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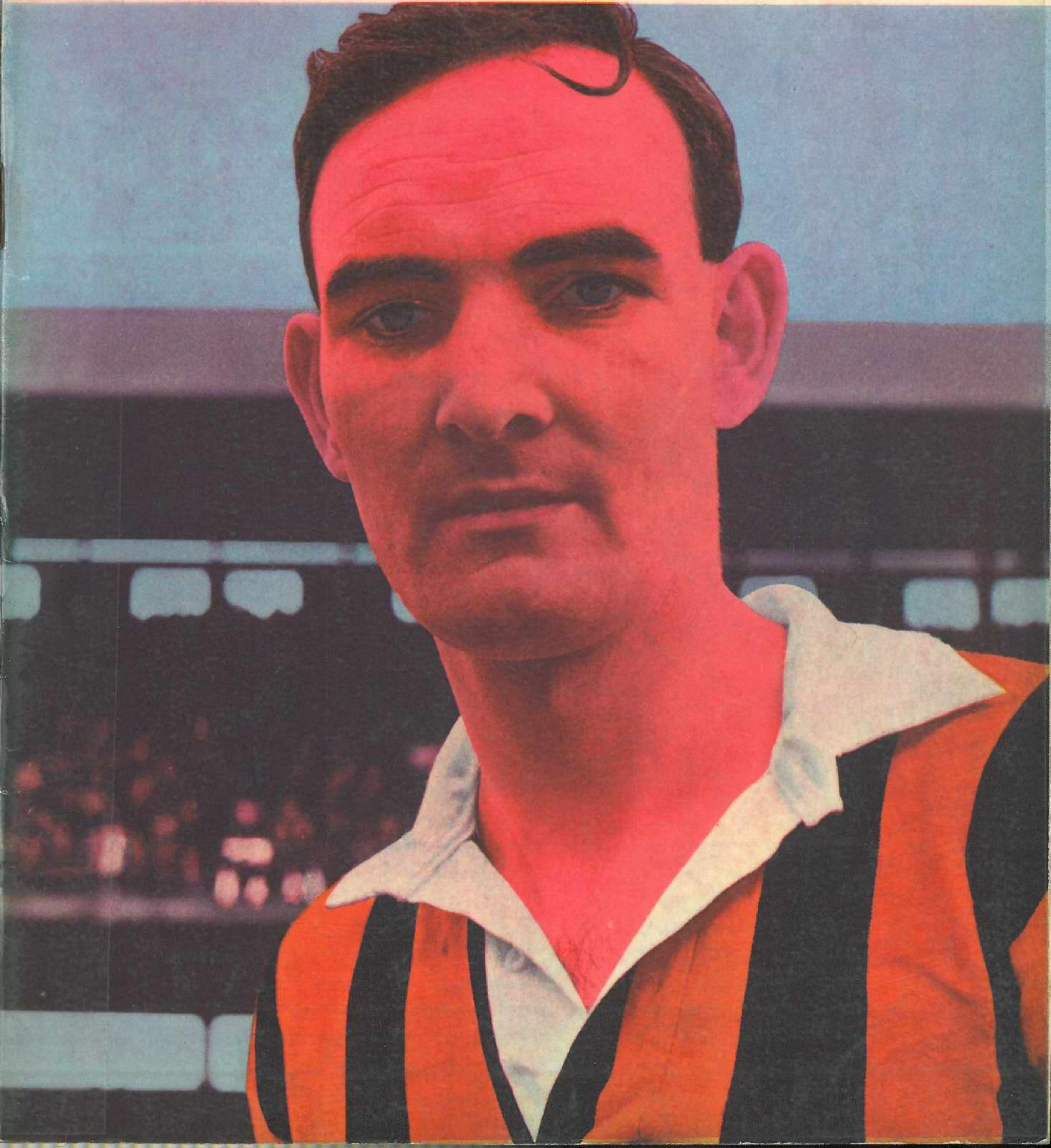
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Gaelic Sport

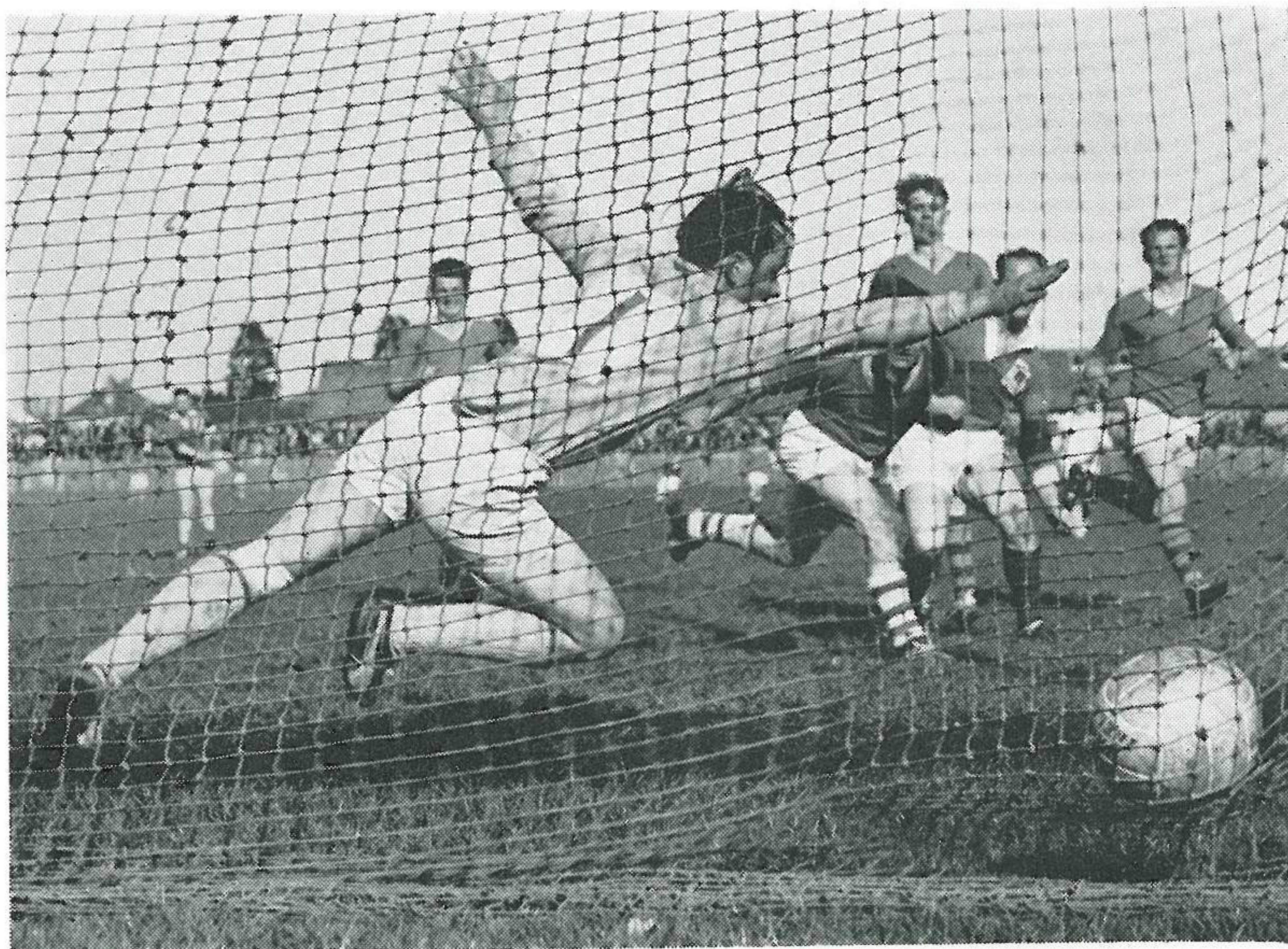
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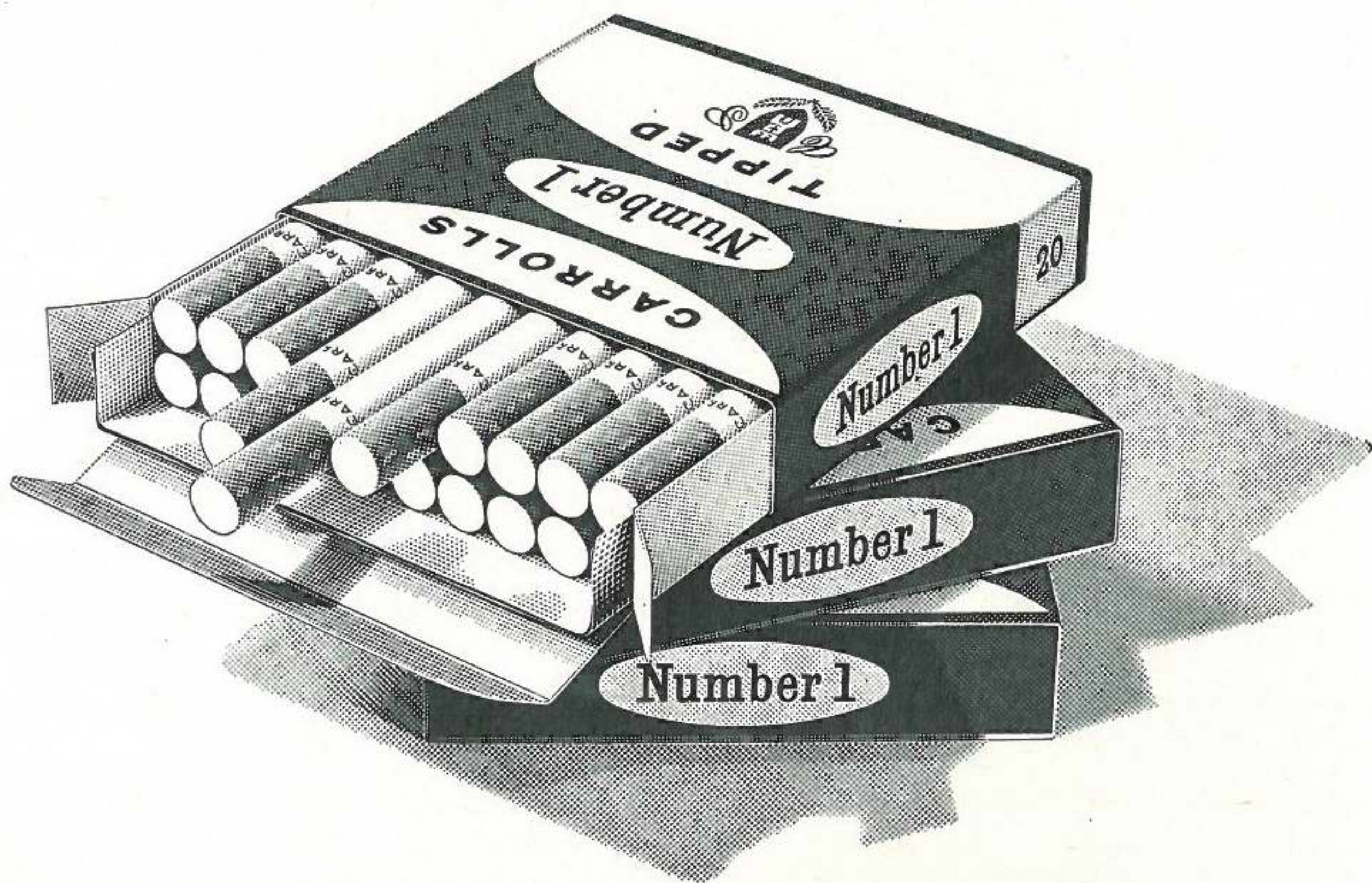


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Ciste na Banban

THIS is not our first time to comment on Ciste na Banban—nor will it be our last. Writing some two years ago we pointed out how unenlightened it was for clubs not to avail of this pool as a means of fund-raising. We now repeat that statement with twice as much emphasis.

Any club which is not currently availing of Ciste na Banban is either devoid of ambition and inert—or else has a superior funds-raising scheme. Personally, we have yet to hear of the latter.

Where else or how else but in Ciste na Banban can a small rural club get a regular annual income of a few hundred pounds and an urban club twice that, and certainly nowhere else but in Ciste na Banban can a club get an interest-free loan. The latter is a recent innovation and it offers an extraordinary facility.

Space does not allow us here to elaborate on this recent C.N.B. development, but all information can be had by writing to Ciste na Banban, 34 Parnell Place, Cork.

In this era of credit-squeeze and tight-fisted economics, an interest-free loan is an amazing feat and we are boundless in our admiration of the men who have guided Ciste na Banban to the point where it is now capable of providing this wonderful service to G.A.A. clubs.

We ask you straight—is your club availing of Ciste na Banban? If not why not?

COVER PHOTO

OUR cover picture this month features a man who is respected and admired wherever hurling is played, Seamus Cleere. The Kilkenny man, who week after week turns in consistent displays of top-class hurling is a model for our young hurlers to emulate in their future careers.

Alf Murray

OCCUPATION of high office is no guarantee of greatness. The holder of such office—whatever his qualifications—must present better title deeds to greatness than the fact that on a certain day he received a majority of the votes at a certain meeting. In the final analysis he will be catalogued on performance rather than the fact that he was elected.

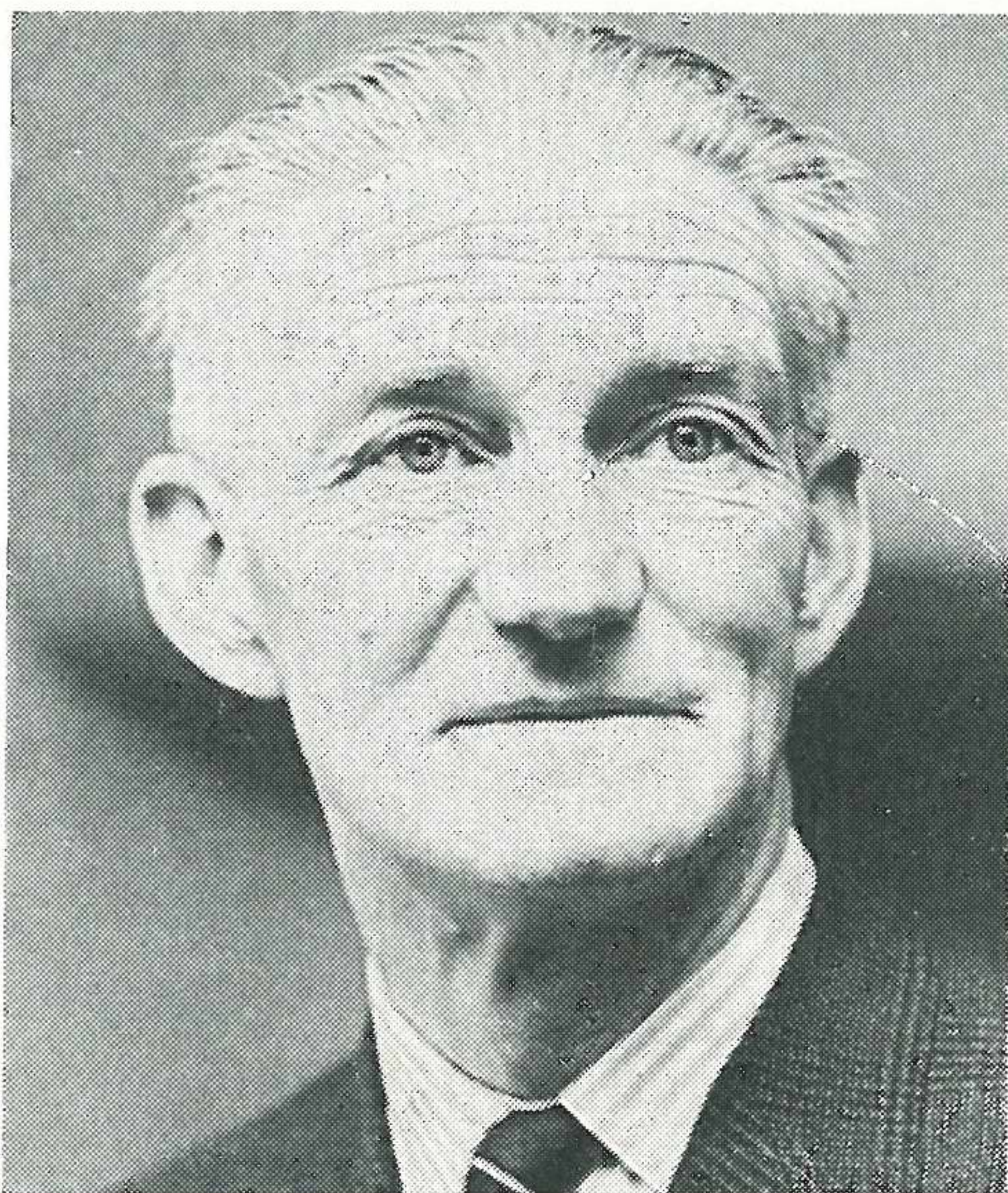
Such an examination now awaits Alf Murray as he completes his term of office as President of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Already the general secretary of the Association has given his assessment of the retiring leader's worth by placing him in his trilogy of "great" presidents—Bob O'Keefe and Padraig McNamee were his other choices. High praise indeed you may say but I wonder will not future generations wholeheartedly endorse the chief executive officer's view.

When in 1964 Congress appointed Alf Murray President—thereby installing him in the highest office it could offer—it had gone for a man whom it had "rejected" some nine years earlier.

Rarely can Congress have been so completely vindicated in two major decisions. It was as if in 1956 it had decided to give Antrim—in the person of Seamus McFerran—the first chance, but by the nature of the vote to give Armagh—in the person of Alf Murray—the clear-cut message "We will certainly call on you another day."

That day came in 1964 and no sooner had the new President been elected than the first test came. General Secretary Padraig



A GREAT REIGN

By **DAN McAREAVY**

O Caoimh was dead—go ndeanaid Dia trocaire ar a anam—and the Association stood—as it were—at the most vital crossroads in its history.

Strong leadership was clearly needed and it is a measure of the success of the new partnership between President and General Secretary that the last three years can fairly be chronicled as amongst the most successful in the history of the Association.

In Ulster and Armagh but most

of all in his own club—Lurgan Clann Eireann—no one was surprised that Alf Murray should match the demands of the time.

We knew him as the idealist, the worker, the leader, the outstanding footballer, the club man, the born orator, the household name. We were confident that these qualities would stand him in good stead, and I don't believe we have been wrong.

His Presidency will be remembered for many things for he has

introduced a new dimension to the office. "Croke Park" has—through him—been brought to every nook and cranny of the land — and much much further afield. His first stop after touching down from a New York trip was St. Mary's Hall, Portadown, to present medals to a bunch of juvenile hurlers and there have been dozens of examples of his indefatigable attempts to bring even the most "junior" club into a full consciousness of its importance in the over-all workings of the Association by being present at its functions.

The revised Official Guide was another of his achievements, the Hurling Scheme was his brain-child, the Leadership Courses were a sensationally successful innovation, the Grounds' Plans have taken an unbelievable step forward.

In Armagh we know of his mania for schemes and lists of jobs to be done; we were aware of his belief in the usefulness of meetings. And therefore we were, perhaps, less surprised than the rest of the country that more "minutes" should be written during his term of office than during any other Presidency. All the time the push has been on.

The man branded in some quarters as a conservative has made a mockery of the tag. There has certainly been nothing conservative about the definition which he would wish for the Association and which he has gospelled and worked for throughout his life and more especially during his years as President.

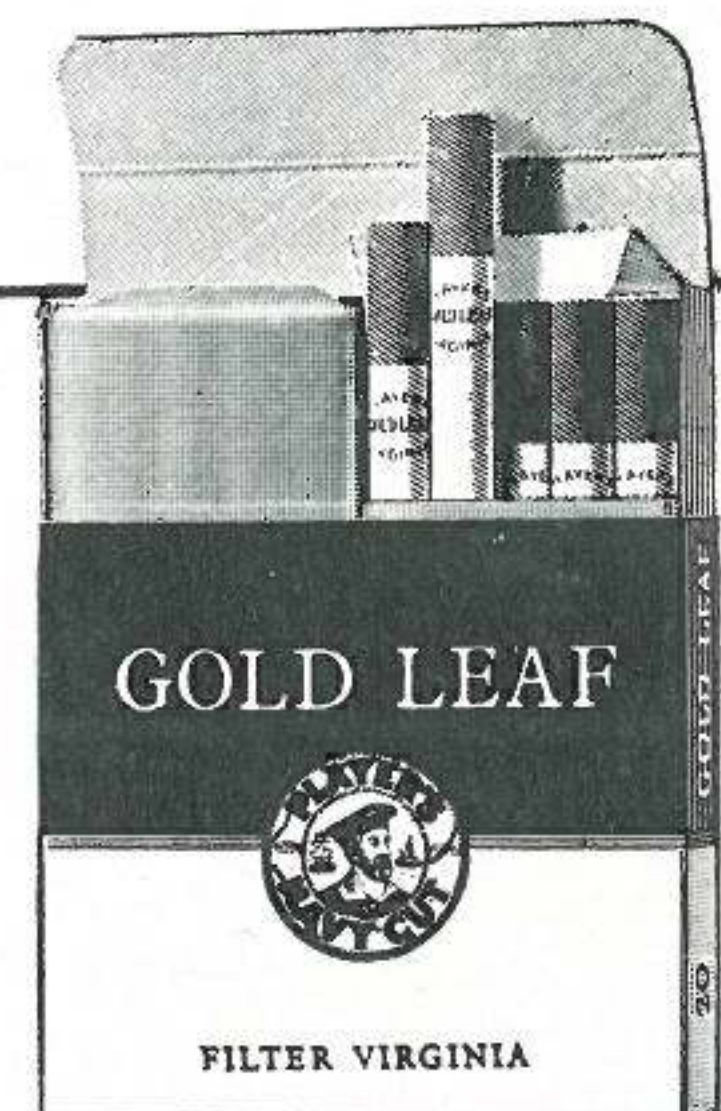
This definition is best explained in his own words when he says: "Our native games are but a means to an end; we do not work for a sport, we work for a Nation.

"The men who formed this organisation which joined Nationalism and Sport planned wisely and well. They gave it the means

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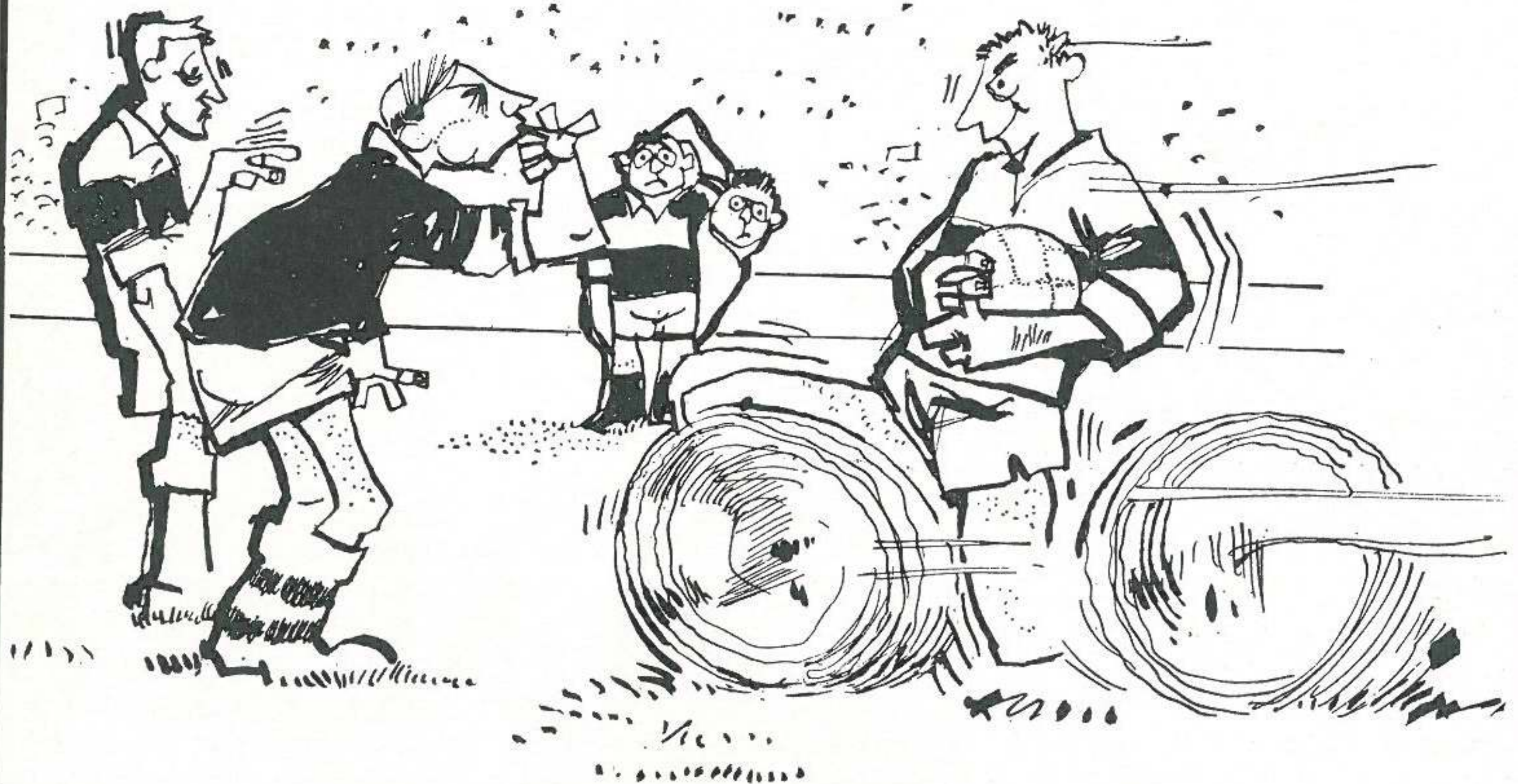
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***Jim could run like a bat out of h . . .
And kick most amazingly well,
But the ref took his name
Ere the end of the game
For powering his footwear with Shell.***

GOOD MILEAGE —



A MAN WHO RANKS WITH CUSACK

ELSEWHERE in this issue the Armagh County Chairman, Dan McAreavy, quotes General Secretary, Seán Ó Siocháin, as stating that Alf Murray must rank among the three greatest Presidents in G.A.A. history. Our own less informed assessment puts Alf Murray somewhat higher—in fact, at the very top of the list.

While our opinion may be less informed than some others, we respectfully submit that we have had the advantage of viewing the question in a completely detached manner. Only on one occasion have we met the outgoing President and our view of him, therefore, is that of the man in the street or the ordinary G.A.A. follower. From that angle Alf Murray is ten feet tall.

As we see it the Armaghman brought a completely new significance to the Presidency of the G.A.A. He gave it a new depth and width and, because of his own personality and natural leadership, made the office one of the most significant in the land.

But more important than all of that Alf Murray gave to the G.A.A. a new sense of purpose and a new

realisation of the fact that there was much to be done and that the present was the time to be doing it.

He also gave the Association an appreciation of his own strength and awakened a confidence which had previously been dormant. We could go on—but feel that there is no need to. Alf Murray's place in G.A.A. history is assured. Years hence when men look back aided by the objectivity of time, they will rate him not so much with former Presidents but with the man who founded the G.A.A., Michael Cusack.

When on Easter Sunday, Annual Congress meets it will be confronted with the task of finding the man to succeed Alf Murray. No more responsible a duty could be assigned to the assembled delegates. Beyond saying that the spirit of Alf Murray — the ideas and ideals of Alf Murray — will need to be found in the man who succeeds him, we will not go. It is vital for the G.A.A. that all of what Alf Murray began during the past three years be continued with equal zeal and enthusiasm by his successor.

That Congress will produce such a man we are more than confident.

Probably the most important motion before this year's Congress comes from Armagh and asks that counties be confined to one adult competition in football and hurling. In other words the minor and under-21 championships would remain as they are, while each county would be graded and allowed to take part in either junior or senior in football; intermediate, junior or senior in hurling.

If passed, this motion will serve the much needed purpose of cutting down the intercounty programme while, at the same time, the various grades will be retained.

This, in our opinion, is a much more logical approach than the solution usually offered—namely to scrap the junior football and intermediate hurling grades for intercounty purposes. The Armagh motion retains these grades but aims at confining them to the counties who have need for them.

A Galway motion which takes our fancy asks that Congress rotate among provincial venues each year. We see no reason as to why this could not be done. Most national organisations have adopted this policy — and certainly in the G.A.A.'s case it would stimulate enthusiasm in the various counties who would have the opportunity of playing hosts to Congress.

We also agree with the Roscommon motion which aims at confining "live" television to the All-Ireland finals and St. Patrick's Day. We made our case at length on this subject some time back and with facts and figures showed that All-Ireland semi-final "gates" have been greatly reduced since the advent of live television. It is the semi-finals—rather than the finals which are most hit by television

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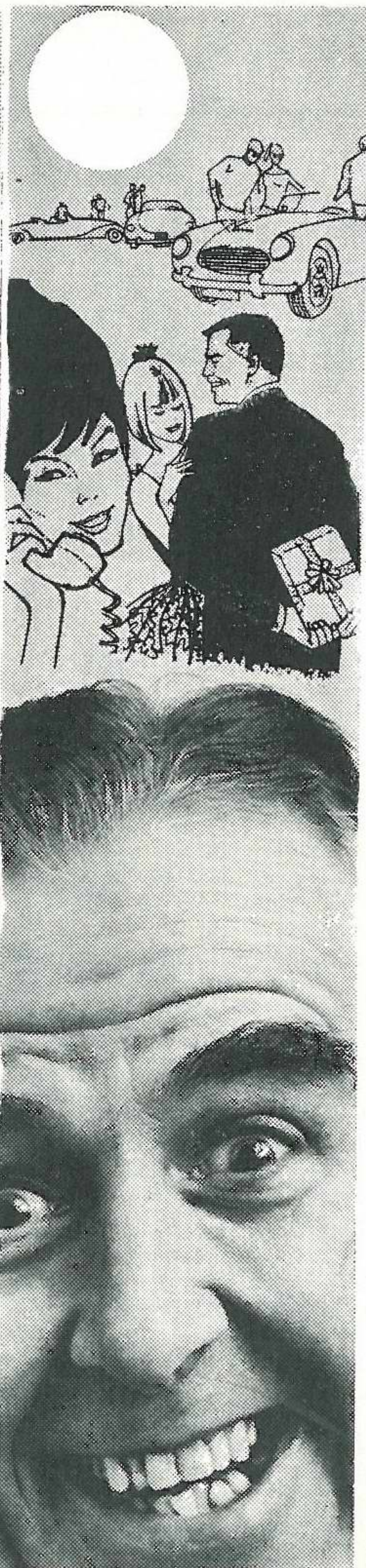
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Brindley Adv.



● FROM PAGE 5

through sport of appealing to those interested in games as games. They gave it the means through its nationalism of calling upon the support that it needed from those no longer interested in the mere playing of games. By a continuing combination of these two elements it has survived and prospered.

"The G.A.A. is now, therefore, an Association with the organisation, the voluntary help, the position in every parish, and the call upon the young people which could enable it—if its powers were properly used—to change the face of Ireland.

"Those who are content to leave it as it is, to glory in its strength and see that strength dissipated, to revel in its power and leave that power untapped, are not worthy of the heritage they have received. This Association needs only the old enthusiasm—the desire to give without asking for return—amongst its members, its clubs and its councils—and it can, peacefully, change Ireland."

He has no regrets at leaving office saying simply "I should have done more but I have tried." His own comment on his "reign" will bring a mixed response. People will certainly agree that he has tried but they will also ask how he could have done more?

The long line of outstanding Presidents which has been a feature of the Association's life has been successfully carried on by him and we can be certain that on Easter Sunday next the Congress will once more choose the right man.

I don't believe I am being parochial when I describe Alf Murray as Armagh's gift to the G.A.A. And we are very proud that our county has — however indirectly—through him been able to make such a significant contribution to the Association.

We welcome him back home with open arms!

● FROM PAGE 7

and there is a huge financial loss involved.

Add to this the loss suffered by counties who either play club championship games on these Sundays—and by doing so have their gates more than halved, or, alternatively, leave the Sundays blank and so lose two of the year's best dates for championship games.

A motion which we do not agree with is that one from Kildare which asks that no sale of drink take place on G.A.A. premises. As we see it, the motion is years behind the times in its thinking. We have every confidence in the young G.A.A. men of to-day. The great majority of them are non-drinkers. Those who are not are no more likely to make fools of themselves in a G.A.A. premises than they may do in any other licensed establishment.

We are by no means advocating turning every G.A.A. premises into a lounge bar. However, when facility for a quiet drink can be provided with dignity and under proper supervision, we see no reason as to why it should not be done. It is, in fact, being done by one Dublin club and everything is working satisfactorily.

As we see it, this entire issue rests on confidence in the young men who make up the G.A.A. clubs. Unlike our Kildare friends, we have every confidence in them. They are the best of Irish manhood.

THE TOP TEN



EDDIE KEHER



THEO ENGLISH

OUR Top Ten ratings of inter-county performances return in this issue. The period under review is from the opening of the 1967 season to and including Sunday, February 12.

Eddie Keher tops the hurling list while Derry veteran, Sean O'Connell, takes top place in the football list.

HURLING

1. Eddie Keher (Kilkenny)
2. Theo English (Tipperary)
3. Michael Keating (Tipperary)
4. John McKenna (Tipperary)
5. Pat Cronin (Clare)
6. Noel Kinsella (Dublin)
7. Gerry Murray (Dublin)
8. Willie Murphy (Wexford)
9. Paddy Mulloy (Offaly)
10. Larry Guinan (Waterford)

FOOTBALL

1. Sean O'Connell (Derry)
2. Jimmy Duggan (Galway)
3. Bertie Cunningham (Meath)
4. Gabriel Kelly (Cavan)
5. Frank Lynch (Louth)
6. Jack Quinn (Meath)
7. Leslie Toal (Louth)
8. Martin Joe Keane (Roscommon)
9. Sean Murray (Longford)
10. Mick O'Loughlin (Cork).

Doctor (to young player going on tour): "Do you mind if I give you your injection in the Solarium?"

Young Player: "Indeed you won't, you'll give it to me on the hip, like the rest of the lads."



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Railway Cups fill a great void

— says SEAN DONEGAN

YEAR in, year out, the weaker counties in hurling and football take their bows in the first rounds of the provincial championships, “fret and strut their hours” upon the field and then return to the oblivion to which they are accustomed. Some eventually make the grade, like Down, Offaly, Longford and Donegal, but many generations of players, even in these counties, have heard the final whistle in the game of life and have achieved no temporary greatness in the Gaelic arena during their active G.A.A. years.

Nowadays, the glamour and the pageantry surrounding the big days of the finals, whether championship, league or Oireachtas, guarantee a place in the limelight for the players of the successful counties and even the personnel of the losing sides are feted, admired and acclaimed by followers of the Gaelic code everywhere; their names are household words all over the country and their very slightest illness or ankle-twist is proclaimed so that all and sundry may, for weeks on end, discuss the shattering effects these will have on the future games of the affected teams.

Meanwhile, the players in what have come to be known as the “weaker” counties can only admire, though with a tinge of jealousy,



TOMMY MURPHY
(Laois)

their more favoured brothers on the glamour teams. The average player may not wittingly begrudge the lucky ones their hard-won hour of glory and may even feel that he would be out of his depth on such an occasion, but for the star player it is a sad thought that he will possibly never grace the Croke Park sward whilst obviously lesser men receive the kudos.

And this, to my mind, is where the Railway Cups fill a great void and afford an opportunity for the recognition of talent which would not otherwise be rewarded. In fact I would say that some stars from lesser-known teams have, through the medium of Railway Cups, outshone many of the all-time greats of championship or league. Who will ever forget Tommy Murphy of

Laois, Nace O'Dowd of Sligo, Gerry O'Reilly of Wicklow, Packy McGarty of Leitrim or Noel Crowley of Clare.

In my playing days my native county, Offaly, was at the bottom of the rung most of the time until eventually in 1945 we succeeded in reaching the Leinster final for the first time. Through all the lean years there had been outstanding players and they duly received recognition on the Leinster team. Bill and Tom Mulhall, Tom (“Champ”) McEvoy, Paddy McIntyre, who one year, due to an oversight, could neither play for Dublin or Offaly but was selected on his club form with Sean McDermotts for the Railway Cup team, Jim Kelly and Jackie Byrne were all honoured by the Leinster selectors.

I remember the thrill of my own selection in 1948 and again in 1949. Here was a challenge as well as an honour. I was challenged to live up to the standards of my heroes of former years many of whom were, that year, saying farewell to top-class football for ever—men like Bill Delaney and Tommy Murphy of Laois, Liam Geraghty and Pat (“Boiler”) White of Kildare and Eddie Boyle of Louth, possibly the greatest full-back of all-time.

My centrefield partner on that

occasion was a fine strapping young fellow who was hardly known outside his own county Meath at that time—none other than Paddy O'Brien whose name afterwards became a household word as a great fullback. I was the only Offaly representative on the team and other than 'weaker' counties with one player each on that team were Dublin with the stylish, elusive Paddy Bermingham at top of the right and Carlow with the indomitable Des Connolly, at left half forward. All told, seven of the eleven footballing counties of Leinster were represented and since Meath and Laois were the kingpins of the province at the time and Longford, Westmeath and Wicklow were having a lean time, it is an indication of the efforts of the selectors to honour as many individuals as possible.

Apart from the opportunity afforded a player from a weak county to measure up to his compatriots in the province it also gives him the chance to test his mettle against the footballing greats of other provinces. This, in turn, benefits the weak county inasmuch as it gives the one or two players, selected on the Railway Cup teams, that added experience which is bound to benefit their county team-mates in future outings.

I am, then, completely in favour of the Railway Cup games and I am at a loss to understand the recent lack of interest shown by patrons in their provincial teams. I would, of course, prefer to see the net spread wider in these selections, particularly in hurling, as I think the Munster team could do with a good Kerry hurler or two each year whilst the Leinster selectors should find worthy Meath and Westmeath representatives to add to their lists.

St. Patrick's Day is All-Ireland day for the men of the 'unknown' counties and the more of them who are honoured the better for the Railway Cup series.



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SIX OF THE GREATEST

THIS is Railway Cup final month, so what better than to recall past Connacht Railway Cup heroes. Let's start with Connacht's first Railway Cup winning captain of 1934, the late Mick Donnellan, father of John and Pat. Mick retired from the big time after that particular game, having given tremendous service to club, county and province. A Dunmore man, Mick was born in 1900 and began his football career with St. Jarlath's College, Tuam. Later he assisted U.C.G. in the Sigerson Cup. From 1919-1933 he was a regular on the Galway team, becoming a much beloved figure in his native county and elsewhere. In later years Mick entered public life and became a celebrated figure.

Mick Donnellan played in four All-Ireland finals, winning one (the controversial one) in 1925. He also won five Connacht senior medals (his son John has seven senior and two junior, while Pat has six senior and one minor) in 1919, '22, '25, '26 and '33.

The Mayoman we include is famous Paddy Moclair of Ballina who won his All-Ireland medal in 1936 and was Mayo's most famous forward in their record-breaking League achievement between 1934 and '41, when they won six titles in a row. Paddy, currently a business man in Ballina where his fame lives on won eight Connacht senior medals, and four Railway Cup medals between 1934 and '38, Connacht's greatest football era.



GERRY O'MALLEY
(Roscommon)

In fact, Paddy captained Connacht to success in 1938 when defeating Munster by 2-6 to 1-5.

The remaining four men we include in this article are Gerry O'Malley (Roscommon), Paddy McGarty (Leitrim), Nace O'Dowd (Sligo) and Seanie Duggan (Galway hurler). O'Malley, the indefatigable, won Railway Cup medals in 1951, '57 and '58 as well as becoming Connacht's most honoured Railway Cup player in football (an honour he shares with Sean Purcell). He also played Railway Cup hurling for his province, more than once being the sole Roscommonman on an all-Galway side. O'Malley won Connacht senior medals in '52, '53, '61 and '62 and although

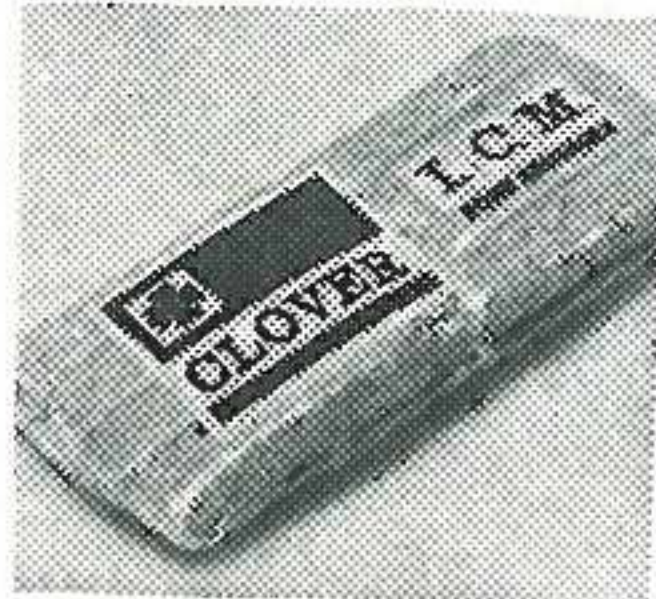
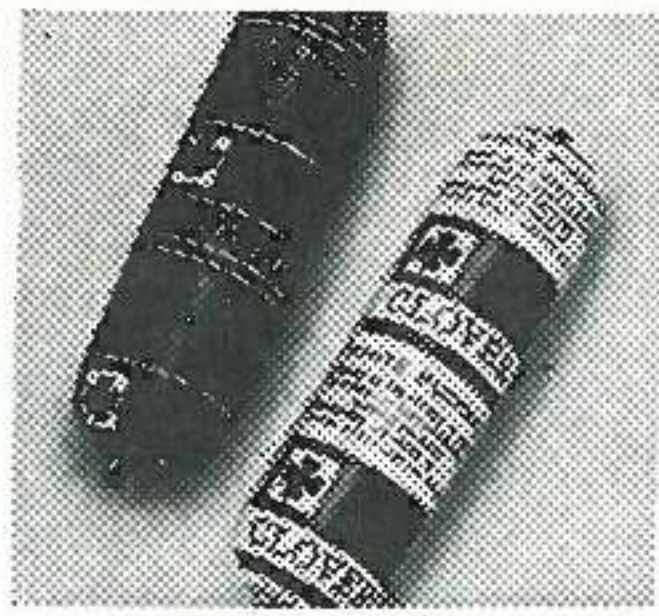
luck was against him winning an All-Ireland senior football award, he did win a junior hurling All-Ireland medal.

Nace O'Dowd, now in the U.S., was in my opinion Sligo's greatest player. Mickey Kearns runs him close but for versatility O'Dowd could hardly have been better. Winning two Railway Cup medals with Connacht in '57 and '58 as full-back he later emigrated to the U.S. and was a big loss to resurgent Sligo. A great midfielder too, I will never forget his display against Munster in that position in Castlebar in 1955.

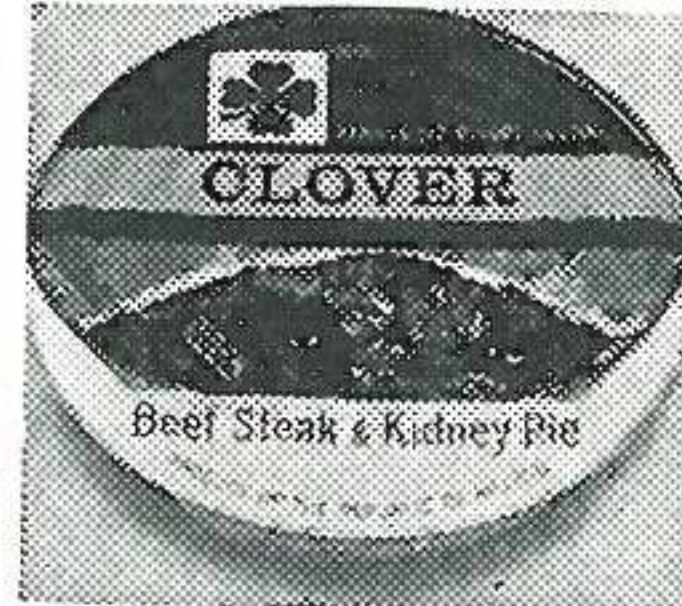
Finally we have Paddy McGarty and Seanie Duggan. McGarty, one of the greatest ball-players in football, still to the good for Leitrim though only a very pale shadow of his best. As a Connacht half-forward of the mid-fifties he was unsurpassed. Who can forget his duels with Sean Murphy of Kerry in that period. Undoubtedly Leitrim's greatest player. He won Railway Cup medals in '57 and '58.

Duggan of the eagle eye won his Railway Cup medal in 1947 when Munster's might was humbled in the score 2-5 to 1-1 on Easter Sunday of that year. Connacht had many heroes, Fr. Paddy Gantley, Josie Gallagher, Bernie Power, among others but none greater than the Liam Mellowes' goalkeeper.

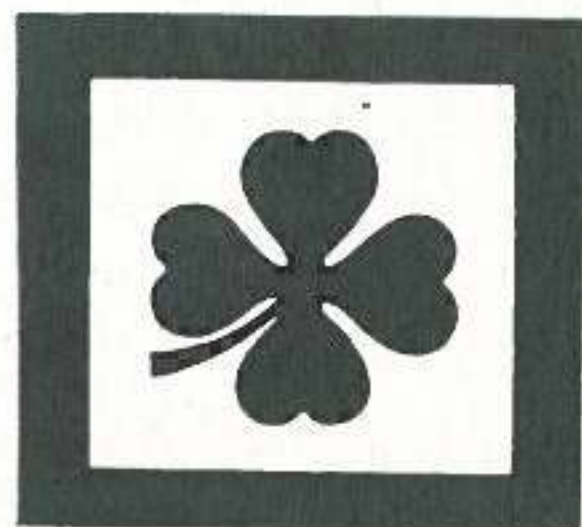
There you are, a short tribute to six of Connacht's greatest—a random choice but surely immortals all



*when
there's
CLOVER
on the
menu*



there's goodness on the table



CLOVER

By EAMONN YOUNG

A Memory of Old Times

THE grey mist swirled around the stands of Croke Park and February whined it's way through a Sunday evening while the footballers of Connacht and Munster got down to business one day in the early fifties. The ball was greasy and the grass was wet. At left full for the southerners was a fast blocky wedge of a man with grizzled hair from Dingle and Paddy Bawn Brosnan as always was keyed up and anxious to win.

Suddenly the ball came down the wing and slithered away towards the sideline under the Cusack. Out flashed Paddy Bawn's man a slim lively young chap and a brilliant footballer. After him pounded the Bawn who was himself quite a traveller. As they got to the leather the young chap bent double to pick, slipped on the grass gathered the ball and fell with the Bawn on top of him. "Pheep" went the whistle and in went the free. As they were running back to get ready for the kick the Bawn caught up with his man placed a restraining hand on his shoulder and gritted:

"Listen, ladeen, don't you be

● TO PAGE 17



get
more taste
for a
change!

4/1 for 20



SENIOR SERVICE

VIRGINIA TIPPED

● FROM PAGE 15

throwing your head in front of my boot or by heavens I'll kick it off you."

Those weren't exactly the words but you get what I mean. The history of the Railway Cup is one of unusual incidents among the players for at that time of year very few of them are fit and so the unpredictable happens.

For Corkmen when I was young the Railway Cup series was of immense importance for our only chance of playing in the big time was when we could work our way on to a Munster team. The same applied to many counties then and to-day. But the Cup of '46 was a different matter. In fact far from being an enjoyable day-out with the good lads from Kerry it was a responsibility which we must shoulder on our own. For in the previous year Cork had won the football All-Ireland title and we regarded the winning of the Railway Cup on St. Patrick's Day as the proof of our supremacy. Remember in those days there were no other big representative games.

In any case eight Corkmen were picked on the Munster team, which when it last appeared in a final four years before, had fourteen Kerry men. Anyway in '46 we played Connacht in the semi-final one wet February day in Cork and Mick Cahill of Mullinahone at centre-field for my money won the game on his own with a display of power football that almost turned me, a player, into an admiring spectator.

In the final on St. Patrick's Day, we faced Leinster where Eddie Boyle, Willie Goodison, Mick Geraghty, Jim Morris, Frankie Byrne, Paddy Meegan, Bill Delaney, Nick Rackard and Jimma Rea formed a tough expert backbone.

My own preparation for the game was done in the rather unlikely venue of a Dublin hospital where I was consigned at the time with an eye-infection. The patients looking



NICK RACKARD
(Wexford)



FRANKIE BYRNE
(Meath)

out the windows could have been excused their surprise at seeing the small fellow in sweater, flannel pants and cap pounding around the grounds with the sweat dripping off him.

In any case we had a fine team. The eight Corkmen were Dave Magnier, "Weesh" Murphy, Paddy Cronin, Jimmy Cronin, myself and the three who are dead, God rest them, Tadg Crowley, Mick Tubridy and Caleb Crone. Add to the eight the Kerry men Paddy Kennedy, Jackie Lyne, Dan Kavanagh, Eddie Walsh and Bruddy O'Donnell and

bring up the rear with the great Tipperary players Mick Cahill and the goalie, tall, acrobatic Jim Williams, whose boots a man said were sister ships of the Muirchú. Be that as it may, his anticipation was uncanny.

Leinster played a terrific hour and Willie Geraghty in the half-backline played a tremendous cultured game while Billy Goodison took everything out of the clouds at centre-back till I thought we were gone. They made a few Munster changes and things clicked. We slid home by two points and back went the Corkmen, honour satisfied.

At that time, when on the way home from Dublin, we would call to the "Jockey" where the late Mrs. O'Keeffe always gave us a hearty welcome.

"Were you listening to the radio and Railway Cup game to-day Mam?" says Tadgo Crowley to her one evening after we had played Ulster.

"Yes I was Tadgo," she said.

"Did you hear any mention of that chap Mick Higgins of Cavan Mam?" says the big fellow from Clonakilty.

"Now that you mention it, I didn't," said the lady for she knew as we all knew the Cavan man was a star.

"T'would be hard for you Mam" says Tadgo, "for I was on him."

In the 1945 series we played Connacht over in Ballinasloe. I did no real training but cycled the thirteen miles each evening to Cork for romantic reasons after a lively day of military training. The cycle was a sprint and I knew I was very fit. Over in Ballinasloe I thought I had a good game and at least John Joe Sheehy told me after the game that it wasn't my fault we were beaten, so I opened the paper eagerly on the following morning ready to read that "Youngy" was a star on the beaten side.

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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The late "Green Flag" wrote in the "Irish Press" :—

"The Munster forwards wouldn't break eggs and their efforts to elude such clever backs as Lynch, Carlos and Jackson were pitiable in the extreme." Brendan Lynch was marking me. I went back to cycling and as for the romance, well she reared four kids for me.

I was dropped from the Munster team in '48 after an abysmal performance in the championship of '47 and felt fed up for it was the first break since I started in '41. In 1949 I came again and we beat Connacht at home. The final gave us a right good chance against Leinster for in addition to the Cork-Kerry array we had goal-getting Noel Crowley of Clare, that burly, bouncing Tipperaryman Paky Brennan and the mighty Mick Cahill.

Stationed for a while in bleak Kilworth Camp, I did a fair amount of road-running each night. Getting off the hard surface in the face of fast-approaching car lights I twisted a knee and that put paid to my hopes. My friend Doney Donovan took my place at right wing and had a fine game. The boys drew on the Thursday (March 17) and the game was re-fixed for the following Sunday. Most of the team stayed in Dublin where, let's admit it now, the preparation wasn't exactly out of the late Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan's book and there were some misgivings among the players when they togged out on the Sunday. They beat Leinster by 4-9 to 1-4. The only answer one can make is to ask what the score should have been had everyone been in bed early for the few nights previously.

A few Sundays ago Mick McDonald the current Laois full-back reminded me of the 1952 game when Leinster beat us. I was at centre-forward faced by tall Paddy Dunne of Laois. He was a fine player and just a few like him



JOE KEOHANE
(Kerry)



KEVIN HEFFERNAN
(Dublin)

added to the sprightly workers in blue and white would be enough to put the O'Moore County in there with the best of them.

Anyway Leinster won and I regret my farewell to Railway Cups saw my sporting opponent in top form.

I'm not being a bit ungracious when I recall a vicious kick that nearly put me out of the game (one of the very few I ever met) made by a player who would have been a star but for this dirty streak

so seldom met with in good football. The reason I mention it here is to remind younger people that no legitimate effort should be spared to hunt the hooligan. Fortunately in good football he is as rare to-day as in '52.

Anyway I had a good summer in '52 and as captain of Munster champions, Cork, I was a cert for the Railway Cup, a competition of which as you have gathered I was very fond. An injured knee kept me out of the winter football but when, early in 1953, the Cork selector, a great friend of mine, the late Tom Reilly, asked me if I was fit a few days before he was to assist in picking the Munster team, I replied I was in great form dancing up and down like Pavlova.

What Tom didn't know then was the pain the agility cost me. My plan was to get captaincy of the side, line out and go off in the first minute if I couldn't run.

But Tom knew better; the honest man never proposed me and I was very disappointed. But that was that.

I started Railway Cup stuff in the Spring of '41 when we beat Connacht in Killarney and a team that had Joe Keohane, Gega Connor, Sean Brosnan, Paddy Kennedy, Johnny Walsh and several other top-class men, for Kerry were kingpins just then and travelled to meet Ulster on St. Patrick's Day. The only non-Kerry men were right half-back Dick Harnedy from Cork and myself at left wing.

The team stayed in the Central Hotel in Exchequer Street and on the bright, frosty day I, then a nineteen-year-old cadet, who incidentally had not yet played senior intercounty championship, togged out in my room. When I went down to the foyer I saw to my dismay that the other players were all in clothes as the team was togging off in Croke Park. I felt and probably looked very stupid. Worse, there was no time to dress

again and worst of all we had no cars so I dashed upstairs in the bus and set my scarlet face for Croke Park.

Anyway we had a great game with Ulster and we drew at 1-8 each. I had the satisfaction of getting a rather important point towards the end.

In the replay four weeks later we were forewarned of the highly-skilled combined play of Alf Murray, Kevin Armstrong, T. P. O'Reilly, assisted by a powerful midfielder in the late John Joe Reilly and the greatest small midfielder of that era Paddy Smith. In their back line Big Tom Reilly and Jim McCullagh were all-time greats.

The replay was a very pleasant day for us, our backs were fitter than Munstermen usually are for the Railway Cup and the Ulster score of 1-6 was low. On the other side we got 2-6 and I had 2-2, mostly because a cunning teacher from Killorglin named Murt Kelly must have seen there was some good in this young fellow and laid on the goals for him.

It was the following year that I was the only non-Kerryman on the team but we were beaten by the same Ulster team who had five points to spare.

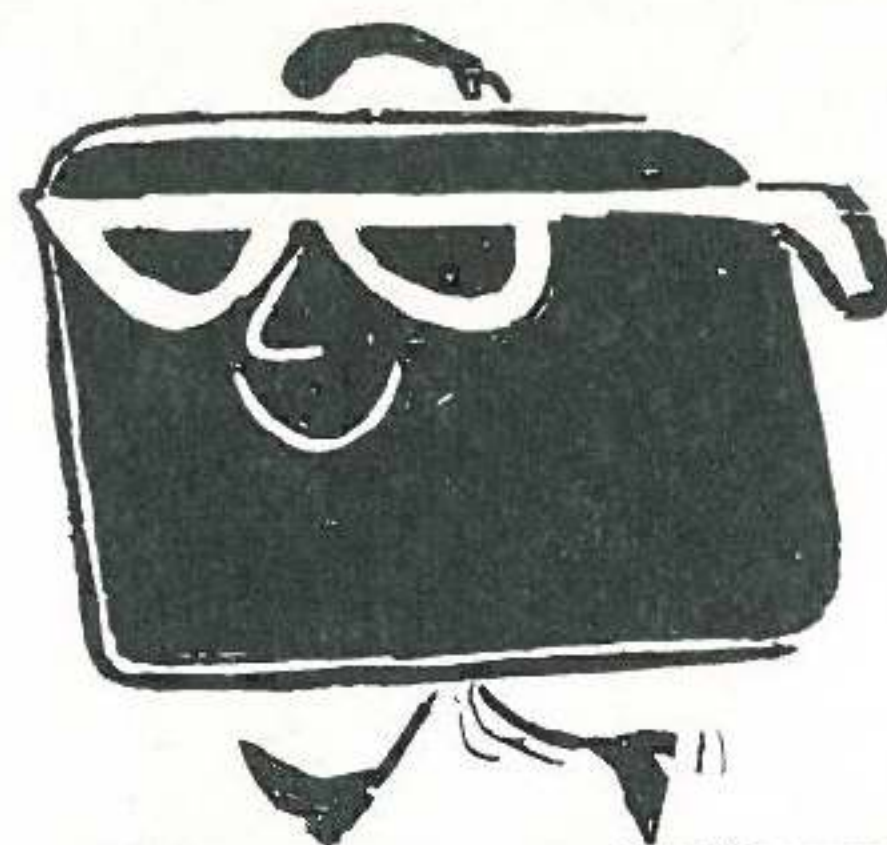
About twelve months ago at a celebration in Cork I met a Kerryman at the end of the night. We had wine and dined well, and I was full of my fun.

"Put it there," says the Kerryman whom I was meeting for the first time. "You must have been a great man for you played with fourteen Kerryman." That needless to say was the highest praise a man could earn.

If I had any manners I would have kept my mouth shut but before I could stop I had it out.

"Of course I was," said I, "to carry fourteen fellas like those on my back I had to be great."

They got me out in time!



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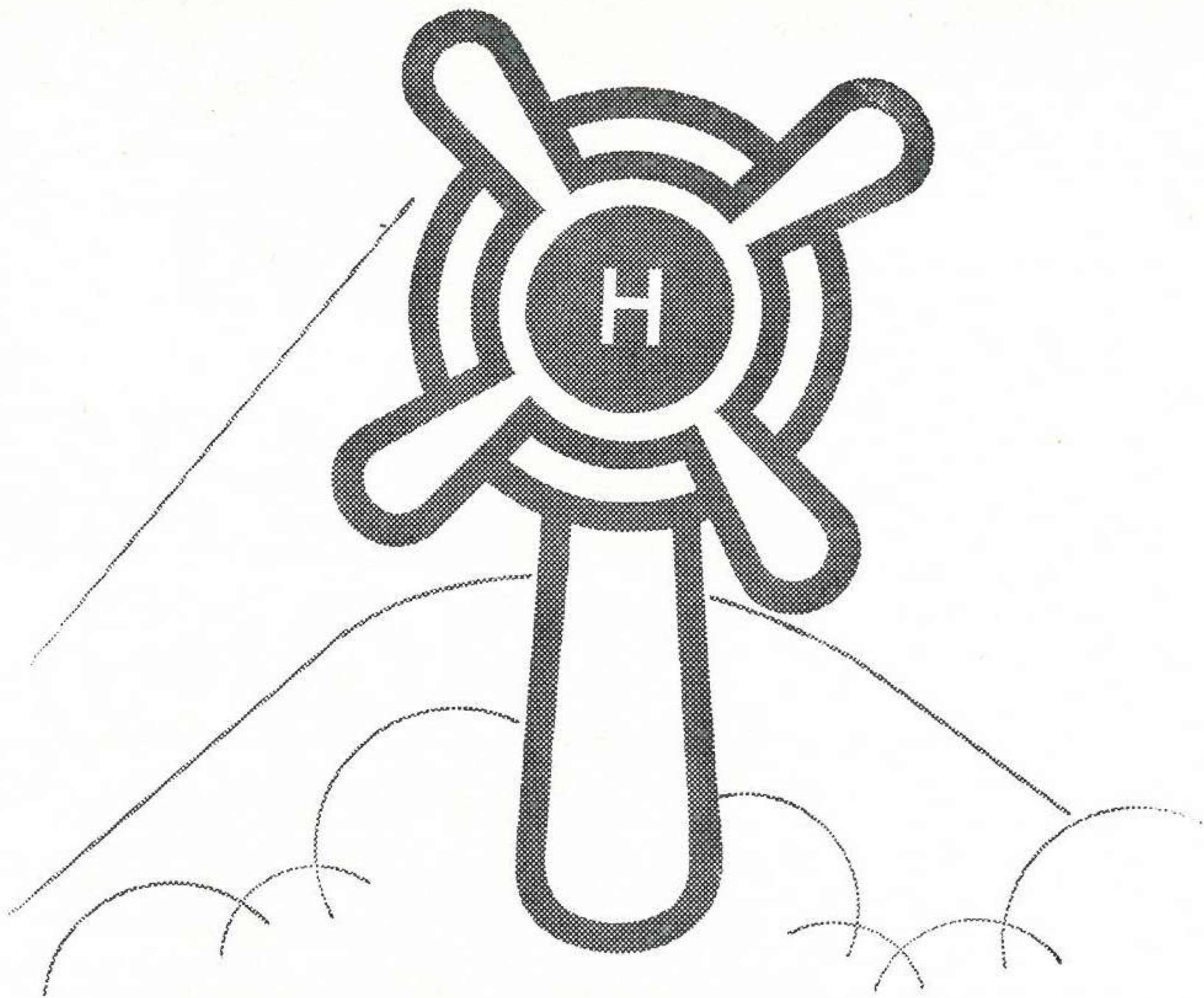
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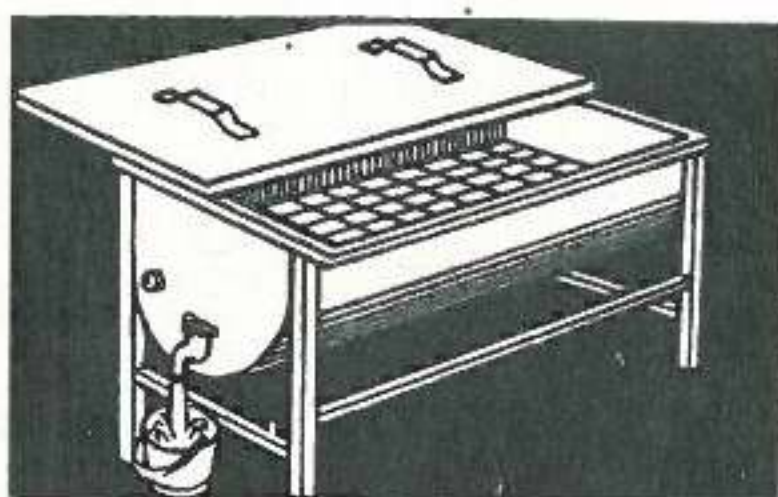
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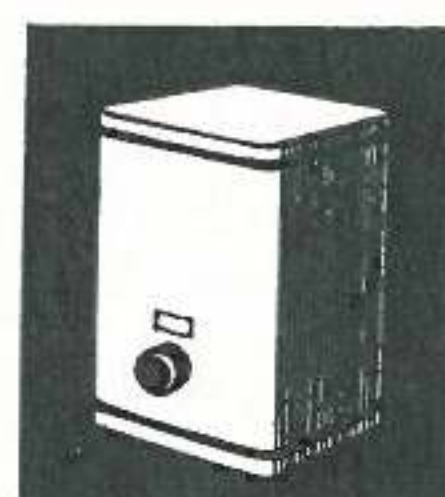
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A YEARLY ROUTINE?



BOBBY RACKARD

OVER the past forty years the Railway Cup Finals on St. Patrick's Day have become one of the high-lights of the Gaelic year, and I found myself involved in quite a complicated argument the other day as to whether the Railway Cup stars of 40 years ago were better men than the players who make the headlines to-day.

Well, I may be wrong, and memory can be extremely fickle as years muster up, but I do believe, sorting through my memories, that the finals in the first decade of these Railway Cup competitions were more entertaining and more earnestly contested than some of the finals I have seen in the past few years.

The reason I think was that, in the years when I first began to attend Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day, the Railway Cups were still relatively new competitions, still something of a novelty to the most of the players.

Indeed the Railway Cups were then at the stage when the winning of a provincial jersey, not to say of winning an inter-provincial medal was looked upon as a major honour by players from the 'big' counties and the 'small' counties alike.

Nowadays I often get the feeling, rightly or wrongly, that to some few of the star players (and more particularly to some hurlers) the

Railway Cup finals have become a part of the yearly routine.

I admit that, when a man has acquired two or three provincial jerseys and a couple of Railway Cup medals, he may well be excused for becoming a trifle casual in his approach.

There are, however, two factors that keep freshening up the series. The first is the enthusiasm that is constantly being injected into provincial sides by players from the 'weaker' counties who may be playing for the first time in a Railway Cup final and who may indeed be playing their first-ever game at Croke Park.

The second factor is, of course, that even the most experienced players, who may find it hard to rouse themselves to the occasion, always do get into full stride as the game warms up.

And that, I think, is why the second half of any Railway Cup final always seems to be better than the first. Or is it that I myself have not managed to warm up in the first half either?

There are some players of course who always seem to do well in the Railway Cup, but I think you will find that these are players who are either what I call Railway Cup specialists, or else they are those stars who play with equal consistency right through the season.

In the second category, pride of place must go to Christy Ring, who, for more than twenty years, provided us with more hurling highlights of this series than could possibly be contained even in a whole issue of GAEILIC SPORT.

Ring really gave some wonderful exhibitions of hurling in the Railway Cup from the day I first saw him play for Munster in 1942 until he retired, I almost said undefeated, in the final of '63. His greatest display of all, however, was against Connacht, the day the Hogan Stand was opened in 1959.

The Ring magic that afternoon made memorable what might otherwise have been the drabest of all Railway Cup finals.

The Rackards, particularly Bobby and Billy were others who used always to shine in the Leinster jersey while, of the hurlers of to-day the man it always gives me tremendous pleasure to watch is Seamus Cleere of Kilkenny for, as well as being what Mick Mackey called him when first he saw him, 'a great attacking half-back'. Cleere is also one of the great artists of the game.

Anything but a powerful man, even by Noreside standards, and Kilkenny's hurling prowess has always been built on sinew rather than on bone, Seamus Cleere can

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yet hurl with the best, even when the going is hardest.

He has an almost unbelievable facility for evading bone-crushing tackles, an almost uncanny knack, when surrounded by opponents, of feinting and fading away from them and then getting in his stroke, with all the time in the world.

In the hands of Seamus Cleere a hurley is like a rapier. He handles his stick with a delicacy of touch that sometimes one wonders if that camán in the Cleere hands is made of ash at all, that is until he drives the long ball or comes up to take a far-out free.

It is then you see the strength in Cleere's wrists and forearms. He

hits the long ball. In fact, off a placed ball I think he can get as great a length and even better direction than Ollie Walsh himself.

Add on a cool head, and an in-born sense of position and it is easy enough to understand why Seamus Cleere has been the real sheet anchor of the Leinster hurling for several seasons past. We had proof positive of that a couple of years ago when with Leinster and Munster evenly matched, Cleere was injured and had to retire. Without him, the Leinster defence was soon creaking badly and Munster went on to win well.

I have left little space to deal with the second category of Railway Cup players, the men who

seem to find even better form playing for their province than for their counties.

P. T. Treacy of Fermanagh, for example, is a man who always seems to find something extra in Railway Cup matches. Two other footballers who always seem to hit the heights in the green jersey of Leinster were Gerry O'Reilly of Wicklow and Sean Brennan who played for Kildare but was in fact a Kilkennyman.

Those were the kind of men who have made the Railway Cup competition through the forty years past. I have no reason to assume that we shall not have fitting successors to keep the competitions just as interesting through the years ahead.



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Padraig Ó Fainín

FOUR Munster men have been nominated for the Presidency of the G.A.A. which becomes vacant at this year's Easter Congress—Dr. Jim Brosnan of Kerry, Jack Barrett of Cork, Seamus Ryan of Tipperary and Waterford's Pat Fanning. At the time of writing, it is widely held that only the latter two will allow their names go forward.

Both Padraig Ó Fainín and Seamus Ryan are excellently equipped for the office. The latter is the present Munster Council Chairman, while Ó Fainín was his predecessor.

Padraig Ó Fainín is the better known, for he has been a long time in the public eye, and he was, indeed, a candidate on the last occasion of a Presidential election when Alf Ó Muiri narrowly defeated him. The Waterfordman has been so thoroughly dedicated to the Association, in all its aspects and in all its undertakings that he has not been able to keep out of the limelight even if he wished to. More recently, he became Chairman of the Policy Committee of the Association, a position which speaks volumes, in itself, for his authority and widespread respect.

What has Padraig Ó Fainín done for the Association? Impossible—yes, quite impossible to answer. Put it the other way around—what has he not done, and you

have some chance of answering. Your answer then will be short. Within his native county and beyond it hardly anything worth while has been done in the last twenty years which did not owe something to the fantastic, self-devouring enthusiasm of Ó Fainín. If he has any detractors, any who would not favour him, it is not because they think that he is not the most self-sacrificing and effective man, but because he has set so remarkable a standard of volume of work, that he has, by example, put too many men to shame down the years. Those who fault him, in other words, are motivated by envy more than any other emotion or reason.

Mount Sion club is his monument above all others. He is rightly rooted where the roots of every good Association President must be—in the club. He has been the font and well-spring of enthusiasm, drive and heroic self-sacrifice behind those great Waterford hurling teams since the mid-fifties. No one but a player who has played in those teams can adequately describe the magic carpet of his own undying spirit on which he floated those teams on to the field before a match, and the way in which he revitalised that spirit at half-time. His influence with them and with his own club has been a crucial factor which brought more out of those

men than they sometimes knew they possessed.

But, fair is the way he wants to win; disciplined is the ideal he possesses for the club and the county and the Association in general; self-sacrifice the message he will bring to the chair if he is honoured with the Presidency.

It would displease Padraig Ó Fainín greatly if anyone, to gain the popularity of the lukewarm, were to represent him as anything else but radical in all his attitudes to the major questions of policy. On the purpose of the Association in the modern world, on its role in the life of the country, in the language and national campaigns, he is alike strongly and convincingly true to the Association's tradition. He will be a man who will condone no backsliders. He will also be a man with the courage of his convictions, and the patient sincerity of his utterances will convince people of his ideas and his right to them. Can this be the hand that the Association needs in this fast-moving time of shifting-sand, where it is impossible to get a solid base for conviction unless it comes from within oneself?

To more human things: Padraig Ó Fainín is a gentleman, a man of brimming human qualities, of deep and practical charity, who cannot refuse any request, who thinks nothing of causing himself acute discomfort to help another in the slightest way. Such a man must polarise opinion about himself; it is inevitable. Many will be receptive to the communicative influence of his inspiration—many of his Mount Sion proteges have been and are fair copies of their better; a majority will be lost in admiration at his energy and enthusiasm; a minority will be driven by small-minded envy into denigration, because his standards are too rich for their waterthinned blood.

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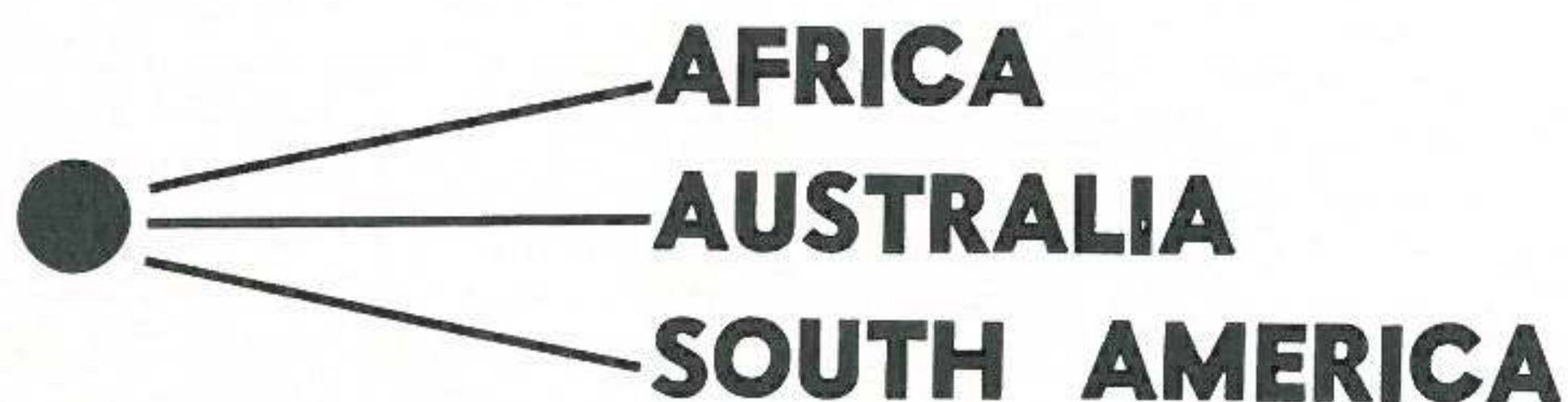
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Presidents of the G.A.A. (12)

By **TERENCE ROYNANE**

BOB O'KEEFFE

ROBERT O'KEEFFE, though we hear very little about him nowadays, was one of the shrewdest administrators the Association has known. He was a man who had been working for the G.A.A. on and off the playing fields from his youth. A native of the noted hurling parish of Mooncoin in South Kilkenny, it was he who organised hurling in the De La Salle College Waterford when he went there as a student teacher around the turn of the century. Later as a teacher in Dunboyne he did a tremendous amount to foster hurling in County Meath.

It was his misfortune that he was at his prime during Kilkenny's greatest hurling era yet owing to the rules of the time could never play for his home county.

However he did play in the Kilkenny colours in the final of the Railway Shield competition when he with Mike Cummins of Wexford were 'added' to the Kilkenny team that represented Leinster and won the honours. When he took up a teaching post in Borris-in-Ossory he played a big part in a Laois hurling resurgence.

In 1914 he had a big part in the first ever victory of the O'Moore County in the Leinster senior hurling championship, and though they failed badly to Clare in the All-Ireland final of that year they came back undaunted in the 1915 campaign. To the amazement of every hurling fan they scored a clear-cut victory over fancied Cork

in the final and so Bob O'Keeffe, a great veteran by then, won his All-Ireland medal at last.

He retired from the playing fields soon after, but this merely meant that he gave more time and energy than ever to the promotion of the games.

His work was soon recognised and he became Chairman of the Leinster Council in 1924, a position he held for eleven years. During that time Leinster became the best organised province within the Association, a distinction that it still holds.

In 1935 when Sean McCarthy's term of office finished Bob O'Keeffe succeeded him as President and again proved himself an outstanding administrator. He was one of the men who planned and sanctioned the erection of the Cusack Stand, and he was a great advocate of the Grounds Scheme, then really getting under way.

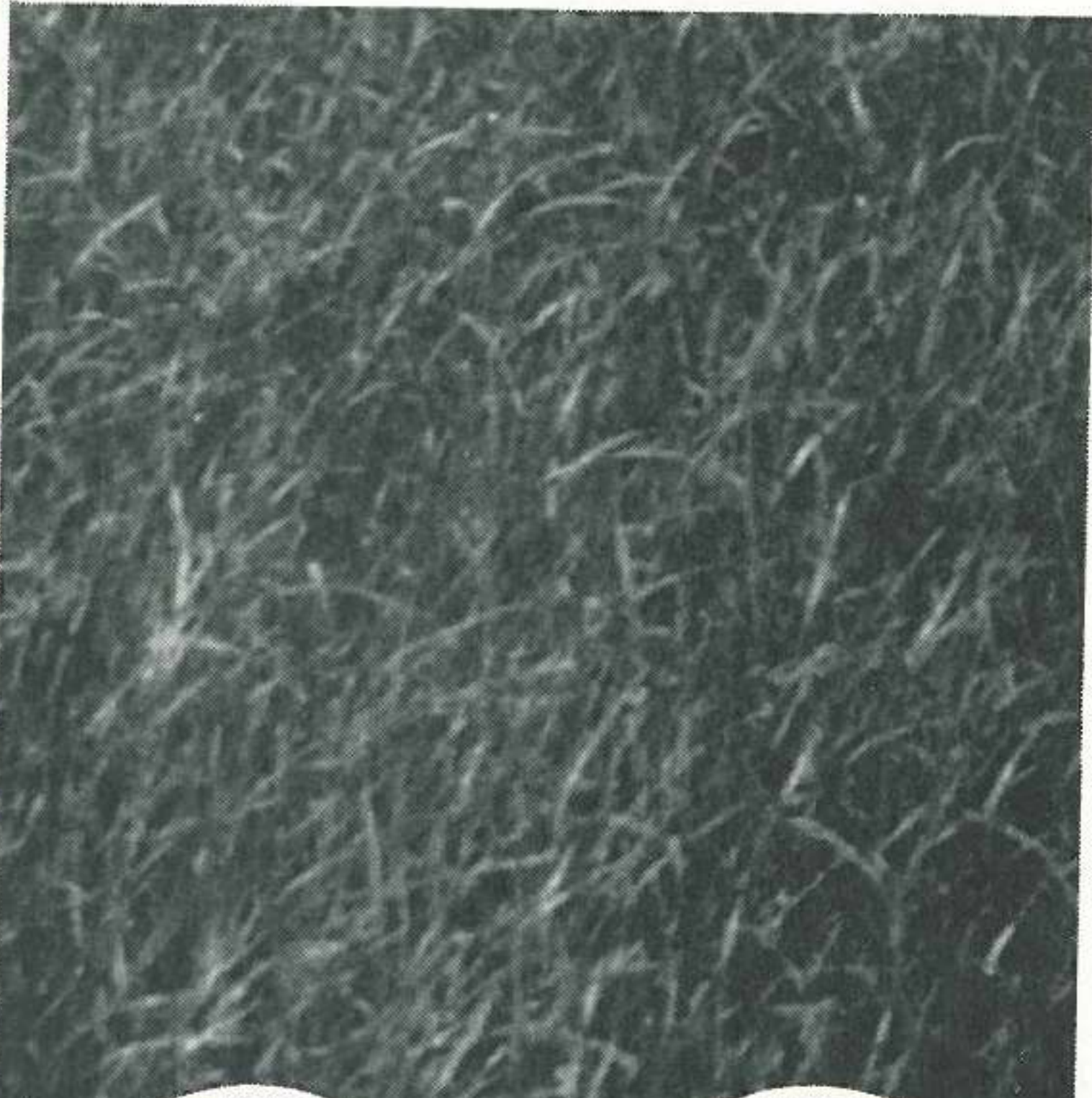
He was, as might be expected a life-long hurling enthusiast, and did much to revive the game not alone in Laois but far beyond.

Nor was work for the Association done when his Presidency ended. A year or two later he was back in office as Treasurer of Leinster Council, and continued until his death over a decade later.

Fittingly, the most imposing trophy in G.A.A. competition, the massive Leinster senior hurling trophy, was bought by the Gaels of the province as a tribute to Bob O'Keeffe's work for the Association and his love of the hurling game.

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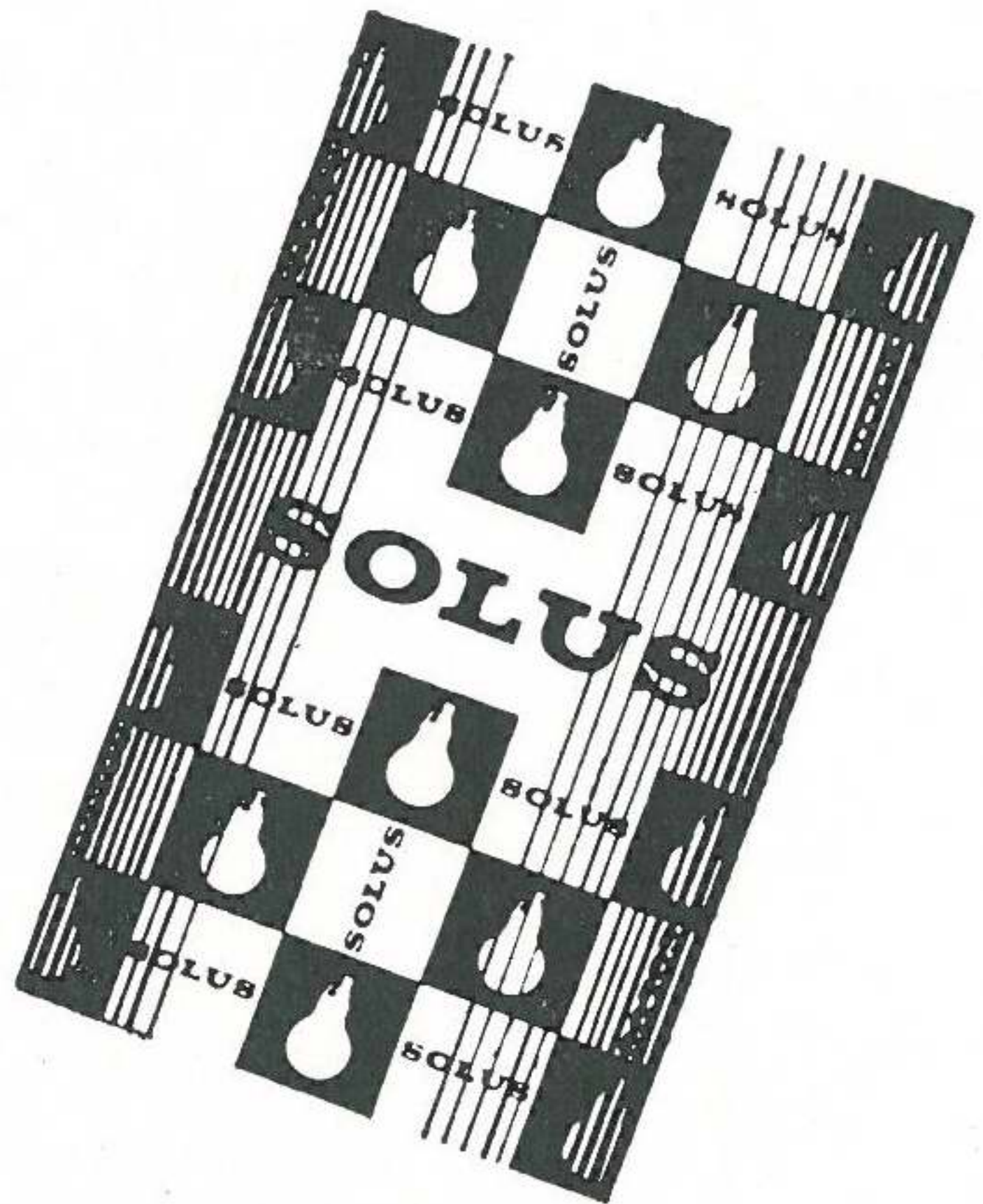


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'Stimulating experience'

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

MY most stimulating experience of some forty years' active association with the G.A.A. was, I think, the Club Leadership Course held recently in Limerick.

The entire course of talks were carefully prepared, had plenty of "meat" in them, and covered almost every conceivable aspect of G.A.A. administration.

The whole kernel of the success achieved, I think, lay in the fact that they were not delivered at, but rather to, a group who appeared to be very carefully chosen by their respective County Boards.

This latter point is I feel very important and was mainly why the Limerick course was such an outstanding performance. The great bulk of those in attendance took an active part in the discussions and their contributions all the time were constructive and worth while.

At the outset, the President, Alf Murray set the atmosphere right when he said they were experimenting with a new idea and had prepared a programme. They were very conscious, however, that they had a lot to learn, and were hoping that in the course of the discussions much that was new and of value to them would emerge. It was a get together rather than a formal meeting, where they could hammer out a mode of operation, and for that reason every contribution would be welcomed and



Bosco McDermott, one of Galway's delegates at the Club Leadership Course in Limerick.

undoubtedly prove helpful. A bond of friendship too would be forged during the week-end which should be of much benefit to the Association.

The going was pretty tough, from the opening session on Friday evening to the concluding one on Saturday morning, during which the dedicated quartet from headquarters dealt with no less than eleven subjects, each of which provoked a spirited discussion.

The programme was varied and interesting, and despite its strenuous nature enthusiasm, if anything, increased during its progress. The exchanges were all the time good humoured but they were frequently hard hitting too,

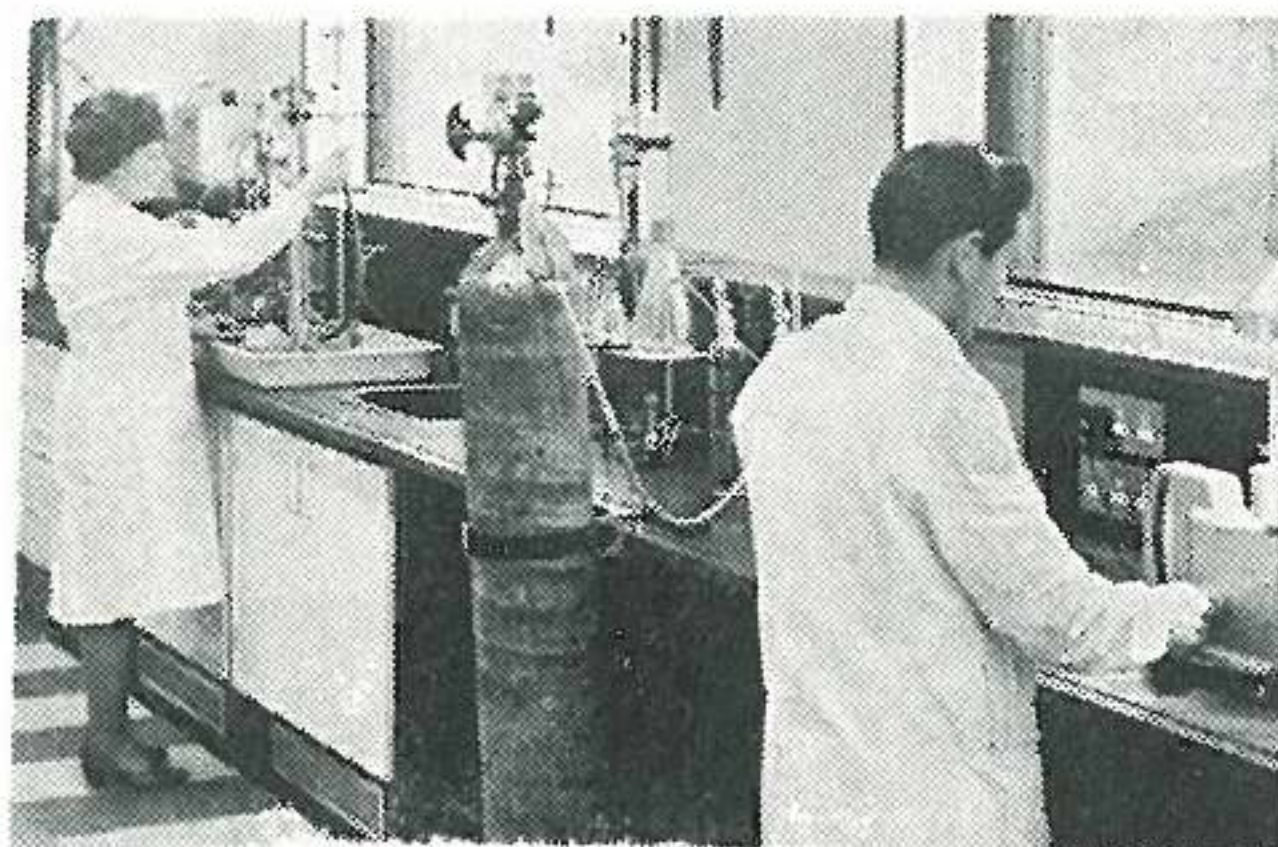
and no punches were pulled—a fact that added immensely to the value of the whole affair.

Every aspect of administration was covered—the ban and its complications; dancing and the difficulty of keeping within the rules; teams' match requirements and the failure to provide sufficient for all too many of them; conduct on and off the field, and the headline mentors could set in ensuring sporting behaviour; the case for and against players put off the field getting a fixed term of automatic suspension; the advantages of a uniform interpretation of playing rules; could a G.A.A. bereft of national ideals expect the same dedicated service; the clubs we have and the ones we should have; what leaders have done and can do; the G.A.A. caught in the traffic stream has to keep advancing; work that can be accomplished by the right men and the means of financing it; pride in achievement should be encouraged; leaders have to be found everywhere to know the way, show the way and go the way in launching the G.A.A. club as the leading centre of social and sporting life in every parish; the necessity for punctuality; how the appearance of a ground can be readily improved; the right type of club captain; press criticism—whether it should be ignored or answered; spice and

● TO PAGE 29



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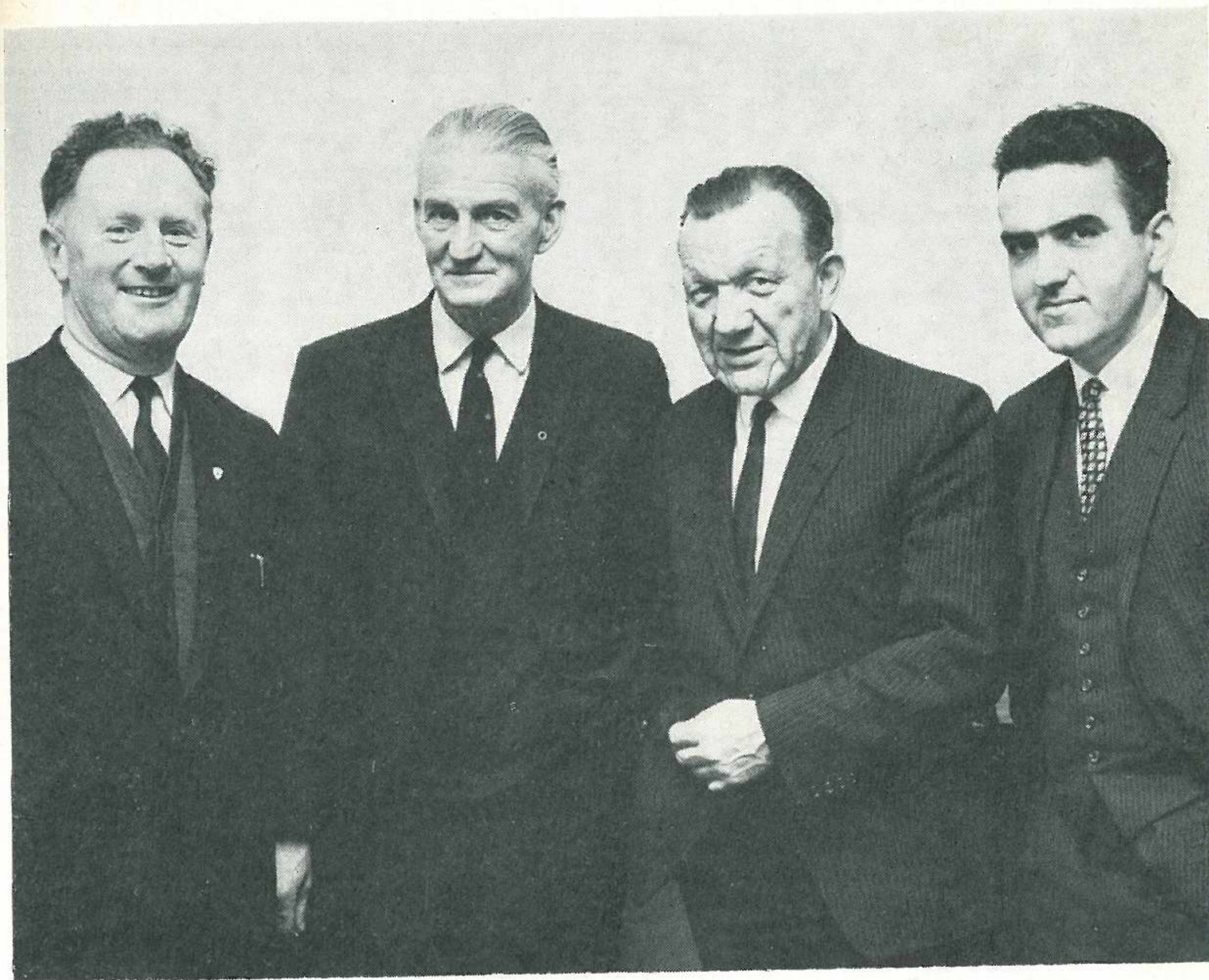
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Lecturers at the Leadership Courses (L. to R.): Pádraig Ó Fainín, Chairman of the Central Council's Policy Committee; Alf Ó Muirí, President of the Association; Seán Ó Síocháin, General Secretary and Breandán Mac Lua, one of the Croke Park Executive Officers.

● **FROM PAGE 27**

variety in training exercises; the boost a team gets from neat and clean attire; teams that play a sporting game and discipline their own players have an incalculable asset; referees should always be appointed independent of the clubs concerned; clubs should replace a troublesome player and not wait for the referee to put him off.

It will be noted the discussions ranged over a very wide field, independent of the set papers

which were: "The Heritage of the G.A.A."; "The Requirements of a Club", by Alf Murray. "Leadership in Action"; "The G.A.A. Ideal", by Pat Fanning. "Why a Leadership Course"; "The Clubs Place in the Social Structure of the Parish"; "The Conduct of Our Games", by Seán Ó Síocháin. "The Hurling Revival"; "Club Finance", by Breandan Mac Lua.

It was generally agreed that the group discussions—in which the attendance broke up into a number of sections, proved the most

valuable. The questionnaire completed at the end of the course should also be of considerable assistance in planning further such ventures.

It will be appreciated that I have only succeeded in giving the barest outlines of this most attractive course, and I think that permission should be sought to publish the different lectures, which were of tremendous interest and of real value in setting the trend for the future of our great association.

RAILWAY CUP HURLING NEEDS CONNACHT BACK

HABIT is powerful. It causes one to pursue a course of action long after it has become meaningful, and has lapsed into routine. And habit causes us, at this time of the year, to turn to the Railway Cup competition. Also, it might not be an altogether fruitless exercise to probe a little and wonder whether it is simply habit that causes us to do so—years after the competition has lost its flavour and its pristine vitality.

It is a possibility; it is an argument which must be examined. For one thing, in hurling, the competition has become limited, effectively, to Munster and Leinster. Ulster have never, of course, at any stage of the competition's history formed satisfactory opposition for the other provinces, but Connacht have. It is, I think, the loss of the effective challenge from Connacht in the last fifteen years which has taken a lot of the interest from the hurling.

With the best will in the world, it is hard to summon up any

quality of the football has not compensated for the hurling.

You could add to this two other factors which have made a wealth of difference between the 40,000, or so, who used to attend the finals on the National Holiday, and the average 24,000 in the past few years. The first, maybe the greater, is the fact that no longer is this a day on which the vintage Christy Ring may be seen in action.

He was always at his best in the Railway Cup; his fanatical dedication to the game and to fitness for playing, caused him to be so much better prepared than the others, that he was able to give free rein to his remarkable talents in this competition even more than in any other. It was a gala occasion for many hurling followers in the northern half of the country—perhaps their only occasion in the year of seeing Christy in action. But, there were other character players, too, who made the Railway Cups memorable, who seem to have stood out from the crowd as no

must remember that if the active audience should dwindle too far, this influence of television, too, could help substantially to kill the competitions.

I personally do not look for the discontinuance of the Railway Cups; rather do I hope for the

resurgence of interest which is just now needed. I shall look at the attendance figures this year with great interest if the weather is good, for in the last few years it has been atrocious, and this aspect is not something that can be ignored.



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By Jay Drennan

enthusiasm for a final each succeeding St. Patrick's Day which features the same teams in opposition, and often a large number of the same players.

Over a number of years past, the same nucleus of players has done battle, in the same style, and with about the same balance of play. It is not the best recipe in the world to draw the thousands who have been noticed to have stayed at home for the past few years.

The saddest lack from the finals in hurling has been the absence of Connacht in more recent years. It always was a breath of fresh air to have the final contested between one of the big two and the Western province—even though that usually meant fifteen Galway men. The best period in the Railway Cup, in my memory, was that enthralling stretch when Connacht's team of driving enthusiasts, headed by "Inky" Flaherty, John Killeen, Seán Duggan, the peerless goalkeeper who often attracted thousands on his own to an occasion which gave a suitable setting for a display of his extraordinary reflexes and eagle eye, Josie and Steve Gallagher, Gantley, Brophy, Flynn, Corless and Nestor.

There were some striking games, some desperately near misses, and finally, in 1947, deserved success against Munster for this fine team.

The strange thing is that football competition has become closer and the provincial strength more widely and evenly distributed—any one of the four can in recent years be considered potential champions. The competition is closer in both semi-finals and finals, but it seems that the improved

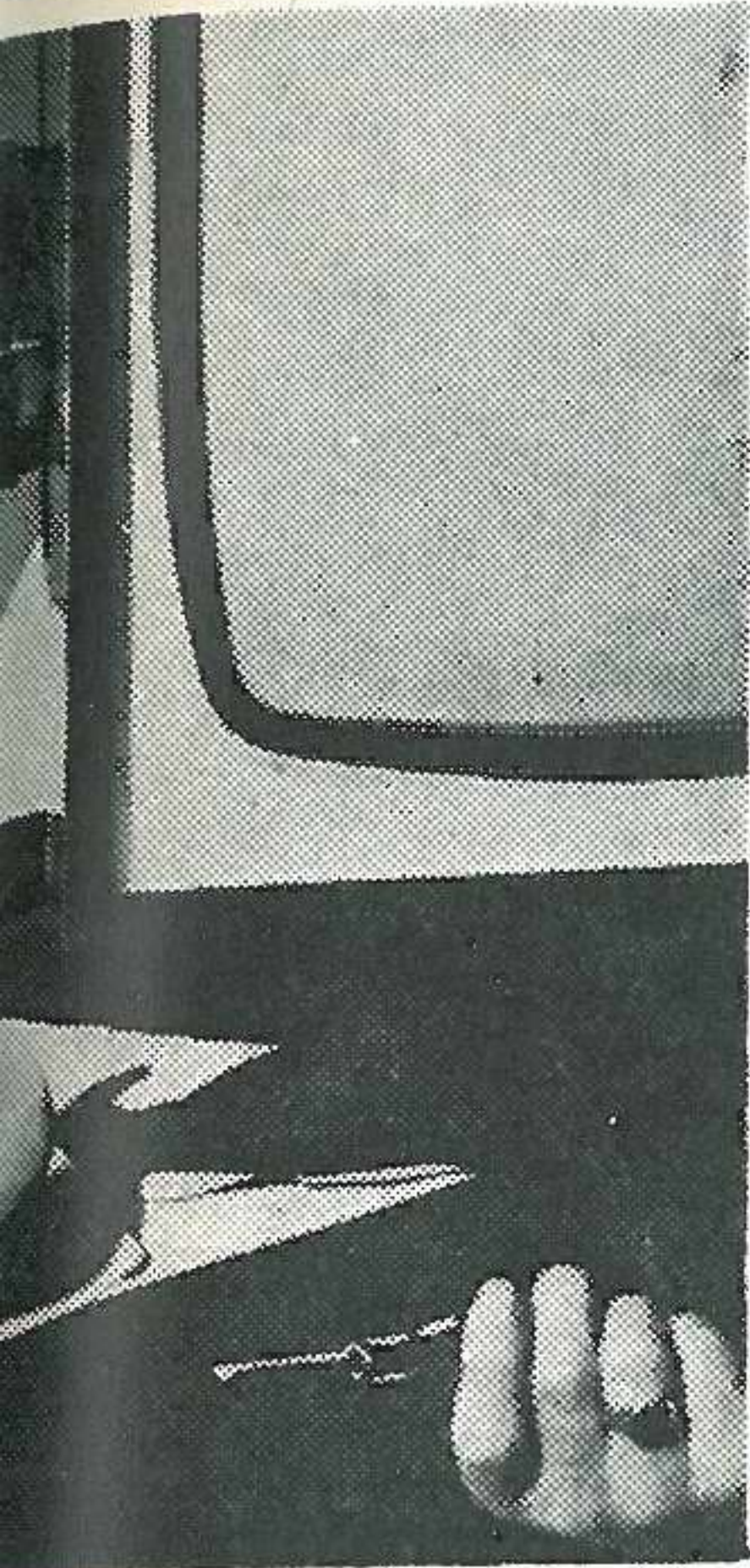
player does to-day—Nick Rackard is one, and certainly Des Foley was another in his dual roles.

Last year's hurling game was a unique personal triumph for Frankie Walsh of Waterford, who gave a display to remind one of Ring, even if the styles were so different. Yet, for his pains, he sits on the sideline bench this year. But, he was as good as ever for his county throughout an admittedly lean year.

Wing-forward and hurler of the year, in my opinion (an opinion emphasised by the fate of the Cork team in his enforced absences due to his clerical calling) was Seanie Barry. Yet, he is honoured at corner-forward; even though his style is wing-forward without a shadow of doubt. And wing-forward (Barry's spot) goes to a centre-fielder who was immense in that position, but who certainly has no form at wing-forward to recommend his selection.

Frankly, the business of selection of the provincial teams is not above suspicion of "jobbery" between the representatives of the various counties, to the detriment of the players selected, their teamwork, and the standard of performance. Such suspicions cannot but sour spectators and cause the competition to lose face.

Finally, there is television. It has kept thousands from down the country at home. But, this is not anything to complain about in itself, for the people who are best served by this telecast on Patrick's Day are those who travel all the year long, and well deserve one lazy day at the fireside. Still, you



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BAITING THE REFEREE

by SEAMUS McCLUSKEY

OF all the abusive statements and catcalls dished out to our referees, "Give him a jersey" appears to be by far the most popular. One could count on the fingers of one hand the number of games at which this famous—or rather infamous—catchcry has not been heard and, apparently having been handed down from previous generations, it has all the appearances of being handed on to the next generation and the generation after that again.

"Open your eyes, ref", "What's wrong with your whistle ref?", "You're wearing the wrong colour jersey, ref", "Is your whistle stuffed, ref?" and "You're in the wrong field ref", are others, but none quite so common as the old "Give him a jersey" insult. Occasionally, when the man in the middle has a shining white noggin, he is told—"Take the hair out of your eyes, ref", and if the unfortunate fellow wears a cap all he gets is—"Hey, Peter McDermott, have you lost your whistle?" And even players—when a free has been awarded against them, have been heard to say to the controlling official—"Take it yourself, ref".

These insults and derogatory statements are common to all parts of Ireland and to all grades of football and hurling. They can be heard from Derry to Cork, in the large stadium or in the bumpiest "back-garden" that some club calls a playing field. The accent is the only thing that varies.

What a tragedy that the referee has not the power — authority would hardly be sufficient — to hand over the whistle to his verbal assailant and compel him to take charge for the remainder of the game. This, of course, is neither

possible nor even feasible, if it were possible, but it certainly would be the genuine cure for those who have never had the courage to take control of a game and who show nothing but ridicule and disrespect for the man who has such courage.

Many interesting articles on referees and refereeing have been published in 'Gaelic Sport' and in other publications, so I do not propose either to discuss the art or even to refer to the responsibilities of these much maligned gentlemen. Suffice it to say that of all sports officials—the ref is the least to be envied. However, it is gratifying to find that those who refuse to recognise the authority of the man with the whistle, are very much in the minority.

Most referees commence their career by taking control of games in the juvenile grade. This, however, can prove quite an experience as I discovered some time ago when I got the unenviable task of refereeing a boys under-12 football game. Certain that I could do a good job for football in my native county and that I might be responsible for unearthing some budding stars, I proceeded to allocate a position e.g. right full back, centre-half, left forward, etc. to each of the youngsters but it must have sounded double-Dutch to most of them and in the end I had to give up. Some of them didn't even know what direction to play and I thought how I'd hate to be a schoolmaster.

Finally I told them to go ahead and play it their own way. They did. I think it was supposed to be Gaelic football but it borrowed slightly from rugby, as 'scrums' seemed to occur rather frequently.

One team was getting slightly the worst of affairs when a green-jerseyed youngster tried to rally the unfortunate side with — "I'll stand in goal and the rest of you go out and rush." Again they did. I never saw orders taken so seriously before, but in a short time a rather soft goal was scored on the aforementioned commander which resulted in a barrage of insults from his team-mates, including the captain's comment—"Ye eejit ye, could you not have closed your legs?" But nothing struck me so much as the very genuine and sympathetic comment from a palefaced youngster—"Ach, Jimmy, you're no good."

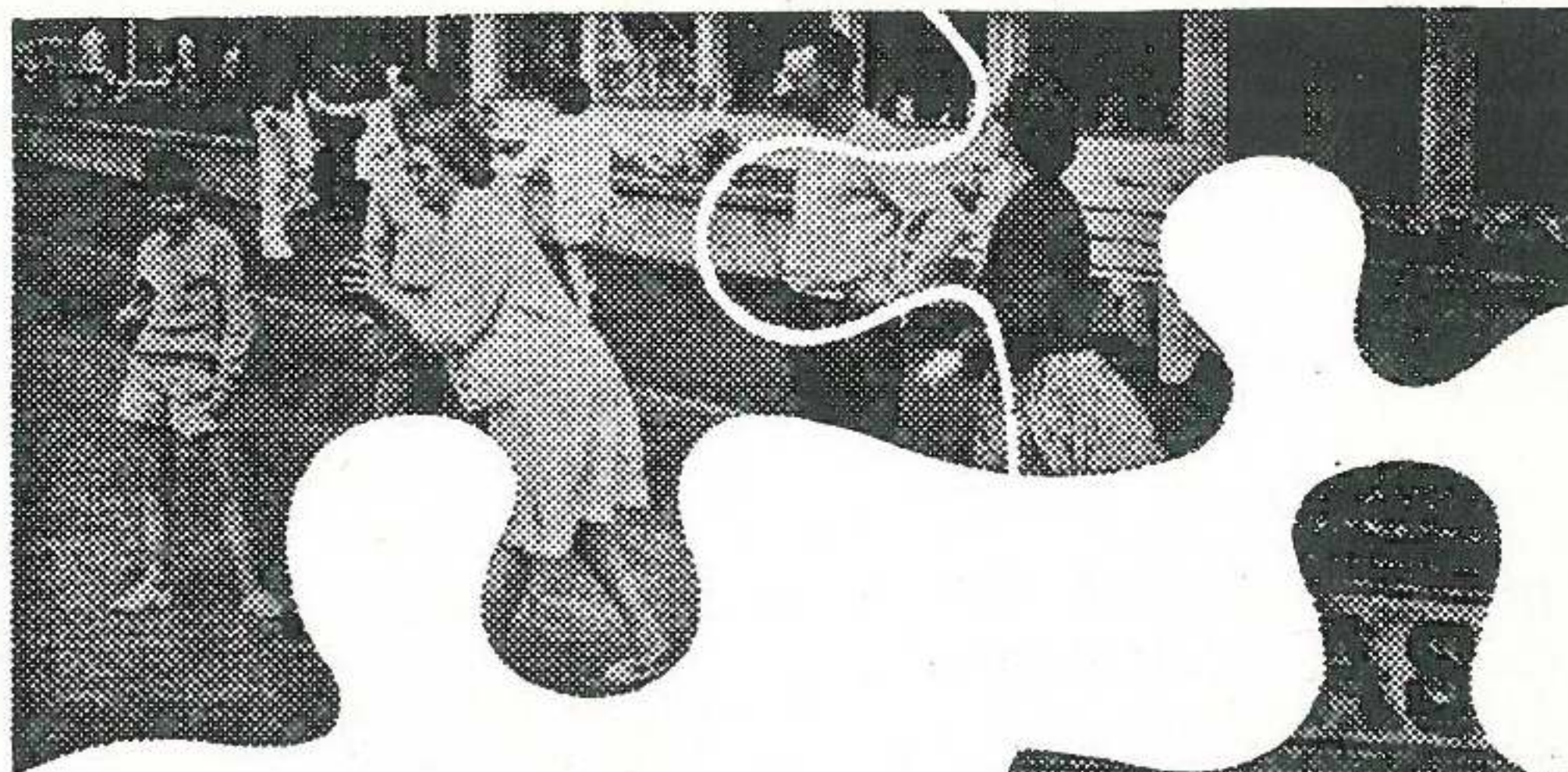
During the last season I was present at a juvenile game in which the referee had occasion to put a youngster to the line for using unjuvenile type language. At the conclusion of the game the youngster's father took his son by the ear and in front of all his team-mates, made him apologise to the referee, for his indiscretion. If we only had a lot more fathers of this calibre, our players might prove to be a lot more easily controlled when they graduate to the higher grades and we might have a lot less abuse for referees coming from the men on the terraces. Unfortunately, in the same grade and in the same county last year, I saw a parent give a severe reprimand to another referee for sending his "white-haired" boy to the line during the course of a game, and, as long as we have this type of thing, the abuse and unpleasantness are very likely to be continued.

But to get back to the "Big Boys"—it is at these games that we see the worst exhibition of rank bad manners. Even G.A.A. Head-

quarters, Croke Park, is often afflicted with these outbreaks but, fortunately, they are not so frequent here as at many of the provincial venues. What a pity some of these offenders could not be brought along by the ear to apologise to the referee—I venture to say that had it happened to them in their juvenile days, they would not now be making such a nuisance of themselves at our games.

Besides the unruly spectators and the bad-mannered players, many good-mannered and sporting players can often make a nuisance of themselves — very often quite unintentionally. At a Northern venue some time ago the players of both sides treated themselves to an unusually long half-time break and the official in charge of the game was reduced to the stage where he had to go banging on the dressing-room doors to get the players back on the pitch and even then they seemed reluctant to return. Had the game not been such an important one and had there not been such a big crowd present, I'm quite sure the referee would have packed his bags and bade farewell to the lot.

How often, too, do we see over-officious officials running out onto the field to say something to a player. Even in the big games that have been televised, this has been a regular occurrence and gives viewers the impression that these glory-hunters are merely making sure that they will be seen on the screen by their friends back home. Thank Heavens, the Central Council has introduced new powers for referees to deal with this type of individual but, so far, the men with the whistles appear reluctant to use their new authority. When they do, perhaps they will be entrusted with even more authority to enable them to deal with the "Give the ref a jersey" merchant and then we can all enjoy our favourite games in peace and comfort.



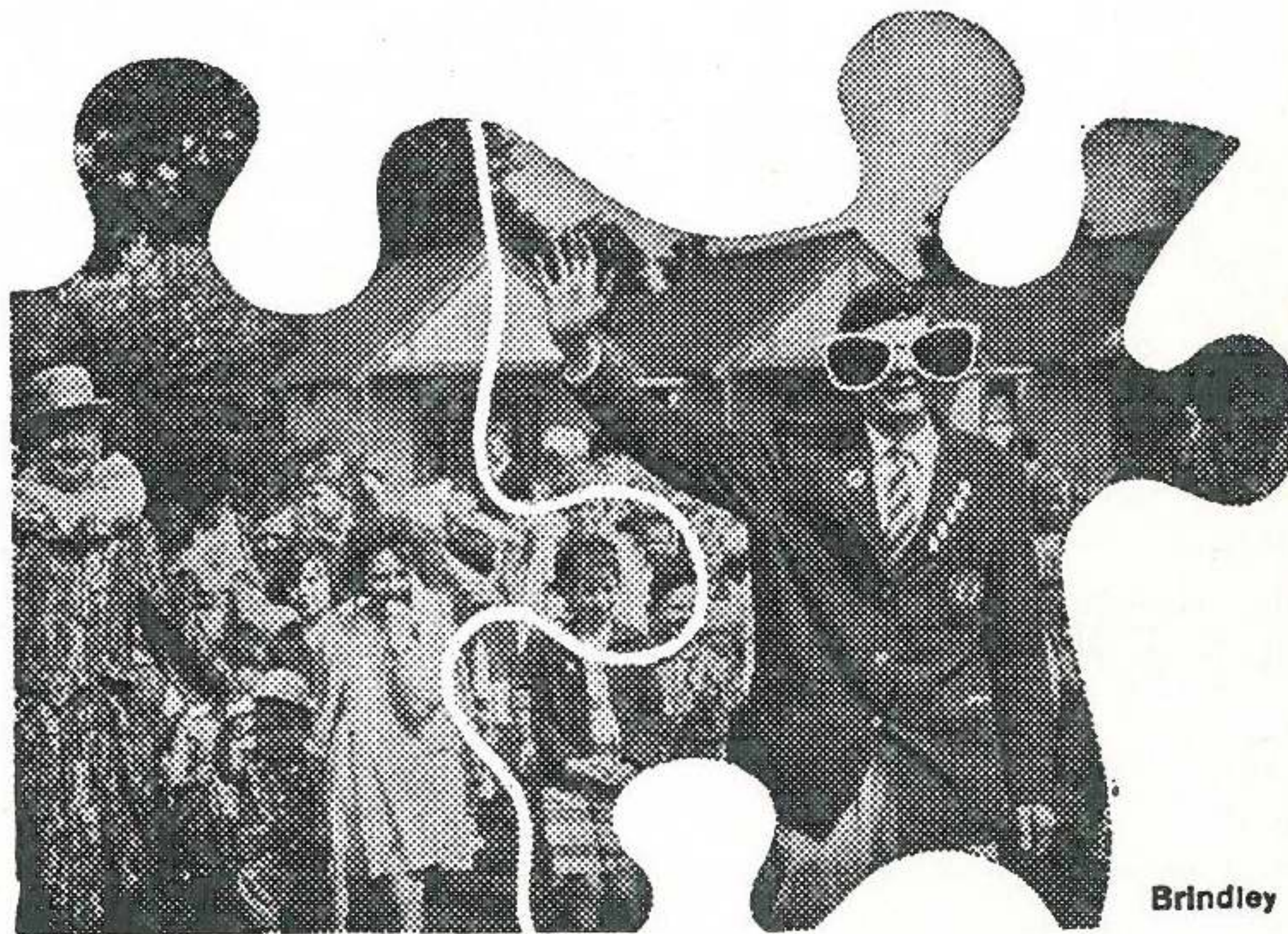
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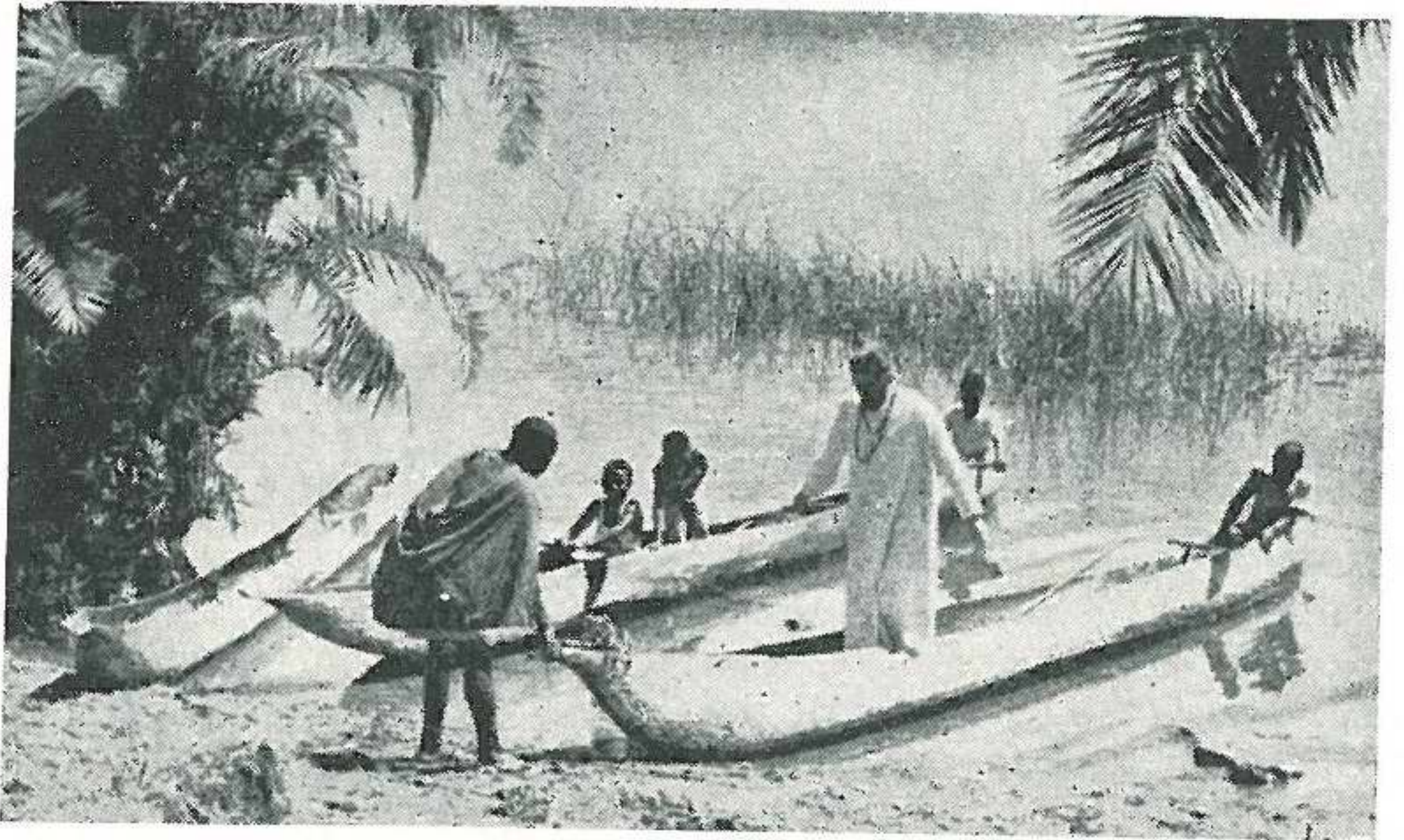
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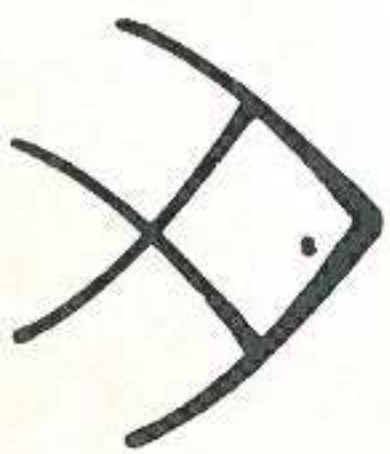
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le SEÁN O DÚNAGÁIN

Realt Nua Iomána

Go tobann sa bhliain 1966 d'eirigh réalt nua sna spéartha iomána, eadhon, Ua Fáilí. Thug roinnt mhaith daoine fé ndeara gur ar éigin a rug Cill Chainnigh an lá seo sa Chraobh-Chomórtas in aghaidh Uí Fáilí i Mí Mheithimh a ghabh thart. Ach chimil an saol Gaolach na súile nuair a bhuaigh an fhoireann lár-tíre ar Phortláirge agus ar Thiobrad Árann sa Sraith Náisiúnta i míosa beaga na bliana.

Cad is ciontsiocair leis an bhfás agus leis an mborradh? An amhlaidh gur féidir le sár-imreoir amháin, mar Phádraig Ó Maolmhuaidh, foireann iomlán a tharraingt aníos ón láib?

I gcónaí bhí foireann iomána ag Ua Fáilí mar go bhfuil cuid mhaith den Chontae ag gobadh isteach i dTuaisceart Thiobraid Árann; dá thoradh, is i nDeisceart Uí Fáilí a bhíodh na fóirne is mó cháil i gcúrsaí iomána. Mar sin féin ní raibh go leor aca ann chun foireann shinnsearach den chéad-scoth a chur san iomaíocht do Chraobh Laighean nó don Sraith Náisiúnta. Ní h-ionann sin is a rá nárbh imreoirí thar an gcoiteann iad muintir Chúldoire, Druimchuilinn, Chill Eitigh, Suí an Róin agus Biorra anallód.

Tá an iomáint go fóirleathan sa

Chontae anois agus ní haon dóichíní iad le camáin muintir Eadoin Dhoire, muintir na Tulaí Móire nó muintir Chille Eacaigh nuair is toil seo. Ach im' thuairim 'sí an fhoireann is mó le rá in Uí Fáilí anois agus an ceann is mó thionncair ar fhoirinn an Chontae ná foireann Naoimh Raghnaigh atá bunaithe sa chomh-pharóiste An Clochán agus Beannchar na Sionna. Rug an fhoireann seo craobh an chontae leo 'sna blianta '65 agus '66. I ngach cluiche na mbliain úd 'na raibh foireann Naoimh Raghnaigh páirteach bhí caighdeán iontach árd agus ní raibh salachar dá laghad. Cé nach bhfuil ach triúir nó ceathrar aca ar fhoirinn an Chontae 'sé an spiorad agus an snas ar a gcuid imirt a thug agus a thugann, eisiimplár do na himreoirí eile sa chontae ar fad.

Tá an Coiste Chontae ag tabhairt gach cúnamh agus cabhrach atá de dhith leis an bhfoireann a thréineail agus dá bhithín táid i bhfiaca go mór. Mar sin féin, nuair a fheiceann an fhoireann go bhfuil an lucht stiúrtha dáiríre agus go bhfuil aire thar an gcoiteann á thabhairt don bhfoireann déanann siad iarracht níos fearr a gcuid cluichí a bhuachaint.

Fósta tá beirt fhear cliútach i

gceannas tréineála agus comhairlaithe, mar atá An Brathair Oirdh-mhineach Donncha, Biorra, agus Seosamh Ó Dubhlaoich iar-imreoir an Chontae as Dromchuilinn agus is do-chreite an mhéid is féidir le beirt mar iad a dhéanamh chun foireann a mhúnladh agus a theagasc. Rud eile tá árd-mheas ag an bhfoireann orthu agus ní ceadaítear d'éinne cur isteach ar chúrsaí atá fé cheannas na beirte sin.

Cinnté tá sár-imreoir aca a bhfuil aithne ag an saol Gaolach air, Pádraig Ó Maolmhuaidh, ach tá Paddy ag imirt le fada an lá agus ní raibh foireann ann lena ré go dtí seo. Tá aois dhá bhliain triocad sroiste ag Paddy cé nach sean-aois é i gcúrsaí iomána. Caithfear a smaoinéadh mar sin féin go bhfuil mean-aois de sé bliana ar fhicid ag an bhfoireann in iomlán agus ní mór dóibh Craobh éigin a bhuachaint taobh istigh de dhá bhlian. Ach is cuma sa tsioc fé chraobhacha fhaid is atá an caighdeán iomána árdaithe aca sa Chontae agus go bhfuil na Contaethe laga eile in ann a rá leo féin "más féidir le hUí Fáilí é dhéanamh is féidir linn-ne." Tá sar-mhaitheas déanta ag na hUí Fáiligh don iomáint agus traoslaím dóibh.

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JOHNNY CARROLL

GREAT FORWARD
FROM A
CLUB OF
NOBLE LINEAGE

By TIM HORGAN

THE sudden rise of the Cork senior footballers in last year's championship introduced many new names to G.A.A. enthusiasts outside the Rebel County. One such player was Johnny Carroll, the diminutive forward from Dunmanway, whose lively displays in the Leaside attack helped his county to provincial honours and earned him the title "Cork Footballer of the Year." It was a great season for the 26-year-old stalwart, who also led his club to win the county junior championship for the first time in thirty years.

Football in Munster had been dominated by Kerry for nine long years before 1966, and all of Cork's attempts to shake off the shackles of their mighty neighbours had ended in dismal failure. Still, the outlook was bright, as the Leesiders had won four minor provincial titles since 1959 and sooner or later the cream of these youngsters would develop into a strong senior team. Johnny Carroll arrived on the intercounty scene for Cork in 1962, having represented Kildare in the underage competitions while studying at Naas.

Cork's fortunes were at a low ebb at that stage but were to decline still further in the following years. However, the dark-haired performer from the South-West made his mark with many scintillating displays at top o' the left and gained the favour of the Munster selectors in 1964. Meanwhile, Dohenys the far-famed club from Dunmanway, were fighting hard to

bring back former glory and their intercounty representative was foremost in the march that was to lead to ultimate triumph two years later.

Dohenys derive their name from the famous Tipperary-born Fenian Michael Doheny and his cousin Fr. James Doheny, who ministered in Dunmanway around the time of the 1867 Rising. The club was formed almost at the beginning of the Association in Cork, and soon established itself as one of the leading powers in the county. In 1897 Dohenys represented Cork in the All-Ireland championship, having won the county football title, but were beaten narrowly in the final. As the years wore on and other clubs arose in the city and county, the Dunmanway men lost their early pre-eminence, but remained a strong force in the junior ranks.

One of the most notable members of the club in the early decades of this century was Sam Maguire, whose name is perpetuated in the All-Ireland senior football trophy. Maguire was a Dunmanway man, who played in three All-Ireland finals with London and did trojan work in the I.R.B. and I.R.A. during the War of Independence. It was he who recruited Michael Collins, his neighbour from Clonakilty, into the national movement. He died in 1927 and is buried in the Church of Ireland cemetery in Dunmanway. Three years ago the people of the town honoured his name with

a spacious new hurling and football pitch.

Dohenys won the county football title in 1935 and a new wave of enthusiasm spread over the town. Watching that memorable final, in which the old club regained its former prestige, were two eager young brothers who were destined to bring further renown to Dunmanway in the succeeding years. They were, of course, the Young brothers Eamonn and Jim, who did so much for hurling and football in Cork during the past twenty years or so. Eamonn remained a star on the Cork football team up to the '50s and when he hung up his intercounty jersey, another Dohenys' player, Denis Bernard emerged as one of the leading lights in the great but unlucky Leaside teams of 1956 and '57.

Johnny Carroll, who is a product of St. Patrick's N.S. like his famous predecessors, returned from Naas in 1961 and set about reviving the fortunes of his club. He played a prominent part in bringing the Dohenys to the county final in 1965 but after a hectic match with the city champions, Na Piarsaig, the West-Corkmen were beaten by a point. Nothing daunted, they were back again the following year and with Eamonn Young still providing inspiration in attack and Carroll working whole-heartedly at midfield, the Dunmanway contingent took on Grange in the

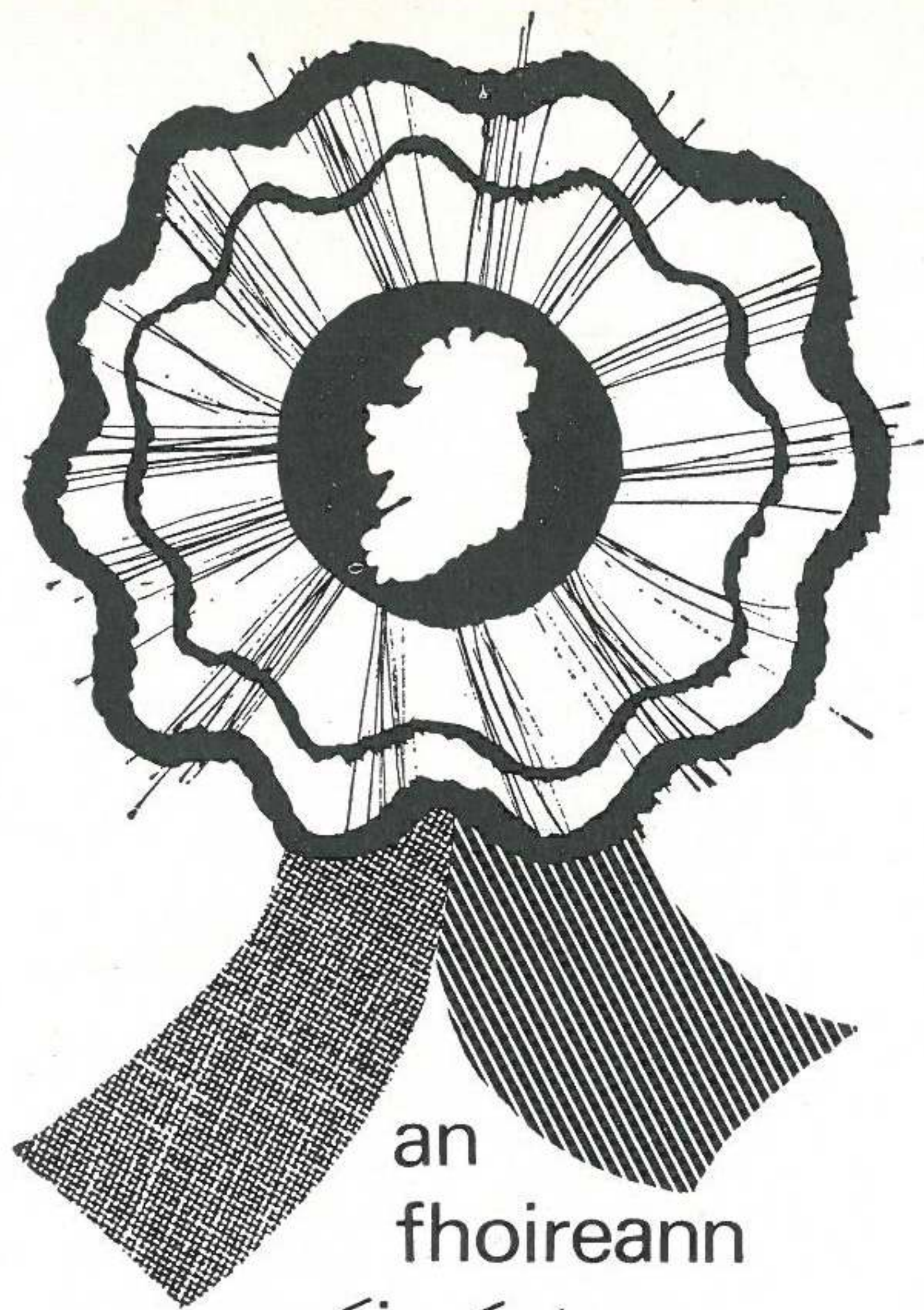
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decider. The game ended in a draw, but a brilliant goal by Carroll in the second half of the replay and five points by the evergreen "Youngie" led to a splendid victory for the Dohenys. Success had come at last to the venerable club from the Carbery division.

At the same time the Doheny's were playing a major role in the comeback of the Cork senior footballers. Eamonn Young returned to the selection committee as trainer, while left-half-back John Crowley and corner-forward Carroll represented the club on the team itself. Carroll suffered a serious knee injury early in the year, but was fully fit for the Munster final against Kerry at Killarney. The homesters led by 0-5 to 0-3 at the interval, but ten minutes from full-time Crowley gathered the ball in the Cork area dashed on a fine solo-run down the wing and flighted a high shot towards the Kerry goal. His clubmate Carroll darted out from the corner, grabbed the ball and burst through for a fine goal. The tide immediately turned in Cork's favour and five minutes later Carroll had the ball in the net again. But though the second goal was disallowed and a free awarded to Cork instead, Johnny Carroll had done his bit to put the Rebel County back on the football map.

Carroll's subsequent appearances with Cork in Croke Park and elsewhere enhanced his reputation, and to-day he ranks as one of the most dangerous forwards in the game. A great man to gain possession, the clever Carbery star can seldom be stopped unless fouled, and his intelligent use of the ball has dumbfounded many a famous right-full-back. He is also a competent hurler, and is one of the best basketball players in the county. So if you ever happen to visit Johnny Carroll's public house, "The Doheny Bar," in Dunmanway ten to one you'll be talking sport.



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CAMOGIE

By AGNES HOURIGAN

THE best news about camogie for a long time is the projected championship among the Vocational Schools. The idea is that, if feasible, this should be run on an intercounty basis, and it would certainly be the making of the game in some counties where, hitherto progress has been slow. These Vocational School teams could quickly become the basis for intercounty championship sides and would obviously prove a big step forward. Nor should there be any great difficulty in administering such competitions. A great number of lady graduates who have played for one or other of the Universities are teaching Vocational Schools throughout the country and their assistance would I am sure be readily available.

Indeed all the Councils of the Camogie Association would be quite willing to co-operate, though I should imagine the Vocational Schools sides would have to be affiliated to the Camogie Association. This, I understand, is not at present the case in Dublin.

I know that the Leinster Colleges Council would give every assistance while the Ulster Colleges Council at present runs a competition for the State secondary schools which in many parts of the Six Counties correspond to our Secondary Schools. In fact as the present Leinster and Ulster Colleges Councils are subsidiary bodies of the Leinster and Ulster Councils,

I see no reason why provincial Vocational Schools camogie Councils could not be set up on the same basis.

I certainly hope somebody brings the matter forward at Congress later this month and thus set the whole project on an official basis.

As usual the Ashbourne Cup competition provided a bright start to the competitive year, and University College Cork earned the trophy very deservedly indeed with a clear-cut victory over a fancied Dublin side in an exciting final. The home side proved the better-balanced but Dublin fought all the way, and as many of their players are young must be a force to be reckoned with in future years.

An entertaining feature of the series was that University College Galway chose to play their famous goal-keeper Eileen Naughton out-field. And she not alone got both their scores against Dublin, but also ran up the imposing total of 5-4 against Queen's in the Ashbourne Shield final.

The 'awards' season is now over, and I was intrigued to see that Waterford are going to make their own Gaelic All-Star awards. But, perhaps it was oversight, and perhaps not, but I noted that the provisions of the motion passed mentioned hurlers and footballers only. Perhaps, however, in the new spirit in G.A.A. ranks towards encouraging camogie they will see fit to add on a camogie player when

they are putting their theory into practice. After all, there are now as there always were some fine camogie players down Waterford way.

But then I suppose people in glass-houses cannot throw stones. Did I or did I not see some reference in the last issue of GAEILIC SPORT that on the cover were the two Gaelic Winners of 1966 Caltex awards, Mattie McDonagh and Justin McCarthy? And after all I had said in the previous issue about Una O'Connor being the first camogie player ever to be honoured by Caltex.

Well, the next big item on the camogie agenda is the annual Congress on March 18. There are some bright ideas coming up, including one from Kilkenny that a National League be formed. I agree that organisation has now reached the stage where the possibility at least of such a league could be explored. I think if it were played on a regional basis of say four groups, with the group winners going through to the semi-finals and the winners meeting in the final. The only trouble might be the question of finances, and on a regional basis, if the regions were properly organised, these games should be able to pay their way. Certainly the semi-finals and finals should do so, and such a competition should do a tremendous amount to popularise the game still further.

Na Coláistí Samhraidh — SAOIRE 1967

Co. Chorcaí

TRÁ BOLGAN

Trá Bolgan, An Geata Bán, Co. Chorcaí. 'Fón: Corcaigh 61203. (Eolas ó: Cormac Mac Cárthaigh, 25 Sráid Phádraig, Corcaigh. 'Fón: 20412.)

Cúrsaí: 3 Iúil-28 Iúil, 1967; 1 Lúnasa-26 Lúnasa, 1967. Cailíní amháin. Aois 10-18 mbliana. Coláiste Chiarán, Oilean Cléire, Co. Chorcaí.

(Eolas ó: Cormac Mac Cárthaigh) Cúrsaí: 3/7/67 — 28/7/67; 1/8/67 — 26/8/67. Buachaillí amháin.

Coláiste Fhionntrá, Ceanntá, Daingean Uí Chúis, Co. Chiarraí. (Eolas ó: Cormac Mac Cárthaigh) Cúrsaí: 4/7/67 — 29/7/67; 1/8/67 — 26/8/67. Buachaillí agus Cailíní. Aois: 10-18.

Tír Chonaill

ROS GOILL. 24 míle ó Leitir Ceanainn. Bus.

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

(Eolas ó Pádraig Ó Mianáin, 27 Fortwilliam Tce., Shantallow, Doire.

Cúrsaí: (a) 28/6/67—22/7/67; (b) 24/7/67 — 19/8/67. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Táillí: Cúrsa (a) £14; Cúrsa (b) £24. Cúrsa (a), faoi bun 18 mbliana. Cúrsa (b) os cionn 18 mbliana.

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

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

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

Cúrsaí: 4/7/67 — 28/7/67;

1/8/67—25/8/67. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Táille: £14. Aois: 10-18 mbliana.

Co. Luimnigh

FAING.

Áras Íde, Faing, Co. Luimnigh. 'Fón: 10.

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

Cúrsaí: 30/6/67 — 26/7/67; 29/7/67 — 23/8/67. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Táillí: £18. Aois: 12-18.

Co. Atha Cliath

BAILE BRIGÍN.

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

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

Cúrsaí: (a) 18/6/67 — 8/7/67; (b) 9/7/67 — 20/7/67; (c) 30/7/67—29/8/67; (d) 20/8/67—2/9/67. Buachaillí amháin: Cúrsaí (a) and (d); Cailíní amháin: (b) and (c). Aois: 10-18.

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

(Eolas ó An tÁtair Feargal, O.F.M., Dun Mhuire, Cill Iníon Léinín, Co. Blá Cliath. 'Fón: 803917.

Cúrsaí: (a) 18/6/67—1/7/67; (b) 2/7/67—15/7/67; (c) 16/7/67—29/7/67; (d) 30/7/67—12/8/67; (e) 13/8/67—26/8/67. Buachaillí amháin: (a), (b), (e); Cailíní amháin: (c), (d). Táillí: £9-10-0. Aois: 10-16.

Co. Phort Lairge

AN RINN.

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

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

Cúrsaí: 29/6/67 — 27/7/67; 26/7/67 — 19/8/67. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Táillí: £23-10-0 (seomra singil); £22-0-0 (seomra beirte nó triúir); £20-10-0 (suanlios). Aois: Os cionn 12 bhliain. Bíonn ranganna do daoine pósta. Dáil na Mumhan: 19/8/67—26/8/67. Táille: £7-10-0.

Co. na Gaillimhe

AN SPIDÉAL.

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

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

Cúrsaí: 3/7/67 — 28/8/67; 31/7/67 — 25/8/67. Buachaillí agus cailíní. Aois: 10-18 bhliain. Ranganna do thosaitheoirí freisin.

Déan do chuid socruithe — ANOIS!

CLUB IS THE HUB

By JOHN O. GRANT

I WAS intrigued recently by a short article in a daily newspaper concerning happenings on the G.A.A. scene in Co. Derry. According to the report the possibility of amalgamating a number of weaker clubs into stronger units throughout the county is at present under investigation. In fact, already, two clubs in Derry City have anticipated the findings of the committee and have decided to join forces.

An official of one of these clubs ventured the opinion that this amalgamation would produce a twofold effect. Firstly it would facilitate a rise in the standard of football in the city. This would follow as a result of the fielding of a stronger team and the subsequent competition with the very best club teams in the county. Secondly this joining of forces would afford the new club an opportunity to widen the scope of its interests and activities.

This latter view is very much in line with current thinking on the duties and responsibilities of the club, as the fundamental unit of the Association. This subject has been the source of much comment and discussion in recent times. For instance at many of this year's county conventions it got quite an airing. The climate of opinion on the matter is changing rapidly. No longer is a club considered worthy

of the title if its function is merely to field a team on Sunday afternoons and hold a meeting once a week. The modern concept of the club embraces a much wider range of activities. Perhaps the best example of this new-style club is Clann Eireann of Lurgan.

One would earnestly hope that some day all clubs will provide for their members a range of activities similar to those provided at present by the Lurgan club. But is such a possibility feasible having regard to the composition and nature of many of our existing clubs? I believe it is not! In Derry they have obviously decided that one of the possible ways of tackling the problem is by amalgamating small groups of weaker clubs into stronger units—hence the investigation. In my opinion many other counties may have to follow suit if they are to possess the type of clubs that are needed.

Take my own county, Armagh, for example. I cite it not because it is any worse off in this respect than the majority of other counties, but simply because I am more conversant with the set-up there. Indeed, we are fortunate in the fact that we possess a club like Clann Eireann which serves as a model for other clubs in the county to follow. At the other end of the scale however we have many clubs

which are little more than football teams.

The following description could be regarded as applicable to the majority of them. They have no permanent playing pitch, no changing rooms and no permanent building of any kind. Usually they depend on the use of the local parochial hall, if such is available, for meetings. They survive from year to year mainly through the diligence, industry and dedication of a few hardy individuals.

Two questions spring to mind with regard to such clubs. Firstly, can they ever hope to emulate the achievements of clubs like Clann Eireann? Secondly, if by some chance they did achieve this feat, would the resulting situation be satisfactory or beneficial? I would answer both questions in the negative.

In reply to the first question I feel that it is doubtful, even with the aid of grants, if such a task is within the capabilities of these weaker clubs. The cost of providing even the minimum facilities is almost prohibitive in itself. Add to this the immense difficulty of raising funds.

In my own parish for instance we have two such clubs as I have described above. There is little chance that both could ever find

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

adequate money to carry out the necessary improvements. Indeed it is questionable if one of the clubs could succeed in the task due to the small size of the parish. For the two clubs, therefore, to embark on similar programmes of improvements could only result in failure for both of them.

The second question is also worthy of consideration. Let us suppose for a moment that each club in the county did manage to emulate Clann Eireann. Surely this duplication of facilities, catering in each case for only a small number of people, would be inexcusable. If we do go to the trouble of providing modern amenities then we must ensure that they receive optimum usage.

But such supposition is more akin to the realms of fantasy than of fact. What is more likely to happen is that these weaker clubs will remain as they are, struggling to exist from year to year. What then is the solution to their plight? I believe the answer lies in amalgamating small groups of these weaker clubs into larger, stronger units.

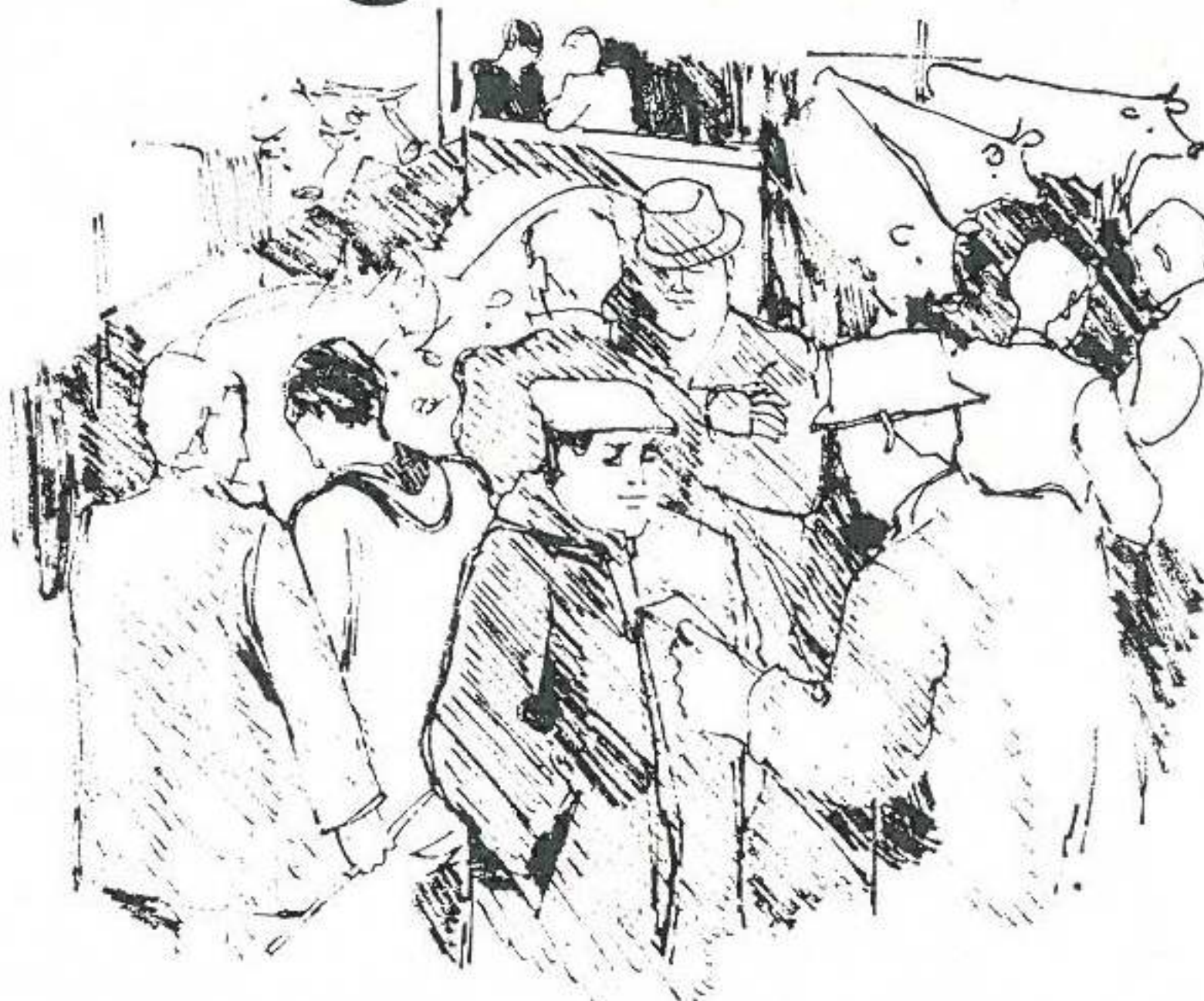
What benefits would accrue from such a move. Some of the more obvious ones would be an increase in manpower and a broader base as a source of income. The standard of play would almost inevitably rise—more players leading to keener competition for team places and stronger teams. Neither would there be any need for the less accomplished players to be neglected. The club could field an extra team, even three teams if necessary.

The same argument could be applied to the selection of officials—the greater the number of prospective candidates the greater the chance of finding top-class men for the various positions.

However, it is widening the scope of the activities of the club that I feel most progress would be

● TO PAGE 48

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THE ATTRACTION OF THE GAEL-LINN CUP

By
ALLEYMAN

THE Gael-Linn competition holds a certain magnetism for the handballer. Could it be, that because it is run on different lines from the championships, it invariably attracts such a large entry which seems to expand with each succeeding year?

One of the novelties attached to it is that it is open to players in every grade, thus often producing the David v. Goliath clash.

While some would claim that such competition is ridiculous, this, in reality is not the case as events have shown down the years. Conversely the Gael-Linn competition is the ideal stepping stone for the prospective champion.

Formerly, all games were played over a period of a half-hour, but this was changed at a meeting of the Council during the summer when it was decided to play the present competition on a twenty-minutes basis.

If both players are level at the call of time an extra five minutes is played to decide the winner. Such a system ensures that there is no let-up on the part of the contestants, and in the closing stages of the competition when top players invariably meet, the time-basis system can produce an invigorating struggle.

The Gael-Linn competition is also an endurance test for irrespective of weather conditions all games must be played.

In some years when snow and frost ordained that most games must have a respite, handballers proved to be one of the few excep-

tions. They lined out under the most severe conditions and completed programmes without a hitch.

It has also become common practice to remove snow and apply salt to playing surfaces before commencement of play.

Since its inception in 1954 the competition has provided some stirring games. My most vivid memory of a Gael-Linn tie goes back to the final of 1962, contested between Mick Kirby (Clare) and Joe Maher (Louth).

It was a tremendous struggle all the way, with the emphasis on hard-hitting and classical handball. The lead alternated so often that it was well-nigh impossible to determine just who was in front.

Kirby, in rampant mood appeared capable of just about snatching the honours. But, with only two minutes to go he made a vital mistake. Maher grasped his chance and went on to win.

Neither must we forget last year's competition, which was completed at the Croke Park Court in early April. It was characterised, in the main, by Fintan Confrey, the red-haired Drogheda-born, Dublin-based ace handballer who gave a series of impeccable displays on final night, to land the title.

Faced with some of the best players in the country, including Wexford's Richie Lyng, Tipperary star Paddy Hickey, Seamus McCabe of Monaghan, Sligo's Des Walshe, Jim Doyle from Dublin, Willie Kerins from Kerry and Pat Sheerin from Offaly, Confrey saw

fit to give us what is best in handball.

Revelling in the big support of a packed gallery he pulled out all the stops, and, with a cultured display of butting, dolly-lobbing, astute tossing and bottom of the wall returns, made it a night to remember.

His display prompted us to say he would not be beaten for many a day. But the Leinster championships soon proved us completely wrong, for Confrey never reproduced his Gael-Linn form, consequently did not come seriously into the reckoning.

This year's Gael-Linn competition has provided many exciting games, and with final day close at hand the pace is hotting up for a grand-stand finish. One of the surprise defeats was that of the dual senior All-Ireland champion Peadar McGee, who was beaten in his own alley at Newport by Eamon Connolly.

A feature of the present competition was the appearance of many hurlers and footballers, especially in Kilkenny and Wexford. Without exception they rendered a good account of themselves. Indeed, the only criticism I have heard concerns the reduction of the time limit from a half-hour to twenty minutes.

Players are finding the shorter playing time not to their liking, so it appears that an attempt made in good faith by the Central Council to make the competition ever more attractive has not been successful.

cumann lúic-éleas saeðeal CLÁR NA SCLUICI LAIŒEAN 1967

peil fé 21 blo

An mí v. Cill Dara—26/3/67—Óróicead nuá.
 Ác Cliaç v. Lúðáí—26/3/67—Ác Cliaç.
 Ua b'ráilí v. Laois—26/3/67—Culaç mór.
 Longport v. Iar mí—26/3/67—Longport.
 Cill Mantáim v. Ceatarloç—26/3/67—Daltinglass.
 Loc Ğarman v. Cill Mantáim no Ceatarloç.

iomáint fé 21 blo

Loc Ğarman v. Cill Dara	} Ğac cluice ar siúbal ar 2/4/67.
Laois v. Cill Coimnis	
Ua b'ráilí v. Iar mí	
Ác Cliaç v. Ceatarloç	

iomáint soisear

(1) Cill Dara v. Cill Mantáim 9/4/67.	} Óatáí le Socrú níos Óéanaí
(1a) (1) v. Ceatarloç	
(2) An mí v. Lúðáí.	
(3) (1) v. (2)	

iomáint idir-méanaç

Loc Ğarman v. Cill Coimnis.	} Óatáí le Socrú níos Óéanaí
Laois v. Ua b'ráilí.	
An mí v. Cill Dara.	
Ác Cliaç v. Ceatarloç	

peil sinsir 7 mionúir

Lúðáí v. An mí—23/4/67.
 Longport v. Cill Dara 30/4/67.
 (1) Cill Mantáim v. Loc Ğarman—23/4/67.
 (2) Cill Coimnis v. Ceatarloç—23/4/67.
 (3) (2) v. Laois } Óatáí le socrú níos Óéanaí.
 (4) (3) v. (1) }
 (5) (4) v. Ua b'ráilí—4/6/67—ionad a socrú.
 Iar mí v. Ác Cliaç—4/6/67—ionad a socrú.

peil soisear

An mí v. Lúðáí—2/4/67.
 Iar mí v. Longport—2/4/67.
 Cill Coimnis v. Ceatarloç—2/4/67.
 Cill Dara v. Cill Mantáim—2/4/67.
 Ác Cliaç v. An mí no Lúðáí—16/4/67.
 Ua b'ráilí v. Iar mí no Longport—16/4/67.
 Loc Ğarman v. Cill Coimnis no Ceatarloç—16/4/67.
 Laois v. Cill Dara no Cill Mantáim—16/4/67.

iomáint sinsir 7 mionúir

(1) Laois v. Ceatarloç—portlaoise—14/5/67.
 (2) Ua b'ráilí v. Iar mí—Diorra—14/5/67.
 (3) (1) v. (2)—28/5/67.
 (4) Loc Ğarman v. (3)—25/6/67 nó 2/7/67.
 (5) Cill Coimnis v. Ác Cliaç—25/6/67 nó 2/7/67.
 (6) (4) v. (5) 16/7/67.



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PLANS FOR PÁIRC UI CHAOIMH

THE long-awaited plans for the new Pairc Ui Caoimh in Cork were released recently and it is obvious that the fine parcel of land between Model Farm Road and the rapidly developing Bishopstown area will be a hive of Gaelic activity within a few years.

Four pitches are planned, and two handball alleys are also included, so the new stadium will be the most ambitious by far of any scheme in the country.

Accommodation for seventy-five thousand is planned at the main pitch, with covered seating for ten thousand, a total seating capacity of twenty thousand, and fifty-five thousand standing. The covered stand will run the full length of the pitch and the remaining seating will extend around the other three sides. The standing space will be behind the latter.

Complete with all modern amenities, provision for two fine car parks and a bus marshalling stand, indicate the spacious nature of the property. The first part of the scheme, about to be launched, is estimated to cost in the region of £70,000.

DECLAN GOODE

For the thirtieth successive season, Declan Goode has been elected Secretary of the Waterford County Board—a fact which stands as a well deserved tribute by the Gaels of the Decies to a fellow Gael, who for so long strove so hard to make Waterford a stronghold of Gaeldom.

Declan comes of great Gaelic stock boasting a background of seventy-five years service to our native games.

We must go back to the closing years of the last century to find Declan's father, Dick, captaining a famous football team—the Thomas Russell's of Kilsrannig, in the Cork County final. His uncle Bill, a well known athlete also played for this team.

Forty years ago the name of Goode appeared on a Waterford county team and it has been to the fore ever since.

Declan crossed camans with some of the greatest hurlers of his day and rarely failed to shine. When Waterford won its first ever All-Ireland title—a minor hurling one—in 1929, both Declan and Jimmie Goode were members of the team. Declan was on the Waterford side that won the Munster senior hurling title for the first time in 1938 but was denied an All-Ireland medal when Dublin beat them at Croke Park for the Blue Riband.

Ten years later, when Munster honours again were won and Waterford revenged their 1938 defeat at the hands of the Metropolitans, Jackie Goode was there to uphold the family tradition.

CLONAKILTY PLANS

Clonakilty club, who fielded eleven teams and played fifty-three matches during 1966, plan to spend a further £8,000 on improve-

ments to their club grounds. They have already spent £8,000 on the project over the past ten years.

GOOD ADVICE

Rev. W. O'Donoghue, C.C., Chairman of North Tipperary Board, gave some good advice recently. He said:

"Club officials who are responsible for their teams and the behaviour of the players they put on the field, can and do play a vital part in keeping a high standard of discipline and sportsmanship.

"Impress on your players, in all grades, to respect the referee and his decisions, even when he makes a mistake to their disadvantage. Impress on them, too, that the good name of the club and parish is in their hands and that unsporting behaviour on the fields reflects no credit on the club, robs victory of much of its fruits, and adds salt to the wounds of defeat.

"The referee can and does play a big part by timely action in curbing the unruly player who is partial to playing the role of the bully and often provokes a manly player into action that is not part of his nature. The referee should keep a close eye out for the provoking player. In nearly all cases the bully is the weak character and the player who pulls the dangerous stroke is a coward: the manly, courageous player has no need for such action to keep his end up—his manly play does this for him."

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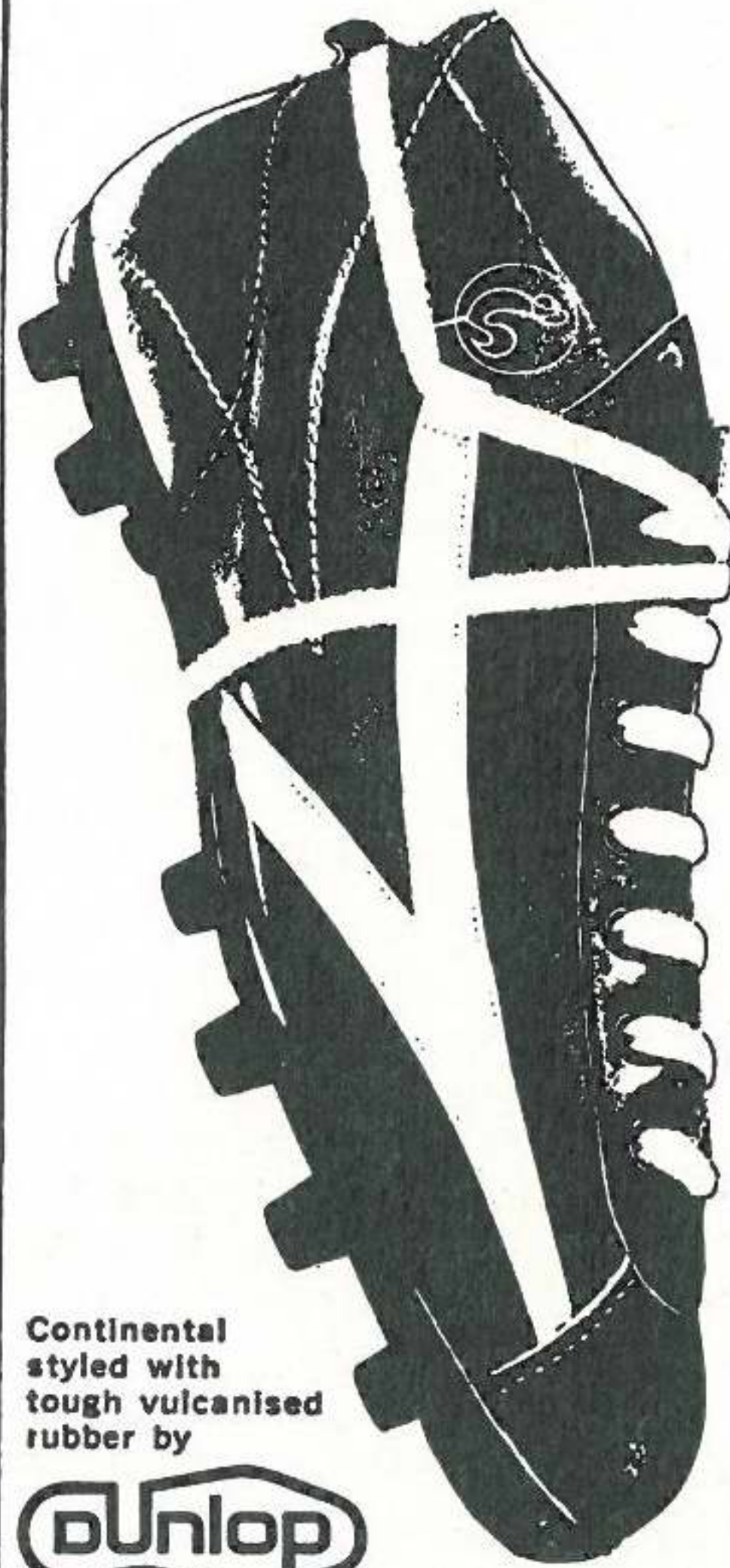


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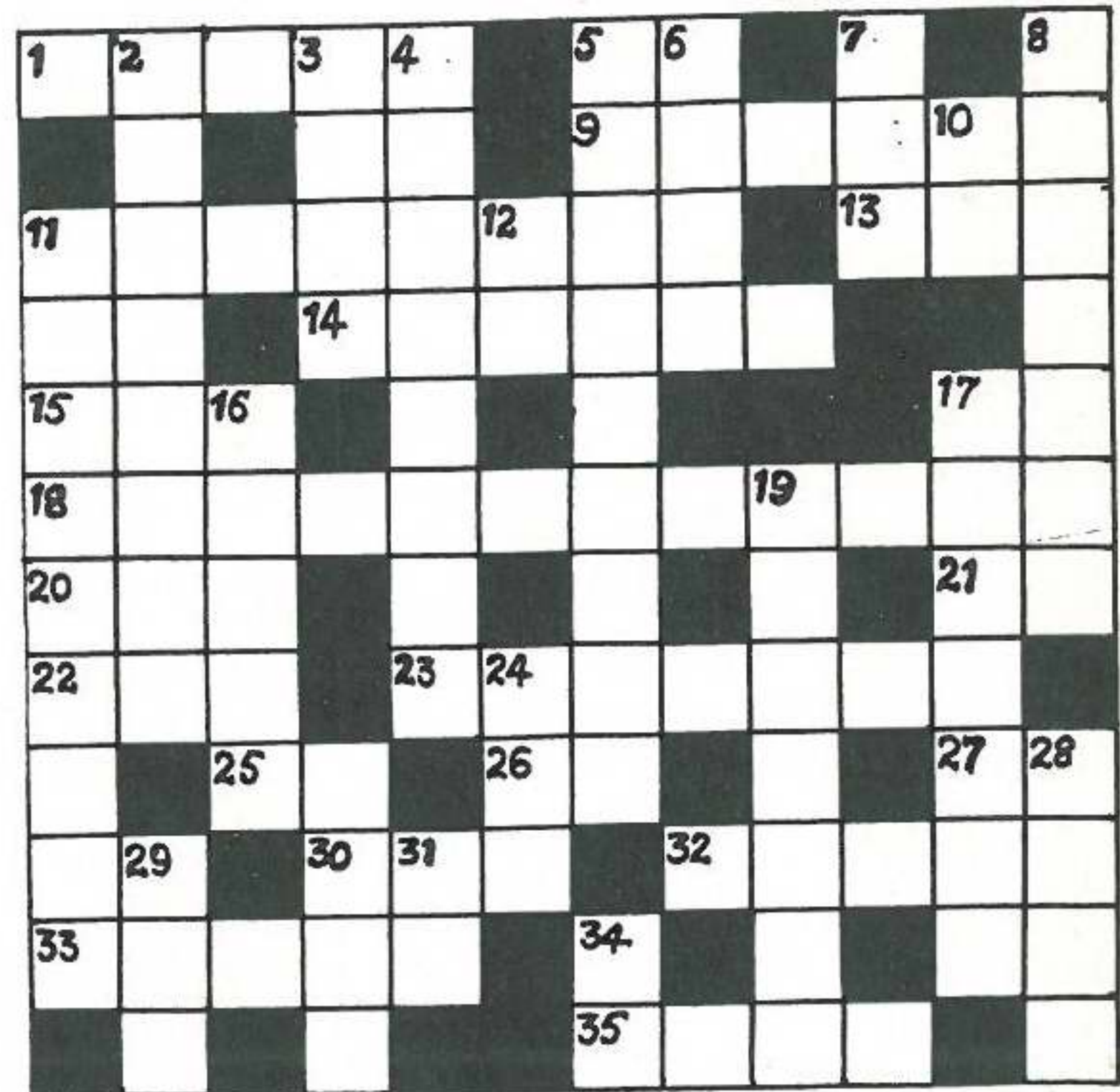
Brindley

ACROSS :

- 1—(and 2 Down) Veteran trainer, inspiration and goalkeeper of St. Nicholas' (Cork) football double. (5, 8)
- 5—Offaly left-half forward in 1961 All-Ireland. Initials. (1, 1)
- 9—Brilliant Tipperary goalkeeper, though Galway born. (6)
- 11—Down forward who has played in several positions. (8)
- 13—The number of senior All-Irelands held by Meath. (3)
- 14—A victory plan, or scheme, perhaps ? (6)
- 15—Its condition underfoot is vital to the good of the game. (3)
- 17—Cavan forward now Longford trainer. Initials. (1, 1)
- 18—G.A.A. President from Waterford. (1, 1, 10)
- 20—The modern designation for Egypt. (1, 1, 1)
- 21—Wexfordman who played on two losing Railway Cup teams on same day. Initials. (1, 1)
- 22—RNI (sic) (3)
- 23—Slander alone could contain famous Kerry family of forwards. (7)
- 25—Kerry-born referee of top matches. Initials. (1, 1)
- 26—One of hurling's greatest goalkeepers—Galwayman. Initials. (1, 1)
- 27—TG (sic) (2).
- 30—Request or query ? (3)
- 32—South-west coast island almost makes Kilkenny half-back. (5)
- 33—The age-grades in which hurling will be revived. (5)
- 35—All-Ireland minor champions in 1966. (4)

DOWN :

- 2—See 1 across.
- 3—Strongholds of the law, or taverns for refreshment. (4)
- 4—A major score, and a soft one, too. (4, 4)



- 5—Training session often begins with a loosening canter about. (4, 5)
- 6—A Cork McCarthy. (4)
- 7—Small advertisement. (3)
- 8—The mythical reserve who fills all positions from time to time, when players are doubtful. (1, 1, 5)
- 11—Kerry footballer (midfield area) who sounds as though he was a jazz fan. (3, 6)
- 12—Mayo minor full-back. Initials. (1, 1)
- 16—Seems as though the Mayo team sometimes contains a girl. (5)
- 17—Railway Cup winners in football in 1941. (7)
- 19—Regally played his part in Galway teams of the fifties. (7)
- 24—As 30 across. (3)
- 28—To catch a player's garb in this manner is a foul. (4)
- 29—The referee's solution to a stalemate. (3)
- 31—Silence 'Bert, for a Limerick hurler of the 40's. Initials. (1, 1)
- 34—He captained Dublin in football from right-back. Initials. (1, 1)

Solution : Page 60

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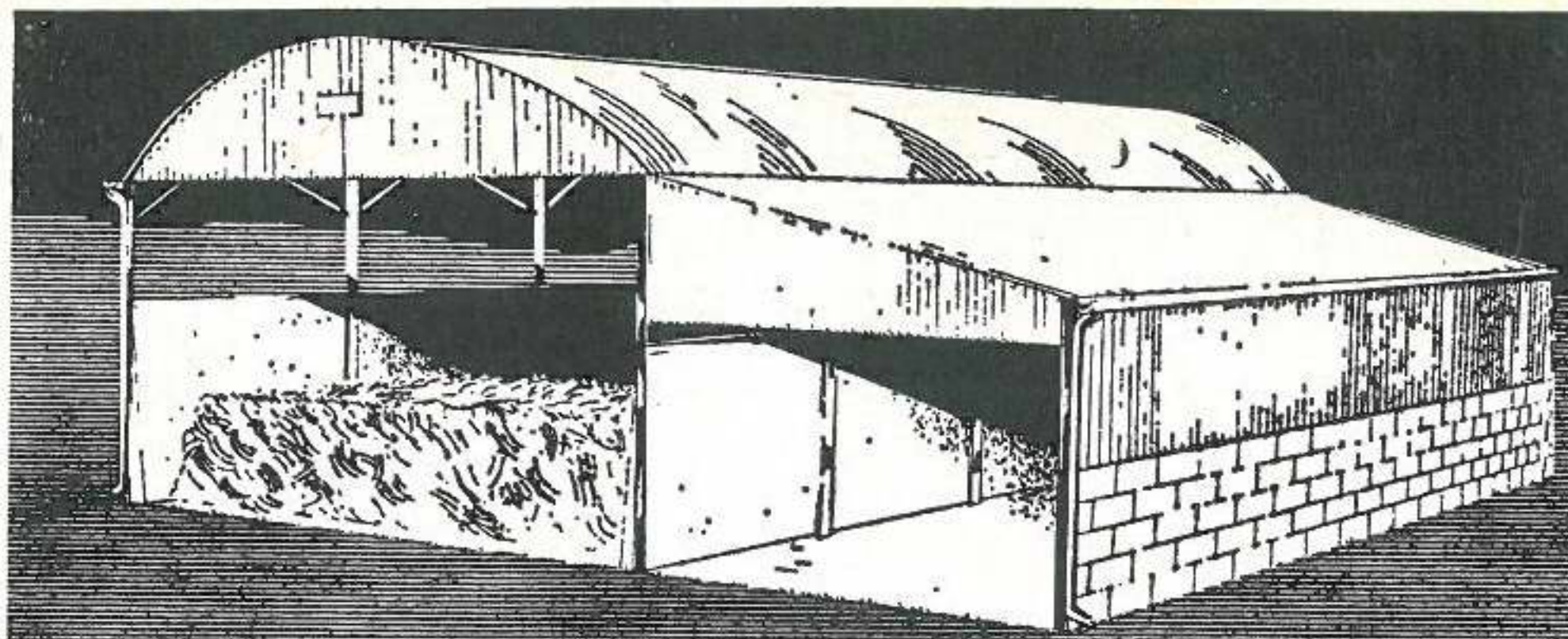
achieved. At the moment such activities as the promotion of the Irish language and Irish dancing receive scant attention from most clubs. The reason for this is often the fact that the few officials who run the clubs have already enough work on their hands. They just have not got the time to devote to these projects. In the larger club separate committees could be designated to look after these important aspects of club life.

Similarly, sports like handball, athletics and camogie could at last find their true place within the framework of our G.A.A. clubs.

I think it is reasonable to presume that the problems which confront counties like Derry and Armagh are similar in nature to those of other counties. Nevertheless not all people foresee a solution along exactly similar lines. One enthusiastic Derry Gael with whom I discussed the subject was adamant that the "amalgamation proposals" would be rejected by the majority of clubs in his county. He summed up his own feelings on the matter in one short sentence. "The players just wouldn't pull together—they would not agree among themselves".

However he did claim that co-operation between clubs in other fields, such as the organisation of social events or language classes might be possible. Perhaps this view of limited co-operation might prove more effective initially than my own preference for complete reorganisation. Indeed, it might lead to eventual amalgamation by consent. One point is crystal clear, however, all clubs cannot afford to 'go-it-alone'. If they do the failure rate will be high.

Make no mistake serious problems will have to be faced in any form of reorganisation. But we cannot afford to despair of finding a solution. The cost would be too great. The future prosperity of the Association is at stake.



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The late Willie Young

WRITING in GAELIC SPORT some years ago, the late Paul Russell stated that the greatest goalkeeping display he had ever seen was given by Cavan's Willie Young. Last month the Cavanman also went to his eternal reward. If there is a special corner in heaven where great Gaels congregate, and I like to believe that there is, then Paul Russell and Willie Young are now busy recalling all of those great games of the 'twenties and 'thirties when together they graced so many fields and won so many honours.

Willie Young first came on to the Cavan team in 1918—as a forward. He later moved into goal and was there right up to 1938. During that time he collected two All-Ireland medals and fourteen Ulster medals.

That memorable day at Cavan in 1933 when the Breffnimen ended Kerry's record-breaking, unbeaten run, Willie Young was one of the heroes of the hour. From there Cavan went on to capture their first All-Ireland title.

Ill and incapacitated for some years past, Willie Young made light of his suffering and continued to take a great interest in Gaelic affairs.

His coffin was carried to the graveyard by team-mates of the 1920-1930 era, while current Cavan players provided a guard of honour. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

DOWN'S FUTURE

Despite some unhappy recent happenings, it could be that Down are about to enter a new era. The newly elected County Chairman, Paddy Donoghue of Newcastle, is a young and enthusiastic Gael who has much to give the county. Then, too, there is the fact that Jerry Brown of Newry is new county team-manager. Jerry steered Tyrone to the heights in 1956 and '57 and I rate him one of the most qualified team mentors in the country.

No mention of Down would be complete without a tribute to that great-hearted and loyal Irishman, George Tinnelly, who earlier this year vacated the County Board chair after as illustrious a term as is on record. Chosen President of the Board by acclaim, George will, of course, continue to play an active role in the county's affairs.

EAMONN MURRAY

Ulster recently lost another great Gael with the passing of Eamonn Murray of Tydavnet. A native of

Scotstown, he was a prominent member of the Monaghan team of the mid-thirties. A national teacher, Eamonn was a foremost language enthusiast and was a founder member of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. His coffin was carried by former clubmates Leo Hamill, Ownie Boylan, Terence McCluskey and Frank McCarron.

DONEGAL'S NEW CHAIRMAN

Donegal's new Chairman, Pádraig Mac a' Ghoill of Ardara, brings much experience and enthusiasm to the office. A native of the Gaeltacht, he has had a long association with both the County Board and the South West Divisional Board. I look forward to an even more determined football bid under his leadership and perhaps we can depend on the new Board to also give more enthusiastic support to the hurling revival.

WOLFE TONE EXAMPLE

A fine example of how a G.A.A. club can promote the Irish language and cultural affairs is to be found in the annual Aeridheacht organised by the Wolfe Tone Club, Greencastle, Co. Antrim. This event is now an established and very popular affair — drawing people to it from all outlying districts including Belfast.

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WISE WORDS FROM MR. GILL

By Frank Hughes

EXTENDING a civic welcome on behalf of the people of Portarlinton to the Laois County Convention, the County Council Chairman, Mr. J. F. Gill, stated: "In recent years much has been said about Rule 27. The G.A.A. is being criticised from many quarters in respect to its stand. But I would remind you that this is a very healthy sign. One never hears criticism of an organisation that is going downhill. It is because the G.A.A. is prospering and going ahead year by year that it is being attacked. But there is nothing to fear."

Wise words surely and worth contemplating. I never looked at it like that before but there can be no doubt but that there are many outsiders who are most envious of the G.A.A.'s progress and so they try to cast aspersion on it.

Developing this point further, could it be that many of those inside the G.A.A. ranks who do likewise are motivated out of jealousy because they have not been elected to certain positions?

WEXFORD FINANCE

Wexford finances make somewhat alarming reading. In 1964 the annual report showed a profit of £2,265-8-1; in 1965 there was a loss of £45-16-10; in 1966 the deficit grew to £1,600-7-5.

A closer analysis of the position shows that the new pooling of National League gate-money has had a major hand in the 1966 figure. For example, in 1964 Wexford cleared £4,691-12-6 from the League. In 1966 the county received only £502-7-6.

The new pooling system is, of

course, a big blow to strong counties such as Wexford and Kilkenny—but, over all, the province benefits from it with weaker counties such as Wicklow, Carlow, etc., doing quite nicely when, in fact, it was not uncommon for them to lose heavily on the League in both football and hurling in the past.

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that in 1966 the Wexford footballers showed a bigger League profit than did the hurlers. It was the first time this had happened since the mid-'forties when the Slaneysiders were Leinster football champions.

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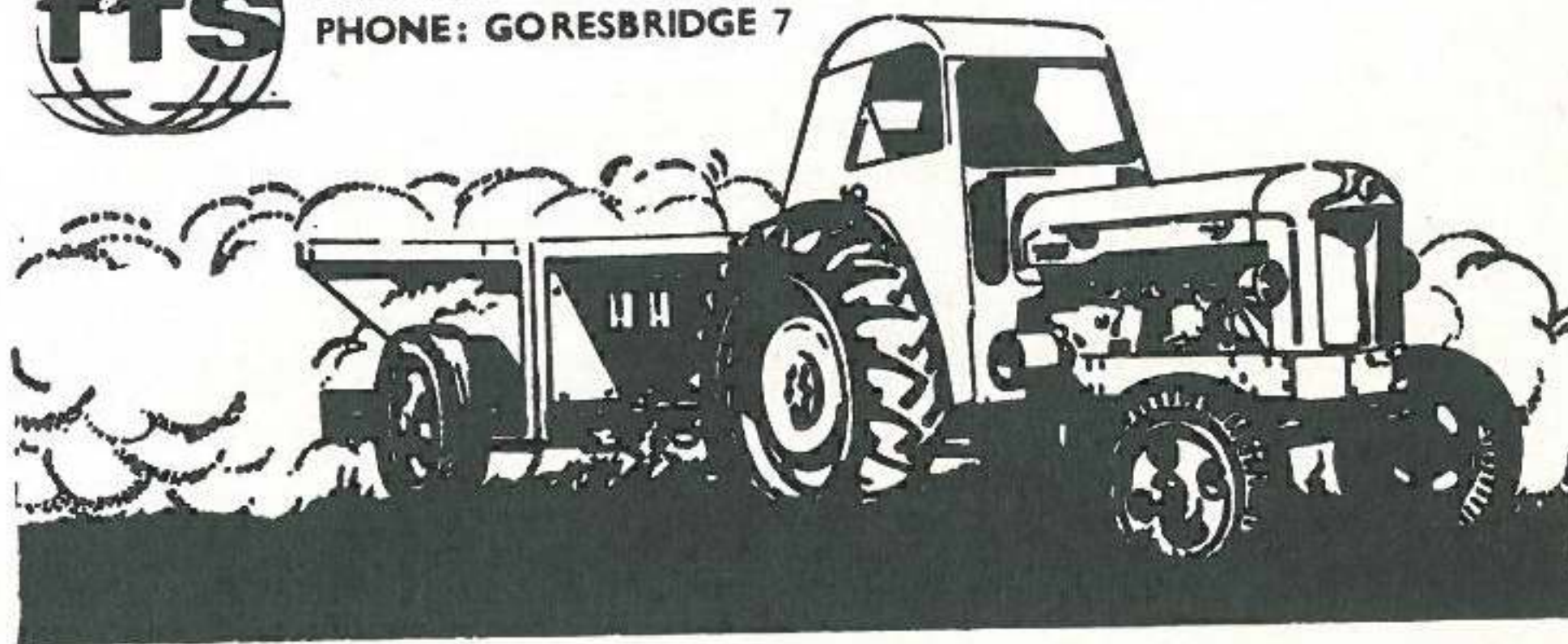
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● From previous page

BRENDAN CORISH

It was interesting to see the leader of the Labour Party, Brendan Corish, playing an active role at the Wexford Convention. It is not, of course, surprising for long before he became a political figure, he was a well-known Wexford footballer—who might, in fact, have gone on to become an outstanding defender had not political responsibility been thrust upon him.

Brendan Corish was also, of course, the referee in that much-recalled game when, in an effort to prevent a vital score from a free in the dying moments, a defender mounted the crossbar. Although I have heard the story in full quite often, I simply cannot recall the outcome. It could be argued that there is nothing in the rule-book to prevent a player standing on the crossbar—except, of course, common sense.

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A TRIBUTE FROM THE CANON

JAY DRENNAN and GAELIC SPORT were quoted by Very Rev. Philip Canon Fogarty in his address as Chairman of the Tipperary County Convention. The extract was:

"The Tipperary hurlers were not only one of the finest teams that ever graced the game, but they were sporting to a degree, and, most of all, they maintained the standard of hurling at its very highest when there was no other team to do it".

Certainly Canon Fogarty could not have quoted from a more eloquent G.A.A. writer. I have never met my fellow-contributor but have long admired his artistry with the pen. There is no man writing on Gaelic games to-day, and in this I include all the nationally-known scribes, who can go near Drennan for description and succinct writing. GAELIC SPORT should be, and no doubt is, proud to have his exclusive service.

TELEVISION AND THE G.A.A.

Veteran Kildare Gael, Mr. Fintan Brennan, spoke out strongly on the question of television coverage of the G.A.A. affairs at the county's annual Convention and in doing so concurred with all of what the Editor of this publication has been stating at regular intervals for quite some time.

I agree with them both. The G.A.A. is not getting a fair deal from R.T.E. and let's hope that Congress takes a firm stand on the entire question on Easter Sunday.

The two developments I would like to see brought about would be:

(a) An end to the 'live' showings of All-Ireland semi-finals, with a film of the games being shown that

night as an alternative. This would save thousands of pounds at the gates in Croke Park and would also give two most vital Sundays back to County Boards for club fixtures.

(b) A mid-week and exclusively G.A.A. programme which would be of the same standard as 'Telefis Feirme'. The latter is an excellently produced programme as those of us 'on the land' will vouch for. The G.A.A. should accept nothing less than the same standard.

MAYO LEAD

A step very much in the right direction has been taken by the Mayo County Board who have decided that the county senior final will in future be made a show-piece of the G.A.A. in the county.

There will be a band and parade, programme giving the lineout and an after-match function at which both teams will be entertained and the trophy presented.

It is all only as it should be—but yet it is surprising how many counties fail in this regard.

IN BRIEF . . .

Only 25 out of 70 Mayo clubs bothered to insure their players in 1966—so said County Secretary, Johnny Mulvey, recently. What an irresponsible situation. Those officials who neglected to insure their players were surely unworthy of the trust placed in them. There is no club worthy of the name which cannot afford the small annual premium of £3 for a senior club and £2 for a junior club.

* * *

I note that a number of counties have taken Kerry's example in ap-

pointing a Press Officer. It is a lead well worth following.

* * *

Judging from newspaper reports one gets the impression that the Kerry and Mayo Conventions were the most stimulating—the latter mainly because of the intellectual power of Chairman, Fr. Leo Morahan: also that the Laois Convention scored highest for abuse and hot air.

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TOGS TALK

By JAY DRENNAN

I SUPPOSE one of the singular things about football and hurling—other sports, too, sometimes—is the fact that meeting the players in ordinary circumstances and in their everyday clothes often proves so surprising. I am sure the fact that we build up some sort of false image, larger than life, of them has something to do with this. But, there is also the fact that very many players can look quite differently in togs; some of them strip big, other strip small.

But, I have found that almost invariably the players of Gaelic games strip big; or, to put it another way, they look smaller and not quite so impressive in their ordinary clothes. You probably cannot see those muscled thighs and firm hips in a Sunday suit as you can in a pair of shorts.

Another thing which I have heard discussed quite often is the effect of different county jerseys on the appearance of the players in them. It is, of course, an axiom of the ladies' fashion world that the more generously padded should never on any account wear hoops, nor the skinny wear vertical stripes. And it is true that some counties who wear hooped jerseys do look larger than life size, and also sadly true that a player carrying a few extra pounds round the waist can less easily escape notice in hoops.

Kilkenny, on the other hand always look trim, slim and brimful . . . You need to be a very big man, indeed, to look large in a black and amber jersey. And Galway's jerseys of maroon also tend, I find, to give the impression of men bigger than you really find

them after they have changed.

That fact, apart, however, most players nowadays look the part more after the match than did many of their predecessors. Most of them seem to affect classically cut dark suits; many wear blazers which have been adopted by a number of counties, especially those who have made American trips in recent times. They are, on the whole, a very conservative group of dressers, not by any means wishing to add to their noticeability by wearing off-beat fashions.

Clean-cut, lean facial features always tell the sportsman, of course, but Gaelic players, I find, have a distinct neatness of hair-style, too. Many still like the crew-cut which has a special athletic connotation, and which was the reason for its popularity in the States even among those who were obviously non-athletic. But though not so many players nowadays sport the crew-cut it is still fairly clear that practically all favour a brief hair-style, avoiding the untidy, and far more uncomfortable position of the fellow with hair and perspiration straggling into his eyes.

I wonder whether it is a sign of greater care for personal appearance or a more unworried generation that there seem to be far less bald or balding players about these days than I can remember in the past. Perhaps, on the other hand, it is that the restoratives have increased their efficiency with the years.

Generally, the present generation eschew all headgear, and it would be an odd contrast, indeed, to imagine them among the last gener-

ation who often wore caps, and in contrast, too, to the great Munster hurler, John Keane, always immaculate in his brown trilby.

Appearances on the field have, to my mind, improved the looks of the players immensely. Of course, it is a matter of taste and of

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NOVEMBER 14, 1926, saw the playing of the first ever Railway Cup games. On that day Munster and Connacht qualified for the football final at the expense of Ulster and Leinster respectively. A week later Leinster beat Connacht to qualify for the first hurling final. Both finals were played on March 17, 1927, with Munster winning the football and Leinster the hurling.

The list of titles to date is :

	H.	F.	T.
Munster	29	6	35
Leinster	10	17	27
Ulster	0	10	10
Connacht	1	7	8

Kerry and Galway share the unique record of having won Railway Cup titles on their own. It was an all-Kerry Munster team which won the first football title in 1927. Oddly enough, that fifteen was little changed from the team which had lost to Kildare in the All-Ireland final six months earlier. An all-Galway Connacht team caused a sensation by winning the hurling crown in 1947. The team, however, went quite close to winning an All-Ireland title. They failed to Kilkenny by a point in the semi-final the following August. Kilkenny beat Cork in the final.

* * *

Ulster's lone hurling final appearance was in 1945 when they scored a shock win over Leinster in the semi-final. However, they were beaten by Munster in the final.

* * *

Des Foley is the only player to have won two Railway Cup medals on the same day. However, he is not the only man to have played in both finals on the same afternoon. Nick Rackard performed this feat in 1950 but Leinster lost both games.

Garrett Howard, Mick Ryan, Tommy Treacy, Paul Russell, George Comerford and Bobby Beggs share the distinction of

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fashion, too, but not many will disagree that the modern player with his neat shorts, giving far freer movement and ease, and his looser jerseys, giving him none of the strait-jacket appearance and feeling of some of the older ones looks better. But, I suppose the greatest revolution has occurred in footwear.

To-day's most modern boot bears little resemblance to that of even as little as twenty years ago. Of course, the greater emphasis on speed has led to a cutting down of all weight to a minimum. This led, perhaps, a year or two ago to an excess when the topless, shoe-type boot was popular for a time. I think, however, that most players are now becoming convinced that some little support and cushioning is needed for the ankle and are returning to the half-cut boot, which seem both a safe and utilitarian compromise.

There used to be a problem about studs, or "cogs" as they were usually called. The baggage-man had always to have his last and hammer with him for last minute alterations or for the help of the careless ones who never bothered to find out if they had any studs in their boots. Much of this is now also a thing of the past; the influence of rubber and nylon soles with studs built-on as a part of the sole has been a revolution, a wonderful aid, though some players have told me that they took quite a bit of getting used to at the start.

Last thing which still needs some attention is the stockings. I think it is about time every county had its players uniformly clad in the same colour stockings, for the sight of a motley collection of not always impeccably cared for stockings takes considerably from the whole trim appearance which should be sought. It is good psychological teaching that a neat and business-like appearance can influence one to a neat and business-like performance.

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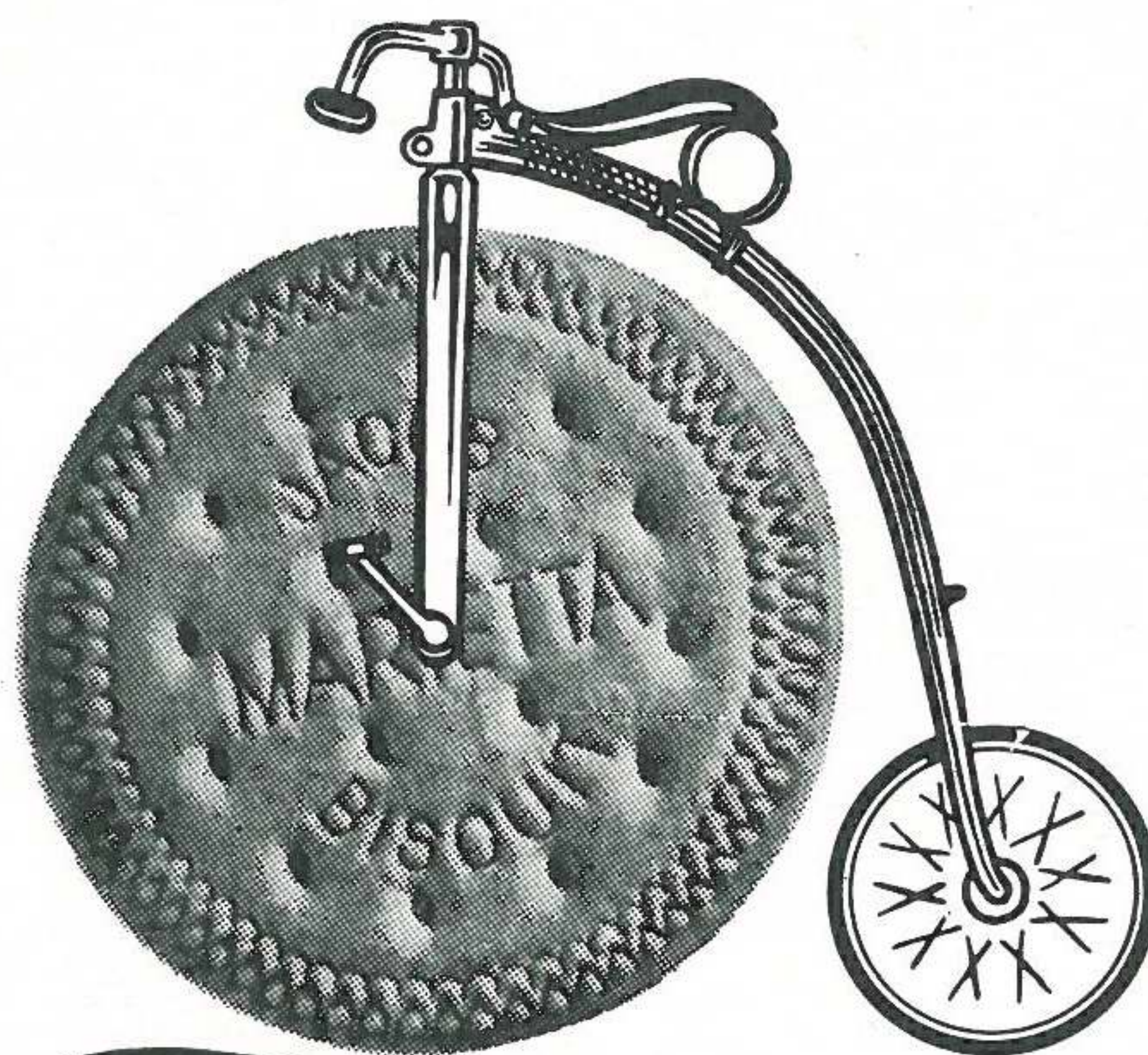
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Railway Cup Hurling

Winners Roll of Honour

1927	Leinster 1-11, Munster 2-6.	1961	Munster 4-12, Leinster 3-9.	1964	Leinster 3-7, Munster 2-9.
1928	Munster 2-2, Leinster 1-2.	1962	Leinster 1-11, Munster 1-9.	1965	Leinster 3-11, Munster 0-9.
1929	Munster 5-3, Leinster 3-1.	1963	Munster 2-8, Leinster 2-7.	1966	Munster 3-13, Leinster 3-11.
1930	Munster 4-6, Leinster 2-7.				
1931	Munster 1-12, Leinster 2-6.				
1932	Leinster 6-8, Munster 4-4.				
1933	Leinster 4-6, Munster 3-6.				
1934	Munster 6-3, Leinster 3-2.				
1935	Munster 3-4, Leinster 3-0.				
1936	Leinster 2-8, Munster 3-4.				
1937	Munster 1-9, Leinster 3-1.				
1938	Munster 6-2, Leinster 4-3.				
1939	Munster 4-4, Leinster 1-6.				
1940	Munster 4-9, Leinster 5-4.				
1941	Leinster 2-5, Munster 2-4.				
1942	Munster 4-9, Leinster 4-4.				
1943	Munster 4-3, Leinster 3-5.				
1944	Munster 4-10, Connacht 4-4.				
1945	Munster 6-8, Ulster 2-0.				
1946	Munster 3-12, Connacht 4-8.				
1947	Connacht 2-5, Munster 1-1.				
1948	Munster 3-5, Leinster 2-5.				
1949	Munster 5-3, Connacht 2-9.				
1950	Munster 0-9, Leinster 1-3.				
1951	Munster 4-9, Leinster 3-6.				
1952	Munster 5-11, Connacht, 4-2.				
1953	Munster 5-7, Leinster 5-5.				
1954	Leinster 0-9, Munster 0-5.				
1955	Munster 6-8, Connacht 3-4.				
1956	Leinster 5-11, Munster 1-7.				
1957	Munster 5-7, Leinster 2-5.				
1958	Munster 3-7, Leinster 3-5.				
1959	Munster 7-11, Connacht 2-6.				
1960	Munster 6-6, Leinster 2-7.				



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Railway Cup : Facts and Figures

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having won Railway Cup medals with two provinces.

* * *

Paul Russell had the unique distinction of having been selected with different provinces in the same year. Both Munster and Leinster picked him in 1928 and it took a Central Council ruling to decide which province he should play with. Leinster got him and he won a sensational final for them when, with Ulster leading by two points and only the same number of minutes remaining, he scored three long distance points. The amazing

part of it all was that he was playing as a half-back.

* * *

Jack Higgins and John Joe Sheehy hold the record of having captained three victorious Railway Cup football teams.

The most one-sided Railway Cup hurling game was the Munster-Ulster semi-final of 1947 Munster won 9-7 to nil. This was the only game in which a team failed to score. Yet, despite their decisive victory Munster lost to Connacht, 2-7 to 1-1 in the final.

* * *

Only once was a Railway Cup game unfinished. That was in

1928. Munster were leading Ulster by two points at Croke Park and little time remained. The ball went over the line for a throw-in (side-line kick had yet to be introduced). An Ulsterman threw in the ball before the linesman had signalled, but the referee did not notice that the linesman had not signalled. Munster protested but play went on and Ulster sent to the net. Munster refused to kick out the ball and the game ended prematurely.

* * *

In the 1932 football semi-final Leinster beat Ulster 4-11 to 1-3. Munster beat Leinster by the same seventeen points margin (5-6 to 1-1) in the 1937 semi-final. These were the most one-sided football games.

* * *

Christy Ring's record of twenty-two years' service with Munster is by far the longest period of inter-provincial service. The only other player to come remotely near it is Dan O'Keeffe who had seventeen years in the Munster goal.

* * *

Although Munster are at the bottom of the list with regard to football titles, they have in fact played in 24 finals. The football final appearance list reads: Leinster 26, Munster 24, Ulster 17, Connacht 12.

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15O	15D	G	R				17M
18V	O	D	O	N	O	U	R
20A	R	A	U	R			21W
22R	N	I	23A	N	D	E	R
P	25G	25S	D	A	27T	28G	
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THE CONNACHT COUNCIL

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW 1967 :

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

Semi-final—Galway v. Sligo or Mayo (if Sligo at Sligo on June 25, if Mayo at Pearse

Stadium, Galway, on June 25). **July 16** : **Final**—at venue to be arranged.

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"It's a fine head" the breeder exclaimed.

"Wait 'til you taste it" I said,
taking a deep drink....

"Taste the head?" he said, looking surprised.

I don't know what he thinks the head
on a pint is for!



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