

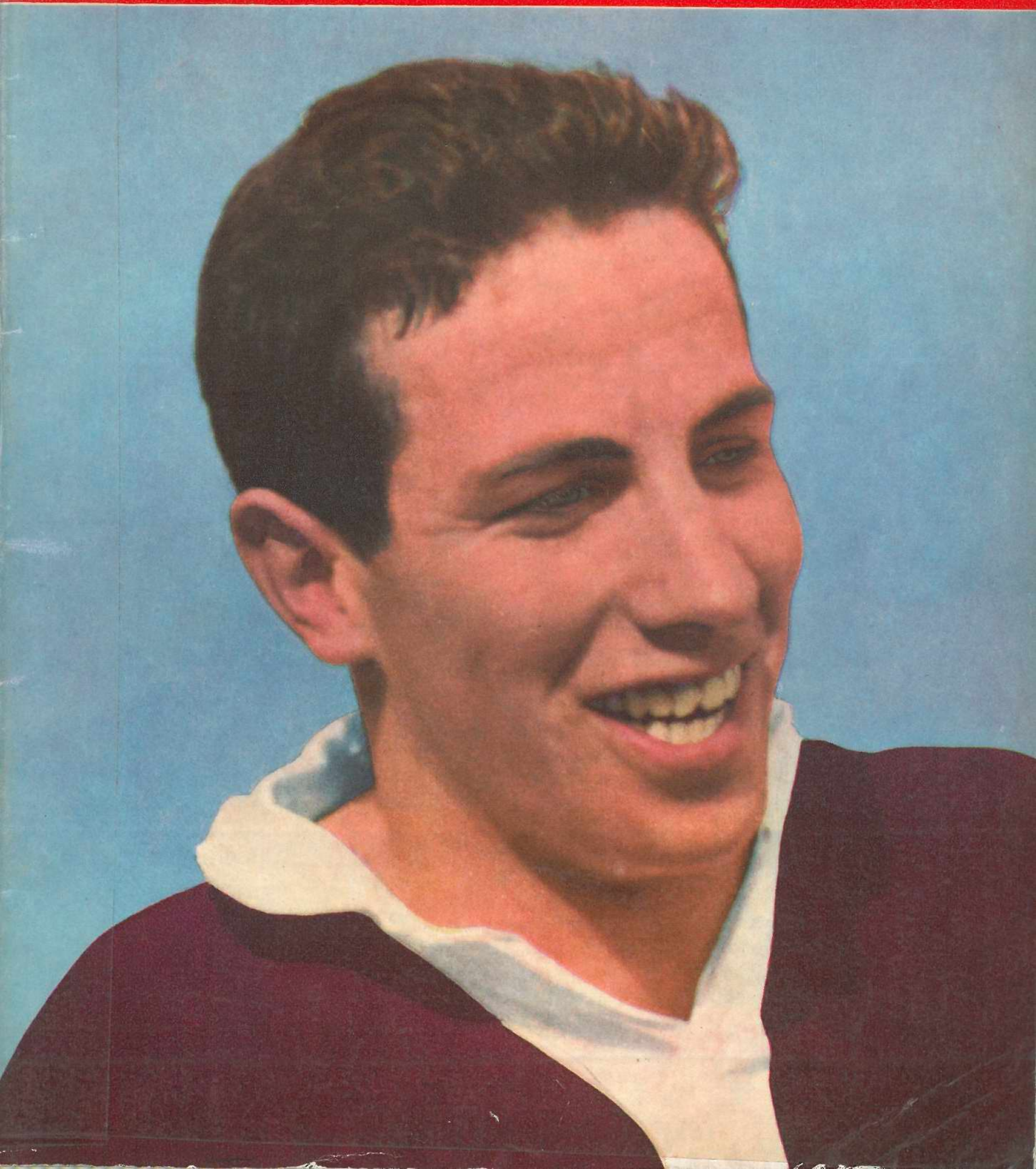
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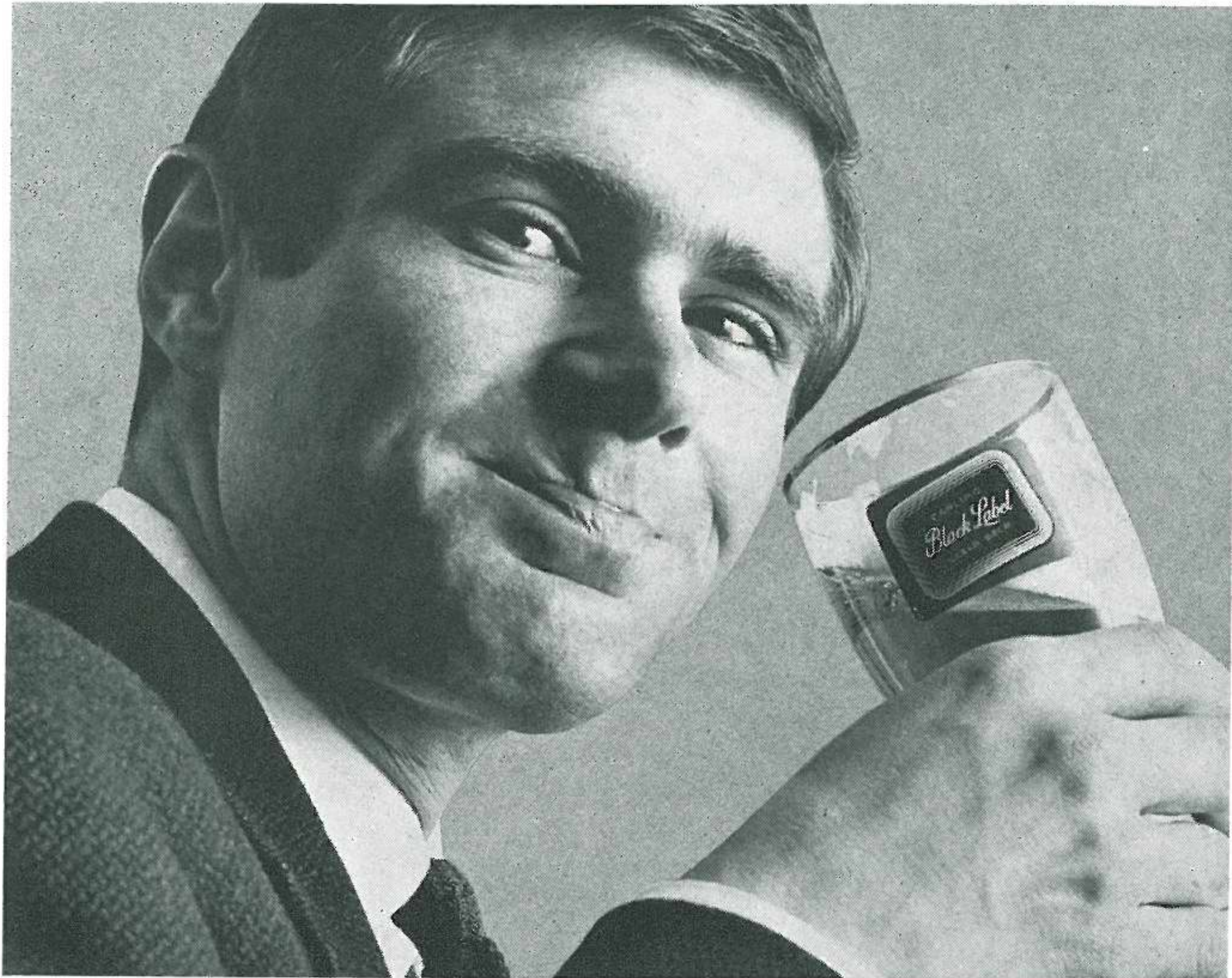
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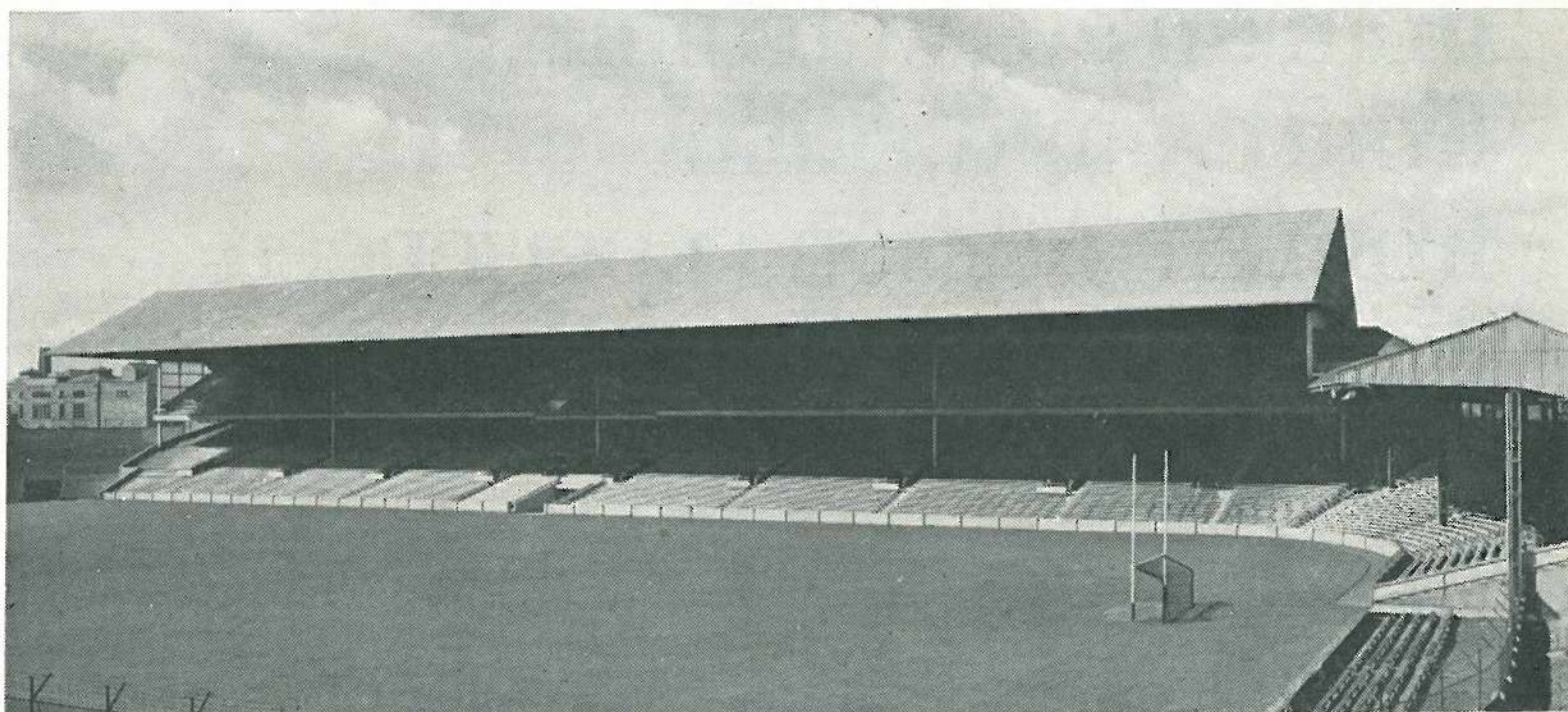
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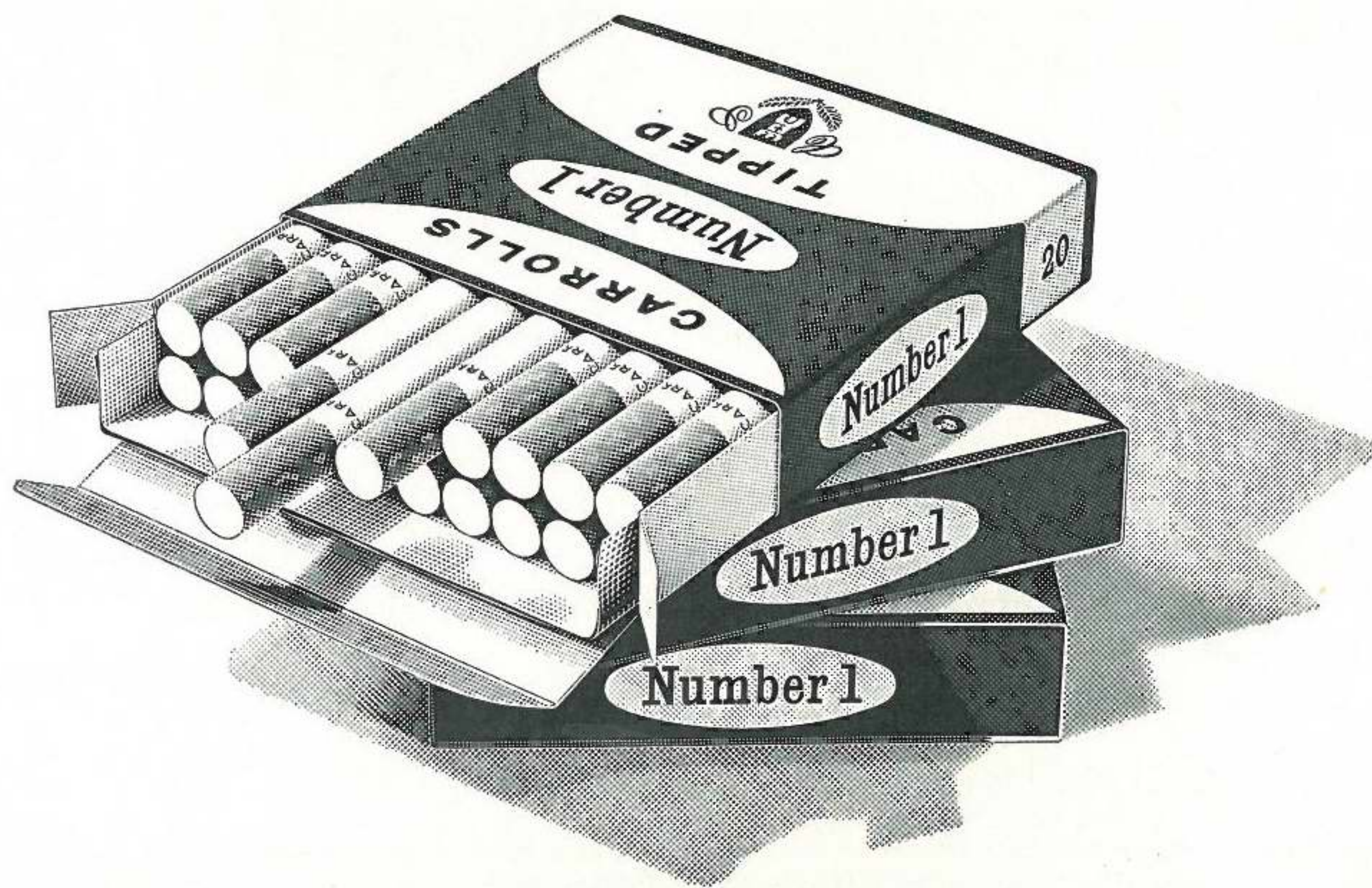


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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 10. No. 7. JULY, 1967.

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## INDEX

	Page
<i>The Editor Talking . . . . .</i>	4
<i>Smaointe Fánacha</i>	
—le Seán Ó Dúnagáin	6
<i>Top Ten . . . . .</i>	7
<i>King Keher</i>	
—by Owen McCann	9
<i>Munster Medley</i>	
—by Seamus O Ceallaigh	10
<i>Bits and Pieces</i>	
—by Vincent Murríhy	13
<i>Presidents of the G.A.A. (16)</i>	
—by Terence Roynane	17
<i>Enda Colleran: A Profile by</i>	
Owen McCann . . . . .	19
<i>The Ideal League</i>	
—by Dan McAreavy	21
<i>John McKenna: A pen picture</i>	
by Jay Drennan . . . . .	23
<i>Phil Wilson</i>	
—by Jay Drennan . . . . .	24
<i>Moondharrig's Diary . . . . .</i>	26
<i>Ulster in the Headlines</i>	
—by Seamus McCluskey	30
<i>Handball—by Alleyman . . . . .</i>	33
<i>Camogie</i>	
—by Agnes Hourigan	35
<i>Ray Prendergast</i>	
—by Vincent Murríhy	37
<i>Leinster Round-up</i>	
—by Frank Hughes	38
<i>Ulster Spotlight</i>	
—by Conallach	39
<i>Vocational Schools Games</i>	
—by Chris Murray	40
<i>Looking Around</i>	
—by Brian Doherty	41
<i>Clare Are Hungry For Success</i>	
says Raymond Smith . . . . .	45

## COVER PICTURE:

Our cover picture this month features Enda Colleran, who captained Galway to All-Ireland victories in 1965 and 1966. A special article on the former Galway skipper appears in page 19.

## COMMENT

# GREAT REFEREE

**G**OOD luck to you Eamonn Moules, knight of the whistle. There may have been more precise referees; more agile ones and ones who cut a fine figure in the centre of the field—but none, that we can recall, who commanded so much respect and popularity from players and spectators alike.

There was thoroughness and authority about his handling of all games; but the authority was that of a father rather than of one in a controlling office. Transgressors were dealt with firmly but fairly and in a manner which often appeared to make them ashamed of the misdemeanour and not likely to repeat it. It seldom came to more than that—a timely stepping between antagonists to send them on their way with a brusque gesticulation.

He was a pleasure to watch in action and we have no doubt at all but that he was also a pleasure to play under. Colourful, individualistic and always competent — that was Eamonn Moules.

We will miss him.

# THE EDITOR TALKING . . .

**T**HE Galway footballers returned home from the U.S. vanquished and somewhat disgruntled. There were complaints about the hotel accommodation, Gaelic Park, and lack of social contact with the New York players, but before dealing with these points, and others which may arise from them, let us first assure the Galwaymen that it could have been worse. To prove this point we go back some forty years.

Back in 1927 Kerry were as much lords of football as Galway were in 1964-1967. The Kingdom had lost narrowly in the 1923 final; won the title in 1924; would almost certainly have retained it in 1925 were it not for an objection following their semi-final win over Cavan, and came back to regain it again in 1926. Like Galway, the team was almost unchanged throughout and considered invincible.

With the introduction of the Railway Cup competitions at the close of 1926, Kerry, in block, represented Munster and won their way to the final at the expense of Ulster. The final was played on St. Patrick's Day 1927 and Kerry accounted for Connacht by 2-3 to 0-5. The Kingdom now held both the All-Ireland and the Railway Cup title—a double never to be equalled by any county.

It was at this point that the idea of a tour was born. The Tipperary hurlers had made

history by touring America a year earlier, but it was of Australia that Kerry first thought. However, after much consideration, America was decided upon. The tour was arranged through a promoter in the U.S. This promoter was an experienced operator in such affairs having handled baseball teams and various other sporting ventures. It was reckoned that the Kerry County Board would make a considerable profit from the entire affair and the intention was to purchase outright the Tralee Sportsfield with the proceeds.

And so it was, with hearts high and a record unrivalled, that the Kerry men sailed out into the Atlantic on May 15, 1927—almost 40 years to the day before Galway's recent departure from Shannon.

On May 30, Kerry lined out against New York at the Polo Grounds. A crowd of 30,000 turned up to view the contest. Three cornet players stood in the centre of the arena and played the "Star-Spangled Banner" and the "Soldier's Song". Then the game was on.

And what a sensational start it was. Inside two minutes New York had the ball in the Kerry net and after that the home-side never looked back. At half-time they led by 2-2 to 1-3.

The second half anticipated a Kingdom rally—but it never came. New York outfielded, outsped and

outplayed the visitors. At the end the score was New York 3-11; Kerry 1-7.

Strangely enough the Irish newspapers suggested roughness on the part of New York. However, this was later denied by the Kerry players on their return.

Just as was the case this year, the 1927 tour also called for a second game. It took place at the Polo Grounds on July 4. By now Kerry were in America for almost six weeks and fully acclimatised. Still, they had no answer to the U.S. based Irishmen who once again won easily—0-12 to 0-3.

The aggregate score was New York 3-23; Kerry 1-10—a 19 point win for New York. The mighty and heretofore invincible Kingdom had been trounced.

But this was not the end of the trouble by any means. On the morning following the second game the promoter vanished — taking with him all of the cash. Kerry were stranded and virtually penniless. The New York Kerry men's Association rallied to them as did the New York G.A.A. and the Kingdom side got home without suffering any hardship—but they were a wiser and a chastened lot when they set foot back on Irish soil.

But to get down to the Galway criticisms of the tour, one cannot help wondering if these would have been forthcoming had it been the team's first visit to New York.

# About tours and tears

Naturally, the trip was not as enjoyable as it had been in 1965. No repeat trip or holiday ever is.

Of the hotel we know nothing—other than to note Frank Stockwell's remarks that it had been a good one when the 1957 Galway team stayed there. Obviously somebody had made a very human error of presuming that it was still a good hotel.

Regarding the absence of social contact with the New York players—a point made by Enda Colleran, unless we are mistaken this arose from the fact that certain after-match banquets were not held on this occasion. As we understand it these were normally financed by the International Fund and were dropped by mutual agreement in the most recent arrangement between the New York G.A.A. and the Central Council in an effort to rationalise expenditure.

The hard facts are that these tours, and international games of all kinds, depend entirely on them paying their way. This was brought home very forcefully a year or so ago when it was announced that the International Fund was almost £5,000 in the red and that all future tours were in danger. It was, therefore, a question of economics or an end to it all. Economics were decided upon. Had they not been Galway would not have got their trip at all.

Regarding Gaelic Park—which

was strongly criticised as a venue in a number of the Western provincial newspapers, it must be admitted that it is no Croke Park. But then neither was the Polo Grounds—famous though it may have been.

The Polo Grounds playing area was below standard G.A.A. size and had the same brown and, at times, dusty sod which is criticised at Gaelic Park. The inescapable facts are that we are dealing with America, its climate, its grounds and its conditions. It is another country some three thousand miles away and is entitled to be different.

If counties want conditions with which they are familiar and in which they feel at home, they will simply have to stay at home.

*Enda Colleran, who captained Galway against New York in the recent National Football League final at Gaelic Park. On his return to Ireland the Galway leader remarked unfavourably on the lack of social activities during the team's U.S. visit.*



What U.S. bound team would opt for that.

Somehow it strikes us that we want to have our cake and eat it. Teams want to go to New York but are not satisfied with New York conditions. This is something which cannot be met.

There must be realism about this entire business. U.S. trips are major prizes and rank second only to All-Ireland titles. The G.A.A. needs them. There probably is no county in Ireland that does not yearn for such a visit. However, the "green, green grass of home" cannot be brought out too—just as New York cannot import their local conditions when they come over here.

It cuts both ways. Any county that is not willing to concede this can always opt out. Nobody forces anybody aboard the 'plane.



# SMAOINTE FÁNACHA

le Seán O Dúagáin

**B**HÍTHEAS ann a cheap nach gclaoifí foireann peile na Gaillimhe i ggraobh-chluiche go deo arís! Níl amhras ar bith faoi ná gurab í an fhoireann is fearr, ar gach bhealach, dá raibh ann ó aimsir na ficheadaí.

Mar sin féin chlaofí foireann Nua Eabhrach iad dtá Dhomhnach in dhiaidh a chéile—agus cúig cúlíní le sparáil ar an dá ocáid. Gan amhras chuir an aistear fada agus an pháirc bheag chrua isteach ar mhuintir na Gaillimhe ach, mar adúirt an sea-fhear le hÉamonn de Siúin fadó agus é ag déanamh leithscéil faoi chuiche a chailleadh de dheasca crut na páirce, “agus abair liom cé’n sóort páirce a raibh an fhoireann eile ag imirt ann?”

Ar ndóigh bhí taithí ag muintir Nua Eabhrach ar an bpáircín céanna. Dhá chluiche mhaithe a bhí ann do réir mar a chonaic mé ar an dteilifís agus cé gur buadh go trom ar na Gaillimhigh smaointear gur bhuaigh na deoraithe ar fhoirinn Chiarraí fé dhó i 1927 leis na scóranna 3-11 in aghaidh 1-7 agus 0-12 in aghaidh 0-3!

Dhá smaoinemh agam—bhuaídh na Gaillimhigh an ceathrú craobh Uile-Éireann as lámh a

chéile i mbliana, mar go mbeidís ar mire chun cruthúnas a thabhairt gurab iad na cúraí go fóill iad.

Cén ciall a bhí i gcaint John Kerry O'Donnell nach nglacfadh Nua Eabhrach leis an gCorn mura mbuadfidís an dá chluiche? Baoth-chaint í sin, do réir rialacha an chomórtais.

## “GÁIRDÍN NA hÉIREANN”

Chuala tú faoi is dócha—Gáirdín na hÉireann, nó i bhfoclaibh eile Contae Chille Mhantáin. Agus tá an dá chluiche náisiúnta, peil is iomáint (agus liathróid lámhe fosta!), go láidir ann.

I gcás na bhfóirne sinnsireacha áfach, is annamh a cloistear fútha taréis an chéad bhabhta. Tá a mhalairt de scéal ann i mbliana mar go bhfuair na peileadóirí sinnsireacha an lámh-in-uachtar ar Loch Garman sa chéad bhabhta agus ar Laois sa tárna ceann.

Traoslaoim dóibh agus mura ndeintear a thuille i mbliana tá cion mhaith déanta aca. Is cuimhin liom foireann Chille Mhantáin in 1954 in aghaidh Chontae na Mí agus ba ar éigin a fuair an Mhí an bua le cúlín amháin agus tás agat ar ndóigh gur bhain an Mhí Craobh na hÉireann leo sa bhliain sin.

An cuimhneach leat sár-pheileadóirí ó Chill Mhantáin an ré úd—Jim Rogers agus Gerry O'Reilly gan trácht ar Joe agus John Timmons? An bhfaca tú Cill Mhantánach eile ar fhoirinn Nua Eabhrach, Brendan Tumulty, agus cion beirte á dhéanamh aige i lár páirce?

Tógtar níos mó ná fataí sa Gháirdín úd do réir deallraimh!

## ÁISEANNA SA CHLUB:

Ní dóigh liom go bhfuil na Coistí Chontae ag déanamh a ndícheall go fóill maidir le áiseanna chaithimh aimsire a chur ar fáil sna clubanna. Ní mór ógan-agh an lae inniu (idir fireann is bainneann) a mhealladh le ceol, damhsaí, leadóg, léachtaí, drámaí agus chuile shórt. Tá an baol ann go cailfear an taosóg do na dreamanna úda a bhfuil na háiseanna seo aca ina gcuid clubanna.

Cinnte is ar mhuintir an club atá an dualgas ach, im' thuairim, caithídh an Coiste Chontae tac-áocht a thabhairt ar gach bhealach is féidir. Níl an oiread sin ama fágtha agus taobh istigh de deich mbliana beidh an troid cailte mura spreagtar gach oifigeach club chun gnímh láithreach.



# TOP TEN

**T**HIS month's Top Ten lists are based on individual inter-county performances on the four Sundays, May 14 to June 5, inclusive.

The fact that during that period he performed in two major games—being particularly brilliant in one of them—gave Kilkenny's Pat Henderson a slight edge over fellow centre half-backs Tom Neville and Jim Cullinan, for number one position on the hurling list.

Galway veteran, John Donnellan, tops the football list on the strength of two outstanding games against New York in the National League final.

## HURLING

1. Pat Henderson (Kilkenny)
2. Tom Neville (Wexford)
3. Jim Cullinan (Clare)
4. Phil Wilson (Wexford)
5. Eddie Keher (Kilkenny)
6. Nicky Power (Waterford)
7. Paul Lynch (Wexford)
8. John Kirwan (Waterford)
9. Martin Coogan (Kilkenny)
10. Paddy Fitzgerald (Cork)

## FOOTBALL

1. John Donnellan (Galway)
2. Joe Langan (Mayo)
3. Noel Curran (Meath)
4. J. J. Conway (Wicklow)
5. Larry Gillen (Longford)
6. Mick Carolan (Kildare)
7. John Heneghan (Longford)
8. John Morley (Mayo)
9. Aidan Patterson (Armagh)
10. P. J. Flood (Donegal)

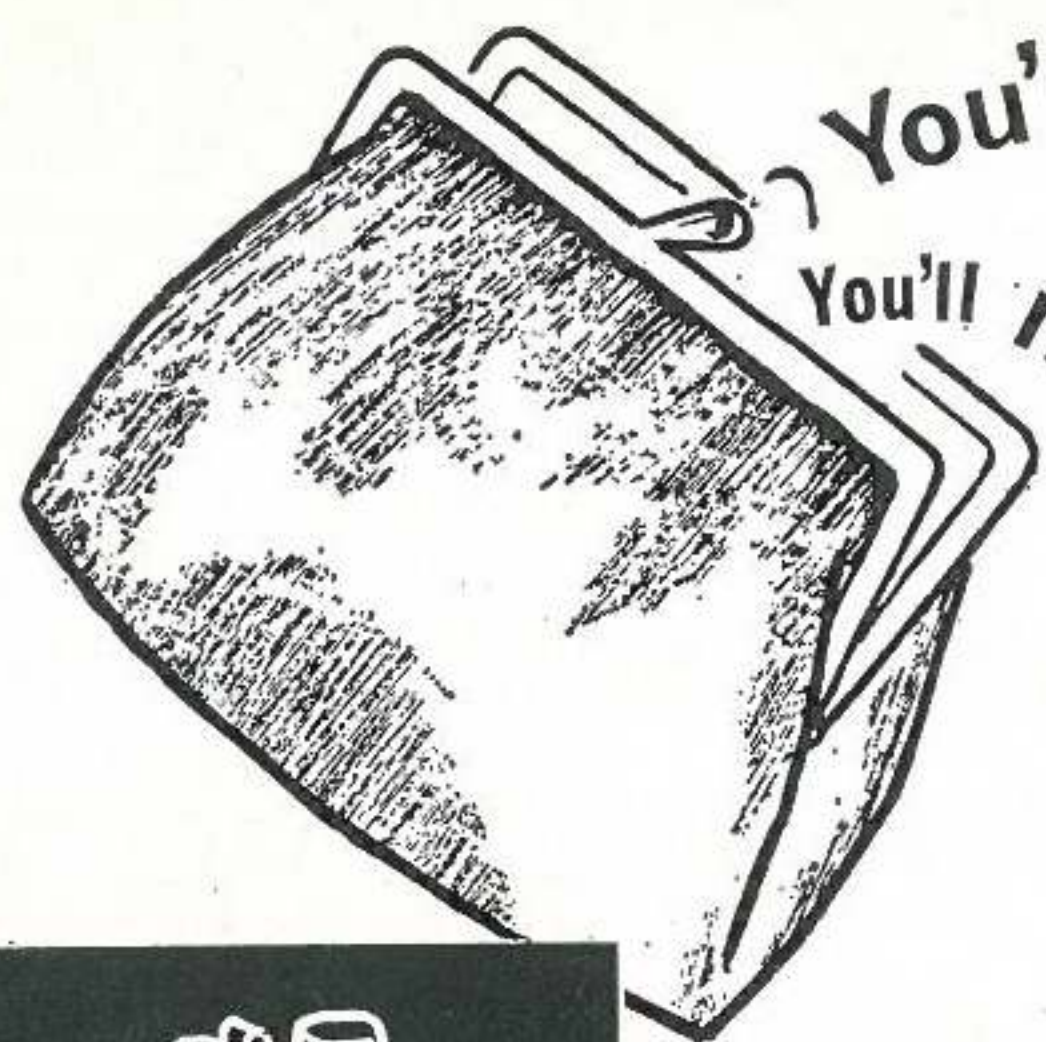
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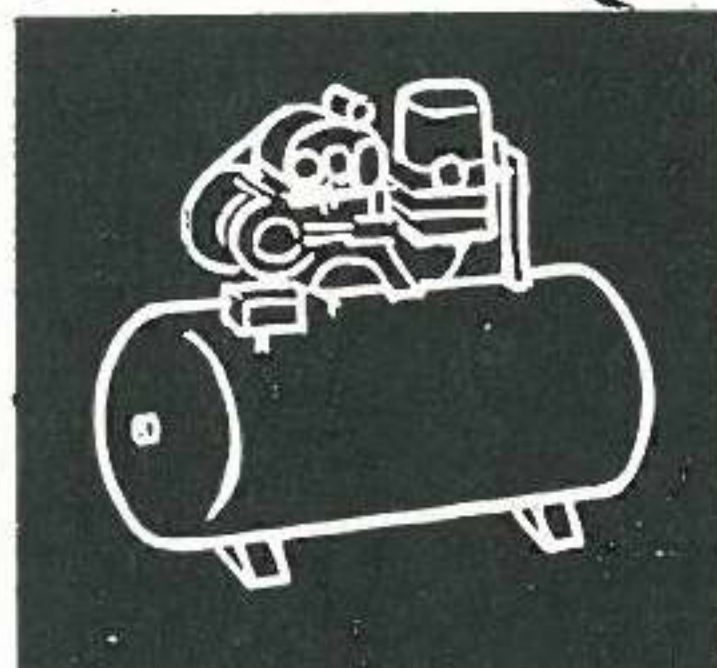


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# KING KEHER

By OWEN McCANN

**E**DDIE KEHER, who was top scorer for all competitions in both codes in 1965 with a personal best of 16-79 (127 pts.) in 20 games, and took the premier spot again in hurling for all the tests last year with 10-85 (115 pts.) in 17 outings, is again blazing a blistering trail score-wise. Not only did he finish the premier marksman for the 1966-67 National Hurling League, but he also well and truly "spread-eagled" the rest of the field.

His League total of 6-48 from seven games put him no fewer than 31 points ahead of his nearest rival, Pat Cronin, who also played seven matches.

It is hardly surprising that Keher's brilliant match average of 9.43 points is by far the best in the code. The Noresider's smooth and dynamic finishing technique is further strikingly underlined by the fact that his current match average is the best in the League over the past three years. Keher, himself, led the way in this respect with an average of 7.25 points in 1965-66, and Jimmy Doyle led the way in the 1964-65 League with a somewhat slightly better figure of 7.87 points.

Keher, too, recorded the outstanding individual scoring feat in the League campaign under review

with 2-11 against Laois at Kilkenny last October. He shot 2-10 against Offaly in another outing at Kilkenny in February.

Of the hurlers who have figured in the top ten chart in the past three campaigns, the ever-vigilant Keher alone has improved on his scoring returns each season. He was fourth in 1964-65 with 3-16 (25 pts.) in six games, no fewer than 38 points behind Doyle's 7-42 (63 pts.) in eight games, and was runner-up to the Tipperary man last season with 3-20 (29 pts.) in four games. The Thurles hurler's tally was 4-20 from five games.

Pat Cronin and Tom Walsh are the only other members of last season's top ten panel to again figure in the current chart. The

Newmarket-on-Fergus man, who was bracketed with two other hurlers in joint fourth place with 1-15 (18 pts.) from five games, pushed his total up to 2-29 (35 pts.) in two engagements more. Walsh played the same number of games in the two campaigns, and his respective figures are: 1965-66, 3-10 (19 pts.) to share third place with three other hurlers, and 4-10 (22 pts.) at the end of the recent campaign.

Other than Keher, Walsh alone has the distinction of being the only other link with 1964-65, when he had his best run in the series so far, averaging 7.16 points in his six games for 10-13 (43 pts.), for second place in the chart, 20 minors behind Jimmy Doyle.

## N.H.L. SCORERS

Points		Score	Games	Average
66	E. Keher	6-48	7	9.43
35	P. Cronin	2-29	7	5.00
33	T. Doran	9-6	7	4.71
28	D. Nealon	4-16	5	5.60
25	M. Keane	6-7	7	3.57
22	T. Walsh	4-10	7	3.14
20	M. Fox	4-8	4	5.00
19	C. McCarthy	3-10	5	3.80

## ANOTHER RYAN AT MUNSTER HELM

IT was over three decades since a Limerickman chaired the Munster Council when Paddy Ryan of Galbally was appointed to the position recently at a special Southern Convention called to fill the gap created by the elevation of Jim Ryan to the national Presidency.

The previous Shannon occupant was Willie Clifford of Boher, who had earlier served a very distinguished spell as President of the Association—his period of office marking the first breakthrough in the policy of providing Gaelic fields for Gaelic games.

Willie Clifford was an outstanding Chairman and a man who left his mark in many ways on the entire Association. Somehow, I have a feeling that Paddy Ryan is going to follow in the same mould.

Paddy came to the chair of the South Limerick Division Board in 1951, armed with the very helpful experience of having figured, maybe not all that prominently, but very persistently in football from his college days in Rockwell through under-age and junior ranks with his local club until injury forced an all too early retirement.

That his interest in the games was deep-rooted was demonstrated when his attention turned to refereeing, and he gave devoted service in this branch at inter-county and local level over a lengthy period.

His experience as player and official provided the ideal training for entry to the administration end, and must be the secret of the success he has made of the Division Board since he became its Chairman, and of the county selection committees, on which he has served so diligently over very many years.

Perhaps one of the greatest feats of his sixteen years as pilot of South Limerick affairs has been the close attention he has paid to club matters, and the division has the proud distinction of possessing a splendid array of well organised and disciplined parish units, with the development of club grounds probably the most advanced of any area of its size in the country. I think it can be safely asserted that the spectator accommodation available in South Limerick exceeds that to be found in any other district of comparable population.

Paddy Ryan is a splendid Chairman, who knows his rules from A to Z. He should, for he has attended Congress without a break for almost twenty years. As well as knowing his rules, he has the courage of his convictions and never hesitates to administer the law in a charitable but firm fashion. In doing so he never courts popularity, yet all sincere Gaels appreciate his motives and respect his devotion to the cause, and his determination to main-

tain unsullied the high reputation for sportsmanship built so laboriously down through the years.

As was only to be expected the Gaels of South Limerick were amongst the first with their congratulations on his appointment to the Munster chair, and they coupled their good wishes with a tangible proof of their attachment, in the presentation of a magnificent gold wristlet watch, suitably inscribed.

The new Munster Chairman is very fully conscious of the national mission of the G.A.A., and he has never failed to stress this aspect—laying special emphasis on it in his addresses at conventions and social functions. He appreciates the motives that prompted the founding of the G.A.A., and knows how these have influenced the spread of the movement. It extracted exceptional service from men who would not give such for the sake of games alone—even national ones, of particular claims on Irishmen.

The wider application of G.A.A. membership and application will have an earnest champion in the quiet spoken but very convincing man from Galbally, who has another very special mission too in that he is exceptionally well fitted to tackle what has been a vexed question in the Association over many years—the position of border parishes, extending into two

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or even more counties. These experience special difficulties as regards playing the games and deserve sympathetic consideration and treatment.

Paddy Ryan is a football devotee from a hurling county, and must be well versed in the difficulties surrounding Munster football. The game badly needs a new image in the province and a raising of the standard in four of the six counties is an urgent matter. Limerick celebrate this year the eightieth anniversary of the winning by Commercials of the first All-Ireland senior football crown and it could be made a jumping off ground for a scheme to assist Limerick, Clare, Waterford and Tipperary back to the place they once occupied in Southern football.

In wishing Paddy Ryan a successful tenure of the Munster Chair, I know I am voicing the sentiments of the many who already know and appreciate his worth, and of the others who sincerely pray for the advancement of the cause of the Gael in the province of its foundation.

#### **OLLIE WALSH—GOLFER**

Noted Kilkenny hurling goalkeeper, Ollie Walsh, was at Killarney Golf Course recently and he proved the winner of the Annual Golf Tournament held under the auspices of the representatives of United Breweries of Ireland Golf Society. He returned home with a canteen of cutlery for his trouble.

#### **WATERFORD TROPHY**

The juveniles of the St. John's Park area of Waterford have a new hurling trophy to fight for—a magnificent one, the gift of Paddy Breen of the Bridge Hotel—and it will be confined to boys in the under 15 age bracket. For the under 13's in the same area the Christian Brothers are providing a suitable trophy—so the youth of this growing area are certainly well catered for.

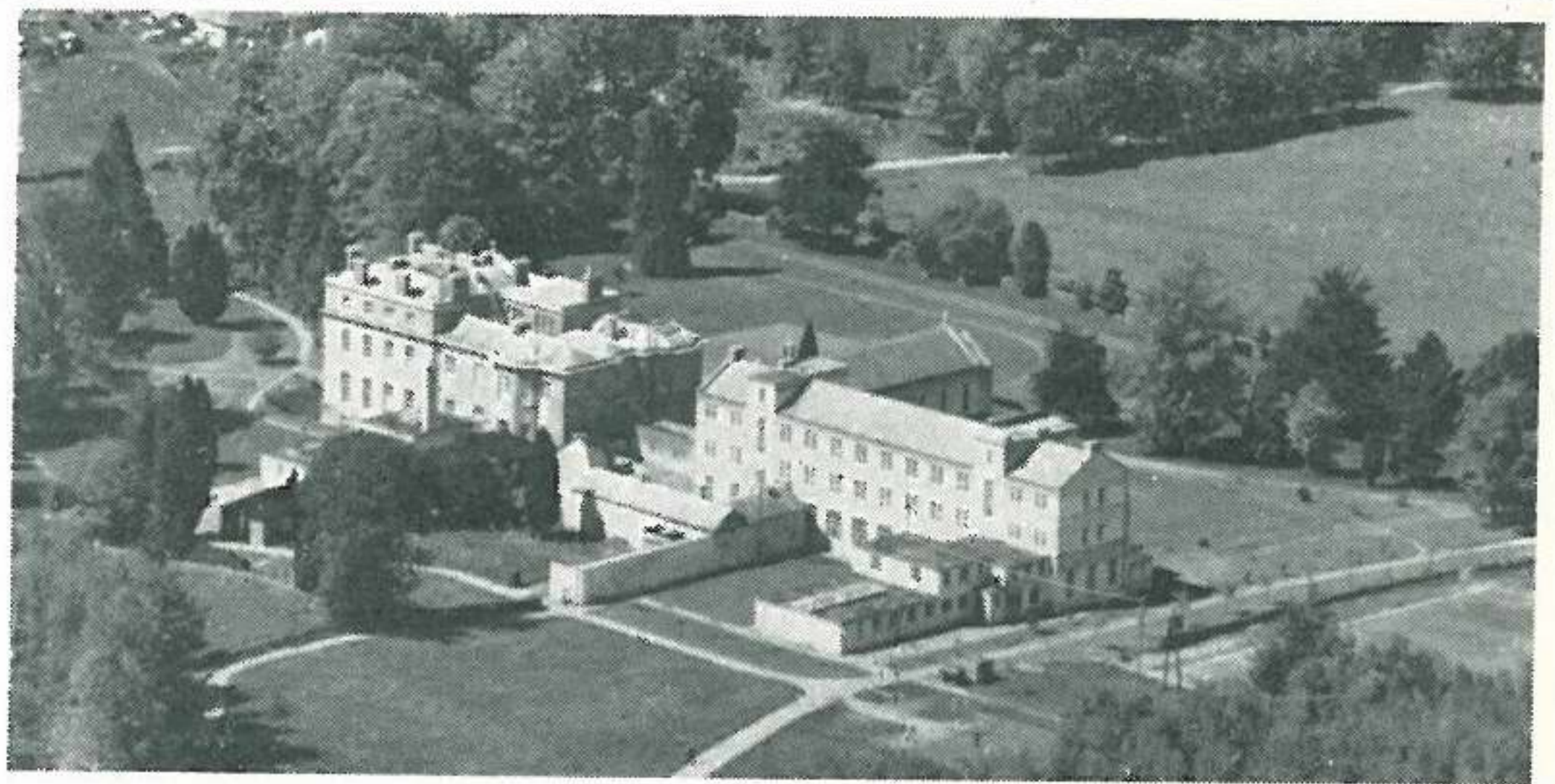
#### **TOM CLUNE R.I.P.**

Death has removed three staunch Gaels in the passing of Tom Clune, often referred to as the father of Doonbeg football and justly so, for he was the life and soul of football in the parish, and all through a long life took a personal and often the only interest in training the boys from juvenile to senior and keeping the flag of Gaeldom flying high in the parish; of John Coyne of Youghal, Vice President of East Cork Division Board; a long serving Youghal club officer, and the big man behind the hurling and football teams attached to Youghal Carpets; and Jackie Jones of

Miltown Malbay, a freedom fighter in the War of Independence, and a prominent footballer in his youth and early manhood with the Miltown Malbay club.

#### **SEAN McCARTHY**

Former Chairman of the Cork County Board, G.A.A., of the Munster Council, and President of the Association; Sean McCarthy has been elected Lord Mayor of Cork—an honour he previously held on four occasions—1949, 1950, 1958 and 1963. The longest serving member of the Corporation, he retires with the passing of the present body.



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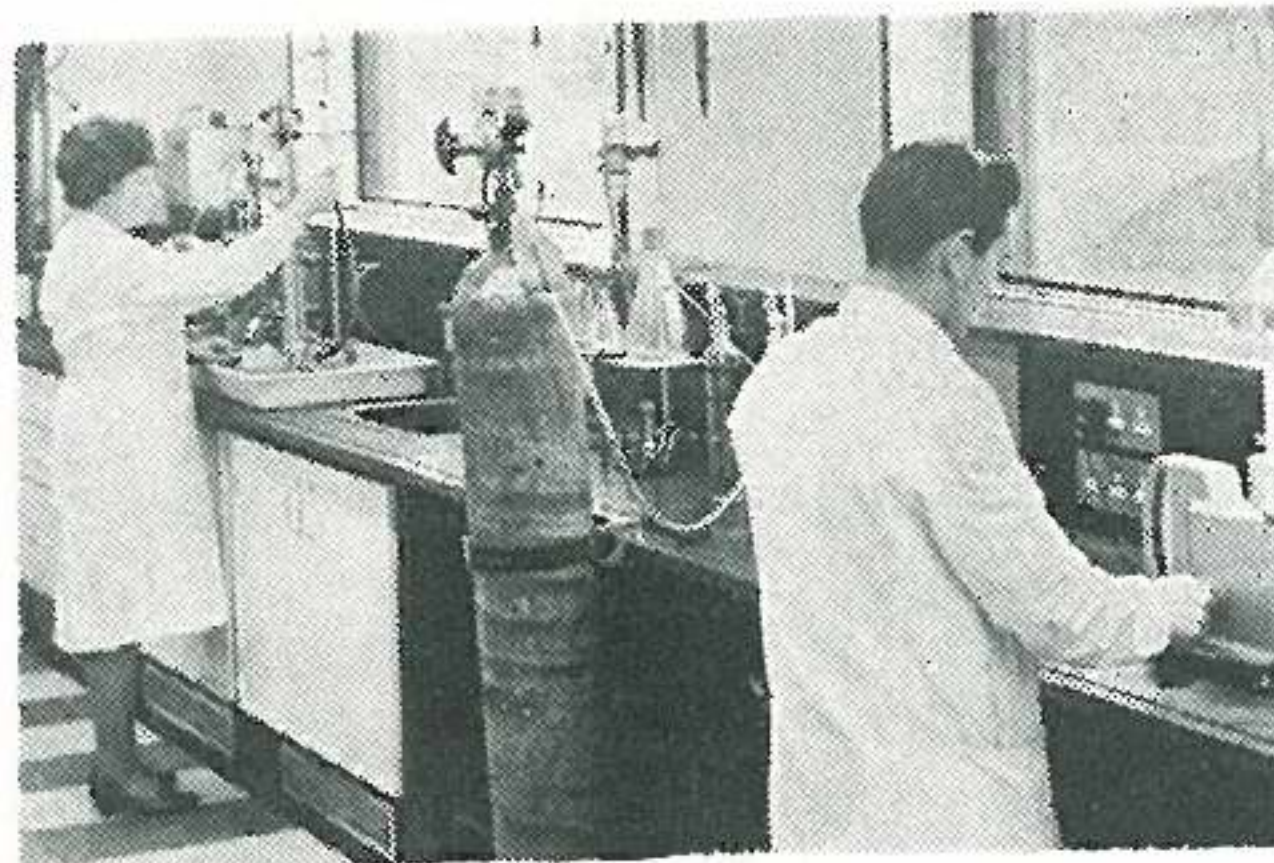
Younger Boys who have finished at the Primary School, or who are already attending a Secondary School, at any level, may apply for admission to the Mill Hill Fathers Preparatory College, St. Joseph's College, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.

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## THE POWER OF THE PRESS?

**F**OLLOWING Limerick's and Clare's heavy defeats in their National League semi-final games it was interesting to compare the way the respective newspapers view their side's displays:—

Said the LIMERICK LEADER—  
"It was really startling to see some of the more established members of the side throwing in the towel; it was the worst showing I have seen from a Limerick county senior hurling side; the writing is on the wall if this game is to be taken as a criterion to our future in the hurling world."

Said the CLARE CHAMPION—  
"This was a game in which Clare fought with indefatigable persistence and determination; in the closing stages Clare courageously endeavoured to redeem their position but their efforts proved futile against a stubborn Kilkenny defence."

Which county benefited most from the comments? Well Sunday June 11 sort of provided the answer.

### DANCING AND VIEWING

Extracts from a letter which appeared in the FRONTIER SENTINEL: I attended a presentation ceili in Cloughoge Parochial Hall organised by the local football club,

but imagine my surprise when I found foreign dances, contrary to Rule 29 O.G. of the G.A.A. being done. I objected and succeeded in having Irish dances called until 12.15 when they returned to their former routine. On protesting I was taken before the committee who gave me no satisfaction. At this point a large number, including myself, left the hall in protest. I can prove that the function was under the auspices of Killeavy G.F.C. and was advertised as a ceili. I would advise the above club to buy a copy of the rule book and read it carefully"—Eamon MacAteer.

The following week from the secretary of the club, Uinsionn O Caoilte: Re letter and attack made by E. MacAteer last week, the Killeavy G.F.C. are treating this attack, and the writer, with the contempt they deserve."

Another letter from 'Short-sighted' said: "If my eyes do not deceive me I saw the same Mr. MacAteer displaying considerable talent at rocking and twisting in a programme just recently televised from the Ardmore Hotel, Newry."

### EXPENSIVE CHAT

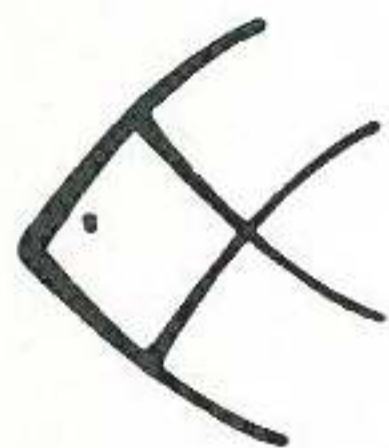
"The people on the premises

● To Page 15.



*Brian McDonald of Dublin who recently transferred to Castlebar Mitchels.*

By  
**VINCENT**  
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Páirc an Chrocaigh

***SENIOR HURLING FINAL: SUNDAY, 16th JULY***

***SENIOR FOOTBALL FINAL: SUNDAY, 23rd JULY***

★ GAELS OF THE PROVINCE, MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES ★



●From Page 13.

started talking about football and how long Galway could last and they stayed twenty extra minutes talking" was the excuse offered by Mr. T. V. MacRann, solicitor, when he defended a Ballymoe publican who was prosecuted for a breach of the licensing laws. But it didn't save either the publican or the men found on the premises all of whom were each fined £1.

**WELCOME CHANGE**

The general complaint from most counties is that there is an acute shortage of referees but in Armagh the position is somewhat different. At a recent meeting of the county Board a letter was read from Joe French (St. Peter's) who complained that 'he was not getting any games to referee' and hoped the matter would be looked into.

**BRIAN MacDONALD**

Brian MacDonald, the current Dublin star who recently transferred to the Mayo club, Castlebar Mitchels is certainly making a name for himself. In his first game for the club he notched no less than 1-8 out of a total of 2-11 and inspired his side to a shock win over the favourites to win the title, Burrishoole. Before this Castlebar had been faring out pretty poorly in the championship but McDonald's presence seemed to have injected new life into them.

**THE MAYO VIEW**

Not all Western papers were critical of New York following their League win over Galway.



*Two of Kerry's 1955 All-Ireland team—John Dowling, the captain (above), and Ned Roche.*



"Our congratulations to New York on achieving what most people thought was the impossible (defeating Galway). Win, lose, or draw, however, was not important. How inspiring to think that the G.A.A. is as strong a force in the U.S.A. as it is in Ireland and that through it our exiles and the children of our exiles are enabled to meet, foster and cherish the old culture, music, song and dance of the Gael with far more patriotism and enthusiasm than they would if they had remained at home."—Editorial Comment in the CONNAUGHT TELEGRAPH.

**CAVAN SCHOLARSHIPS**

Congratulations to the Cavan County Board for their very practical idea towards the revival of the language. They are awarding five scholarships to the Donegal Gaeltacht and the only qualification on the part of the applicants is that they participate in the Cavan schools league. They will last from July 4-28.

**STARS OF 1955 RETURN**

July 24 will certainly be a date to remember for the Gaels of Kerry. On that evening many old memories will be revived when the 1955 All-Ireland winning team will take on a showband side in a charity game. The game is being promoted by the Tralee Lions Club and John Dowling, who captained that side, is working busily to ensure that the full lineout will be there. It should be a wonderful evening's entertainment.



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# MICHEÁL KEHOE

By *TERENCE ROYNANE*

WHEN Dan O'Rourke's Presidential years finished he was succeeded by another in the great line of National Teachers, Micheál Kehoe. A native of Enniscorthy, Michael was active as a Fianna Eireann boy in his home town when the Wexfordmen rose out during Easter, 1916. A devotee of the National Games and of the National Language as well as of the National Cause from his youth, Micheál Kehoe has remained true to those ideals all his long life.

He first brought them with him to the De La Salle Training College in Waterford and subsequently to University College Dublin where he went as a young teacher and subsequently graduated. In U.C.D. he was as one might expect prominent both on the playing fields in Terenure and in language circles.

When he left Dublin he went to teach first at Carrick-on-Suir and then at Emo near Portarlington. It was then that he first became known for his work on the legislative side of the G.A.A. and he was for several years a hard-working member of Laois County Board.

He later returned to Glynn in his native county and there spent the rest of his teaching career in the course of which he made Glynn one of the best known parishes in the country. A long-serving member of the Glynn-Barntown Club, Micheál Kehoe was soon a valuable member of Wexford County Board and of its subsidiary bodies. He was untiring in his work to spread the games among the younger generation and he was one of the first

to strive for the revival of hurling in Wexford.

After holding a variety of offices in Wexford his worth and hard work were recognised on a wider scale when in 1944 he became Chairman of Leinster Council on which he had for long been one of Wexford's representatives.

When his term as Leinster Chairman was up he went forward for the Presidency of the Association but was narrowly defeated by Dan O'Rourke. However, he came back to win election at the second attempt and his was indeed a fruitful Presidency both at home and abroad.

The scarcities of the War years were over by now and Ireland was looking to wider horizons. In 1950 New York were admitted to the National League for the first time and created a sensation by defeating Cavan in the final at Croke Park. In the following year hurling and football teams, Meath and Galway, crossed the Atlantic for the league finals and both were successful. Micheál Kehoe at this stage did a tremendous amount of spade work in trying to organise the games throughout all the United States.

He also started the first seeds of the widespread hurling revival at home and was unsparing in his work for the language. Since he retired from the Presidency he has not abated one bit his work for the game and has remained a constant voice at Congress pleading the cause of the hurling revival, the need to grow more ash and the necessity of preserving the language. Few men have worked so fruitfully for the old ideals.

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## ENDA COLLERAN

ONLY time will show if New York's two splendid wins in the National League final were merely "red lights" along the Galway road of football glory, or the real sign-post pointing to the end of the county's most successful era ever. But, whatever the future may hold for Galway football, it still seems reasonable to assume that, just as he has been one of the most dynamic forces in their make-up during their great reign on top, Enda Colleran will be an inspiring and commanding figure in the tough, hard grind ahead needed to propel the Corrib County back firmly along that elusive trail reserved exclusively for the elite of the game.

No doubt because the spotlight has been so consistently on this Galway team over such a long period, we are inclined now to look on Colleran as one of the veterans of football. Veteran he certainly is—but only in the big-time playing sense.

This Mountbellew club man is, in fact, only 24, and so must still have many more years ahead of him in football. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that, with the wealth of experience he has garnered since Galway's emergence in 1963; with the football know-how he has superbly perfected in the white-heat of the games that mat-

ter, and his own brilliant skills and ever-growing maturity, he will scale greater heights in the future than he has already so brilliantly accomplished.

And, what an exciting prospect that is for everyone interested in savouring the arts and crafts of defensive football at its brilliant best! I appreciate that during this illustrious period in Galway history their defence had both the stars in all positions, and that match-winning approach that brilliantly made the most effective use of each defender's particular assets, to thus ensure a solid barrier to goal.

Yet, the more I saw of Galway the more my admiration grew with every game of one defender above all others—Enda Colleran. To-day he represents my idea of the real Cuchulainn of football defenders. Here, surely, is that cool, brainy, alert and active craftsman of rearguard action, whose artistry and ability in efficiently blunting the edge of even the most talented of score-getters compares fully with the skills and excellence that we have heard sung so often of that great legendary Irish hero himself!

Then, there is Colleran's sure and clean fielding, and that uncanny positional sense that enables him to nip an attack in

the bud, or to come from "nowhere" to avert a dangerous position, or to fall back and cover-off a colleague in masterly style. His clearances are also invariably unhurried and intelligently placed—the type of mature and imaginative back play that so frequently sets up an attacking move in the Galway rearguard.

Another Colleran asset is his versatility. He won his first All-Ireland medal as a right half back with the 1960 Galway minor squad, and, although we now know him best as a senior right full, he has figured with distinction for Galway in the demanding role of pivot, and has proven his worth also with Mountbellew as a centre-field man.

Enda Colleran has reaped a rich harvest of medals from football. He holds four Connacht senior medals, three All-Ireland senior souvenirs, a National League award, a Railway Cup memento, and two Grounds' tournament medals. And, as Galway's inspiring captain from 1965 until the end of the recent League campaign, he carved out also a niche for himself as one of the game's outstanding team skippers.

It's a splendid list of achievements and, while one man, no matter how talented, does not make a team, there can still be no clouding the fact that he made a particularly noble contribution to this illustrious chapter in the annals of Galway and Connacht.

A great team needs a good defence to give the forwards a chance. Now, as Galway face the testing challenge of re-establishing themselves beyond question as the king-pins of football, the purposeful and inspiring play, and dedicated approach of that Cuchulainn of backs, Enda Colleran, will be of incalculable value to the Corrib County.

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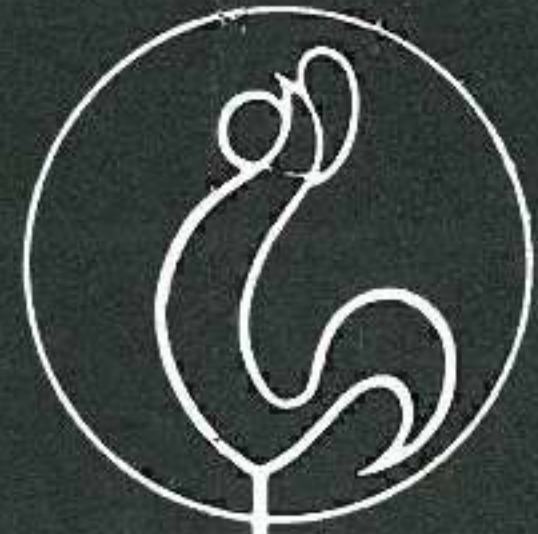
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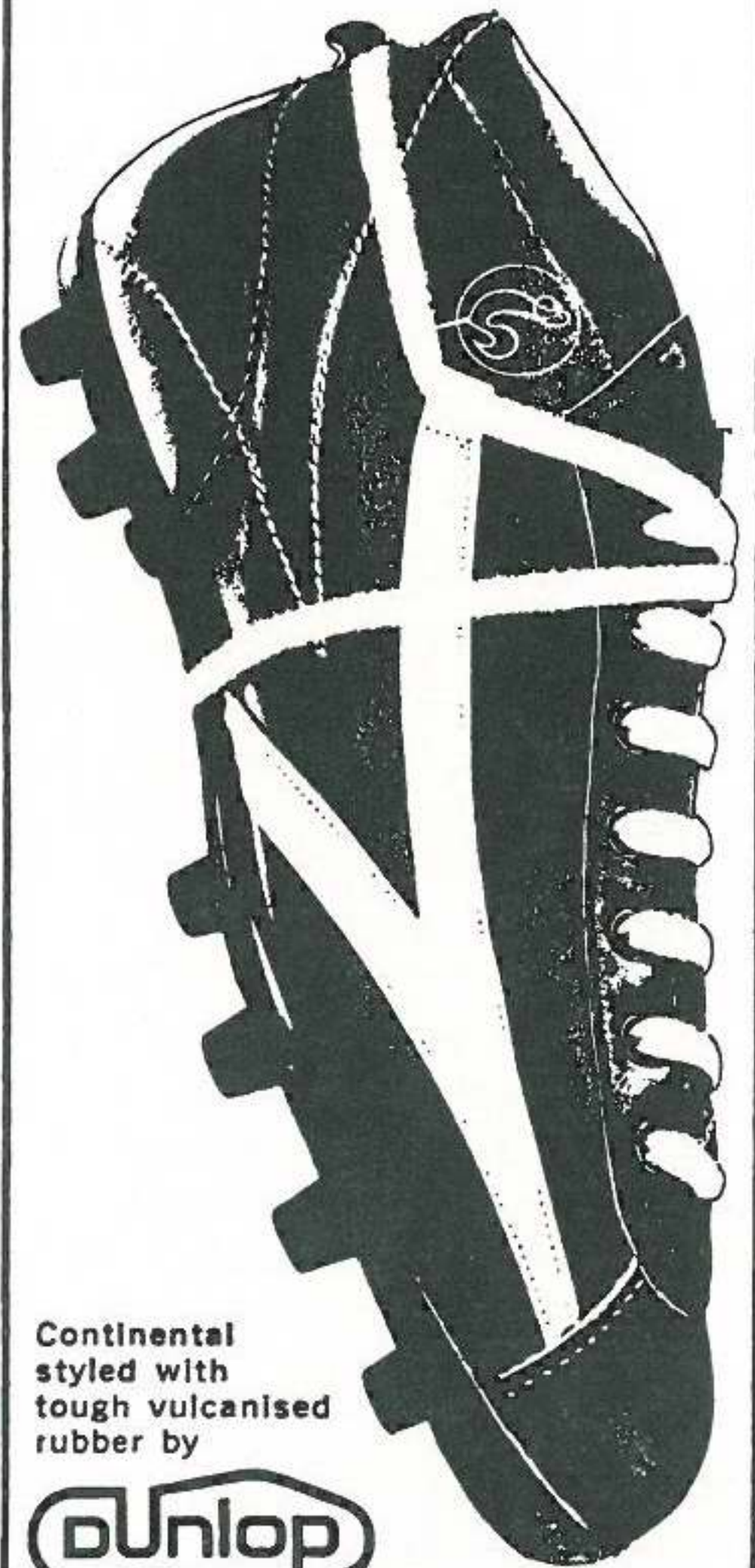


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## THE IDEAL LEAGUE

**I**N a previous article I gave the gist of a conversation I had recently with a 15-year-old Armagh lad in which he had pleaded the case for an open draw to decide the destiny of the Sam Maguire Cup.

When I pointed out that such an arrangement would eliminate the provincial championships he quickly parried by saying that he would abolish the present National League set-up and instead play it off on a provincial basis with the winners becoming champions of their respective provinces. The four title-holders would then play off for the National League title.

"I believe", he said, "the present system of deciding the All-Ireland championship is grossly unfair when one considers the tough passage confronting the Leinster champions by comparison with the Connacht or Munster standard-bearers.

"The open draw for the supreme prize would eliminate this injustice whilst at the same time the combining of the provincial championships with the National League programme would bring a completely new interest to the league".

"But what is wrong with the present league set-up?", I queried.

"Personally, I believe it is alto-

gether too complicated and holds no real interest for the majority of followers until the final stages", he replied. "The monotonous play-offs which can be necessary to decide the semi-finalists in any section smack of an extraordinary conjuring trick intelligible only to the keenest follower".

I had to agree that the idea of having a play-off to decide the runners-up position in one group of a section held little appeal for me either.

"The ideal National League as I see it", he continued, "would—with the possible exception of Leinster—consist of all the counties in each province playing a single league competition with the provincial crown at stake together with a place in the league semi-final. In the case of the twelve teams in Leinster two divisions would seem the answer with a quick-death play-off to decide the winners.

"In Ulster teams would play eight matches each—four home and four away rotating from year to year—in Munster five each and in Connacht four with the Leinster men engaged five times plus their final.

"And surely the straight-forward league tables appearing weekly

would be simple to follow and who would deny the merit of a county's claim to its province's crown having engaged each of the other counties in the one programme."

"It sounds revolutionary but with a certain exciting quality well worthy of further consideration", I answered. "But what about the huge financial over-haul which would be necessary?"

He had obviously not given much thought to the monetary angle of his plan but he was not to be outdone.

"From the open draw in the All-Ireland championships there would certainly be no loss of revenue and with the provincial titles added to the league race the position should also be safe enough in that department", he commented. "And anyhow if the fare is attractive enough the customers will be there".

I took leave of my 15-year-old confident that his plans stood little chance of being put to the test in practice, but at least I was intrigued—and heartened—that one so young should at least be thinking so earnestly about the future workings of the Association.

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# JOHN McKENNA

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By \_\_\_\_\_  
**JAY DRENNAN**

**T**HE best full-forward in Ireland right now is, without doubt, John 'Mackey' McKenna, the chunky little Tipperary man. There was a time when McKenna was considered a centre forward of the fetch and carry variety, one who would, as they say, "put his head where his hurley should be" in order to gain possession or to forge an opening for a colleague. He served his county royally in this capacity: this was considered an essential part of the equipment of any class team after Tom Cheasty had patented the style throughout the second half of the 'fifties and the early 'sixties.

As I said, his was a rather unspectacular but highly valuable part in the success of Tipperary in those early years of the 'sixties. Only just now and then, as though sick to death of providing with

diligence the ammunition for his fellow forwards he would lash out with a shot himself and make the meshes of the net sing a sunny song.

Later in the career of that great Tipperary so lately the champions of everything in sight, Larry Kiely came along to man the centre-forward breach, and McKenna came to full-forward as though towards a sort of well-deserved retirement. He was a revelation to all in that position, developing a fine direct style of play, moving widely about the goal and beyond the twenty-one, to pick up loose or promising balls and to whip them between the posts with gay abandon. He began to take on a new personality.

Just about the time when he was playing really well at full forward he began to put on weight,

as though the position was so undemanding on his physical resources that he could eat without limit and take only target practice for training.

This year, Mackey McKenna has trained down to a chunky and hard dimensions, more lively than he has been since he first came on the Tipperary team, and with the added confidence which top-fitness gives him. He is now a demon of destruction around the goal area; not the bustling type of full-forward with hate in his heart for all goalies and the singlemindedness of a bull in a bull-fight. Anyway, Seán McLoughlin has been around to allow McKenna to do his own will as regards moving about. Such interchange causes most hurling full-backs an amount of confusion anyway, but the quickness of McKenna's decision to move to a ball, and the speed of his delivery make him well-nigh unstoppable for more than some minutes at a time.

Now his confidence oozes out through his shooting. He grabs, takes a quick sidelong glance, and fires off from any angle or any distance, tracer bullets through the goalposts. His points are not lobs of speculative design, but flashing, straight-hits that show the player knows he can do no wrong. It is great to see a player in form; McKenna is in form. It is ominous news for full-backs; and for goalies, too, for when the opening appears and the angle is right he might just flash away for goal with the original of "bullet-like shot".

# PHIL WILSON



## *A man who typifies the Wexford hurling style*

**D**OWN Wexford way they never had any time for softies in their hurling teams; they like the game good and honest and clean, they put their hearts into it with great elan, but they always play it fair. Phil Wilson is a good advertisement for the Wexford style of hurling. Perhaps, he is not as big or as robust as some of the great figures of the last twenty years; perhaps he has not the complete skill of some of them, perhaps he cannot naturally, as though by inherited right of a king, dominate the field as a Billy or a Bobby Rackard or a Jim Morrissey, but he has so many of the good qualities in all three spheres.

Phil Wilson is a ruddy-complexioned lad with an eager appearance about him that must be any trainer's or coach's dream. He has a heart of staunch courage, and a desire to run and work even when beaten to his knees. Now for some years a fixture in the Wexford ranks at centre-field, he followed a group of his fellow-countymen who by their own brilliance threw down an unwitting challenge to all who came after them: "Try to beat that if you can."

Wilson was not able—nobody would. And for a time he had to

struggle against natural prejudice and an unreasoning concentration on things reluctantly seen as of the past. It was a hard period, but Phil soon enough emerged into his own right as a mighty midfielder. Three-quarters of his effectiveness depends, surely on his wonderful willingness to go and keep on going three or four times as far and ten times as hard as anyone else in the game. If he does not shine early on that does not mean that he must be written off; wait for the second half, and watch his unending stamina force him into the lead for every ball, watch his heart carry him on solos when an ordinary man would think it a good day's work to rid himself of the ball.

He can appear an awkward striker at times; certainly he would not take it as a compliment to say that he was a classy stylist. You would not be shocked to see Phil Wilson miss completely in an All-Ireland final, that is if you knew your Wilson. It would mean just one of those things, just one more chore to be done retrieving the ball and having another go.

I do not know what his training methods are, but he seems such a natural bustler that he probably has great reserves of stamina and needs little but sharpening

### **A Profile**

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**By**

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**JAY**

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**DRENNAN**

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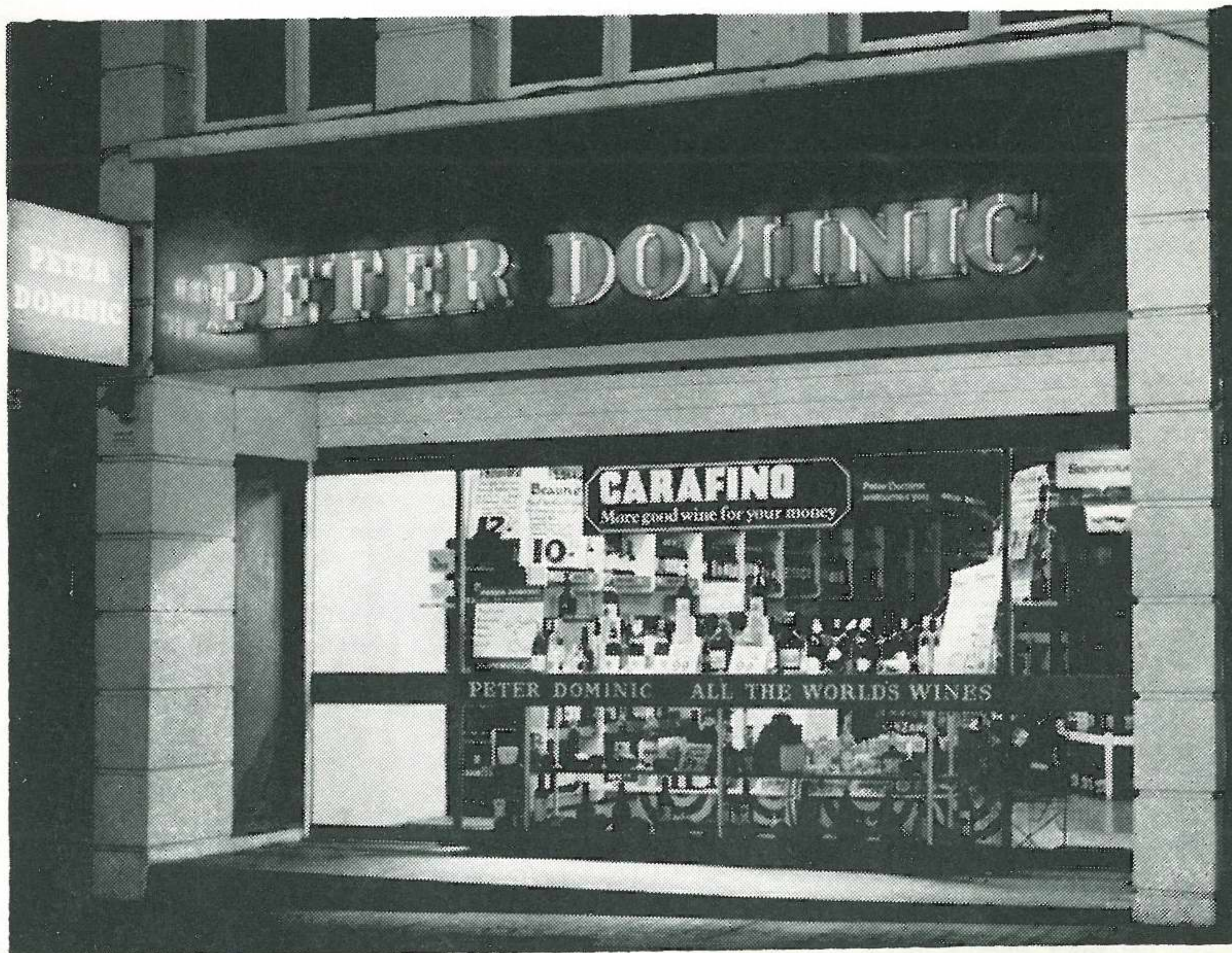
up. Of course, he is no iron man, and he has suffered a variety of knocks, not so much serious as annoying and long in their effect. It is the price which anyone with a desire to burst through a tackle for a position of advantage rather than submit to circumstances and hit the ball willy-nilly has to pay sooner or later. But his youth is still on his side, he heals again to fighting fitness and recaptures his former influence on games.

There was a period just about three years ago — the League season of 1963-64, as best I can

recall, when, with Wexford hurling in what is called, with the utmost charity, a transition period, he literally carried the team. He was never better than then and not quite so good since. But, that is not to be considered surprising for if he had kept that up no team would have contained Wexford more recently.

Eagerness and stamina will fade with the oncoming years, of course, and Wilson may be able to ride the crisis by adapting his style, but I think that he will not continue a great force after his

physical advantages have left him. He does not have the extreme skill of, say, a Christy Ring, nor the extremes of cunning of a Theo English, who seems to be able to play as effective a role as ever year after year. No, while English is the supreme "operator" of centre-field men, Wilson is the supreme "engine room" man, who gets his results by the honest sweat of his brow, believing in the honest man's philosophy that the one who puts most in gets most out. May his heart and legs last beyond the bounds of nature's limits of youth.



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# MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

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**J**ULY is always the month of the provincial finals nowadays, although I suppose there is many an old-time follower besides myself who can recall days when provincial finals were played as late as September or even in October. I admit I saw few of those, but the early Autumn was at one time the accepted venue for such deciders.

Since then we have got much more up to date with our fixtures, and now July is the month for the senior deciders in all provinces. And looking back across the years I am forced to the conclusion that each provincial final has an atmosphere all its own.

As far as football is concerned the white-heat of enthusiasm is usually to be found in my estimation at a Connacht final between Mayo and Galway—particularly in Tuam. I have in the past thirty years seen some wonderful games between those counties there in Connacht finals and the thing that has impressed me even more than the players themselves was the unflagging faith in their favourites shown by the rival supporters. Why as late as last year, when Galway snatched that sensational last minute victory, I overheard the following gem.

I was inching my way down towards the town when I found two despondent Mayo supporters right in front of me. As we moved along they retraced sadly those last moments during which Galway had turned victory into defeat. They produced at least a dozen

reasons why their team should have won comfortably and then from one of them came the punch-line: "Aye", he said, "Galway must be certain to win the All-Ireland now that they have bet Mayo."

Ulster football finals, too, have an atmosphere all their own, especially when they are played at Clones, although it was at a couple of Clones finals that I think, immediately after the War, I came up against a problem that I never encountered before of since. It seems alcoholic refreshment was then fairly dear and scarce in the town of Belfast and was not obtainable at all on a Sunday. So there was a certain small section of the Belfast populace who came on excursions to the Ulster final who were not really interested in any game at all but only came for the day out, and for a 'few scoops'. And believe me some of the lads who came out for the day could be pretty contrary customers when they had celebrated not wisely but too well.

But that was a long time ago, and through the last couple of decades I saw some wonderful football played by Cavan, Tyrone and Down at the County Monaghan venue. Oddly enough, I never found the same intimate atmosphere at matches played at Casement Park. Maybe the ground and the city was too big and seemed to swallow up even the enthusiasm of the spectators.

Down South I have a particularly vivid memory of the

greatest Munster football final I ever saw, the 1956 clash between Cork and Kerry at Killarney. They had played a drawn game at the Cork Athletic Grounds where the home team controlled the game all the way but Kerry snatched a couple of quick goals in the closing minutes to snatch a very lucky draw.

We all said at the time that Cork had not a hope in the replay for they had to take on the Kingdom boys at Killarney. Heaven's Reflex really looked its best that day, and what a game those two teams gave us in that perfect setting. Again it was nip and tuck all the way, and we were settling down to the possible prospect of extra time when Niall Fitzgerald raced through to score the winning point for Cork.

I have seen Munster hurling finals at many venues and not the least exciting was the clash between Waterford and Cork at Clonmel in the final of 1931. Cork that day, represented by one of the greatest teams that ever wore the red jersey, were firm favourites of the decade to win through. But they were the luckiest team I have ever seen to come from behind and balance with almost the last puck of the hour after Waterford had led from the start.

The replay was also at Clonmel, and Cork made no mistake on that occasion, winning very comfortably and going on to win the All-Ireland title after those three epic contests with Kilkenny. But there must be many a veteran

Waterford follower who still recalls with pride that wet day in Clonmel when as some one said at the time, Waterford hurling really grew up.

Thurles, of course, I have always found a home from home, but over many recent years, Limerick has come to be the focal point for Munster finals, principally, of course, because the Limerick hurlers themselves so rarely have reached a final in the past decade and a half.

One remembers so many wonderful finals at Limerick between Cork and Tipperary in the 'fifties that it is hard to choose between them. Those were games that caught the public imagination and certainly entranced the crowds, for the gates at Limerick were more than once closed long before ever the minor curtain-raiser began.

And yet my greatest memory of all from a Cork-Tipperary final in those years comes not from Limerick at all but again from Killarney on a day when even the vast Fitzgerald Stadium could not cope with the tens of thousands who turned up to see Tipperary just survive a fierce late Cork rally in the most dramatic Munster final I have ever witnessed in either code.

Leinster football finals are in my mind usually associated with Croke Park, though I remember some at other venues. But the greatest games I saw were at Croke Park, particularly some spic struggles between Kildare and Meath, long ago and Louth and Meath nearly twenty years later. Indeed, I could hardly believe it when in a first-round game the other Sunday I saw such insipid fare in a Meath-Louth clash.

On the other hand, although I saw some great Leinster hurling finals in Croke Park, my happiest memories of such clashes come from other venues. Portlaoise saw some hard-fought and memorable deciders between Dublin and Kil-

● TO PAGE 32

*the choice of champions*

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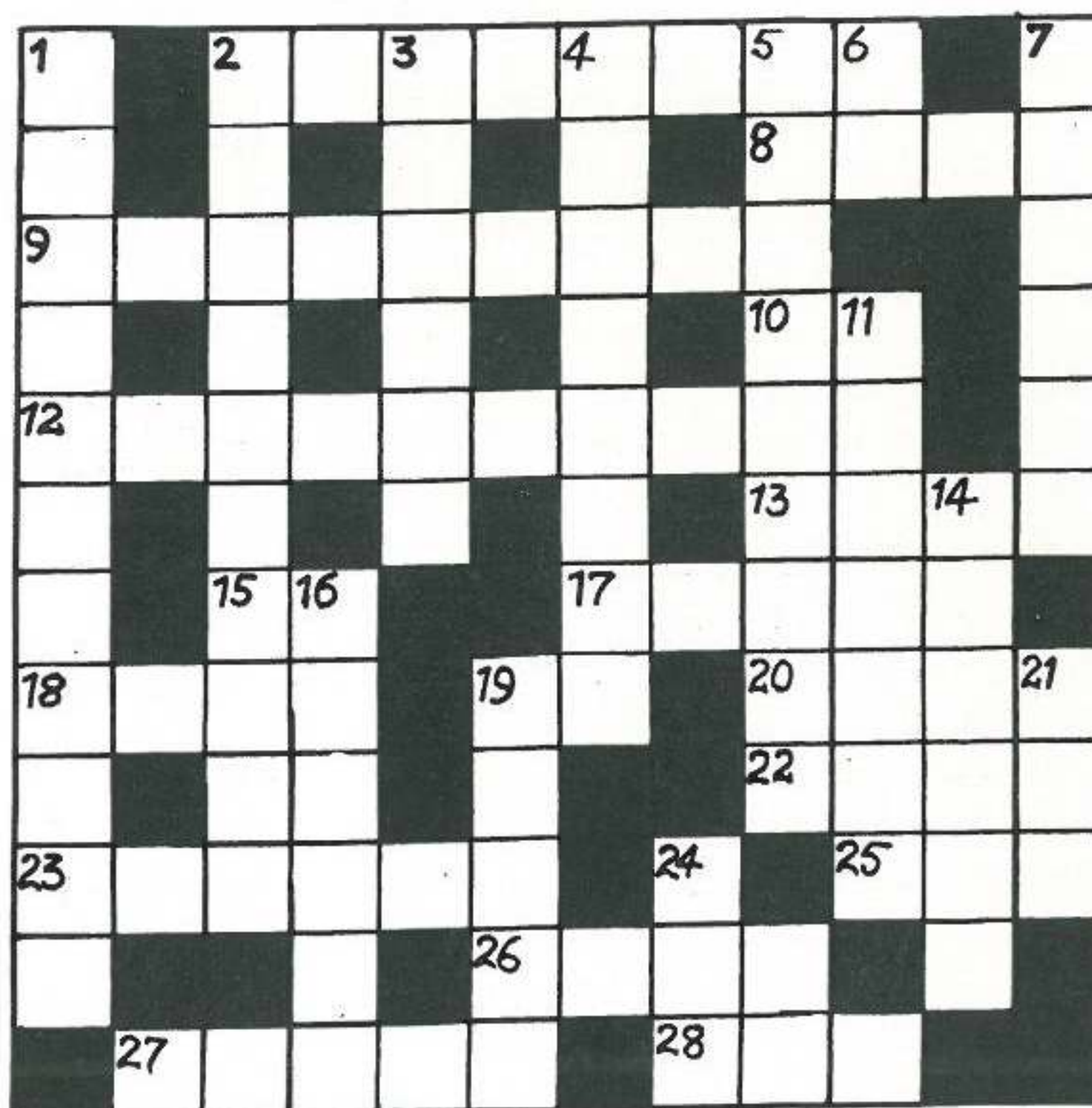
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**CLUES ACROSS:**

2. The sharpest prong in the Donegal attack. (1, 7)
8. How often have Wexford been All-Ireland champions (senior) in the sixties. (4)
9. Offaly footballer (forward) who has a namesake in the Dublin team from time to time. (1, 8)
10. The Gunner from Cavan. Initials. (1,1)
12. Many take him to be the greatest ever full-back; certainly all Louth people think so. (5, 5)
13. Fleming who was a solid Waterford and Munster defender some 20 years back. (4)
15. Prematurely retired member of Wexford hurling family—call him his full Christian name. Initials. (1, 1)
17. Clare hurler who would not feel lost in a forest. (1, 4)
18. Unusual; seldom found, though always to be had in the rear. (4)
19. One of a pair of Galway brothers — the midfielder. Initials. (1, 1)
20. Beheaded Meath right-half-back of All-Ireland fame. (4)
22. Kelly, who was a Kerry sharp-shooter, in much confusion. (4)
23. A sublime month for semi-finals. (6)
25. Where it's tough, so the saying goes. (3)
26. Ryan who played a decade for Cork at football. (4)
27. Part of groundsman's equipment for putting down the field's markings. (5)
28. A short sleep after winning five in a row. (3)

**CLUES DOWN:**

1. Leitrim centre-half-back. (5, 6)
2. He won All-Irelands for Mayo at corner forward and wing half-back. (1, 9)



3. Nelluc turns about to reveal a footballer from a Leinster county. (6)
4. Where traditionalists say the sliothar should be kept. (2, 6)
5. A player? No, a non-participant. (3, 6)
6. Begins encroaching. (2)
7. Roscommon brothers.
11. Recalled to Cork's team last year with good results. (7)
14. The Christian name of up and coming Roscommon star.
16. What the losers want, usually, is another chance, as in boxing. (6)
19. "The Man in the Cap"—McDermott. (5)
21. Hiccough a kind of assent. (3)
24. Victory.

**SOLUTION PAGE 48**

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# ULSTER IN THE HEADLINES

By SEAMUS McCLUSKEY

**D**ESPITE the fact that two-thirds of its area is behind the "Orange Curtain", it is very doubtful if any of the other three provinces are as well served as Ulster when it comes to getting publicity for Gaelic games. The provincial press throughout the North, especially the "Anglo-Celt" (Cavan), "The Northern Standard" (Monaghan), the "Observer" Group (Armagh and Down), etc., etc., all have their special sports columns, devoted exclusively to the Games of the Gael. Belfast is well catered for by the "Irish News" group, while even the so-called "Unionist" newspapers are presently giving considerable space and coverage to these sports, and writers of the calibre of Eoin McQuillan ("News Letter"), Gerry McGuigan ("Telegraph") and Tony McGee ("Sunday News") are second to none.

Ulster Secretary, Gerry Arthurs, has been very lavish in his praise of, and gratitude towards, all these Northern sportswriters and their newspapers in his annual reports to Ulster Conventions over the years. Writing a dozen years ago, he had this to say:—"The Daily and Provincial press accorded considerable publicity to the affairs of the Association in the province and for this our thanks is extended. The Press correspondents who reported matches and reviewed our programmes were most courteous and obliging and we are grateful to them". The following year (report for 1956) he added:—"The periodicals established within the past year or so to publicise the athletic and cultural activities of the Gael, discharged their task with enthusiasm. Their efforts helped to

keep to the forefront the aims and objects of the G.A.A. and kindred bodies". Reporting on 1959, he said:—"We are fortunate in having gifted writers . . . to report and comment on the games and other affairs of the Association. The publications dealing chiefly with G.A.A. matters continued to exercise a helpful role, and one perhaps not sufficiently appreciated. They deserve all possible support from our members".

Mr. Arthurs has continued on this theme through the present decade. In March, 1963 (report for 1962), his paragraph on "Publicity" was promoted from under the heading "General" and given a special section in the Report. In that year he had this to say:—"Once again those Sports Writers whose work is primarily concerned with G.A.A. matters were most co-

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operative and helpful. Some of them were responsible for a number of interesting and informative reviews and articles, which were most appreciated", while in his report to the Ballybofey Convention of 1965 (for 1964) he added: "The sportswriters, too, deserve their need of praise. Many of them are dedicated reporters of G.A.A. matters with the best interests of the game at heart". In his latest bulletin—4th March last (report for 1966), he said:—"It is both fitting and proper to acknowledge the measure of publicity accorded to the Ulster programme of G.A.A. events of the year by the Daily and Provincial press. Such publicity was usually most helpful, and appreciated, and merited our thanks".

### CAVAN TO LONDON

Cavan travelled to London last month for their Wembley Tournament Final with All-Ireland Champions, Galway. They travelled this time as Wembley champions, having won the title in 1966, but although this was their second successive trip to London's lavish arena, most people seem to have regarded them as newcomers to the English capital. Such an assumption could not be much further from the truth.

Twenty years ago and long before the Wembley Tournament was even dreamt of, Cavan dominated the annual tournaments which were at that time run by the London Board of the G.A.A. At that particular stage the competition was held on Whit Monday and was known as "The Owen Ward Cup" from the trophy presented by a London-based Monaghan man of that name.

In 1946, Cavan made the trip to London and had three points to spare over Cork in the first ever Owen Ward Cup final, winning on the score—Cavan 1-12, Cork 2-6. The following year, the Cavan men—as holders of the trophy—were entitled to travel again and this time their opponents were the

mighty men of Kerry, who were at that time, reigning All-Ireland champions. Cavan, however, made light of the highly-fancied opposition and won convincingly on the score—Cavan 1-11, Kerry 1-6.

These were the hey-days of John Joe O'Reilly, P. J. Duke (go ndeanai Dia trocaire ar a n-anam-acha), Simon Deignan, Joe Stafford, Peter Donohue, Mick Higgins and Company and it came as no surprise when Cavan made it three-in-a-row the following year (1948). This time the opposition was provided by Roscommon, who had lost to Cavan in the previous year's All-Ireland semi-final. Again, it was victory for Cavan, when they had their greatest ever triumph on

the New Eltham sod, winning by 4-7 to 2-6.

Who then can describe Cavan as "newcomers" to the London Tournament? They were the only county ever to capture the Owen Ward Cup on three successive occasions and might have made their record even more impressive had they travelled across the Irish Sea in the following years. This they did not do, however, the 1949 Final being contested by Mayo (winners) and Louth and the 1950 Final by Meath (winners) and Mayo.

### SNOWS AND EXPORTS

It is now exactly twenty years from that fateful year of 1947—

● TO PAGE 32

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●FROM PAGE 31

probably the most eventful ever of the G.A.A. calendar. In the early part of '47, following the worst winter in living memory, the Railway Cup competitions were badly upset. I remember heading into Croke Park and reading on the front page of the official programme—"Patrons Please Note—It is to be regretted that on two previous occasions these games had to be postponed owing to weather conditions. Because of the uncertainty of travelling conditions even yet, we are not in a position to ascertain, early enough for the printers, if all the selected players

could travel, consequently, the issuing of this programme was delayed to the last moment so that, as far as possible, the correct names and number would be available—P. O'Caoimh (Runai)."

Later in the year, we exported the All-Ireland Football final to New York (won by Cavan) and the Dublin Civil Service G.A.A. Club promoted, what they termed "The Home All-Ireland" between the teams that had given Cavan and Kerry their hardest games in the Championship—Cork and Monaghan. Played at Croke Park on September 21. Cork won 3-8 to 3-6.

# MOONDHARRIG

●FROM PAGE 27

kenny in the 'twenties and 'thirties and there was one wonderful final between those two counties on a rain-drenched sod at Barrett's Park in New Ross.

Unfortunately both teams were late in taking the field, and they were both ruled out and the final declared null and void. Thinking back over the years I think that was a most remarkable decision, especially if my memory counts for anything, the day was so bad that the game might well have been called off altogether and I do not think very many people would have grumbled.

I only saw one Leinster hurling final in Wexford Park, although more than one was played there, but the one I do recall was an amazing game. Kilkenny, then All-Ireland champions, were led by four goals at half-time by Dublin. But the Kilkenny men inspired in the second half by a wonderful display from Lory Meagher staged an amazing come-back.

Indeed they rallied to such good effect that they drew level after some twenty minutes of the second half and won with a couple of goals to spare.

Nowlan Park at Kilkenny also housed some great finals, the best of them all I think was the 1950 final between Wexford and Kilkenny. That was a sizzling hour from start to stop, and marked the rise of the Wexford men as a hurling power, even though they were beaten by a point or two. Certainly they have never looked back since and the result has been that since the early 'fifties the all-round standard in Leinster has been higher than I ever remember from previous decades.

Anyway here's hoping that the provincial finals in all four provinces this year will live up to the best traditions of the past.

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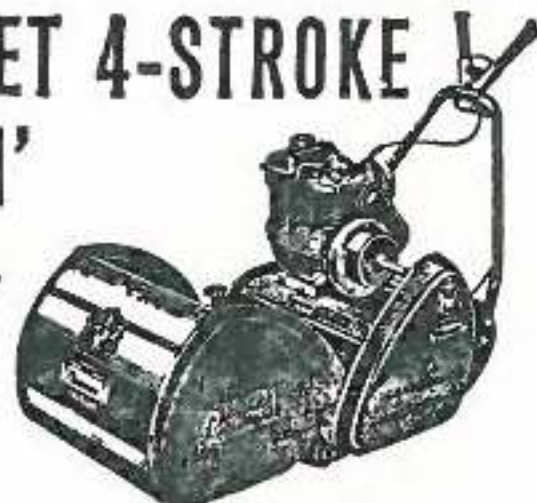
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# Big chance for Maher



By  
**ALLEYMAN**

*Joe Maher,  
the former  
Louth hand-  
ball star,  
pictured with  
some of the  
trophies he has  
won in Canada.*

made him one of the country's outstanding performers in the 'fifties.

I have a hunch that the Wicklow ace has his mind on his work this season and will not easily be beaten.

Joe Delaney, star of so many Kilkenny victories over the years, appears to have past his best. He lost to the stylish Offaly player Pat Sheerin, now definitely a front runner for a place in the World Games.

Surprise packet of the season is, without doubt the Meath bundle of energy Dessie McGovern. Firstly, he had to beat his doubles partner Liam Molloy to gain the county singlet. Having done that he has never looked back. At his home court in early April he put paid to the hopes of Kildare's Ned Deegan in no uncertain fashion.

A fortnight later at the same venue he applied similar treatment to the Dublin hard-hitter Jim Doyle—and, considering Doyle's achievement in gaining a place in the quarter-finals of the Gael-Linn competition, that victory speaks for itself.

Indeed, on thoroughly analyzing the position in Leinster alone, it is obvious that the World Series is bringing out the best in the senior players.

The minor and junior grades in the province have also produced their quota of excitement and the occasional surprise result. Into this

● Continued next page.

**T**HE odds turned heavily in favour of Joe Maher, the former Louth star, winning this year's world championship, with the announcement that the series would take place at a Canadian rather than a Mexican venue.

This is yet another change of plan for this event, which has been surrounded with uncertainty during recent months.

First Canada was considered as the possible venue, next Ireland, and finally, it was assumed that promises to stage it in Mexico would materialise.

Now it seems that fund-raising for the Olympic Games has balked the Mexican Association's plans.

However, despite these disappointments, the World Series has aroused considerable excitement here and with representation depending on the results of the senior championships, the Leinster programmes got off to a lively start.

The first surprise came quickly with the defeat of former champion Richie Lyng by Wicklow's Joe Clery. This result was unexpected, for only a couple of days earlier I had seen Clery well beaten by Monaghan's Séamus McCabe in the Gael-Linn competition. What a refreshing change of form in such a short space of time.

Against Lyng, Clery's every movement was so perfect, that one was reminded of the displays which

● From Page 33.

category comes the victory of the young Dublin player, Paul Domigan, over Kildare's Greg Lawlor.

This result is a shot in the arm for minor Board Administrators in the Metropolis. It represents the first real breakthrough for local endeavour since the major re-organisation of the game in the city commenced some years ago.

Domigan has an amount of potential and, under the guidance of Rev. Bro. Murphy and Paddy Munroe, should be a force, if not this year, then certainly next year.

The difficulties in making a comeback to the big-time were never better exemplified than in the recent Kerry championships. Here, we had the former stars of

Kingdom handball, Paddy Downey and Jimmy O'Brien, throwing down the gauntlet to the McEllistrim brothers, well-known for their record-breaking feats last year.

The Tralee veterans had done an amount of training for this game but, even so the task proved beyond them. The McEllistrims, by their speed and dexterity, were on top all the way and, with the confidence of this win behind them are geared to emulate at senior level their junior achievements.

In the north, the only major surprise was the defeat of the Cavan representative, Lewis Gilmore by the Armagh veteran Harry Haddock.

Séamus McCabe, the reigning All-Ireland champion from Mon-

aghan, is of course the form man. He should win the Ulster title again with comparative ease and make a bold bid towards retaining his All-Ireland crown also.

As usual, the Connacht championships are providing their quota of excitement, though so far, there have been no surprises. Mayo command a powerful triple force in Peadar McGee, Paddy Bollingbrook and Micky Walsh, all of whom, quite probably will be in line for representation in the World Games.

However, there could be many a slip between now and the end of the championships in October, so that the possibility of a few dark horses winning their way to the top cannot be over-ruled.



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# WATCH THE CORK GIRLS CLIMB

**B**Y the time these notes appear in print we should be well into the heart of the camogie season and should have a pretty fair idea as to how the provincial championships are likely to turn out. Already, in that wet and windy month of May, we had the first surprise of the current championship when Cork travelled to Fethard and there defeated Tipperary. Considering that Tipperary had won the title three times in the previous four seasons, and that Cork had gone out in the first round last year to Waterford this was quite an achievement by the Cork girls.

And yet in a way I was not surprised that Tipperary were beaten. Even when they were in their best spell through the past couple of seasons there was something grievously wrong with camogie in Tipperary and it was this, that the number of senior clubs had been becoming smaller and smaller. The result was that there was very little local competition in the senior grade and local competition is the life-blood of any game.

Indeed, I was very surprised to find when they won the All-Ireland club championship last season, that the Tipperary champions, St. Patrick's, included all but two of the county team. The lack of local

competition was bound to tell eventually.

Anyway, this was a great victory for Cork, presaged to an extent by the county's success in the Munster secondary competition last year and while I may be anticipating, I expect to see Cork back in the All-Ireland final next September for the first time in more than a decade.

The reason I say so is because the Cork girls looked so impressive when beating Tipperary that I will be surprised if they do not come out of Munster. I know they are likely to come up against Waterford again in the provincial final, but I have a notion that Waterford caught them napping last year and it is unlikely that the same upset will occur again. After all Cork beat nearly a full-strength Waterford side in the secondary competition later last year. And if Cork come out of Munster I expect them to reach the All-Ireland final.

The reason for this is because the Munster champions will be at home to the Ulster champions in the All-Ireland semi-final. Now I see no danger to Antrim in the North, but good though the Antrim girls are I cannot see them bringing back victory after the long trek to Cork and therefore I feel that

we will see Cork back in the All-Ireland final for the first time since 1955. And I believe too that the return of Cork to the limelight would prove a wonderful fillip for the camogie game.

And who are likely to come through from the other provinces? In the West I cannot see Galway lose their Connacht title just yet even though Mayo are likely to improve on recent years. On the other hand, as the Connacht winners have to travel to a Leinster venue to meet the Leinster champions I cannot see a Connacht side reaching the All-Ireland final in any case.

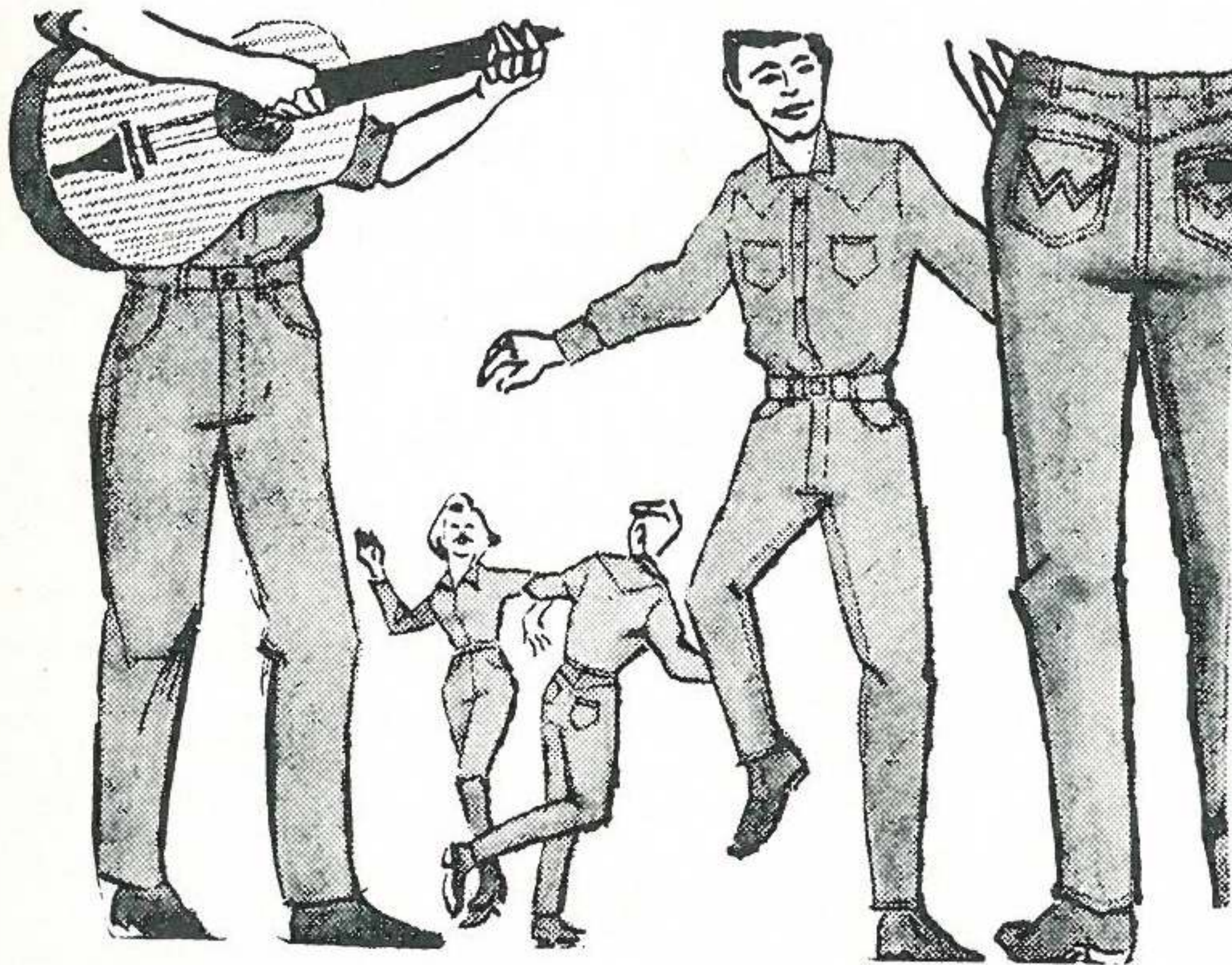
Actually Leinster may yet prove the most intriguing province of all even though Dublin have not been beaten in the East for more than thirty years. But it must be remembered too that Dublin had very little to spare in any of their matches last season.

And their earliest shock came in the Leinster final when they had very little to spare over Wexford. Wexford will be favoured to win the Leinster intermediate title again this season and thus qualify for the senior provincial decider.

Kilkenny are the chief danger, and indeed were Anne Carroll available I would rather fancy the

● Continued next page.

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● From Page 35.

chances of the girls from the Noreside. But I am told that the former Tipperary star has had a cartilage operation and will not be available until late in the season, so that it looks like Wexford for the Leinster final again. With all the last year's stars again on duty Wexford could beat Dublin this time, but the game is at a Dublin venue, and that may just swing the scales in Dublin's favour.

If Dublin come out of Leinster they look certain to reach the All-Ireland final, but I would not take a wager on them winning this time. The champions were very lucky last year, lucky to beat Tipperary at Cahir, lucky to defeat Antrim in the Croke Park final. Such good fortune cannot last indefinitely.

But there is one extraordinary fact about Dublin camogie teams. And it is this, that year after year they always come back with renewed energy and efficiency. Many times in the past I have announced that Dublin's long camogie supremacy was almost ended and the very next year they were back to prove me wrong. And despite the fact that they had no more than one puck of the ball to spare over first Tipperary and then Antrim last season, those Dublin girls could well come back again to retain the title for the eleventh successive year.

Meanwhile I am glad to see that Dublin after some hesitation did agree to participate in the Leinster junior championship. The fact that a junior team will represent the county will prove a great fillip to the game among the younger players who have never had the opportunity of playing for Dublin before, and I am quite willing to believe that new talent for the senior side will eventually be found among those junior players. In addition it is also likely that the inclusion of Dublin will raise the general standard of junior camogie in the Eastern province.

# RAY PRENDERGAST

By VINCENT MURRIHY

THE choice of Mayo full-back Ray Prendergast for the Cardinal Cushing games was well deserved for Ray has been one of the big men in Mayo's much delayed return to the top of the football ladder. A brother of Paddy Prendergast—rated by many as the greatest full back of all time, Ray is the third member of his family to represent the county at full-back (the other being Tom who played with Mayo in 1946). Aged 27, he received his early football guidance from the De La Salle brothers at St. Gerald's (Castlebar) and later at Ballinrobe C.B.S. While attending the Castlebar school he picked up a Colleran Cup (Mayo colleges) and county league medals and added a few more with Ballinrobe.

In 1960 he helped his home club Ballintubber to win the West Mayo J.F.C. and later that year was one of the key figures on the West Mayo side that inflicted a sensational defeat on Castlebar Mitchels, who had just returned home from a successful American tour.

He graduated to the Mayo junior team that was beaten by Galway in the Connacht final of 1961—playing at centrefield, and followed this up with a spot on the senior string that did so well in the National League the same year.

Then came the gap in his football career. A series of injuries forced him to lay off the games for some time and he decided to leave for England. That was at the end of 1961 and for the next three years he had to give up the

game that meant so much to him. The injuries might have deterred a man of lesser mettle but not Ray Prendergast.

The call of the homeland and of football became too much for him. In response to an appeal from his native club, which had reached the final of the divisional championship, Ray came home and although he had not been in training turned in a very impressive display.

In November of that year he returned home for "keeps" and soon he was again commanding the attention of the county senior selectors with a series of top-class displays. He purchased a public house in Castlebar, with the result he was able to devote more time to training. As an experiment, he was selected at full-forward on the senior side in a challenge game with Galway and, playing against Noel Tierney, had two fine goals and a point to his credit at the end of the hour. He had really arrived back on the Mayo football scene.

Soon he was shifted back to his more accustomed berth in the backline and when John Morley moved from full back to centre-half back Ray took over. At first many expressed the opinion that he was merely basking in the sunshine of his elder brother but soon friend and foe alike began to appreciate him as the wonderful exponent of the game that he undoubtedly is.

His ability to field safely the high ball is—as colleague Chris Murray pointed out in the May

issue of this magazine—perhaps his outstanding and most accomplished art but his long raking kicks and covering off tactics are more of the virtues that have endeared him to the football public of Mayo.

Quiet and unassuming he is always reluctant to talk about his own prowess and prefers to pay tribute to the officials and players who are working so feverishly to put Mayo back into the proud position it enjoyed in the halycon days of the early '50's. He dabbles in a spot of golf, basketball and shooting (in particular) to pass his leisure time but most of this is taken up with talking football to the Gaels of the county who have made his pub their mecca when they visit Castlebar.

He feels strongly about the goalkeeper being charged (he would like to see this rule being abolished); would like to see another official besides the referee being in charge of the time-keeping; would prefer teams to be thirteen a side rather than the present fifteen, and would encourage more players to take up refereeing (which he has been doing for the past two years).

Now that he has been through the excitement of an American trip his one burning ambition is to collect an All-Ireland medal. And who knows? By the time that this appears in print readers will know how Mayo have fared in the championship. If they can succeed in coming out of Connacht (a big if) then Ray Prendergast's ambition will be realised. If not—well there is always next year.

# TURN OF THE TIDE



By FRANK HUGHES

FOLLOWING events in the recently concluded National hurling League, there can be little doubt but that Leinster is now the foremost hurling province. It was an honour a long time coming.

Down the years Munster have dominated every single hurling competition: A total of 51 senior championships against Leinster's 26; a total of 26 National League titles against Leinster's 8; a total of 24 minor titles against 12 for Leinster and so on.

When it came to the Railway Cup hurling—the real interprovincial test the score was almost the worst of all—Munster 29 Leinster 7 (pre-1962).

To make matters worse from the point of view of a Leinsterman's

pride all of Dublin's six All-Ireland senior championship victories were achieved with teams mainly made-up of Munstermen who were resident in the Metropolis.

But how it has all changed over the past few years. Leinster have, justly, dominated Railway Cup competition—winning four of the last six titles, and winning most of them decisively at that, to bring their present total to 11.

Then came this year's National League competition with Leinster's two leading counties hammering hell out of Munster's two representatives—Limerick and Clare.

Personally, I feel, that the turn of the tide came in the mid-'fifties when Wexford really came on the hurling scene. No longer were

Kilkenny holding the gap alone or depending on a few unreliable Dublin-based Munstermen to help them.

Since then we have seen Dublin-born players take over Dublin hurling exclusively and with good result, while more recently Offaly have come to the forefront—only to be overtaken by Laois and Westmeath in the 1967 championship.

So look to your hurling laurels Munster—if ye have any left we will soon take them off ye too!

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# ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

By CONALLACH

ARMAGH have already made their exit from the 1967 Ulster senior championship but, despite this, I think that there is a very definite revival taking place within the county. The good performance of the Jimmy Whan-trained seniors against Donegal was but one indication — the others are much more significant. Having seen the Armagh minor and under-21 teams in action, I am convinced that the county has an abundance of young talent which is capable of bringing about a major break-through in a few years' time.

On the question of young talent, I would now rate Armagh not far behind Derry—and that is putting them pretty high.

#### VINCENT GREENE'S GOALS

Fermanagh senior football midfielder, Vincent Greene, did some unusual scoring recently when playing for his club, Kinawley, against Erne Gaels at Maghera-mena. He kicked three 14-yard frees to the net and to add to it pointed two "50's."

#### BRENDAN MULLAN

Word has it that former Derry minor star, Brendan Mullan, is to return to Gaelic games. In fact, he may have done so before these notes appear in print. I certainly hope so. Brendan was only fifteen when he starred on that 1965 All-Ireland winning Derry minor team and what a prospect he was—another Jim McKeever without any doubt. However, he was later persuaded to turn to soccer and so appeared lost to the game in which he was destined for stardom.

I look forward to seeing him back and have no doubt but that Gaelic stardom will still be his should he come. Certainly, with

or without him Derry will be going places over the next few years—but they might go that wee bit faster with Brendan in the ranks.

#### BELFAST HANDBALL

Believe it or not but there is

not a full-sized handball alley in the whole of Belfast. Efforts are now afoot to erect one and it goes without saying that the committee undertaking the work deserve every support.

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# ULSTER'S WINNING STREAK

By CHRIS MURRAY

ANOTHER year for the Vocational Schools G.A.A. has come and gone. North Tipperary won the All-Ireland hurling title for the fourth successive time defeating Offaly in a great final by 4-8 to 3-6. In football Tyrone, in their first year of competition, won the football final defeating Kerry by 2-6 to 1-7 in the final. Kerry were contesting their third successive final and as in the two previous deciders—against Galway and Fermanagh respectively came out second best.

Ulster, the weakest province up to now, is becoming stronger annually. This year Cavan and Tyrone were new entries and hopes are high that Derry and Antrim will participate in 1967-'68. One wonders though if the A.G.M. of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael na nGairm Scoil will still allow the privileges to Six-County teams as obtains at present. Secondary Intermediate schools have been allowed to join with the Technical Colleges in a county to form a team. This presented an advantage which in the light

of Fermanagh's and Tyrone's successes may not be continued.

Hurling is not progressing in Connacht where only Galway County and Galway City take part and in Ulster interest, apart from Down, is nil. Down South, Cork County came back to the fold after a short absence but neither Limerick County or City participate at the moment, a fact that must cause concern in Limerick G.A.A. circles. It is disheartening too to hear of Wexford's withdrawal from the intercounty competitions because of disagreement with authority over the staging of games. This is a very serious matter but I will refrain from commenting until the full facts are to hand. When one remembers Wexford's great showing in the 1965-'66 hurling final, one wonders why the G.A.A. in Wexford and Cumann Lúthchleas Gael na nGairm Scol are not negotiating the case. Or perhaps both are!

Organisation within Cumann Lúthchleas Gael na nGairm Scol has taken on a more streamlined approach. Regular inter-school competitions are held in practically

all counties and a County Committee handles affairs within the county.

Similar to the G.A.A. itself, there are provincial Councils and an Ard-Chomhairle and next year it is hoped that all County Committees will hold their A.G.M. before a certain date, and that the four Provincial Councils will meet at least a fortnight before the A.G.M. of the organisation in Croke Park.

Little points which struck me from this year's finals were the fine manner in which all four teams were dressed. To the mentors of the four respective teams: Joe McAuliffe (Kerry), D. O'Carroll (Offaly), Arthur McRory (Tyrone) and Pat Hennessy (North Tipperary) a well deserved bouquet is due. Also on the credit side was the fact that the organisation produced its own Constitution and issued it to all schools in the country. Attractively laid out, it lays down specific stipulations which should cope with all situations.

● Continued Page 48.

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# COUNCIL MUST THINK AGAIN

**I**N last month's issue I drew attention to Kerry's 9-12 to 0-4 defeat by Tipperary in the Munster under-21 hurling championship. Shortly after dispatching my notes to the GAELIC SPORT office, the Kerry minor hurlers took the field against Galway. This time the score was 9-12 to 0-2. The similarity in the two final scores is worth noting—but that is not what concerns us here. Surely something must be done about Kerry under-age hurling.

The Kingdom has not been included in the special minor and under-21 competitions which have been arranged for the 16 weaker hurling counties. Well, maybe the two above mentioned defeats will

make the Central Council think again. They certainly should.

## CAMOGIE CRITICISED

The Mayo Camogie Board came under heavy fire recently when Mr. John F. Cahill, Chairman of the Castlebar Urban Council, hit out at the Camogie Association's ban on indoor football.

Mr. Cahill was presenting prizes following the indoor football competition sponsored by the Castlebar Mitchels G.A.A. Club.

"Both the Central Council and the Mayo County Board have given their blessing to indoor football, one of the principal reasons for this being to encourage the social aspect of the G.A.A.," said Mr. Cahill.

"In view of this, one wonders what on earth the Camogie Board—who are an organ of the G.A.A.—were thinking about when they refused to give it their blessing."

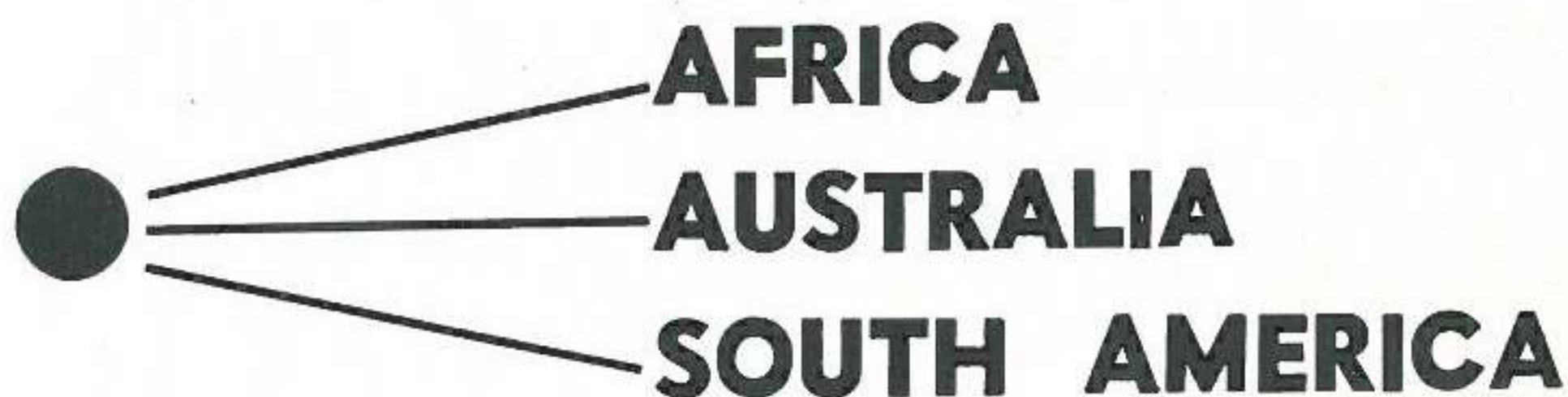
In fairness to the Camogie Association it must be pointed out that their's is an independent organisation and not affiliated to the G.A.A. They are fully entitled to make any decisions they wish.

I agree with Mr. Cahill in so far as he states that indoor football, as was organised in Castlebar, is of social benefit to the G.A.A. In Castlebar it was organised by the G.A.A. itself and not by a commercial set-up as was the case

● Continued Page 48.

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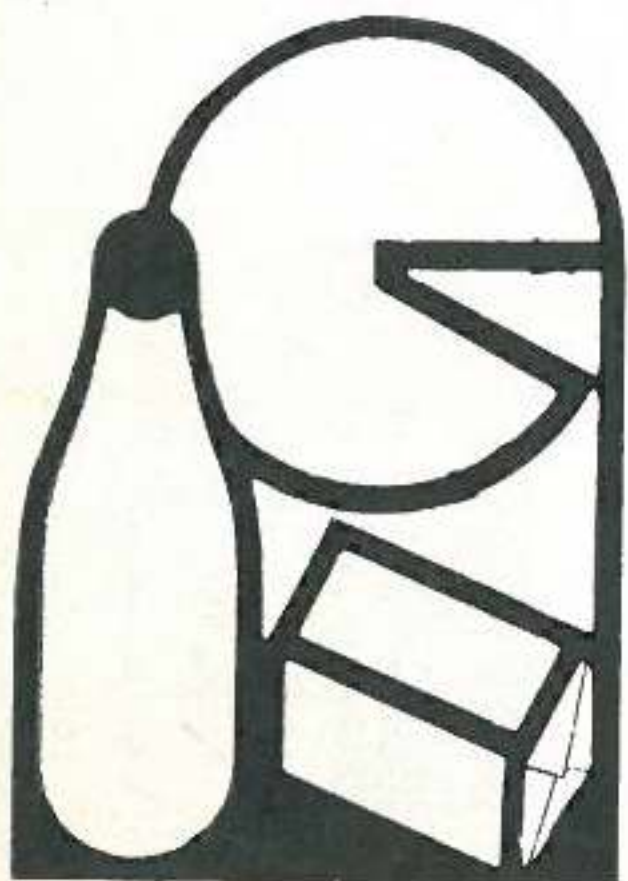
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Says KILLIAN CONNOR

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**Vitamin G** helps to preserve a youthful appearance by resisting wrinkles. And a pint of milk a day is recommended for anybody who wishes to defy the facial inroads of time and late nights.

When milk is callously broken down into those scientific tags it becomes obvious to even the least larder conscious of us that milk is a food although it is a liquid. In its natural form it contains thirteen per cent. solid matter. For instance one pint of milk contains more solid food value than a pound of most vegetables like cabbage, spinach, or celery.

Milk as the scientists have demonstrated is specially valuable as a protein food and has abundant carbohydrates and fats and Calcium. In fact if we had all studied dietetics when we first learned our sums our statistics for milk drinking would score.

So apart from its health giving excellence our milk drinking habits keep our food bills down. And this fact becomes clear when you translate it into these terms.

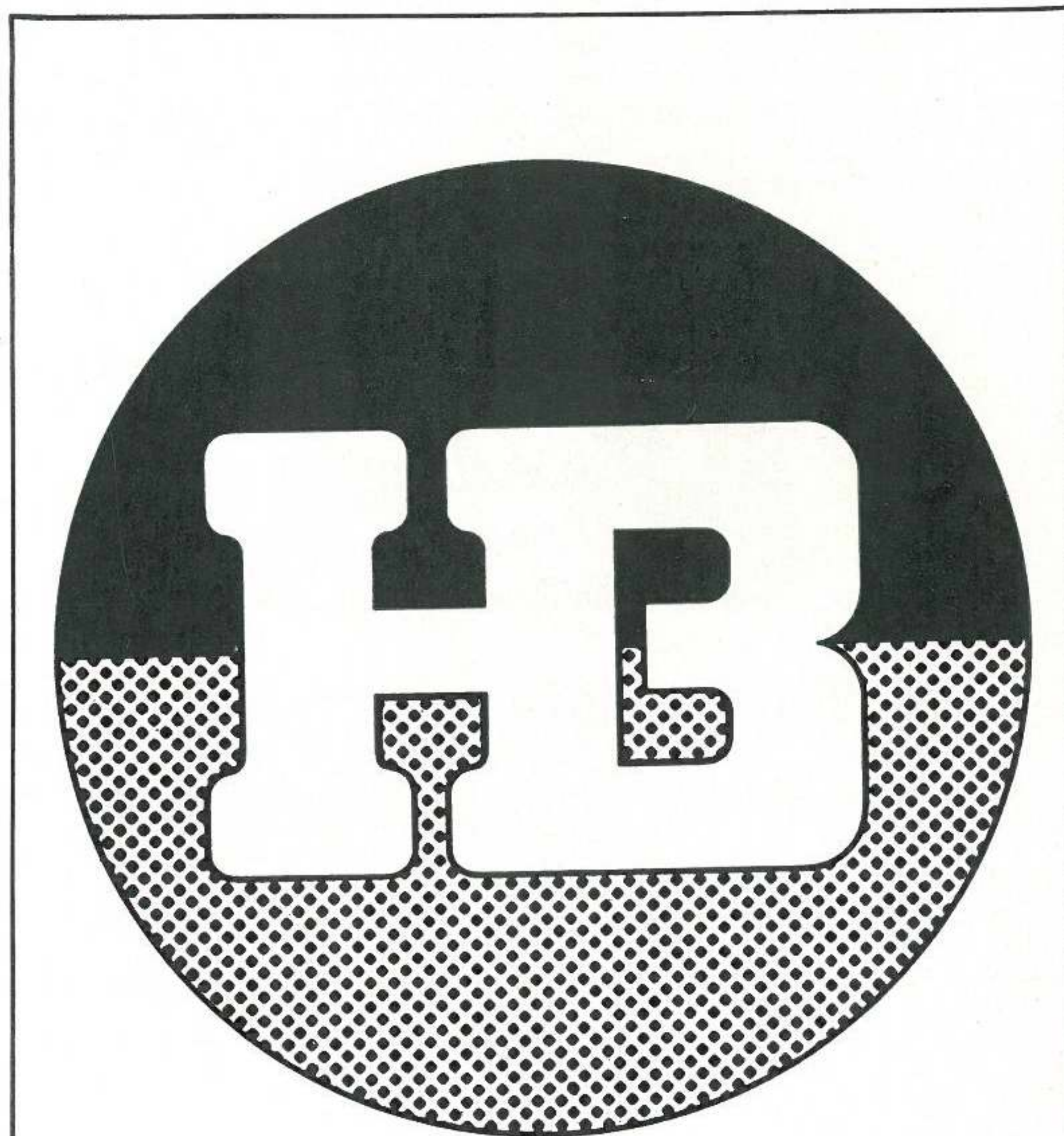
In half a pint of milk there is the equivalent energy value of two large eggs, three slices of lean beef or two and a half slices of bread. There is the protein value of one large egg, or three ozs. of bacon. It has the Calcium value of ten eggs, six portions of white fish or twelve slices of bread, and the Vitamin A content of six servings of beef or mutton.

No wonder some peoples classify the cow as a sacred animal.

It is surprising that for a people who drink so much milk we are still only developing our taste for cheese. So far it would seem as if only the more sophisticated sections of the population have become cheese eaters, or fully entered into the world of cheese which offers all the challenge of a gourmet approach.

Let it be said that the legend which purports to fix the origin of cheese is far from sophisticated. It was an Arab, so it goes, who first discovered this delicious

● To Page 44.



# THE ICE CREAM FROM THE DAIRY

● From Page 43.

cheese which for me, anyway, is the only civilised method of rounding off a meal. The Arab, on camel back, his milk supply carefully stored in a skin container, had jogged across the desert

for days. This great ship of the desert which carries its own large cargo of liquid to defy the arid wastes has an ungainly stride. It weaves and wobbles and pitches. And when the thirsty arab stopped to have a cool drink he found

instead of milk a creamy substance into which he stuck his finger for the first taste of cheese.

In Ireland we are lucky. We have no need to buy a camel and a desert to exercise it on. We have our own cheese making firms who have outgrown camels.

In fact we have about twenty natural — unprocessed — Irish cheeses as a selection, not to mention the processed cheeses. And yet we eat only 3.8 lb. a head a year. No wonder some Frenchmen think that we have not yet discovered the art of eating.

There is an Irish cheese for every occasion, Cheddar and Chesire are by far the most popular varieties, probably because of their tangy tastes and that they blend so well with other foods, especially in cooking. The more adventurous will enjoy Irish Blue with a glass of full-bodied wine, to match its lively and very pleasant taste. Irish Camembert is ideal for that special occasion and is really delicious on water biscuits. If you are interested in tasty snacks then try Blarney, a cheese originated in Ireland which tastes especially good with brown bread and apples.

But you must go on a voyage of epicurean discovery to decide which will be your favourite, or at least your favourites for what occasion and with what other food if any.

It goes without saying that cheese is divinely rich in vitamins and saves you resorting to the ugly pills which so often burst in your mouth, weaning yourself to the stickiness of the "tonic" or "pick-me-up" bottle.

It is worth thanking our stars that nowadays we don't need camels or cows of our own to provide these great foods. The milkman and the grocer, helped by the farmer of course, provide for our needs. Or should I say our delights.

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WILSON HARTNELL

# CLARE ARE HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS

**N**OT since 1955, when they last reached the Munster Final, has enthusiasm for hurling been as high in Clare.

Jimmy Smyth has made a welcome come-back. Tom Ryan, who won two All-Ireland medals with Tipperary, has thrown in his lot with the Banner County, Jimmy Cullinane, despite his lack of

inches, has been making a striking imprint at centre-back—and Clare go confidently into the semi-final against Galway on their home ground at Ennis on July 9th.

Clare's new-found enthusiasm was really born out of defeat. That may seem surprising. But whereas Limerick, coming to Croke Park with high hopes for the League

semi-final, had their confidence shattered in a humiliating defeat at the hands of Wexford, Clare provided the finest thirty minutes hurling I have seen this season in the first half of the other semi-final against Kilkenny.

True, Kilkenny's craft and experience proved too much for them in the second half, but Jimmy Smyth had a positively brilliant goal disallowed because of the Advantage Rule and Clare, finishing well, could argue the might-have-beens if only the referee had refrained from blowing the whistle when Smyth was fouled—and the goal had been allowed.

I was in Thurles when Clare faced Limerick in the Munster championship. The new stand, capable of accommodating 20,000, provided a wonderful view—a day of sun and shirt-sleeved spectators on the embankments and on the stand, the pitch billiard-green, everything set, it seemed, for a rare tussle in the old Munster style. But Limerick came more in hope than in confidence. Once Tom Ryan sent a crashing drive to the net from fully forty yards in the second half, Limerick suddenly disintegrated and Clare were rampant through the field at the final whistle.

Mick Mackey was standing beside me at the end. I didn't feel like asking him about Limerick's showing; I didn't feel like looking for the reasons why—it was all too bad. I felt he was thinking about the sun-drenched days of Limerick's glory at this same venue in the thirties and early forties—glory even in defeat then when the tide turned against them facing Cork in 1944. Glory all the way. How long more, he was wondering, must the Shannonsiders wait before they will be a power again? He wouldn't commit himself about Clare's pros-

● TO PAGE 46

THE CREAM OF MILK . . .

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● **FLASHBACK** to the sensational 1932 All-Ireland semi-final at Limerick between Clare and Galway. Well into the second half of the game, Galway were leading by 16 points, but then came a memorable fight back by the Bannermen, spearheaded by the legendary Tull Considine (on the extreme right of the above picture) who scored eight goals. The Claremen ran out comfortable winners by 9-4 to 4-14.

● **FROM PAGE 45**

pects of taking Munster and All-Ireland honours. I wasn't surprised—the standard had, indeed, been poor and Mick knows better than most that Clare can be the most unpredictable of teams.

Recall 1955. They beat Cork and looked certainties to take the Munster Final, only to fail before the Limerick 'greyhounds' trained

by Mick Mackey himself in the burning sun at Limerick. Before that you had to go back to 1932 when Clare took the Munster title—but failed to Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final, a final they could have won but for some defensive lapses. Tull Considine made history that year by scoring eight goals against Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final.

So now twelve years have elapsed since that shattering day of 1955—and Jimmy Smyth, an amazing player, is still there, providing inspiration in attack, though he may lack the essential turn of speed.

I am not saying that this is a great Clare team. I am not saying that they are even as good as the 1954-'55 side, which was, to my

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mind, the best side the Banner County produced in recent times—as they proved in beating Wexford. But, remember, standards have dropped in Munster and a team, backed by the tremendous enthusiasm which Clare are getting from their supporters just now, cannot be left out of the reckoning.

Captain and right-full back, Vincent Loftus is a defender in the classic mould of a Jimmy Brohan or John Barron and I love watching him in action—even though his free, open style may lead to the concession of some scores. Pascal O'Brien, despite his one mistake against Limerick, is one of the best goalies around just now and he told me that an injury prevented him training fully for the Limerick match. Jimmy Cullinane is a bundle of fire and energy and has hurling ability in abundance; he is small as centre-backs go and it raises doubts, maybe, for the

future—but so far this season his displays have made him the idol of Clare supporters.

I detected a weakness on the flanks in the first half against Limerick but I thought the defence as a whole acquitted itself very well in the second half. A midfield weakness, apparent all through, may have been the cause for the wing-backs getting it tougher than they should—but the attack certainly did more than was asked of it in scoring a total of 3-14.

Pat Cronin is the fastest and most dangerous forward Clare have at the moment, and very good too off frees. Tom Ryan told me that he lacked match-practice for the game against Limerick and this may have accounted for the fact that he was somewhat out of touch in the first half—but he hit some wonderful balls in the second half and his goal was a gem and a match-winner.

Given the right service, Jimmy Smyth can be a real goal-getter—but he must get that kind of service for he hasn't the speed now to forage for the ball as he could ten years ago. He can still strike faster than many of the young players around. Is this an indication in itself of the decline in the game? Paddy Kenny, ace Tipperary forward of the three-in-a-row period, thinks that Clare are a top-of-the-ground team and in the right conditions could go far. They should certainly reach the Munster Final and if they should win that, bonfires will certainly blaze on the hills of Clare.

Clare are hungry for success, hungry for a Munster title and even more hungry for an All-Ireland. They have waited twenty-five years for a Munster crown, 43 years for an All-Ireland title—and no county deserves more the smile of Fortune.

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# Looking Around

● FROM PAGE 41

in Galway when the G.A.A. was, as I saw it, exploited.

There is much concern among Kerry clubs following the decision of Dr. Jim Brosnan, backed by the county's General Purposes Committee, in ending travelling expenses to clubs. Kerry has long given expenses to clubs from County Board funds and clubs have depended largely upon them. Now they must row their own financial boats. And to that I say "It is about time."

Personally I am all against such

expenses being allowed by County Boards—other than, perhaps, in the case of grants for county finals. Any club that is in earnest should stand on its own feet when it comes to travelling expenses. I fully realise that these can be heavy—especially in a big county such as Kerry, but it is time clubs took off their coats and went out and raised money. Ciste na Banban is an obvious way of doing it.

It would be interesting to know how many counties are doing what

is being done in Kerry. Not many I should think.

Where County Boards have funds to spare there are surely much more urgent things to be done rather than spoon-feeding clubs with travelling expenses. There are grounds badly needing development in every county and club premises are now generally accepted as being an urgent requirement. It is into schemes and developments such as these that surplus funds should go.

Well done, Jim Brosnan.

## Vocational Schools

● FROM PAGE 40

In the provinces Laois came through in football for the first time while Galway retained her football crown in Connacht. Laois fell heavily to Tyrone at Kells in the All-Ireland semi-final while Galway lost to Kerry at Ennis.

Statistically there are 213 Vocational Schools participating at the moment in inter-school G.A.A. football competitions, while in hurling 123 schools are engaged. These figures are broken up as follows:—

Leinster—77 football; 73 hurling.  
Ulster—28 football; 1 hurling.  
Munster—61 football; 40 hurling.  
Connacht—47 football; 9 hurling.

So there in a nutshell is the G.A.A. year for Cumann Lúthchleas Gael na nGairm Scol. The Vocational Schools G.A.A. games are very definitely carving a place for themselves in the G.A.A. scheme of things. But there is room for much improvement yet. It will come. Certainly the staging of the finals at Croke Park is a great asset.

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good  
stock**

**1**

**use  
good  
housing**

**2**

**feed  
balanced  
rations**

**3**



**the demand is for top quality bacon  
with little fat—produce quality pigs!**

To sell Irish Bacon abroad we must produce top quality pigs. Only Grade A "Special" and Grade A give you the guaranteed price for bacon. It is quite simple to produce top quality pigs if you are prepared to take a little extra care. And it's cheaper too! It can take less feed to produce an 'A' Special carcass. The answer is in good management.

Choose your stock from a reliable source. Good housing is essential if the animals are to thrive. Take extra care with feed. Bulk does not count. What is required is measured rations in a well-balanced diet. Your local Agricultural Adviser will only be too pleased to help you. Ask his advice. To-day.