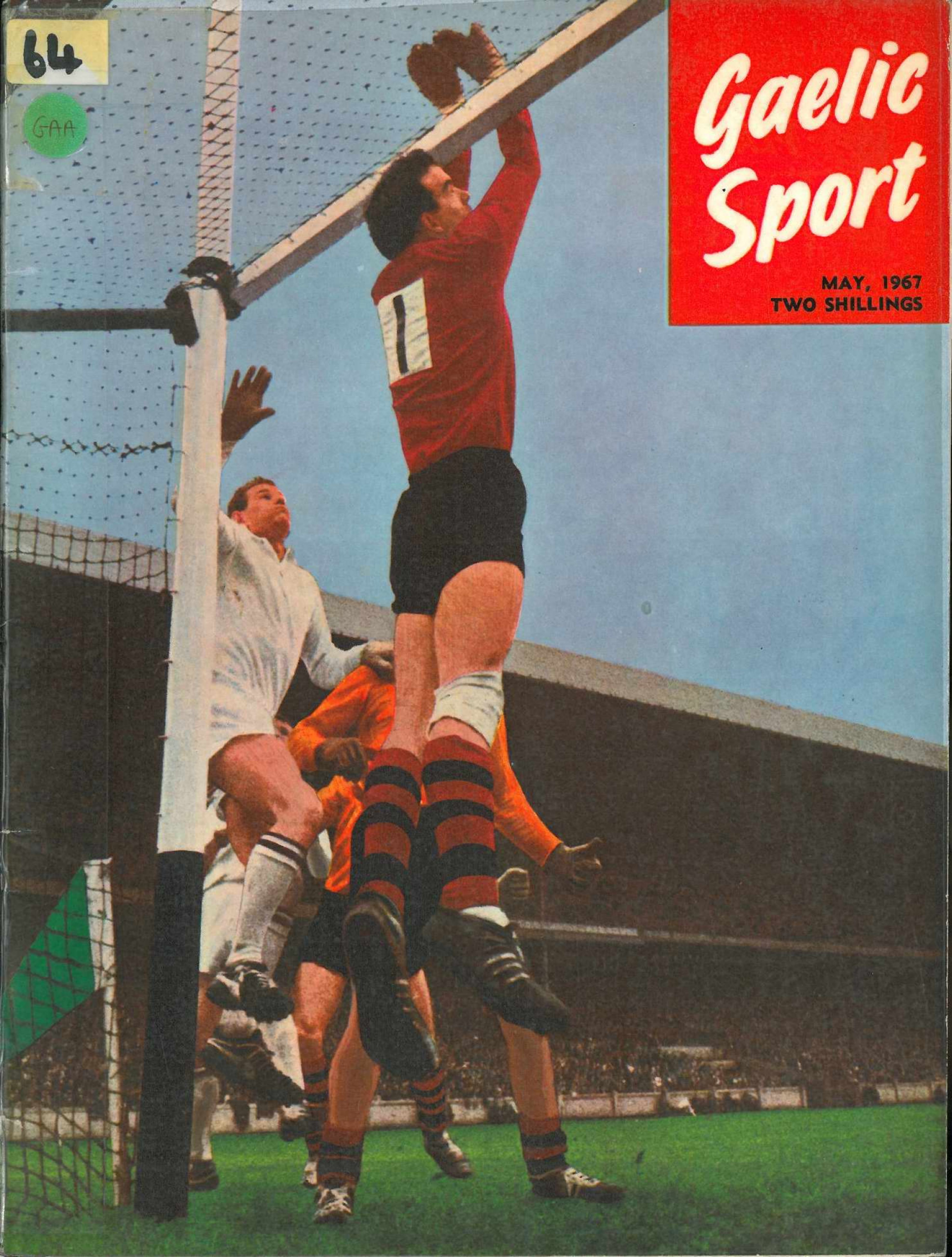


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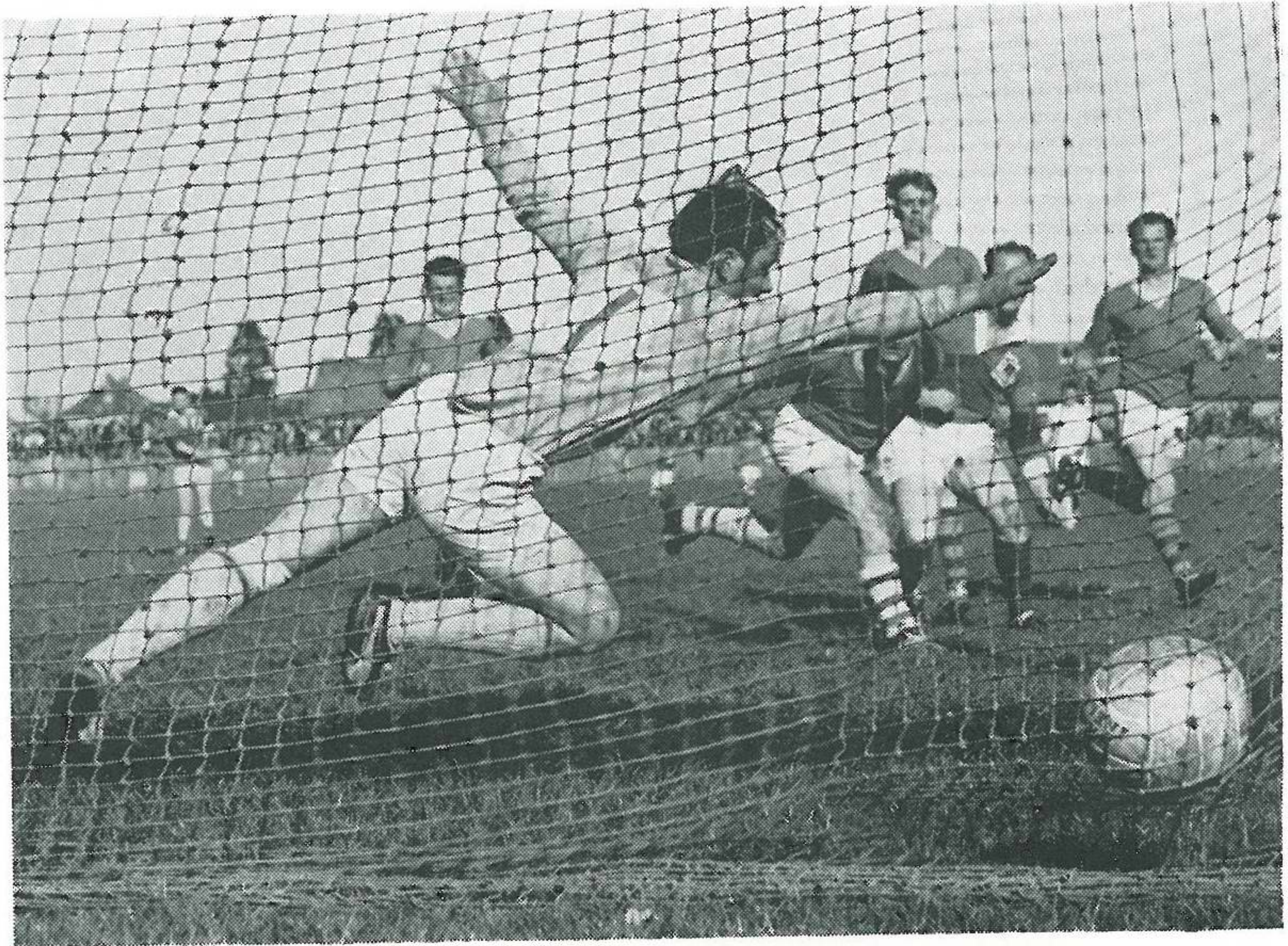
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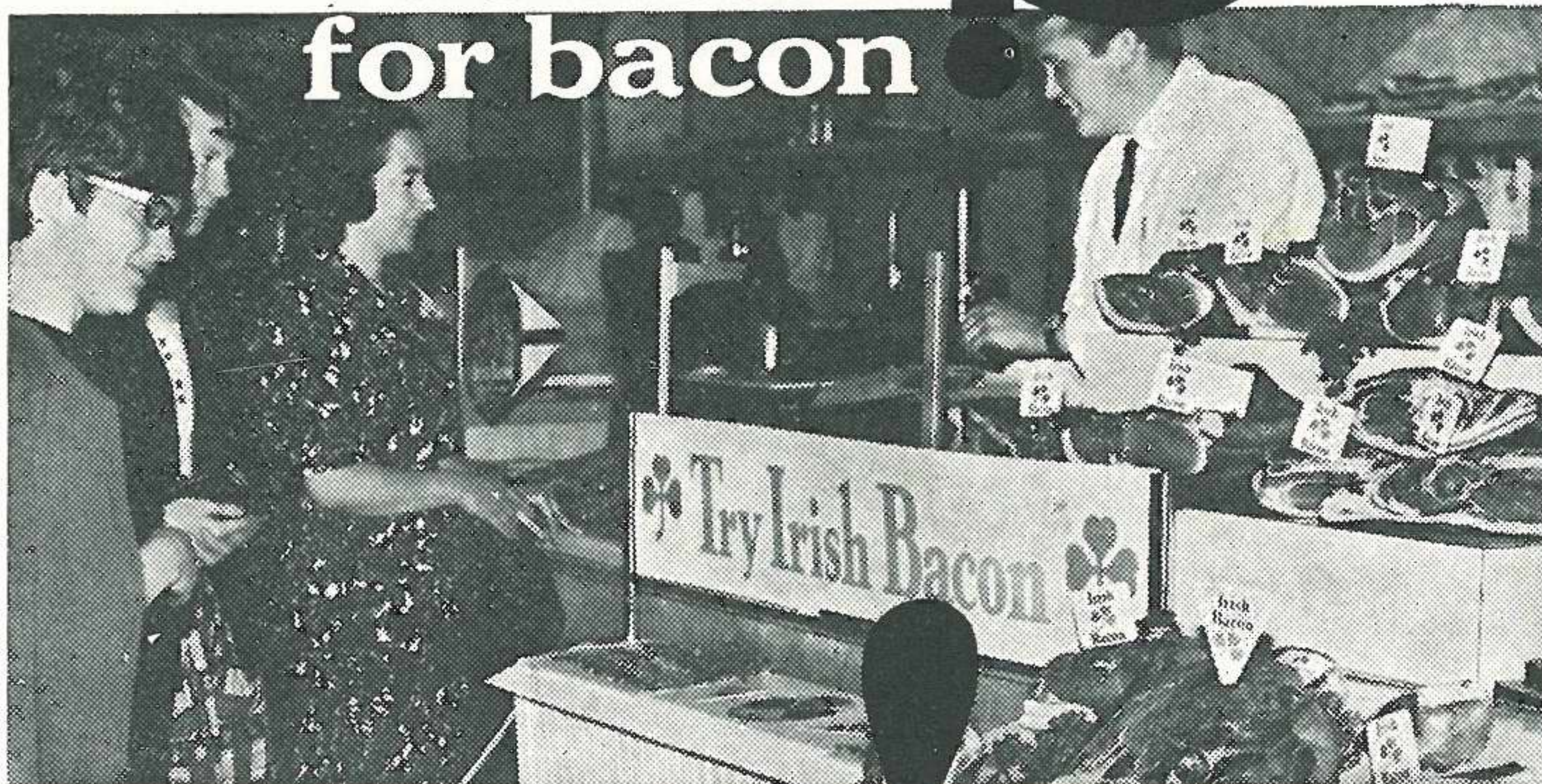


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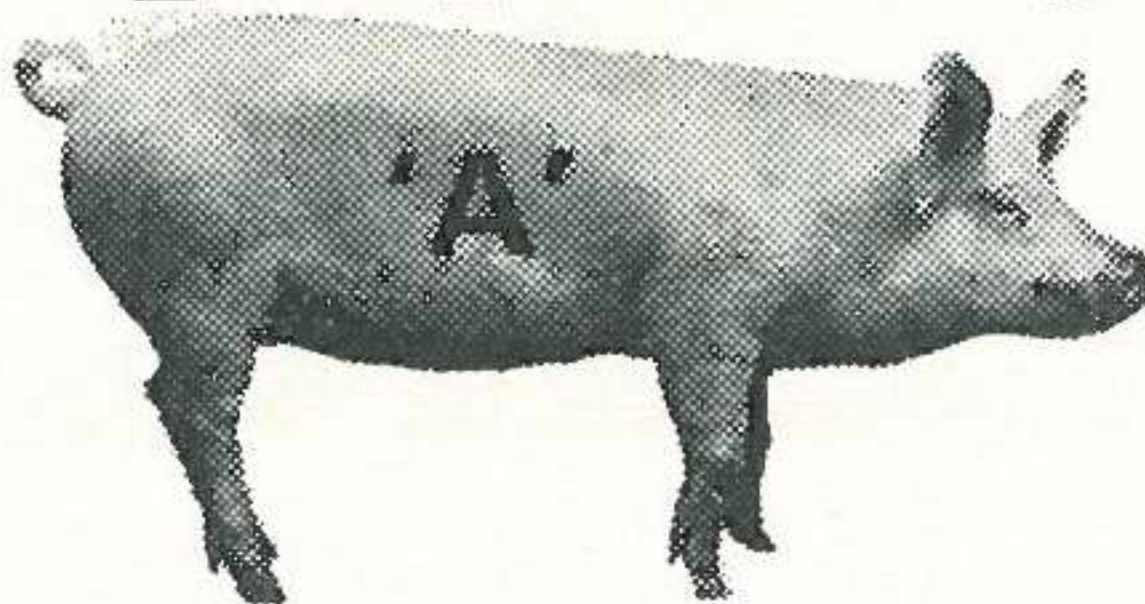
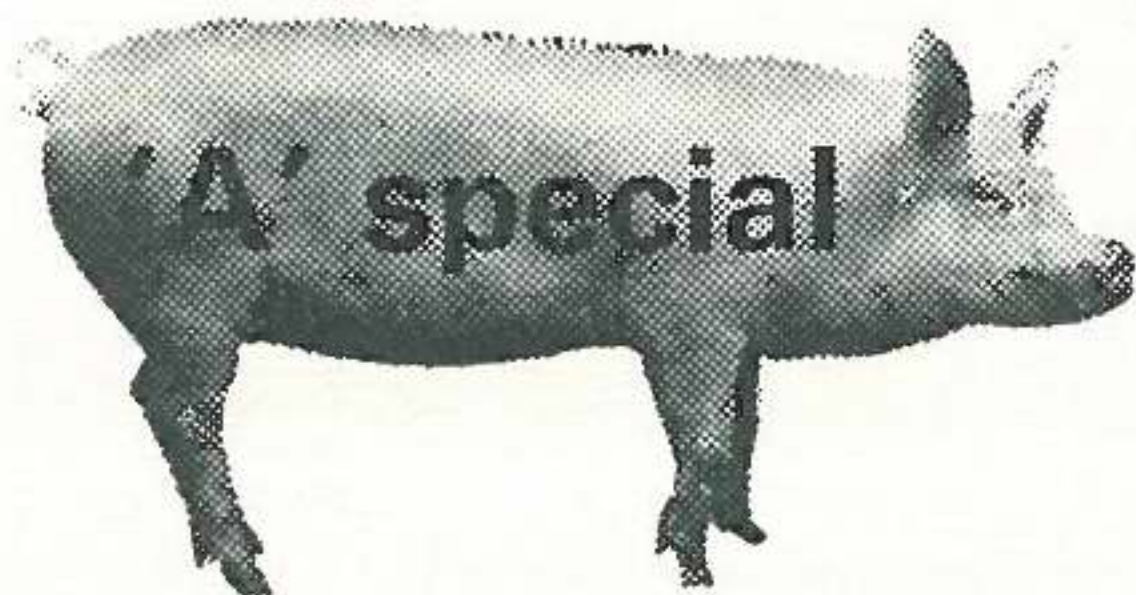
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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 10. No. 5. MAY, 1967.

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## COVER PICTURE

Patsy McAlinden, the Down goalkeeper, making a spectacular leap to save a point in the Grounds Tournament final against Galway at Croke Park on November 7, 1965.

## COMMENT

# Fáilte, Limerick!

WE are not being partisan when we say "Welcome back, Limerick." The once familiar green of the Shannonside will once again blend sweetly with the sod of Croke Park on May 7 and it cannot but revive memories.

How the years fly! When recently Mick Mackey was honoured at the *Gaelic Weekly* All-Stars Banquet it was startling to be reminded that 33 years had gone since he won his first All-Ireland medal. For many it appeared but yesterday since the great Ahane warrior was seen thundering goalwards.

It has been a long wait for the arrival of those worthy to don the mantle of Mackey and his confreres. For hurling's sake we hope that these men have come. Limerick has so much to give and the game has, for a generation, felt its absence.

It is interesting to note that it was a defeat by Kilkenny in the 1933 National League final which marked the beginning of Limerick's golden era. Could it be that history will repeat itself in 1967 and set off a similar aftermath.

We must admit being somewhat partial to such a development.



---

WHAT manner of man is Séamus Ó Riain, the twenty-second President of the G.A.A.? What does he believe in and in what direction is he likely to guide the Association during his term of office?

For an answer to these questions we turn to the Tipperaryman's address at the Munster Convention in Tralee on March 4 last. What follows is an extensive extract from that address. From it, we suggest it is clear that the G.A.A. will continue on its traditional lines and that the three years which lie ahead will be ones of renewal and expansion at club level.

The great impetus given the G.A.A. by Alf Murray will, we believe, continue under Séamus Ó Riain. We pledge him our support in that direction.

"You will have noticed that the importance of social activity in the Association is emphasised very much for some time. Talk of club rooms, social centres and social occasions is so often repeated that it may become a jargon, which sounds well when included in a speech but which has no very definite meaning or application.

"What is the meaning of this emphasis on social activity and why is there this expressed need for it? I will give you my opinion and the reasons which I believe exist for it.

"One of the greatest social needs of to-day is a sense of community in each parish. This sense of community binds the people of a parish into a socially-conscious group which is alive to its needs and aware of its strength and of the values which are important to uphold. Each unit strengthened makes a stronger national unit and gives life and purpose to the whole society.

"In the early days of this century we had that strong sense of belonging to a parish, and to a

country and to a certain way of life which held definite values for us. Our Association was one of the chief forces binding the community and animating it. In recent times this community sense has been weakening and we as a national Association with a definite national message cannot sit by and see the community cut its moorings and drift under the influence of every breeze that blows.

"It is our purpose and our duty to reinvigorate the parish society, to bring people together regularly through the club, to emphasise the ideals which are of perennial value, and through this social means to encourage and to strengthen the cultural forces which make the strength of the community and the nation.

"We are passing through a period of conflict of intellectual, social and cultural conflict, the result of which will decide the kind of society which we will create for the future.

"It is popular to-day to take an objective view of things but not to become involved, not to be committed to a definite line of action. Every influence is accepted in the name of a broad outlook, the cosmopolitan view is the one that gains most admiration. But the

cosmopolitan never constitutes the strength of a people. That rests in those who acknowledge and live by the robust traditions from which they derive. The aim of this Association is to strengthen those traditions in a modern context.

"When we come to assess the real problems of to-day as they relate to our Association, we realise the value of the principles laid down and adhered to. But lip service to principles or passive acceptance of them are of little value in modern life, where involvement and activity are necessary if we wish to survive. There is no place for stagnating—all must be movement—and we are either moving forward or we are dropping back.

"If we could visualise the ideal member of the Association, and each of us must have some picture of what the ideal member should be, how he would act and what stand he would take on important questions, what principles guide him, then we would fashion our ways to reach towards that ideal.

"Most of us can recall such a one whom we admired and who by his example and the force of his sincerity, loyalty and devotion had a deep and lasting influence on our thinking. Here was one who stood

# The new President





*The great impetus given  
to the G.A.A. by  
Alf Murray will, we  
believe, continue under  
SÉAMUS Ó RIAIN*

for something definite, who had convictions and who lived his life in relation to them. From him we can learn not so much the value of seeing and sympathising with every point of view that is put forward but of going beyond that and seeing one point of view clearly and with understanding, adopting it with conviction and pursuing it with purpose.

"It is a question of making a decision as to which road to follow and the decision is for each individual to make. But choosing means renouncing and renouncing calls for sacrifice and this is what gives strength and purpose.

"If we have not some strong central purpose and loyalty we will never acquire real national strength in spite of all the advocates of the common sense attitude.

"Pearse's main criticism of the Murder Machine was that it was a system of common sense suited to the needs of a progressive state. But progress at what a price! How many precious things have we flung from us to lighten ourselves for the race, he asked.

"Our games have been saved, but I wonder do we fully acknowledge that this was accomplished because there were people who willed it strong enough.

"But our language, the most precious thing in our cultural heritage, has been dragged into the courts of controversy on trial for its life. This is no place for a talk on methods and programmes, but it is sad and strange that so many profess to love the language and so few are willing to suffer inconvenience for it.

"The issue is simple: either the language is to live as a vital force or we consign it to the halls of learning from whence we can produce it at convenient times to show the culture that once was ours.

"We cannot expect some non-personal agency to strengthen the language for us—it is something we must do as individuals, for ourselves. In a democracy, surely people do not want things to be done for them—they do things themselves. But I wonder have we lost the desire and the ability to do things ourselves. Or do we lack the courage and the faith that are necessary?

"If we are convinced that the language is worth preserving there is only one road for us to travel. And this Association has always expressed that conviction. Now

we ask of each individual to give encouragement wherever there is discouragement and to show faith and trust wherever opposition appears.

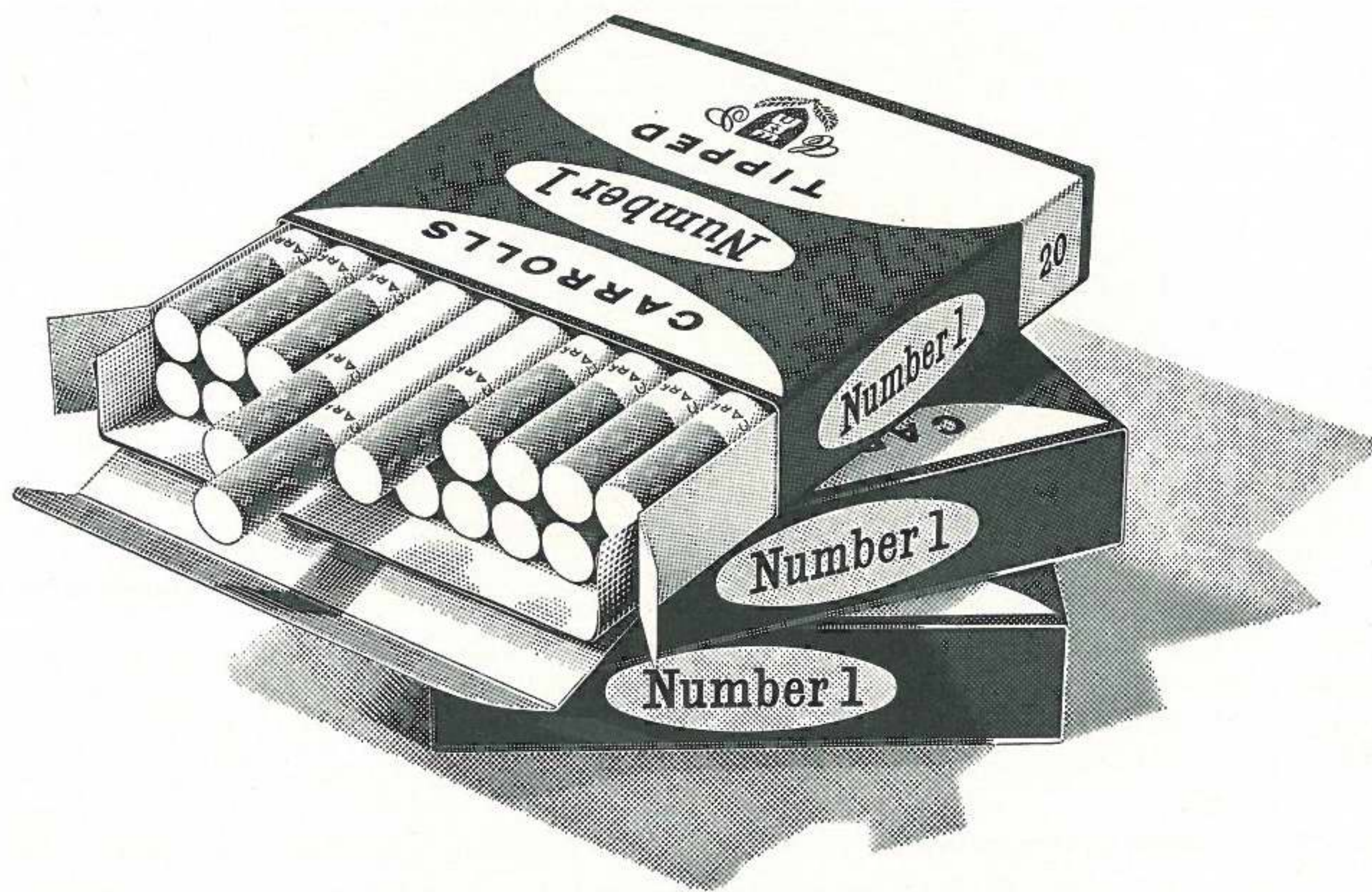
"New times demand from us all sincerity and commitment to our aims. We need to call on all resources and every potential so that every club and every individual member may have his part to play, whether he is an active player, a player of the past, or a non-playing member. Each will see his contribution in relation to the general advance of the Association. That contribution may be on the playing field or organising cultural and social activities, refereeing, coaching juveniles, improving amenities indoor and outdoor; every individual effort no matter how small is an enrichment of the Association, and a satisfying personal experience.

"And working together we can look forward to an Ireland where economic strength is matched by spiritual and cultural power and where no one will be ashamed to take a stand for those principles and ideals which have given us our claim to national identity and freedom".



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## THE EDITOR'S ADVICE ABOUT TELEVISION

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# Let's get smart!

THE closest voting at Congress in 1967 was not on coaching, or the Presidency, but on the Roscommon motion which asked that All-Ireland semi-finals not be televised. This motion was only six votes short of being carried.

We had a particular interest in that motion for we have long been advocates of a more realistic policy with regard to television.

A year ago we went into the entire question at considerable length and supplied all of the relevant attendance figures, plus a number of graphs and projections, all of which established beyond doubt that the G.A.A. is losing heavily on the question of "live" television and that the Association will continue to lose at an increasing rate.

In proposing Roscommon's motion, Seamus Duke made an eloquent and highly professional case. We flatter ourselves to think that he may have borrowed some of our tabulations. At least, we would certainly hope that he did for it would mean that the seed which we tried to sow was now bearing some fruit.

We hope too that Roscommon will bring this motion forward to Congress once again next year, and should they do so we believe that it will be carried, for strengthening the case will be the further financial losses and the further fall in attendance figures which will

occur between now and Congress 1968.

In fact we now make one startling forecast. The attendance at the 1968 Railway Cup finals will be below 20,000. In the pre-television days the average March 17 attendance was 40,000.

The current March 17 admission prices to Croke Park are 2/6 (terraces); 5/- (Cusack Stand) and 7/6 (Hogan Stand). Let's be conservative and take 4/- as the average. In other words the drop of 20,000 in attendance is costing the G.A.A. something in the region of £4,000.

It has been suggested that there has been an all-round decline in interest in the Railway Cup finals and that television is only partially responsible for the current attendance figures. We don't accept this.

The Railway Cup finals are now as attractive as they ever were. In fact, this year's Connacht-Ulster final was realised by everybody to have all the ingredients of a great game—and so it turned out to be.

The traditional Munster-Leinster hurling finals were always a matter of luck. Some years the pairings produced a first-class encounter, while on other occasions the teams provided nothing of note.

The fact that the exact same trend is to be found in All-Ireland semi-final attendance figures does surely confirm our point of view. Nobody suggests that interest in

All-Ireland semi-finals has waned—yet attendance figures have almost halved since the days immediately prior to television. Why? Because of "live" television of course.

The G.A.A. is now losing approximately £8,000 per annum as a result of the fall in football semi-final figures. Add to this the loss suffered by County Boards, whose "gates" are almost non-existent on those two most valuable August Sundays, and the figure may be as much as doubled.

And, of course, every time Croke Park raises its attendance prices the extent of the financial loss is increased. The prices have gone up since our survey of a year ago and so too then has the income which might have accrued were it not for television.

We simply cannot understand the Association's reluctance to adopt a realistic policy with regard to television. The experience of sports organisations the world over since this medium was invented shows that it is a monster which mercilessly devours attendance figures when given a free hand.

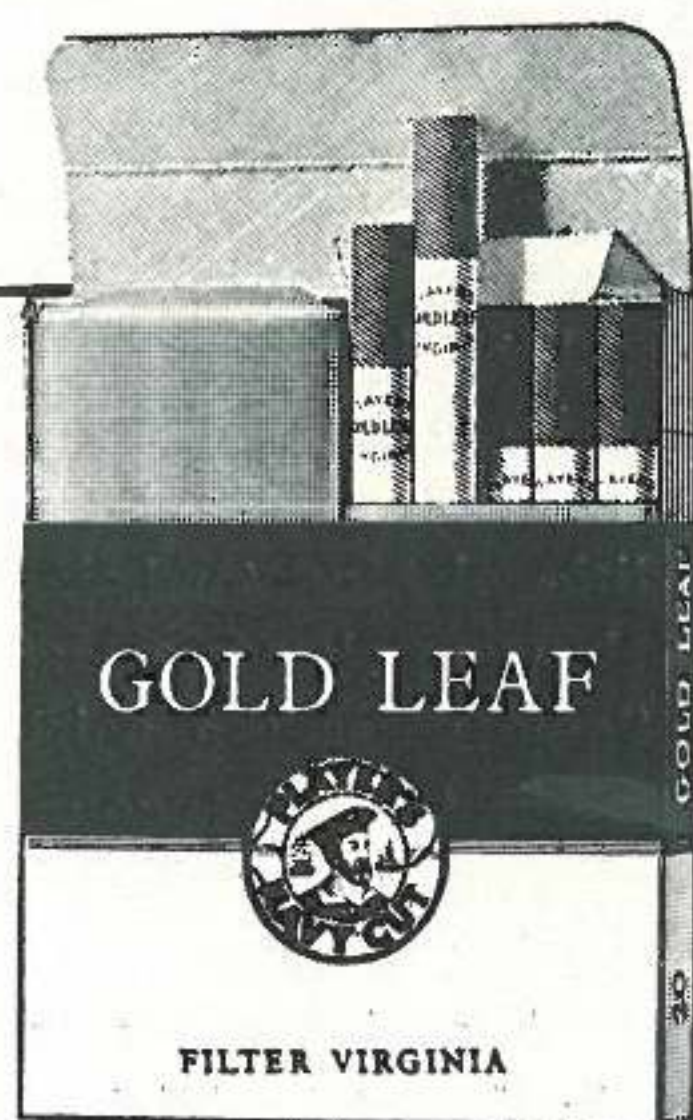
A realistic policy, as we would see it, would be either (a) to make Telefis Eireann pay exactly the amount which the presence of its cameras cost or (b) confine its "live" coverage to All-Ireland finals with recorded showings of the March 17 and All-Ireland semi-

(To page 8).



If you want the  
*smoothest* smoking  
there's  
no match for

GOLD  
LEAF



4/1 for twenty

PG 169b

(From page 7).

finals being screened later in the evenings.

We rather doubt if Telefis Eireann are willing to pay that sort of money—although there is always the possibility, seeing as recent disclosures show that they have spent as much as £7,000 each on certain programmes, none of which were anything as attractive as a major game.

The second solution provides no problem. Let T.E. record the March 17 and All-Ireland semi-finals and show them some hours later. This would cater for the sick and the aged and such others as could not go to Croke Park.

In all of these considerations there is the very much related fact that T.E. is virtually ignoring normal reporting of G.A.A. news.

Some weeks ago in the "Irish Press," Mick Dunne wrote a most informative article in which he had all of the facts and figures. It established that Telefis Eireann was giving virtually no G.A.A. coverage at all in its nightly sports programmes.

In other words, television is taking what it gets for a ridiculously cheap price—namely the "live" games—but is not the least interested in providing anything in return.

How long can this situation be allowed to continue? Perhaps until the Railway Cup competitions are forced out of existence or until All-Ireland football semi-final attendances reduce to a point well below provincial football final attendances.

Neither situation is far removed. Another two years or so should do it.

Meanwhile Telefis Eireann will have done tremendous work to propagate every two-bit sport from soccer to water-skiing and Montrose will have grown so fat on its profits (half a million in 1966) that it will mistake itself for a private concern over which the Irish people at large have no control.





EAMONN CREGAN

## EAMONN CREGAN

THE percentage of young hurlers who fail to maintain their college greatness when upgraded to inter-county competition is very high indeed, but down Limerick way there is one scion of that famous nursery—Sexton St. C.B.S., who has not alone lived up to his schoolboy splendour but has blossomed out as one of the leading scorers on the Shannonsiders' senior hurling string who line-out against Wexford at Croke Park on Sunday May 7 in the National League semi-final.

Young Eamonn Cregan is the son of Ned Cregan who won an All-Ireland medal with Limerick in 1934, and a brother of Michael, a Lieutenant in the Irish Army and also a member of the present Limerick team. Another younger brother—Conor has helped Limerick C.B.S. to win the Harty Cup for the past two seasons and also plays senior for Claughaun. Their sister—Noreen plays camogie with the Limerick City club—St. Marys.

Eamonn Cregan began his hurling with Claughaun in 1956 and with that club has won county juvenile hurling and football medals, minor hurling and football championships and a county senior football cup medal. He was a member of the Limerick minor hurling team beaten by Wexford in the 1963 All-Ireland final and in 1964 captained Limerick C.B.S. to victory in the Harty Cup and All-Ireland Colleges' hurling finals.

Cregan is an accurate marksman who has notched the imposing tally of 1 goal and 20 points in the Leagus series to date, but perhaps his greatest achievement was that personal contribution of 3 goals and 5 points which made such a noble contribution to Limerick's shock defeat of reigning All-Ireland champions—Tipperary in the Munster championship game last June.

Now 22 years of age, Eamonn works as a Trainee Supervisor with The Tara Exploration Co. He devotes much of his spare-time to supervising the club's under-age

teams. Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing him—Our chat went like this:

*Murphy—Being equally adept at hurling and football, which game do you prefer?*

Cregan—I prefer hurling and have decided lately to concentrate on one game. However, I will continue to play football at club level.

*Murphy—What game do you most treasure the memory of?*

Cregan—The Harty Cup final against St. Flannans in 1964. I was captain of Limerick C.B.S. that day, and it was their first victory in the coveted competition in 32 years.

*Murphy—Who was the best player you ever had to play on?*

Cregan—Larry Guinan or Seamus Cleere I should think.

*Murphy—What is your favourite position?*

Cregan—Left half-forward or centre field.

*Murphy—When a colleges' star, who was your schoolboy idol?*

*(Continued page 11)*



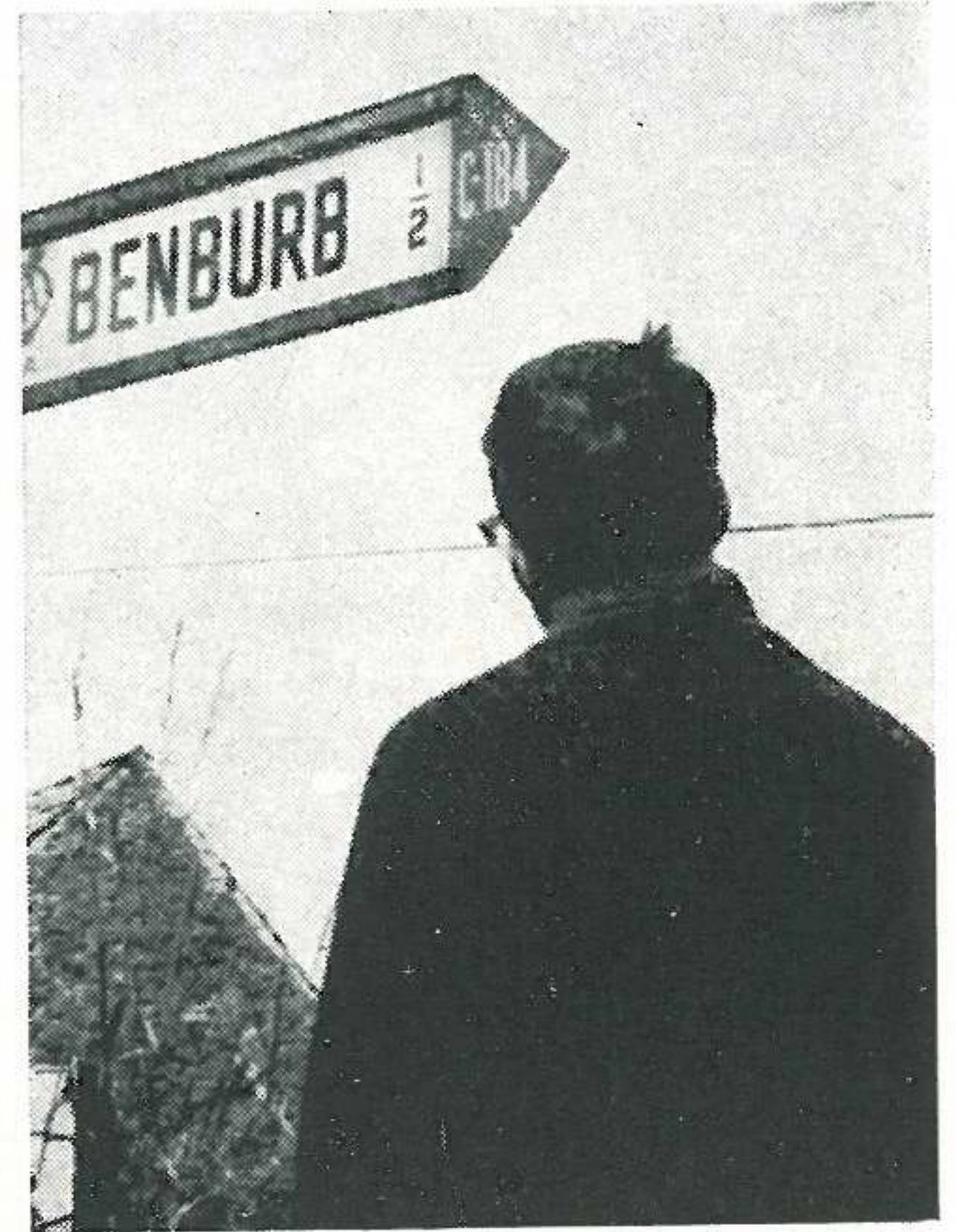
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Robert Frost.



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# HURLING CUD

By JAY DRENNAN



JIMMY DOYLE

IT could be a particularly good year for Munstermen, and the hundreds of outsiders who make the journeys to the venues of each year's Munster championships in hurling. To some the ritual has become so ingrained that they will be there anyway, but it appears as though they will get extra good value for entrance money this year.

Just now it looks as though only Kerry are not in any way concerned with the outcome; the other six counties all have reason to speculate with some hope about the months ahead. At the moment there would seem to be little or nothing to differentiate between Cork, Limerick and Clare and Tipperary, and, if there is an apparent gap between this foursome and Waterford and Galway, a lucky break here or there, or the sudden discovery of a dormant streak of golden form could even that gap up.

The amount of margin between Cork, Limerick and Clare is demonstrably small—they have been engaged in the League and in sundry other games in the recent months without establishing any advantage over one another. Last year's championship supports the contention: they met in the championship then, Cork gaining an inexplicably soft victory over Clare after experiencing all the luck of the game in the original drawn game; and Limerick still bewail the fact that fortune did not favour them when losing the

Munster semi-final to Cork in Killarney.

Not long after their All-Ireland win, and while still in peak condition, Cork had quite a handful in disposing of a vengeful Clare, even in their own barnyard. Later still, Limerick really nailed their colours to the mast in a celebrated victory over the champions which threw the whole League into the

melting-pot. Then Limerick managed to scramble a point victory over Clare—a result looked upon as an off-form showing by the Limerickmen until immediately afterwards Clare whipped Cork, thus placing the whole thing in a new light.

Meantime, Tipperary are either languishing in down-and-out ob-  
(Continued page 46)

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## EAMONN CREGAN *(From page 9).*

Cregan—Christy Ring. I always admired the manner in which he used his head.

*Murphy—Have you any comment to make on the general G.A.A. scene?*

Cregan—Certainly. There are too many die-hards holding office in various clubs and Boards and these are reluctant to break new ground and gear the Association to meet modern trends. Take social amenities for instance—they are practically non-existent and I think this is detrimental to the growth of clubs. All clubs should aim to own its own field equipped with all modern amenities to cater for all its members even those whose playing days are finished.

*Murphy—Any ideas as to how hurling in general could be improved?*

Cregan—I believe coaching in hurling and football is a great asset. It is said hurlers are born. A certain percentage yes. But they can also be

made through coaching. A perfect example of the latter method is provided by the Limerick C.B.S. teams of the past four years.

*Murphy—How do you think the hurling game is progressing?*

Cregan—Well, according to reports it is doing very well. Here in Limerick City although Bord na n-Og are doing a Trojan job the lack of playing pitches and finance is proving a hindrance.

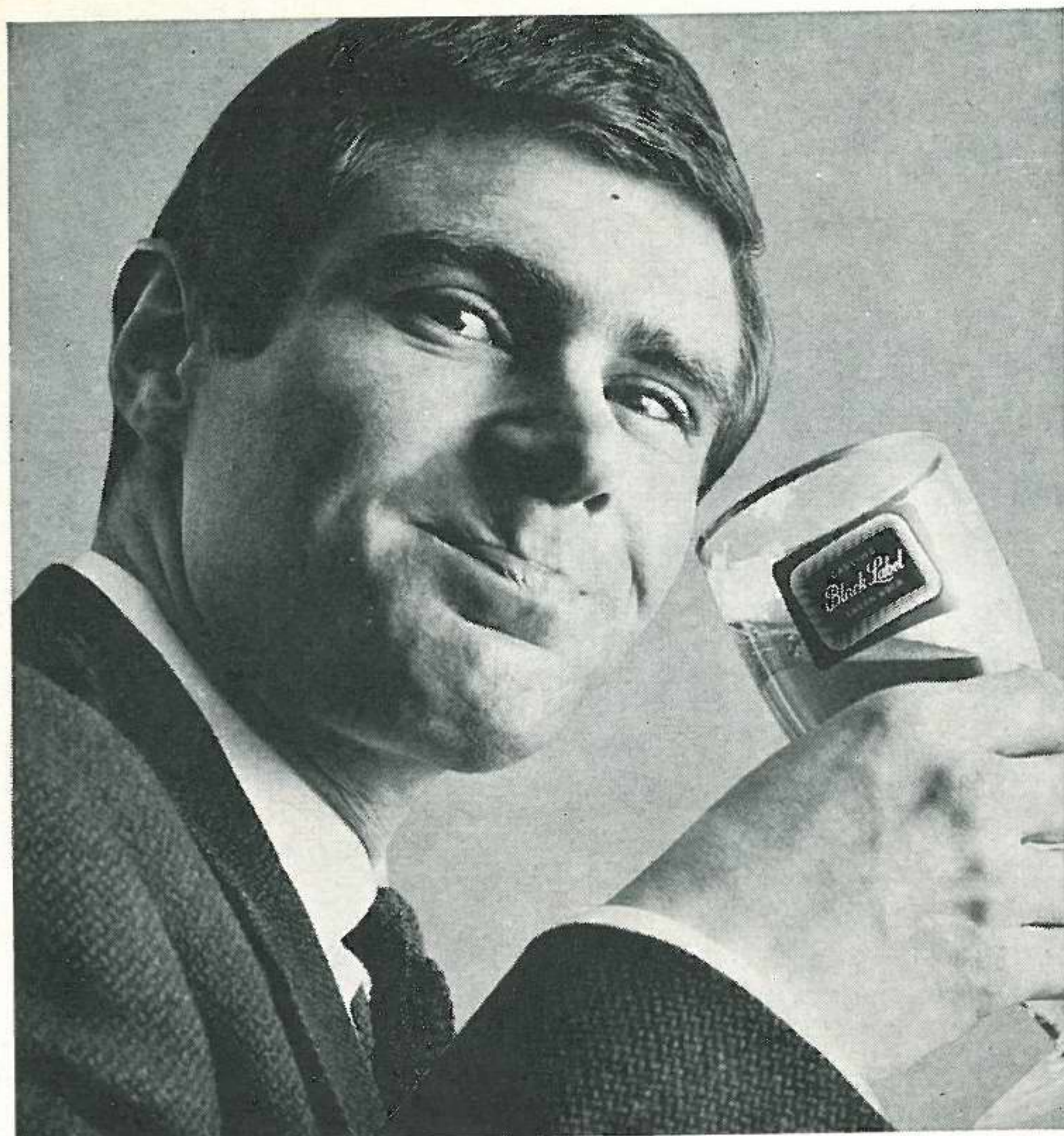
*Murphy—What county do you fear most in this year's Munster hurling championship and do you think this will be Limerick's year?*

Cregan—We are afraid of Clare in the opening round, while I think Tipperary are still there with a great chance. However if we survive the first round we could prove a match for the best.

*Murphy—What is your greatest ambition?*

Cregan—Well, I suppose to see Limerick win an All-Ireland title in the not too distant future.





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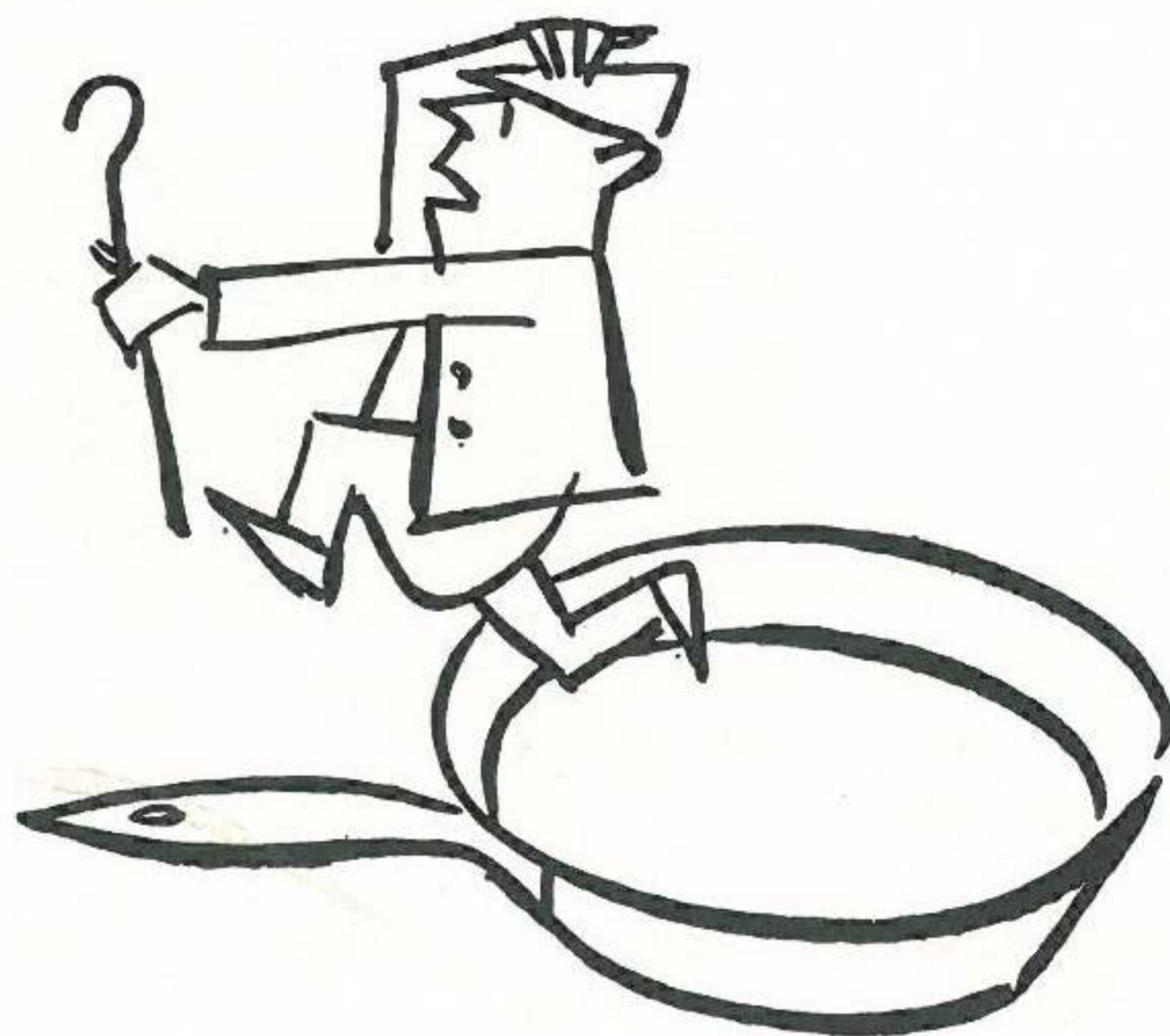


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# MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

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IT is, I suppose, a sign of how old I am growing that I can boast of having known, personally, every G.A.A. President since Paddy Breen. True, Paddy, himself, W. P. Clifford, Sean Ryan and Sean McCarthy were all past presidents by the time I came to know them, but that, in a way, is neither here nor there. I can still boast of having known every G.A.A. President for more than forty years.

In addition, I met Dan McCarthy on a couple of occasions but I must admit in all honesty that I never could claim to have known Dan.

On the other hand, while I never met Alderman Jim Nowlan, the Kilkennyman who was President for so long that a whole generation of Gaels knew no other occupant of the chair at Central Council, I heard so many stories about 'the Alderman', as he was familiarly known, that he was in some ways as familiar to me as people I met every day.

Yet, it was years afterwards, long after I came to Dublin, that I heard from Sean O'Duffy one of the best stories about Jim Nowlan, who was in his day, probably the greatest diplomat who ever sat in the chair of any organisation.

In the years shortly before the 1916 Rising an effort was being made to organise camogie on a national scale, an effort with which Sean O'Duffy, needless to say, was closely implicated. Someone

thought it would be a very good idea if the Gaelic Athletic Association should take over control of the recently formed Camogie Association and that it be run more or less as part of the G.A.A.

There were a number of good arguments both for and against, but some officers of the Association felt that the assimilation



EDDIE KEHER

of the Camogie Association would not be a feasible step and it seems to have been left to Jim Nowlan to 'shoot down' the suggestion in his own kindly way.

So Jim summed up the position and finally announced that the idea had been turned down with the words. "And so, I fear that the time has not yet come for us to embrace the ladies".

As Alderman Nowlan was a confirmed bachelor, that pronouncement had the whole G.A.A. chuckling for weeks afterwards.

That did not mean, of course,

that Jim Nowlan was opposed to camogie. In fact, the Alderman gave every encouragement to the camogie Association in its early years and Croke Park was made available for the first inter-county match.

Oddly enough it was in Jim Nowlan's time that a woman was very nearly appointed a permanent official of the G.A.A.

In the early years of this century the list of patrons was being extended. At the time Maud Gonne was the toast of nationalist Ireland and it was proposed at Congress that she be made a patron of the G.A.A.

The delegates, by and large, favoured the idea, but it was pointed out that Miss Gonne, as she then was, had not been nominated the requisite number of days in advance and so the motion had to lapse. It never came up again.

I was glad to see, on a recent visit to Kilkenny that, with generous financial backing from Central Council, the local Gaels really have made Nowlan Park a fitting memorial to the Alderman.

It seems a long way back now to the Railway Cup finals, yet I must pass one comment and that is on the general condemnation of the hurling final. Now it was far from being as bad, I think, as some of the critics made it out to be. For instance, I just cannot see how the losing side could be described,

*(Continued page 14)*





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Brindley

(From page 13)

as it was, "as the worst team that ever represented Munster" After all, nine of the fifteen had played on the Southern side that beat Leinster in the previous season, while three of the remaining six, the two Barry's and John Halloran all won All-Ireland medals with Cork last September. And who would dare suggest that the remaining three, Kevin Long and Tom Bluett of Limerick and Vincent Loftus of Clare are not up to interprovincial standards?

For myself, I always find something to treasure in any game of this class, drab though the hour may seem at the time. And, sure enough, we had another magnificent display from Seamus Cleere whose style and stick-work can brighten the dullest game. We had two great first half scores, Eddie Keher's first goal and Claus Dunne's second point. And we had at least two first half goal-pucks from Ollie Walsh that must rank among the longest goal deliveries ever seen at Headquarters.

I thought the first quarter of the opening match gave us the best football I have yet seen in a Railway Cup final. This was really sparkling fare and worth covering many a mile of ground to see. Not even the blustery wind could spoil it.

Incidentally, I wonder did those Connacht lads, as well as winning the Cup, set up a little record all their own? By my reckoning, which I admit could be wrong, they only had one wide in the whole hour! That wide came from a free by Pateen Donnellan after about twenty minutes of the first half. And into the wind after the interval the Men of the West had no wide at all!

One wide as against ten scores after sixty minutes play in a blustery wind is a achievement any team can be proud of. And certainly it is a performance that I have never seen equalled in all my Croke Park years.





JOE LANGAN

NOT for many years has football morale been so high in Mayo. And with good reason. Twice in the past year they have almost upset triple All-Ireland champions, Galway at Castlebar. On both occasions success seemed within the grasp of the men in green and red but that great resilience, rallying power, luck, call it what you like, of the Galwaymen pulled them through in the end. The championship game last Summer was the real hard luck story for Mayo. The League game on that mucky Castlebar sod last March was not stolen by Galway but thrown away by Mayo.

I like Mayo's new strategic set-up. New Chairman Fr. Leo Morahan is obviously the man at the helm insisting on dedication, punctuality and all the other attributes that are so much part of himself. Team managers Seamus Daly and Willie Casey are in the Fr. Morahan mould, a distinct challenge to the Fr. Mahon, Brendan Nestor, "Tull" Dunne,

Frank Stockwell, Galway "engineering room".

The team itself is taking nice shape. New goalkeeper Malachy Gallagher, is tall and rangy. He has courage plus, seems to have the good goalkeepers' knack of being in the way of hard shots but has not proven himself yet. The full-back line is most impressive. Corner backs Jackie Carey and Séamus O'Connor are very tenacious while Ray Prendergast's only fault is a tendency to lose balance. His catching at times rivals his brother Paddy's and that's something.

The all St. Jarlath's College produced half-back line of Joe Earley (what a great college player he was) of the stout heart, John Morley, so good for Connacht in the Railway Cup final and an inspiring captain for Mayo at all times, and rangy Martin Flatley, the most improved player in Connacht, is potentially great.

Midfield is a problem. Joe Langan's play has never been better. If only he would be less ponderous in delivery. Who to partner him is one of Mayo's major problems. It is past time John Gibbons of Louisburgh realised his promise as a minor, for he has a grand physique and seems to lack nothing.

The forwards can be great but can flop too. None more so than Joe Corcoran. Here is a bonny footballer, with the grace of a ballet dancer but oh so temperamental. R. J. Ruddy and Pat Kilbane, both of Achill Island are dour, determined triers — Ruddy fearless, Kilbane the more stylish.

## WATCH MAYO!

Kilbane has a grand spring for the ball for a small man and the manner in which Ruddy stood shoulder to shoulder with Noel Tierney in some hard duels brought a surge to the resurgent Mayo hearts. Cheeky little Joe Nealon gave immense trouble to Enda Colleran and punched a really magnificent goal. Here is a real livewire and a terrier for work. Then there is Séamus O'Dowd. I'm convinced Mayo expect too much of him and that he is being rushed.

Mayo have Mick Connaughton and Mick Ruane still up their sleeves (both are now recovered from injury) and Johnny Farragher is recovering some of his old skill. Their first championship game is with Sligo in Sligo. Nobody can ever take Sligo for granted and I'm sure Mayo won't make that mistake.

On crossing the Sligo hurdle Mayo's next opponents would be Galway at Pearse Stadium. But let's talk about that when Mayo beat Sligo.

Certainly Mayo are on the way back and of their younger players I like best O'Connor, Earley, Kilbane, Carey, Ruddy, Flatley, and Connaughton, but with the possible exception of the latter there is no one of the stature of a Padhraic Carney or a Seán Flanagan yet in their midst.

I had expectations of John Gibbons for such a role but he is so slow in coming. Or perhaps Séamus O'Dowd may yet achieve the greatness of which I feel he is capable.



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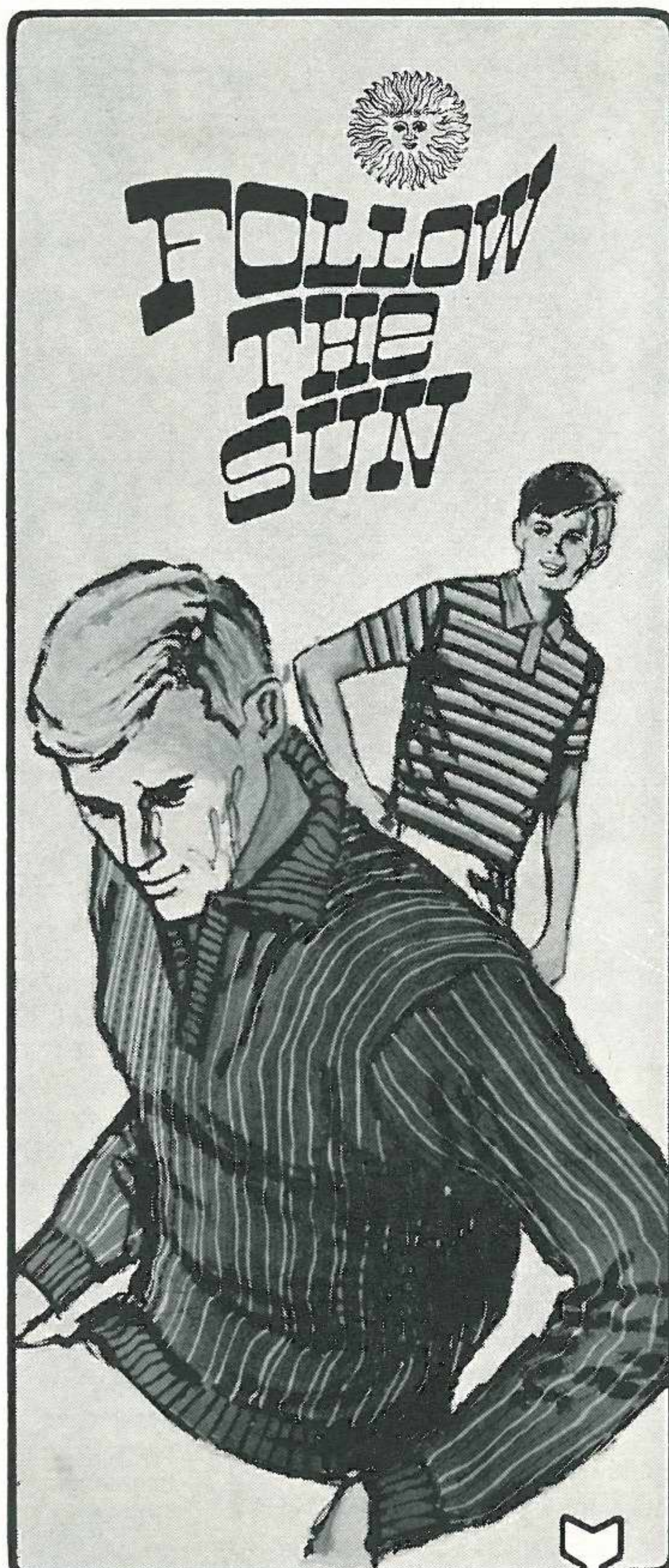
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## Presidents of the G.A.A.--14

# SEAMUS GARDINER

(1943-46)

By **TERENCE ROYNANE**

THE 'run' of national teacher Presidents begun by Sean McCarthy, continued by Bob O'Keeffe and carried on so magnificently for five years by Pádraig McNamee, was sustained in the 'forties by three further teacher presidents, the first of whom was Seamus Gardiner.

A Clareman, and a member of a far-famed G.A.A. family, he was in his youth a footballer of considerable renown. He played on the Munster football side that won the interprovincial Tailteann championship of 1924, and he was a brilliant player with University College, Dublin in his student days.

Incidentally Seamus Gardiner's late brother, Tom, played with him on that Munster side which won Tailteann honours in 1924.

Shortly afterwards, Seamus took up a teaching post at Borrisokane in North Tipperary where he quickly made an impact on the G.A.A. scene. Although he did not play a great deal of football from there on, he quickly made a name for himself as a referee, and just as quickly began to take a prominent part in the administration of local G.A.A. affairs. He also served for several years as a Tipperary football selector and was associated with the side that scored a sensational win over Kerry in the Munster semi-final of 1928.

In 1933, Seamus Gardiner succeeded that great hurler, G.A.A. organiser and legislator, Frank McGrath of Nenagh, as Chairman of the North Tipperary Board and ably continued the good work of his great predecessor.

His talent as an administrator

was soon widely recognised and it was no surprise when in the early 'forties he was called to the Chair of Munster Council. He was still Munster chairman when elected President in 1943.

The years that followed, though Ireland was then living as best it might in the very shadow of World War II, were among the peak years of the Association, even if public transport was severely restricted and private transport almost unknown.

Seamus Gardiner, by some means or other, turned up at every meeting, and could truthfully say that, at the end of his stewardship, the G.A.A. had not alone survived the vicissitudes of the times but was stronger than ever before.

A feature of his Presidency was the work he did to ensure that the G.A.A. played its full part in working for the revival of the native language. A tournament was run to help provide funds for the Gaelic League and in his last address to Congress, before leaving office in 1946, the outgoing President made a strong plea to the Gaels to be faithful to the native tongue.

Through the twenty years since his term of office expired, Seamus Gardiner has continued to give the G.A.A. the benefit of his advice and experience.

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that Seamus Ryan, the new President of the Association, once taught in Borrisokane with Seamus Gardiner and followed his former colleague on the same route to the Presidency, first as Chairman of the North Tipperary Board and then as Chairman of Munster Council.





## JOHN O'HALLORAN

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**E**VER since they became All-Ireland champions last September Cork's fortunes in the hurling arena have fluctuated considerably. But one player who has gained in stature with every outing since then is the tall centre-half forward, John O'Halloran, the Blackrock man who has made such a big impression on the hurling scene at U.C.C. during the past few years.

O'Halloran gives the impression of a player who has been around a long time, but it is only in the past twelve months or so that he has made a name for himself on the Cork team. He first donned the red jersey as a minor back in 1961 when, as a speedy centre-forward, he helped his county to reach the Munster final. He made his debut for the Cork senior team two years later, captained the side in 1964, asked not to be considered the following year because of studies, and came back with a flourish to participate in the All-Ireland triumph last year.

That in a nutshell describes the career of John O'Halloran with the Cork seniors. But it does little to indicate the great improvement he has shown in recent months and the fine displays he has given both for Cork and for Munster. Indeed, such has been the quality of his performances on the forty yards

mark that the sturdy Leesider must rank as one of the best centre forwards in the game at the moment.

Such has not always been the case with O'Halloran. As a minor he showed some exceptional promise with the 'Rockies and led his club to the final of the city divisional championship. But the same year the famous senior team from the fishing village half-a-mile outside the city centre reached the all important county final, and the star minor was drafted on to the line-out. Amid such prominent performers as Mick Cashman, Jimmy Brohan, John Bennett and John Redmond, young O'Halloran was dwarfed and didn't like the transition to the major ranks. However, Blackrock succeeded in beating Avondhu in the decider, and at the age of 18 O'Halloran became the proud owner of a county medal. Only a Corkman can appreciate the significance of such an honour!

For a short period it looked as if the Blackrock player would follow in the footsteps of so many other promising minors and fade into relative obscurity. But when he entered University College, Cork, having left Colaiste Christ Ri in 1962, he soon established himself as a player worthy of a place on the academy's first team. U.C.C. had one of their strongest

sides ever at that time and the selection included such well-known names as John O'Donoghue (Tipperary), Jimmy Byrne (Waterford), Ned Rea (Limerick) and Mick Mortell (Cork). They were deprived of their first ever county title in 1962 when Christy Ring robbed them of a two point lead with a remarkable goal for Glen Rovers in the replay of the drawn final. But the following year nothing could stop the students, and John O'Halloran was a member of the historic U.C.C. team which took the Sean Og Murphy Cup for the first time.

Cork were in the midst of their lean years, when O'Halloran was picked to wear the senior jersey in 1963 and, when Ring played his last intercounty game that year, there was little left to enthuse about in the outfit. A U.C.C. triumph in the county championship is not smiled upon by astute Cork followers, and it was significant that O'Halloran was the only College representative on the Leaside team the following year. As such he captained the side, and though respect for the team was lower than usual, Cork beat Waterford in a thrill-packed Munster semi-final and met Tipperary in the decider.

O'Halloran had a brilliant game in the final, playing his heart out



## A PROFILE

By

TIM HORGAN

and showing enormous potential as a centre forward. Unfortunately however, Cork incurred a heavy defeat despite a good first-half exhibition and Tipperary went on to take the All-Ireland title later on.

In 1965 when he would have attained maturity as a senior hurler, John O'Halloran devoted his energies to study and asked not to be considered for the Cork team. He qualified as a Bachelor of Science that year, and has now taken up a position as a research student in the College. Although he opted not to play with Cork, the Blackrock man continued to help the College and was instrumental in bringing the team to the county final in September. The all conquering 'Barrs team with such players as Denis Murphy, Charlie McCarthy, Peter Doolan, Tony Connolly and Gerald McCarthy swept aside the students' challenge with comparative ease, but U.C.C. went on to gain compensation by winning the Fitzgibbon Cup.

Now, when an old established club like the 'Barrs wins the county title in Cork, the shrewd judges are bound to be pleased. They believe such a victory augurs well for the county's prospects in the All-Ireland championship, and their confidence is based on very  
(Contd. Page 30.)



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# KILKENNY FANCIED

By **FRANK HUGHES**

**W**ILL it be an all-Leinster National hurling League final? Having watched Kilkenny trounce Tipperary and then, while greatly under-strength, beat Wexford, I have no doubt but that the men in Black and Amber will be in Croke Park to defend their League title on May 28. However, I am not quite so certain about Wexford who have the task of dealing with resurgent Limerick in their semi-final game.

Incidentally, I don't think that there has ever been an all-Leinster hurling League final. Munster have, of course, had this game to themselves on quite a few occasions—the last time being Tipperary and Waterford in 1963.

For the record Kilkenny have won the N.H.L. title on three occasions—1933 when they beat Limerick in the final; 1962 when they outscored Cork and then last year.

Wexford have won the title twice—beating Tipperary in the never to be forgotten 1956 final and Limerick in the 1958 decider.

### **PAT COLLIER FOR ELECTION**

I am a non-committed man when it comes to politics but cannot, nonetheless, refrain from wishing Pat "Red" Collier well in his bid to win a seat on the Meath County Council next June.

He stands as a Fianna Fail candidate in the Slane electoral area. Despite Meath's collapse against Dublin in the N.F.L. semi-final, it will be hard to beat him.

### **FOOTBALL FINAL**

The National Football League

"home" final between Galway and Dublin will coincide with the publication of the May issue of **Gaelic Sport** but I am writing these notes well in advance of that April 30 date and I am feeling confident that Dublin will do it.

In last month's issue I tipped Dublin to beat Meath and they surpassed my highest expectations of them. It was a tremendous performance by a young team that is still only coming. Win or lose against Galway on April 30, I think that there is an All-Ireland title in this Metropolitan side.

At the time of writing, I can see nothing to beat them in the Leinster championship—other than, maybe, Longford if they could only regain their form of a year ago. And I somehow doubt if they can.

### **LOUTH PLANS**

The May meeting of the Louth County Board will be an interesting one in that the proposals of a special committee, which was set-up to make recommendations on the structure of competitions within the county, will be placed before the meeting.

Actually the recommendations came before the April meeting but met with some strong opposition and it was decided to postpone a full discussion until clubs had a further opportunity to study what was involved.

The committee was set up by the County Convention and instructed "to examine and recommend on the question of what modifications are necessary or desirable to ensure maximum par-



**MICK KISSANE**

*Dublin.*

ticipation by all clubs, particularly the weaker ones, in each of the competitions run by the Board".

As I understand it, the recommendations aim at providing a whole season of well-contested competitions, rather than just the usual two-months peak period, with everything then entering a "who-cares" type of thing for the rest of the season.

To bring their plan into operation, the Committee recommends some rather drastic changes and these are likely to be strongly opposed.

It will certainly be interesting to see how it goes. It is a fair test of whether a county is capable of thinking beyond the traditional formula which is now so much a habit that it is difficult to grasp that there is an alternative to it.

### **LEINSTER PRESIDENT**

You may remember that I finished last month's notes by suggesting that we might have a Leinster President. Well, I was right—despite what Tipperary may have to say about it.





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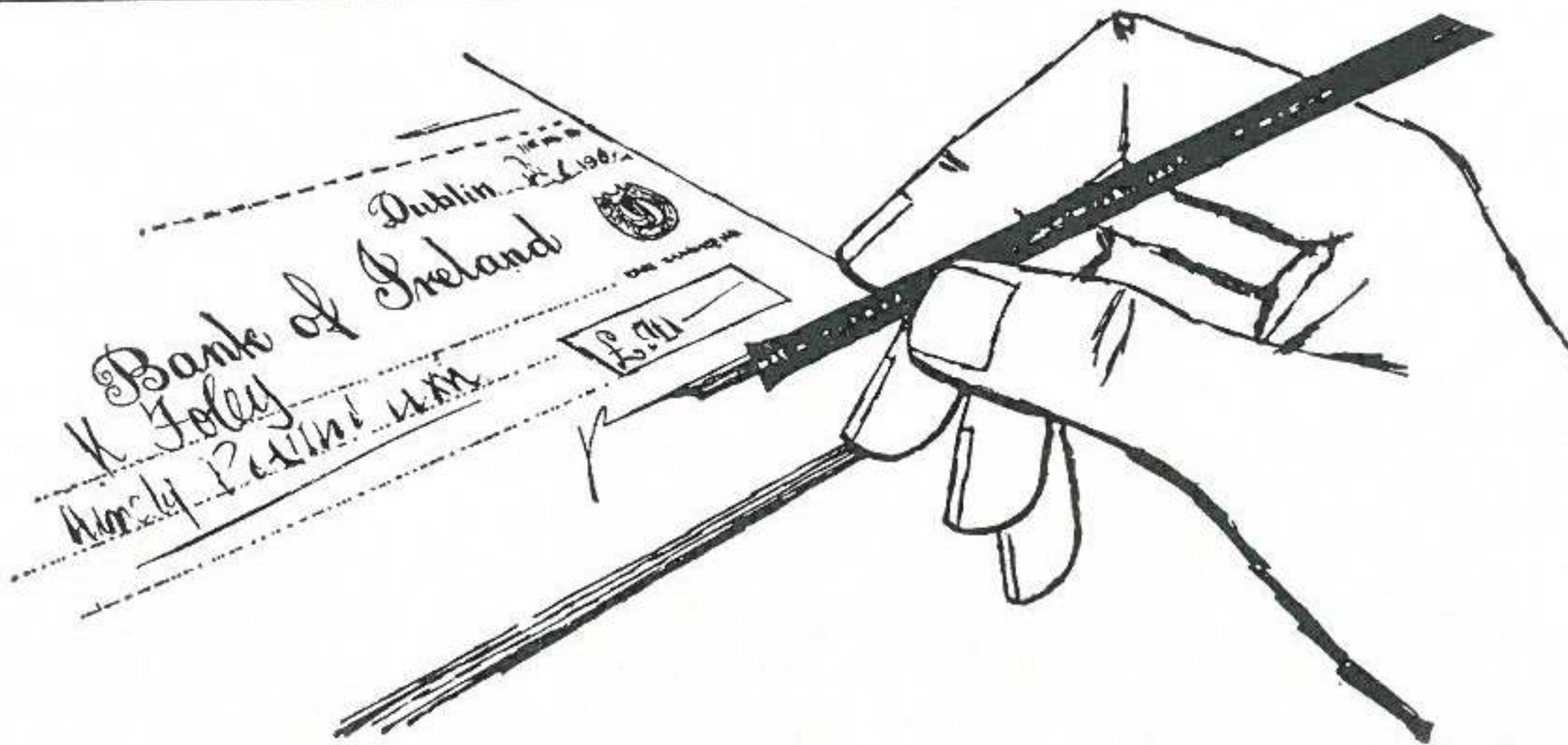
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# JIMMY CULLINANE

Interviewed  
by  
Sean Murphy

**J**IM Cullinane must rank as the most controversial hurler in Clare, if not in the whole Association. He has served two long terms of suspension and in addition was one of a quartet of Banner County hurlers who travelled to New York last year to assist Clare in the New York hurling final.

Apart from hitting the headlines in this manner, the 27-year-old Newmarket-on-Fergus man, who is employed in the Flight Kitchen at Shannon Airport, is an accomplished hurler who has endeared himself to Clare followers for his wholehearted defensive play.

Cullinane started hurling early in life and he actually lined-out with his Newmarket club in juvenile competition at the tender age of nine. He continued to assist Newmarket-on-Fergus and holds the unique distinction of having won juvenile, junior and senior Clare county championship medals as well as a junior football medal with the same club. He won a Railway Cup medal with Munster in 1963.

Cullinane was reinstated on Easter Saturday and heralded his comeback on the Clare team with an impeccable display at right half back in his county's dramatic defeat of Cork in a thrill-packed N.H.L. play-off at Limerick on April 2. It was his first appearance in the Saffron and Blue jersey since October 1965.

In a crowded Clare dressingroom, agog with excitement, after the game, I interviewed the quiet spoken Cullinane and our chat went as follows:—

*Murphy—Are you glad to be reinstated?*

Cullinane—I am really thrilled. Hurling is my first love and I was so much looking forward to being back in action.

*Murphy—How did you keep fit during your suspension?*

Cullinane—I played handball and badminton and, of course, although “out of bounds” continued to hurl with the boys in the local park.

*Murphy—What do you think of the present Clare team?*

Cullinane—They are a great bunch of lads. In my estimation they are the best team to represent Clare since I first gained intercounty recognition in 1960.

*Murphy—Who was the best player you encountered?*

Cullinane—Michael Keating of Tipperary.

*Murphy—What game gave you your greatest thrill?*

Cullinane—Apart from to-day's great win, our defeat of Limerick at Nenagh in 1964 gave me great satisfaction.

*Murphy—What is your favourite position?*

Cullinane—I would prefer centre-field or centre-forward as I feel I

lack the height for a defensive post.

*Murphy—Any change you would like to see in G.A.A. administration?*

Cullinane—There are several but having been the victim of two long terms of suspension, and while I do not condone blackguardism, I would prefer to see a big fine introduced in addition to the two months automatic suspension, rather than long terms of suspension.

*Murphy—Are you in favour of American trips?*

Cullinane—Yes. I thought I would never see the day that Clare would earn a trip to America so I availed of the offer last year and thoroughly enjoyed my visit. As a result of my experience in New York I feel the trips must continue. That is, of course, the official ones!

*Murphy—As a schoolboy who was your idol?*

Cullinane—Without a doubt, Christy Ring.

*Murphy—What is your greatest ambition?*

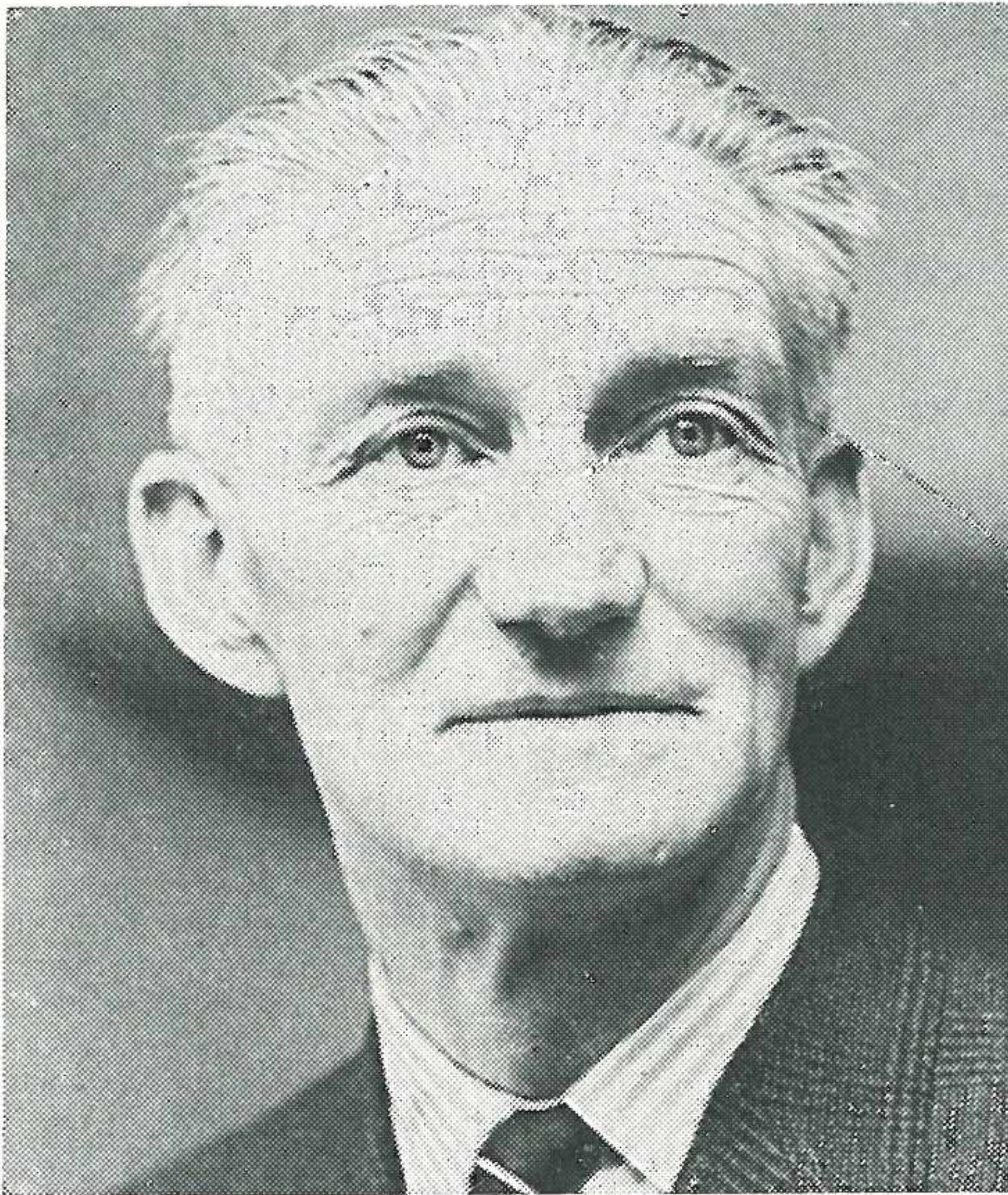
Cullinane—I would retire happily if Clare won an All-Ireland senior hurling championship.

*Murphy—How do you rate Clare's chances in the forthcoming Munster championship?*

Cullinane—Very good. There is very little between all six counties and with a little luck we may break that hoodoo. However, Limerick will be a tough obstacle in the first round.



# *Association prospered beyond belief in Alf Ó Muiri's*



## A MAN B FOR LEADERSH

By JAY DRENNAN

**A**NY man who gives of himself for a period in the Presidency of the G.A.A., in these modern times, performs a service of great national and social value. He also gives of himself in a degree above and beyond the call of duty, for no man can feel it obligatory to make such sacrifices as the office entails. If salvation were conditional on such self-sacrifice, few, indeed, would measure up to the needs.

But, in the case of the lately retired incumbent, Alf O Muiri that spare and astringent man from Armagh, whose sense of self-

sacrifice and power of concentrated effort so far exceeded that of us normal humans, it is left but to marvel that man can give so much in the loving pursuit of an ideal, in the unpaid service of fellow-man.

One of the major questions which must arise whenever we set about relieving our Presidents of the now almost intolerable burden of their office, and casting around for another to take their place, is to wonder how long we may safely intrude on the privacy, the leisure, even the ordinary duties of our leading members.

I know, of course, Alf O Muiri's answer to that, and the answer also of Seamus O Riain, his successor—both claim that it is an honour. But, I know, too, that it is only an honour to those who pursue the ideal. We would never find men of the quality which we have had at the top in the G.A.A. were it not for the things for which we stand, the positions to which we hold allegiance, the beliefs which we treasure, and the objects for which we strive.

The ideals which the G.A.A. enshrines within its heart are the "lovers" who hold men like O



s term of office

ORN

IP

will have all three qualities. Alf O Muirí had.

A marvellous control of English, and an equal ability in Irish, were two cornerstones which gave him command of the expression of his thoughts and feelings; gave him freedom in expressing without fear the most high-sounding or the most intricate of arguments; gave him the machinery which could expose the intensity of feelings in his heart. No President has excelled him in oratory. No President has expressed better the mind of the Association and its ideals. Best of all, no President has meant so fully what he so earnestly and stirringly expressed.

The image of the Association has prospered beyond belief in Alf O Muirí's term of office. It was not only that he was so superb in presenting that image, so vocal in its defence as in its presentation, but also because here was one at whom the finger might not be pointed, one well qualified to throw the first stone. Coming from where he did, being the man he was in club, council, playing field, and home, he had no touch of doubt, no hint of hypocrisy, no element of over-statement. He was transparently sincere. His sincerity went a long way to cover the little insincerities of lesser members of the Association. The Association as a whole basked in the reflected light of his individual image.

Muirí in thrall. In a pragmatic age like ours, when all that it valued has a direct and immediate advantage attached to it, we might beware lest we weaken those ideals in search of more "practical" objectives. With the ideals we would also foresake our claims on the dedication of such high-born souls as those of our ex-President.

Some men fire with the burning fervour of their oratory, some with the simple power of their own belief, some others with the ceaseless example of their activity. Few

And because we, the members of lesser calibre, will always have our deficiencies and our insincerities, our human failings and our lack of courage, we must have men in the Presidency who can take upon themselves the moulding of the public image of the Association; who can supply to the little darkness in our make-up, a reflected light. Men, like Alf O Muirí, we must have, at whom no finger may be pointed.

# TOP TEN

**T**HIS month's Top Ten lists are based on individual inter-county performances during the four Sundays, March 19 to April 9 inclusive.

Topping the hurling list is Clareman Milo Keane, each of whose five well-taken points were vital in his county's win over All-Ireland champions Cork at Limerick, on Sunday, April 2.

Dublin captain, Jimmy Keaveney, heads the football list, primarily as a result of his performance against Meath in the National League semi-final. The youthful Keaveney, who is most definitely a star in the making, was fourth on our list of last month.

## HURLING

1. Milo Keane (Clare).
2. Martin Coogan (Kilkenny).
3. Liam Danaher (Clare).
4. Paddy Barry (Cork).
5. Paddy Moran (Kilkenny).
6. Dick Shannon (Wexford).
7. Tom Walsh (Kilkenny).
8. John O'Halloran (Cork).
9. Pat Cronin (Clare).
10. Justin McCarthy (Cork).

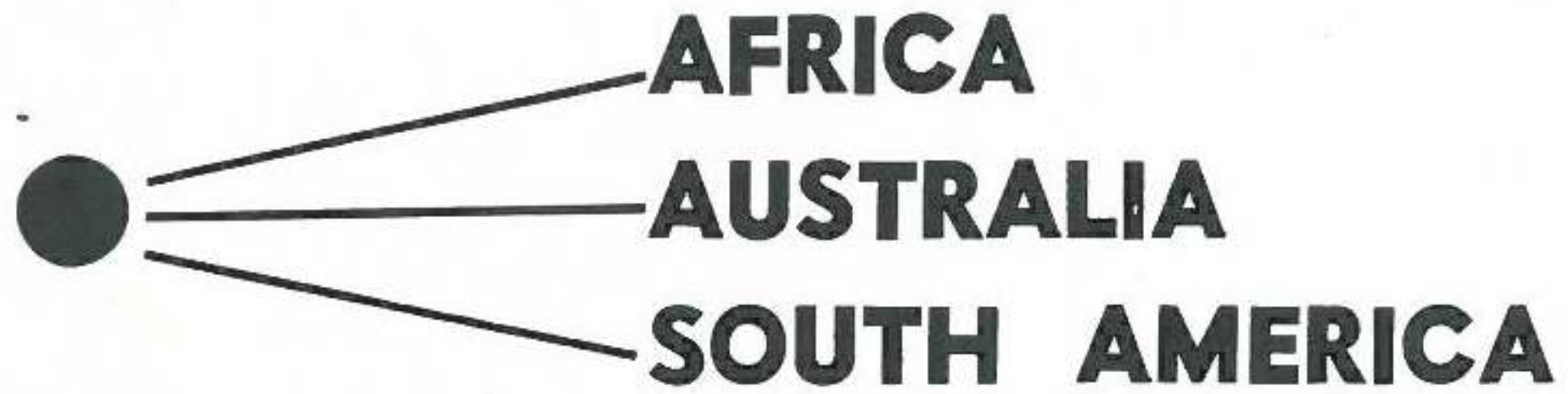
## FOOTBALL

1. Jimmy Keaveney (Dublin).
2. Bernard Brady (Donegal).
3. Jack Quinn (Meath).
4. J. B. McDermott (Galway).
5. Micky Whelan (Dublin).
6. Frank McFeely (Donegal).
7. Mick Cranny (Dublin).
8. Phelim McCotter (Derry).
9. Antoin Carroll (Donegal).
10. John Keenan (Galway).



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## Another alley in Dublin

WITH the continued progress of handball in Dublin it must come as a source of satisfaction to the County Board that the Chairman, Tom Loftus, has announced his intentions of building a playing alley in O'Toole Park.

Of course this announcement should not come as any great surprise for it has been long since established that handball in Dublin is an integral part of the G.A.A.

Mr. Loftus and his Committee have often come to the rescue of the less financially stable Handball Board, so the proposed court is but an extension of those efforts.

Many are of the opinion that the site is not a suitable one, but, since the court will be roofed and floodlit, I fail to concur with these objections and, anyway, centrally located building sites for alleys are not easily come by in Dublin at the present time.

The one certainty is that another court is absolutely essential, for both the minor and senior Handball Boards find it extremely difficult to complete their programmes within the season.

Were it not for the co-operation of the G.A.A. Central Council, it can be taken for granted that the game in Dublin would be far from the healthy position in which it is at present.

It has given the Handball Board the use of the alley at Croke

Park, which, in effect, means that competitive matches which could only be played at the week-end in the open air courts can now be run off during week nights, and, while on the question of courts it is only correct that due praise should be given to the Mullingar Handball Club. In conjunction with the Westmeath G.A.A. County Board, this Committee put in a wonderful effort in having the court at the Mullingar grounds roofed. It is now one of the most modern courts in the country, and will be without question a boon to the county as well as to the Leinster Council.

Good news also comes from Belfast with the announcement by Antrim Chairman and President of the Handball Council, Gerry McGowan, that at long last the green light has been given for the erection of a court in Belfast. Thus ends years of frustration and endeavour by players in the city to acquire their own playing arena.

When completed, the alley, which will be sited at Shaw's Road, will prove a boon to the local Handball Board. It will eliminate the present necessity for Belfast players to travel to Lurgan for competitive or practice matches.

Indeed, I am amazed that the game has existed at all in Antrim for all these years without a court.

The grapevine also carries the

news that the possibility of the court in Ballymacelligot, Co. Kerry, being roofed in the near future is quite strong. Enthusiasm was never at such a peak in the village, due no doubt to the success of the McEllistrim brothers in the All-Ireland championships last year.

But while it cannot be disputed that definite progress is being made in the provision of better playing facilities, it is equally true to say that the game is progressing favourably from a social aspect also. In recent times, clubs and County Boards have been assuring this.

During the month the Meath Board feted the achievement of Christy and Vincent Grimes in taking a minor title to the county last year, while in Monaghan similar recognition was given to senior star Séamus McCabe.

And I was especially impressed with the communal spirit of the Ballymore-Eustace Athletic, Football and Handball Clubs, who joined together for a dinner in Blessington.

To complete the social round-up, there was the annual dinner of the Johnston, Mooney and O'Brien Club in Dublin, at which Chairman John Foskin was lavishly praised for his contribution to the game at club and county level over the past decade. The Bakery Club still plays a major part in the success of handball in Dublin.



# CELEBRATION IN THE SOUTH

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

THE election of Jim Ryan of Moneygall to the Presidency has been received with unbounded joy in Munster where the soft spoken and very sincere Tipperaryman has always been a most popular and highly respected figure.

Another aspect of the recent election which highly pleased Southern Gaels was the fact that out of a record "field" of five candidates two Munstermen should emerge to fight the issue in its final stage. The dividing margin was slight enough to indicate the confidence the Gaels of Ireland had in both men, which is indeed a great tribute to the province.

Jim Ryan has all the qualities to make a great President. He follows in the footsteps of a man who made many breakthroughs in Gaelic thought and action, and I am confident that the forward policy now an established part of G.A.A. administration will further grow and flourish under the wise direction of a man who will not blow many trumpets but who will nevertheless accomplish solid and lasting work.

Jim Ryan is well qualified for the high honour now bestowed on him. In his youth he played both hurling and football for Tipperary, and, in addition, was a first-class athlete, specialising in track events.

When he eventually hung up his togs the council room called, and he was for nine years a very

active and able Chairman of the North Tipperary Board, only resigning that position when called to the Chair of the Munster Council, having served an apprenticeship of three years from 1962 to 1965, as Vice-Chairman of that body.

Jim, who is Principal of Dunkerrin National School, is the possessor of a splendid Gaelic outlook which will reveal itself more and more as the occasion offers during his Presidency.

Last year, as part of the 1916 celebrations, he was the very successful local producer of the magnificent pageant "Seven Men—Seven Days", which was described as a faultless performance by one who knew more than something about such matters.

There is no question of a house divided in its allegiance to Gaelic ideals as far as Jim is concerned, as his wife, Mary, is a niece of Jeremiah Collisan, who was a member of the Boherlahan selection that brought All-Ireland senior hurling honours to Tipperary in historic 1916.

## THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

From 1916 to 1967—and the question now uppermost in the minds of Munster hurling enthusiasts is the likely outcome of the approaching games for the Southern championships.

The experience of recent weeks—as the concluding stages of the National League unfolded some

very informative data on current form—has only helped to make the situation more confused looking than ever. The position now is that, in most circles, the present championship is rated the most open for very many years.

League defeats by Dublin, Limerick and Clare may have burst Cork hopes of adding to their championship laurels, but at the best of times the Rebel County men were not rated League specialists, and from the Leaside viewpoint at any rate, the county has a far higher hurling potential just now than appeared the case at this stage a short twelve months ago. Cork are All-Ireland title holders and no Cork side ever surrendered their crown without a great fight.

The holders meet Waterford in the opening round, and although Cork have reason from past experience to fear the Decies men, still they will be fairly confident this time.

That should bring them to the next round—and Tipperary! The Premier County men may have disappointed in recent outings but sound judges take with a liberal grain of salt all this talk that Tipperary are "finished". How could they be, considering the fine minor, Under-21 and Intermediate sides they have been producing. Some feel they could prune out to advantage more of the old wood but anyway the prospects of a



clash with Cork, as All-Ireland champions, is bound to bring out the best they have, and somehow I feel that is still something very material and worth while. Time alone will tell!

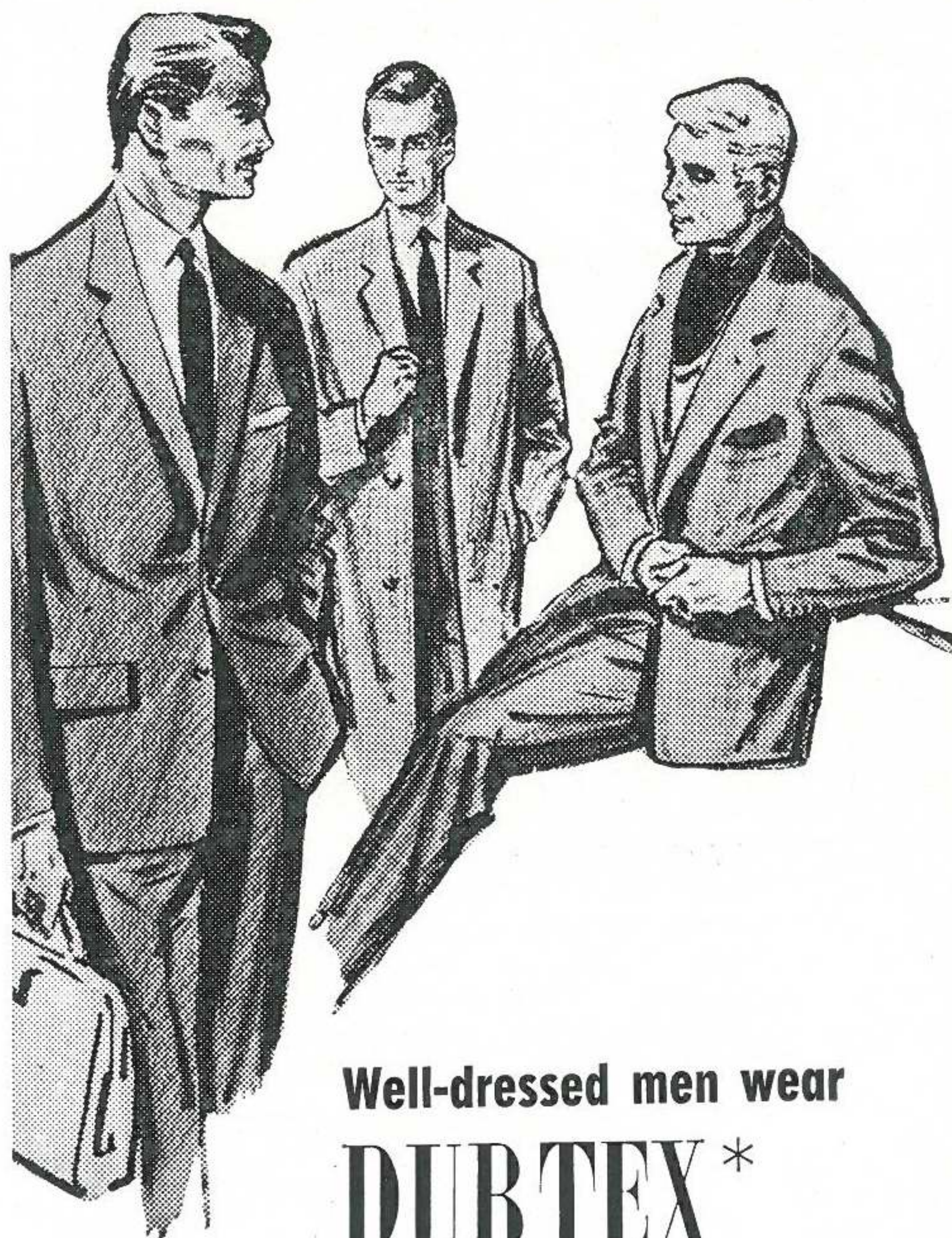
The great game of the other side of the championship will undoubtedly be the first round meeting of Clare and Limerick. The League clash between the pair was a thriller, and Clare prospects have improved immensely in the interval because of the return of a great quartet, who were out of bounds for the League engagement.

Limerick are a side full of great potential but I feel they still have a few forward problems that must be solved before they can be regarded as an All-Ireland winning combination.

Galway meet the winners of the Clare-Limerick game in the semi-final, but unless they improve immensely on their League form they cannot hope to reach the Munster final. Hurling, however, is making remarkable strides in Galway as a result of the revival efforts and it is certain that in a few years hence the Corrib lads will be a real force again.

The coming Munster hurling championship could be a thriller—prospects are certainly exciting, but the same, unfortunately, cannot be said about football, which appears to be just a two horse race once again. Undoubtedly Kerry will challenge the Cork claim to the title in typical "Kingdom" style, but it would be much better for the game were the other four counties in the serious running.

Football badly needs some stimulus in Munster and the Provincial Council should try and hammer out some method of raising the standard in the Cinderella areas. The revival of the McGrath Cup, on the League system, during the long summer evenings, might prove of some help, but a long term policy is also needed. The matter should be tackled before it is too late.



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(From Page 19.)

strong foundations. John O'Halloran was recalled to the Cork team early last year, and eight months later he had an All-Ireland medal to his credit.

His displays early in the year were somewhat uncertain and mediocre. But as soon as the championship began the 23-year-old centre-forward set himself up as "feeder" to sharpshooter Seanie

Barry and played a very effective role "behind the scenes". O'Halloran's brand of hurling was simple and straightforward. Hard pulling along the ground, overhead flicks and well placed passes to the wingers were the characteristics of his approach. Occasionally he recorded the valuable score himself, as in the drawn game against Clare when he deflected a delightful shot to the net, but more often he was content to supply his opportunist colleagues with the ball.

This direct, no-nonsense type of hurling that made O'Halloran's presence on the Cork team so vital and necessary, brought him to the notice of the Munster selectors also. He was undoubtedly the most impressive forward on the Munster team that lost to Leinster in the Railway Cup final this year, and scored a fine goal into the bargain. But this was only one stage in the ever improving displays of the U.C.C. stalwart who is fast becoming the most consistent forward on the Cork team.

John O'Halloran is also a notable footballer, coming, as he does, from such a prominent nursery of the game as Colaiste Chríost Rí, at Turner's Cross. He was picked for the Cork junior team last year and won an All-Ireland "home" medal. He also won top honours with U.C.C. on the football field, taking a county medal in 1964 and helping to win the Sigerson Cup for the past two years. In addition to having gained county hurling medals with two different clubs, John O'Halloran is steadily building up a large collection of competitive honours, while adding a little to his own reputation with each appearance on the field. Together with Seanie Barry he was the first U.C.C. player to win an All-Ireland medal with the Cork senior hurlers, and no doubt the two students will be as effective as ever when they line out in defence of their title against Waterford early next month.

Pé cúram bainc

atá le déanamh agat,

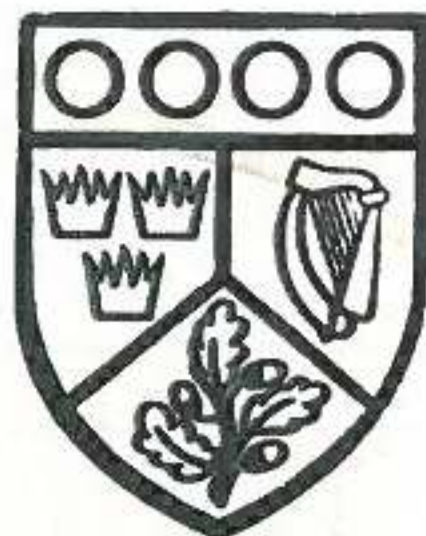
déanfar duit é

## **i mBANC na MUMHAN & LAIGHEAN**

Tá oilteacht agus muintearthas i mBanc na Mumhan agus Laighean rud a tharraingíonn daoine as gach aicme sa tsaol ann. Beidh áthas ar Bhainsteoir an Bhrainse is comhgaráí dhuit de Bhanc an Mumhan agus Laighean labhairt faoi lánrún leat ar aon cheisteanna ar chúrsaí airgid atá ag déanamh buartha dhuit agus míneoidh sé go deas duit buntáisi na séirbhísí éagsúla atá ar fáil do gach custaiméir in ngach Brainse den Bhanc . . . cúntais reatha tíobhais agus taisce, taisceadáin baile, buan-ordaithe, seiceanna taistil agus litreacha creidmheasa, gnó coigríche, seiceadóir agus iontaobhai, cáin ioncaim, etc.

## **BANC na MUMHAN & LAIGHEAN TEORANTA**

Brainsí ar fud na hÉireann





# BITS *and* PIECES

By VINCENT MURRIHY

**D**ID you know that Galway's young football ace, Jimmy Duggan, is also an accomplished hurler? He was centre half-back on the St. Jarlath's team which nearly toppled St. Mary's (Galway) in last year's Connacht Colleges' senior hurling final.

All of this came to mind recently when Jimmy transferred from the Claremorris Club, with whom he has played all of his club football, to Corofin in County Galway which happens to be his native parish.

Jimmy is currently a bank official in Gort, Co. Galway, and for a while it appeared as if he might hurl for the local club. However, the transfer to Corofin put an end to the speculation.

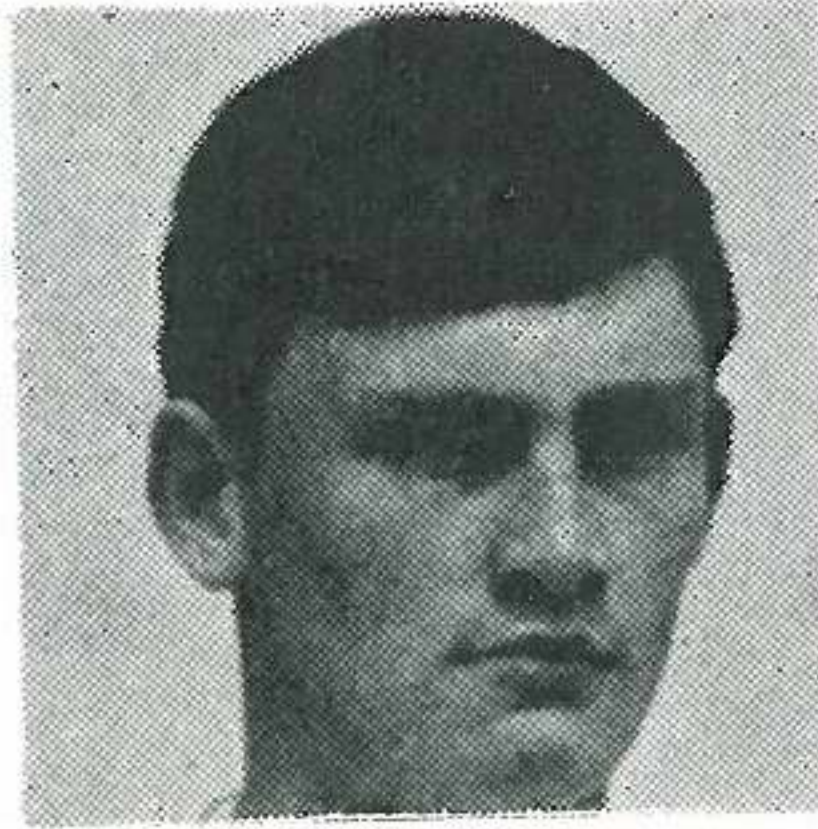
It is no secret that many of Galway's football mentors were not keen on him playing hurling.

## LOUTH PLAN

Congratulations to the Louth County Board on coming up with a very comprehensive, yet lucid, document on the proposed running of competitions within the county over the next few years. Having studied it carefully, I have nothing but praise for those who, obviously, put so much work into its preparation. I sincerely hope the recommendations are accepted and implemented. They offer a new deal to football within the Wee County.

## PUNCTUALITY OR . . .

It is satisfying to note that a firm line is being taken regarding punctuality in many areas. The



*JIMMY DUGGAN*  
*Hurler, too.*

then Ulster Council Chairman, Harry Carey, seemed to set the headline shortly before Christmas when he dealt with a number of county teams who had been late in taking the field. Since then I have noticed Cavan, Mayo and Leitrim—under their respective Chairman, T. P. O'Reilly, Fr. Leo Morahan and Fr. Barney Doyle, showing the same determination in that regard.

The Association, in all areas, owes it to its paying public to follow the lead.

## ARMAGH HANDBOOK

I have recently come across a copy of the handbook of the Armagh County Board and I must say it reflects great credit on all those responsible for its production. In addition to carrying a list of all the forthcoming fixtures in the county it also provides a list of the names, addresses, and, most important, the telephone numbers of all the club secretaries in the county.

It is indeed a remarkable work and it has set a lead that other counties could do well to follow.

## MAYO CAMOGIE

Mayo football is certainly on the rise but the same thing can hardly be said for camogie in the county. In her report to the recent Mayo Camogie Board, secretary Mrs. Vera Mannion reported a most disappointing and frustrating year.

The county championships were not finished; the Balla team, which was chosen to represent the county in the All-Ireland championships was badly beaten; and the county team was whipped by a large margin.

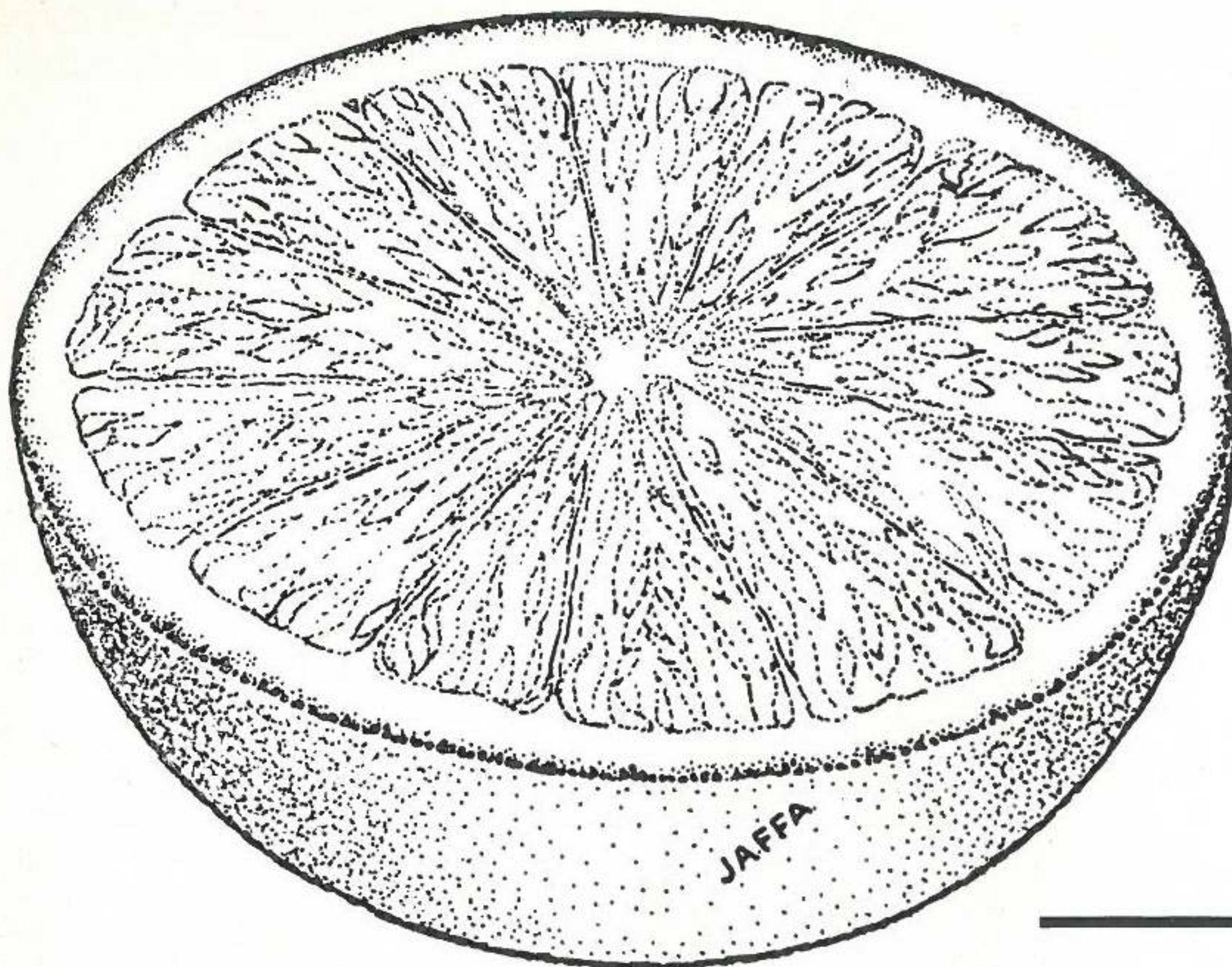
Said Mrs. Mannion—"I got no co-operation from players selected on the county team and all the training that they did was done in the dance halls of the county".

## CRAFTY KERRY

I am always suspicious when little is heard from Kerry at this time of the year and I cannot help avoiding a slight suspicion that there is something 'cooking' down there. With Mick O'Connell back again (and by all accounts scaling his brilliant best) I have a feeling that the Kingdom have a nice quiet surprise in store for their critics when it comes to the championship.

But maybe Joe Lennon does not agree. He claims that their style of football is ten years out of date. Time will tell, however, but as I say don't be surprised if Kerry come bouncing back in 1967.





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# NO FOOTBALL, GIRLS!

PERHAPS I was the only one to feel really pleased about the recent annual Congress of the Camogie Association, but I thought that gathering was a very pleasant augury for the year ahead. I was very pleased by the big attendance of delegates (we had the greatest number of counties I have ever seen represented) but I was even more impressed by the enthusiasm and ability displayed.

It was very heartening to see young people coming into the Association who have ideas and the ability to express them, and there must be every reason to believe that, if these younger representatives continue to show the same energy and initiative through future years, the big advance in camogie, which I have been so long anticipating, must at last be at hand.

Although nothing particularly startling emerged there was a great deal of useful work done. The most remarkable development, perhaps, was the decision to ban camogie players from taking part in organised and competitive football of any kind.

A couple of months ago I felt that any such prohibition was entirely needless. Now I thoroughly concur with the decision. The reason is that football competitions for girls, usually for money prizes and mainly played in dancehalls, suddenly seem to have spread to many parts of the country. These seem to me to be mainly commercial ventures, and I think the Camogie Association is very wise to prohibit its members

from taking part, even when charity benefits from the takings.

The fact that these competitions, for the most part, seem to take place indoors is another fault as far as I am concerned. To me any such game played indoors seems of no advantage, as the participants are far more liable to suffer from dust than benefit by the exercise. Exercise to me seems best of all in the open air, and indoor football, any way you look at it, is a contradiction in terms.

The request by the President, Miss Lil O'Grady that an All-Ireland Colleges' competition be set up is a move that cannot come too quickly. Indeed, I rather wonder if we may not have waited too long.

The difficulty that I see is that such games as volley-ball, net-ball and basket-ball have become very popular of late. That is all to the good, for they are all excellent games for girls, and admirable means of advancing fitness and health, especially in the worst of the winter weather, as all can be played more easily indoors than out. But I fear that, in some schools, the idea seems to be spreading that such games are sufficient, and that there is no need for an outdoor game such as camogie.

Now, leaving all other considerations one side, that is faulty thinking but it is thinking that is becoming too common in certain quarters. Besides, international competition is available in some of those sports and the result is that, where one or other of them have

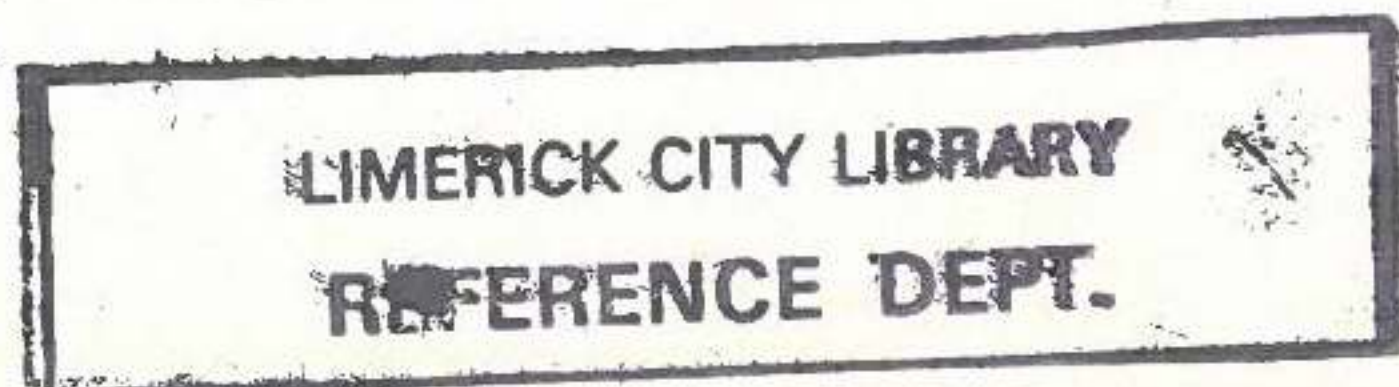
been taken up in some schools, camogie has been entirely abandoned even in schools where the game has been popular for nearly half a century.

This is a great pity. But I think the institution of a Colleges' All-Ireland championship would help in persuading schools to take up camogie again.

So the setting up of an All-Ireland Colleges' championship seems to me to be a matter of some urgency, and one to which Central Council must give its attention right away, so that such a championship will be an actuality by the time the next Congress comes round.

Another matter mentioned at Congress that seems of considerable urgency is the question of a Vocational Schools competition. Such a series is mooted and the sooner it becomes a fact the better. After all, the matter of physical education is now very much to the fore. Soon every large technical school will have a full-time P.T. teacher, and it is obvious that such teachers will have to do plenty of games coaching too. If camogie is played, camogie will have to become part of the curriculum at the Colleges where P.T. teachers are trained.

Camogie was on the course at one such College not too long ago, but owing to complications over the "Ban" rule, the game seems to have been dropped. The result is that P.T. teachers are trained to teach many other games but not camogie and the fault here lies in ourselves.





# 'Capital' marksmen



BRIAN McDONALD  
Synge Street and Dublin

By OWEN McCANN

**A**CHILL BOOTHMAN (St. Columba's) boasts two unique scoring distinctions in Dublin club games, league, championship, challenges and tournaments. His 1962 tally of 15-69 (114 pts.) in 22 games is the highest for a single year in both codes, and also the only century of points or over yet achieved by a Dublin-born hurler for a year's campaign.

The only other year that the top marksman in hurling "broke" the points century barrier was in 1958, when Donie Nealon, then with U.C.D., chalked up 17-51 (102 pts.) in 15 engagements.

The year 1962 was, in fact, the vintage scoring year in Dublin. In 25 outings during that campaign Paddy Somers (St. Anne's) landed 14-69—three minors short of Boothman's hurling record tally, and the highest score yet in football.

On only three other years did the football top marksman reach three figures—1957, when Fermanagh-native, Kevin Screenan, set at 5-86 (101 pts.) in 18 games with Sean McDermott's the record for a non-Dubliner in football; 1958, when Tony Foley scored 13-61 (100 pts.) in 26 games with Parnells, and John Timmons' 4-88, also 100

(Continued next page)

## FOOTBALL

	Points		Score	Games	Average
1957	101	K. Screenan (Sean McDermott's & Fermanagh)	5-86	18	5.61
1958	100	T. Foley (Parnells)	13-61	26	3.84
1959	91	D. McCann (Erin's Isle & Dublin)	10-61	22	4.13
1960	92	C. Flynn (Sean McDermott's & Leitrim)	14-50	18	5.11
1961	100	J. Timmons (Sean McDermott's & Dublin)	4-88	22	4.54
1962	111	P. Somers (St. Annes)	14-69	25	4.44
1963	84	B. McDonald (Synge Street & Dublin)	9-57	16	5.25
1964	90	C. Dowling (Round Towers)	8-66	18	5.00
1965	94	B. Gaughran (U.C.D. & Louth)	6-76	19	4.94
1966	76	H. Lambe (Parnells)	7-55	17	4.47

## HURLING

	Points		Score	Games	Average
1957	66	M. Hogan (St. Columba's) M. McHale (Civil Service)	7-45	13	5.07
1958	102	D. Nealon (U.C.D.)	7-45	14	4.71
1959	72	J. O'Neill (St. Vincent's & Dublin)	17-51	15	6.80
1960	75	D. Nealon (U.C.D.)	19-15	15	4.80
1961	88	O. O'Neill (U.C.D. & Limerick)	16-27	13	5.76
1962	114	A. Boothman (St. Columba's & Dublin)	23-19	15	5.86
1963	51	F. Whelan (Eoghan Ruadh & Dublin) T. Ring (New Irelands & Westmeath) T. Maher (Faughs & Laois)	15-69	22	5.18
			8-27	9	5.66
			9-24	11	4.63
			12-15	11	4.63
1964	94	A. Boothman (St. Columba's)	11-61	15	6.26
1965	75	A. Loughnane (U.C.D. & Dublin)	15-30	15	5.00
1966	99	M. McIlhenny (O'Tooles)	21-36	16	6.18



points, in his 22 appearances with Sean McDermott's in 1961.

In hurling, the goal scoring record at 23 is held jointly by Ted Dowling (New Irelands) and Owen O'Neill (U.C.D.). Dowling scored 23-7 (74 pts.) in 19 games in 1958, and O'Neill 23-19 (88 pts.) in 15 outings in 1961. The points record is 69 which contributed nobly to that all-time high by Boothman in 1962.

The goal scoring record as



**JOHN TIMMONS**

*Sean McDermott's and Dublin.*

regards football is also held jointly. Billy Monks landed 16 majors and 19 points, for a 67 points tally in 19 outings with St. Margaret's in 1957, and Paddy Delaney also cracked home 16 goals with O'Tooles in 1960. In his 13 engagements that year this Dubliner also scored 27 points for a combined total of 75 points. The points scoring record stands to the credit of John Timmons at 88 on the way to his only century. The top match average is 7.90 points achieved by Noel McDonnell with 21-16 (79 pts.) in 10 hurling engagements with Erin's Hope in 1961. Kevin Screenan takes the football top position with 5.61 minors in 1957.

Top scorers in Dublin club games for each year from 1957 to 1966 inclusive, are itemised on facing page.

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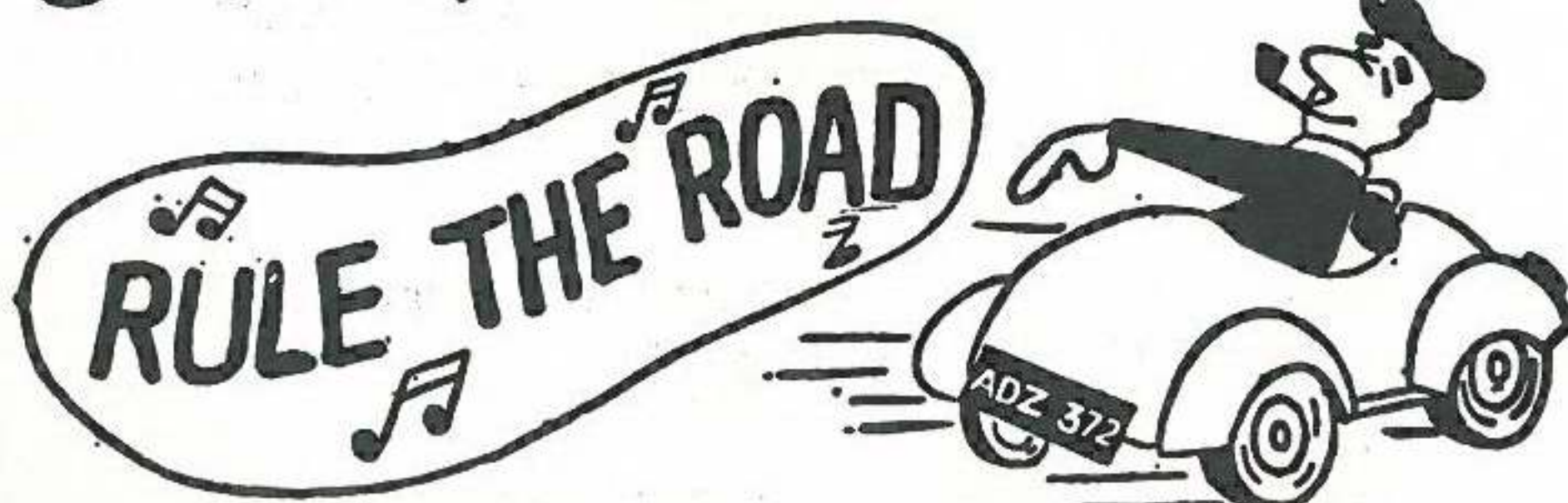
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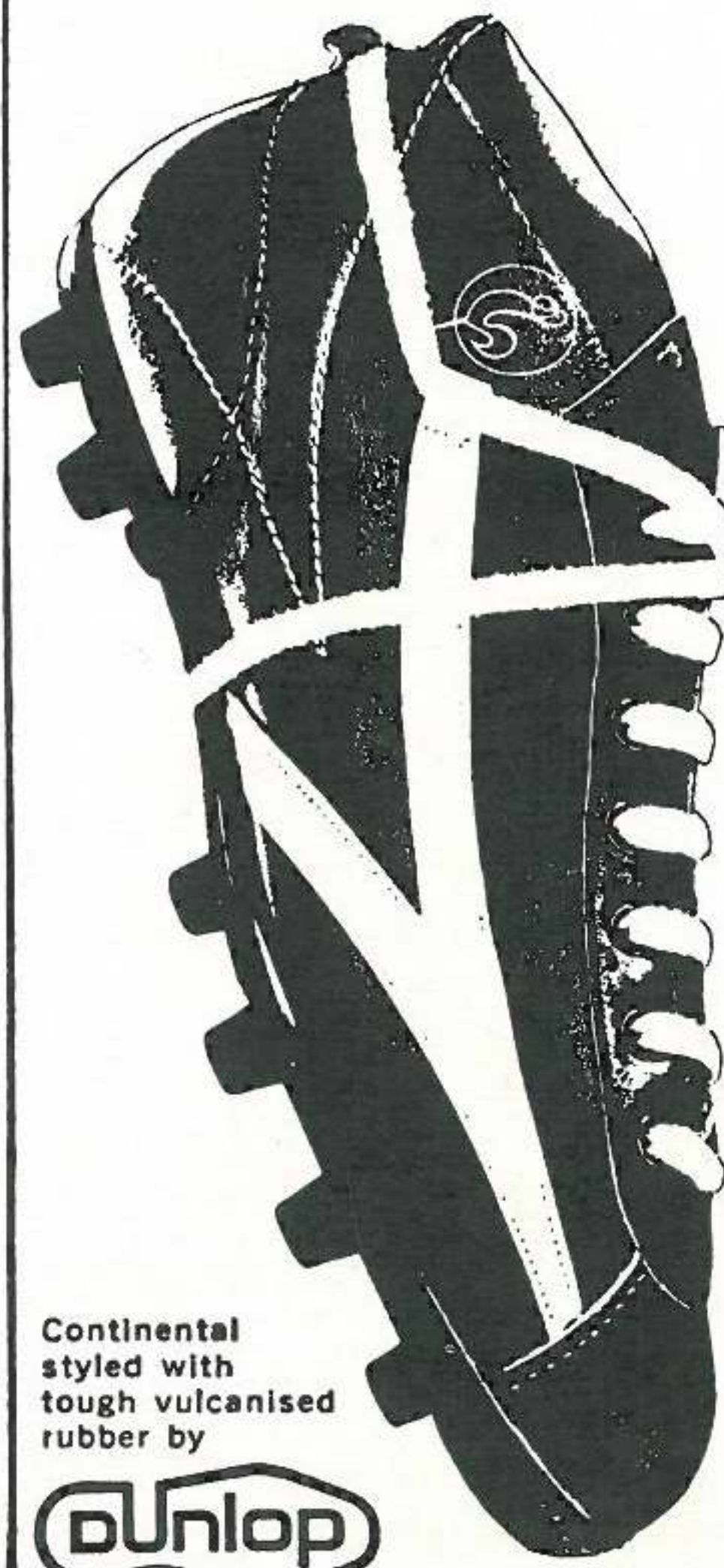


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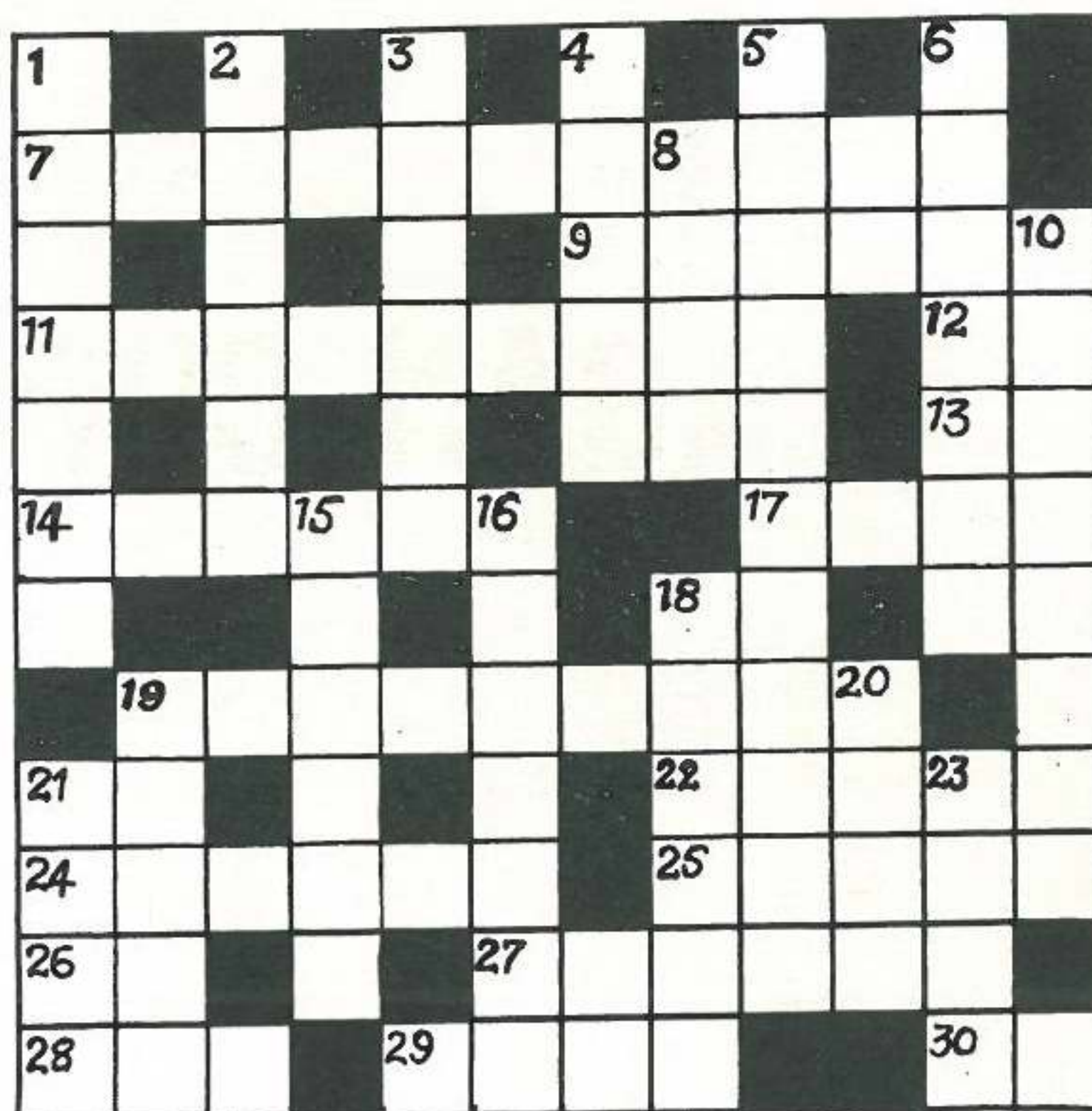


### CLUES ACROSS :

7. Cavan full-back in 50's; he has to be a Cavanman with a name like that. (4, 7)
9. Uneven game becomes ridiculous; better suited to the theatre. (1, 5)
11. Tipperary left half-back. (3, 6)
12. Waterford stalwart G.A.A. man after whom the new local park is named. Initials. (1, 1)
13. One of the grades of G.A.A. competition. (1, 1)
14. A scheme according to which a team hopes to win. (6)
17. How many senior All-Irelands have Wexford won? (4)
18. One of the early Kilkenny greats whose son also was an All-Ireland man. Initials. (1, 1)
19. Schedule of events, or the team-lists sold to the fans. (9)
21. Begin arrangements. (2)
22. An Irish night. (5)
24. Good Roscommon midfielder in All-Ireland triumphs. (6)
25. Should we have a best actor award like this in the G.A.A. (5)
26. Top Louth full-back. Initials. (1, 1)
27. The back fin of a fish. (6)
28. Carroil of Kilkenny. (3)
29. Big Roscommon centre-field or full-forward. (4)
30. Football club? (1, 1)

### CLUES DOWN :

1. Saxon in the Wexford ranks. (7)
2. Family of Patrickswell stars, two of whom play with Limerick. (6)
3. Please give subscription to Dean. (6)
4. Ecclesiastical sounding Wexford footballer was Rory, from a few years back. (5)
5. An opportunity wasted, blindingly. (7, 4)



6. A sporting form of transport closely associated with the G.A.A. (7)
8. Welsh Ivor. (4)
10. Wexford star hurler sounds as if he might have taken up 6 Down in his retirement. (1, 7)
15. Bath on and discover dashing Mayo corner forward of some 20 years ago. (1, 5)
16. In contrast, a present day keyman in Mayo's attack—a red-faced one. (1, 1, 5)
18. U.C.G. Sigerson goalkeeper; he played in an All-Ireland final in 1963. (1, 5)
19. Find the weak spots like a doctor. (5)
20. European Central Cultural Association? (4)
21. To aid a movement on the field, or place your money on your choice. (4 or 1, 3)
23. How much of the game is played by the interval? (4)

**SOLUTION : PAGE 48.**





# THE LAGAN CUP

THE Dr. Lagan Cup was presented to the Ulster Council back in 1942 by the well known County Tyrone physician of that name and at present this beautiful trophy goes to the winners of Division 1 of the National football League. During the War years however, when the Leagues were suspended, it was played for as a separate competition.

At the beginning the Lagan Cup was competed for by only five of the Ulster counties but by 1948 all, except Cavan, were taking part. First winners were Antrim who defended their title successfully during the following season—1943. In 1944, however, the Antrim men appeared only third in the league table, with Derry at the top and Down in second place. This, incidentally, was Derry's first ever trophy in Ulster football and on the way to glory they defeated Antrim (4-6 to 1-10), Tyrone (2-11 to 0-2), Down (3-4 to 1-7) and Antrim (1-7 to 0-3).

In 1945 the Dr. Lagan Cup competition was regarded as a Division of the National football League for the first time—the League having been revived that year. Derry and Down both dropped one place in the League table, Armagh and Tyrone exchanged places at the bottom and the title went to Antrim for the third time but the Glensmen failed to Meath in the N.F.L. semi-final on a replay at Corrigan Park, Belfast (Meath 0-11, Antrim 0-9).

Their 1945 lapses did not dampen the Derrymen's spirit and in '46 they topped the table for the second time, but with only a single point to spare over Antrim. The only team to take a point from the cup winners was, strangely enough, Tyrone—the team that filled the bottom place. Donegal had made their debut in in the competition that year, bringing the number of competing teams to six. The National Leagues were later abandoned and a substitute league formed with Derry representing the Northern Division. They had a good win over Longford in the semi-final and then went on to make history by being the first ever Derry team to play in Croke Park. Their final opponents were Clare, but Derry proved themselves the better and fitter side and won by four points—Derry 2-9; Clare 2-5. And so the first ever National title had come to rest on the banks of the Foyle.

In 1947 a record of eight teams took part in the Lagan Cup and the competition was divided into two sections—Fermanagh and Monaghan being the newcomers. Donegal had an easy passage through their section except for a draw with Tyrone at Omagh, but Antrim and Down finished level at the top of their section. Antrim won the play-off and also beat Donegal, 2-4 to 1-3 in the final—both games being played at Lurgan. Later they were beaten by Cork in a thrilling League semi-final at

Croke Park—a late goal robbing them of victory. The final tally read—Cork 3-5, Antrim 1-10.

The same divisional system was retained for the 1948 Lagan Cup competition with Tyrone and Down coming through their respective sections without dropping a single point. In the Final at Lurgan Down held on to win by two points. That was the end of the line, however, for the Downmen as far as the National League was concerned but they retained that Lagan Cup on their sideboard for keeps. The reason being that the donor had presented a new trophy for future Lagan Cup competitions—so that Down held on to the old one.

Fermanagh dropped out in 1949. Antrim and Derry qualified for the final, which was played at Lurgan. Derry took their third title with an easy 5-6 to 1-5 win but in the Spring lost to Meath in the N.F.L. proper. In 1950 history was made when the Lagan Cup was taken out of the six counties for the first time, with Monaghan's only victory in the competition. Monaghan and Donegal had won their respective sections and met in the final at Irvinestown on a cold, damp November afternoon. The Oriel county proved the stronger and were narrow winners, but Donegal were not to be denied honours for much longer and in 1951 they scored a very deserved victory in this competition.

In 1952 the trophy returned across the Border with the Derrymen taking their fourth title in the series. They relinquished the honour, however the following year when the famous Armagh side of the mid-fifties began a tremendous run in the Lagan Cup series. With victories in 1953, 1954 and 1955, they became the first Northern county to capture the trophy on three successive years. Strangely



enough, that historic and successful run also brought an end to their Lagan Cup successes and they have not since won the title.

The year 1956 brought Tyrone to the fore, finishing their section on level terms with Monaghan but winning the play-off before a record attendance at Cavan. The final with Derry at Lurgan also necessitated a replay but this time Tyrone won and went on to meet Kildare at Croke Park on Palm Sunday. Although they lost that game, the Tyrone men retained their Lagan Cup title in 1957, defeating a youthful Down team by three points in the final.

Derry came back in 1958 and, having won their one and only Ulster senior championship title that year, went on to take their fifth Lagan Cup. In 1959 the present system of allowing four teams—the two top teams in each section—to qualify for the semi-finals was first introduced. This meant that the concluding stages were not played until the Spring of the following year which accounts for the fact that, in the record books, no team is accredited with winning the Dr. Lagan Cup in 1959. Down, Derry, Armagh and Monaghan were the first four teams to qualify under the new system and met in the semi-finals in the Spring of 1960—Down were the ultimate winners and went on to take further honours by becoming the first team to take the National football League title and the St. Brendan Cup across the Border, with the Sam Maguire in between.

In 1961 Derry came back for their sixth and last Lagan Cup victory but in the N.F.L. semi-final lost to Kerry. Down, however, were now the dominant force in Ulster football and soon began a very successful run in Division 1 of the league, taking the Lagan Cup in 1962, 1963 and 1964, thus equaling Armagh's record of three titles in a row. Just to show that more counties than Down and Armagh, however, could complete

a Lagan Cup 'hat-trick', Donegal came along in 1965, 1966 and 1967 and took the trophy, thus becoming the third team to take the title for three years in succession. As no county has ever won the Cup for four successive years, it will be very interesting to see how the Donegal men fare out during the coming 1967-68 season.

In brief then, the Dr. Lagan Cup "Roll of Honour" is as follows:—

**Derry** (6)—1944, 1946, 1949, 1952, 1958, 1961.

**Down** (5)—1948, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964.

**Antrim** (4)—1942, 1943, 1945, 1947.

**Donegal** (4)—1951, 1965, 1966, 1967.

**Armagh** (3)—1953, 1954, 1955.

**Tyrone** (2)—1956, 1957.

**Monaghan** (1)—1950.

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CHRISTY RING.

# *Doyens of the Decade*

By OWEN McCANN

THE outstanding individual scoring achievements during the past decade—that is 1957 up to, and including, the first quarter of 1967—were recorded by Christy Ring and Jim McCartan. The brilliant Leaside scoring artist supreme of yesterday chalked up 6-4 (22 pts.) in a National League game against Waterford at Cork, in November, 1959, while the forceful Down forward recorded just one goal less in a Lagan Cup outing against Antrim at Newcastle in September, 1958.

Leading the way as regards the highest total of goals in one game is a hurler from one of the countries still to get on the All-Ireland senior title winning list—Offaly. In a challenge game with Galway, at Tullamore, on a June day in

1957, Tom Errity put the ball in the net seven times. Earlier that year Eamonn Goulding notched six goals for Cork in a football League game against Carlow, at Cork, in February.

The points scoring record for each code stands at fourteen. Frankie Donnelly pointed fourteen times against Monaghan for Tyrone in a challenge at Augher, Co. Tyrone, in May, 1963, and Eddie Keher made a notable contribution to Kilkenny's last All-Ireland senior final win in 1963 with 0-14.

Johnny Joyce recorded the best score in a championship game in either code during the period under review, when he notched 5-3 for Dublin in a Leinster football

tie with Longford, at Mullingar, in 1960.

## HURLING

1. C. Ring—6-4 v. Wexford, League, Cork, November, 1959.
  2. T. Errity (Offaly)—7-0 v. Galway, Challenge, Tullamore, June, 1957.
  3. W. Dwyer—6-1 v. Ulster, Railway Cup S.F., Cavan, 1962.
  4. D. Heaslip—6-0 v. Offaly, League, Birr, March, 1962.
  5. M. Lynch (Kilkenny)—6-0 v. Wexford, Challenge, Ferns, December, 1957.
  6. L. Maloney (Limerick)—6-0 v. Cork, Challenge, April, 1959.
  7. D. Kelly (Limerick)—5-2 v. Dublin, Tournament, Limerick, April, 1961.
- L. Maloney—5-2 v. Waterford,  
(To page 42).



# Doyens of the Decade

From  
previous  
page



DENIS HEASLIP.

Challenge, Limerick, April, 1958.

E. Keher—2-11 v. Laois, League, Kilkenny, October, 1966.

C. Ring—4-5 v. Connacht, Railway Cup Final, June, 1959.

11. L. Dooley (Tipperary)—5-1 v. Kerry, League, Clonmel, March, 1958.

W. Jackson (Dublin)—5-1 v. Cork, Tournament, Croke Park, December, 1961.

J. Doyle—2-10 v. Kilkenny, Oireachtas Semi-final, Thurles, September, 1960.

P. Christie (Meath)—4-4 v. Roscommon, League, Trim, March, 1964.

J. Doyle—2-10 v. Wexford, Challenge, Thurles, October, 1957.

E. Keher—2-10 v. Offaly, League, Kilkenny, February, 1967.

J. McKenna—5-1 v. Offaly, League, Birr, February, 1962.

19. C. Ring—4-3 v. Carlow, League, Cork, October, 1961.

C. Ring—3-6 v. Waterford, Challenge, Cork, April, 1961.

J. Doyle—4-3 v. Limerick, Championship, Cork, July, 1960.

M. McNamara (Wicklow)—4-3 v. Down, League, Ashford, March, 1963.

O. McGrath—3-6 v. Carlow, League, Enniscorthy, March, 1963.

J. Smyth—4-3 v. Galway, Challenge, Ennis, April, 1964.

M. Lawless (Roscommon)—5-0 v. Kildare, League, Athlone, April, 1961.

T. Ring—2-9 v. Down, League, Portaferry, November, 1966.

## FOOTBALL

1. J. McCartan—5-4 v. Antrim, Lagan Cup, Newcastle, September, 1958.

2. J. Joyce—5-3 v. Longford, Championship, Mullingar, May, 1960.

E. Goulding (Cork)—6-0 v.  
(Continued next page).





Mr. C. Downes (left) presenting the Harp Lager Trophy to Patsy O'Reilly, captain of the Banba (Dublin) football team who won the trophy on the toss of a coin after drawing with Banba (London)—0-7 to 1-4—in the annual match between the teams in London on Easter Sunday.

(From previous page).

Carlow, League, Cork, February, 1957.

4. B. Hayden—3-7 v. Kilkenny, Championship, Kilkenny, April, 1962.

C. Gallagher—2-10 v. Down, Wembley Tournament, Carrickmacross, May, 1966.

6. P. Nolan—4-3 v. Carlow, Championship, May, 1958.

S. O'Connell—4-3 v. Armagh, Lagan Cup, Dungannon, March, 1967.

8. F. Donnelly—0-14 v. Monaghan, Challenge, Augher (Tyrone), May, 1963.

J. Joyce—4-2 v. C. Universities, Croke Park, March, 1960.

S. Price (Antrim)—4-2 v. Derry,

Challenge, Magherafelt, May, 1964.

11. C. Gallagher—1-10 v. Louth, Challenge, January, 1966.

S. Murray—2-7 v. Kerry, Challenge, Killarney, May, 1966.

M. Leech—4-1 v. Donegal, Challenge, Dundalk, June, 1966.

C. Gallagher—1-10 v. Monaghan, McKenna Cup, Cavan, May, 1965.

P. Doherty—2-7 v. Tyrone, Championship, Newry, June, 1965.

H. Donnelly—3-4 v. Laois, Challenge, Tullamore, July, 1960.

J. Timmons—1-10 v. Munster, Railway Cup S.F., 1962.

J. Joyce—3-4 v. Mayo, Challenge, Ballina, April, 1962.

19. C. Gallagher—2-6 v. Leitrim, League, November, 1959.

G. Andrews—3-3 v. Longford, Tournament, Ceannanus Mor, June, 1961.

J. Joyce—4-0 v. Galway, League, Galway, March, 1962.

P. Doherty—2-6 v. Cork, Challenge, Cork, November, 1962.

D. McHugh (Sligo)—3-5 v. Fermanagh, Challenge, Bundoran, August, 1963.

G. Danagher—3-3 v. Wexford, Challenge, May, 1964.

P. Collins (Westmeath)—2-6 v. Leitrim, League, Mullingar, March, 1964.

P. Doherty—0-12 v. Connacht, Railway Cup final, 1965.

J. Timmons—3-3 v. Louth, League, Dundalk, 1965.



# KERRY SHOW THE WAY

**O**UTGOING President, Alf Murray, made many far-seeing suggestions in his address to Congress and one of them was the necessity to think in terms of Saturday games—and of other week-evening games as well, where feasible.

I am glad to note that this is already being done in a number of areas. Kerry, for example, have launched a Towns' League involving all of the county's towns and urban clubs. It is being played as I write—on Sundays and Thursdays.

I note too that the new Connacht minor football league, which begins on April 27, will be played exclusively on Thursday evenings.

This is surely thinking on the

right lines. I particularly like the Kerry Town's League idea. Urban clubs can muster a team on a week-evening much more readily than can rural clubs whose members are likely to be burdened with farm-work. There is great scope for developing this idea.

The Connacht minor league is taking a page from Ulster who have such a competition going successfully for some time. This too is something which could be extended—especially to Munster where football needs some form of fillip.

## NEW YORK BOUND

By the time you read this column, either Galway or Dublin should have won themselves a trip to New York. From New York's

point of view, Galway would, no doubt, be the bigger attraction in Gaelic Park—but then they have been recently there and this takes away from their appeal to a degree.

Donegal, would probably have been quite a draw—as indeed would Mayo had they managed to come through.

The point I am trying to make is that the 1967 N.F.L. "home" champions may not be altogether the best side to send the new international arrangements off to a great start.

However, that is looking at it from a purely box-office point of view. On the other hand there is no denying but that Galway and Dublin are currently the number one teams and whichever of them wins those air-tickets on April 30 will be worthy ambassadors.

## TOM KIRBY

Watching Kerry account for Antrim in their Division II National Hurling League semi-final at Croke Park early in April, I was particularly taken by the delightful play of Kerry right half-back Tom Kirby.

Here was a young man who could take his place on any hurling team for he had all of the class of a budding Seamus Cleere or a Jim English. I learned afterwards that he is currently working in Cork and plays with St. Finbarrs. No doubt, the opportunity to play in Cork competition has contributed to the development of this most stylish Kerry hurler.

## BALLYGAR GROUNDS

Ballygar's new grounds will be officially opened on July 29. There is no truth in the rumour that they are going to name it Mattie McDonagh Park!

## CUMANN LUITH-CHLEAS GAEL

# Comhairle na Mumhan

## MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1967

### SENIOR HURLING :

- A. Cork v. Waterford, June 4.
- B. Limerick v. Clare, June 11.
- Semi-final : Tipperary v. winners of A, July 2.  
Galway v. winners of B, July 9.
- Final : July 30.

### SENIOR FOOTBALL :

- A. Waterford v. Clare, May 21.
- B. Tipperary v. Limerick, May 21.
- Semi-finals : Cork v. winners of A.  
Kerry v. winners of B, both on June 18.
- Final : July 16.



# DONEGAL'S GREATEST DISPLAY

By CONALLACH

**D**ONEGALMEN mourned following the happenings at Croke Park in the National League semi-final, but in the midst of it all there was to be found a considerable degree of pride at having done so well and a liberal helping of hope for things to come.

It was surely Donegal's best-ever big-time display. With anything like an even share in the luck of the game they would have won and so would have been the first to lower the colours of all-conquering Galway. It was a great feat to have gone so near that a technicality was required to beat them.

A view on the controversial penalty which I have heard made by quite a few Donegal followers—and one which I have seen expressed in none of the numerous discussions and articles in the national press — was that there should never have been any need for the penalty. Instead, Des Houlihan's goal should have been allowed as a result of an application of the advantage rule.

Anyway, goal or no goal, Donegal can, I think, look to the championship with higher hopes than ever before. On the form displayed against Galway, there is nothing to halt them in Ulster.

By the way, I do hope the mentors will consider giving a try-out to Frankie Campbell, who is presently in London. I feel that the team could do with his scoring ability.

**ALF MURRAY**

Alf Murray's reign has come to an end and all of Ulster is proud of the great achievements with which the brilliant Armaghman marked his three years as President. He enriched the G.A.A. to an extent which it had never been conceived one man might achieve. His is a record which will stand the test of time and grow in significance with the years.

**GLASGOW G.A.A.**

Glasgow Gaeldom has come very much to life in recent times and as most of the players in that city are Ulstermen, we are inclined to keep very much in touch. Castleblayney Faughs and St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, both visited the Scottish metropolis recently and came home with a high regard for their exiled brothers.

Glasgow are, of course, to compete in this year's junior championship of Britain.

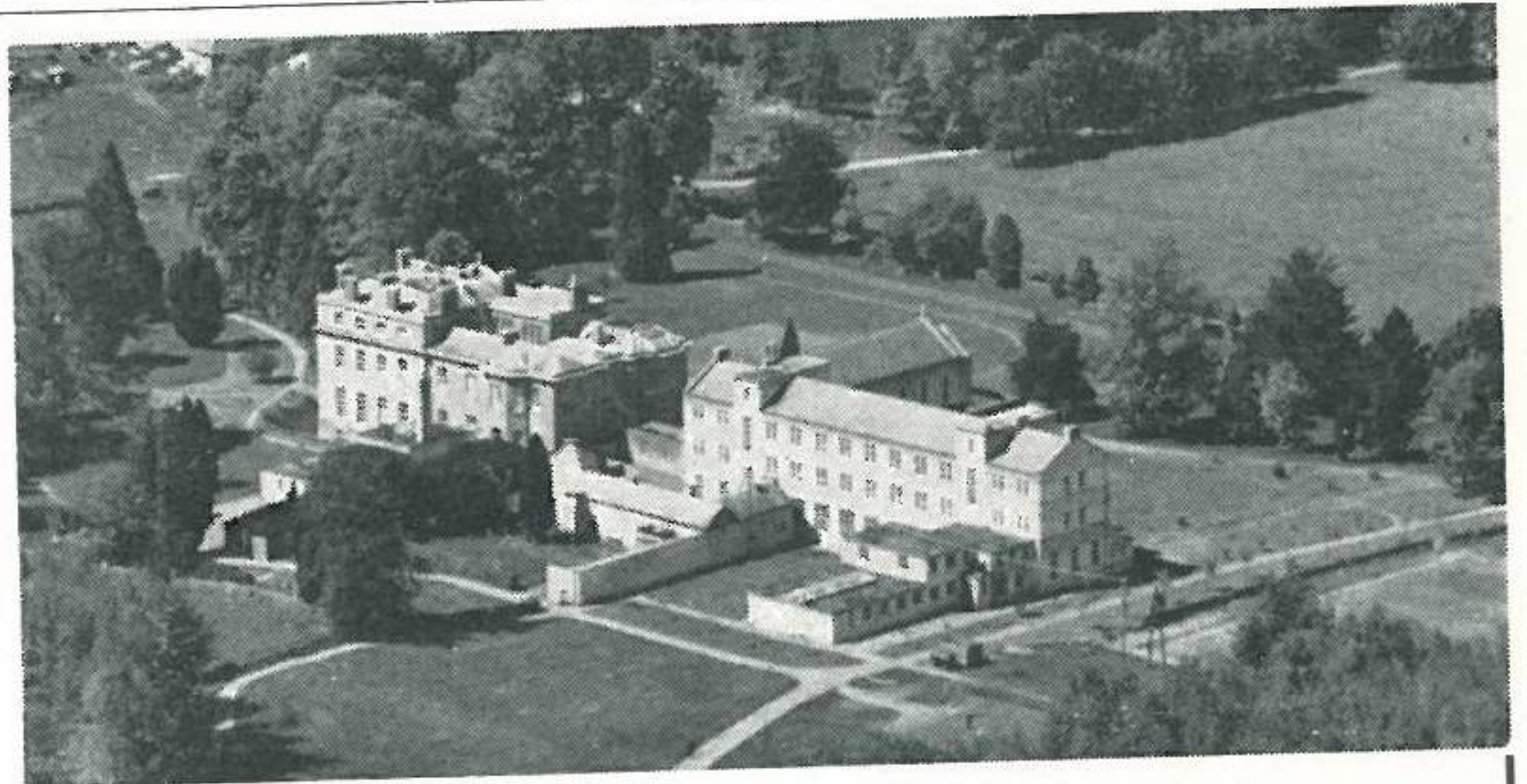
**MICHAEL RONAGHAN**

Former Donegal and Ulster

player, Michael Ronaghan, has returned home from the U.S. and has opened a licensed business in Lifford. It could be that he will return to action with his old club, St. Eunan's, this year.

**FR. MCKNIGHT PARK**

A committee has been formed in Armagh to raise funds for the Fr. McKnight Memorial Park, Collegeland. It is worthy project for the late parish priest of Maghery was President of the Armagh County Board and a sterling Irishman at all times.



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(From page 11)

scurity after their great days, as in the game against Kilkenny, or surging back on the crest of a comeback wave, as against Wexford. Waterford and Galway alone have to provide any serious evidence of challenge: yet, even they have something to crow about—Galway with a respectable performance or two in the League, one of them against Cork, and Waterford with strong performances in defeat by Tipperary and Kilkenny. It all adds up to a pleasant piece of hurling-cud, to be chewed over with deliberation.

What are Cork's prospects of success again this time? They must be considered to be as good as those of any of the other counties, unless Lady Luck turns a sour face towards them. And as they enjoyed her favours freely last year, that possibility is not remote.

Will Tipperary make a comeback? With many of the old and tried stalwarts still gracing the

ranks, they have experience to burn; but, there is, inevitably some doubt whether they have the vital spark which youth alone can provide or, sometimes, ambition for conquest. They have had all the honours that the game can give many times over, and they may not rise again to the occasion.

Will Limerick make long threatening come at last? Experience and the disappointment of defeats have probably fired them into a porcelain-hard determination, and it may make the difference to a well-talented young squad. A sometimes inadequate attack has proved their downfall before now, and many experiments which have been carried out through a very busy winter may bring a happy outcome; if it does, it might well be their year.

Are Clare the team which has taken the longest strides? There is no doubting the form they have recently displayed, and there was much to delight one in

the display which almost sent Cork nose-diving from the championship in last year's first round, especially in the absence of some stars who let them down, and who must be thoroughly sorry for themselves by now. Of all the counties they have the longest history of failure, and they will want all the more for that reason to stake a claim to fame. They have many talented players, but sometimes their real determination is in doubt.

Have Galway a hope of winning a Munster championship at last; can they even make a solid impact for the the first time? With some of the training and teamwork of their footballing brothers, they would stir things up quite unpleasantly for the best of them.

And Waterford? Little to recommend them for the first round against the champions, unless it be the traditional rivalry between the pair. The gap between them, however, seems to have been widening in Cork's favour in the last couple of years. And, yet . . . one never knows.

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## I.C.M.S.A. appoint former Kerry star

THE Kerry football star of former days, Jerome O'Shea, has been appointed Secretary of the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association. We, of Gaelic Sport, wish him every success in his new position.

Our readers are well aware of Jerome's record on the football field, his record in the academic field is equally impressive. He graduated, with honours, from U.C.D. and holds a Masters Degree for Economic Science.

The Cahirciveen man is a member of the National Consultative Committee of the Irish Institute of Secretaries and an associate member of the Irish Management Institute.



# CASTLEBAR MITCHELS

By VINCENT MURRIHY

THE name of Castlebar Mitchels has become synonymous with progress in the G.A.A. world. Since its inception way back in 1885 the famed Mayo club has been hitting the headlines in all its undertakings and ventures for the very reason that it has always attacked things in a big way. "Nothing but the best" has been the motto adopted by the club and it has paid handsome dividends.

Take for instance the club's ground— Mac Hale Park — dedicated to the memory of Mayo's own "Lion of the Fold," Archbishop John Mac Hale, which was officially opened in 1952. Two years ago Bord na bPáirc singled it out to be developed as Connacht's provincial pitch and in this way paid due tribute to the work of the dedicated Castlebar officials spearheaded by Gerry MacDonald and the late Sam MacCormack who had sunk over £100,000 into it over a twelve year period.

And what a job they have made of it. It now is considered one of the finest grounds in provincial Ireland with accommodation for 35,000; spacious press-boxes and ideal broadcasting facilities; and four modern fully equipped dressing-rooms. Plans are now well ahead for even further improvement, which will include a stand capable of seating 2,000 and the raising of the total capacity to 50,000.

But that is only one facet of the club's activities. In 1960 it became the first G.A.A. club to tour the U.S.A. when it made the trip, costing £8,000, at the invitation of the St. Patrick's Club in New York and the enthusiastic reception that the players and officials received in all the American cities which they visited showed how much their fame and popularity had spread among the Irish there.

This was followed by two further trips to England in 1962 and '63 and here again the extent of their popularity had to be seen to be believed. Everywhere they were received with open arms—a mark of appreciation of the hospitable way they had entertained touring teams when they visited Castlebar.

Since 1885 the county football championship has come to the county town on no less than twenty-one occasions. Ever since 1888 when the captain, legendary Tom Kelly, insisted on the team engaging in regular training the club has always set an example in fitness and sportsmanship.

But despite their earlier dedication success eluded them on the playing field for many years—in fact up to 1903 when old rivals and great friends, Ballina, dominated the scene. But once the Mitchels got into their winning stride there was very little to stop them.

The year 1930 saw the beginning of an era in Mayo football for in

that year Castlebar took over and stayed on top for practically all of that decade. And when Mayo did at last manage to land that elusive

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## ÉIREANNAIGH SAN EOLAÍOCHT

Séamus Mac Cnáimhín

Gearrchuntais ar shaol agus ar phearsantacht 13 Éireannach a bhí ina gceannródaithe san Eolaíocht idir an 17ú agus an 19ú céad.

*" . . . a ghnó féin déanta go fíorchumasach ag an údar an t-eolas cnuasaithe go cúramach aige agus é curtha i láthair ar bhealach soléite."*

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(From page 47)

All-Ireland crown in 1936 the team was, naturally enough, backboned by Castlebar players in the persons of Tom Burke (R.I.P.), "Tot" McGowan, Paddy Quinn, Patsy Flannelly (R.I.P.), Paddy Moclair, Josie Munnely and Billy Mongey.

Indeed the same Josie Munnely was to win an All-Ireland junior medal with Mayo in 1957—almost twenty years later — a unique achievement.

And what a debt he and his colleagues have repaid Mayo football. Paddy Moclair has set up a special committee in the county for the placement in employment of the young footballers, who otherwise might be forced to emigrate, while most others of those former stars have in their time passed on the benefit of their experience to successive Mayo and Castlebar teams.

It was this alliance that was mainly responsible for the Mitchel's dominance in Mayo football right down through the 'forties—with county successes coming in 1941, '42, '44, '45, '46 and '48 as well as being runners-up in all the other years of that decade.

Then followed the "glorious years" of Mayo football, 1950 and 1951, the years that Mayo were to run up their second and third All-Ireland successes. And it was only fitting that once again these teams should have a strong Castlebar element in their composition as from 1950 to 1954 Castlebar once again wore the mantle of the county championship.

Since then the name of Castlebar Mitchels has been inscribed on the trophy in 1956, '59, '63 and hopes are high that this year's title will also be added to the list, with the help of two of last year's Mayo minors, Benny Mac Hale and Gay Nevin.

Thanks to the breeding-ground provided by the local De La Salle-run St. Gerald's College, a never-ending supply of young and talented footballers is being provided to fill the gaps being caused by the retirement of the more experienced hands. But all down through the years this has always been the story. Football in Castlebar owes the Brothers a real debt of gratitude for the manner in which they promote the Gaelic

games and ideals among their charges.

A further example of the progressive outlook of the club is their attractively produced membership card which in itself is a miniature history of club affairs. It gives an account of their numerous successes (including a dozen junior hurling titles), club officers and other relevant details.

Yes indeed, Castlebar Mitchels have set a headline for every other club in the entire country. The club which insists on having ceilidhe music only at its annual dinner; which has provided an alternative playing field adjacent to the main pitch to save it from excessive wear and another for the De La Salle Brothers; which has been to the forefront in the promotion of hurling in the town; which has plans on hand to sponsor an All-Ireland club championship in the near future; which has proved in all its undertakings that there is no substitute for effort, and most important, which has lived up proudly to the words on its membership card: "Good sportsmanship and gentlemanly behaviour are qualities for which the club is best noted and of which it is justly proud. Who, then, is he that would be guilty of marring such a reputation?"

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