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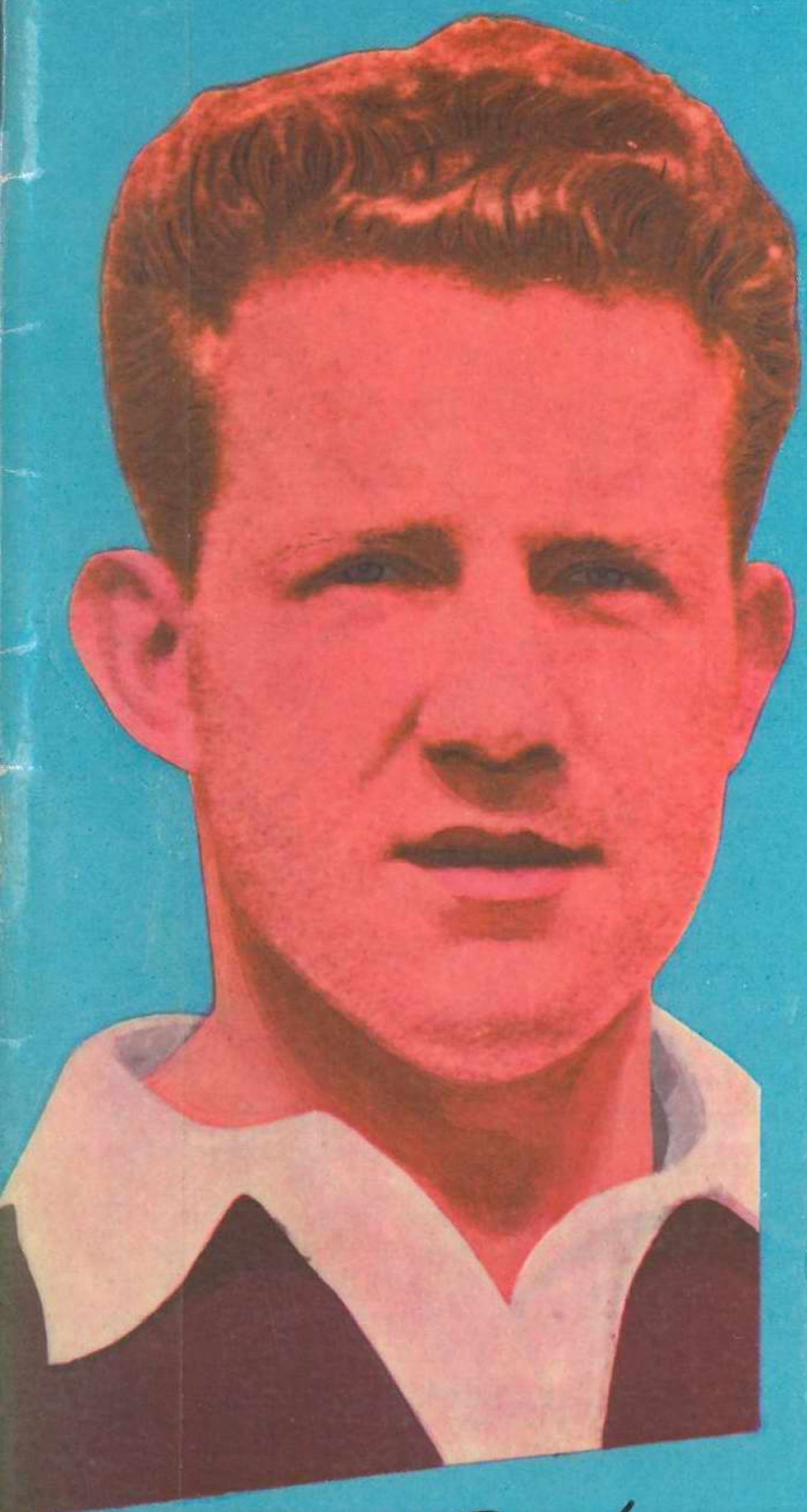
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Mattie McDonagh

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HOLIDAY . . .

ABROAD

THOSE of us who remember the days—and we don't have to be very old—when the sun-tanned friend or acquaintance returning from a continental holiday was almost as rare as a cuckoo-call in September find it hard to realise the vast number of Irish men and women who nowadays spend their holidays abroad every year.

Three main developments have brought this about—Easy travel (Aer Lingus services, or provides connections with, all the main centres of Europe); travel agents' package-deals, and the money which brings both of those amenities within reach of the average wage-earner.

Continental holidays were once the prerogative of the rich; now Europe is almost everybody's oyster for the outlay of a relatively modest sum.

Take a couple of examples. According to the brochures, you can fly Aer Lingus from Dublin, Cork or Shannon to Paris, spend eight delightful days in the French capital, with hotel room and breakfast as well as hotel service charges and local taxes included in the cost, for as little as 38 guineas.

Or if you would like to extend your vacation to 15 days of sunshine and sightseeing you could

make your destination Biarritz, just 80 miles from Lourdes on the Bordeaux coast just above the Spanish border.

Again flying from Dublin, Cork or Shannon you can take in a visit to Lourdes by air or rail from Biarritz, and enjoy a fortnight's full hotel accommodation for the all-in fee of 84 guineas.

Let us then, in these dull February days, imagine some of the many other wonderful places we could visit this summer if only we took the bull by the horns in good time.

And talking about bulls, there is enchanting Spain. Madrid, the capital, is an elegant, modern city of two million people. Perched high on a plateau above wild and beautiful mountainous country, it rivals Paris as a busy and romantic capital with its fine shops, fashions and artistic traditions.

To the holidaymaker, this wonderful city offers food, climate and a standard of gracious living that can hardly be equalled.

Still in the land of the bullfight and the flamenco, you might make your destination San Sebastian, Spain's third largest city. On the Atlantic coast, 20 miles from the French border, it is set on a beautiful bay flanked by twin mountains and backed by green hills. The busiest and most bust-

ling Spanish resort, San Sebastian has everything—golf, horse racing, motor racing, tennis and yachting.

Or perhaps you'd like something quieter. Then Marbella is your place. A town of 13,000 inhabitants, it lies 40 miles west of Malaga near the southern Spanish coast. Two beaches in the town and twenty others nearby make Marbella a sun-seeker's paradise.

If your preference is Germany you have a wide choice in a country that combines ultra-modern cities, incredibly beautiful mountains, peaceful, unspoiled countryside and some of the world's most delicious food and drink.

If it is bustle and gaiety you want, Frankfurt is your place. Centre of the picturesque Rhineland area, this fine city teems with fine restaurants, lovely shops and night life till the small hours.

Munich, capital of Bavaria, offers historic buildings, art, opera, theatres, cinemas and exciting cafes.

For the peace-seeking sightseers there is Konigswinter at the foot of the Seven Mountains, on the Rhine, forty miles south of Duesseldorf. This is a town of picturesque houses and cobbled streets. All the beauties of the Rhineland, the castles, the mountains, gorges and vineyards are

● Continued next page

. . . GUIDE

IRELAND



Yeats Country . . . Lough Gill on the Sligo-Leitrim border.

"THE time has now arrived", said Elizabeth Nicholas, the travel writer, in the *"Sunday Times"* not so long ago, "when I find it almost an embarrassment to write about Ireland. When its name is mentioned in conversation—when someone says, idly, what about Ireland this year?—all eyes turn to me, and then there is a roar of laughter: 'We all know what YOU think about Ireland' comes the cry.

"Well, yes, they do. Ever since I first discovered the delights eight short, eight immeasurably long, years ago—it depends on how you look on them—I have seen no need to hide the Irish light under a bushel.

"I have tried so often, these eight years, to analyse my feelings for Ireland, that it is impossible now to do so with any freshness. Let the simple truth suffice:

"I find there something that I have found nowhere else in the world; a space, a breadth, a sense of as-it-was-in-the-beginning that is unique. It is as though, in Ireland, one had miraculously walked like Alice through a Looking Glass and entered a world that reflects an era one had thought gone for ever.

"An era of peace and calm and leisure, an era where people still had time to laugh, to joke, to muse and day dream, to savour slowly the good things of the world—to be polite.

"Speaking for myself, I have found Irish food to be most excellent and at Dublin Airport there

is to be found what is, in my experience, the best airport restaurant in the world; its food is really admirable. And in the hotels I have enjoyed cooking of the highest quality, too.

"But good food can be found in lots of places, together with other creature comforts; but I swear, honest to God, that nowhere else in Europe can you find the absolutely untouched splendour of the Irish coast, the Irish moors and mountains and spreading fields.

"The coast is staggeringly wonderful, mile after mile of firm, hard, silver sand, backed by green dunes and lapped by turquoise seas—strongly resembling the Aegean—and never anywhere, the sight of anything made by man save perhaps, a small, white cabin, tucked into a fold in the hills.

"All I can say is that I have, in Ireland, felt a deeper, stronger sense of peace and tranquillity, of joy and happiness than I have felt anywhere else on earth.

"There it is. That is how I feel about Ireland. I do not think it matters where you go; my heart is pledged to Kerry and the South-West, but Connemara, Donegal, the coast of Clare, the austere majesty of Achill Island, the beautiful rolling landscape of the South-east, all these are wonderful, too. The thing is to go; to see Ireland as it is to-day; to glimpse the world as it was before man laid upon it his disfiguring imprint; to see the sands and the sky and the hills as they were in the beginning . . . You will not, I swear, regret it, if you make this your holiday this year".

Thanks, Miss Nicholas. What copywriter could have done half as well, to sell our attractions? Perhaps the bit about seeing no sign of anything made by man save the white cabin was stretching it a little. But what of it? Who could resist a holiday in Ireland after that romantic eulogy?

ABROAD

● From previous page

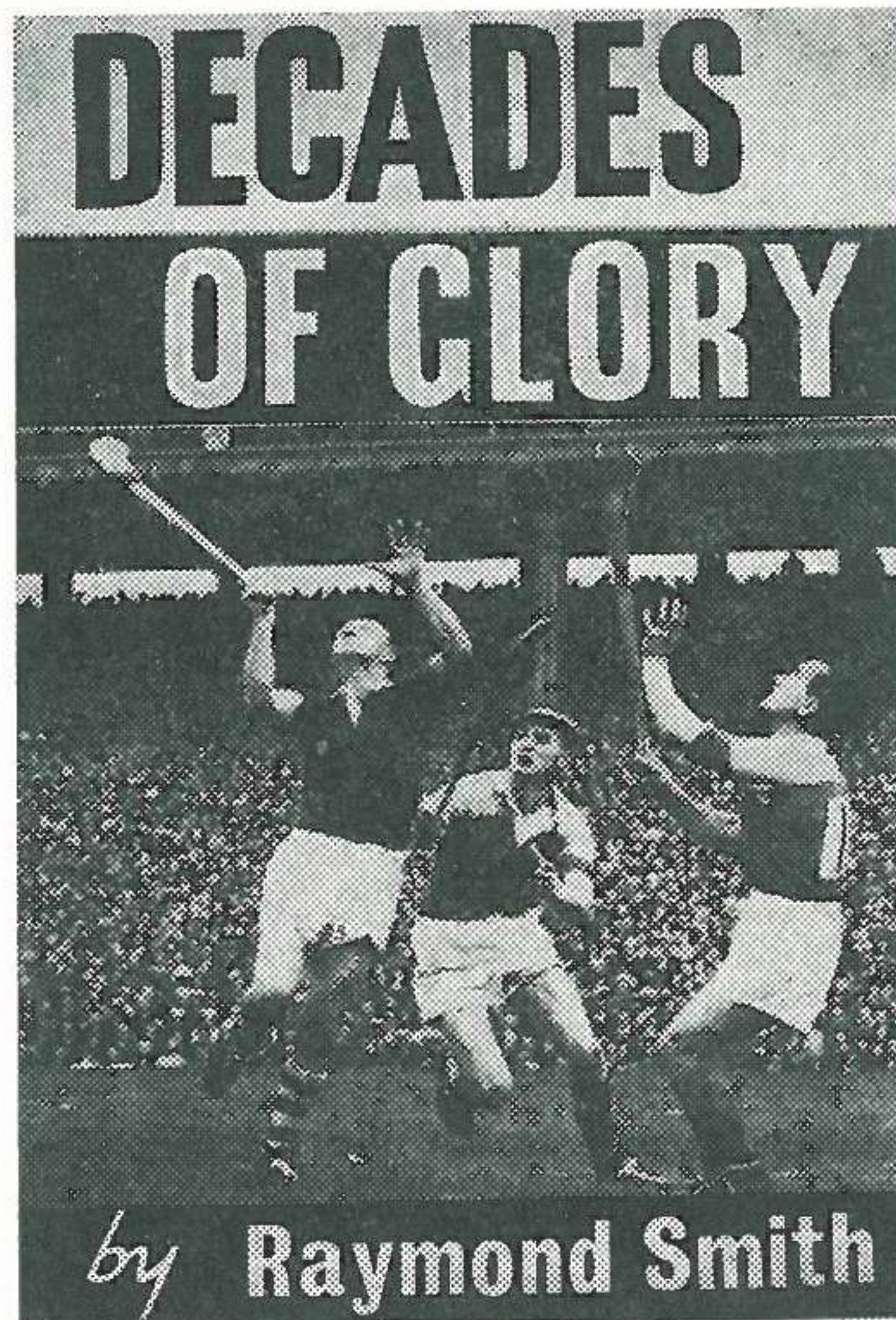
within easy reach. Also Cologne and its magnificent cathedral.

Few can resist the lure of Italy. For the tourist, Rome divides the country in two. North of Rome it is European, neat farms, mild climate, high mountains. South of the Eternal City the people are darker, the land wilder and the climate truly Mediterranean. Choose North

or South—or see both; either is an ideal holiday area.

We could go on. Say to Switzerland, with its magnificent snow-capped mountains and calm blue lakes. Or to Denmark, the fairytale country of Hans Christian Andersen with its cool, green forests, rolling hills and flower-lined streams. But it would fill a book.

Why not ask your travel agent and he will tell you the rest.



Wills of Dublin and Cork, who have always taken an active interest in the development of Gaelic Games, are proud to have played a part in making possible the publication of Raymond Smith's 'Decades of Glory.'

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Gaelic Sport

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The new Guide

IN April, 1964, this publication carried out a small survey which embraced a cross-section of one hundred G.A.A. followers and members. The purpose of the survey was to establish how many had read the Association's "Official Guide." Only eleven had. Of the eleven who had, three found it necessary to do so because they were club officials; two more were referees. This left but six out of one hundred who had read the rules without being compelled to do so. We now wonder if the position has since changed to any degree?

Virtually all of those to whom the question was put three years ago were either former or current players—yet so few had concerned themselves with even an elementary study of the rules under which they had played or were playing.

What prompts us to raise this issue again is the fact that a new edition of the "Official Guide" has just been published. Every club is automatically supplied with a copy but beyond that the onus is, naturally, on the individual to acquire his own copy. This can be done by writing to the Ard-Rúnaí, G.A.A., Croke Park, Dublin 3, and enclosing four shillings.

Actually, leaving rules aside for a moment, the book is excellent value at that price and prompts the conclusion that it is being subsidised by the Association. As well as being a rule-book the "Official Guide" is also a record-book containing much valuable information and statistics. Containing two hundred pages, it is hard-covered and attractively produced.

However, in this brief comment, the rules are our primary concern. We suggest that only those who are familiar with them are equipped to fully enjoy and discuss the games for which they cater.

It would appear logical to conclude that much of the abuse showered on referees, and also many of the incidents which at times despoil our games, stem from a lack of familiarity with the rules.

Only by reading the rules can this major deficiency be overcome.

IN our issue of last December we hit out at the fact that the house in which Michael Cusack was born is now an unmarked and derelict ruin. We suggested that this was not to the credit of either the G.A.A. or the people of County Clare.

A month later we learned that a committee had been formed to take the matter in hand. There may be no connection between our comment and the subsequent formation of the committee—although we like to think that there might be.

However, we do pledge our support to this undertaking. It is a worthy labour. Any assistance or publicity which we can give this committee in their work needs but the wind of the word.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

There is much new thinking in the G.A.A. — good, solid and realistic thinking which aims at revitalising the clubs and fully developing them as social units which will play a worthwhile role in the Ireland of the latter half of the twentieth century. Precisely what needs to be done was clearly outlined by Kerry Secretary Tadhg Crowley in his report to the recent County Convention. He wrote :

“Gone are the days when a good club was judged solely by the number of playing members it had. Every club nowadays needs its own playing pitch, dressing-rooms and club rooms where players, officials, ex-players and those too young to play can be provided with a variety of activities to bring them under the influence of the Association and help in the realisation of the ideals of the G.A.A.”

That, in a nutshell, is what we believe it is all about. What is still not clear though is how the

necessary finance, to provide all of this development, can be acquired.

The recent Grounds Plan provides details of the Central Council's contribution. It promises £600,000 spread over ten years. In providing this the Central Council is taxing its resources to the full and depending largely on the advance sale of “permanent” tickets at Croke Park. However, despite this, the Central Council's contribution is little more than an incentive grant. The greater share of the capital must be acquired locally. Can this be done?

We believe it can—but before it can a tightening-up of the club structure of the Association appears necessary. There are over three thousand G.A.A. clubs in Ireland. Many of them are one of a number in the same parish. Development such as that suggested is not likely to succeed on so diversified a basis.

One club per parish would appear a necessary first step on the road to the desired development. Where such an amalgamation cannot, for some reason, be brought about in a parish of more than one club, then joint co-operation might substitute.

The point we are trying to make is that theory and planning will not achieve the objectives of this new departure. These will have to

be joined by a great determination at local level. This determination will require a willingness to abandon many in-built traditions.

Unless there is a contraction of the present widespread club structure or some system of local co-operation which will include a number of clubs working together, then “all the money in the Bank of England” would be required to provide 3,000 playing pitches, dressing-rooms and club-rooms.

MEN WHO MADE HISTORY

During the first week in January, they laid Dan Ryan to rest in Dualla, Co. Tipperary. It was the end of an era for, at 97, Dan Ryan was the last survivor of that Tipperary team which, at Birr on April 1, 1887, won the first All-Ireland final ever played.

At about the same time that Dan Ryan died, we read in the newspapers that a large number of those who took part in the 1916 Rising had passed away during 1966. It struck us that there was a considerable contrast.

Various agencies and individuals have over the years collected all of the vital information and reminiscences of the men who took a prominent part in the fight for freedom. Much of what has been collected will not be published for some years—but the important thing is that it has been collected.

WORTHY LABOUR

Regrettably the same cannot be said in the case of G.A.A. players. For example, we wonder if anybody has written down the reminiscences of Dan Ryan — and there are such men in every county who will, before 1967 has reached its end, have gone from us.

Much vital G.A.A. history, concerning the early years of the Association, would already appear to have been lost. It would be a great tragedy if the process of losing it should continue.

Who should do this task and how can it be done? Certainly it is a huge undertaking and one which no publishers or newspaper has the resources to tackle properly on a national scale. Only the G.A.A. itself would appear equipped for the task.

The manner in which it could be done would appear to us to be that each County Board would set up a small committee of a few specialist men—say, for example, a local journalist, a local amateur historian and a teacher, and that these men be assigned the task of interviewing all the veteran former players and officials in the county who might have worthwhile reminiscences. A tape-recorder would greatly simplify the work.

Even if this work was not edited or published for years it would not really matter. The important thing is that it should have been recorded and so preserved for all time.

THE GOOD WIVES

It is not often these days that something noteworthy comes out of Kilkenny football but we believe that the county's Football Board Chairman, Francis O'Brien, did compensate to a degree when, at the recent Board Convention, he stated:

"I want to offer thanks to a body of people who are never mentioned and I consider I am breaking new ground when I mention footballers' wives."

THREE-IN-A-ROW

WHAT a pity that down the years since the G.A.A. was founded there was not a chronicler like Jack Mahon in every county and a generous benefactor like Player-Wills to sponsor him. Had there been, the events of the Association would have been well recorded.

Jack's latest production, "Three in a Row", is a tidy little publication which, as might be expected, tells the story of Galway victories of 1964, '65 and '66. For many of us the story is well known—we were there to see it being enacted. But there are those who were not and for them this book is the next best thing to having been there.

For Galway people the book also serves the purpose of being a souvenir of the three greatest years they have ever experienced—or are likely ever to experience again. This, in fact, as I would see it, is the primary function of this book and it does serve that function admirably.

But, of course, as the years go by "Three in a Row" will acquire a wider audience. Those too young to have been there—or even to remember—will want

to read about this great feat and when future generations do want to read about it they will have all they require in Jack Mahon's publication.

Attractively produced, "Three in a Row" has just on 50 pages and is well illustrated with photographs—some of which we have not seen before. One small criticism in this regard—there are three team photographs but in no case are the players identified. Currently, this is of little consequence as most of us know all of these Galway players well—but in ten or twenty years time those who read this book will not know them and it would add to their pleasure if they could identify each of the players.

But then that is but a wee aside. "Three in a Row" you should have. It costs but half-a-crown and it is well worth it. If your local newsagent has not got a copy (and he should have), write the author at 9 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway. (Postage 6d. extra).

Finally, a brief word of praise too for Player and Wills for having helped with the production of the book. It is worthy of their interest.

Mr. O'Brien was being quite serious and so are we, but we extend our comments to include, not alone footballers' wives, but the wives of all G.A.A. men and of a few G.A.A. journalists as well.

These wives have to endure much that is not the lot of their non-G.A.A. neighbours. Most Sundays of the year are spent at home, when other wives are being taken out, because husbands are off playing or viewing some game. Then, for many wives whose hus-

bands are active on club committees and such like, there are also evenings and winter nights when the man of the house is away "on duty." For the wives of players there is the added task of washing togs now and then and of special and awkward arrangements for week-end meals.

Yes, we join with Mr. O'Brien, raise our hats and say with sincerity—"Our wives, God bless 'em."

TAKE CARE



- use CALTEX

The real party bosses!

FOR a number of years now I have silently watched the G.A.A.'s exploitation of our national political parties. It took the events of recent months to finally persuade me to raise my pen in protest. However, I fear that I write in vain, for it is now too late. The take-over seems complete.

I suppose it all began when, in 1884, they dragged in poor Parnell as a patron. History credits his ensuing downfall to Mrs. O'Shea. I wonder if she was alone in that?

However, it was not until modern times that the long arm of the G.A.A. stretched all the way down the corridors of power. As I see it, they now virtually own Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. Labour too will be taken over—whenever that party looks like becoming a significant political force.

You don't believe a word I say? Well then, I will simply have to prove it to you.

Let's begin with the vital by-elections of last December. Among those mentioned as being "in the field" for the Fianna Fáil nomination in Kerry were Tom Long and

Seán Brosnan, both of illustrious All-Ireland fame. Then there was Fred Moynihan of Munster colleges fame; Diarmuid Moynihan, the Secretary of the East Kerry Board; Jack O'Leary, the former East Kerry Secretary; Liam Cousing, former Vice-Chairman of the Kerry Co. Board. . . Need I go on. Needless to say a G.A.A. man got the nomination. It was Jack O'Leary.

Fine Gael had only two candidates for their Kerry nomination—Michael Begley, the Chairman of the West Kerry Board of the G.A.A. and Bill Dennehy, the former Munster rugby player. . . I don't suppose I need go further.

And so it was that the Chairman of the West Kerry Board squared up to the former Secretary of the East Kerry Board in the political arena. The nation stood still and watched.

It could have gone either way as the G.A.A. was in somewhat of a quandary as to which of its men should be elected. The Association's grip of the political parties had simply flown-over in a manner

which, in future, it will not allow to happen.

However, Mr. Begley resolved the issue. Immediately prior to the election, he rose to his feet at a meeting of the Kerry County Board and loudly condemned the new seats which had been erected under the Cusack Stand at Croke Park. He was most emphatic that they should be immediately removed. It was a grave blunder on his part.

The wise men listened, smiled, and chose Jack O'Leary. Such might not have been the case had Mr. Begley not got his seats confused.

In Waterford there was considerably less competition. There was no G.A.A. man, of political inclination, in the county with a record like 'Fad' Browne. The only Waterford man to play in the Tailteann Games of 1932—twelve county championship medals with Erin's Own, etc. Here the issue was cut and dried.

And so it was that the G.A.A. filled both seats in two of the most vital by-elections in the history of the State.

Then take the election of the new Taoiseach. Truly George Colley never had a chance—with not a medal to his name. The boys saw to that. How did they do it?

Well, firstly there was Charlie Haughey—ex-Parnells forward and brother of Jock, who did so much to bring the Sam Maguire Cup back to Dublin in 1958. Charlie set the pace and Seamus Leydon-like he drew out the backs.

Then at the vital moment in stepped Kevin Boland, a pillar of the Hogan Stand. His grandfather had helped to found the G.A.A., his uncle had been Chairman of the Dublin County Board, while

● Continued page 48



RISE OF A STAR

By **TIM HORGAN**

INTEREST in the nomination of the Caltex Award winners has always been high, but with the general levelling of standards in both hurling and football during the past twelve months the 1966 recipients aroused more attention than ever. It was appropriate that the football trophy went to Mattie McDonagh, the veteran performer with over a decade of intercounty glory behind him, while comparative newcomer Justin McCarthy gained the hurling honour. Both players epitomise the fortunes of their respective counties. Galway the venerable warriors with a string of titles to their credit and Cork the newly crowned champions ready to prove their worth. Last month's issue featured an article on the "Footballer of the Year", and now it is my pleasant task this month to take a look at his hurling counterpart from the banks of the Lee.

Justin McCarthy is one of the most stylish performers in hurling to-day, and nothing comes more natural to him than gathering the ball in transit, bouncing it on his stick and sending it sailing gracefully over the crossbar more than seventy yards away. His penchant for scoring long range points has placed him high among the top marksmen in the game, but it is his delightful stick-work, his well positioned pass to the "loose" forward and his boundless energy that have endeared the tall midfielder to the Cork followers.

He began his career in juvenile competitions with the local club at

Rochestown where he lives, but later joined Passage (West) and won hurling and football honours in the under-age grades. He was picked for the Cork minors in 1963 and lined out in the red jersey for the first time with such players as Seanie Barry and Gerald McCarthy. The Leesiders were beaten in the Munster championship but Justin played well enough to catch the fancy of the intermediate selectors. He won a provincial medal in that grade the following year and was included in the senior panel for the championship. Tipperary were at their zenith at the time and Cork were already a beaten team when the Passage man was introduced into the Munster final ten minutes before full-time.

But his inclusion in the game proved to be a blessing to the Cork mentors, for though he failed to stop Tipp's triumphal gallop, he shone in the limited time at his disposal and has retained his place ever since. He was one of the most prominent players on the team during the 1965 campaign, but Cork's fortunes collapsed disastrously once again when they incurred a six-goal defeat at the hands of the old rivals. By the end of the year after Clare had inflicted a shock defeat on them in the League, it looked as if the Leesiders' potential was at its lowest ebb.

Then the 1966 season brought with it the Wembley Tournament and signs of a revival in Cork hurling, when they beat Wexford in

a scintillating final on Whit Saturday. Justin was one of the heroes of that victory, notching five valuable points and displaying all the brilliance and expertise that were fast becoming features of all his performances. When the "Rebels" took on Kilkenny in the League semi-final the following month the slim athlete was Cork's most conspicuous player again, though the game ended in a bad defeat for his county.

The Munster championship got off to a sensational start with the sudden departure of Tipperary from the competition, and the remaining counties set their sights firmly on the title. Cork met Clare in the first round and though the sides were level at the interval, the Dalcassians surged into a three point lead with less than four minutes to go. Then the Leesiders were awarded a free about 35 yards from the Clare goal and Justin McCarthy, who was having a subdued game at right half-forward, stepped up to take it. He sent a low hard shot to the centre of the crowded parallelogram and the Leaside contingents on the sideline exploded in wild delight as the ball was deflected to the corner of the net by a Clare defender. The day was saved and Cork lived to fight again.

When the teams met a fortnight later for the replay, Justin was placed at midfield, his best position, and Cork went on to master the Claremen with ease. The slender performer was im-

pressive in the semi-final against Limerick also, but it was in the provincial decider that he reached his apogee.

Playing with all the skill and confidence of a veteran, Justin exhibited the deft touches that enthralled the Leaside supporters and left his mark as one of the most promising midfielders ever to grace the Ennis Road Grounds. When Cork took the All-Ireland title several weeks later the polished exponent from Rochestown could claim more than an average share of the credit.

Justin McCarthy did enough in the senior championship to earn the plaudits of hurling enthusiasts everywhere, but his brilliance was not confined to the major ranks alone. Still an under-age player, he lined out with the Cork Under-21 team and covered himself in glory in the triple-barrelled All-Ireland final against Wexford. He maintained a high standard in all his matches, but his performance in the second replay at Croke Park was nothing short of superb. In fact, it was this display that finally weighed the scales in Cork's favour and helped the Sports Editors to select without any uncertainty the "Hurler of the Year".

Justin is also an accomplished footballer and plays with his club in junior competitions. He is employed at the Verolme Dockyard and showed his versatility when competing in the Company's first sports meeting last year. The star hurler took three "firsts" in 440 yards, 880 yards and long jump, and four "seconds", thereby adding further laurels to his well decked crown. But it is as a wielder of the ash and leather that the all-rounder from the Rebel County rose to fame, and though at 21 he has gained the highest honours the game can offer, Justin McCarthy is only on the threshold of his greatness. Time will tell if the energetic ball-player can take his place among the best midfielders hurling has ever produced.

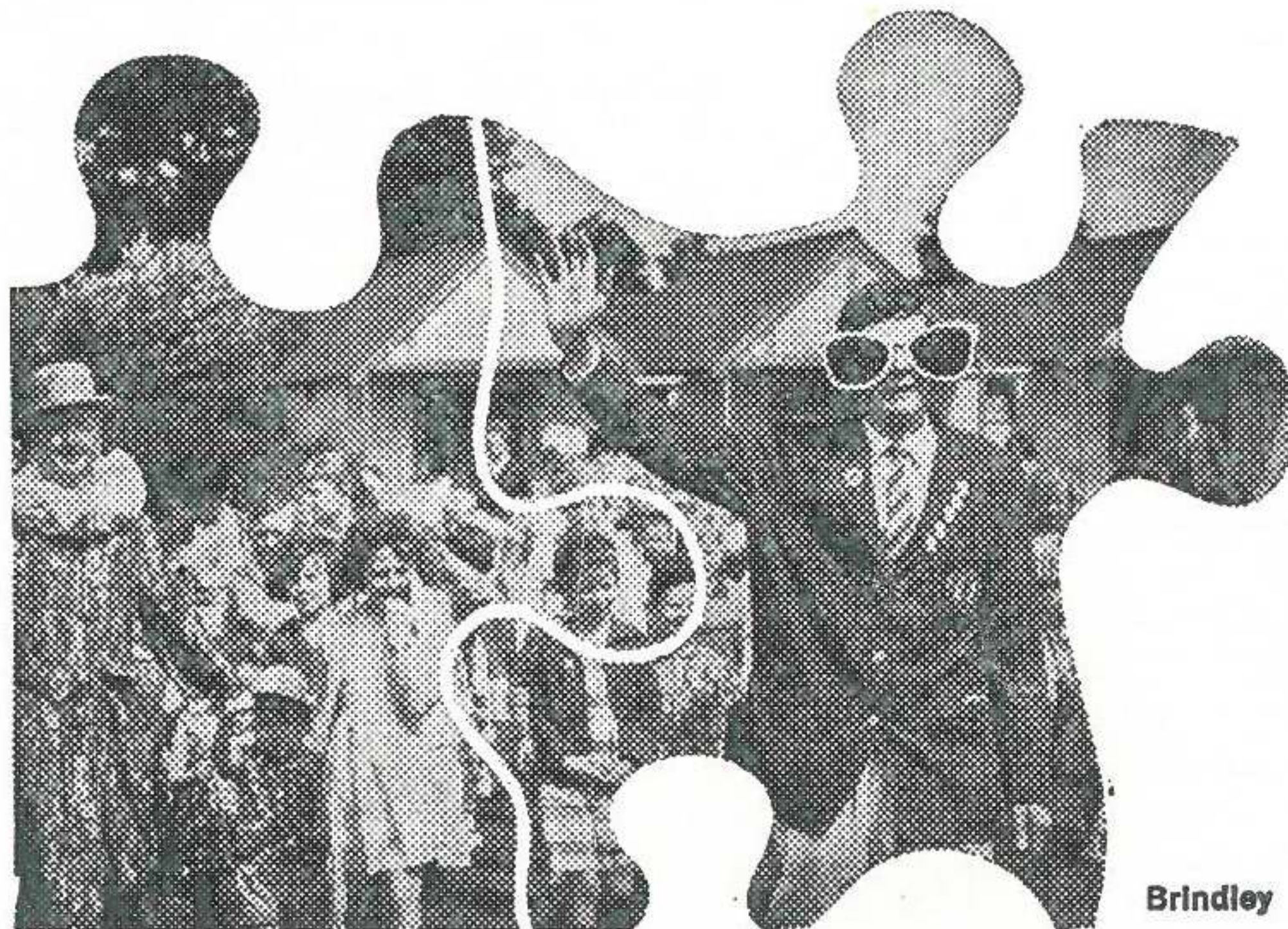


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THE DANGER SIGNALS

By
JAY DRENNAN

WE pride ourselves that our's is the Association of the people; that we have as our primary consideration that our games are a sport which can be indulged in by a huge number of the population, even though they never reach any sort of competence, and that the big-time is only the visible part of the iceberg.

Probably, we are now at a time when the thought of these ideals is as important as anything else, for it is an era of much change in world sport. In other countries and in other forms of sport, the important part of the sport is getting farther and farther away from the people. The word "sport" will soon begin to take on a new meaning in the dictionary if the world is not careful: or maybe that is the desire of all. "To play, to frolic, to practise field diversions . . ." my dictionary says, and I am struck with the emphasis on the active voice in all the verbs; no passives like "to be diverted". I think that it is a heritage that we must most jealously preserve, this active meaning of the word "sport" within the meaning of our G.A.A. activities.

The dangers grow in all phases of sports as the games get bigger that the tendency will be to set up an elite of those who excel, that they are cosseted and pampered at the expense of the lower orders. Soccer and rugby show diametrically opposed tendencies here: the one gets to be a greater and greater

business; the other sets its sights on getting as many as possible of its club-members to keep their incipient paunches in trim by regular third-grade outings in togs.

Playing the game is something that we can never over-emphasise. It is all the more necessary to-day, for the youth do not have the same narrow breadth of choice of ways to enjoy itself as, say, anything over twenty years ago. In those days, football and hurling—playing or supporting—were pretty well the only ways of enjoyment for young men. A great number participated, even when they were not members of official clubs, and most of the remainder took a keen interest. It is not, I think, advancing years that make it seem to me that there is a smaller percentage of youth who play to-day. Of those who play, and this is easy enough to see, fewer than before are full of ambition to reach the top. The dreams of a great many of to-day's generation have nothing to do with scoring glorious goals in All-Ireland finals.

The diversification of interests is responsible, largely; certainly it is not that the young people have changed. What it does mean for the G.A.A. though, is that we shall have to be more and more active in the field of getting youth to refresh their energies of mind more regularly by games. It cannot be good for youngsters to avoid playing—when the numbers who

do not play are as big as now, one begins to fear for the physical welfare of the generation. And, while there is a world-wide tendency to foster spectatorship rather than playing participation, the results will incline to rub off on us.

There seems to me to be no possibility within the ideals or the competence of the Association to set up a professional business organisation of its games, such as has happened to soccer, cricket, baseball, basketball and American football. The G.A.A. does not stand for that; and even if it did, there is neither the public nor the wide horizons necessary to support it on a large scale. It is, then, our sole concern to maintain the original ideal of sport: as an educator, a part of every boy's upbringing if at all possible, an influence to mould the body and the mind of the player.

We must care, I think, in an age of professionalism which tends to make sport a "show-business" for participation by the elite, and to make the majority spectators, to keep our long-held ideals of the active club as the greatest ornament to progress in G.A.A. matters. Big occasions are great; they are an essential stimulus to the local activities; but, too much emphasis on the big games, and too many of them, could harm the clubs who also have a right to have their intercounty players play their part with them.

ANTRIM ON ROAD BACK

says Kevin Armstrong

ANTRIM can look forward to this new season with plenty of confidence. At long last we seem to be on the road back. Last year we won the McKenna Cup, our first senior success in Ulster for fifteen years. We also finished top of our division in the Lagan Cup. If we can maintain this sort of form in the coming months we should soon be back in Croke Park”.

The man who uttered these words to me recently was well equipped to judge his county's future prospects. As a player of both hurling and football, he was an outstanding performer for many years. Nowadays, Kevin Armstrong is equally well known for his weekly column on northern G.A.A. affairs in the “Sunday Press”.

Do not imagine that the former Antrim star foresees an easy path to success for his county. On the contrary, he envisages a tough struggle ahead for them to gain even provincial honours. “Down, Donegal and this up and coming Derry side will probably provide the main opposition to us in our quest for top honours in Ulster”, he said. “Down may not now be serious contenders for the All-Ireland title, but they will remain a force to be reckoned with in Ulster. Donegal have been on the brink of success for a number of years. They command the highest respect. Derry, on the other hand, are a young side just beginning to show their worth. Nevertheless they are a team to be wary of

because of their youth and enthusiasm”.

Despite the stiff opposition likely to be encountered from these counties, Kevin is still optimistic about Antrim's chances. “We have a good blend in the side at the moment”, he pointed out. “Furthermore our forwards are now taking their scores, thus getting rid of a failing that has bedevilled the team for years, namely poor scoring power. There is also tremendous enthusiasm in the county at the moment. If we can continue on from where we left off last year, then 1967 could well be a year to remember for us”.

If the men in saffron do make a breakthrough this year it will stir memories of their successes of the mid-40's and early 50's. No one played a greater part in those victories than Kevin Armstrong. After graduating from minor and junior county teams he began his senior career with Antrim in 1939. He played for his county in both codes and one of his earliest distinctions was to play for Antrim in the All-Ireland hurling final of 1943. That Antrim side had astounded Gael-dom by defeating Galway and Kilkenny to qualify for a tilt at mighty Cork in the final. True, they were soundly beaten by the Munster men, but their achievement in reaching the final gave hurling a mighty fillip in the North.

I have heard many excuses proffered for that defeat but Kevin offered none. “We were well and truly beaten by a much superior side”, he admitted. “After all, they captured four titles in a row from

1941 to 1944, so they must have been an outstanding team”. Although he continued to hurl for Antrim and Ulster it was on the football field that Kevin gained most of his prestige from then on.

Earlier in 1942 he had been a member of the first ever Ulster football team to win the Railway Cup. On that historic occasion they accounted for Munster in the final. The slick hand-passing movements of their forward line, in which Kevin figured, had a lot to do with their success. They retained the trophy in 1943 when they defeated Leinster in the decider.

Three years later in 1946 Kevin was on the Antrim team which won the Ulster football title by defeating Cavan at Clones. It was the county's first senior title in 33 years. “That victory over Cavan was almost like winning an All-Ireland”, declared Kevin. “I regard it as my most cherished memory out of all my years in football and hurling”.

Kerry halted Antrim's progress in that year's championship by overcoming the Northerners in the All-Ireland semi-final. Kevin pointed to a scar over his left eye and remarked, “A souvenir from that encounter. I'm afraid I didn't take part for long. I got this eye cut in a collision after about ten or fifteen minutes and that was that”. He blamed the atrocious weather on that occasion as being partly responsible for Antrim's defeat. “The torrential rain made the going very heavy and conditions were all against our style of play. Had we had a dry day I



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MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

WHEN I was a very small boy, the Railway Cup competitions did not exist and the result was that there was very little to give an edge to Gaelic games competition in the spring of the year. In those days you supported your club, and you supported your county, but you never had any chance, or desire for that matter, to support your province.

In addition, this meant that rivals within a province (and I think that local intercounty rivalry was keener then, generally speaking, than it is to-day) were always in opposition to one another, and never had an opportunity of playing in comradeship.

A group of enthusiasts, among whom Cork Secretary Pádraig O Caoimh, afterwards the great General Secretary, was particularly prominent, suggested that an annual series of interprovincial games would both provide an interesting competition to start off the year, and would obviate over-keen intercounty rivalry by giving players the opportunity of uniting in friendly combination in the provincial colours.

There was, of course, a very strong historical background, both remote and recent, to encourage the starting of such competitions. In the first place, the provinces, generally speaking, go back to Gaelic times and are of far greater historical importance than the counties, which, whether we like it or not were constituted by the English invaders.

An example of the way in which the provincial tradition lingered on is shown by the fact that the

earliest hurling matches on a large scale which attracted widespread notice in the 1700's were on a provincial basis, between Leinster and Munster or Munster and Connacht as the case might be. Indeed, one of the most famed hurling matches of the pre-G.A.A. days was played in the Phoenix Park towards the end of the 18th century. The contestants were the hurlers of Leinster and Munster and among the throng of spectators, gentle and simple, was the then Lord Lieutenant, the English King's Viceroy in Ireland.

The game was evenly and fiercely contested, without a score being recorded by either side and it looked, as the stipulated time drew to an end, that a draw would be the result.

Then a cute Corkman (would you doubt him) secured possession, dodged round the back of the viceregal carriage, and shot the ball through the carriage window to catch the Leinster defenders napping and score the winning goal.

History does not record, however, either what the Leinster defenders thought of such a stratagem or what the Viceroy thought as the ball went whizzing past his viceregal head.

When the G.A.A. came into existence, however, it was on the counties and not on the provinces that the new movement was based. There were no provincial champions in the first All-Ireland hurling competitions which were conducted on the 'open draw' and, though the provincial championships began in 1888, there were no

provincial councils until the early years of this century.

But the old memories of interprovincial rivalry were far from dead. Oddly enough, however, the first interprovincial game under G.A.A. auspices took place, not in Ireland at all but at Stamford Bridge, London, in the nineties when the Gaels staged their first invasion of John Bull's Island.

Munster, who included famed athlete Tom Kiely, defeated Leinster, but Leinster gained revenge in another interprovincial hurling match, also in London, not too long afterwards.

But despite the interest aroused by these games it was not for another decade that interprovincial competitions in hurling and football were inaugurated here at home under G.A.A. auspices. These were the Railway Shield competitions. The Shields, most elaborate affairs, were presented by the old Great Southern Railway Company.

The conditions were that these Shields should be won twice in succession or three times in all. Leinster won the football competition in the first year. But then Munster won the next two series to take possession of the trophy. This was, subsequently, handed over to Kerry who had supplied the bulk of the winning Munster teams.

In hurling, Leinster gained the first victory, but a see-saw struggle then developed with, eventually, Munster and Leinster standing level with two successes apiece. So the fifth final was the decider, and this, a famous game, was played

● Continued next page.



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● From previous page.

at Kilkenny in July, 1908. Tipperary represented Munster, while Leinster's line-out consisted of 15 Kilkenny men. Bob O'Keeffe, a Kilkennyman then teaching in Meath (he subsequently became President of the G.A.A.) and Mike Cummins, the great Wexford star from Ballymurrin.

Leinster won narrowly after a memorable game, but there was considerable controversy as to who should have the custody of the Shield. Kilkenny claimed the trophy, and when this was refused, withdrew from the 1908 Leinster final, although they were All-Ireland champions at the time.

The county was thereupon suspended, but wiser councils prevailed. Central Council raised the suspension and a subsequent Leinster Council meeting gave the Shield to Kilkenny. By then, however, their Leinster and All-Ireland titles had gone by default.

The Kilkenny hurlers, in turn, handed the Shield over to the custody of Kilkenny Corporation and it is, or used to be, on display in a finely carved case, in the Tholsel, the old City Hall of the Marble City.

Inexplicably, for the experiment seemed to have been most successful, these interprovincial competitions were allowed to lapse after the Railway Shields had been won, and there were no other interprovincial clashes until 1924 when in the first revival of the Tailteann Games, Munster took the football honours, and Leinster, without Kilkenny, unexpectedly won the hurling title.

Those games revived interest in the provinces as such, the move to have an annual series got under way and the present competitions were formally agreed upon by the 1926 Congress. The G.S. and W.R. Company was approached for trophies and donated the Railway Cups which are competed for to this day.

The top marksmen of 1966

By OWEN McCANN

THE past year was by no means an outstanding one score-wise. Eddie Keher was the only player to better a century of points, but he was still down on his 1965 figures, while football's tops rank as the game's third lowest. Even so, the year was still marked by a number of noteworthy achievements.

Firstly, Eddie Keher, who notched 10-85 (115 pts.) from 17 ties, is the first Leinster hurler to "break" a points century two years in succession. Jimmy Doyle, who bettered this target in 1963 and 1964, is the only other hurler to land more than 100 minors a year two seasons running. Then, the Kilkenny sharpshooter also has the distinction of being the first hurler to top both charts two successive years since Nick Rackard in 1955-56.

Keher's 1966 tally, which is 12 points below the 16-79 (127 pts.) from 20 engagements that gave him the No. 1 spot in 1965, ranks as the code's fourth highest. Leading the way is Nick Rackard's 35-50 (155 pts.) in 19 outings in 1956. Then comes the Kilkenny hurler's 1965 figures, and the 10-87 (117 pts.) from 17 matches that put Jimmy Doyle on top in hurling in 1964.

Tommy Ring bettered Rickard's 1956 match average record for a Leinster hurler of 8.15 minors. He averaged 8.40 points in his five games, for the best average in

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EDDIE KEHER



LOURDES

OBLATE PILGRIMAGE 1967

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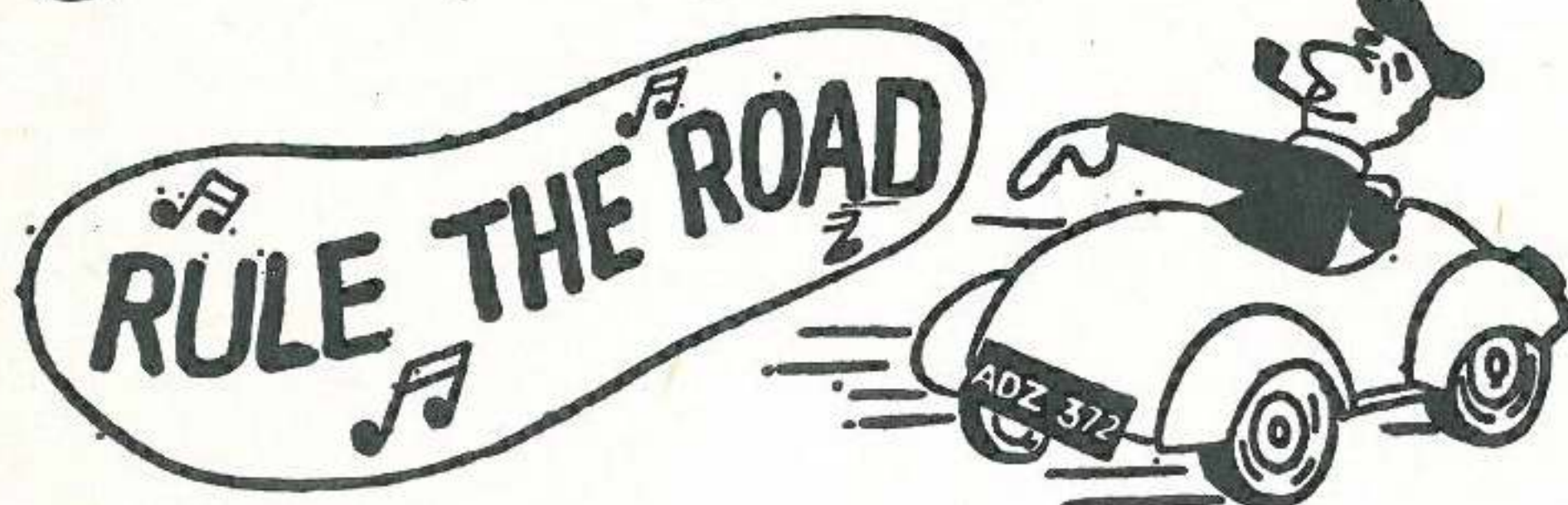
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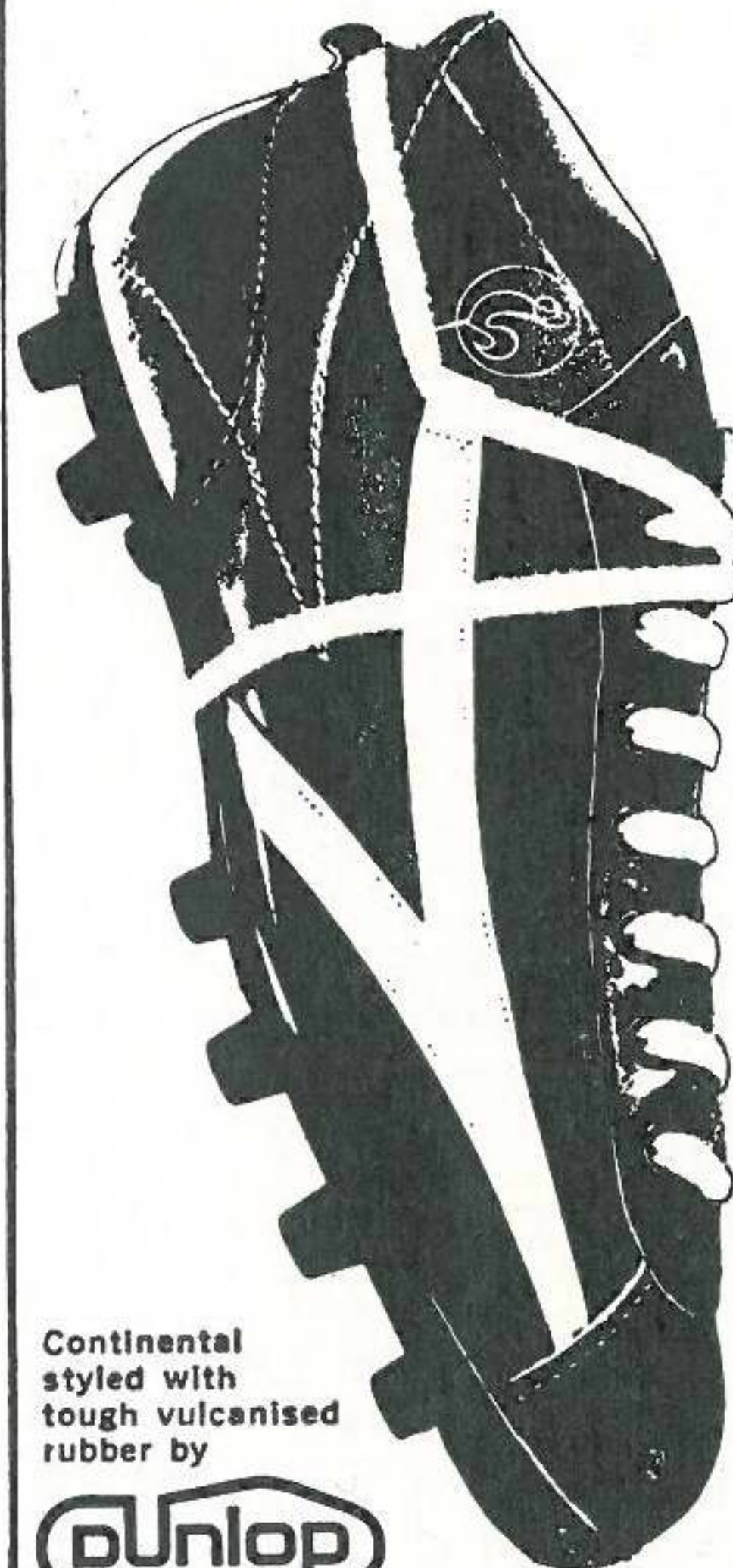


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HURLING LEINSTER

Points	Score	Games	Average
115	E. Keher 10-85	17	6.76
96	P. Molloy 11-63	12	8.00
62	T. Walsh 14-20	16	3.87
45	J. O'Brien 4-33	15	3.00
42	T. Ring 7-21	5	8.40

Provincial record—35-50 (155 pts.) in 19 games : N. Rackard 1956.

MUNSTER AND CONNACHT

Points	Score	Games	Average
53	F. Walsh 6-35	13	4.07
48	E. Cregan 9-21	10	4.80
46	D. Nealon 9-19	14	3.28
44	J. McCarthy 3-35	17	2.58
44	T. Cheasty 5-29	9	4.88
38	D. Lovett 6-20	5	7.60
38	P. Cronin 3-29	10	3.80
36	M. Fox 7-15	10	3.80

Provincial record—10-87 (117 pts.) in 17 games : J. Doyle 1964.

FOOTBALL CONNACHT

Points	Score	Games	Average
99	M. Kearins 3-90	17	5.82
95	J. Corcoran 8-71	16	5.93
89	J. Keenan 10-59	24	3.70
84	C. Dunne 2-78	20	4.20
48	M. McDonagh 6-30	23	2.08

Provincial record—4-104 (116 pts.) in 17 games : M. Kearins 1965.

ULSTER

Points	Score	Games	Average
91	C. Gallagher 6-73	16	5.68
58	P. Doherty 2-52	12	4.83
58	P. T. Treacy 7-37	14	4.14
57	M. McLoone 6-39	11	5.18
52	S. O'Connell 5-37	12	4.33

Provincial record—13-97 (136 pts.) in 24 games : P. Doherty 1960.

LEINSTER

Points	Score	Games	Average
90	B. Burns 3-81	17	5.29
74	J. Donnelly 0-74	20	3.70
68	A. McTeague 1-65	16	4.25
63	K. Kelly 10-33	20	3.15
57	S. Murray 6-39	21	2.71

Provincial record—7-99 (120 pts.) in 24 games : H. Donnelly 1961.

MUNSTER

Points	Score	Games	Average
36	M. Keating 4-24	11	3.27
35	C. O'Sullivan 5-20	12	2.91
28	B. O'Callaghan 3-19	6	4.66
28	M. Tynan 3-19	7	4.00
22	P. Moynihan 1-19	11	2.00

Provincial record—9-52 (79 pts.) in 17 games : B. O'Callaghan 1963.

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either code. The record is 10.1 by Christy Ring in 1959.

Paddy Molloy takes second place in the average list, and is also the country's second highest hurling marksman. He too made history. His 11-63 (96 pts.) from 12 games, smashed by 44 points the previous best by an Offaly hurler of 14-10 (52 pts.) in six games in 1956 by Tom Errity.

Mick Kearins is the first Connacht footballer to take top spot in football since Sean Purcell in 1958. But his tally of 3-90 (99 pts.) from 17 games is well down on the Connacht provincial record he established himself in 1965 at 4-104 (116 pts.) in exactly the same number of games. The two top

football scores which were lower than the 1966 best were 6-72 (90 pts.) by Ollie Freaney in 21 games in 1955, and what, surprisingly enough, ranks as the Munster provincial record—9-52 (79 pts.) in 17 tests by Bernie O'Callaghan in 1963.

The football record was established by Paddy Doherty at 13-97 (136 pts.) in 24 games in 1960. Doherty also set the match average record at 7.18 minors in each of his 11 games in 1958. Footballer with the best average for 1966 is Joe Corcoran, who totalled 5.93 minors a match.

Eddie Keher recorded the year's outstanding individual scoring feat with 2-11 in a League game with Laois at Kilkenny in October.

Charlie Gallagher, who was top scorer in 1964 with 6-107 (125 pts.) in 20 games, and again football's ace marksman in 1965 with 7-102 (123 pts.) in 19 matches, chalked up 2-10 against Down in the Wembley Stadium qualifying game at Carrickmacross in May.

Finally, the penalty scoring record in intercounty football last year was quite good. Of the 20 spot kicks awarded, 12 produced goals, and two resulted in a point apiece, leaving six that failed to produce a single score.

All the figures quoted here, incidentally, include the scores in the abandoned Galway-Mayo National League game last November.



by EAMONN YOUNG

**It's
easy
to
keep
Fit**

THE winter sun is lighting up Blackrock Castle across the river and it's a lovely evening. Christmas is gone; it was another good one and I should be happy. Happy? Just now I'm vicious as a cat caught in a rusty rat-trap under a frosty hedge. The reason is I'm middle-aged and completely unfit. Why should you want to be fit you say? And that's the rub. I do; I'll tell you about it later on.

The first step on the road to fitness is the incentive—the reason. Most of our young men and women are hoping to be stars in their own pastime, or at least anxious to make their places on the team. That's reason enough. But there's a better reason and it concerns something far more important than earning a place on the team. It's the value to a person's health and the happiness that springs from health.

God made some of us healthier than others. Some of us are fat, and weak, or with rheumatism and stomach ulcers, dandruff and all the rest. But no matter how poor we are physically we can improve ourselves by paying attention to fitness and general well-being.

When a man has sorted out his reason for getting fit the next thing he has to do is crash through the pain barrier. The day is cold, the fire is warm and there's something of outstanding educational value like "F Troop" on the television. It won't be so nice in togs and the ground is muddy. Or the golf course will be deserted except for the nineteenth hole; or the handball court will be grey and cold and you will have to coax out Lazy Johnny to play with you.

They call that uncomfortable process of getting one's second wind the "pain barrier." I think

the toughest obstacle is getting started.

A tip, and it's so simple as to be naive really is to be warmly clad when you're going out to train or play. I'm speaking, naturally, of winter training though the same is necessary to a lesser degree in summer. If one is warm and comfortable in sweater and track-suit (old flannels and pull-overs may not look so snazzy but they're effective) the first attempt at the pain barrier isn't so unpleasant and when one is warmed up the rest comes easy.

Needless to say indoor training in Ireland is more pleasant in winter and there are excellent ways of getting fit in a gym where, after all, Cassius Clay and his type get fit to make money. Personally, I prefer outdoor training. It may be far less pleasant but that aspect in itself makes a man tougher provided of course he's cute enough to avoid colds. There's really no substitute for hard running and that must be done outdoors until we have enough indoor tracks. Just now there's only one, I think.

Avoidance of alcohol, or at least its consumption in moderation, is a must for the man who wants to get into trim. Alternatives to the "hard-stuff" which I would recommend are INVITE—an invigorating drink at all times, and BOVRIL—a cup of which will have a man rearing to go on a cold winter's evening.

A man should be awake before the alarm clock in the morning providing that he has slept enough. Good food and adequate exercise are obvious necessities and the only exercise to take down weight is to put the two hands on the table and shove. Of course a com-

● Continued next page.

● From previous page.

bination of exercise and diet is a dicy business and can lead to becoming devitalised. The country is full of sensible doctors with an interest in sport. The player should never hesitate to ask them a question on things like that.

We were always told that swimming was very bad for the games player. Without ever being worth my place in competition, I have always been fond of swimming. Firstly, it is a very relaxing exercise, the best there is, in my book, and we all know that the relaxed man is more efficient either on the field of play or in his vocation. In addition, swimming as fast as one can for half a dozen lengths of the baths is a great breathing exercise and improves the old chest bellows immensely just like hard running. Of course, there aren't many chances of winter swimming here, anyhow, even in the cities. But it's an exercise I would recommend to any player just to help

him relax when the heat is on.

The other exercise I recommend is that which has now left me in the vicious humour mentioned at the beginning and caused me to abuse the wife, beat the children and kick the cat down the steps. The pastime is mountain climbing.

Last summer in an army camp down in the Dingle peninsula a lieutenant colonel who once played for Kerry hunted us all up the hills and we got to like the idea in spite of the frequent and self-inflicted lack of sleep which seems inevitable when boys of all ages go out in tents. Hill climbing is hard work if one goes at it with enthusiasm. The beauty of it is, one can set his own pace.

Captain Ned Roche of Kerry and I rambled up Carrantuohill one lovely July day from the northern side and took hours over it telling each other with modest eloquence about all the great games we had played.

A few days later, from the

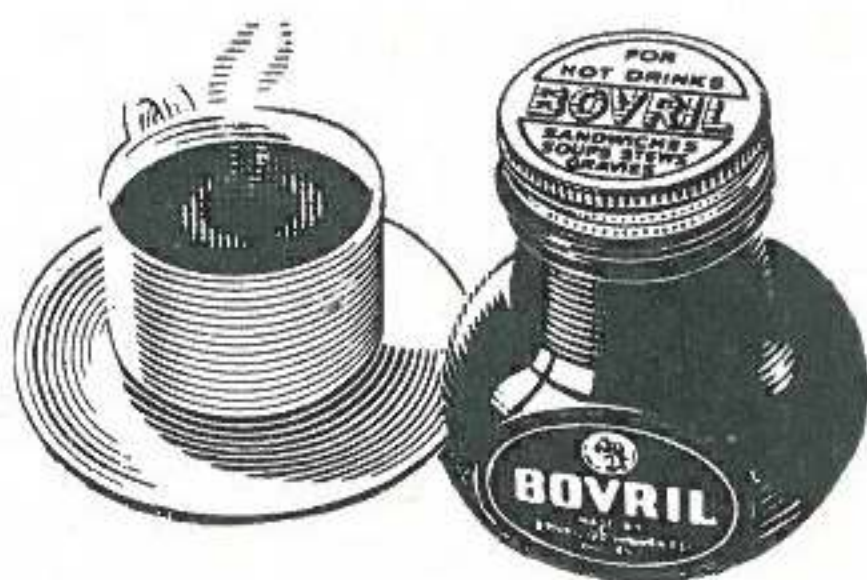
southern side, we climbed it again after being out half the night. This time we were part of a one-hundred strong group divided into teams and all trying to beat the other. I nearly died on that hill and still think it was the venom of the curses that kept me going.

But the fresh air, the sense of achievement, and the downright hard exercise for the legs is simply wonderful for players. It's another exercise I recommend and one doesn't have to go far to find a hill. It doesn't have to be a big one.

So that's my Spring message on health and well-being to the readers of GAELIC SPORT and, far from confining the advice to the playing group, I am convinced that it can apply to people of all ages who find that exercise does them good. And . . . now, after my day struggling along through the heather of a Tipperary hill in the wake of a fourteen-year-old with the pace of a whippet, I'm fit for bed.

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MY NEW YEAR

HONOURS LIST

By Dan McAreavy

THE year which has just ended will rightly be recalled as one of the most memorable in the history of the Association. What an easy task then to select the stars which had shone, perhaps most brightly during this period—or so I thought?

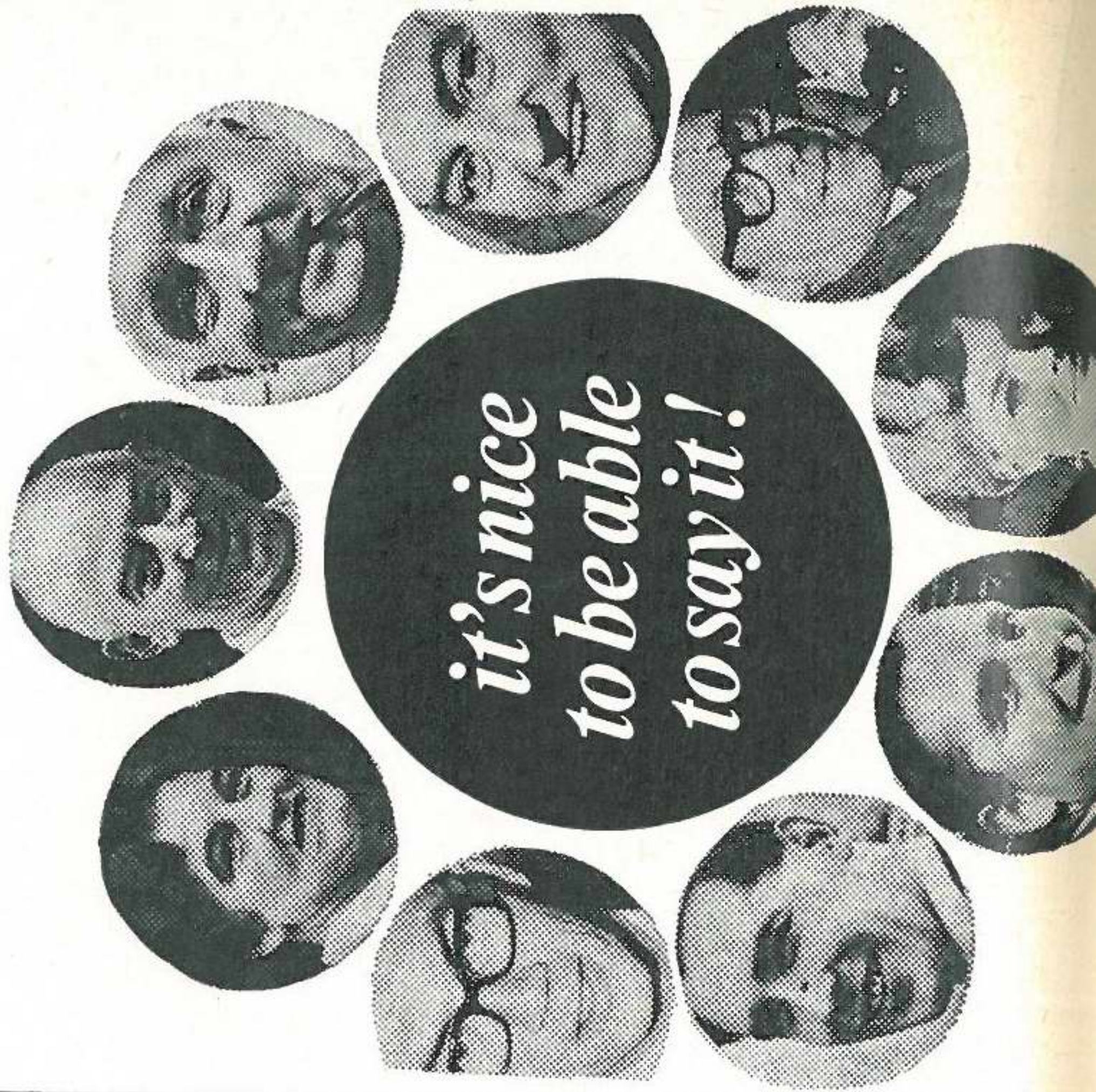
But I was wrong and it was only after a great deal of permutating that I came up with the following as having, in my opinion, contributed most to 1966.

(1) The President of the G.A.A., Alf Murray, for pursuing in his typical relentless fashion a most progressive policy for the Association. The backing of the Central Council was necessary but surely it is no coincidence that during his term of office we should have had the Hurling Scheme, the Grounds' Plan, the Leadership Courses and a "new"

Weekly" and, of course, "Gaelic Sport."

A special bouquet must go to the ever-growing list of new authors — Tony Wall, Jack Mahon and Raymond Smith whose "Decades of Glory" was easily the best Christmas present I received. Publicity-wise things seem to be looking up and to the critics, who at times may have had genuine grouses, I tender the oldest advice in the world: "If you can't beat them join them."

(7) The Offaly hurlers who by recent sensational but thoroughly merited victories have given heart to many of the weaker counties. Nor can we forget mighty Limerick who showed the way by that championship win over Tipperary. And we give a



a few of the most important sign-posts.

(8) The Ciste na Banban Pools for the valuable part they are playing in the financial life of so many clubs. It is certainly not the fault of C.N.B. that more advantage is not being taken of the scheme.

(9) Armagh County Board for publishing in advance its entire fixture list for the year (league and championships) and at only 1/- a copy too. It was an ambitious plan but the fairy tale ending is that the fixtures were completed according to schedule.

(10) The secretary of the most "junior" club in the land who is doing as important a job for the Association as the most influential officer who walks any of the corridors of power.

DISAPPOINTMENTS

Many disappointments there may have been during 1966 but none of these were of catastrophic proportions and I confine myself to three main "grouses."

(1) That R.T.E. did not give us one hour each Sunday evening on sound and vision of on-the-spot reports of our leading games.

(2) That more clubs did not avail themselves of the benefits of the C.N.B. pools.

(3) That Congress rejected the motion to abolish automatic suspension.

(2) The magnificent Galway footballers on not only making it three-in-a-row but for a performance in the All-Ireland final which will rank with the greatest of all time.

(3) Dr. Jim Brosnán for continually hammering at the miscreants—that minute but dangerous minority—who by their conduct on the field would sully the game which they claim to espouse.

(4) The brilliant showing by the Leadership "team" in the Ardmore Hotel, Newry, namely Alf Murray, Sean O Siochain, Pat Fanning and Brendan Mac Lua. And a word of praise too for the County Boards who picked the "right" men for the course.

(5) Everyone responsible for the G.A.A. pageant "Seachtar Fear Seacht Lá" — Bryan McMahon for a brilliant script, the producer and cast for serving the script so well and the perfect setting that was Croke Park. Nor must the part played by the various units of the Association throughout the country in the Golden Jubilee Commemorations be overlooked.

(6) The Press at both national and provincial level for bringing our Association so much to life. I include "Our Games Annual," "The Cuchulainn Annual," "Gaelic

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Kantohar	Ballagh	4			
Dairy Disposal Co. Ltd., Ennis					
	Ennis	21220			
Ennis	Ennis	21006			
Market St., Clifden	Clifden	14			
Ennistymon	Ennistymon	6			
Mayoralty House	Galway	4196			
Crowe St., Gort	Gort	47			
Kilrush	Kilrush	7			
Scarriff	Scarriff	8			
Circular Road, Tuam	Tuam	24403			
Castleisland	Castleisland	240			
Listowel	Listowel	23			
Ardfert	Ardfert	2			
Dingle	Dingle	3			
Castlemaine Milltown (Co. Kerry)		18			
Cahirciveen	Cahirciveen	7			
Castletownbere	Castletownbere	3			
Kenmare	Kenmare	5			
Rathmore	Rathmore	23			
Galtee Cattle Breeding Station					
	Mitchelstown	271			
Drombanna	Limerick	46326			
Dungarvan	Dungarvan	114			
Tipperary	Tipperary	155			
Mogeely	Midleton	67101			
Castlelyons	Castlelyons	10			
North Western Cattle Breeding Society Ltd.					
	Sligo	2125			
Main St., Ardara	Ardara	7			
Baylough, Athlone	Athlone	2579			
Dowra	Dowra	8			
Ardnaree, Ballina	Ballina	285			
Church St., Claremorris	Claremorris	115			
Letterkenny	Letterkenny	136			
Kilmastranny	Ballyfarnon	9			
Churchtown	Carndonagh	51			
Rathscanlon	Tubbercurry	48			
Altamount St.	Westport	141			
Dungloe	Dungloe	5			
Elphin	Elphin	14			
Ballintra	Ballintra	12			
Ballinamore	Ballinamore	41			
Corner House, Roscommon					
	Roscommon	6224			
Main St., Belmullet	Belmullet	33			
South Eastern Cattle Breeding Society Ltd.					
	Thurles	110			
Dovea, Thurles	Thurles	110			
Killenaule	Killenaule	15			
Kilkenny	Kilkenny	88			
Piltown	Piltown	13			
Waterford	Waterford	47721			
Nenagh	Nenagh	204			
Rathdowney	Rathdowney	43			
Birr	Birr	133			
Kilkenny	Kilkenny	450			
Leinster Cattle Breeding Service					
	Clondalkin	592476			
Main Station, Balgaddy, Clondalkin					
	Dublin	592476			
North Quay, Drogheda	Drogheda	8434			
Athboy	Athboy	35			
Enniscorthy	Enniscorthy	186			
Mullingar, Green Road	Mullingar	8298			
Bath St., Wicklow	Wicklow	141			
Tullow	Tullow	266			

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION A.I.



SEAN O'DONNELL

KEN CROKE

INTERVIEWED BY SEAN O'DONNELL

FOR the first time since we began this series a few years ago, the player being questioned is a New Yorker—in the G.A.A. context that is. Ken Croke is, of course, a Galway man by birth but for the past decade he has been starring on the other side of the great Atlantic.

Ken, like the great John Joe Doyle of the 'twenties and 'thirties, wears spectacles while playing and is certainly the only top inter-county net-minder to do so. In talking to him, I got a better insight into the New York G.A.A. point of view—and, indeed, a better appreciation of the fact that they have a side to the story of all recent events.

Our chat went like this :

O'Donnell—Do you come home often Ken?

Croke—Reasonably often. You see I work with an airline company and it has its advantages in that regard.

O'D.—What were your feelings following the 1966 National League final defeats by Kilkenny?

C.—Well, for a start, I was very disappointed. I was disappointed, firstly, with ourselves. As well as being understrength, we played well below our true form. Kilkenny are a fine team but we were capable of making it much closer.

But then that was only part of it. We were particularly disappointed with the press who treated the whole affair as if it were a game of no particular significance. In fact, you are the first scribe to approach a

New York hurler for his views on that League final—and it is now nearly four months after the event.

The lack of publicity given to our visit, and to the games, resulted in a poor public response to them and, as well, there appeared to be no great enthusiasm for our visit among the G.A.A. authorities. Some of them did not even get up and speak at a dinner to which we invited them in Dublin.

Remember all of this took place before the National football League final.

O'D.—You seem to lay most of the blame on the press. Is this really fair? Remember the first game with Kilkenny came only a week after the All-Ireland final.

C.—Major games often come in quick succession. It happens every Sunday during the championship season. Remember, that, irrespective of who is involved, the League final rates second only to the All-Ireland final. When these games are in New York, the gentlemen of the press attach great importance to them and so justify trips for themselves out to New York. There are interviews, previews and a big build-up in the home-papers—all sent expensively across the Atlantic. But when the same games were in Croke Park and Kilkenny there was no attraction for these same reporters. All they turned out were a few milk and water comments. Their lack of interest and enthusiasm communicated itself to their readers and the rest followed naturally.

O'D.—As the proposed new arrangements with New York are sort of sub judice at the moment, I won't ask you your views on them, but, as you are probably aware, many people here at home object to New York (or anybody else for that matter) getting into the League final without having to qualify in any way. Have you any comment to make on this view.

C.—It may surprise you, but I agree one hundred per cent. with it. Of course, where it is at all possible, there should be a qualifying game and my suggestion has long been that we play London—or the pick of Britain. Nobody would benefit more from some sort of qualifying system than New York. Had we some match-practice we would have won that League title on a number of occasions in the past.

O'D.—Have you any comment to make on referees—bearing in mind the fact that both of the New York referees who came over for the League games were somewhat controversial?

C.—My only comment is that referees are better respected in New York than they are at home. This questioning of, and objecting to, a referee's decisions seems to be an every-match occurrence in Ireland. It is a rarity in New York.

O'D.—Finally, Ken have you developed an interest in American sport?

C.—Yes, particularly ice-hockey—the reason being, I suppose, that it is somewhat like hurling.

ULSTER'S PROUD RAILWAY CUP RECORD

By SEAMUS McCLUSKEY

LOOKING at Ulster's present exalted position in the number two spot in the Railway Cup football honours list, it is difficult to realise that it was not until 1942 that the Northern province took its first title in the series. In addition, it was not until as recently as 1963 that Ulster finally got away from the "base position" in this same honours list.

The rise to fame of Down seemed to spark off a corresponding improvement in the affairs of the Ulstermen at the beginning of the present decade and the winning of four titles in a row, 1963-66, was sufficient to push the Red Hand from fourth position into second place and move their number of titles won into two digits. Even if they should now suddenly fall back on lean times, it will take a minimum of four years for them to be surpassed by either Connacht or Munster.

When the competition was first initiated in 1927, Ulster took her place with the other provinces and even though there was not then a properly functioning County Board in all of the nine counties, the North still managed to field a fine team and ran a much vaunted Munster side to a single point (1-8 to 3-1) in the semi-final. In that first and rather experimental venture, the semi-finals were played before the Christmas break and the Munster-Ulster game took place at the old Breffni Park, Cavan, on Sunday, November 14, 1926.

In 1928 the semi-finals were transferred to the spring of the year and Ulster caused quite a sensation in accounting for Munster at Croke Park, by 2-8 to 2-6,



SEAN O'NEILL
(Down)

on February 26 after an extraordinary game which came to a rather premature ending following the failure of a Southern player to accept an official decision. Thus Ulster qualified for their first Railway Cup final and they went within an ace of taking the title, losing only by a single point to Leinster.

Thereafter, the fortunes of the North gradually waned and seven years elapsed before they again qualified for the final. The 1929 side lost to Leinster at Cavan and the 1930 team lost to Munster at Croke Park. By 1931 seven Ulster counties were represented at the annual provincial convention, held in Clones on January 10. Part of the business was to elect the side for the Railway Cup series and in the distribution of places, Cavan led with five, Armagh followed

with four and Monaghan and Antrim had three each. Leinster ended Northern hopes, however, winning by 1-8 to 1-2 before 3,000 rain-drenched spectators at An Uaimh on February 8. The following year brought no better luck when Ulster again travelled into Leinster territory. At half-time at Drogheda, Leinster led by 1-6 to a solitary goal, scored by Monaghan's famous Christy Fisher, and the Northerners collapsed completely in the second period.

Five each from Cavan and Armagh and one each from Donegal, Fermanagh, Monaghan, Tyrone and Antrim made up the 1933 team beaten by Connacht at Monaghan town, while the West again proved the stumbling block in '34. In 1935 the selectors broke new ground when they decided on a trial game—Cavan v. Rest of Ulster, but this proved a complete flop when many of the selected players failed to turn up. For the record, the Rest won 2-4 to 0-7 and in the ensuing semi-final Munster proved victorious.

Ulster reached their second Railway Cup final in 1936 when the then All-Ireland champions, Cavan, were entrusted with picking the Northern team. The Breffni men did quite a good job and after a draw (0-2 each) with Leinster at Dundalk, Ulster won the replay at Cavan but received an eleven points thrashing from Connacht on St. Patrick's Day. Connacht again proved their supremacy in the semi-final of 1937 when the Ulster selection read:—J. Houlihan (Armagh), Rex Keelaghan (Monaghan), J. Vallylly (Armagh),

● Continued next page

● **From previous page.**

M. Dinneny (Cavan), J. McElroy (Monaghan), Tom O'Reilly (Cavan), captain; J. Crawley (Monaghan), J. Doyle (Donegal), J. White (Cavan), D. Morgan (Cavan), P. Mulholland (Antrim), Alf Murray (Armagh), P. Boylan (Cavan), P. Boylan (Monaghan) and J. O'Donnell (Donegal). Cavan, with five men, still led, but had been greatly reduced from the previous year when they had provided thirteen of the team.

The 1938 team was even more representative and read:—P. Bonner (Tyrone), Rex Keelaghan (Monaghan), J. Vallyelly (Armagh), M. Dinneny (Cavan), M. Melly (Donegal), T. O'Reilly (Cavan), J. Crawley (Monaghan), P. Smith (Cavan), J. McCullough (Armagh), D. Morgan (Cavan), A. Murray (Armagh), V. White (Cavan), P. Boylan (Cavan), J. McSherry (Armagh), and M. Magee (Cavan), but again the side succumbed to Connacht.

For the third time in history, Ulster reached the final in 1939 after the following "new look" side had beaten Munster 2-8 to 1-6 in the semi-final:—A. Lynn (Monaghan), E. McMahon (Armagh), E. McLoughlin (Armagh), P. Smith (Cavan), R. Johnston (Monaghan), T. O'Reilly (Cavan), J. Crawley (Monaghan), J. J. O'Reilly (Cavan), J. McCullough (Armagh), E. Thornbury (Antrim), A. Murray (Armagh), V. Duffy (Monaghan), J. Doherty (Donegal), J. Fitzpatrick (Armagh) and V. White (Cavan). For the final, Rex Keelaghan (Monaghan) replaced his fellow countymen Rory Johnston—the only change in personnel—but after a tremendous effort, the side fell to Leinster by five points.

The 'forties brought a big change in Northern fortunes and after defeat in 1940 the province reached their fourth final in '41. For the semi-final, McMahon, McLoughlin, McCullough and Murray (Armagh), Lynn, and Duffy (Monaghan), Smith, O'Reilly and Morgan (Cavan) were again honoured and

these were joined by newcomers McGlory and Lynch (Down), G. Smith and Conaty (Cavan), Gallagher (Donegal) and Campbell (Tyrone). There were three defec-

tions for the semi-final meeting with Leinster at Cavan—B. Kelly replaced Lynn in goal, McGarvey replaced McGlory and B. Carr

● **Continued page 33.**



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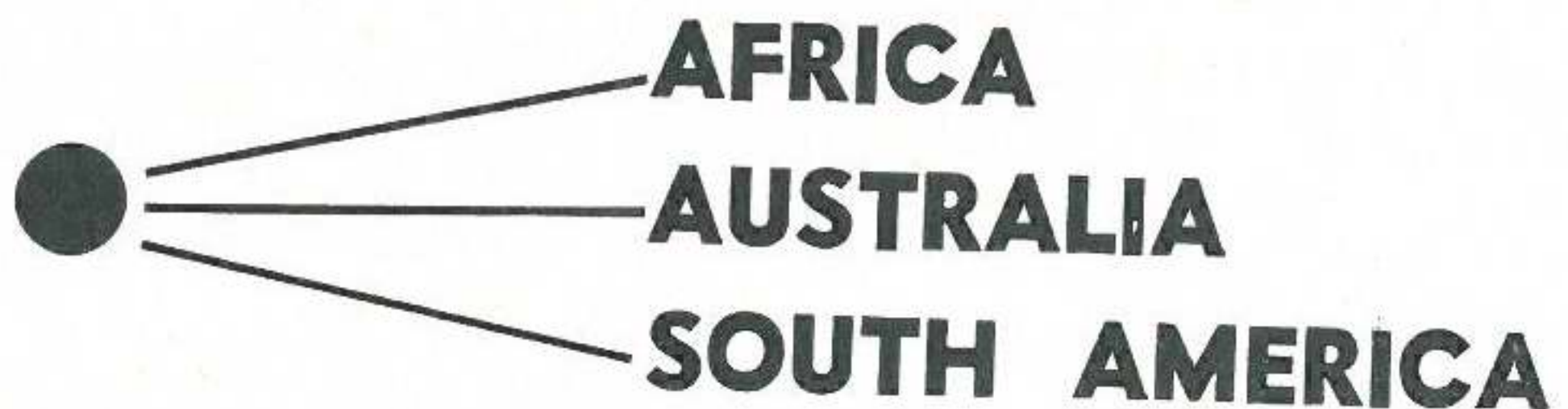
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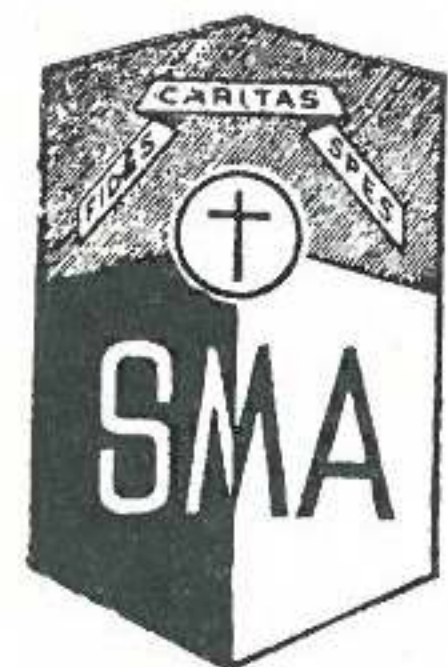
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CAMOGIE

By **AGNES HOURIGAN**

IN some newspaper columns lately I read that the G.A.A. should not spend too much of 1967 looking back to the Fenian Rising and the year 1867. Well, I did not agree with the writer's conclusions—he seemed to me to be suggesting that the G.A.A. should forget its nationalistic origins, which would, to my mind, result in the Association losing almost all its meaning and transform it into just another sporting body.

But I do know of one association which has no intention of going back to 1867 one hundred years later, and that is the Camogie Association. In 1867 the very idea of a sporting association for women and girls would have been unthinkable, and in the Ireland of 1867 a sporting Association for Irish women and girls playing a native game would, it is quite likely, have been punished with transportation. After all, one hundred years ago, the emancipation of women was not even a matter for discussion. Man was master in the Victorian era and the Englishman was master in Ireland.

There is no need to emphasise how much the world has changed since then but it has changed more slowly in Ireland than in most other parts of the Western world, and indeed it is only a little more than sixty years since some courageous young women in Dublin defied the conventions of their time and ventured forth to make camogie an accepted fact.

The opposition they met with, from the most unexpected quarters, would hardly be believed by my readers if I were to list it now, but it is sufficient to say that, at last, in 1967, camogie has been accorded something like its rightful position in the life of the nation.

Not long ago Mr. Alf Murray, the President of the G.A.A., gave his considered opinion that a good G.A.A. club was not complete until it had sponsored a camogie club in its own area.

In addition, those most conservative men, the sports editors of the daily newspapers, finally recognised the existence of camogie by allocating to our sport the first Caltex Award it has ever received.

So, at last, in 1967, camogie seems to have attained full emancipation, not before its time, and we can look forward to full co-operation from every organisation devoted as we are to preserving the best elements of the Gaelic traditions of the past, and giving a Gaelic twist to the Ireland of the future.

First big event of the new camogie season will be the Ashbourne Cup inter-varsity series in the first week of the current month. The Ashbourne Cup was the first 'All-Ireland' competition in camogie and was conducted by the University Colleges of Dublin, Cork and Galway ever since the 1914-15 season. Thus the Universities were providing an All-Ireland championship even before

the first camogie inter-county championship was founded, and what is more, Queen's University had been taking part before there was ever a recognised camogie championship in Ulster.

The trophy for the competition was donated by Lord Ashbourne, Mac Giolla Bride, Gaelic League, and Gaelic traditionalist, one of the few people who wore the kilt as a customary form of dress on all and every occasion.

Although they have been in the competition for more than thirty years the Queen's girls have yet to bring the trophy across the Boyne. Dublin, Cork and Galway have all had their round of triumphs in these competitions, and among those who have captained Ashbourne Cup sides are Siobhan McKenna, Mrs. J. J. Hogan, wife of the President of U.C.D. and Mrs. Peg Ni Caoimh, wife of the late Pdraig O'Caomh, for so long Secretary of the G.A.A.

Indeed the list of those who have played in the Ashbourne would look like a roll of the most distinguished Irish families of our generation and includes daughters of Sean Lemass, General Mulcahy, Patrick Gormley, M.P., and Dr. J. J. Stuart and Hugh Byrne, both former Presidents of the G.A.A.

The Ashbourne Cup has contributed a vast amount to the prestige and permanence of the camogie game. May the competition long continue to flourish.

SEAN McCARTHY

PADDY BREEN, in 1924, was the first National Teacher to become President of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The next, Sean McCarthy, was to start a whole succession of teacher-presidents who were to rule the Association without a break for more than twenty years.

All his long life Sean McCarthy, still happily with us, has been an untiring worker in the cause of the

G.A.A. as, indeed, he has been tireless in helping and working for every cause that furthers the advancement of the Gaelic ideal.

Friend of Terence McSwiney, and of many others who inspired the separatist movement in the South, Sean McCarthy played a prominent part in the struggle for freedom.

He was for many years a Teachta Dála representing his

native city of Cork. He has been, for a long time, a member of Cork Corporation and was Lord Mayor of the Southern capital on more than one occasion. A life-long enthusiast for the native language, he has been closely associated with Connradh na Gaeilge all through his life.

Sean McCarthy has been Chairman of Cork County Board in more than one era and for long terms. He had been Chairman of Munster Council for two years before being elected President, in succession to Sean Ryan, at the Annual Congress of 1932. He was privileged to be in office for the Jubilee Congress of 1934, which was held at Thurles, and his inspiring address on that occasion is still remembered by those who heard it.

He helped the Association surmount a difficult period during his Presidency when political feeling ran high, and presided over a meeting of Central Council which issued an effective appeal to all members to keep the Association above politics.

Sean McCarthy retired from the Presidency in 1935, but he has continued to work selflessly and tirelessly for the Association, which has no sager voice in its Councils at every level.

Another great interest of Sean McCarthy's has always been handball. He was one of those who founded the Irish Handball Association under G.A.A. auspices in 1924 and was subsequently a Trustee of that body.

May he long be spared to continue his ceaseless work for the G.A.A. and the whole Gaelic Ideal.

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● From Page 29.

came in for Campbell. This was one of Alf Murray's greatest games and he was instrumental in bringing Ulster through to the final in which they met Munster, but were again thwarted, this time in a replay. Big Tom O'Reilly had been recalled for this game and that final also marked the debut of T. P. O'Reilly in Railway Cup football.

The hoodoo was finally broken in 1942 when the North swept through the series and took their first ever Railway Cup title, accounting for Connacht (3-7 to 2-6) in the semi-final and Munster (1-10 to 1-5) in the final. The team which did Ulster proud that year was—Kelly (Cavan), McLoughlin (Armagh), Cully, T. O'Reilly, G. Smith (Cavan), McCullough (Armagh), Duffy (Monaghan), McDyer (Donegal), J. J. O'Reilly (Cavan), Armstrong (Antrim), Murray (Armagh), T. P. O'Reilly (Cavan), Cullen (Tyrone), Deignan (Cavan) and Gallagher (Donegal). Pat Hughes (Monaghan) and George Watterson (Antrim) had played in the semi-final but were replaced by the Cavan pair "Big Tom" and G. Smith.

The title was retained in 1943

when newcomers to the scene were Des Benson (Cavan), P. Maguire (Derry) and Peter McCarney (Monaghan). Things now looked rosy in the Northern garden, especially when the Red Hand made its fourth successive appearance in the final at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day, 1944. But this time the famous Armstrong-Murray-Maguire half-forward line came up against a superb Leinster defence and the Cup was surrendered. Most promising of the "new lights" were Harry Vernon (Antrim), Eugene McDonald (Monaghan) and Leo McAlinden (Armagh).

It was exit in the semi-final in both '45 and '46, but Ulster were back for a third title in 1947 when Antrim provided more than half the team with Bill Feeney, Watterson, O'Neill, Gallagher, Armstrong, Gibson, McAteer and McCallin—the county's greatest ever representation on an Ulster team. The fourth title came in 1950 when the team was:—J. O'Hare (Down), J. J. O'Reilly (Cavan), M. Moyna (Monaghan), P. Smith (Cavan), P. J. Duke (Cavan), P. O'Neill (Armagh), S. Quinn (Armagh), P. Brady (Cavan), W. McCorry (Armagh), A. Tighe (Cavan), M.

Higgins (Cavan), V. Sherlock (Cavan), K. Armstrong (Antrim), P. Donohue (Cavan) and H. McKearney (Monaghan).

The year 1956 brought the fifth title with Cavan supplying five of the team, Armagh four, Down and Derry two each and Monaghan and Tyrone one each. Then came the 'sixties and with them came the red-and-black clad Down men. Since 1960 Ulster has taken five titles and the men who brought the honours to the North were:—P. Rice, J. Lennon, S. O'Neill, P. Doherty, T. Hadden, K. Mussen, L. Murphy, J. McCartan, B. Morgan, D. McCartan, T. O'Hare and P. O'Hagan (Down), G. Kelly, T. Maguire, J. McDonnell, J. Brady, A. Morris, R. Carolan and C. Gallagher (Cavan), S. Hoare, S. Ferriter, P. J. Flood, F. McFeely, B. Brady and P. Kelly (Donegal), H. F. Gribben, P. Breen, J. McKeever, and S. O'Connell (Derry), T. Turbett, J. O'Neill and F. Donnelly (Tyrone), J. Whan and T. McCreesh (Armagh), B. Mone and J. Carroll (Monaghan) and P. T. Treacy (Fermanagh).

Considering that all of these titles have been won in the space of twenty-five years, Ulster's record is surely a proud one.

AN INVITATION . . .
ALSO A CHALLENGE

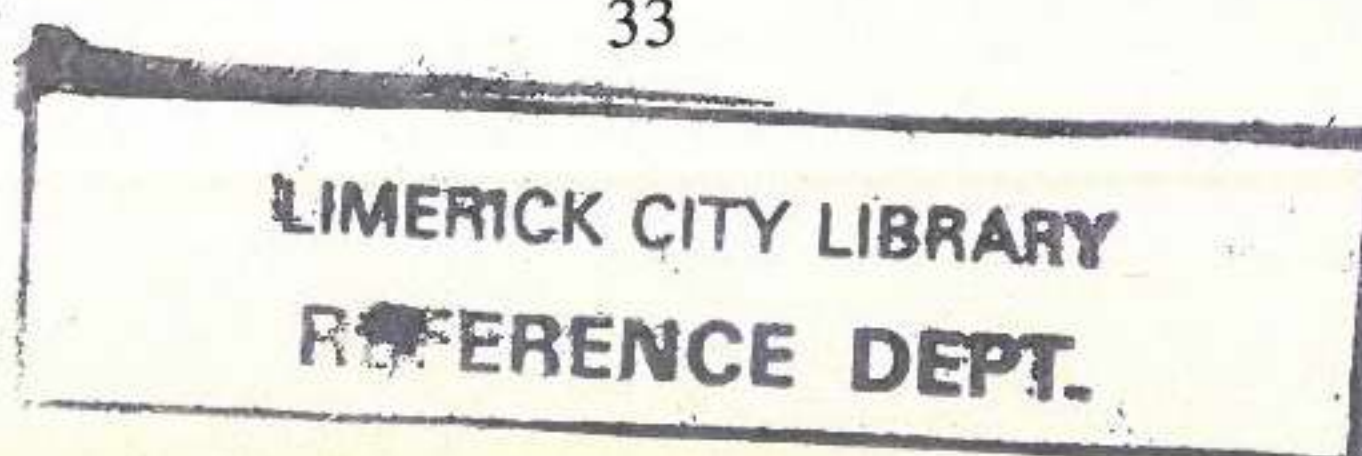
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11th June—**Down v. Derry**
at Newry.

11th June—**Fermanagh v. Tyrone**
at Dungannon.

18th June—**Antrim v. Cavan**
at Belfast.

25th June—**Monaghan v. Fermanagh or Tyrone**
at Irvinestown or Dungannon.

Semi-finals—2nd July and 9th July.

Final—23rd July.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Kerry player who has played at centre-field and various forward positions in recent years. (3, 7)
9. "—— boy"—a shout of praise for good play. (3)
10. The crowd at a handball game; playing to it is called "showing off." (7)
11. A big Dublin forward, often missing from their line-out recently. (7)
13. Could be a Californian city where Gaelic Games have been staged. (1, 1)
14. Shoulder charge makes player spin into a dance. (4)
15. Though lean a player can be full of enthusiasm and dash. (4).
17. Irish butter. (2).
18. In brief, the narrowest of margins. (2)
19. Departed (4).
20. The second 'i' is missing from a sparkling performance by a jewel of a player. (8)
22. Playing it by ear, Laura. (5)
23. Could be Dick Harnedy? (1, 1) (Initials)
25. Senior Championship Football? (3)
27. Club for which Taoiseach figured at one time—in Dublin. (1, 1)
28. By the way of. (3)
29. A thirteen aside game for evenings by the fireside. (5)
31. Nickname of Cork hurler, might suggest he was an inverted 'wag.' (3)
33. Inspiration of Mayo's attack last year. (Initials). (1, 1)
34. Confusion of sounds inseparable from big crowd and big match. (5)
36. Dublin football goalkeeper. (Initials). (1, 1)
37. Cork minor full-forward in 1966. (4, 5)
38. Southern city club which takes its name from the nearby river. (4)
39. All-Ireland minor winners in 1965. (5)

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CLUES DOWN

1. Hurling champions of Limerick. (12)
2. Drawn game. (1, 3, 5).
3. Team takes part in quiet and spiritless game. (4)
4. (and 24 down) Star Galway All-Ireland winning hurler: wing-forward. (8, 6)
5. Speedy. (4)
6. To field such a player will normally mean the forfeiting of the match. (7)
7. Donie is a Munster hurler. (6)
8. Frankie on the wing for Meath. (5)
12. Left-half-back on All-Ireland winning Waterford team in 1959. (Initials). (1, 1)
16. Defeated camogie finalists in 1966. (6)
18. The only means to perfection in skills. (8)
21. Eruption from volcano. (4)
24. See 4 Down.
26. The big game on which all rests. (5)
30. A section only. (4)
31. Meg could sparkle like 20 across. (3)
32. Jim and Charlie were distinguished Waterford and Munster hurlers. (4)
35. Urgent summoning of help. (1, 1, 1)

SOLUTION : PAGE 48

C.L.G. AGUS AN TEANGA

Le SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN

TOSACH gach bliana tagann muintir An Chumainn Lúthchleas Gael, ins gach contae, le chéile d'fhonn oifigí na bliana dár gcionn a thoghadh, rúin a phlé, s cúntaisí d'iniúcha agus cúrsaí na bliana atá caite a mheas.

De gnáth tugann an Cathaoirleach nó an Rúnaí Chontae oráid ardaiginteach uaidh agus dúistear spiorad nua sna baill. I gcoitinn iarrtar ar na teachtaí gach cabhair is féidir a thabhairt do ghluaiseacht aithbheochana na Gaeilge agus, go háirithe, an teanga a labhairt ar gach ócáid is féidir. Im' thuairim, 'sé sin deire an scéil, i dtaca na teanga náisiúnta, chomh fada is a bhaineann sé le furmhór na dteachtaí, go ceann bliana eile.

Ag aon chruinniú bhliantiúil bíonn tromlach na ndaoine i láthair fé bhun dachad bliain d'aois, ionann is ag rá gur fhoghlaim gach duine, beagnach, an Gaeilge ar

scoil. Mar sin, nuair a bhítear ag áiteamh orthu an teanga a labhairt ní baoth-chaint atá ann nó an oráidí ag iarraidh duine mór-is-fiú a dhéanamh as féin. Ach an dtugtar áird ar an impí nó an ndéantar iarracht ar bith ar son na teangan dá thoradh?

Ní dóigh liom é agus ba mhaith liom roinnt moltaí a thabhairt anseo chabhródh leis an nGaeilge.

D'fhéadfadh na Coistí Chontae, agus Coistí eile, gan ach an leagan Gaeilge d'ainmneacha na n-imreoirí a thabhairt ar chláracha. Ní haon mhaith na hainmneacha d'aistriú go Béarla chomh maith mar ní léigh-eann an lucht leanúna an leagan Gaeilge dá thoradh. Dairíre 'sé an leagan Ghaeilge a bhíonn cláraithe ag na Clubanna agus aon uair a fheicim griangraf ag foireann isé an leagan Ghaeilge a bhíonn ann do chuile dhuine aca. Eisiomplár é

seo ag na himreoirí do na hoifigí agus na Coistí!

Chun an béim a chur ar seo ní mór do Radio-Telefís Éireann na sloinnte Ghaeilge d'úsáid agus tráchtas as Béarla á dhéanamh ar chluiche, agus fiú ainmneacha Ghaeilge na gContae (nó na bhfoireann) atá sa choimhlint d'úsáid.

Ní maith an rud é is dócha go mbéadh an Gaeilge ceangailte le heagras ar bith mar go bhfuil daoine ann a déarfadh gur comhionann an Gaeilge agus an eagras agus má bhíonn fuath aca don eagras tá baol ann go mbeadh gráin aca don teanga. Ag an am céanna deireann udáirísí an Chumainn Lúthleas go bhfuilid ag tabhairt tacaíochta don ghluaiseacht aithbheochana agus ní chuireann sin bac ar eagrais spóirt eile an run ceannann céanna a dhéanamh. Ach is cúis magaidh é má tá an C.L.G. in ainm is a bheith i bhfábhar na Gaeilge agus gur cuma sa tsioc le furmhór na mball má cailtear troid na haithbheochana.

Cuireadh ceist orm roinnt bliain ó shin—"arbh fhearr leat cluiche de chuid C.L.G. agus gan ach Béarla á labhairt ag na himreoirí agus lucht féachana nó cluiche rugbaí agus gach ach Gaeilge á labhairt?" Cé gur amaideach an cheist í taispeánann sé an mheas atá ag daoine ar imreoirí na gcluichí náisiúnta nach labhrann an teanga náisiúnta nó ar a laghad nach ndeineann iarracht.

Rún na bliana úire mar sin—cúpla abairt nua Gaeilge d'fogh-laim agus feidhm a bhaint as pé Gaeilge atá againn ar gach ócáid is féidir.

Guídhim rath is séan ar mó chuid leitheoirí i rith na bliana '67.

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ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

By Conallach

THE make-up of the Ulster Railway Cup hurling team, which meets Munster at Croke Park towards the end of the month, is most unusual. There are seven Downmen, five from Antrim, two from Donegal and one from Armagh. Of the five substitutes, Antrim provide three and Down two. I wonder if it is the first time in history that Antrim did not supply the majority?

Certainly, the new-look team is indicative of the success which the Hurling Scheme is currently having in Ulster. There has been a great revival with all counties rallying to the best of their ability.

Down now rate next to Antrim—in both juvenile, minor and adult competition. Next come Armagh and Tyrone—two newcomers to the game who have made great strides during the past two years. Not far behind these come Donegal, while Cavan, Derry and Monaghan are a degree further back. Fermanagh bring up the rere.

There is no doubt but that Ulster will once again go under to Munster at Croke Park. There will probably be the usual decisive margin when the hour is over. But it may well be that an era is, nonetheless, coming to an end. It will probably take a decade or so before the juveniles of 1965, '66 and '67 grow into the mature young men who will redeem the hurling pride of Ulster. But you mark my words—redeemed it will be.

So dear reader if you happen to be in Croke Park later this month and watch Munster surge effortlessly to victory once again—don't pity the men of the Red Hand. Their day will come—and what's more they know it—as indeed does everybody who is witnessing the current upsurge of the province's juveniles.

What are Ulster's chances of retaining their football crown? Better than some think, I believe. They should edge Leinster in their semi-final meeting at Casement Park and the final should be between themselves and Connacht. If so it will be quite a game.

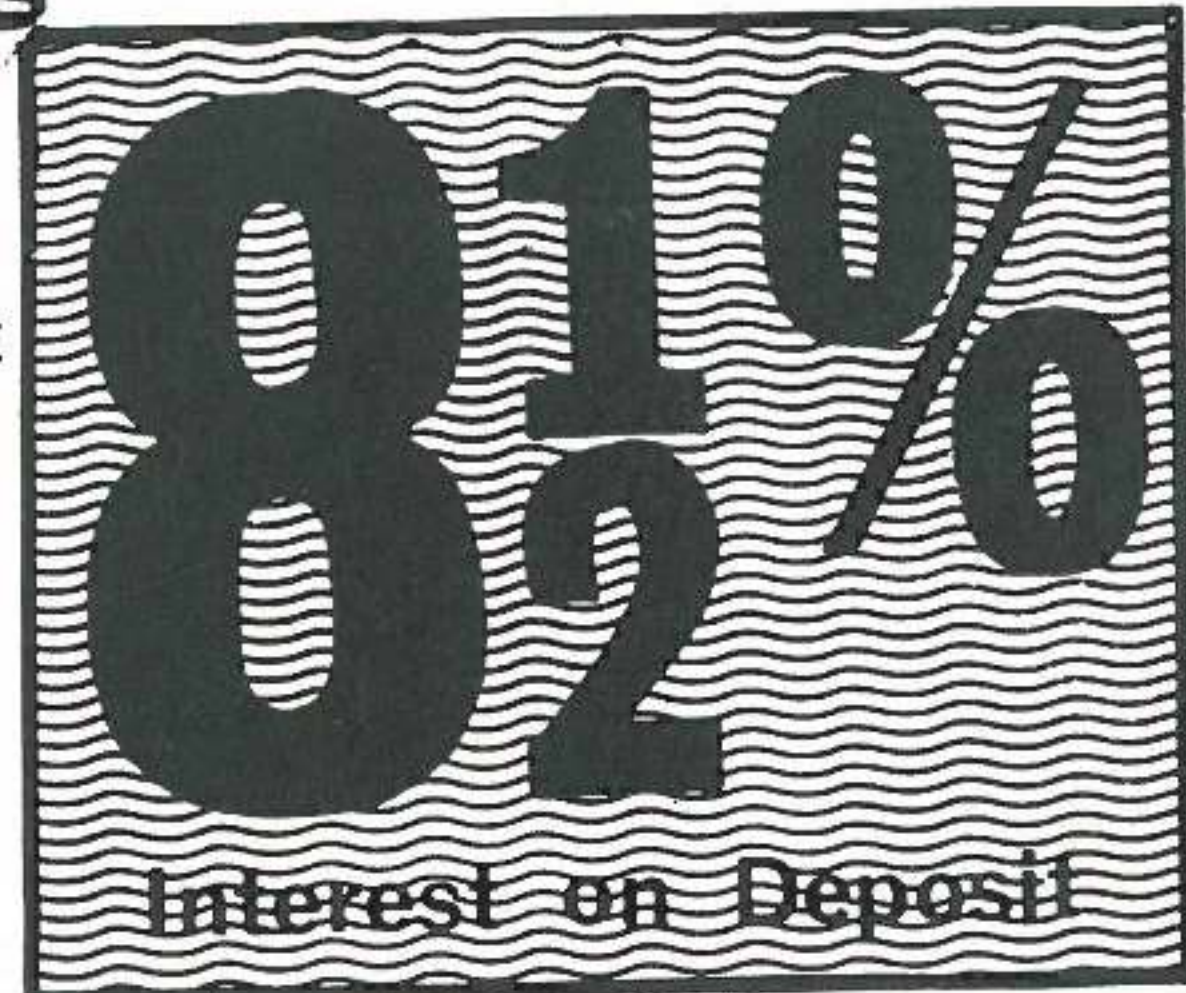
Incidentally, Gabriel Kelly now

has the honour of playing in all of Ulster's Railway Cup triumphs of the 'sixties and on each occasion he was, of course, in the same right full-back position. Until this year, Paddy Doherty shared the honour with him. Now Gabriel is on his own—the doyen of Ulster football.



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HANDBALL

By ALLEYMAN

MANY of our G.A.A. players up and down the country show a passing interest in the handball code but, for one reason or other, are hesitant to make an attempt at playing the game itself.

This is rather strange, for handball offers much that cannot be found in our more publicised field games.

Basically, it is individualistic—you are in there on your own and if you make a grievous mistake the onus, for once, cannot be placed on the faulty goalkeeper, or the forward who fluffed that easy shot. If, on the other hand, you play well it is a wonderful boost for the ego and you feel good.

Age does not matter a whit in handball either, for, be he the young schoolboy with aspirations towards handball greatness, or the field athlete now gone past his best, and starting to worry about that wretched *avour-du-pois*, there is always room in the handball fraternity.

How does one make a start?

Well, I don't put myself up as an expert of the playing crafts of the game, but, for a start, the main essential is the acquisition of a handball.

There are, of course, two types of handball, namely, the softball and the hardball. Beginners, as a rule, confine themselves to softball for the hardball game, though it is the older form of the two, is a rather specialised art, and can be difficult to master at the outset.

A copy of the official Handball Guide is also a tremendous asset, either to official, beginner or veteran. The current guide came

into circulation in 1962 and does ample justice to the four men who were instrumental in its compilation—Jimmy O'Brien (Kilkenny), Steve Casey (Galway), T. B. Kennedy (Kerry) and Joe Lynch (Dublin).

A copy can be had from the latter who is Secretary of the Irish Handball Council at 12 Goatstown Road, Dublin, and is well worth its nominal charge. It gives full details of every All-Ireland title holder since handball came under the wing of the G.A.A. way back in 1924, the playing rules of the game itself, bye-laws and many other interesting facts.

But, for a new player, the section headed "Hints for Beginners" will prove most interesting and informative. Here it is suggested that the beginner should make a start by throwing the ball to the front wall, in an underhand stroke, until he is successful in hitting an imaginary mark.

This should be done in turn with both hands for the importance of being an ambidextrous player cannot be overstressed.

The ideal way suggested to practise the "return" is to throw the ball to the front wall with the right hand and on its rebound, strike it with the left, alternating this system with both hands to the completion of a session.

The back-wall return can also prove quite a problem, but here the experts say that it can be overcome by throwing the ball to the back-wall and trying to return it on the first bounce or without bouncing at all.

Body stance is a major factor

in the perfection of this shot, for it is essential that the player, at the commencement of his return, should be facing the back-wall, and then bring his body around to be facing the front wall on completion of the stroke.

These are just a few of the very valuable "Hints for Beginners" contained in the Handball Guide which also stresses the importance of relaxation, breath control, and the warning not to be too impetuous during the course of a game.

And just for good measure—"if your hands have a tendency to get sore or swell it is recommended that you soak them in hot water for five minutes, then in ice-cold water before playing."

All of these are, of course, only suggestions and very often many of us find it impossible to practise what sounds well in theory.

Indeed many players reach the top in sport with styles that are contradictory to the basic principles of their particular game. But maybe you, from time to time, had an inkling to test your skill at the handball code. Something invariably cropped up and you delayed the day when you would make your appearance in the ball court. But how about another attempt?

Go down to the local alley and try a few shots—I bet you will enjoy the experience and probably join the local club. If there is no club in your parish, village or town perhaps you might organise one.

Handball can well do with every new player and you will find the task a rewarding one.

And what about Davin?

A MATTER which was the subject of lively discussion some years ago is again very much in the air—the condition of the house at Moughey, near Carron in North Clare, where Michael Cusack was born.

I said at the time, and I say it again, that I think it unrealistic to suggest spending money on any attempted restoration. To those familiar with the district—I have visited it several times—it is very sparsely populated, and what remains of the once cosy home-stead is hardly recognisable, not

— By —
Séamus Ó Ceallaigh

easy of approach, and neglected looking, with weeds and over-growth abounding.

Anything in the nature of a decent job there would be a costly affair and even if a full restoration was feasible—and I don't believe it is—the numbers likely to visit the birthplace could never be expected to reach large proportions.

The memory of Cusack is safe in the annals of the G.A.A., and the great stand at Croke Park will keep his name always before the public. The splendid Gaelic Park at Ennis is also dedicated to him, and if any organisation or group are still determined on rebuilding the house the most suitable site without any doubt would be in that part of the Ennis grounds between the roadway and the playing pitch.

Not only the house but the surrounding portion could be transplanted there and it could make a pretty picture, for despite its neglected state for so long, there is evidence that it was at one time prettily surrounded by rockeries and shrubbery.

And whilst on the subject of houses, it is many years since I visited the home of the first President of the G.A.A. — Maurice Davin. The snugly built house at Deerpark, Carrick-on-Suir, surrounded by many trees and ornamented by some beautiful flowers, in a lovely setting with the River Suir shining majestically, and Slievenamon rising nobly to the heavens, could be a worthy centre of G.A.A. pilgrimage.

The name of Davin is not honoured as it should be in the G.A.A. and some portion of the national stadium should be dedicated to him.

Nally, Cusack and Croke—three of the great figures of the foundation are honoured there, and it is only fitting that the first President should get the recognition that is his due. The Canal end could be renamed the "Davin Enclosure,"

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RULES ARE THERE

The statement by the Limerick County Board Secretary, Sean Cunningham, at the annual dinner of Old Christians' Club that there was no need for more legislation in the G.A.A. to curb rowdyism "as the rules were already there for that but the only difficulty was in their implementation," spotlights a very important point.

Rules are undoubtedly there, but their enforcement should be a matter for a small disciplinary committee rather than the members of a divisional or County Board.

We have the all too unhappy experience of seeing members and even officials of some of these bodies bending over backwards in their efforts to circumvent the rules and allow culprits off scot free or with the minimum penalty, even for assaults of a very serious nature.

Fines should be imposed on clubs for any encroachment by spectators on the playing field, and the substitution of a fine instead of suspension for players ordered off the field might have a very salutary effect, and prove a more equitable system as well.

The call for more social amenities is becoming widespread, and I would go a long part of the road in agreeing that they are long overdue. I have for years advocated the provision of proper dressing rooms and a comfortable meeting place for club members. If we could achieve this a lot would have been accomplished.

LOUNGE BARS ?

Some clubs appear to be looking further ahead and lounge bars have been mentioned as desirable

amenities. I know some clubs in other codes have these but they are not catering for under-age players to anything like the same extent as the G.A.A. club is expected to. The absence of a bar would help rather than hinder the development of full club life, a fact which I think will be increasingly appreciated in the years ahead.

COMMON COMPLAINT

"Before each game this year training sessions were held but there were never more than six players present at any of these sessions, and very often there were only two or three. It is hard to understand how this lack of spirit has crept into our players."

There is a familiar ring about this statement by the Secretary of the Mid-Kerry Board, Jimmie Coffey, and unfortunately it is not a situation peculiar to his district. It is a fairly widespread complaint just now and one that will have to be seriously tackled if the whole purpose of the G.A.A. to bring the games back is not to die.

The founders never intended the Association to cater for big matches alone. They were only the means to an end—and that end was the practice of hurling and football by all the youth of the parish, good and bad, on the club field, whenever the opportunity offered.

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1967 CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES :

Munster S.H. Championship : (A) Cork v. Waterford, June 4. (B) Limerick v. Clare, June 11. Semi-final: Tipperary v. winners of (A), July 2. Galway v. winners of (B), July 9. Final: July 30. **Senior Football Championship :** (A) Waterford v. Clare, May 21. (B) Tipperary v. Limerick, May 21. Semi-finals: Cork v. winners of (A); Kerry v. winners of (B), both on June 18. Final: July 16.

Intermediate H. and Junior F. : Clare v. Limerick, April 9; Waterford v. Kerry, April 9; Cork v. Tipperary, April 9. **Under-21 H. :** Galway v. Cork; Limerick v. Clare; Kerry v. Tipperary, all on April 23. **Under-21 F. :** Tipperary v. Limerick; Waterford v. Clare, all on April 30. Dates for the following have yet to be fixed—**Minor H. :** (A) Cork v. Waterford; (B) Limerick v. Clare; (C) Tipperary v. winners of (A); (D) Galway v. Kerry, and winners meet winners of (B). Should Kerry not participate the semi-finals will be (A) v. (D) and (B) v. (C). **Minor F. :** (A) Waterford v. Clare; (B) Tipperary v. Limerick; (C) Cork v. winners of (A), and (D) Kerry v. winners of (B).

Munster Club Championships : Eire Og (Clare) v. Avondhu (Cork); Ballyduff (Kerry) v. Carrick-on-Suir (Waterford); Patrickswell (Limerick) v. Turloughmore (Galway), all to be played in March. **Club Football Championships :** Cork winners v. Limerick winners; Tipperary winners v. Waterford winners; Kilmurray (Clare) v. John Mitchells (Kerry).

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No easy answer

By FRANK HUGHES

IN the early 'sixties, Offaly sprang into the forefront and went ever so near bringing home the Sam Maguire Cup. In fact, they would probably have done it were it not that the county's resurgence coincided with the arrival of Down—one of the greatest teams of all time. However, when, in 1962, Down slipped, Offaly should have been there to replace them. They were not—for they too had fallen.

It has often been argued at length as to why Offaly fell so quickly from prominence and the reason most commonly put forward is that they overdid their concentration on the intercounty side of the game and neglected club competition.

This is not likely to have been the whole reason—but it probably was part of it. Certainly, the county did engage in a vast series of intercounty games during the latter half of 1961. They were in action four Sundays out of every five for a number of months.

Anyway all of this is by way of a lead-up to the fact that Longford are determined that the same thing should not happen to them. In his report to the County Convention, Secretary Matt Fox wrote:

"No matter how well we succeed on the intercounty field, we must never lose sight of the fact that equal attention must be paid to our clubs".

The result was that Convention set-up a special committee to study

the whole question of club competition in the county. Their report will be completed by just about the time you read these notes.

This report may be of interest to the country at large for it is going to include recommendations on the age-old problem of whether or not clubs should be asked to turn out when some of their players are engaged with the county team.

Many counties adopt the procedure of asking no club, who has a player or players engaged with the county team, to turn out on that particular Sunday. On face value it appears a fair arrangement—but it does, of course, lead to chaos with club fixtures.

The introduction of the under-21 grade has added to the chaos. I know of one Leinster club who a few years ago had a versatile young player who was selected for the county in four grades—minor and under-21 in football and hurling. As it happened all of these teams went quite well in the championship. The result was that his club was inactive on most Sundays of that summer and autumn. Two championships were held up and the entire county felt the effect.

This case was no exception. Readers must, themselves know of many others.

However, it is easy to say that clubs must turn out irrespective of what players are on duty with the county team. This might, in fact, have an even more detrimental

result with players putting club before county. Certainly, the average club which may have one or two intercounty men, is largely dependent on these players and without them should not be asked to engage in championship games.

That might then be a solution—clubs being asked to fulfil all engagements, other than championships, irrespective of being without their county men. However, this only half solves the trouble, for the problem is most applicable to the championship season.

Anyway we will be interested in seeing what recommendations the Longford committee comes up with.

STANDING FIRM

It is interesting to note that four Leinster counties decided to stand firm with regard to implementing the Ban when the question came up at recent County Conventions. Meath, Louth, Laois and Wicklow decided that steps would be taken to see that those breaking the Rule would receive what was coming to them. Proper order too.

There is too much talk about the Ban. Strict enforcing of it is what we need. Those who don't like that procedure, and are not willing to abide by it, should have the decency to move out—or over to the soccer and rugby organisations for whom they show such concern.

PADDY MARTIN

God be with Paddy Martin who recently passed on to a heavenly reward. He was a veteran when I saw him but even then he was a great one. From 1926 to 1937, he starred for Kildare and was also honoured by Leinster and the Tailteann Games selectors.

Standing over six feet, Paddy Martin was somewhat of the Mick Higgins mould. Many of those who saw him in his great years, insist that, as a centre forward, he had no equal.

He was, of course, an uncle of current Kildare star, Jack Donnelly.



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LET'S HAVE MORE, YOUNGY

SAYS CHRIS MURRAY

I'M talking about writing and books. The Christmas period brought its usual, and now expected, spate of G.A.A. annuals augmented by Jack Mahon's latest work on Galway entitled "Three In A Row." Then came the January issue of GAELIC SPORT with the Eamonn Young story on Jack Lynch written in his lovely racy style that I like so much. My first reaction to the story was why not a book by Eamonn Young? I remember reading a series of articles by Eamonn in GAELIC SPORT about a year ago on Cork football. I find him such a fascinating writer that I hope he takes up the challenge.

Talking about books and writing I am delighted to hear Raymond Smith has undertaken to write a history of Gaelic football on a parallel to his "Decades of Glory" which proved such interesting reading. It is now six months since I read his monumental work on hurling and I must say the most

interesting aspect of it for me was the section dealing with earlier times. What a fine character Tom Semple was for instance in his playing days and after. Another Mickey Byrne or Paddy Leahy.

From time to time readers ask me where they can get copies of certain books and I honestly cannot tell them, so perhaps the Editor would compile a list of G.A.A. publications with the names and addresses of authors.

A former editor of this magazine Breandán Mac Lua, now Executive Officer of the G.A.A., has undertaken the preservation of the written works of the Association and I'm sure he would be delighted to help. (Congrats. Breandán on producing a fine edition of "Our Games 1967.")

In my youth the G.A.A. bible of our house was "Connacht Triumphs" written by M. A. Clune. I'd love to get another copy of this book. The same author wrote another book dealing

with Mayo's football triumphs. I remember, too, buying Mick O'Callaghan's book on Roscommon's years of football glory.

In fact my G.A.A. library is a very empty one. I've kept all issues of "Our Games" and the "Cuchulainn Annual" and certain All-Ireland editions of GAELIC SPORT. Yes, I bought everything—Joe Lennon, Tony Wall, Jack Mahon, Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan, the Tipperary G.A.A. history but I'm a martyr for lending. Ergo, no copy of any book left save a very much thumbed edition of Carbery's "Famous Captains." From time to time I've seen odd copies of books edited by Michael O Hehir (that was when he had time to write) and by Seamus O Ceallaigh of Limerick but I've never had the pleasure of owning one.

Maybe I'm odd but I would really like to see GAELIC SPORT help to acquaint present-day readers with some of the books that have obviously gone out of print. Immediately, I think of "Connacht Triumphs" or Dick Fitzgerald's published work on Gaelic football. What I suggest is that GAELIC SPORT might see fit to serialise some of these books which are out of print. In this way the magazine would be making a positive contribution to the retention of G.A.A. history. Finally, how about Eamonn Young writing his own story for the magazine.

NOTE: The feasibility of Chris Murray's various suggestions will be considered.—EDITOR.

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A NEW ERA



JOHN BOSCO McDERMOTT

By **BRIAN DOHERTY**

AN end to the era of laissez-faire was how Paddy Downey described the new Leadership Courses when writing in the "Irish Times". It was a shrewd observation for, whether it is realised or not, this is precisely what is currently taking place in the G.A.A.—and not before its time.

Laissez-faire was a system which went out of vogue towards the end of the nineteenth century but the G.A.A. retained it and so it has been down the years that every club and county went its own way with the nett result that the G.A.A. at large was never pulling together as one huge and powerful organisation.

The Leadership Courses seem to me to mark the beginning of the end of that system. The objectives of the Association, on all matters ranging from fields and finance to purpose and policy, are now being explained to those in charge of the club. The result will be that, by the time this Leadership Course idea has been developed to the full, everybody will know precisely what it is the G.A.A. is aiming at and how it intends to achieve it.

In other words a co-ordinated system for progressing will have evolved. Everybody will be pulling in the same direction at the same

time—and knowing why they are doing it.

I have no doubt at all but that this is going to work wonders. I am taking it for granted that once the present series of area courses has been completed that the scheme will move down to county level so that every club can be represented.

When one stops and really thinks about it, the G.A.A. is an organisation of unlimited resources and strength. With 3,200 clubs, it must have in the region of a quarter of a million members. If properly harnessed this body of people could move mountains. Obviously the harnessing has at last begun.

WESTPORT JUVENILES

I would have liked to have been there, for it must surely have been a delightful function, when recently the Westport juvenile footballers and hurlers gathered into the sumptuous Hotel Clew Bay. They were there to receive their medals as dual Mayo champions and to partake of a meal as would befit boys who had made G.A.A. history in their native county.

When the meal was over the young heroes listened to what some older heroes had to say to them—Enda Colleran, John Bosco McDermott and Coilin McDonagh had travelled from neighbouring Gal-

way and each of them gave a brief lecture on what demands the road to Croke Park might make. Young and receptive minds soaked in every word.

Obviously there are far-sighted and able men behind these Westport juveniles—men who know how to handle boys; who realise that a good club caters for hurling as well as football; that understand what it is that keeps young teams together so that they grow up to do honour to themselves and to the Association to which they belong.

Whoever these men are—I extend to them sincerest congratulations. Their efforts cannot but bring all of the results which they would wish for.

A GOLDEN TROPHY

I have never seen a gold trophy for G.A.A. competitions—nor had I heard of one until recently. It was presented to the Castlegregory, Co. Kerry, Club by the Mounsell brothers of Boston who wished that it should commemorate their maternal uncles, Dave and Dan Hurley, who in the far past were associated with the club prior to emigrating to America.

The trophy, which is solid gold, will be used for a local senior league competition.

● From page 15

of teams playing each other year in year out in one competition after another".

Kevin is also critical of the manner in which some matters are dealt with by various committees in the Association. He quoted me a recent example. "The Burren Club appealed to the Ulster Council against the Down County Board's decision to strip them of their championship title. Their appeal failed to even get a hearing because it was ruled out of order on a technical point of order—they had failed to comply with Rule 6 which states 'that all cheques in payment of fees must be signed in Irish'. Decisions of this nature tend to make people think that committees use technicalities to evade having to make a decision", said Kevin.

"In such cases, where a mistake

of this kind is made, I would like to see the club or individual given an opportunity to rectify it so that at the very least the appeal gets a hearing".

The refereeing problem is something else he would like to see dealt with energetically. "I believe we must tackle this problem from the top", he stated. "The best intentioned efforts on the part of clubs or even counties to improve the situation will fizzle out if they have not the backing of a concerted drive from higher up. Young referees who show promise should be given important games to handle. In this way more young men will be encouraged to take up refereeing.

Just before I bade Kevin farewell he showed me some trophies won by his young sons for football and hurling. Obviously they are already treading in the footsteps of their illustrious father.

Party Bosses

● From page 9

he himself had filled a variety of roles in the Association. Boland took Haughey's pass and crossed the ball to Jack Lynch, who had, all the time, been waiting quietly on the wing. Lynch collected in full flight and it was in the back of the bag—and no more about it.

Charlie Haughey naturally went to the Department of Finance, while Kevin Boland too took various paces forward to Local Government.

It will be noted though that ex-Irish international soccer player Brian Lenehan stayed put, while ex-rugby player and current President of the Football Association of Ireland, Donagh O'Malley went no further than Education.

I honestly do believe it is pointless going on. Surely it is now as plain as day that it is outside Croke Park that the N.F.A. should squat and not in Merrion Street.

They may still have the corridors in Merrion Street and in Leinster House, but for quite some time now the power has been quietly resting in Jones's Road.

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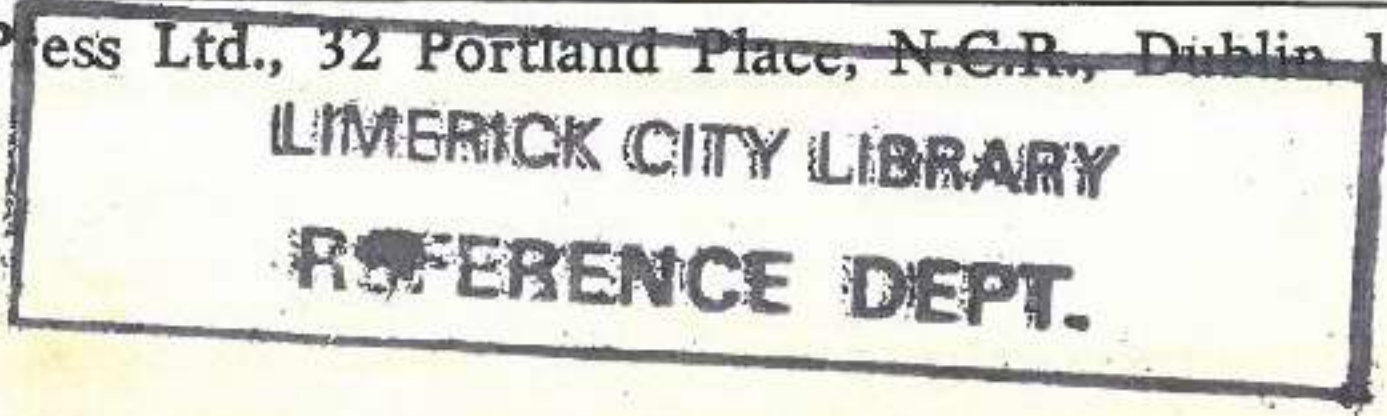
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