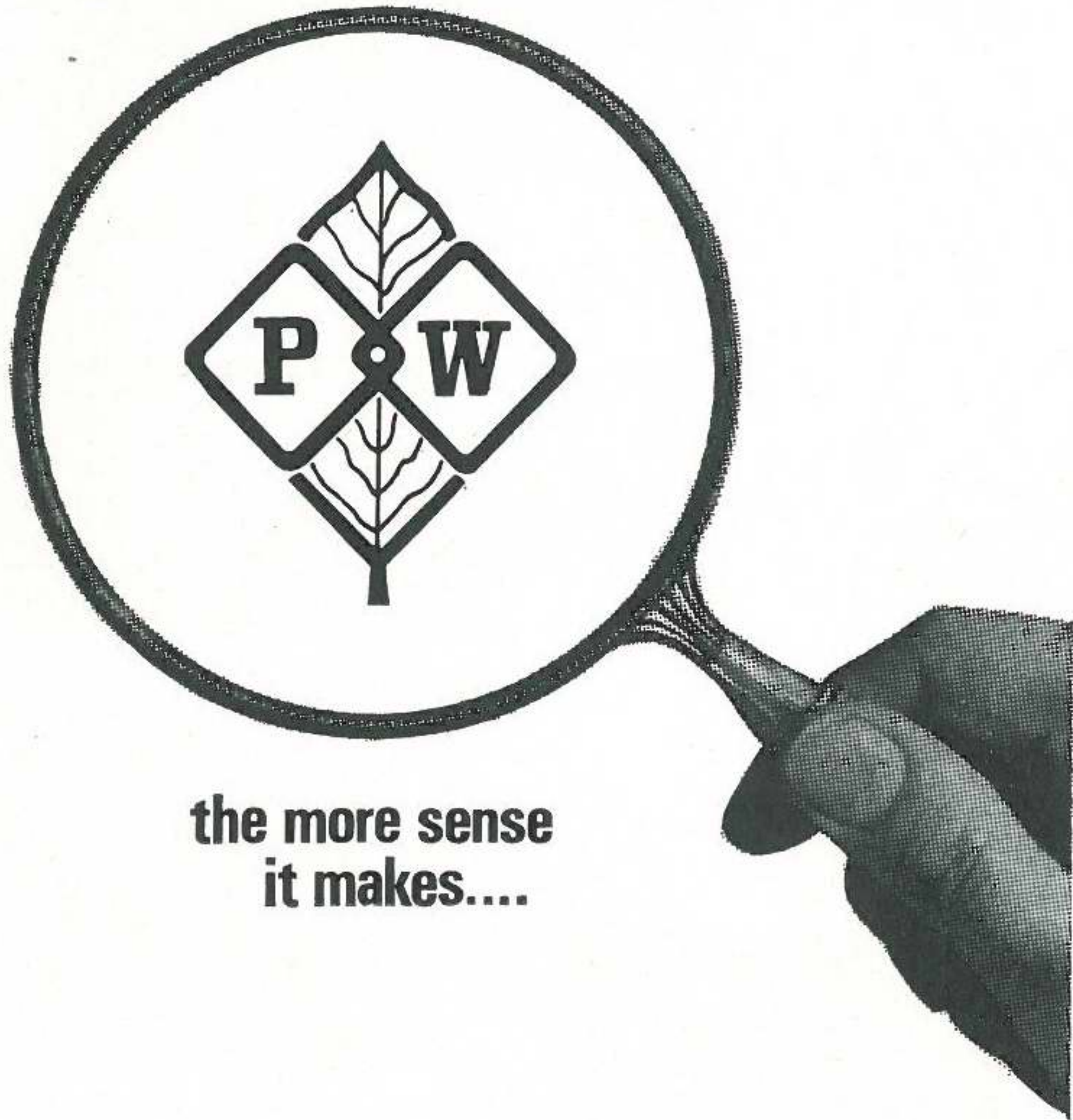
Not included in our estimated £1,000,000 annual income is money raised by separate local grounds committees—or the income of the New York G.A.A., American Board and the various county boards in Britain. This money surely insures against any over-estimation in our assessment of club and county board incomes and leaves the figure of an even million quite realistic.

What does the G.A.A. do with its million pounds? Well, the Annual report once again provides the answer in regard to the Central Council, Provincial Councils and other such bodies. Of the £259,318 income which these enjoyed in 1966 there were out-goings of £210,941.

The Ulster Council showed a loss of £3,689 on the year's operation (entirely accounted for by a drop in championship receipts). All of the other Councils showed

● TO PAGE 7

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● FROM PAGE 5

an excess of income over expenditure as follows:—

	£
Central Council	39,822
Munster Council	10,608
Connacht Council	718
G.A.A. Ltd.	581
Leinster Council	276
Council of Britain	35
Colleges Council	17
Handball Council....	9

A total surplus of £48,377.

The greater portion of the G.A.A.'s million pounds per annum is expended on travel costs, with investment in grounds and other such developments in second place.

Most clubs avail of almost their entire income to meet travel costs. In the case of county boards the proportion is considerably less, while the Central Council devoted £22,841 of its 1966 income to team expenses (Cork alone received £2,500 in travel grants for their various teams which contested All-Ireland finals and semi-finals).

The 1966 Annual Report also provides invaluable information as to the extent of the Association's investment in grounds.

From Central Council funds alone the following examples can be taken: Nowlan Park—£31,000; Thurles—£28,500; Limerick Gaelic Grounds—£17,750; Casement Park—£10,428; Pearse Stadium, Galway—£10,000; Pearse Park, Longford—£5,000; Kilmacud—£5,000.

To all of these can, of course, be added sums invested by the respective Provincial Councils and county boards.

In all, the Central Council has invested money in more than 220 grounds, while again the Provincial Councils and County Boards extend that list.

There is no mystery about what the G.A.A. does with its money. Income and expenditure, at all levels, is clearly outlined and carefully audited. The facts are there for any who wish to consult the accounts of their County Boards, Provincial Council or any other body.



Tom Walsh of Kilkenny, who is listed in this month's hurling Top Ten.

THE TOP TEN

THIS month's Top Ten lists are based on individual performances during the period February 19 to March 12 inclusive.

Pat Donnellan heads our football lists as a result of outstanding performances with Connacht, against Munster in the Railway Cup semi-final, and with Galway against Mayo and Offaly. Close on his heels comes Sean O'Connell of Derry who last month topped the football list.

Limerickmen are much to the fore on our hurling list — Tony O'Brien taking top honours with Eamonn Rea, Kevin Long and Bernie Hartigan also being included.

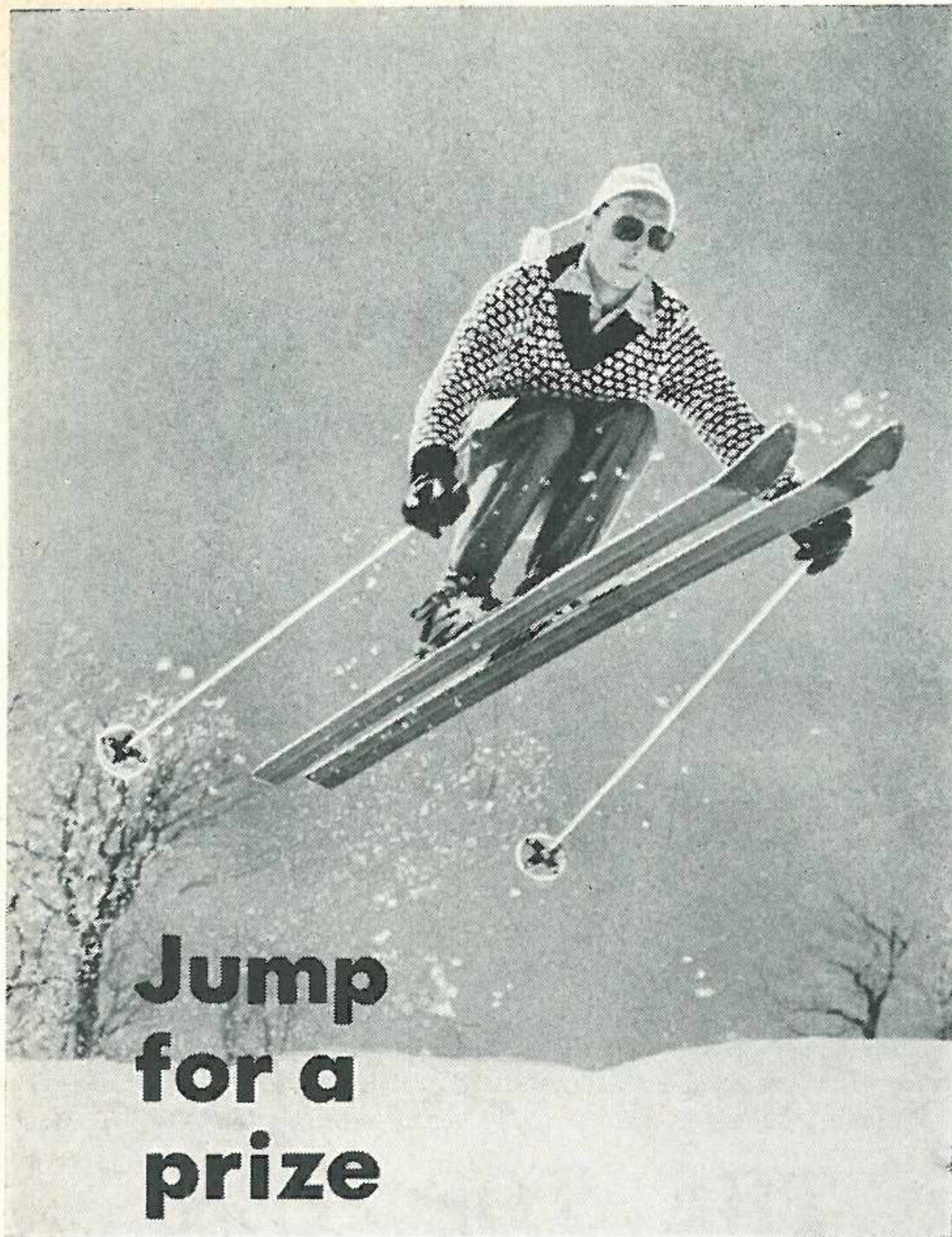
FOOTBALL

1. Pat Donnellan (Galway).
2. Sean O'Connell (Derry).

3. John Morley (Mayo).
4. Jimmy Keaveney (Dublin).
5. Ray Carolan (Cavan).
6. Sean Ferriter (Donegal).
7. Joe Earley (Mayo).
8. Jack Quinn (Meath).
9. Tom Quinn (Derry).
10. Ray Prendergast (Mayo).

HURLING

1. Tony O'Brien (Limerick).
2. Eamonn Rea (Limerick).
3. Pat Henderson (Kilkenny).
4. Kevin Long (Limerick).
5. Paddy Barry (Cork).
6. Bernie Hartigan (Limerick).
7. Eddie Keher (Kilkenny).
8. Dan Quigley (Wexford).
9. Vincent Loftus (Clare).
10. Tom Walsh (Kilkenny).



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IRISH SWEEPS

The gods of my far-away youth

DOWN in West Cork where my school teaching father, God rest him, was a lifelong follower of the games (he had in his time played with some success) it was only natural that our first heroes were the men of the great All-Ireland hurling team of 1931 when, led by left winger Eudie Coughlan, a long lean winger from Blackrock with generations of hurling in his veins, they beat Kilkenny at the third attempt.

There was Jim Hurley and Dinny Barry Murphy, Jim Regan, Balty and Gah Ahern. As well as these there was Sean Og Murphy who, due to serious injury suffered in a secondary game against Clare in Limerick, dropped out of the side after '28.

This great Cork team had come in 1926 and more or less finished in 1931. To all they were heroes; to me a schoolboy in a West Cork town they were demigods.

Then one day I learned that Eudie Coughlan worked in Fords. I couldn't believe it so I asked my father. He confirmed this and went on to tell of the jobs that Jim Hurley, Balty, Gah and the others had.

I was dismayed and dis-

illusioned. I had been convinced for I don't know how long that these men were supernatural beings who lived in a modern Valhalla whence they tramped out at intervals to do battle for the honour of the county. It took a while to re-adjust.

My first real football hero was my Uncle Ned Young a small hardy man who carried a gun at Kilmichael and afterwards ploughed many a deep furrow through the ranks of West Cork footballers and hurlers.

But then I began to hate a footballer with all the venom of a vicious schoolboy who hated to see his own team beaten. We detested Bantry Blues when they beat the Dohenys, our home team, and the chief objection of my venom was a trim immaculately clad athlete with a white starched collar standing straight up from his blue jersey. He had a sprinter's pace and fine ball control and enough ability to be selected many times for Cork and Munster. I know Timmy Cotter well to-day and often played with and against him during my army days but if ever the shouted imprecations and wishes that I heaped on him from the sideline in the 'thirties came true Timmy



Eudie Coughlan

would be a dead man years ago.

It was in the Park in Cork that I first saw football as it should be played. The day was a fine summer's afternoon in '37 and having had some experience of Leinster football during the school term in Good Counsel College, New Ross, I eagerly awaited the attempt by the blue and white of Laois to beat the Kingdom. In the previous year, Mayo had hammered Laois in the All-Ireland final

● TO PAGE 10



Con O'Sullivan, the Cork and Munster full forward, pictured with Jack Dempsey in the former world heavy-weight champion's restaurant in New York. On right is Joe Murphy, secretary of the Cork Football Club of New York and at front, Father Don O'Callaghan, O.Carm. (New York).

● FROM PAGE 9

by 4-11 to five points. But the world knew that something happened that Laois team.

That fine day in Cork was a thriller for me and strange to say I was against our neighbours from Kerry not dreaming then I myself would afterwards help with the greatest of satisfaction in beating them an odd time. Maybe my desire to see Laois win brightened the halo I stuck on Jack Delaney's head but I can still see him leaping fetching swerving and driving away from the halfway line where he played with his brother Bill against the great Kerry men Johnny Walsh and Sean Brosnan.

Mick Delaney at centre back, Chris at right half back, Tom in the goal and Uncle Tom at full back completed the most famous family contribution to a county team in the history of the game.

What a pity they didn't win an All-Ireland title. But it was hard to get on the top when Johnny Walsh and Sean Brosnan had Joe Keohane, Purty and Roundy Landers, Charlie O'Sullivan and the rest to help them.

Surely a hero of that year to the youth of Ireland and not to me alone was Tommy Murphy of Graiguecullen who was on the forty for Laois. The tall young player was really only a boy. Some



The late Jim Hurley

months before that we had played against Knockbeg down in Carlow in the Leinster colleges championships and thought ourselves fairly good.

The ball went down towards the goal and after a minute a long lean chap with a slouching run had it. A second later the net held it and no fault to the goalie.

Four more goals Tommy Murphy scored in the next quarter of an hour and then came out to centre-forward where he said to the boy in that position without any suggestion of egotism—"I'll stay here for a while. Go on in and have a shot."

Tommy Murphy was knocked out in the Cork semi-final against Kerry and in the Waterford re-play also left the field. There was a lot of talk about it as one could expect in the case of a star who was

so young, but that's neither here nor there. My foremost feeling was that when we would go back to school in September we would have this lad who was a star in the All-Ireland series playing colleges junior football, the age for which was seventeen on August 1. Needless to say nobody could go near matching him.

My only other childhood hero was in the Timmy Cotter class. I hated this man also. Hard to blame me for he played on the twenty-one for Limerick where his black head, crushing power and ability to turn on a sixpence made him a ferocious enemy. Mick Mackey was a hero to Limerick;



Mick Mackey

to every Corkman he was an adversary.

To me he was Timmy Cotter all over again. I overcame my initial

feeling for Mackey also and in fact made many contacts with both him and Tim Cotter in the same circles afterwards for they both played for the Seventh Brigade in Limerick where Joe Keohane and Simon Deignan and Carl Sullivan, now a colonel on the Curragh, broke many a heart.

It's a good thing to have heroes—particularly if they are manly men who stimulate our youth to get out there and suffer a bit of discomfort for the sake of character. If, as I did, one meets them in adult life to swap a yarn, true or false, or a mixture of both, then I think it's worth taking the young fellows to the game.

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PEOPLE ON THE GO

GO

CIE



Noel Drumgoole, seen here in action for Dublin in the early 1960s. The Wexford full forward in the rear is Andy Doyle, who also played football (at full back) for his county.

NOEL DRUMGOOLE

talking to *Sean Murphy*

On the administrative side he was chairman of St. Vincents for the two years 1960-'61. He joined Treaty-Sarsfields on his arrival in Limerick City and is now Chairman of that thriving club. In the intervening period he has done tremendous work for under-age players and has earned the admiration of all clubs in his efforts to promote the games. This confidence has also spread to the senior panel of players who have proved by their attitude to winter training that they are very happy with the choice of the ex-Dublin, Leinster and Rest of Ireland full-back as their leader and trainer.

Recently I interviewed the unassuming Noel Drumgoole and the conversation went as follows:—

Murphy—During your own playing days who was the best player you encountered?

Drumgoole—Christy Ring would certainly be my first choice with Nick Rackard a close second.

M.—What game gave you your greatest thrill?

D.—Strange as it may seem a losing game gave me my greatest thrill—the All-Ireland final against Tipperary in 1961. We failed by two points but we had great consolation by being the first almost complete Dublin-born (Paddy Croke was Tipperary-born) hurlers to go so far and do so well.

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

LIMERICK senior hurlers are at present riding the crest of the wave, having come through Division 1B of the National League with flying colours and supporters are now thinking of ultimate honours for the first time since 1947. One of the team's hallmarks in recent outings has been their do-or-die spirit and this, allied to their peak fitness has broken the hearts of many opponents. The man responsible for the training of the side is the former St. Vincents, Dublin, star—Noel Drumgoole who since he came to Limerick in 1962 has thrown him-

self wholeheartedly into G.A.A. affairs in his adopted county.

Noel Drumgoole has been interested in G.A.A. matters since his schooldays at St. Joseph's, Marino, during which he was selected for the Leinster Colleges team. He soon joined the ranks of St. Vincents and has the distinction of having represented that famous nursery in all grades of hurling and football in Dublin championships. He holds Metropolitan medals for minor hurling and football as well as six medals for both senior hurling and football.

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

M.—How does the standard of club hurling in Limerick compare with that of Dublin?

D.—It is difficult to compare the

standards. For instance in Dublin senior teams are very evenly matched resulting in close and exciting games, but in Limerick the disparity between strong and weak is too

great, often resulting in one-sided affairs. Generally speaking the Limerick brand of hurling is harder, with more man-to-man tackling. I feel that this difference in club hurling is being reflected in the respective county teams of to-day.

M.—Are you satisfied with the form displayed by the Limerick senior hurlers in recent outings?

D.—One would have to be satisfied with the spirit and determination shown by the lads in that vital game against Cork and also against Clare.

M.—Are you satisfied with the talent available to the selectors?

D.—Yes. There is a good standard of junior hurling in Limerick but county selectors are often reluctant to select players who have not proved themselves in senior grade. The recent decision to debar group teams from the senior championships will, I feel, result in more junior clubs seeking senior status and more players should consequently come under the eyes of the selectors.

M.—Are you in favour of challenge games to keep players in trim during the winter months?

D.—Very definitely — because in addition to keeping players fit they also provide the opportunity to (a) develop team spirit and an understanding of one another's play; (b) introduce new talent and if suitable to allow for their integration into the team, and (c) to experiment with new methods and to develop those found suitable.

M.—Do you think this will be Limerick's year and that the long awaited All-Ireland crown will return to the Shannonside?

D.—First things first. We have our sights set on the National League title and we are in no doubt as to the effort this will take to achieve. With regard to the All-Ireland title, there is a great leveling up of standards and with a little luck Limerick should reach Croke Park in September.

● TO PAGE 48

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By **TIM HORGAN**

Paddy Barry

GOOD goalkeepers, the mainstay of top-class hurling teams, are very hard to come by—as many a depressed selector will tell you. Only too often is the fine work of players outfield undone by the incompetence of the man between the posts, and no team can hope to gain competitive honours without a reliable custodian. The position is a responsible one and requires tremendous courage, decisiveness and a keen eye for the approaching ball. Not many players can meet these demanding prerequisites, but one man who, during the past year, has emerged as a goalie of the highest calibre is the brilliant Cork custodian Paddy Barry.

It seems hard to believe now that this time last year Paddy Barry wasn't even a substitute on the Cork team. He had been one of several players to wear the No. 1 jersey for the Rebel County after the great Blackrock man, Mick Cashman, had relinquished his post. But the inadequacy of a full-back line which seldom inspired confidence, caused the St. Vincents player to undertake the goal minding task with a certain hesitance. As a result, his performances were shaky and unreliable and after a number of championship and league games the young 'keeper was dropped.

Many astute observers com-

plained that Barry hadn't been given a fair chance on the Cork team, and that with a solid defence in front of him his form would be much different. However, the departure from the game of men like John Lyons, Tony O'Shaughnessy and Jimmy Brohan had left the Cork selectors with the problem of building a strong rearguard, and time was needed for the development of a sound full-back trio. In the meantime another goalkeeper took Barry's place after the drawn Cork and Waterford game in 1965 and seemed certain to retain the position. But two disastrous defeats at the hands of Tipperary in the Munster final and Kilkenny in the League semi-final brought it home to the mentors that Finbarr O'Neill did not like the atmosphere of the real big occasion.

Paddy Barry was called back into training for the championship last June, and found a place among the reserves for the first game against Clare. But then in some dramatic dressingroom changes Finbarr O'Neill cried off because of a recent vaccination, and the stocky St. Vincents player was given a chance to prove himself. Into the fray he plunged and after 60 minutes of thrill-packed hurling the Cork selectors had found the answer to their net-minding problem. With sturdy Tom O'Donoghue

at full-back and the ever-consistent Denis Murphy in the left corner, Barry could feel safe from oncoming forwards and thus concentrate on the ball.

His latent potential as a goalkeeper was now exposed to the full, and his confidence increased enormously with each game. The right full-back position was occupied by the tenacious defender, Pat O'Connor in that first match with Clare but when the Brian Dillon's man incurred a serious knee injury shortly afterwards, his berth was filled by Peter Doolan, who had operated previously as a half-back. The Barry-Doolan-O'Donoghue-Murphy combination was to become the most dependable section of the Cork team in the succeeding games, and formed the backbone of the side which went on to win the All-Ireland title.

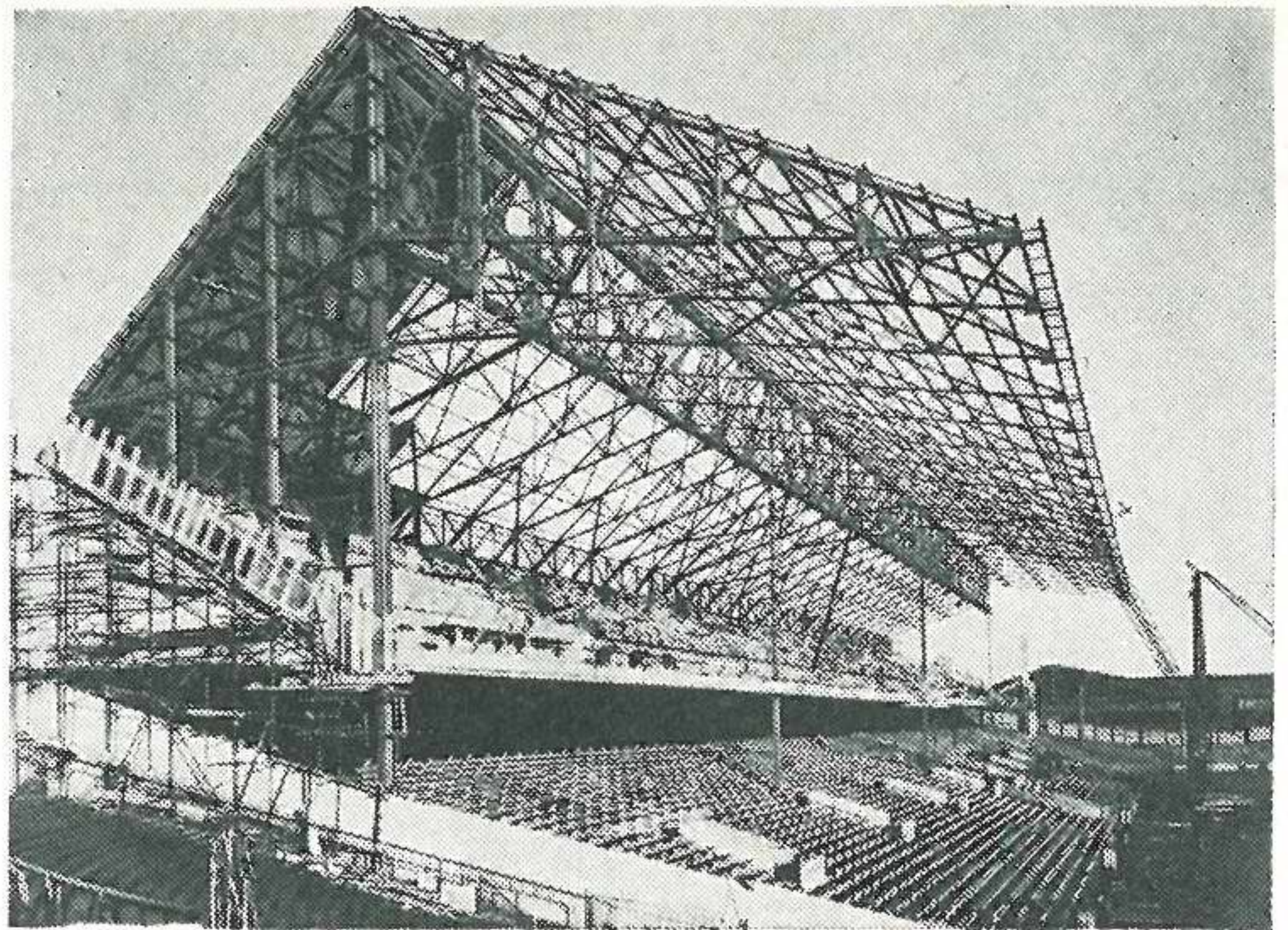
Paddy Barry played a major role in bringing the McCarthy Cup back to Cork after a lapse of twelve years. His cool, collected type of play, his perfect timing and his long deliveries proved to be an inspiration to his colleagues, and at no stage in the championship was he beaten by a "soft" goal. In fact, seldom has a goalkeeper had such an immaculate campaign as that enjoyed by Barry last year. In the All-Ireland final itself he gave a scintillating account of himself and even put the great Ollie Walsh in the shade. By the end of the year he was a strong contender for the Caltex award, and though his fellow county star, Justin McCarthy, pipped him at the post, so to speak, Paddy was elected as "Cork Hurler of the Year."

Paddy Barry is no relation of the
● TO PAGE 48

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PÁDRAIG McNAMEE

By **TERENCE ROYNANE**

WHENEVER a historian of the future lists the Presidents of the G.A.A. in the order of greatness, it is doubtful if any name will rank in front of that of Padraig McNamee.

Born in Carrickastricken, Forkhill, Co. Armagh, Padraig, whose grand-parents were Gaelic speakers from Dromintree, near Newry, himself first learned, in the old College at Omeath, County Louth, the native tongue for which he has done so much.

Trained as a national teacher at the De la Salle College in Waterford, he subsequently taught at Hollywood, Co. Down, Creggan and St. Joseph's, Belfast, before returning to Hollywood in 1932.

Always a tremendous worker for and lover of the native games as well as the language, his first official post in the G.A.A. was as Registrar of Antrim County Board in 1932. His worth to the Association was quickly recognised and he became Chairman of the Ulster Council in 1935.

An eminently successful administrator in the North, he was the popular choice for President in 1938, the first Ulsterman ever to hold the highest honour in the Association.

Padraig had the pleasure and privilege of opening the Cusack Stand in the Autumn of 1938 and proved such a popular and efficient President during the dark and often difficult years of World War

II that he was, with general acclaim, twice returned to the office for extra terms.

When in 1943, he retired from the Presidency on his own wish, after five years in office, he was promptly re-elected Chairman of the Ulster council, a position he retained until 1946.

Never ceasing to work for the advancement of the G.A.A. in every sphere and at every level, Padraig McNamee has been a Trustee of the Association since 1951, as well as a tireless and constructive member of various committees of the Association.

His devotion to the language has, of course, always gone hand in hand with his work for the games, and he has consistently striven to ensure that the G.A.A. plays its part in the preservation and revival of the native tongue.

Indeed it is doubtful if the work that Padraig McNamee has done for the restoration of the native language can ever fully be appreciated. Long-term *rúnaí* of *Comhaltas Uladh* of the Gaelic League, he has devoted boundless energy to the organisation of Irish classes and *feiseanna*, the running and development of Rannafast Irish College and the provision of scholarships for children of the *Gaeltacht*.

What more fitting than that, after the late Padraig O Caoimh, Padraig McNamee should have been next to receive the *Cuchulainn Award* for outstanding devotion to the ideals of the Gael.

**Presidents
of the
G.A.A. (13)**

Munster Medley

MUNSTER clubs last year totalled 812—the same as in 1965. Limerick recorded a substantial increase of 16, to 180, and Tipperary had a modest advance of 4, to 99. Kerry was unchanged and the remaining three counties recorded losses—Waterford dropping from 147 to 136; Clare from 92 to 85; and Cork from 238 to 236.

* * *

The distance from Dingle to Dublin caused the resignation of Dr. Jim Brosnan from the Trusteeship of the G.A.A. He told the members of Kerry County Board he was unable to attend a lot of the meetings because of travel difficulties.

Gerald McKenna, in a tribute to the great Kerry Gael said: "He caused fresh air to be blown through stale corridors, and the effects of the good work which he has done for the Association could

be seen and felt throughout the country. Men like him don't grow up every day."

* * *

Limerick Commercials (football) and Young Ireland (hurling) clubs are planning the development of their club grounds as a memorial to their late President, Denis Lanigan, who was closely associated with the Young Ireland club for over half a century. Denis, who won five county hurling titles with the Blue and Gold, helped Limerick to victory in the 1918 and 1921 All-Ireland finals, and was Secretary of the Limerick County Board for twenty years. He played a big part in the purchase and early development work at Limerick Gaelic Grounds and, as Vice Chairman of the Munster Council for a number of years, encouraged many clubs to embark on like projects. He refereed the three famous games between Cork and



Dr. Jim Brosnan

Tipperary played before the destiny of 1926 Munster hurling honours was decided. He also officiated at the 1927 All-Ireland final between Cork and Dublin.

* * *

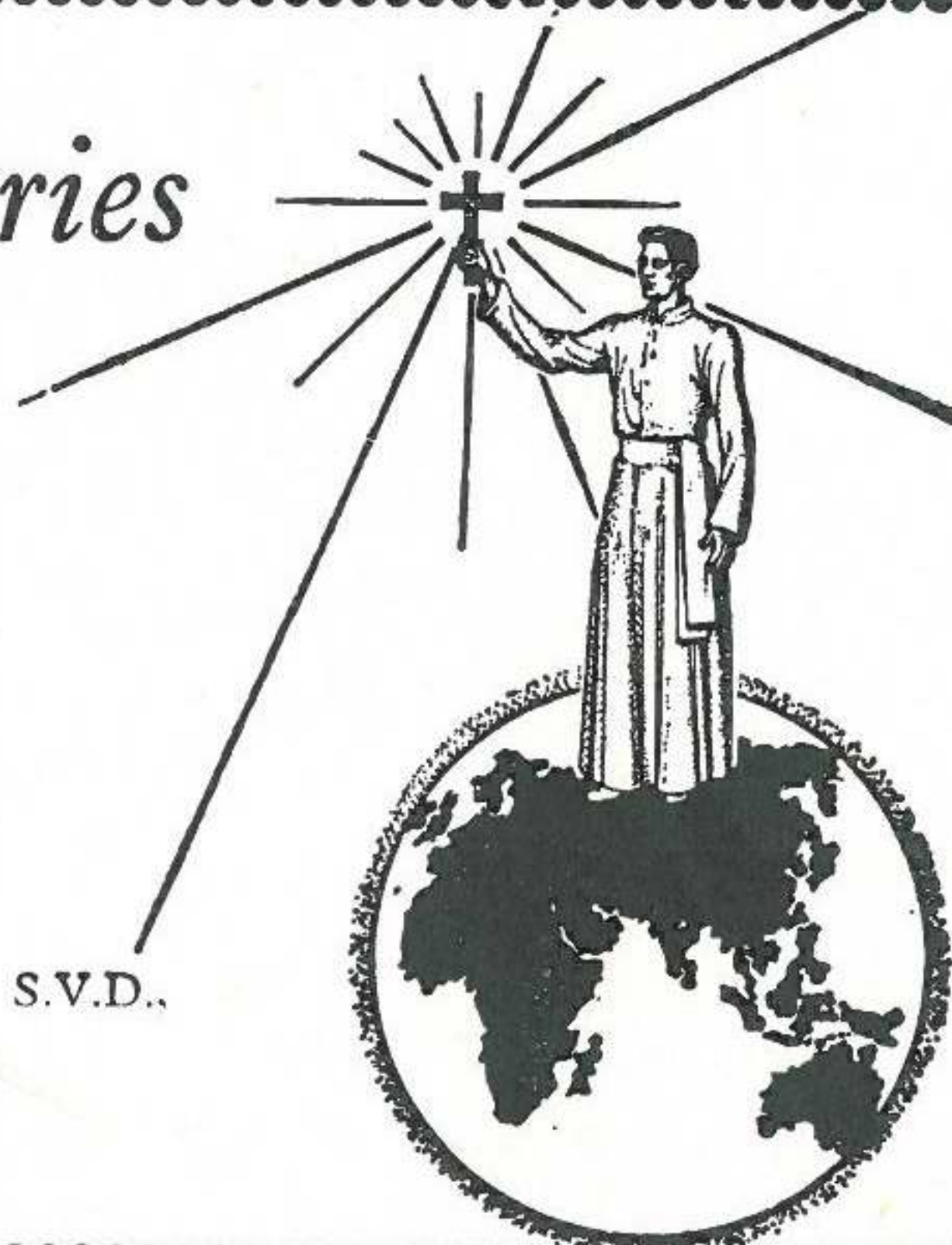
The Commercials and Young Ireland clubs, at their annual dinner, made presentations to no less than six members recently

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married or about to be. These included the sons of two former great Limerick hurling stars—Mick Mackey and Micky Fitzgibbon. The six who received the presentations were: Pat Mackey, Tony Fitzgibbon, Gerry O'Connell, John Maher, Kevin Dalton and Denis Kelleher.

* * *

Waterford hurling, after enjoying one of its greatest spells, has run into one of those periods all counties encounter—a valley spell when many of the great men hang up their boots and the replacements are only building up to the required standard.

Many counties envy Waterford, and the City in particular, because of the splendid activity in under age hurling and football ranks, and it certainly puzzles many that the county has not made a far greater impression in the minor championships. However, solid and enduring work is being accomplished, and the effects of it is bound to show before very long—and play its part in putting Waterford back where it belongs, at the hurling top.

It is unfortunate that at this juncture, Waterford hurling should lose the services of a man who played a very big part in the successes which have been achieved during the past decade in particular. I refer, of course, to John Keane, who has intimated his inability to continue as team trainer.

Great trainers are hard to come by—as most counties know to their cost—and many counties with very promising material have failed to reach the top because they had not a man combining the qualities that go to the making of a leader of men—for such is what is required of the individual capable of fusing the different elements making a team into the compact unit that alone can command success.

* * *

Hurling enthusiasm is very marked in Limerick just now and

an entry of seventeen teams for the county senior hurling championship is regarded as extremely satisfactory, particularly in view of the County Board decision not to accept entries from group or divisional combinations.

* * *

A fortnight after the Clare Hurling Club of New York had presented him with a plaque for his devoted service to the G.A.A., the death occurred of one of the

great Clare hurlers of fifty years ago—Bob Doherty — a man who played a big part in bringing the only All-Ireland senior hurling title to the county in 1914. He later threw in his lot with Dublin, where he won another All-Ireland medal, and was honoured too by being picked to play for Ireland in the 1924 Tailteann Games. Two years later he emigrated but continued in exile an outstanding worker in the cause of the Gael.

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The best forward Mayo has produced since Padraic Carney

WHEN it was announced last year that Mayo's Joe Corcoran had headed the football scoring list for 1966, people began to wonder who was this man who had jumped from comparative obscurity to fame in the space of a few short months.

Well, the fact is that Joe Corcoran's name has been a household word in Mayo football circles for most of the past decade. He has been on and off the Mayo senior team since 1958, but it is only last year that his true worth was appreciated.

His superbly polished style, allied to a keen brain is a blend of all that is good in Gaelic football. When he is on his game, the ball seems to become part of him. Everything looks so simple, when he does it, but in effect it is the simplicity of genius.

If the quiet Ardnaree man has a fault, and fault is hardly the right word, it is a dislike for ruggedness, but this is invariably a natural characteristic of the pure ball player. He plays football the way he expects it to be played.

Joe was born in Ardnaree (near Ballina) in 1940 and it was there under the tutorage of such greats as All-Ireland stars John Forde and Fr. Peter Quinn that he learned the rudiments of the game. His talent was apparent from an early stage and his first recognition came when he was selected on the Mayo minor team of 1958. He was instrumental in guiding the team into the All-Ireland final and even though they went down to the Des Foley-powered Dublin outfit Corcoran was a star performer. During that campaign he recorded a total of 5-19—a wonderful achievement for a minor.

After these displays, he was an automatic choice for the senior

JOE CORCORAN

By VINCENT MURRIHY

side and he made his debut in the 1958/'59 League campaign. He was on the championship team a year later, but in the first round game against Leitrim at Castlebar, he sustained a serious head injury which necessitated his temporary retirement from the inter-county scene until he re-appeared in the 1962 championship.

He was on the Mayo side that narrowly failed to Galway at Castlebar in the 1963 championship and in the Autumn of that year came a grave injustice when he was omitted from the Mayo party that was selected to tour the U.S.A. The fact that he was not included caused a public outcry in the county, and as a result he had a temporary 'falling-out' with the County Board which lasted until the spring of 1965 when he appeared at full-forward in a League game against Cavan.

It is only since then that the Mayo football public have come to recognise him as the brilliant forward he undoubtedly is—the best Mayo has produced since the legendary Padraic Carney.

But Joe, despite his fame, has always been a wonderful clubman. He has in his trove five North Mayo J.F.C. medals, four minors, plus a county J.F. medal (1959).

That briefly is the story of Joe Corcoran; the man whose favourite way of spending his leisure time is to take the local juvenile team to the playing field and spend a while imparting a little of his expert knowledge to them.

Quiet and unassuming in disposition, it will be noticed that when he is playing well all his team-mates are infused with added vitality and determination. He is the power house of the entire team, and it was mainly his inspiring display in last year's Connacht final, when he gave John Donnellan a 'roasting', that Mayo went so near dethroning the champions.

Corcoran has built up a wonderful understanding with his former minor team-mate Joe Langan and it can be said that on the shoulders of this pair rests Mayo's main hopes for the future. They are well invested.



By DAN McAREAVY

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESIDENT

WHATEVER else Congress may do on Easter Sunday one thing is certain—it will elect the right man as President. The outstanding line of succession which has featured the Association's life from the very early days will be continued in 1967 just as surely as it has been in every presidential year since that meeting in Thurles away back in 1884.

On this occasion each of "the leading contenders" as they are called has much to recommend him and I certainly have no wish to take sides or use influence, even if I could. And anyhow Alf Murray's successor will probably be named before this is read. I am prepared to settle — unreservedly—for the decision of Congress which will fairly weigh the different qualities and the varying emphasis of each candidate before giving him that over-all majority.

But if I am unworried about the final outcome of the election I hope it will not be considered impertinent on my part to list the features which I believe should influence policy in the next three years.

The new President will find the Association in good heart and geared for further development—the greatest National organisation in the country, the greatest amateur sporting organisation in the world

are proud titles but well deserved. And he should be encouraged, too, by the fact that whilst the harvest may be extensive the labourers are certainly not few.

I hope that the policy of decentralisation—sparked off by the holding of the Leadership Courses in various centres — will be continued. For far to long "Croke Park" has been regarded as something completely outside the orbit of the tens of thousands of supporters up and down the country. Our counties and clubs relish the challenge of getting into the mainstream of things particularly when backed by the presence of "our men in Croke Park." Such visits by the chiefs, eliminate the idea that the President, General Secretary and Executive Officers are men apart; I know the Leadership Courses have worked wonders in this respect.

What about a countrywide crusade then on behalf of referees and refereeing, on behalf of the social development of each county and even each club, on behalf of a grounds drive at local level everywhere, on behalf of the establishment of our own official weekly newspaper, on behalf of a hotting-up of the magnificent hurling scheme.

Let groups of counties be brought together to discuss these

or any other topics—as I see it a course in each county would be the ideal but perhaps that would be asking too much at this stage—and I am convinced that the benefits emerging would far outweigh the expense involved and would stretch far beyond the particular subject down for discussion.

Such a policy would be of special value to the so-called weaker counties who have to carry on from year to year without any of the glory attending the activities of the "big" counties.

Refereeing remains a major problem and local conferences on the subject are clearly desirable.

The hurling scheme requires to be pushed forward with more energy than ever so that the dream of a 32-county participation in the minor championship may be realised.

An official weekly newspaper of its own would set the seal on the Association's standing. Local propaganda is a vital asset for such a gigantic step forward and here again the support of every club would guarantee its success.

I have left the Grounds' question to the last because I consider it the most important. The new scheme approved by the Central

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THE YOUNG EAGLES

By OWEN McCANN

WHO are the "Young Eagles" with the all-important score getting ability who are most likely in the future to soar to the heights of brilliance attained in expert and consistent marksmanship by such experienced performers as Jimmy Doyle, Eddie Keher and Cyril Dunne? I nominate three—Kevin Kelly, Eamonn Cregan and Tony McTeague.

This trio, of course, have already made a sizeable imprint in the senior intercounty scoring charts . . . but each has still his best years ahead. Yet, for all that, there has already been plenty of evidence in their days of apprenticeship to indicate that Kelly, Cregan and McTeague have unquestionably the skill, speed, both off the mark and in thought, accuracy and determination that, allied to the experience, lead to graduation with honours in the match-winning role of Bachelor of the Scoring Science.

Indeed, Kelly, who has been a dazzling star of the Under-21 football grade for the past two years, and won an All-Ireland medal in this age-group in 1965, is already proving a brilliant headline-setter for most of the games's established forwards in one of the most important essentials of suc-

cessful forward play—goal-scoring! His pay-off punch in front of the goal was so efficient last year that he finished as Leinster's chief goal scorer of 1966 with 10 majors. Not only that, he shared first place for all-Ireland with the much more experienced John Keenan—and the wily Galway sharpshooter had four games more than the young chance-snapper from Carbury!

Kelly backs up that finishing shot that is now proving a real trouble to the best of goalkeepers with skilled, purposeful, play, clever distribution of the ball, and the ability to make his points himself in expert fashion. He also scored 33 minors last year to take fourth place in the Leinster chart with a total of 63 points from 20 engagements.

Furthermore, up to going to press this talented footballer, whose brilliant and ever-improving formula for taking scores now makes his every sortie a danger to even the most experienced set of backs, had 12 goals and 60 points (96 pts.) from 32 senior engagements or three points a match.

I first marked down Cregan as a youth with what it takes for stardom after he greatly impressed me

with a skilled, methodical exhibition at right midfield as the captain of the Limerick C.B.S. team that won the Shannonsider's first All-Ireland Colleges' Senior Hurling Championship in 1964.

Later that year he made the Limerick senior hurling team—and, what a truly valued and inspiring maker and taker of scores he has, in jig-time, too, developed into for the Munster side! Remember, for instance, the all-round splendour of his hurling, hall-marked by a brilliant exhibition of dynamic marksmanship in scoring a personal tally of 3-5, that made such a noble contribution to Limerick's shock Munster senior championship win over Tipperary last June?

More recently still, was his top-rate and inspiring display in Limerick's league win over Cork at Cork in February. He may not have finished the game with a sizeable personal tally, but his three points, and splendid all-round display did much to shatter Cork's hopes.

This dashing, and intelligent Claughan hurler, who is so quick to seize the slightest scoring opportunity, was Munster's second highest scorer last year with 9-21 (48

● TO NEXT PAGE

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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

pts.) in 10 outings. As a senior he boasts 15-52 (97 pts.) from 22 engagements, at 4.40 points an hour.

Offaly won their only All-Ireland minor football title in 1964. And, while that, obviously, was far from being a one-man achievement, there is still no denying the fact that Tony McTeague was the most important cog in the Faithful County's scoring machine. He scored more than half of the Offaly total for the entire campaign of 7-55. Tony's record for the five match programme was 2-35 (41 pts.)

Since being promoted to the Offaly senior team, Tony has more that lived up to the promise as the county's greatest score-getter since the days of Harry Donnelly, who established the Leinster interprovincial record for one campaign of 7-99 (120 pts.) in 24 games in 1961.

Tony's goal scoring record as a senior is not quite as impressive, but when it came to efficiently picking off the points—and what a valuable asset such a player is to any team—McTeague certainly has the know-how. Indeed, his cool, unflurried and poised approach, that is the key to turning points scoring chances into scores, has helped him to take third place in Leinster last year with 1-65 (68 pts.) from 15 games, and reach an impressive total of 2-125 (131 pts.) from 29 outings as a senior for a good match average of 4.51 minors.

Other bright score-getters are unquestionably on the way up . . . and will figure prominently in future charts. But, with the craft in the scoring art they are certain to gain from the most testing ground of all—the white heat of championship and league testing games, I for one, feel, that Kelly, Cregan and McTeague will prove to be the rising players of today most likely to reap the most successful harvest of scores in the coming campaigns.

Guidelines for the President

● FROM PAGE 21

Council is along most imaginative lines and if it is allowed to lapse we will have much to answer for in the eyes of future generations.

The appointment of a proper Grounds' Committee in every county is an absolute necessity and the collation of ideas from each of these would bring an invincible unifying force to the whole plan.

I appreciated the invitation to meetings of County Chairmen in the past three years but I would say meetings of the Chairmen of

the various Grounds' Committees would serve an even more useful purpose. They could discuss at first hand the snags which they encounter and they could also discuss the simple economic law that bulk buying of materials has obvious advantages.

These ideas may be thrown out as impractical. They may even be described as a dream. For my own part I take consolation from the sentiments expressed in the age-old question "What if the dream comes true?"

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MEMORIES OF THURLES SPORTSFIELD

By MOONDHARRIG

THE news that work on the Thurles Sportsfield is nearing completion sends my mind back across the years to the days when, somehow, the world seemed a more spacious place altogether, and I was a young hurling follower setting out for the first time on the "Munster circuit."

Indeed it is rather hard to realise now that it is more than forty years since first I saw a hurling match in the Thurles Sportsfield, and, looking back, the hurling game itself is probably the thing that has changed least of all, although admittedly there have been changes even on the playing fields.

It does seem to me hurleys were somewhat heavier then, with more timber in the 'heel' to give greater length to the ground stroke. Certainly the camáns of those days, when adhesive tape was still virtually unknown were far more regularly 'hooped' and 'plated', usually with the thin steel bands from tea-chests, while it was the rule rather than the exception to have the handle carefully bound with waxed-thread.

Then the hurlers themselves were far more varied in attire than the stars of today. The County

into the game in his stocking-vamps.

Those then were the hurlers I went to see in Thurles long ago. Those were the days when motor cars were becoming popular in Ireland; days when there seemed to be a great sense of adventure even about travelling the forty-five or fifty miles that separated our house from Thurles.

In memory still I can see the clouds of limestone dust drifting across green fields from the narrow tyres of the old Model T Fords, for tarred roads were few and far between then.

And so, having come up along the Valley of the Suir, we would come at last to Thurles, a Thurles chock-a-block with hurling lovers from all over the South. As the majority still came by train when I was young and as even those who travelled by car set out early so as to get there in good time, the first thing practically everybody did was to go in quest of a meal.

Nor had you to travel far. Those were days when bureaucracy had not yet begun to interfere with private enterprise and outside almost every house was a notice 'Teas' or 'Meat Teas' for 1/- or

too much time "rubbing the cover off the ball."

I saw the two great Thurles games between Cork and Tipperary for the 1926 Munster crown from the heart of the crowd and believe me the herculean struggle on the field was well matched by the verbal duels among the spectators. Never in my life have I seen such delighted enthus-

iasm as when Tipperary, after all had seemed lost, snatched the levelling goal in the closing stages of the first game.

The Tipperary supporters nearly went mad with delight and it is a brave Leeseider who would then have come out with the great Rebel County rallying cry of those days, "Gloryo Cork!"

● TO PAGE 30

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Board provided the jerseys—the rest of the attire was a matter for the individual player.

Most players wore tweed caps—the wider the brim the more we youngsters admired them.

Nor was the felt-hat unknown on the hurling fields of those times. Indeed the man who hurled bare-headed was the exception rather than the rule. Two Tipperary-men whose sleek hairstyles were my youthful envy were Mick D'Arcy and Phil Cahill.

Togs, too, showed a remarkable variety of styles completely unknown to our uniformly-clad contemporaries. There were dark navy togs, light navy togs, blue togs, and occasionally green togs. Even those who wore white togs were often inclined to break the monotony by wearing a stripe of ribbon down the leg, orange or green were the most popular colours.

As for stockings, the varieties of these were endless, and there were even those shameless enough to wear short socks, sometimes held up by suspenders!

Moreover, the boots worn were far heavier than the hurling boots of today. Understandably therefore, especially on a very dry sod, some players, even quite famous players, liked to wear 'sneakers' then commonly known as 'slippers'.

Top-class players wore tennis shoes, and the lighter footwear gave the wearers a marked advantage in speed over opponents wearing heavy football boots.

No wonder, when the pace really got hot, it was a common sight to see a player sit down on the field, remove his boots, toss them to the side-line and then go charging back

1/6. And now they made any profit is a mystery to me now, for the amount of beef and ham consumed by some of the countrymen who came to Thurles hurling matches used to leave me goggle-eyed, and I had a fairly healthy appetite myself at that time.

Meal over, there might be a short pause for a drink, but, if so, it was usually very short, for everybody was in a hurry to the 'field' and if any drinking was done it was always after the game.

So away we'd step out of Liberty Square and up that straight stretch of road, past the hospital and over the Railway Bridge, pavements, especially round the Bridge, lined with beggars, cripples, musicians, tinkers women and children, all hopefully trying to charm what pence they could from the thronging thousands.

Now it is an odd thing, I suppose, but in all my years I have never yet sat on a stand seat at Thurles. If I couldn't make the sideline long ago I headed for the embankment, and if you couldn't learn hurling lore on the banks round the Thurles field long ago, you couldn't learn it anywhere. There, when first I used to frequent the hurling games, you would still find old men with broadbrimmed hats and black Sunday suits, starched shirt fronts, but neither collar nor tie.

"Aha" they would say when a back cleared, "the long ball gives relief" or "through the thatch" when they wanted a scoring puck from mid-field. They would talk nostalgically of Mickey Maher's Tubberadora men, "bred on sloithars and ash," and they had no time at all for 'knickey-knacky' hurlers who, according to them wasted



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THE GREAT JOHN RYAN

By ALLEYMAN

A PERFECTONIST in his art and a sportsman supreme, that was John Ryan, one of the handball immortals who brought glory to himself and his native Wexford and strode the scene majestically between 1946 and 1957.

Possessing all the attributes of a great player—strength, accuracy, court-craft and an equal adeptness with either hand, his feats in the

alley bear favourable comparison with those of the great Gilmartin of Kilkenny.

Indeed there are quite a few connoisseurs of the game who claim that, as a hardball-cum-softballer, the Wexfordman was the better all-round player.

Born in Bridgetown, ten miles south of Wexford, thirty-eight years ago, Ryan showed from an

early age that he possessed all the inherent skills of a future champion.

Little wonder then that in 1946 a young man appeared on the handball horizon, who, in the next decade, was to delight galleries up and down the country with his sheer wizardry and in the process reap victory after victory and success after success for his native county.

It was in 1946 that John Ryan won his first minor title when he lined out with Tony Power in softball doubles—to be followed in 1947 by the junior soft singles crown. Then came the step into senior ranks where he performed with distinction but found the climb to the top of the ladder a rather arduous business. As a matter of fact he had to wait till 1952 for his first championship victory.

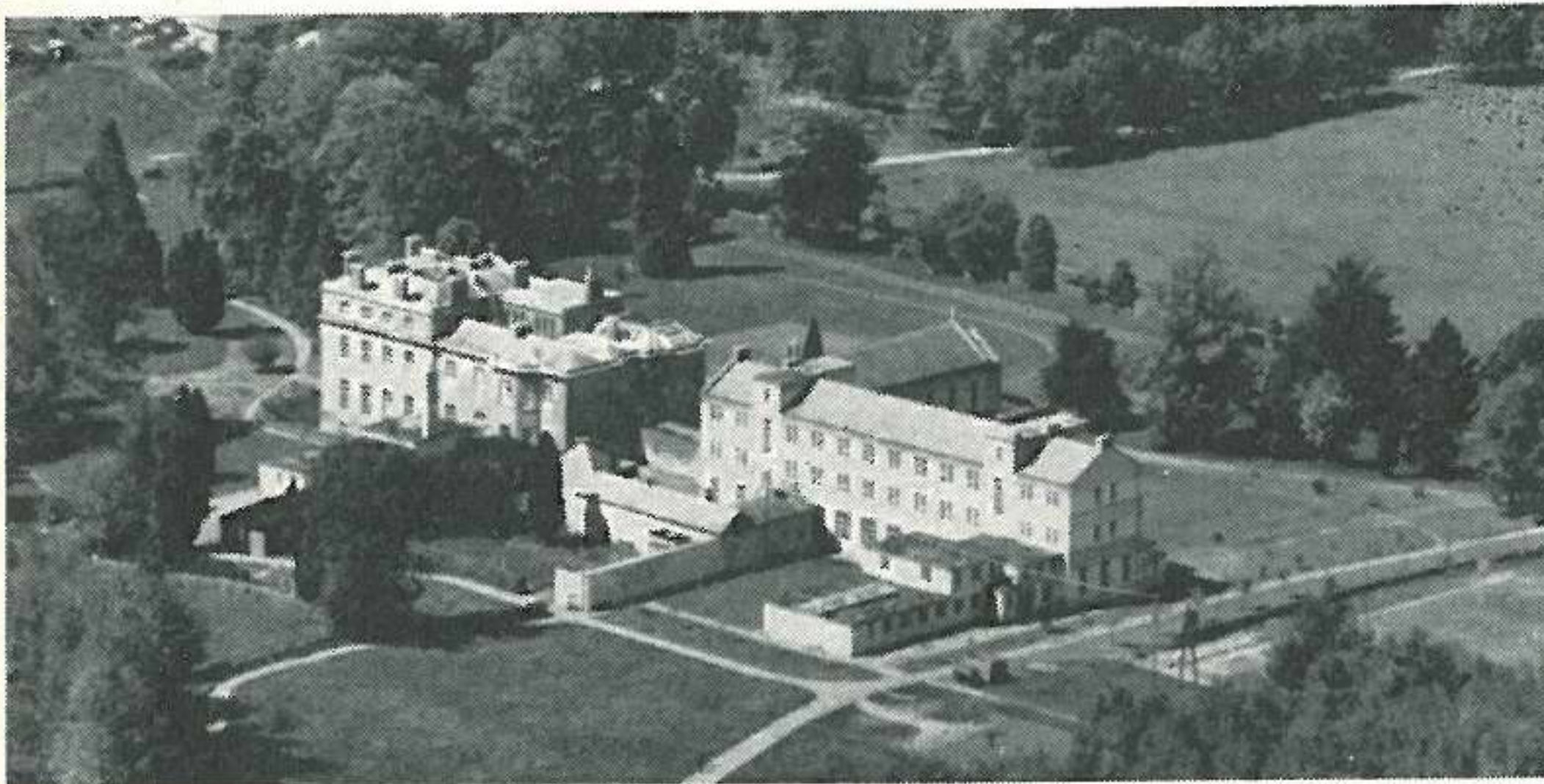
Then, however, he made ample amends for the disappointments of the previous five years by landing three of the four national titles, the only exception being senior soft doubles which was won by Joe Hassett and Jimmy O'Brien from Kerry.

In 1953 his efforts were less successful for he retained only the hardball singles title, which in turn, he relinquished the following year.

It is interesting to record that it was the late Austin Clarke who, in turn, had been dethroned by Ryan in 1952, who performed the giant-killing act in 1954. The game was played at Clogh on July 4. While Ryan was odds-on favourite to win out he clashed with a Clarke who came from Dublin fully bent on an upset.

And that is exactly what the late

● TO PAGE 32



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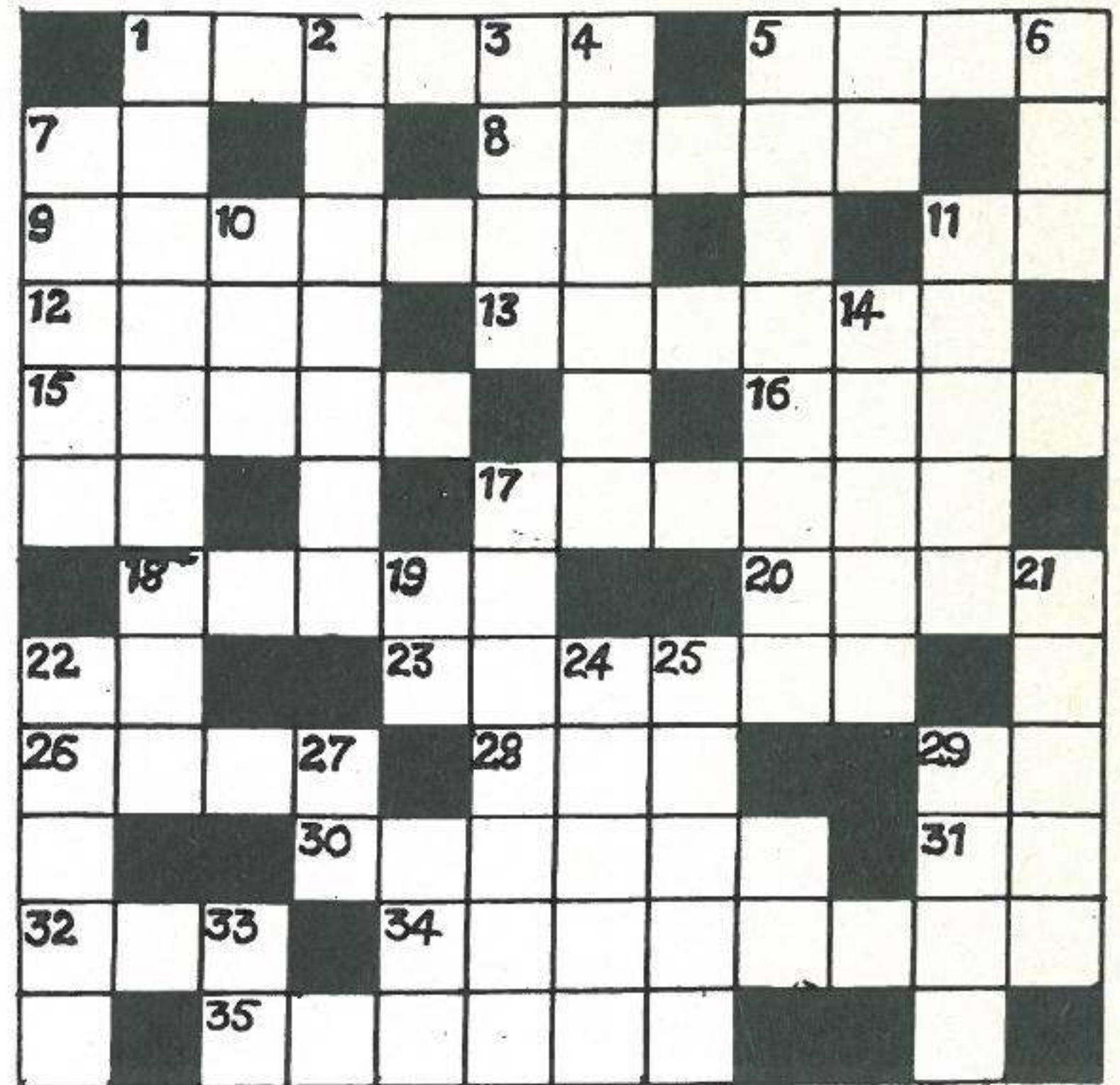
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- 1—Positional change. (6)
- 5—A proud player makes fruitless efforts. (4)
- 7—Exclamation of satisfaction ? (2)
- 8—Desert glades. (5)
- 9—Dublin forward who seems like a post on a wharf for securing ships. (7)
- 11—In reverse these are the initials of great Kery centre-field stylist. (1,1)
- 12—Followers drive their teams to greater things. (4)
- 13—One of the select band of Kilkenny holders of 7 All-Ireland medals. (1, 5)
- 15—Gates to put on a match; or a play even. (5)
- 16—Barrier in the Tipperary defence. (4)
- 17—Trainer and player of teams in both All-Irelands during the 'fifties. Though Cork-born it was not with Cork. (6)
- 18—Norman figured prominently for Dublin before emigrating. (5)
- 20—Cork's Willie John in some confusion. (4)
- 22—A club for Government officials. (1,1)
- 23—Leinster midfielder from Westmeath. (6)
- 26—Sues a player who does not do this well with the ball. (4)
- 28—A bishopric with a view. (3)
- 29—Top-scoring Cavanman. (1,1)
- 30—Half-back who has recently made a big reputation with Cork (in football). (1,5)
- 31—Urgent beginning. (2)
- 32—Suitable description of small mischievous forward. (3)
- 34—"Inky". (8)
- 35—Dublin football captain of early 'fifties. (6)

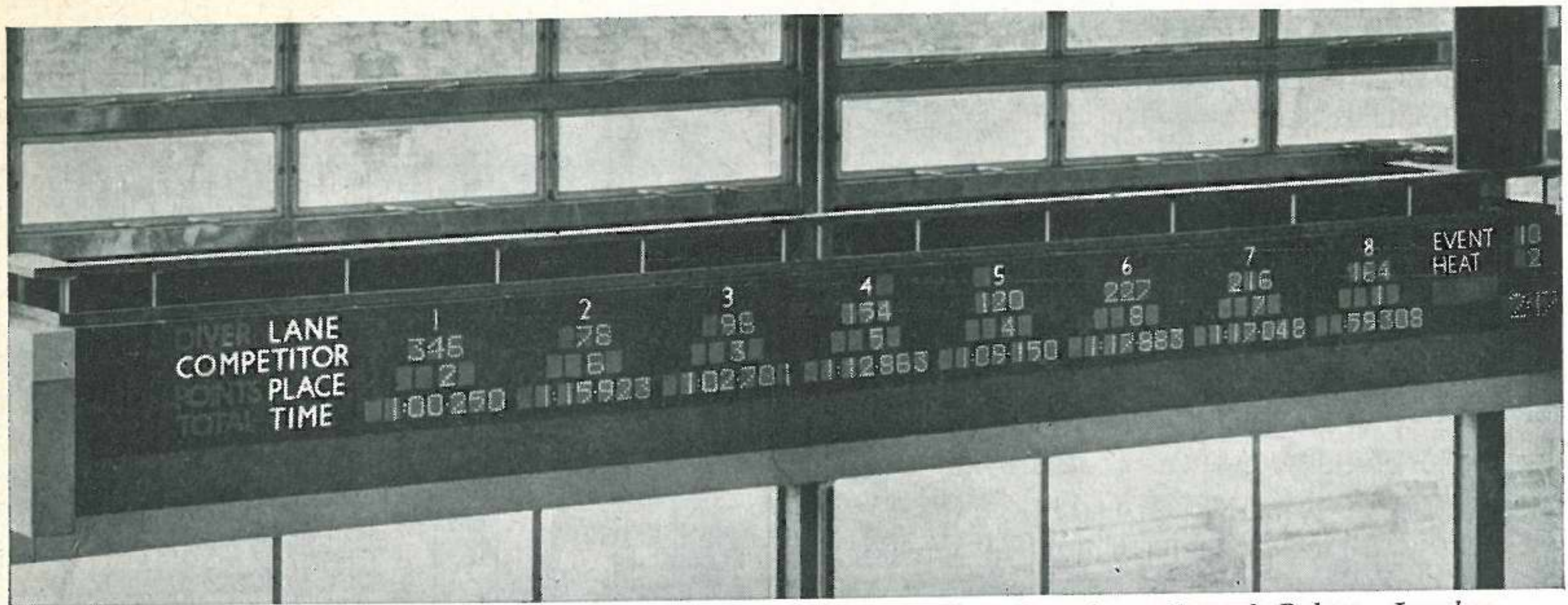
DOWN :

- 1—A style first favoured by Northern and Dublin teams, now a strong feature of Galway's game. (5,4)
- 2—A player who is under suspension for breaking the rules. (7)
- 3—Right-half forward for Louth when Leinster champions in 1943. (4)
- 4—Down utility man, a score-snatcher at



- corner forward in two All-Irelands. (6)
- 5—Far off the mark. (4, 4)
- 6—"—— and tuck" with a pin, for good exciting play. (3)
- 7—Harsh words so often the lot of the referee. (5)
- 10—The gal is confused and almost facing the wrong way. (3)
- 11—Jimmy gained immortality with last-minute winning point in 1939 final. (5)
- 14—P. J. is Galway midfield man. (5)
- 17—Toe-to-hand, he goes, all alone. (2,1,4)
- 19—Cork football goalie in 1943, or Limerick left-wing hurler in 1966. Initials. (1,1)
- 21—Rangy player loses his temper. (6)
- 22—The result of ball out of play over the sideline. (3, 2)
- 24—Range back to the 20's for one of last year's Cork selectors. (5)
- 25—Late, great guide of Tipperary hurling. (5)
- 27—Health Minister, once Mayo captain. Initials. (1,1)
- 29—Clever player with all the tricks; the Americans would think him pretty. (4)
- 33—Kilkenny midfielder. Initials. (1,1)

SOLUTION : PAGE 48



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Story of the McKenna Cup

By SEAMUS McCLUSKEY

THE Dr. McKenna Cup was first presented to the Ulster Council of the G.A.A. in 1927 by a former bishop of Clogher Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Patrick McKenna, a native of Errigal Truagh parish in the north of Co. Monaghan. This competition is second only in importance to the senior football championship in Ulster and this fact is fully realised by all the Northern counties, who use the tournament as a full-scale preparation for the province's premier title race.

Besides being a great honour to win this very valuable trophy, it gives each county an opportunity of trying "new blood" in preparation for the gruelling championship tests which follow later in the season. Few counties in the other provinces have such an opportunity during the long lull that exists between the completion of the National League and the commencement of the provincial championship.

First winners of the trophy were Antrim, who are also the present-day holders. This Cup has also the unique distinction of being the only trophy in Ulster that has been won by all nine counties in the province. Cavan head the honours list with eight wins in the competition, while their neighbours Monaghan take second place with seven wins. Armagh and Antrim share third place with six wins each. Down and Derry come next, each having taken the cup on four occasions, while next in line are Fermanagh and Donegal with two titles each to their credit.

At the bottom of the list comes Tyrone with their 1957 victory their only one under this heading.

Following their initial success in the competition in 1927, Antrim relinquished the trophy the following year to Monaghan, who defeated them in the final. When first presenting the cup, the donor had requested that the finals of the tourney be played each year in Monaghan town and these early finals were all played in the Oriel capital.

With the passage of time, however, this did not prove feasible and from the mid-thirties onwards the finals were played at various venues throughout Ulster. In these early years, too, the trophy proved very difficult to retain—Armagh wresting it from Monaghan in the third year of the competition and losing it in turn to Fermanagh.

The early 'thirties were dominated by the Maguire County who came back for their second McKenna Cup title in 1933 but the remainder of the decade was dominated by Armagh ('31, '38, '39) and Monaghan ('32, '34, '35, '37) with Cavan coming in once in 1936.

The advance of World War II did not deter the Ulster Council in their efforts to continue with as many competitions as possible. In 1940 it was Cavan's turn and the Breffni men were in real rampant mood, defeating Derry 6-6 to 1-2 in the first round, Down by 3-9 to 1-8 in the semi-final and Tyrone by 3-5 to 1-4 in the final.

Antrim took their second title in 1941 after a rather extraordinary



JOE LENNON . . . one of those who helped Down to achieve many glorious victories — the McKenna Cup among them — during the past decade.

series. They drew with Derry (4-5 each) in the first round, won the replay by 3-9 to 2-8, defeated Armagh 3-11 to 1-8 in the semi-final and drew with Tyrone in a high-scoring final at Armagh on June 8—Armagh 4-8, Tyrone 1-17 (20 points each).

The Glensmen proved superior in the replay winning 3-7 to 2-6. They retained the cup the following year, defeating Fermanagh by 3-8 to 0-8 in a dull final. Cavan were back in '43 with a 3-6 to 3-5 semi-final win over Monaghan and a victory over Armagh in the final. Down took the Cup for the first

● TO PAGE 31



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● FROM CENTRE PAGES

The last of those games for the 1926 Southern crown was a dour battle, but it was overshadowed by the fact that a Tipperary player was sent to the line early on. Gallantly though they struggled, 14 men just could not hold that great Cork side, who not alone won well that day, but went on to take the All-Ireland title with superlative ease.

After that Cork were 'up' for several years, and looking back now, I think that the old-time Thurles hostings ended around that period too.

As more and more cars came on the road, the crowds came later and went home earlier. No longer did we roll into Thurles around mid-day, and leave it only when twilight fell. Now we had a meal at home, got to Thurles just in time for the opening match, and drove away as soon as the big game was over. If we needed food or drink we went to Cashel or Clonmel, or even to Kilkenny if headed South East, or to Portlaoise if going back to Dublin.

And yet, to me, Thurles has never become just another venue for a big game. It still retains an atmosphere all its own. There are still the happy crowds in Liberty Square headed matchward, still musicians on the Railway Bridge, and still no matter how many stands are built, you are bound to find the keenest of all hurling critics along the banks on the 'popular' side.

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● FROM PAGE 29

time ever in '44 with well deserved victories over Armagh (2-11 to 0-5) in the first, Donegal (3-6 to 1-8) in the semi-final and Tyrone (2-9 to 1-2) in the final. There was quite an amount of rejoicing among the followers of the Red-and-Black after this victory at Corrigan Park, Belfast.

Cavan, for long the king-pins of Ulster football, surprisingly decided to drop out of the Dr. McKenna Cup competition in 1945 and did not make their return until 1951. Their absence took much of the glamour from the series but the other eight still managed to serve up some excellent football and in the '45 event a brilliant Antrim side took their fourth title with wins over Donegal, Fermanagh and Down. The wearers of the saffron jerseys were back again the following year to retain the trophy with a decisive series of victories over the very same counties, only this time the order was slightly changed—Fermanagh in the first round, Donegal in the semi-final and again Down in the final. This was to be Antrim's last title for twenty years, however, and in 1947 it was Derry who hit the headlines with their first win in the competition, ousting Donegal (4-3 to 1-8), Monaghan (4-8 to 1-8) and, in the final, Armagh (6-1 to 2-7) at Clones.

With Cavan still out, Monaghan came to the fore in 1948. They had a comfortable 4-8 to 0-1 first round win over Fermanagh, six points to spare over Antrim in the semi-final

at Clones and a well deserved 5-9 to 0-10 final win over Down at Lurgan. They again reached the Final of 1949 only to lose to Armagh who had previously accounted for Antrim (on a replay) and Donegal. The decade finished with the Armagh men hold-on to the Cup with 1950 victories over Derry (on a replay), Tyrone, and Antrim.

Cavan signalled their return to the competition by winning the trophy for 1951, relinquished it the following year to Monaghan but regained it in 1953. The year 1954 proved to be Derry's but it was Cavan again for both '55 and '56. They defeated Derry 3-6 to 0-9 in the '55 final and Donegal 1-9 to 0-9 in the '56 decider at Ballybofey.

Tyrone's one-and-only title came in 1957 when they surprised everyone with their 1-12 to 0-5 victory over the holders, Cavan, in the first round at Dungannon. This was no fluke, however, and they followed it up with a 3-10 to 1-7 semi-final win over Fermanagh and a 3-12 to 1-10 final victory over Derry at Belfast. In 1958 it was very much Derry's year—besides taking their only Ulster senior championship title that year, they also captured the McKenna trophy accounting for Donegal, Monaghan and Armagh in the process. They made their exit the following year, however, in the semi-final to a rapidly rising to fame Down side, that went on to beat Monaghan 1-7 to 0-7 in the final. It was Derry again

in 1960 but the mighty Down were both senior champions and Dr. McKenna Cup winners again in 1961.

Cavan made a brief return to the winners' lists in 1962 but a new name was added to the honours list in 1963 when Donegal—the only remaining county not to have won the Dr. McKenna Cup—had their first ever success in the series, accounting for Derry, Armagh (on a replay) and Cavan. The last three years of the competition have seen the trophy go to Down, Donegal and Antrim.

The Dr. McKenna Cup competition has not been without its quota of objections, arguments and unpleasantness. In 1932 Fermanagh, the then holders of the trophy, were ousted from the competition on an objection from Tyrone, whom they had beaten in the semi-final. The Maguire County men had gone on and beaten Monaghan in the final before the objection had been heard but were subsequently disqualified and the trophy went to Monaghan. Thus, Fermanagh were denied the honour (on a technicality) of being the only Ulster county to win the McKenna Cup for three successive years—they had won it in '31 and won it again in '33

Recently, in 1965, there were again complications and following a series of objections and counter-objections between Donegal and Cavan, the trophy was awarded to Donegal without any final being played.



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Handball

FROM PAGE 26

Dublin maestro did for he won by four to nil on the scores 21-13, 21-19, 21-15, 21-11.

But while Ryan may have lost that title he also made ample amends in the same year by regaining his hard doubles and soft singles titles.

The latter victory must have been most gratifying to him for in the Leinster campaign he had the satisfaction of beating Christy Delaney who had proved his master the previous year.

In the annals of the Irish Handball Council, the year of 1954 now goes down as a historic one, for it marks the inception of the Gael-Linn competition, which in latter years was to attain such wide proportions. Sure enough Ryan, was an entrant, and made history, at the famed Horse and Jockey Court in March, when he became the first holder of the new trophy with a 40 ace to 29 victory over Con Collins.

Ryan's mastery of the half-hour game was further exemplified in 1956 when he again won the Gael-Linn Cup, and indeed it is quite possible that he would have be-

come the first man ever to win it on three occasions, but for the unfortunate injury which dogged his career in the late 'fifties.

In 1955 and 1956, Ryan, as usual, overcame all opposition and in the process collected titles in his own impeccable modest way.

However, 1957 was his year of years, the zenith of a career in which his full talents had been developed—a year in which he set himself up as a living monument not only to Wexford handball but, to the game as a whole.

Let us in this case, start at the end and we find ourselves back at the Clogh Ballcourt on October 23, 1957.

Ryan had come to defend his senior hardball title against Jim Donovan, but he had also come in the knowledge that, if he won that day, he would be making a clean sweep of all four national titles.

Histry now tells its own story. Ryan went on to win and as a result equalled a record which is now jointly held by himself and John Joe Gilmartin.

But that is only half of the story

of 1957, for in June of that year he had also gone on an American tour and given quite a good account of himself.

At the Nassau Boat Club he scored a thrilling 21-16; 21-17 victory over Larry Dolan and, in subsequent games against Tom Ginty and Henry Hyde acquitted himself admirably.

His style of play captivated the New Yorkers and, Charlie O'Connell, Chairman of the New York Athletic Club, is quoted as saying that the Wexfordman was the master at dead-butting a ball.

His commendable sense of gentlemanly conduct in the court, allied to his modest attitude towards his own ability, endeared him to all and he returned home having done a fine ambassadorial job for Irish sport.

But in 1958 misfortune overtook him, when he met with an unfortunate accident which brought his winning forays to an abrupt halt. John made a couple of unsuccessful attempts to come back, but he found that the splendour of his former days had deserted him.

The games now lack his physical presence, but, the memories of his feats still live on and will continue to do so while the game is played.

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UNFORTUNATELY I have to write this a fortnight before the annual camogie Congress takes place, so I am doing so in the dark as regards what decisions the gathering of the girl Gaels will take on the many motions that will come up for discussion.

There were some good ideas put forward, such as an All-Ireland junior championship and a National League. Both would be excellent if we could get them under way, but the only problem is, would the present state of organisation in some counties be equal to new competitions at inter-county level?

A junior championship would be feasible enough, after all there are already junior championships in both Leinster and Munster, while the Munster secondary championship could be tailored to fit with a little readjustment.

A National League would be more of a problem, and I fear that, if such a competition came into existence, the All-Ireland club championship which has been reasonably successful to date could be hardly be run as well.

On the other hand, a National League would provide competition through much of the year for teams and counties and players that, as things stand, may have no more than a single intercounty match in the year. The great problem that I see confronting such a league would be the question of finance. There is a steady drain on Central Council funds already to more than one competition, and unless the proposed National League were entirely self-support-

ing at least, there would be little hope for its future.

To save travelling expenses, counties would have to be grouped as closely as possible, and every effort would have to be made both to keep expenses down to a minimum and to seek the greatest public interest possible in order to ensure some reasonable return in gate receipts.

It was interesting to read from the Secretary's report to Congress that in several instances the attendance and the 'gates' at the club championship matches were greater than at the intercounty games in the provinces. That is a remarkable position but it does show that interest is mainly local at present.

We will have to extend that interest more widely before many of these competitions can be expected to pay their own way and we can only do so by ensuring that the game is really a living entity in a county or a district, not merely a nine-days-wonder in the heart of the summer.

After Congress is over, the next big attraction is the annual championships in all grades. Dublin will again, I suppose, be favourites to win the All-Ireland title, but I feel myself that the law of averages is beginning to run against the Metropolitians at this stage. After all, they have won the title for the past ten years, and the tide must turn against them sometime.

Last season they were hard pressed in every game. Wexford ran them hard enough in the Leinster final, and then a single puck of the ball would have beaten them either against Tipperary or against Antrim. Tipperary at first glance would seem to be the most likely

successors but then they have lost Anne Carroll who was a great help to them through the past few seasons.

So I would not be at all surprised if Cork came out of Munster this time, unless Tipperary redress their ranks successfully.

Antrim, I feel, will go very close to honours. They had a number of young players on duty last season, all of whom came through the testing ordeal of playing in an All-Ireland duel, and I would not be at all surprised if they won through to a victory that has eluded them narrowly more than once in recent years.

Galway will again come out of the West, for Mayo seem to have fallen back, but I cannot see the Galwegians win a title at this stage.

Dublin will find it hard enough to come out of Leinster, for here Kilkenny may well be the big challenge for they showed fine form in reaching the final of the interclub championship last year. With Anne Carroll now resident in the county they should at least prove very keen challengers to Wexford for the Intermediate title, and should they win this would make Dublin travel all the way in the final.

But all said and done, Dublin will still take beating. All-Ireland victory is almost a habit of theirs now, a habit that will be hard to break.

Belated congratulations to Mary Connery and Maeve Gilroy on being honoured with the All-Star awards. Both were, if you like, surprise choices but they were well deserved for all that, as both have done a great deal for camogie both on and off the field.



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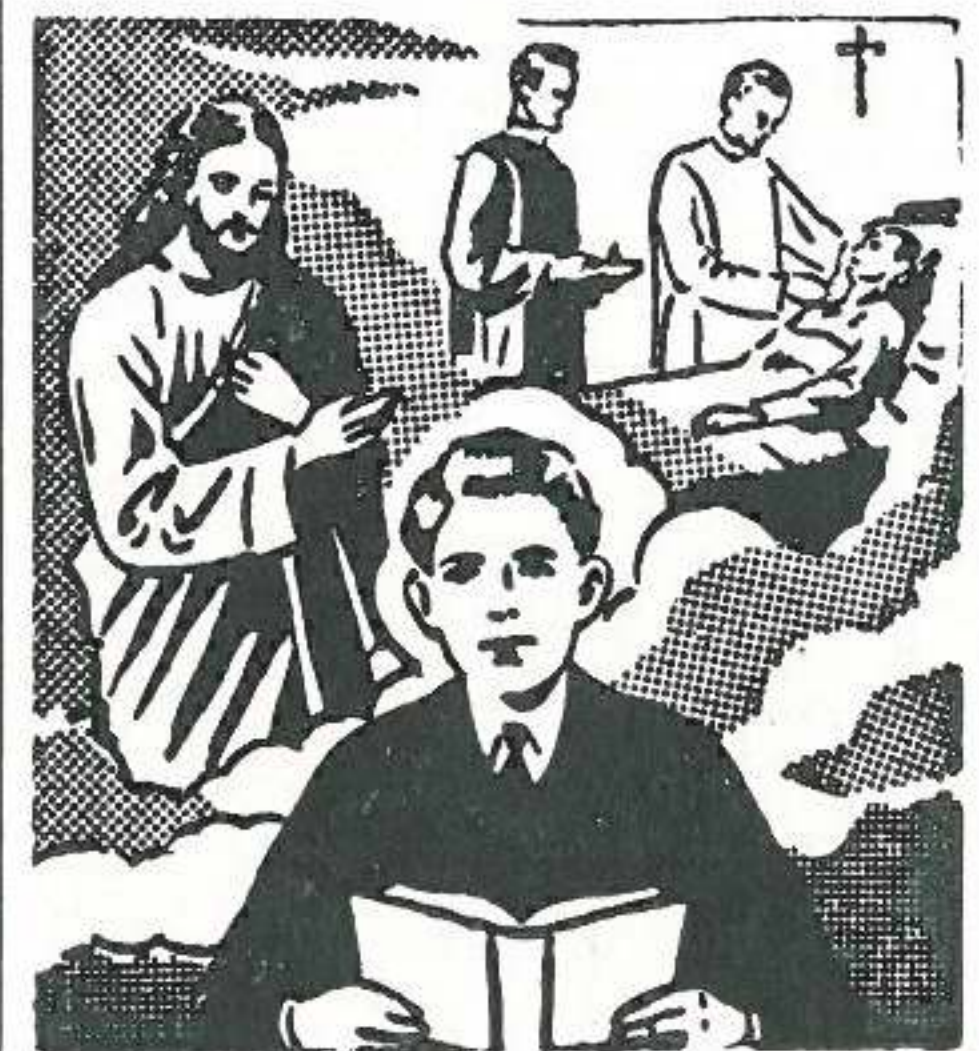
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THE MEN WHO LEAD THE 'WEST'

By _____
CHRIS MURRAY

SO much is written of the current G.A.A. stars that this month I am prompted to step out of line and introduce the gentlemen who rule the Connacht Council. First, we introduce the new Chairman, Brendan Nestor of Dunmore, the former Galway and Connacht star of the 'thirties, who held the post with distinction in the past from 1952-'55.

A national teacher by profession, Brendan has been one of Galway's very successful team-managers since 1956 as well as being Vice-Chairman of the Galway Football Board. He was also, for a short period, Chairman of the County Board.

Inheriting a proud G.A.A. tradition from his illustrious father J. J. Nestor, who was one of the great figures of the G.A.A. in Connacht from his youth in the eighteen nineties until his death in the mid-'fifties, Brendan developed from St. Jarlath's College and Tuam C.B.S. through St. Patrick's, Drumcondra, with whom he won a Dublin S.F.C. medal as a trainee teacher. From there to Geraldines and more Dublin S.F.C. medals; Galway juniors in 1931 with whom

he won an All-Ireland medal and then the Galway team with whom he won two All-Irelands in 1934 and '38.

As a corner forward, he became a celebrated figure scoring many famous goals after feinting in typical Nestor fashion and his duels with Mayo's "Tot" McGowan of Castlebar were one of the talking points of the then-glorious annual Mayo-Galway Connacht finals.

With Connacht, Brendan won four Railway Cup medals but though returning to finish his club football days with his native Dunmore McHales, he failed to win a Galway S.F.C. medal as his father had done before him.

However, he did captain his native club to a county final in which they lost to the Army and when his great days with club, county or province are recalled, those privileged to see him inspire Dunmore to success over old rivals Tuam Stars in that same year often point to this game as Brendan's greatest.

Afterwards, he became a noted referee and I have already alluded to his official capacities in recent years. He has had the satisfaction

of seeing the third Nestor generation in his son, Jim, win three Galway S.F.C. medals with Dunmore.

The trophy for the Connacht S.F.C. is called after his celebrated father—the J J. Nestor Memorial Trophy. As a Chairman, Brendan stands supreme, fair, quick thinking and to the point. We wish him a further fruitful period in office.

The new Vice-Chairman, Dr. Donal Keenan of Roscommon, is another former All-Ireland forward and Connacht Railway Cup star. A native of Elphin, Dr. Donal, like Brendan, won a Dublin S.F.C. medal with U.C.D. and as place-kicker supreme of Roscommon's two All-Ireland teams of 1943 and '44, became a nationwide personality.

Chairman of the Roscommon County Board for many years now, Donal's enthusiasm knows no bounds and he is an outstanding football trainer. Witness his Under-21 charges of last year who surprised everybody except Donal Keenan and themselves in winning the All-Ireland title. We welcome Brendan's successor.

● TO PAGE 37

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● FROM PAGE 35

Secretary once again is old reliable Tom Kilcoyne of Achonry, Co. Sligo. Easy-going and quiet spoken, Tom Kilcoyne's dignity in the office over a long period has earned the respect of everybody in Connacht. A retired National Teacher, Tom comes of a well-known Sligo footballing family and, as well as looking after Connacht G.A.A. interests, is also Sligo Secretary. I have always regarded Tom as one of the most courteous officials I've ever met.

Finally there is Treasurer John Joe Fahy of Roscommon, another very courteous man. A commercial traveller by profession, John Joe is respected throughout the entire province. He has always been a pillar of the Roscommon G.A.A. and during Roscommon's successful years in the early 'forties was their efficient Secretary. Before we close a word of praise for the past Chairman, Denis Gallagher of Achill Sound, who was a most successful and popular official for the past three years.

OWEN McKENNA, R.I.P.

Since I last wrote, we laid one of Connacht's greatest Gaels, in the person of Owen McKenna, to rest. He was the man who got the G.A.A. going in U.C.G., who nurtured it to great success and lived to see the new 1st year competition trophy in the Universities' competition named after him.

One of his last wishes was that four of his first Sigerson Cup winning team should carry his coffin to the hearse. His wish was granted and Mick Rafferty his noble friend, Brendan Nestor, Dinny O'Sullivan and Jimmy McGauran, all of Galway's 1938 team were the proud bearers.

Many past U.C.G. men were present from near and far for the funeral as a final tribute to one of the finest Irishmen I ever met. Here was a Gael through and through. We shall not meet his likes again. Go dtugaidh Dia solas na bhFlaitheas dá anam uasal.



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Dublin

BUSIEST TEAM OF THE DECADE

DURING the ten years 1957 to the end of 1966 inclusive, Dublin contested no fewer than 207 intercounty senior football games, or just over 20 games per year. Not surprisingly, this is a record for both codes. Yet, impressive though this figure is, Galway still run the Metropolitans close, with only four games fewer played during this period.

Dublin also played the most games in any single year during the past decade. In 1962 they had the sizeable tally of 27 outings. But, here again, Galway are in close pursuit with 24 engagements in 1964. Cavan just pip Down for the distinction of Ulster's busiest team of the decade—by a single game. Kerry lead the way in Munster, but even so, their 152 games only puts them seventh in the all-Ireland table.

The hurlers have not been nearly as active as the footballers. In fact only Kilkenny and Wexford have bettered 150 games for the period. The Noresiders have a clear lead of 21 games over their chief rivals in this code, but still fall no fewer than 35 ties short of the football record with 172 engagements.

Kilkenny also lead as regards the

COMPARATIVE TABLES											
Football.											
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	Total
Dublin	20	20	20	19	22	27	21	23	17	18	207
Galway	19	19	19	18	23	19	19	24	20	23	203
Cavan	14	18	16	23	12	21	16	19	17	16	172
Down	8	11	18	20	20	22	19	19	16	18	171
Meath	12	19	10	13	22	18	16	17	16	21	164
Mayo	10	18	14	17	15	15	11	19	15	20	154
Kerry	14	10	18	15	19	17	16	16	14	13	152

Hurling.											
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	Total
Kilkenny	19	20	17	15	12	16	16	18	20	19	172
Wexford	16	17	11	13	16	18	13	15	14	18	151
Tipperary	13	10	17	16	17	19	13	16	15	12	148
Waterford	16	13	16	14	12	15	17	13	12	13	141
Cork	12	10	13	11	13	12	8	11	11	17	118
Dublin	11	9	11	9	12	11	9	12	11	9	104

highest number of games per year. They had 20 outings in 1958, and the same number of engagements in 1965. On top in the Munster list are Tipperary with 148 games. Dublin's record is remarkably consistent—11 engagements on each of four years, and nine outings on each of four other campaigns.

Above are the records of the busiest counties in each code over the past ten years, showing the number of games played during each campaign under the appropriate year, and the combined total of engagements for each respective county team for the period in the final column.

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OLD RIVALS



By FRANK HUGHES

DUBLIN or Meath? That's the question which will occupy pride of place in G.A.A. discussions throughout Leinster during the first nine days of April. It is an intriguing pairing and there will be quite a crowd at Croke Park on the second Sunday of the month to bear witness to the answer.

Who do I fancy? At the time of writing, I am inclined to go for Dublin but it could well be that events between now and April 9 will prompt me to change my mind.

Certainly, the indications are that Dublin are on the way back. There was much of the old class there against Wexford and when the Metropolitans get the wind in their sails, they are a difficult team to halt.

I was not too impressed by Meath against Cavan. I had expected them to win that one with a few points to spare. The lesson taught by Galway last September does not appear to have been fully absorbed in the Royal County.

Still, I could be wrong. It is certainly as exciting a National League semi-final pairing as we have had in a long time.

THE LEINSTER HURLERS

The Leinster hurlers did the province proud on St. Patrick's Day. It was their fourth win over Munster during the past six years and it does look as if that domination, which Munster had in the competition down the years, is now a thing of the past.

Couple March 17 with Kilkenny's decisive win over Tipperary the previous Sunday at Nowlan Park and I think that it is safe to conclude that Leinster is now, most definitely, the premier hurling province.

I was in Nowlan Park and my honest view is that the newspapers greatly exaggerated the flare-up at the end of the game. Sure, it was an unpleasant happening and should be condemned, but for the fifty-five minutes prior to it there had been what the scribes like to term "typical Munster hurling"—hard, with no quarter given or asked.

Kilkenny, for once, gave what they got and were the superior team all the way. As a long-term shot, I here and now tip them to bring home the McCarthy Cup on the first Sunday in September.

For years it was being said that when the "going was hard" Kilkenny could not take it. But it strikes me that they now can and this, together with the classical hurling which they have always been able to produce, will make them a most difficult team to halt.

MEATH HURLERS

Congratulations too to Meath who may well be on the verge of "doing an Offaly" in hurling. That great Gael, Des Ferguson, is, of course, playing a prominent role in the Royal County hurling resurgence. The success of the county to-date clearly illustrates that there is a new spirit behind the game and here's one who looks to them to keep it up.

What Offaly have done, Meath can do—and in the near future at that.

LEINSTER PRESIDENT ?

Could it be that by the time you read these notes the G.A.A. will have a Leinster President? Stranger things have happened. As I write, I am taken by the thought that the province has a representation at Congress just about as great as any other two provinces combined.

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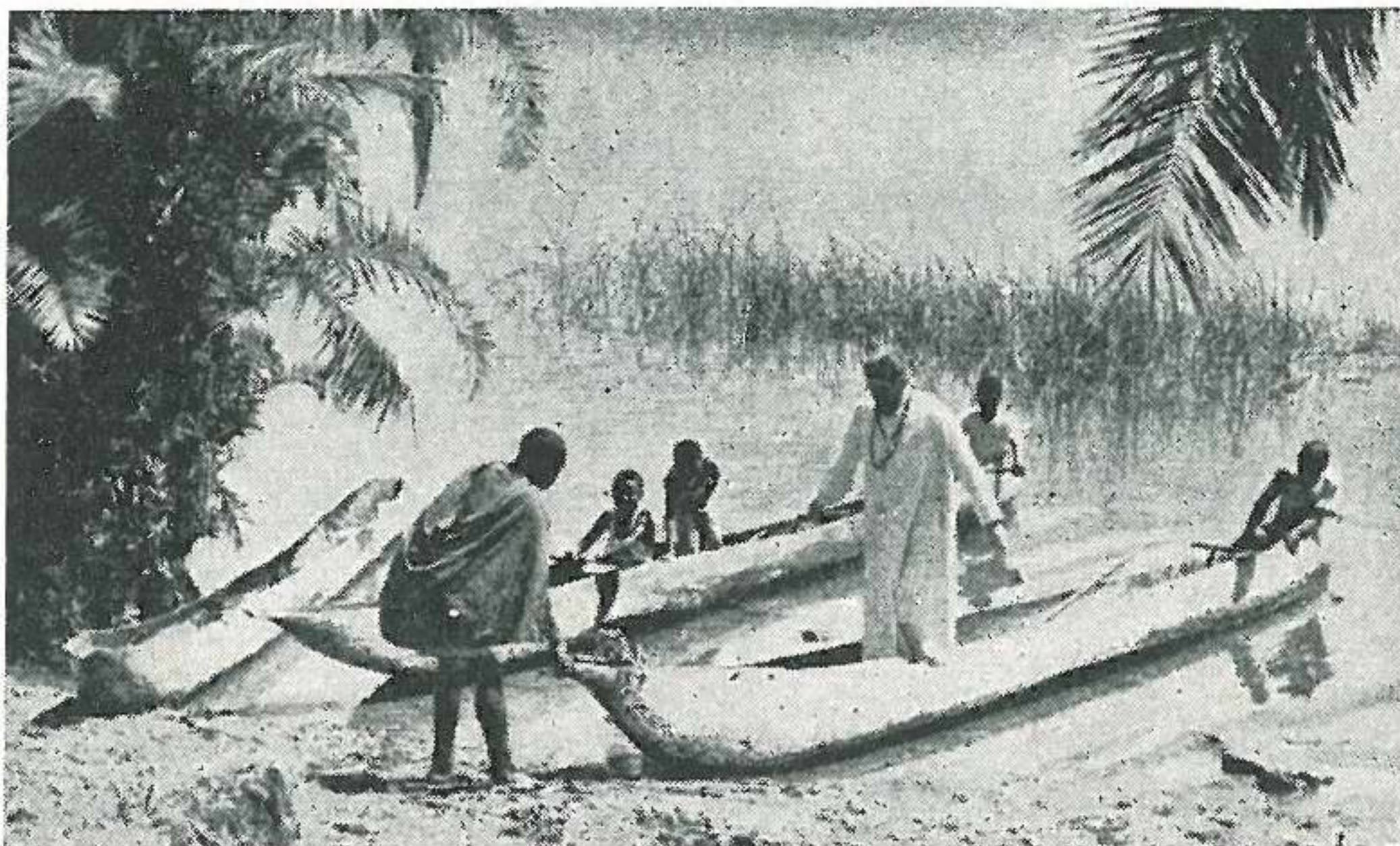
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REV. PRESIDENT

IN THE GAP OF THE NORTH

DOWN the years this northern province of ours has continued to produce great goalkeepers. We mentioned the late Willie Young last month and the Cavanman had worthy successors in John O'Hare of Down, Charlie Campbell, Donegal; Thady Turbett, Tyrone; Eamonn McMahon, Armagh and the man of the moment — Seamus Hoare of Donegal.

Looking to the future, I feel that Derry's Seamus Hasson is a real star goalkeeper in the making. A substitute on this year's Railway Cup team, he has already won wide recognition. Actually, Derry have another real prospect in substitute Eugene McCaul, who guarded the net on the successful 1965 Derry minor team.

SEAN O'CONNELL

And speaking of Derry, what a truly great star is this man Sean O'Connell. I can vividly recall his fine performance against Tyrone in the 1957 Ulster final at Clones. Ten years is a long time in top-class football and he is better now than ever.

MONAGHAN TRAINING

Monaghan are making a really determined effort to get back into the big-time football business. A former star player, Fr. Enda McCormack, has taken over as team manager and helping him are selectors Eugene McDonald and



SEAMUS HOARE
(Donegal)

Hughie McKearney—both former Railway Cup stars. Joe Lennon is being brought in to take charge of training every Wednesday evening at Castleblayney.

ULSTER OFFICERS

Congratulations to Fr. McNally, P.P. of Park, Co. Derry, on having succeeded Harry Carey as Chair-

man of the Ulster Council. When in Ballinascreen, Fr. McNally worked zealously for the Association and had a hand in developing Dean McGlinchey Park.

All Ulster Chairmen are blessed in having the services of that great Gael from Keady, Co. Armagh, Gerry Arthurs, who, as Ulster Secretary, has done so much for the development of Gaelic games in the province. Gerry is one of the most able legislators in Ireland—a fact recognised by all who have ever worked with him.

CLONES IDEAL VENUE

There was much talk at the Ulster Convention of the happenings at Casement Park at the Ulster final. I said it then and I say it again now, Clones was the ideal venue for that game—as it is for all games involving Armagh, Derry, Down or Antrim.

However, a tip to the local Clones G.A.A. men — “Get your pitch into shape quickly.”

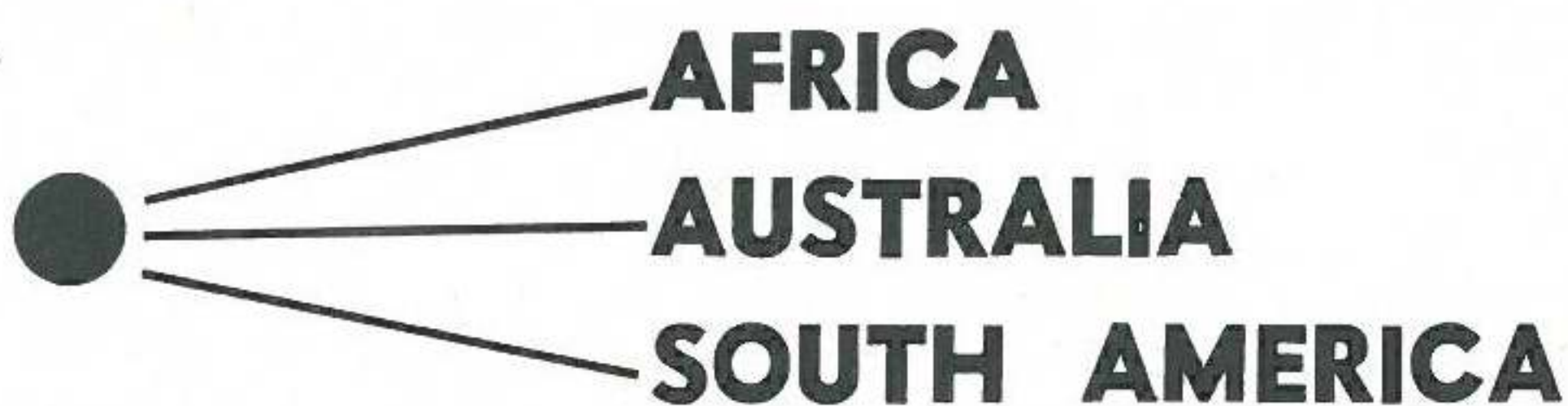
IN BRIEF

Donegal's star forward, Mickey McLoone, has taken over as Chairman of his local club, Ballyshannon.

Watching the former Monaghan star, Seamus McElroy, recently playing at full back for Latton, it struck me that he had still much to contribute to intercounty competition. So over to you Monaghan mentors.

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SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW 1967 :

June 4—Sligo v. Mayo, at Sligo. **June 11**—Leitrim v. Roscommon at venue to be decided.

Semi-final—Galway v. Sligo or Mayo (if Sligo at Sligo on June 25, if Mayo at Pearse Stadium, Galway, on June 25). **July 16** : **Final**—at venue to be arranged.

Matt Fitzpatrick takes a look at

Leitrim Fontenoys

. . . DOWN'S FIRST G.A.A. CLUB

SITUATED between the Dromara Mountains on one side the Mourne Mountains on the other and close to the famous Dolly's Brae, renowned in song and story, lies the twin parishes of Leitrim and Gargory where the famous Leitrim Fontenoys the first G.A.A. club to be founded in Co. Down is to-day strong and virile.

The club was officially registered in 1888 but there was organised football played in the area even before the Association was itself founded.

The game was started in Leitrim by the McAleenan brothers, Pat, Thomas and Joseph who originally came from the Castlewellan area and after being in Dublin for years they brought the game home to Down. One of the foundation members in 1888 was James L. Savage who graduated from St. Colman's College, Newry, where Michael Cusack was a lecturer. Another prominent early organiser was P. D. Savage.

With few clubs affiliated, games were not often to be had but the club kept going with challenge games against teams from Antrim and Armagh and in 1892 came the most famous victory for the Fontenoys when they travelled to Dublin and defeated St. Catherine's. This was a major achievement by a rural club.

The players on that early team are still talked about in the area and two are still alive to-day. Tom Ward is hail and hearty in Castlewellan and is an uncle of former Ulster 'keeper John O'Hare, while

Peter Rogers is in New York. Other members, all departed, were Joe McAleenan, Barney and Jim Lennon, Tom McAleenan, David Carr, and Mick King. Those were the days when teams were 21 a side and there was no scarcity of talent in the area.

Gradually the clubs in Down formed—Annaclone, Newry Faughs and Kilcoo came into being. Competition began to be provided on the home scene.

But Leitrim also catered for hurling and with Newry Faughs the club holds the unique distinction of being the only club in the county to have won senior football and hurling titles.

In the latter part of the century politics rifted the club but back they came again to win the first ever championship title played in Down in 1901. It was a hurling championship and they beat Ballela in the final.

The leagues and football championships started in the county in 1905 and the Fontenoys won the first football title under the captaincy of Mick Keown and to the fore were players like Dan Haughian, Mick and James McAleenan, P. D. Savage, who have all passed away, plus James King and Paddy Clarke who are happily with us and remember that victory like it was yesterday.

Emigration and the war of Independence disrupted the club for a number of years but back they came in 1920 and '21 to win both football and hurling titles, as well

as the Castlewellan District League. The men who played both codes then were Mick McAleenan, Mick Doran, Tom and John Fitzpatrick, John Kelly, Barney McAlerney, Barney Owens, John McAleenan, Ed Toman, Pat Savage and Pat Owens—most of whom are alive still.

With the games now strong in the Mourne County, the Fontenoys continued with district league victories and again the senior hurling title came back to the club. The men who helped in that win were Mick Doran (R.I.P.), Fr. McKenna, Gerry O'Donoghue (father of present County Board Chairman Paddy Donoghue), John Smith, Hugh Smith, John and Barney Owens and Pat McGreevey.

Then emigration intervened once more and the club broke up but was reformed again in 1934 and won the junior football championship. There was a further reorganisation in 1940 when the football was taken over by Gargory and the hurling by Leitrim. However, in 1946 the two parishes re-united once more and the Fontenoys were back again in their familiar green and gold stripe. Men like Patsy Savage, John McCrickard, P. F. McCartan (one of Ulster's best hurling goal keepers), Joe Rush, Mick and Eddie Malone, Joe McAleenan, Patsy Ferguson and Brian Owens kept the club going and hurling was foremost.

Honours were slow in coming but the lads kept plugging away. Then in 1955 they won the East Down Intermediate football league and also the junior hurling championship. Men in the club then were P. J. McElroy (later to win an All-Ireland senior medal with Down in their historic triumphs), Des McCabe, Bilbo Middleton, Hugh McGlew (R.I.P.) and the father and son combination of John and Joe McCrickard plus Sean McBreen, later to become Chairman of the Armagh Board, Tom

● TO PAGE 45

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● Leitrim G.A.C., Down Junior Champions and League Winners, 1966. Back row, l. to r.—Willie Doyle, Justin Morgan, Colm McAlarney, Seamus Keown, Sean McMullan, Pat Doyle, Joe Moorehead, Joe McCrickard, Joe Morgan. Front row, l. to r.—Phelim Shields, Pat McAnulty, P. J. McAvoy, Jim Doyle (captain), Patsy McCabe, Colm Shields, John Gribben, Gerry McCabe. Kneeling, front—Tony Armstrong, Noel Brown.

● FROM PAGE 43

Cunningham from Cork and Oliver Donnelly.

Then things began to go poorly again. But one youthful member Joe McCrickard, still young in playing years but big in heart, set about keeping the games of the Gael alive in the area. He literally carried the team in those years. He gathered players, played challenge games and trained the lads but it was hard work and his helpers were few.

In the early 1960's along came Fr. Anthony Davies, now Chairman of the South Down Board and with Joe McAleenan and Joe McCrickard, they organised the schoolboys and started district leagues and from those efforts have grown the stars of to-day.

Colm McAlarney, Willie Doyle, Colm Shields, Joe McCrickard, Seamus Keown are already established county players. In 1965 came their big glory of these later years when they captured the Feis

and Duin "sevens," and last year they won both the Intermediate League and junior championship and league.

The club fosters again both hurling and football. They have teams at schoolboy, minor, junior and senior levels in both games and, indeed, they are also trying to interest the lads in handball.

This year they acquired their own new playing pitch and plans are advanced so that before the year is out they will have a club ground properly equipped and worth at least £15,000.

Leitrim Fontenoys is a far-seeing club and with a constant supply of players now readily available from intermediate schools in Castlewellan and Banbridge plus grammar schools in Newry and Downpatrick, there is talent galore and the officials hope to utilise it all.

So Leitrim Fontenoys are back in the top grades in Down and it is right and fitting that they should

be enjoying their success. They hold a proud record in Down Gaeldom and come what may, the name of Leitrim Fontenoys will live for ever as the club which started it all in the Mourne County.

The men who guide the club now are: President, Fr. J. Mooney, P.P., Leitrim; Vice-President, Fr. J. Pettit, P.P., Gargory; Chairman, John Mooney; Vice-Chairman, Charlie Shields; Secretary, Joe McAleenan; Assistant Secretary, Pat Doyle; Treasurers, Joe McAleenan and Charlie Shields. Committee: Michael McAlarney, P. C. McAleenan, Gerry McElroy, Eddie Malone, "Bilbo" Middleton, Joe McCrickard and Willie McCartan.

To Joe McAleenan, Charlie Shields, Joe McCrickard, Colm Shields and Pat Doyle my sincerest thanks for helping me in tracing the history of a great club.

Next month I will feature Ballycran—the only Down club to win the Antrim senior hurling league.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

WHERE do the clubs get money to carry on? And where is all the money going to come from for all the new activities and the new extensions to their existence which is expected from the progressive clubs in this "modern world." Certainly, whatever humble projects a club sets itself to-day, it will run it into heavy financial commitments. The buying of a field, the first of the essentials makes it evident that no club can entirely shrug-off the worries of mammon.

There are, of course, the ordinary means of fund raising. Such things as tournaments, as prescribed by Rules 93 and 94 of the "Official Guide," carnivals, whist and card drives, draws, sweeps and raffles, bingo, films, collections, and several other ideas which have been tried and often bled white. Several kinds of draw have been tried, and with varying degrees of success—the secret being to select the kind which best suits the individual club, its membership and its catchment area.

One kind, currently popular in some areas, calls for 200 people paying 10/- each for ten weeks. Each week there is a draw for £5 and the tenth week the prize is a

motor-car. The income is £1,000; the expenditure, all told, may be kept as low as £600, giving some £400 profit. This is a crash course in money making, of course, and may not be used again without a considerable delay. More prolonged, less painful in the extraction, though more tedious in the running, is the normal kind of Non-Stop Draw or Silver Circle, the basis of which is the necessary drive among the "shilling-a-week" promoters.

Large scale raffles are a hazardous enough business unless you have a large membership of a very large (probably urban) area under your jurisdiction. Furthermore, for the success of a major venture, in order that the prizes are valuable enough to attract, the circulation of tickets must be extended, probably by post, well outside the local club area and even well outside the country.

However, it must be said that we have been a very innocent sort of organisation down the years, and that it has taken a long time for us to realise that we should be taking advantage of opportunity and "farming" for our own needs much more of the monies paid out

for neutral or merely philanthropical purposes by our own members. This is where Ciste na Banban, a comparatively recent growth, is an example for the future and a clear indication of the way to economic survival for the Association. If the members of the Association want to serve their own Association, and help it along, they can hardly find a better way of doing so than by subscribing to Ciste na Banban, for then they are setting up a benefit payment for their club; and they are laying aside a loan capital which may be divided out to clubs who need it, interest free.

There is always the added benefit of the chance of a big pot in the Pools weekly draw. But, just recently, some new thoughts were added to the basic ideas of Ciste na Banban. The success of the beginnings have encouraged it to branch out and serve greater functions. The club will benefit considerably if it puts considerable effort into its work on Ciste. The amount of the benefits will be based on effort.

A minimum membership has been struck. As heretofore each club will receive the usual 3d.

commission and extra 1d. grant on every 1s. collected. Now, in addition, all clubs which have a membership of 140 and upwards will receive further benefits. The figure 140 will be called a unit; so 280 are 2 units; 420 represent 3 units, and so on.

The success of the scheme will naturally depend in degree on the number of members which are participating in the Pool. But, with only a little extra pressure here and there, the desired membership is well within the compass of the country's clubs. The new system of benefits for clubs will be: (i) 3d. commission on each 1s.; (ii) 1d. grant on each 1s. collected; (iii) £45 per year on each unit of 140 members; (iv) £45 per year per unit into a club Loan Fund.

The Loan Fund is something new in G.A.A. circles. From it clubs may draw interest free loans, all of which will be repayable over 5 years. Incidentally, these loans will not be confined to those clubs with vested grounds; it will stretch its aid to all clubs. On the other hand it will be invaluable to those clubs with grounds vested, since they will now be able to make use of loans from the first or second Central Council Grounds Plans, since the Central Council moneys are not available unless a part of the money can be put up locally—Ciste loans can now be made to fill this gap, and will, naturally, be acceptable to the Central Council.

What could a club get out of being in C. na B. ? Well, supposing there are between 140 and 280 members (1 unit);

1. The Annual Commission and Grant (for 140)	£121 6 0
2. Cash Bonus	45 0 0
3. Credit in Loan Fund	45 0 0
Total	£211 6 0

These figures double for 2 units, treble for three units, and so on. A good proposition, don't you think, Mr. Club Treasurer ?

CONNACHT STARS



Two of Galway's ten representatives on the Connacht team which beat Ulster in the Railway Cup football final on St. Patrick's Day — Cyril Dunne (left) and Pat Donnellan. It was Connacht's first victory in the competition since 1958.

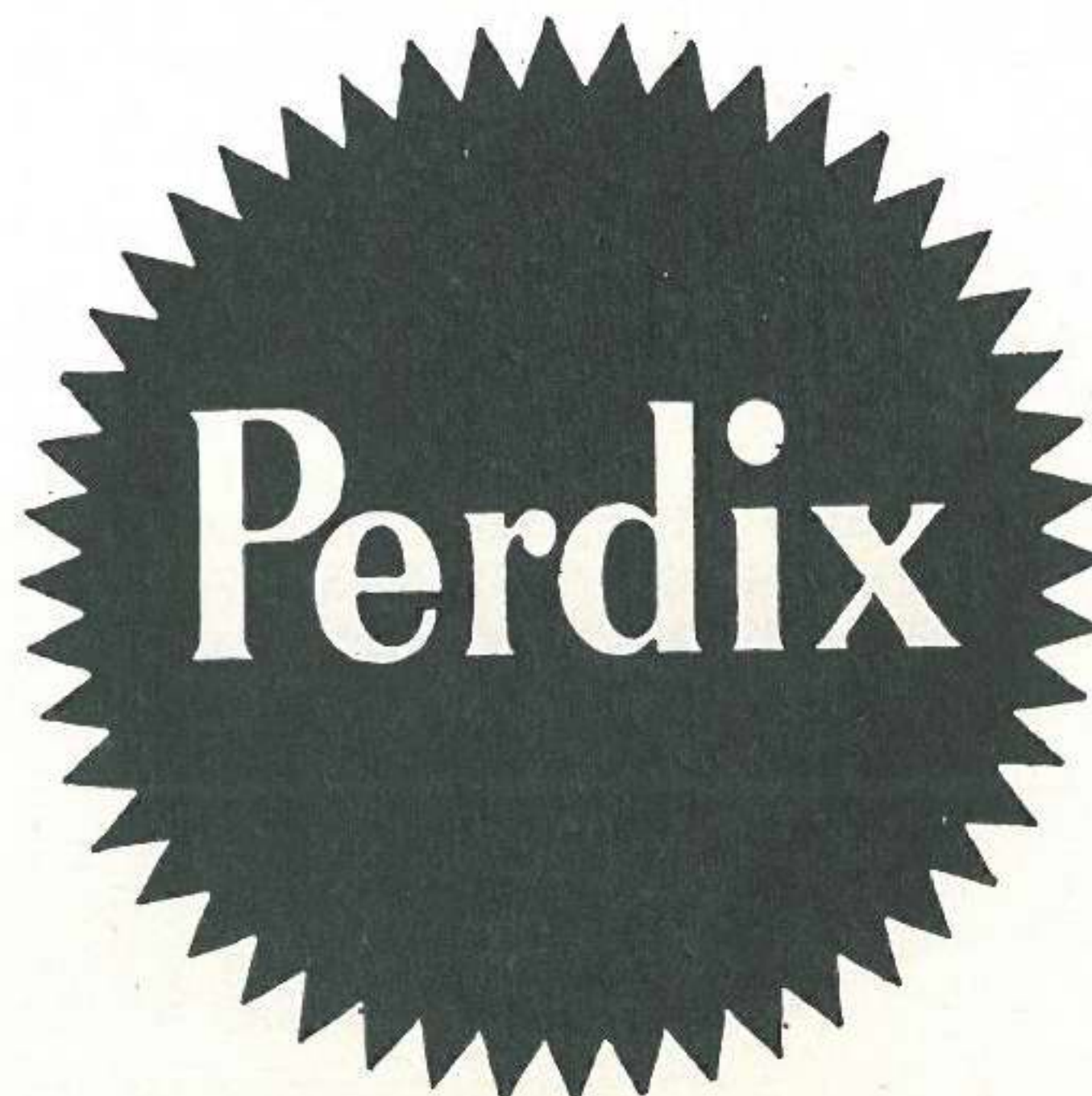
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● FROM PAGE 15

famous Sarsfields forward, who, with Christy Ring, dominated the Cork attack for many years; nor is he related to those other well-known members of the clan, Seanie the star forward, and Jim the great trainer. He is, in fact, a member of a sporting family from Sunday's Well and began his hurling career in the under-21 parish leagues sponsored by clubs in the north side of the city. He played with the North Monastery in the Dr. Harty Cup competition and helped his club, St. Vincents, to win the county minor hurling championship in 1957. He is the most prominent player on his club's senior team at the moment, and follows in the footsteps of Christy O'Shea, the fair haired St. Vincents man, who was one of the most dangerous forwards on the Cork team in the mid-1950's.

Paddy is also a notable footballer, and has lined out for Cork in the junior and under-21 grades. He helped St. Vincents to reach the county intermediate final on two occasions and figured in the team at right-half-forward. But it

is as a hurling goalkeeper that the dark, curly-haired performer has gained his greatest acclaim. As a leading exponent of the art of goal-keeping, Paddy has concrete views on the subject and insists that regular ball practice is essential. "Fitness is as vital in goal as out the field," he says. "A goalie must be very decisive, as you rarely get a second chance."

Aged 26, though he looks considerably younger, Paddy is married and has a family of two children. He works as a laboratory assistant at U.C.C. His displays throughout the All-Ireland championship and after it have led many old followers of the game to compare him with Tom Mulcahy, Dave Creedon and Mick Cashman the best goalies the Rebel County produced in the past quarter-century or so.

But if Paddy Barry can maintain the tremendous form he has exhibited since last June, his many admirers can rest assured that the dauntless custodian from Sunday's Well will take his place among the greatest hurlers ever to stand beneath a Croke Park crossbar.

NOEL DRUMGOOLE

● FROM PAGE 14

M.—Do you think the G.A.A. are failing in their efforts to provide social amenities for their players?

D.—Yes, I am afraid that we are sadly lacking in these amenities for our players. However, there are signs in recent times that clubs and county boards are beginning to tackle the problem. Congress last year passed a motion from our club (Treaty Sarsfields) to the effect that the All-Ireland finalists be entertained after the games. As a further step in this direction, I would like to see county teams dine together after their games.

M.—Is there any change you would like to see introduced in G.A.A. administration?

D.—I would like to see the rules of the Association presented in a more simplified form. The rules in present form are far too complicated for the ordinary club secretary or official and it often transpires that the odd "expert" on the rules can sway meetings of committees and clubs and indeed in many cases hamper progress by insisting on the strict interpretation.

M.—What is your ambition for the future?

D.—To see Treaty-Sarsfields own a playing field equipped with all modern amenities.

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With the Hire Purchase Company of Ireland Limited. At one time or another your business may urgently require expensive items—cars, plant, tractors, farm machinery. These are too expensive to buy for cash outright, so we, the Hire Purchase Company of Ireland Ltd., help you get it. No heavy capital outlay just a small deposit and the rest spread over a period to suit your pocket.

Remember the Hire Purchase Company of Ireland Limited is an all-Irish company—Irish financed, Irish owned, Irish staffed. So while you are helping yourself you are also helping Ireland.

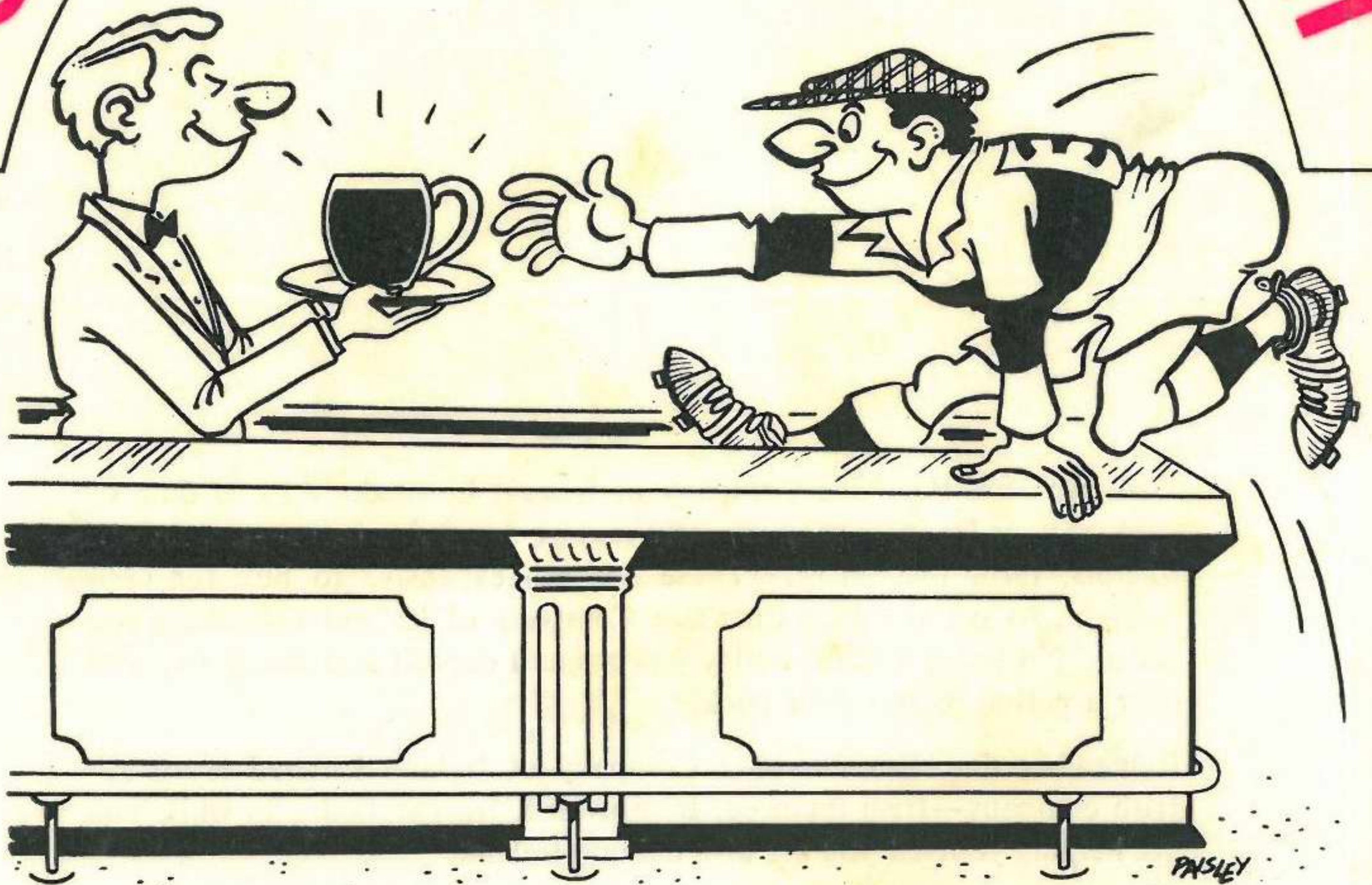
Why not talk to the experts at your local branch of :

**THE HIRE PURCHASE COMPANY
OF IRELAND LIMITED**

36 Lr. Baggot Street, Dublin 2.

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