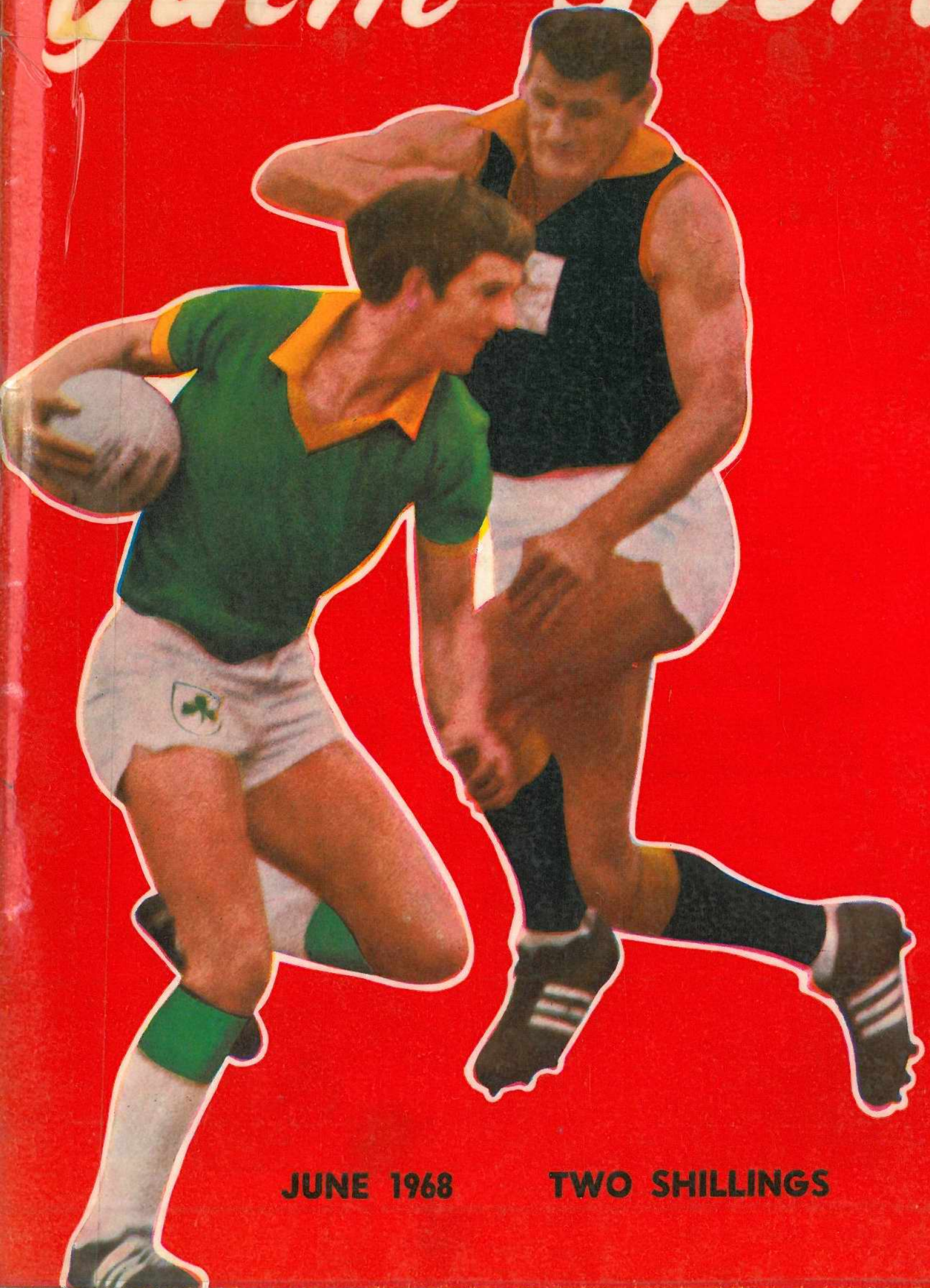


77 GAA

Gaelic Sport



JUNE 1968

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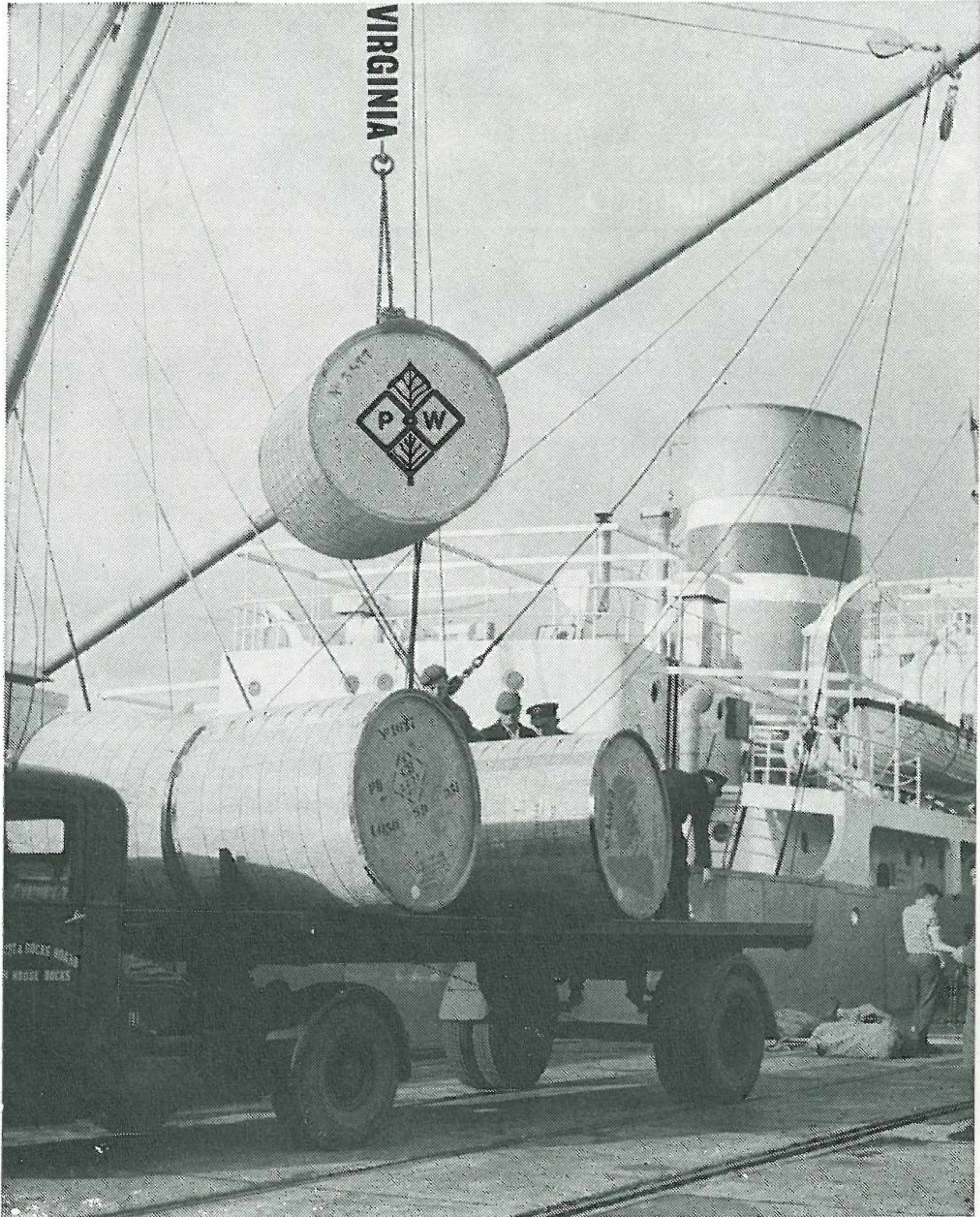
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INDEX

	Page
<i>The Cork G.A.A. Story</i> —by Eamonn Young	4
<i>Johnny Carey: Destined for Greatness</i> —by Seán Rice ...	11
<i>Grave Task Faces New Body</i> —by Jay Drennan	12
<i>Con O'Sullivan talks to Seán Murphy</i>	21
<i>Mick White</i> —interviewed by Seán O'Donnell	22
<i>Future Structure of the G.A.A.</i> —by Dan McAreevy	25
<i>An Artist Named O'Neill</i> —by Owen McCann	26
<i>Camogie: A Junior Fillip</i> —by Agnes Hourigan	35
<i>Eileen Naughton: A Profile</i> —by Agnes Hourigan	37
<i>The Young Eagles: How They Are Faring</i> —by Owen McCann	38
<i>Moondharrig's Diary</i>	40
<i>Handball</i> —by Alleyman	43
<i>The Battle In Ulster</i> —by Seamus McCluskey	45
<i>Lá Mór Gaodhalach</i> —le Liam Ó Tuama	48
<i>Top Ten</i>	50
<i>Waterford Must Bank on Youth</i> —by Tim Horgan	51

COVER PICTURE

Our front cover picture, this month, shows Meath's Matt Kerrigan about to be tackled by Australian Paddy Guinane.

SAD REFLECTIONS

THE nasty incidents that marred the first half of the National Hurling League home final between Tipperary and Kilkenny at Croke Park on May 12 were strongly condemned by the national newspapers on the morning after the match. One, at least, of those incidents was so grave that we feel it our duty—though the event is almost a month gone by—to express similar condemnation.

We do so, as we believe the national newspaper correspondents did, for the sole sake of hurling. The pressmen have been rebuked for their criticism when, in fact, they should have been thanked. A couple of officials were quoted as saying that they saw no incidents in the game. It was a subtle way of implying that the sports writers were guilty of exaggeration, probably of lies.

It is true that the actual fighting occupied no more than two minutes out of 60. The other 58 were devoted to hard but good, clean hurling. And of those two minutes, only the stick battle in the Kilkenny goalmouth—for which both sides were equally at fault—was deliberately and dangerously dirty.

But a fight of that type doesn't have to last for half an hour to merit the condemnation of the press. Seconds are sufficient to wreak serious damage when hurleys are used as weapons in a conflict. It is true, again, that nobody suffered grave injury, but

that should not be the criterion of innocence or guilt when sticks are used with lethal intent. Nor is provocation a mitigating factor. Pictures published in the *Irish Press* showed the horrifying acts of violence in the row.

We regret that we had to write in this vein. Our only purpose is to plead with all officials, especially those in charge of teams, to make a really serious attempt to prevent acts of violence on hurling fields—simply for the sake of this noble game. Incidents like those of May 12 happily are few and far between nowadays. But even one a year is one too many.

To the uninitiated, hurling looks a dangerous game, when, in fact, it is not. **IT IS DANGEROUS**, however, when aggressive, mean and undisciplined players wield hurleys as weapons to maim opponents.

How can the hurling revival succeed if parents, particularly in the softer society of cities, are presented with stark evidence that their sons will run the risk of serious injury if they play the national game?

In many cases, the boys themselves will not wait for parental advice. They will turn their backs on the game; and on the other side of the fence there are men waiting to capture the drop-outs—men who regard with silent glee the G.A.A.'s unwitting connivance in the decimation of its own ranks.

Boy at the crossroads

THE following story illustrates the alarming reality of the point made in the last paragraph of the article above. We can vouch for its truth. On May 12, a keen hurling follower, a partisan of one of the teams, took his small son to Croke Park. It was the little boy's first time at a big hurling match. He had been at only one other sporting event previously—a schools' rugby match at Lansdowne Road.

Leaving Croke Park the father asked his son which he preferred, Croke Park or Lansdowne Road. And the little boy, spontaneously and with the innocence of his age, replied: "Lansdowne Road . . . because they don't strike each other with sticks there".

The enormity of the moral in that story, and the infinite sadness of it as far as hurling is concerned, must haunt everyone with a shred of interest in the future of our premier national game. It might be paraphrased as "A simple lesson in how to scare away the young ones."

The Cork G.A.A. story

By

EAMONN YOUNG



THE AUTHOR

EAMONN YOUNG, whose writings—sometimes humorous, sometimes profound, always eminently readable—have been a feature of this magazine for many years, in this issue presents the second instalment of a story that, as An Taoiseach said, in his introductory note last month, he is well fitted to tell—the story of the G.A.A. in his native Cork.

He has an intimate know-

ledge of Cork's contribution to the G.A.A., for his family played a distinguished part in shaping it. His father, Jack Young, won an All-Ireland football medal with the county in 1911 and 34 years later, in 1945, Eamonn also won that coveted prize. His brother, Jim, was one of Cork's greatest hurlers, winning five All-Ireland medals in the county's fantastic run of victories in the 'forties.

In 1919 Corkmen were about fed up of being beaten. Obviously it wasn't an easy time to organise teams but selectors Seán MacCarthy, Canon Eddie Fitz. and their friends sat down to pick a team that would beat Limerick. They picked fourteen men from ten clubs, each man playing in his own club position, but they had to do something about the great Limerick quarter back Jack Keane, father of the present Limerick hurler, P. J. Keane. For him, specially, they picked Balty Aherne, tough as nails and with enough ability to keep him at the task of getting All-Ireland goals twelve years after.

Balty "minded" Jack Keane and Cork won. The side won the All-Ireland with Mick Doheny Murphy at centreback, Seán Og Murphy at full and 19-year-old Eudie Coughlan was sub. After 1931 the only men in Cork who had five All-Ireland senior hurling medals were Balty and Eudie.

Seán Og would have been with them, no doubt, but for that severe injury suffered in '29.

In fact the records of Balty and Eudie Coughlan were not surpassed until 1946 when Jack Lynch won his sixth medal in a row, a feat that probably won't be equalled.

How we got the red jerseys is a story on it's own. Up to 1911 each club which represented the county wore it's own colours, but after that a jersey of royal blue and saffron (which sounds frightfully polite) was presented. In 1919 the British raided the County Board rooms and among other things, took away the jerseys. At the time, Fr. O'Leary Hall had decided to join the Barrs and make one strong club

in the parish so, on request, they lent the jerseys to Seán Mac. The jersey of flaming red was worn in many a hard clash that year and when the cup came home the affection for the sweater ensured it's retention. Thus was the "Blood and Bandage" born.

After the win of 1919 there was a very quiet period for the independence struggle took all the time of many a man who would have been playing, and it wasn't 'till the junior championship of '25 that the red jersey began to show. In the following year, under the captaincy of Rockies' Seán Og Murphy Cork beat Dublin in the May League final and started a great year, in fact a great era, for in the next six years the county was to win

it's way to five finals winning four of them.

In '26 it was, that Tipperary, back from their American tour as world champions, came down to the Athletic Grounds in Cork to play us in the Munster final. Down to see how our young team would fare with the champs went the thousands, while the Tipperary following cheered with pride as famous captain Johnny Leahy led out his brothers Mick and Paddy, Mick Darcy, Phil Cahill, Martin Kennedy and the rest.

The game was on for about ten minutes and Tipperary leading by a goal and two points when the pressure from behind allowed of only one solution. Gasping for air the thousands moved slowly, silently, peacefully, right through the wooden paling right on to the field in what was the most inoffensive invasion of all time. The match was abandoned.

The replay, in Thurles a week later in September, brought thirty thousand but though there was plenty of room no decision was reached for at the end of the hour the sides were level and had to meet again. A fortnight later, still in Thurles, the champions of the world met the newcomers from Cork in a game which all knew would be decisive. So it was, for after a game of tremendous hurling Seán Og and his men ran out winners by 3-6 to 2-4. Flying fit and superbly tuned after these games Cork ran through Kilkenny by 4-6 to two goals.

What a great side this was. Seán Og, steady and tough at full back; John and Eudie Coughlan, sons of old Parson, captain of the early days whose father and four brothers played on the same Rockies team; Gah Aherne and his brother Balty; Mattie Murphy, stocky, utility man Paddy Delea; Maurice Murphy and skilful, tough centre-fielder Love Higgins from the army side; Jim Regan



Eudie Coughlan, captain of Cork's All-Ireland team in 1931.

of Kinsale, fearless talented wing half back; Dr. Joe Kearney of the Barrs; darling winger Dinny Barry Murphy of Cloughduv ("Dinny Barry Murphy boy, he'd take the ball out of yer eye boy, an' he wouldn't hurt a fly, boy"); Mick Doheny Murphy who stood sodidly in the gap with rifle or hurley; sweet corner back hurler Maree Connell and the great midfielder from Clonakilty, Jim Hurley.

In the following year of '27 Cork again got to the final, but they met the greatest Dublin team of all time, and one which would have beaten any team before or since for it included stars from all over the country like Matty Power, Garret Howard, Mick Gill and Tommy Daly. Cork, to make matters worse, had injury trouble and were well beaten, but rose again in '28 to draw with Clare, the conquerors of Tipperary in the Munster final. In fact, the number of hard games Cork has had with Clare over the years makes it worth noting. Cork won the replay, however, and in the Nowlan Park final hammered Dublin before taking Galway in the final where Ignatius Harney and Mick King starred for the westerners.

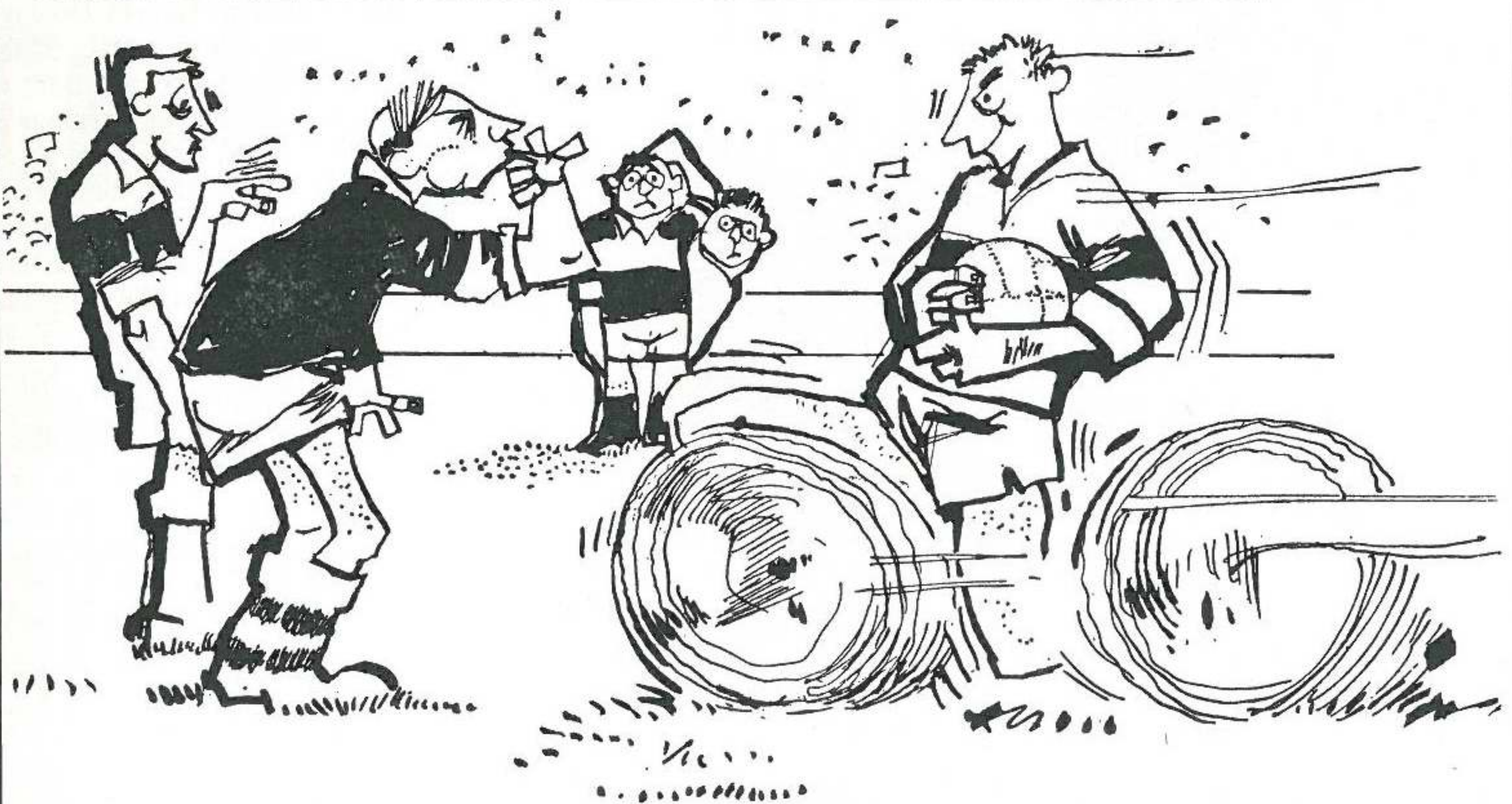
Micky Leahy of the famous Tipperary hurling family had his place on the side along with the other talented newcomers, Miah Burke the goalkeeper, Morgan Madden, Tom Barry of Carrigtwohill, Hawker Grady and Micko Connell.

Dinny Barry Murphy, who had led Eire Og to a Cork championship win in '28, led out Cork in the following year, but the side had already suffered a sad blow when Seán Og was seriously injured in a tournament game against Clare in Limerick some months before. The career of a man who had been in the gap since 1915 was ended, and into his place at full back stepped wiry clubmate Maree Connell.

On to the team came Johnny Kenneally of the Barrs and Fox Collins, the first representative of the Blackpool team, Glen Rovers, who starred at corner back for about ten years, and who used amuse us young fellows with his trick of rising the sliotar with the hurley held in one hand and letting the ball run down along the shaft until it came to rest held by the right thumb.

● TO PAGE 7

SHELL



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

GOOD MILEAGE —



● FROM PAGE 5

Cork beat Galway well in '29, but in the following year everything went wrong and Cork, after losing a lot of secondary games went down before—here they come “agin”—the men from Clare. The old timers will tell you we won an All-Ireland for Tipperary that day, for they beat Clare and went on to victory.

But the Corkmen were yet to know their finest hour, and in '31, after a breath-taking draw in Clonmel (again with Clare) they moved on until they faced Kilkenny in Croke Park.

There was captain Lory Meagher, tall wide-shouldered, slim-hipped, every inch an athlete and the lean son of Parson Coughlan, deadly quiet and serious Eudie, out there tossing a coin. At the end of the hour the teams were level and so they met again in what has been described as the classic hurling game of all time. In a heart-rending finish they drew with identical scores of two goals and five points after a goal and six each on the first day.

The chips were truly down when they met for the third time on the dull grey of a November evening and this time Kilkenny, without their star Lory Meagher, found the going hard on the halfway line where big Jim Hurley and Micko Connell had been thundering into top form. Cork won well, with a score of 5-8 to 3-4, and the greatest championship before or since had finally come to an end. Victory was sweet; why wouldn't it? But even in their delight, players and spectators from the Lee found in their hearts a sporting sympathy with a great team from the Nore which played the game as men play it: to the final whistle. For them there was no disgrace in defeat.

Eudie Coughlan, the captain, played hurling of the masters and the point off his knees will be

remembered as long as they talk hurling. Jim Regan, at centre-back, leaping through a forest of sticks to lash away to safety, Dinny Barry Murphy, stylist of the artiste's mould; Maree Connell, guarding the square and steady goalkeeper John Coughlan; Fox Collins, all skill and

and Micko Connell strode the field. There were Balty and Gah cribbing at one another, perhaps, and driving both themselves and their comrades on to greater efforts for Cork—Balty strong and resolute, Gah, nonchalant in delightful skill. There was strong Paddy Delea in the corner, where his stick rammed home the goals that mattered and young Billy Clancy from Mallow, who fitted in expertly at full forward.

This may have been the greatest team of all. How does one judge? Enough to know that they won for Cork the most memorable of All-Irelands. Neither the calendar of the changing years nor the shadow of dusky death itself can dim their memory.

In these six great years which included seven All-Ireland finals (including the draws of '31) Cork lined out only twenty-five players. In the three games of '31 the same fifteen played, with young Georgie Garrett, the stylist from the Rockies, coming on as sub. in the last two games.

It was in this era that the team was playing Tipperary in the Munster final in Thurles. They had all been to Holy Communion, where Canon Eddie Fitzgerald had given them a special blessing. At breakfast the priest said grace and the lads began to talk animatedly but, Gah Aherne was very quiet.

“What's wrong, Gah?”, says a pal.

“Ah, to tell you the truth”, says the great forward, “I'd rather beat 'em on the field.”

Nineteen-thirty-two saw the rise of Clare and, in the following year, the arrival of Limerick. Cork wasn't seen in the Munster final again until '39, for although we had really champion hurlers like Georgie Garrett, John Quirke, the all-time great from Blackrock, thundering midfielder Jack Barrett with the heart of a



Dinny B. Murphy
(Cork)



Lory Meagher
(Kilkenny)

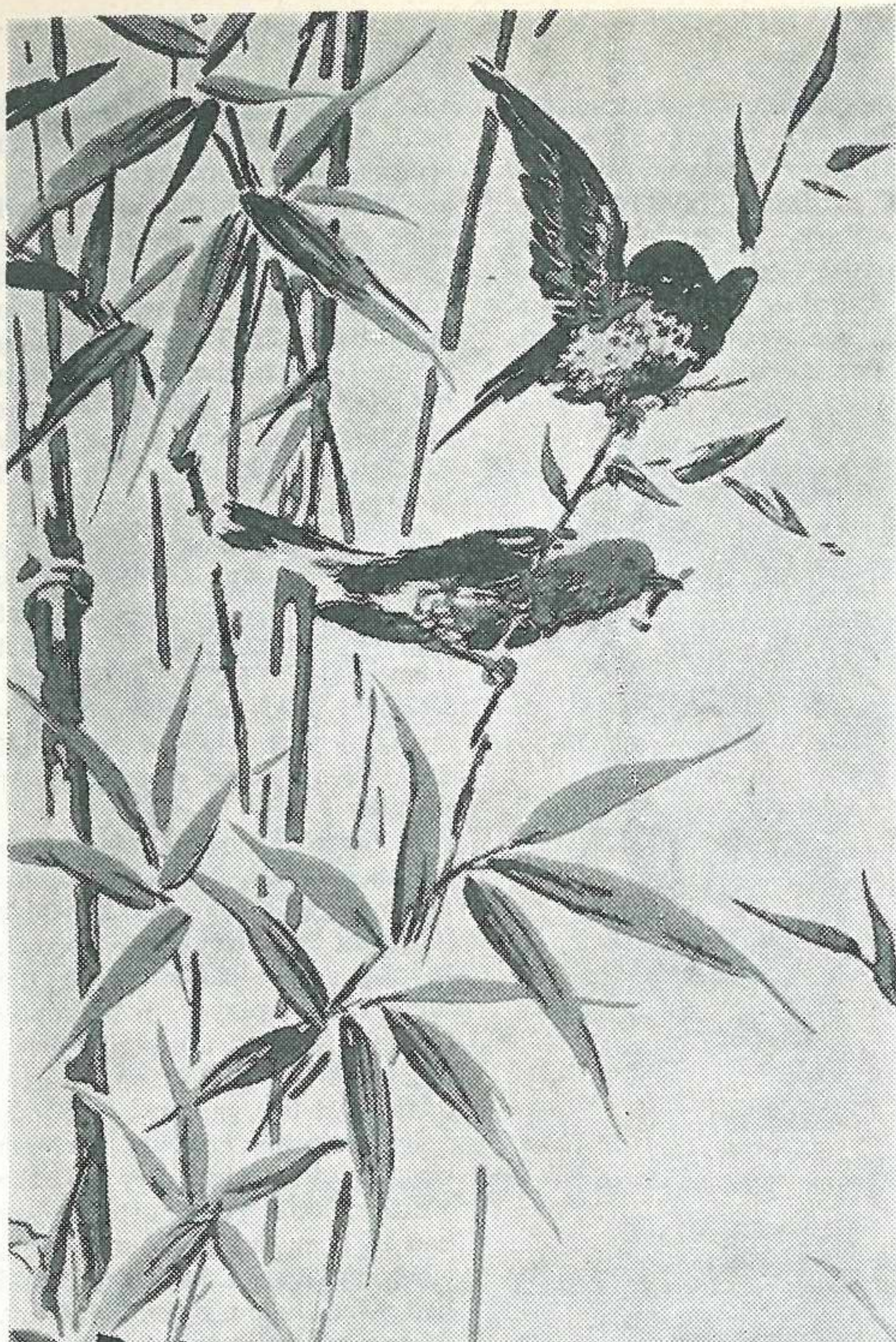


Jim Regan
(Cork)

brains at corner back and Morgan Madden of Redmonds on the other side, with a nose broken in the game, but refusing to leave the field. Hawker Grady from Mallow, slim and strong and Tom Barry, the athlete from Carrigtwohill—each won three All-Irelands.

On the halfway line was a powerhouse pair of skill, strength and dedication, when Jim Hurley

● TO PAGE 8



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● FROM PAGE 7

lion, Micka Brennan of Sarsfields, all pace energy and flying shots, as well as Johnny Kenneally of the lovely style from the Barrs and some of the men of '31, like Jim Regan, Jim Hurley and Dinny Barry Murphy for a few years, we didn't have a full fifteen of top performers and these were the years of the magnificent team from Limerick with the Clohessys, Dave and Paddy, the Ryans, Mick and Timmy; the Mackeys, Mick and John; Mickey Cross, Paddy MacMahon and their comrades.

So it wasn't 'till '38 that a truly fine win by a new side stopped Limerick in Thurles, with Fox Collins and Georgie Garrett "lashing at falling balls with rare abandon", as Green Flag the writer said. Then, on a wet day in Dungarvan, Cork went down to resurgent Waterford, who under the leadership of John Keane, Dec Goode and Christy Moylan almost went the full distance.

In '39 people felt, in spite of the Dungarvan reverse, that the stuff was there by the Lee once more. In Fermoy they played Waterford with another new team, changed from the year before with Ted Sullivan and Alan Lotty out of minor class, "old timers" Jim Buttimer, Jack Barrett, Micka Brennan, and John Quirke, rising men like Billy Murphy, Jack Lynch, Billy Campbell and Jim Young. Cork had a great side in the making and they put thoughts of the All-Ireland decisively out of the heads of the men in blue and white.

Glen Rovers had been county champions since '34 and, in addition to Jack Lynch and Jim Young, had the captain Sonny Buckley at midfield with Jack Barrett. In one of the mightiest games of all time, on the sun-baked pitch at Thurles, where we all nearly went hysterical, Cork

stopped Limerick to the score of 4-3 to 3-4 and the road to Croke Park was wide open.

On that week-end of September 3, 1939, when Chamberlain declared war on Hitler, the world was truly upset. Mother Nature, grumbling and groaning through the night shed torrents of tears, and Jim Young told me when he and a few more players went for a walk after breakfast, a sudden downpour caught them and they were drenched to the skin, necessitating a complete change when they reached the hotel. The player doesn't like that kind of preparation.

Still, the day was dry while the minor game was on and the boys showed the road to the men with a good win over Kilkenny. Then the rain came down and the senior match started in a downpour. We thought that was bad but it was only a teardrop compared to the deluge in the second half when the dye of the referee's green jersey ran on to his togs and at times it was very hard to distinguish the players for the sheets of rain. Hailstones hopped off our heads on the line and hurleys flew wildly from slippery hands. The sod was well churned up and all anyone could do was to slap away the sliotar and hope for the best. Overhead from a black sky the thunder rolled and lightning lit up the evening. Truly the world was at war.

Kilkenny, playing to the Canal end, were well on top in the first half and Cork were a goal and three points down at half time, the score being 2-4 to 1-1.

In the second half, however, it was all Cork and Jack Lynch, taking a decisive free over near the Hogan Stand side, was all set for a score. Hard to blame one for being excited, and the wild charge of the Kilkennymen before the whistle, was only a sign of the feeling. The whistle went and Jack was given the free

again, nearer this time. Again the lads in Black and Amber lost their heads and charged. The referee placed the ball, nearer again and now it was within goal-scoring range, something outside the twenty-one. Jack Lynch lifted and struck. It was a true hard shot, but on the wrong side of the bar and we had to be content with the point. In fact, it took skill to raise and strike it at all.

Grimly the struggle continued with the Cork forwards, driven on by Barrett and Sonny Buckley at centre-field, really piling the agony on a Kilkenny defence where little Paddy Larkin and stylist Paddy Phelan held out well. The Kilkenny lead was down to three points when Billy Campbell from right half back moved up to take the Cork seventy. He lifted in all that dreadful weather and if it was hard to hit, it was also hard to block. There was an incredulous roar when they picked that sliotar out of the net.

We were all delighted for the game was over and the repeat would be wonderful. But a ball was broken out of the Cork back-line and a Kilkenny player was after it like a terrier, to lift, swing and drop a right-hander out of the sky towards the Railway goal from the right wing under the Cusack. I can still see that ball travelling and as it went straight and true between the posts I knew we were beaten.

There was a deathly silence and then came the Kilkenny roar. It was all over, and the man who scored that dreadful point was Jimmy Kelly. Thirty-one years before when Cork and Kilkenny were level at the end of the All-Ireland final a man from Mooncoin lashed over the winning point. His name was Jimmy Kelly. Did his spirit guide the hands of the man in '39?

Anyway, home Corkmen came dejected, we—Glen Rovers chaps—in particular feeling keenly the sting of the prophecy (fortun-



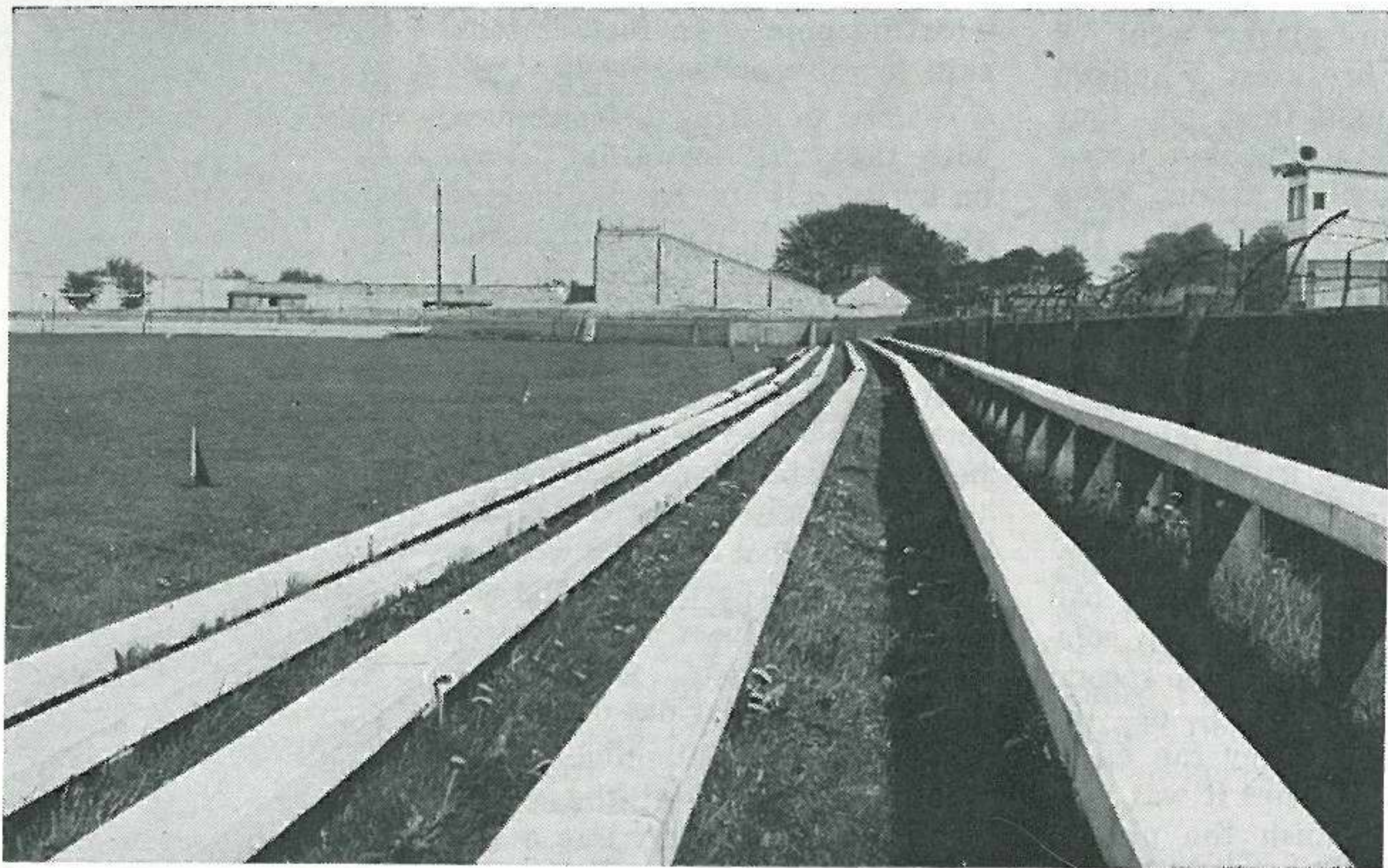
Ted Sullivan . . . helped to usher in Cork's glorious hurling era of the 'forties.

ately incorrect) made so often since '34, when the club won its first of eight successive championships: "We'll never win the All-Ireland until the Rockies win back the county".

But there were great days ahead.

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By SEAN RICE

JOHNNY CAREY

Destined for greatness

IT was one of those days when the Mayo right corner back, Johnny Carey, had a right to feel pleased with himself. He had been having much the better of his argument with Galway's John Keenan as both teams battled out a National League game at Castlebar.

For more than thirty minutes Carey thwarted the efforts of the Galway man and it seemed as if his display was giving Mayo the shot in the arm they so badly needed. But then it happened. For one split second Carey took his eye off the Galway red-head and in seconds Keenan had flashed the ball into the net. Suddenly the game, which had been balanced delicately between two fine sides, swung in Galway's favour. And another goal by Keenan clinched the issue.

So a game which started so sweetly turned out a bitter disappointment for the Mayo player. He was only 20 years old and was still cloaked with the immaturity that haunts young players. That was two years ago, but since then Carey has had the better of his duels with the Galway man. Now, indecision has given way to maturity and although still only 22 years old he seems destined to carve a special niche for himself in Mayo football.

Johnny Carey first played for Mayo as a minor in 1962 and again the following year. And from 1964 to '66 he distinguished himself on Mayo's intermediate team. He was promoted to the senior team in 1965 and has played at full-back, centre-half back and at right corner, a position he has now made his own.

It had always been Carey's ambition to play with the Mayo senior team—ever since his schooldays when he kicked an old ball round the school yard at Bangor. But this ambition did not begin to blossom until he attended St. Muredach's College in Ballina.

"Fr. Jim Nallen used to train the college team," he said, "and I learned a lot from him. He did a great deal for football in the college and was always willing to impart his considerable knowledge of the game to the students."

Carey, who has played for Bangor, Belmullet and Tuam Stars clubs, won his first Connacht championship senior medal last year and was one of the stars of the Mayo defence in Galway when the three-in-a-row All-Ireland champions were deposed. But since then two league defeats at the hands of the former champions have tarnished Mayo's hopes of retaining the crown this year.

The Mayoman does not

think, however, that those defeats will put a halt to Mayo's march.

"We are beginning to train seriously now and the same dedication that was shown last year is now emerging. This, I think, will be the deciding factor when we take on Sligo in the championship at Castlebar later this month. We lacked that bit of experience in the semi-final against Meath last year, and what we have learned since should stand to us this year."

Who were the best forwards he has played against? "Galway's John Keenan, Meath's Oliver Shanley and Cork's Johnny Carroll." And of these three he says John Keenan was the one he feared most—probably because of the goals Keenan had scored against him.

He does not confine his games to football on the field. He also plays indoor football and table tennis which, he says, sharpens the reflexes, and the only rule he would like to see changed is that the parallelogram should be enlarged.

"I do not think that fouls committed just outside the 'five' are punished severely enough with a 14-yards free. If the square were enlarged it would give the goalkeeper more scope and bring him more into the game," he said.

By **JAY DRENNAN**

CONGRESS justified its real interest in fair-play for all, and its belief that justice must be seen to be done, by agreeing to the appointment of a Committee to study the position of the Ban, and the reasons for its retention in a modern context. It was, of course, a timely gesture. It might be regretted that this was not done somewhere right at the beginning of this series of "dogfights", so that the position might have been rationalised long ago. For either way you look at it, whether the G.A.A. wished to hold strongly to the Ban, or jettison it, altogether, the Committee was necessary.

If the G.A.A. intends to hold firmly to its position, it must formulate from the top and through a fair-minded and responsible consideration of all the facts, present to the public those particular arguments because of which it must stay. We shall know, then, what all of this Association's life and attitudes are about, and we can rest in that knowledge. The fearfully off-point "ravings" of both sides would be done away with; no longer the conjuring of arguments from thin air to support pre-judgments. The range of some of the argumentation in the recent series was so wide and all-embracing as to be frightening; not to mention the fact that it made it nearly impossible to cut through the undergrowth and reach the wood of the tree.

But, even if the G.A.A. wished to jettison the Ban, certainly the establishment could never have done so in the face of the open insistence of a minority. It would have seemed like a dereliction of duty, whether the action, in itself, was right or wrong. Now, at least, the policy

BAN COMMITTEE

GRAVE TASK FACES NEW BODY

of the Association will appear clearly in the arguments which the Committee see in favour of the retention of the Ban, and the qualifications which they see placed upon it by present day circumstances.

Of course, before all that there comes the acid test of the appointment of the Committee. Indeed, its appointment cannot be free from controversy, no matter what its composition. It may seem an easy way out to place on it members of the same Establishment which has supported the Ban strongly in recent years. Some of them must be there, of course, in order to



The President of the G.A.A., Mr. Séamus Ó Riain, who will probably head the new committee, whose purpose, according to Mayo's motion at Congress, is to set forth the present day reasons for the retention of Rule 27. The Committee will be appointed at the next meeting of the Central Council.

present the whole spectrum of arguments; but to "pack" this Committee with either one side or other would be, in my opinion, a serious injustice to the Association at this time.

These problems of appointment cannot be ignored, nor, I believe, fully overcome. It is the measure of agreement and fairness to all which the membership reflects that will weigh with the general public, and this is really all that matters. The particular arguments of a section must be heard, but must not be foisted on the Association as the thing to believe. Here must be reason; is it too much to ask

that we can get such an attitude from this Committee?

As regards the subjects for deliberation by the Committee, when it has been set up, it is inevitable, I suppose, that no narrow limit can be placed on the range of its investigation. The whole ideological structure of the Association in the context of its history must have its relevance established to the present day world: this is the kernel of the position, of course. If things could be confined to this fact, it might seem that the whole problem is quite simple in itself, even if complex in its application. But, there are a hundred and one marginal problems which will colour the views of the different groups and viewpoints.

It would appear that the exact demarcation of the G.A.A.'s views on the language, the social context of this generation, and its notion of the games as they

fit into its policies will have to be stated in words of few syllables, and in some such way as will be clear to the general body of members. What emerges must convince: that, at least, is clear, or otherwise the whole exercise will have been worse than useless. It will simply cause a sense of disenchantment with the whole ideological argument. It could lead to the sort of cynicism which is the antithesis of what the Association stands for. Take away ideals and you take away much of the motivation which makes the Association tick through its officers and members down the long line from Croke Park to the country playing field.

From the Committee's deliberations it would also appear that a pressing need will develop for definition of membership, which has always been left rather loose. And, in the wake of the talk on the national ideals will come the grappling with the practical

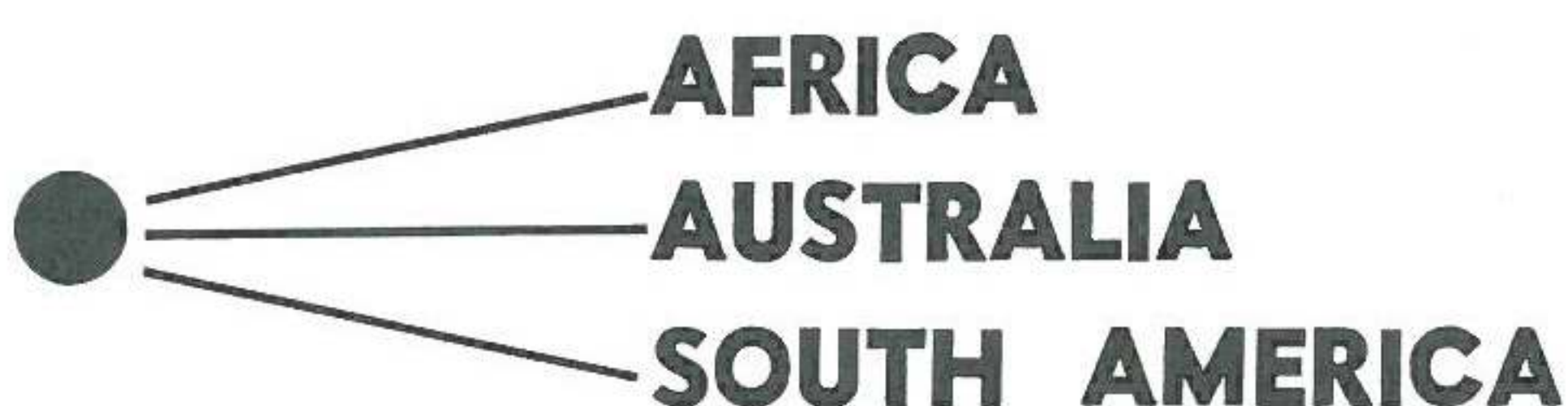
problems which have sprung up in the years since the Second World War: pop-culture; the dance problem; the athletics question (though in existence much longer, it gains a new tension from the B.L.E. struggle); decline in hurling; disinterest of many members; the open disavowal of the Ban obligations by some; the very real problem of enforcement.

This Committee surely has a task and a half on its plate; could it resolve the apparent deadlock which continues to harm the Association because it splits it, wastes its time and its energies? I have my doubts, but my prayers are that these doubts will be confounded.

Even before sitting, will it survive the problem of nomination? Can a combination of honest men be found who will give rise to public confidence in their judgment? Again my prayers and doubts conflict.

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OUR correspondent, LINDA COLLINS, is as her name suggests a female and like most females usually has the last word. She argues that month after month, year after year, we give our readers the news and views of what's going on in the G.A.A. world and thinks it is about time we carried something in the magazine to cater for the wives and daughters of our male readers and so this month she takes a trip into the world of Supermarkets and we hope ALL our readers enjoy her story.

HOW SUPER ARE THE SUPERMARKETS?

WHETHER you live in Falcarragh or Finglas, this is a question you're likely to put to yourself—or to your wife—these days. Because very few of us are so far away from a supermarket that it's beyond visiting, even if only once a month or so. Among the menfolk, you can nearly always foretell what the answer will be: raised eyebrows as the gallant little woman struggles home with two bulging shopping bags, a cardboard box under her arm and a stringbag full of cereal boxes hanging round her neck. But if the men only took a little more trouble to understand the reason for the development of the supermarkets, and the benefits they bring—which do outweigh their disadvantages—they'd produce sympathy instead of sarcasm after the wife's shopping foray.

The time for lamenting the passing of the village store is past: if the village storekeeper has any sense he's bought himself a white coat and four new cash registers and set up as a supermarketeer for himself. Granted that in the old days some happy women could depend on the butcher to send the trap five miles outside the town with two chops for the evening meal, or on the grocer to order special brown sugar for her Christmas cake during July. But she was a comfortable, moneyed woman who got this type of service. Labourer's wives couldn't look

for it. Nowadays the wife of the man with a hundred acres, and the wife of the chap who digs the county ditches can queue up together as equals at the check-out point, and one girl's money is as good as another's. One might

spend five bob where the other spends fifteen but if you enquire who spends which you might get a surprising answer. To the supermarket, each is a welcome customer, with no distinctions made.

The reason why all sorts and conditions of people have taken to the supermarket habit is that it cuts prices. Bulk buying at wholesale level means cheaper goods on the shelves, self-service facilities mean less staff wastage. And if you're thinking guiltily of all those jobs which have been done away with since the introduction of self-service, remember that for every shop assistant you can spot, there are three behind the scenes busily cutting, packing, marking, pricing.

Standardisation of stocks is something people complain about in supermarkets. You get the same goods everywhere. The other side of the coin is that these are the goods and brands which have proved themselves to be of consistently good quality. You'll get a rotten egg in a supermarket batch about as often as lightning is likely to strike your television aerial. Goods move off the shelves quickly, so nothing has time to go stale. And whenever a saleable new product comes along you can rely on the supermarket to be right on the ball with an "introductory offer" to the customers, coaxing them to try it out.

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● TO PAGE 17

Meet an obsessed Australian.

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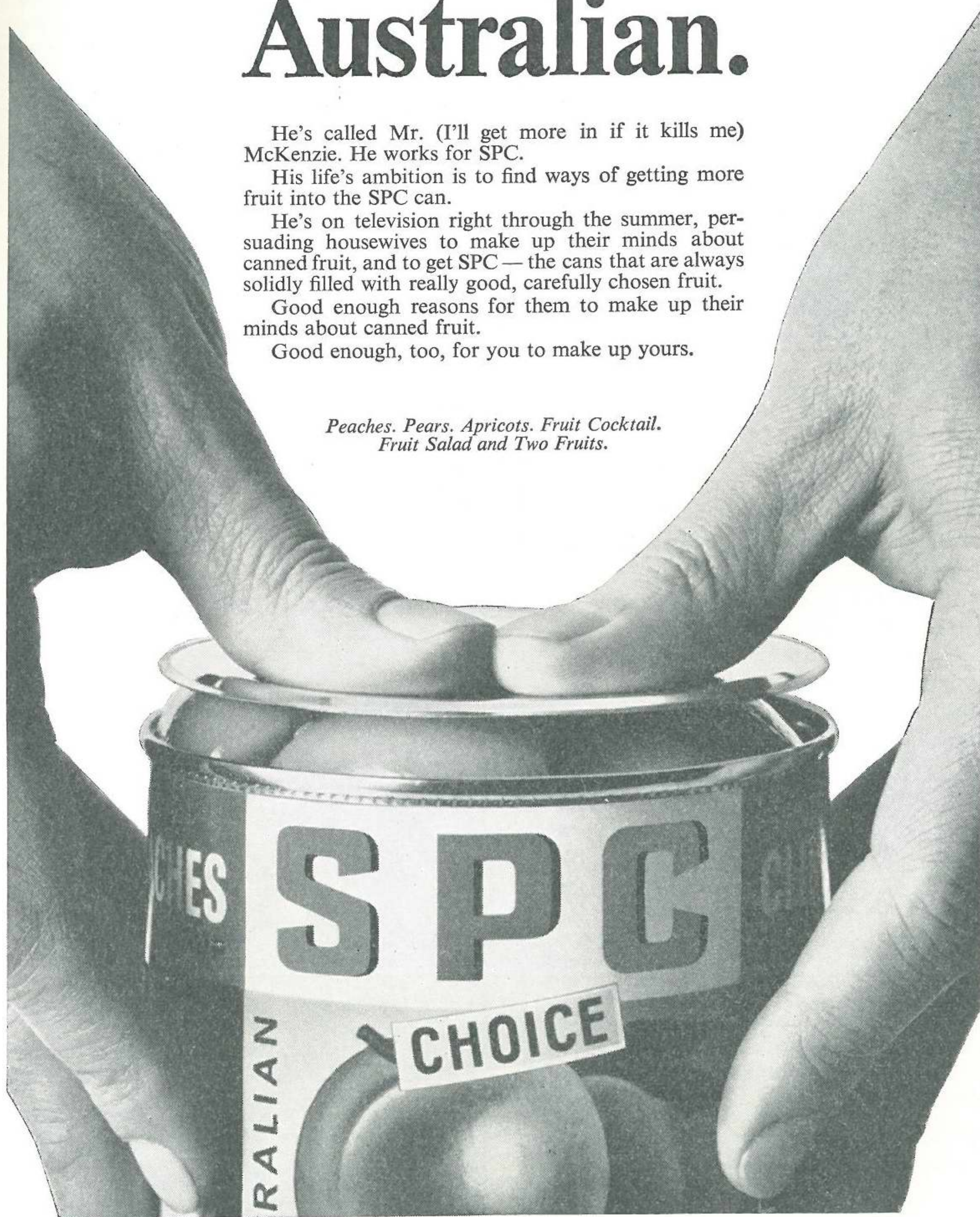
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Supermarkets

● FROM PAGE 14

But like any other aid to modern living—for instance the car or the washing machine—the supermarket needs to be handled intelligently if full use is to be made of it. In America, they say, the housewives are putty in the hands of the supermarkets. We're a tougher breed here and we can meet the marketing wizards and whizz kids on their own ground and still come out on top. The trick is to have a few rules up your sleeve when you go shopping.

Rule One: never enter a supermarket without a list of the essentials you must buy clutched in your fist, or firmly fixed in your brain. Go for the goods you really need, buy them and come out.

Rule Two: organise the week's shopping so that you can take advantage of the current

"bargain" without wrecking your budget. The "Bargain of the Week"—though this could surprise some people—usually is a real bargain. The supermarkets refer to them as their "Loss Leaders"—they mark the item down to below what they paid for it themselves so as to lure you, the customer, inside. If the week's "Loss Leader" is two pounds of sugar at one and three-pence, and you're a clever girl or boy, you'll come out of the shop carrying twelve pounds of sugar. People with stamina, time on their hands and no tendency to fallen arches can make a good thing out of going from supermarket to supermarket buying nothing but "Loss Leaders". The rest of us just buy them every time we manage it.

Rule Three: set a ceiling on the amount you're prepared to spend and stick to it. This is a useful rule for men who are doing the shopping as an

emergency measure. When the items in the basket tot up to more than the thirty bob you've decided you'll spend, put the surplus back on the shelves. Nobody will look crossways at you for doing this, which is a great comfort. In the old-style shop you wouldn't have the heart to disappoint the shopman by not taking home everything you'd chosen.

Criticism can be made of supermarkets, and people make them all the time. One of the most valid is that all packages aren't clearly marked with the nett weight of the contents. This is particularly annoying where detergents and soap powders are concerned. You'd need to be Ireland's answer to Einstein to figure out whether it's better value to buy the "Giant Economy" pack, the "Family Size" or two of the "Handipac" size of your favourite brand.

● TO PAGE 18

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Supermarkets

● FROM PAGE 17

Free gifts as offered in supermarkets are usually things which no sane person would take as a present! Who wants to carry home a squashed blue plastic rose stuck to the tube of toothpaste, or a crouching plastic soldier in full battle dress among the biscuits? Now if they'd give away toothbrushes occasionally...

To balance the score, some of the cut-out games on the packets of breakfast cereal can be good entertainment value for kids, some of the jars they sell instant coffee in are both decorative and useful as kitchen accessories. But who wants to bother with a competition offering "holiday in Spain for two" when it involves collecting lots of bottle tops, filling in a complicated form and thinking up a catchy slogan. We'd rather participate in a draw on **the spot**, no strings attached, for a more modest prize like five pounds of tea or a ten bob note.

As far as fresh meats, poultry and bacon are concerned, supermarkets have been responsible for a rise in standards all round. Who wouldn't rather have a nicely prepared chicken all wrapped up ready to take home and cook, than the bruised and battered fowl we used to buy, pluck and gut ourselves in the old days? Especially when the over-ready chicken of today is actually cheaper than the old-style one.

"They sold their sowls", says the old song about the starving people of the Famine times, "For penny rowls, and lumps of hairy bacon". And a very unappetising sound that meal has to it. The lumps of hairy bacon have been transformed these days at the supermarket into nicely-sized joints, neatly skewered, trimmed of all superfluous fat and with not a bristle in evidence anywhere. Some bacon joints can even be

cooked in their plastic wrapping—which saves smells percolating through the house from the kitchen, and also ensures a moister, juicier, bigger piece of meat at the end of the process,

since shrinkage is cut to the minimum. And the fact that price and weight is clearly marked is another incentive to buy.

Vegetables—fresh ones—are a

● TO PAGE 19

'John has discovered that my favourite Supermarket is the best off-licence in town!'



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Supermarkets

● FROM PAGE 18

more doubtful proposition at the supermarket. Sprouts, tomatoes, even spuds, don't respond well to being wrapped in polythene even for a short time. It makes them go limp and takes the life out of them. We leave it to the whizz kids to work this problem out and meanwhile make such purchases with extra caution.

Confectionaries and cakes, on the other hand, are making even greater bids towards supremacy in the supermarket field. They taste better all the time and we can approve of whoever it was invented the process that ensures cream fillings don't go sour and spongecakes don't harden prematurely. Supermarket cakes are well packed and wrapped, and they win hands down on price, given a lather of home-made icing over the top and then passed off to guests as something which came out of the family oven that morning!

Jams, marmalades, as bought in the supermarket are purchased because they're handy and fairly reasonable. At present their standard doesn't approach the home-made varieties but this could change as people's demand for what is best continues to grow. A straw in the wind might be the growing popularity of honey—now available widely and standardised to a uniform excellence by Boyne Valley.

Cheeses? Well if you're a real cheese fan you'll still want a chunk of Cheddar cut from the whole cheese and no wrapped refrigerated processed substitute will satisfy you. Keep asking for what you want, and eventually the supermarket will start a cheese counter for you and others like you. Some have done this already. Meanwhile the taste and texture of the processed cheeses gets better every year, the variety

is greater all the time, and Irish versions of famous Continental cheeses can stand strict comparison with the originals. And here I'm speaking as an expert. Irish Brie, or Camembert or "Irish Danish" is every bit as good as the 'real' thing. Most of these you can buy at the supermarket.

No wonder then that we're grasping in our thousands at the little metal baskets with the double handles, and promenading

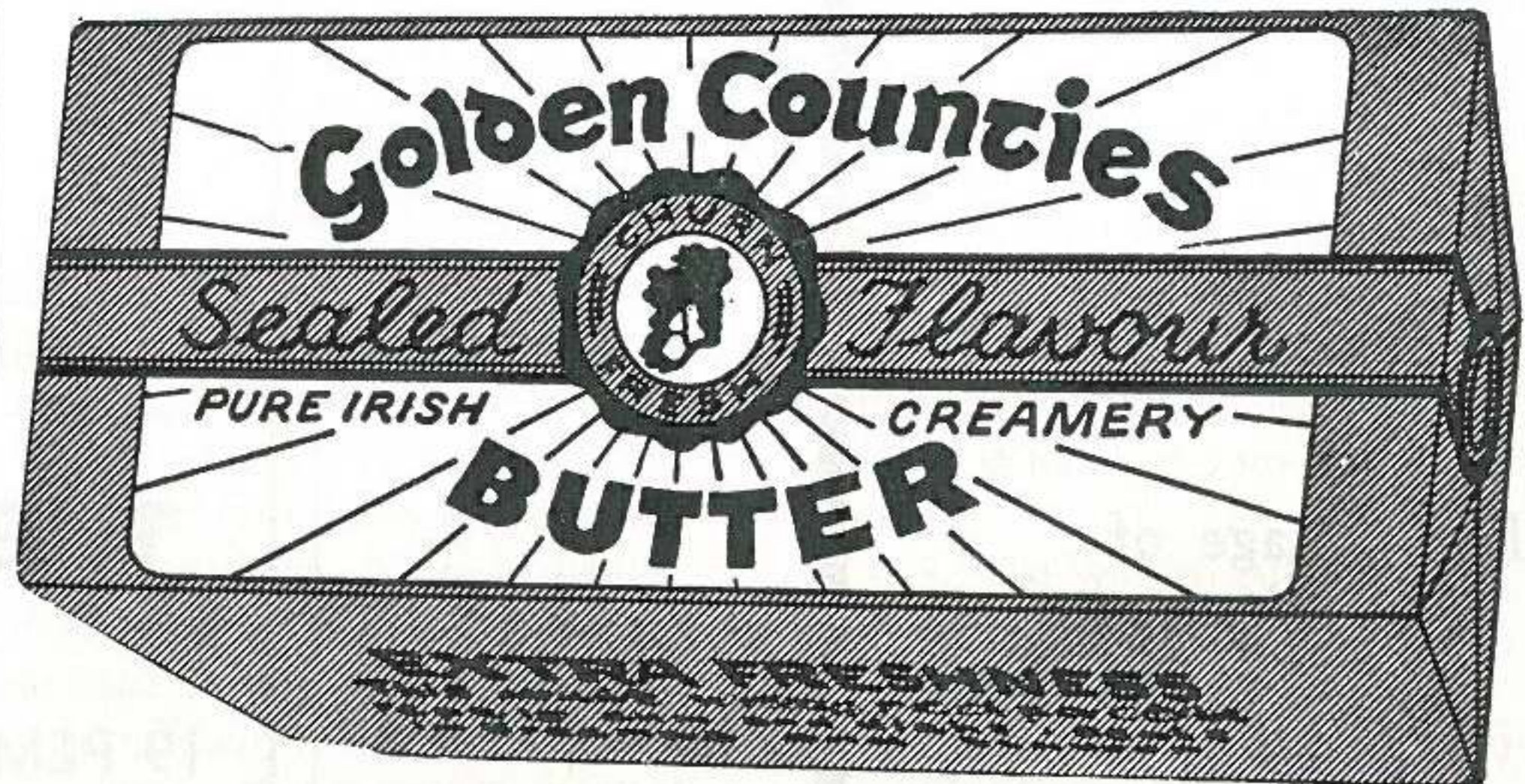
up and down the aisles of the supermarkets. Food prices have risen but not so much as they could have risen if we had no supermarkets. And let's not be too afraid of creeping Americanisation either. Last March my local supermarket ran a thriving stand for a week—selling guess what? Shamrock! Nicely packed with safety pins and all. While that can happen, our national identity is safe at the supermarket.

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Sean Murphy talks to:



CON O'SULLIVAN

ONE of the most consistent and dedicated footballers in the game must surely be Con O'Sullivan of Cork. The towering stalwart form Urhan has given devoted service to the Rebel County since he joined the senior team in 1959. He first learned the art of Gaelic Football in Urhan and won county intermediate honours with that club in 1960. He achieved a cherished ambition in 1967 by winning a county senior medal with Beara. He first donned the red jersey of Cork in 1956 and won a Munster junior medal that season.

His other trophies include two Munster senior football medals while he also travelled to America for the Cardinal Cushing games. He also represented Munster on ten occasions in the Railway Cup, but always without success.

O'Sullivan, who works as a joiner in Cork City, had one of his finest hours in Limerick recently when he kicked ten points for Beara in their Munster championship inter-club engagement against Cloughaun. Afterwards, I had the pleasure of this interview with him.

MURPHY: In your decade playing inter-county football, who was the best player you encountered?

O'SULLIVAN: I have no hesitation in naming Mick O'Connell of Kerry, who was the

complete footballer. His anticipation and fielding will never be equalled.

M.: What game gave you your greatest thrill?

O'S.: Beating Kerry in the Munster final at Killarney in 1966. It was great to pip the Kingdom on their home ground.

M.: And how about disappointments?

O'S.: Our defeat at the hands of Meath in last year's All-Ireland final tops the list here. We looked to have the game sewn up but failure was our lot.

M.: How do you rate the present Cork team?

O'S.: They are an enthusiastic bunch of lads, but I feel we have a lot to learn before we hit the big time stuff.

M.: What are your chances in this year's championship?

O'S.: I give our lads a 50/50 chance of surviving in Munster, but Kerry had a good under 21 side last year and will offer a stiff challenge to our hopes.

M.: What do you think of the present National Football League structure?

O'S.: I think it is quite satisfactory. Limerick, in form, are a match for the best, while Tipperary are always a hard team to beat. Anyhow, it is giving the weaker counties some experience by pitting their strength against more experienced opponents.

M.: What do you think of the present standard of refereeing?

O'S.: I think the standard is good. At present, referees are much stricter in dealing with dangerous play. This is excellent. Referees have, of course, an unenviable task. However, I would like to see more standard interpretation of the rules.

M.: What are your impressions of Meath's Australian tour?

O'S.: It is hard to pass fair judgment on the visit of the Aussies here and the subsequent visit of Meath "down-under" because of the relaxation of certain rules. However, Meath must be congratulated on their performances. While on this subject I feel an All-Ireland team should in future travel on tours.

M.: Any other sporting interest apart from football?

O'S.: I have a few greyhounds, and their training keeps me fit. Oh, by the way, Urhan have formed a junior hurling team this year so I hope to have my first sample of the world's greatest field game in the near future in the county championship.

M.: What are your ambitions now?

O'S.: To win an All-Ireland senior medal with Cork and to travel to America with Beara. Arrangements are now almost complete for a trip by Beara to New York in September.



MICK WHITE

Interviewed by Sean O'Donnell

FROM all reports I have seen Mick White was the hero of Meath's recent tour of Australia. The man from Rathkenny had a blinder in every game, it seems, and I cannot think of a better reason for making him the subject of this interview.

I talked with Mick in a Dublin hotel just after Down had defeated Meath and therefore put paid to their chances in the League, but Mick was no more disappointed if he had lost sixpence, because, as he pointed out, "we need a rest before the championship."

O'Donnell — You were very pleased, I am sure, by the success of the team in Australia?

White—Yes I was very pleased, indeed, that the trip was such a success and cannot but feel proud to have been a member of Meath's all conquering team on such an occasion.

O'D.—Quite a few people felt that because of the very high scoring by Meath in some of the games, the opposition could not have been of a high standard. Can you explain?

W. — The scoring in those games gave no indication whatever of the strength of the opposition. In fact, except but for one, the opposition was as tough as you would find anywhere. The games were all played at a fast pace and under scorching conditions, but winning them was by no means easy, for the Australians were superb in the air and when they got the ball, they certainly could move fast with it.

O'D.—To what do you attribute Meath's superiority on the tour?

W.—It was due, I think, to the great dedication of all the players and the never-say-die spirit that they adopted throughout the games despite the tremendous heat.

O'D.—Do you feel that the grounds on which you played were to your advantage?

W.—It is difficult to say. They were rock hard, therefore making it very difficult to judge the hop of the ball, so I think it was this, in particular, which accounted for the high scoring in most of the games and not, as some people may think, the inferiority of the opposition.

O'D. — Are the Australians good losers?

W.—Well, you know, I could be shot for saying it, but those fellows certainly don't like losing. I could see it in every game; they came out to do better than in the previous one and they were also hitting us that little bit harder every time. I think, perhaps, their determination to win stems from the professional approach to their own Rules game.

O'D.—Does this mean that they played a rugged type of game?

W.—Not at all. The games were all so fast that rough play never entered into them. But these Australian players just could not understand why they were whistled up for hard tackling, which, as you know, is allowed in their Rules game.

O'D.—How did the Australian crowd react to all this and did you converse with any of them about Gaelic Football as com-

pared to the game they are used to, Australian Rules?

W.—The reaction from spectators was very favourable. I had some very interesting discussions about Gaelic football with some very keen followers. Their main concern was the rules, and they wanted to know just why this was, or it did not seem necessary at all, and so on. They booed us if they felt they should and they seemed to feel they should every time we scored. Some few cheered us now and again, but I think these were in the minority. All in all, they behaved very well and did not throw peel or invade the pitch. They just barracked their heads off.

O'D.—The reaction from the Australian press and the publicity they gave was, I believe, anything but complimentary. Why?

W.—They just did not like our invasion of home territory and Australian Rules football. Perhaps they realised, but were too proud to admit it, that our game was better. They went so far as to call Gaelic football a sissy game, just as they call soccer. But all their talk did not scare off spectator interest, for, in fact, they came in their thousands to watch the White Midgets in action, as the gentlemen of the press called us in Perth.

O'D.—Did Meath do much training before their games in Australia?

W.—Yes, we trained a little, generally lapping around the grounds on which we were about to play to get the feel of them. This was where the Australian press attacked us most. They

made it quite clear that they were not impressed in the least by our efforts.

O'D.—What effect has the tour had on the players generally?

W.—I honestly believe this tour has had a very beneficial effect on the players. The fact of having the boys together for over three weeks moulded them into a very happy unit, and I feel sure the effect will show itself before very long.

O'D. — How has the tour affected you personally, Mick. Has it changed your attitude towards Gaelic games in any way?

W.—It is very difficult to say just yet. I don't think it has changed my attitude towards the game. I hope it has helped me to become more proficient and that I will have gained something from my experience. Playing together for a few weeks at a time helps to bring a professional attitude into the game, and even though it is only make believe, it encourages team spirit among the players and gives them more confidence in each other.

O'D.—What effect, if any, has Gaelic football had on the powers

that be in Australian Rules?

W.—It has made its impact all right, because Mr. Niall Kerley, one of the big boys in Australian Rules is bringing a team to Ireland in October which will include, Ron Barassi and Polly Farmer among others, and, of course, Harry Beitzel himself. I think it may be of interest here to mention that Polly Farmer, like Ron Barassi, is a very dedicated coach and organiser of the Rules game and that both are worshipped and idolised by the fans wherever they go.

O'D.—How about future tours—should the All-Ireland champions go or an Ireland selection?

W.—I hope future trips will become an annual event or every two years at least, and I hope a solution is found to the financial end of it, which can be a big worry for one county on its own. However, I believe that the All-Ireland champions should go in preference to an Ireland team because such a trip would be a great benefit to a county, and just reward for the All-Ireland champions.

O'D.—Was the tour a success financially and did all the

arrangements go according to plan?

W.—Yes, the tour was a great financial success all round and we have no grumbles at all. We were guaranteed a certain sum of money and we received it as promised. I think it is only fair to give praise where it is due and here I must compliment Mr. Joe Walsh, of Joe Walsh Tours Ltd. who handled all the arrangements for the tour most efficiently and I know I am speaking for the team as a whole when I say, 'thank you, Mr. Walsh, for a job well done.'

O'D. — Apart from football, what memories did you bring back with you?

W.—I am very serious when I say this—my happiest memories are of the girls in Perth. They were just fabulous and they go down in my book as the best looking girls in the world. There was also so much wonderful scenery to view that it would take all the pages in *Gaelic Sport* to tell about it. The Australians, by and large, were a wonderful lot to be with. They treated us like

● TO PAGE 44

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ESB



Galway has started something . . .

FUTURE STRUCTURE

By DAN McAREAVY

ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE—that is the most common charge levelled at the Gaelic Athletic Association, particularly in recent years when the wind of change has practically blown itself out in virtually every field of human endeavour.

And I agree that in much of its working the machinery of the Association does appear to move very slowly with suggestions of “change” being viewed generally with suspicion.

On the other hand, its single-mindedness of purpose—now regarded as conservative — has stood the Association in good stead in over three-quarters of a century of service to the Irish nation — “we must admit the foundation has been securely laid, the building likewise”—as a famous critic once remarked.

But whatever about the past, it seems inevitable that the future will be different—not in basic principles obviously, but in the whole liturgy, as it were, which we have known for so long.

Congress at Easter gave overwhelming evidence of its awareness of the problems created by the shift in population by its clear support of the Galway motion directing Ard-Comhairle “to examine the possibility of re-organising the Association on the following basis: (1) Clubs; (2) County Committees; (3) Town Committees (for cities and towns with populations of 20,000 and over); (4) Regional Councils;

(5) Central Council; (6) Congress.

It is a sobering thought, too, that the excellent Galway proposal claimed that the shift in population had been going on for the past 30 years! Are we now too late? Can the malady be cured after such a lengthy incubation period? Have we lulled ourselves into complacency because our own particular club or county was doing fairly well?

Whatever the pros and cons about the position in the past it seems certain that the drift from the rural areas will continue to gather momentum in the years ahead and the G.A.A. must brace itself to meet the challenge of this trend, which is not confined to Ireland, but is common to practically every country in the world.

By the year 2000—if the present drift from the land continues in full spate—the whole G.A.A. picture, population wise, will have been so radically altered that the administrative set-up will require a similar re-appraisal.

Congress and the Central Council will remain as the supreme governing bodies but as population continues to decrease in the rural areas, so long the powerhouse of the Association, the role of the County Committees and Provincial Councils will be combined with Town Committees and Regional Councils.

In fact, I believe Provincial Councils will disappear alto-

gether while legislation in many counties will be shared between the County Committee—roughly as it is known to-day — and Town Committees, both of which will be responsible, with equal status, to a Regional Council.

It seems utterly impossible that, say Dublin County Committee should be expected to cater for its entire county area when a small section of Dublin City will have more G.A.A. adherents than the whole of County Armagh. And this picture will be repeated in many centres throughout the country.

Regional Councils will cater for groups of County and Town Committees and it is from these areas that we may have the “provincial” champions of tomorrow.

But the whole question of inter-county competitions could well become very complex with the balance of power so unequally divided from one county to another.

Clearly, too, full-time officials will become an accepted part of the G.A.A. scene and already the way is being opened for such a move with the recent suggestion of the appointment of full-time organisers.

This peep into the future is of necessity a very sketchy piece of crystal-gazing but I am convinced that Galway has started something which will have far-reaching and beneficial effects for the Association—so long as the problem is grasped boldly and imaginatively by our present administrators.



SEAN O'NEILL

LAST month I spotlighted Sean O'Neill's unique achievement in Railway Cup football. It was only on seeing the article in print, however, that it dawned on me that this latest feat was wholly in character as far as this artist from the Mournes is concerned.

In fact, I doubt if any player in either code has walked so consistently and so nobly in the shadow of history as gifted Sean O'Neill has during his success-

studded football career. Take a look at this highly impressive and memorable list of major first-timers with which he has been associated in just under ten years, and you will get a vivid picture of what I mean.

In 1958 he was one of the brightest lights in a galaxy of starlets that brought the Ulster minor championship to Down for the first time.

Early in 1959 he was a key figure in a smart-moving outfit

Walking in the shadow of history

that, in the replayed 1958 final at Ballybay, inscribed for the first time the name of Queen's University, Belfast, on the Sigerson Cup.

Later that year he was a brilliant unit in Down's initial Ulster senior championship winning combination.

Down later lost to Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final, but it was still two notable firsts for O'Neill in that game—he scored Down's first point, the first by a Mourne man in the top-bracket at Croke Park, and also hit the first of what was to prove many grand Down goals at headquarters. These, of course, are All-Ireland semi-final firsts—Down had an earlier Croke Park challenge in 1959.

Back at Croke Park in May, 1960, and O'Neill was top scorer at 0-4 in a win over Cavan that made Down National League champions for the first time.

In September of that year, he played his part at right half forward in erecting that most outstanding of all milestones in the Association's history — the win over Kerry that sent the Sam Maguire Cup over the Border in triumph for the first time.

Then, on March 17, there was that distinction in Ulster's 1967 win of being the first from the province to play in six final winning teams.

At this stage it is not easy to see any more major record-making heights for O'Neill to scale. Yet, such is his brilliant

AN ARTIST NAMED O'NEILL

flair for being "in on history in the making", and so superbly is he playing this year, that who is there to say he will not, in time, set more history-making marks?

Sean O'Neill has also decorated those unique niches in the record books with his own devastating brand of sunshine and very intelligent football, and his score-getting par-excellence. In the first half of this decade he shared the limelight in Down's attack with the skilled play of Paddy Doherty and Jim McCartan's forceful and inspiring football, especially.

years to come. In this demanding role, a role that so often proves the real key to victory, he has brought full-forward play to a fine art. Whether it is in opening up the way to goal for his co-attackers, sending the ball speeding goalwards with a judicious flick of his fist, turning half-a-chance into a golden score, out-smarting the full-back . . . he is the master craftsman.

And what speed of thought! I don't think this can be better illustrated than to recall his 28th minute goal against Meath in the National League quarter final in

by O'Neill put the touch of real class into that goal, stamped it as one of the great scores of this, or any other decade, and underlined again just what efficient forward play is all about. It demonstrated, too, once again that here is a truly majestic forward in every sense of the word, a score-getter with the mantle of greatness.

In the full-forward spot, too, O'Neill is finding the goals as never before in his senior career. Last year he had his most successful campaign score-wise, when he took third place in the Ulster chart, and joint seventh in all Ireland with 9-37 (64 pts.) in 17 games. At the time of going to press, he had played seven games fewer in 1968 than during 1967, and he was only a mere 13 points short of his personal best. His actual figures were 7-30 (51 pts.) from 10 games. He looks well on the way now to at least heading the Ulster chart for the first time at the end of the year—if not, indeed, the all-Ireland table.

Yes, Sean O'Neill, dynamic footballer with the smooth finishing technique, and that skilled artistry in the setting up of scores for his colleagues as well, is really flying high these days.

We need players like O'Neill to colour our games, and to whet our appetites even more. Long may he continue to delight us all, whether we come from Donegal or Cork, Galway or Dublin, with his own particular brand of football magic!

By OWEN McCANN

Yet, his talents still shone so brilliantly that they were widely paraded throughout the land in all discussions on football and made O'Neill a forward commanding the highest respect of all defenders.

When one reflects on the fact that players of the talents of Doherty and Jim McCartan are the exception rather than the rule, I don't think one can find any better tribute than that to O'Neill's artistry.

However, having had the good fortune to watch O'Neill in many games both inside and outside Ulster since I first saw him as a minor in 1958, it is in his latter-day role of full-forward that I will remember him best in the

early April. This was a goal of superb elegance, one of the best I have seen. It was brilliantly and speedily built up right from the defence, yet without O'Neill's speed of thought and action the end product might not have been the memorable experience it was for the 20,000 attendance, Meath supporters included.

Tom O'Hare started the movement that was carried on by Mickey Cole to John Murphy, who sent the ball on to Sean O'Neill. The full-forward fielded safely, dropped the ball on to his toe, and shot home a brilliant left footed goal—all in the one free-flowing movement that was completed in a twinkling.

That smooth and lethal finish

GOD did great things for Mary

because she gave herself completely and generously to Him. Mary was able to do great things for God because she trusted Him to do His work through her. Is God's saving work finished? If everyone leaves this work to others how much will be done?

If more Christians would get down to work instead of bemoaning the scarcity of workers, much more would be done for Christ and for the world...

If only more Catholic girls and boys would dare to accept God's invitation to a dedicated life, religious orders (such as the Bernardines) would not find themselves hampered in their apostolic work by lack of personnel...

If only ordinary people would be a little more ambitious to do great things for God, who can tell what they might achieve...

We are so afraid of doing something foolish that we do nothing at all, like the servant in the Gospel who buried his Lord's money for fear of losing it. Think of the end of the story...

You do not know what you can do until you try. Try!

Almost every profession, training and talent can find its place in our community life which enables all to share, by teaching or any other kind of work, in our apostolate of Christian Education.

During their novitiate and until their solemn profession the nuns receive a simple yet thorough spiritual training, characterised by liberty of spirit. The natural qualities and talents of each are developed with a view to their future life and work, and they are prepared for the full realisation of their vocation; contemplation brought to fulfilment in apostolic love.

There have been Cistercians in Ireland ever since the time of St. Bernard — the Cistercian way of life seems to suit the Gaels.

Why not try it for a week during your holiday? We'll welcome you.



Bernardines

ORDER OF CITEAUX

Houses in England, France,
Belgium, Japan and Africa.

Write to :

**St. Bernard's Convent,
Slough, Buckinghamshire,
Tel : Slough 23612.**

or to :

**St. Bernard's Convent,
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.
Tel : Southend-on-Sea 43583.**

VOCATION

We feel it is appropriate in this month of June, when a large number of our teen-age readers will be finishing their school or college careers and trying to sort out their more important worldly careers, that we endeavour to offer some advice to those young boys and girls who feel a desire to devote their lives to Christ by becoming members of Religious Communities.

JUNE is a happy month. The long, warm, lazy days of summer are here. For most young boys and girls it is the beginning of the long summer vacation. But for some, this month of June could be the most decisive month in their entire lives, especially for those young boys and girls whose schooling terminates this year and are now faced with the giant-sized problem of "where do we go from here".

In most cases, the problem is solved by the parents—the decision as to whether Mary will go into nursing or office work or should Pat come into the family business or stay on the land or be a doctor like his uncle Jim—these are problems that will eventually be sorted out around the family table.

But in the following few lines we want to concern ourselves specifically with those who feel they have a desire to devote their lives to Christ by joining a Religious Community.

The first step, of course, is to discuss the matter with your confessor who will be only too willing to give freely of his time and advice and, of course, with

your parents who, contrary to what most teenagers think, are not as dumb as they appear. Wasn't it Mark Twain who said, "when I was seventeen I was amazed at how little my father knew, but by the time I was twenty-one I was astonished at how much he had learned in the intervening four years."

In Religious life there are three kinds of Vocation that can be followed: the Priesthood, Religious Sister or lay Brother. Apart from the secular clergy, there are more than two hundred orders in the Church and in the diversity of their work they reflect God's will that all men should be saved and gathered together in His Kingdom.

These Religious Communities cater for teaching, preaching, caring for the aged and sick, the young, the frightened and the sheep who have strayed, but all have one thing in common, a desire to serve God through serving their neighbour, And this is the ultimate. Charity. Love. Becoming God's instrument in helping our less favoured brethren throughout the world.

Ireland, for its size and per

head of population, has probably given more young men and women to God's chosen army than any other country in the world. Of this we should be proud and thank God. In G.A.A. circles alone, the number of young men who have left their hurleys and football boots behind and their female colleagues from the Camogie fields who have done likewise to follow Christ is of very great proportions and here again is a reflection on the type of young men and women that play our National games.

What kind of life can one expect on joining a Religious Order? In the heart of all members of Religious Communities there are two great motivating factors: a desire to give oneself to Christ utterly and completely and a desire to work for and help people less fortunate, so that their stay here on earth can be more bearable but above all to keep Christ in their lives and thereby to obtain for those unfortunates, everlasting happiness with Christ in the next life. This is a tremendous work. Just stop and think; helping another to obtain eternal

● TO PAGE 31

BROTHERS OF CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION

Brief History: Founded in Brittany in 1820 by the Venerable John de la Mennais who discovered that many children in country districts were deprived of the much esteemed service of the La Salle Brothers by a Rule which required that they be at least 3 per community. The La Mennais Brothers could go singly if needed and used to live with the parish priest. This flexibility induced Cardinal Wiseman to choose them as a model for his own 'English Christian Brothers'.

Purpose: To strive humbly to keep the living image of Christ before the eyes of the people of God, by living as Christ-like a life as possible. The emphasis of interest is on young people met within the schools. This dedication is consecrated by the 3 religious vows.

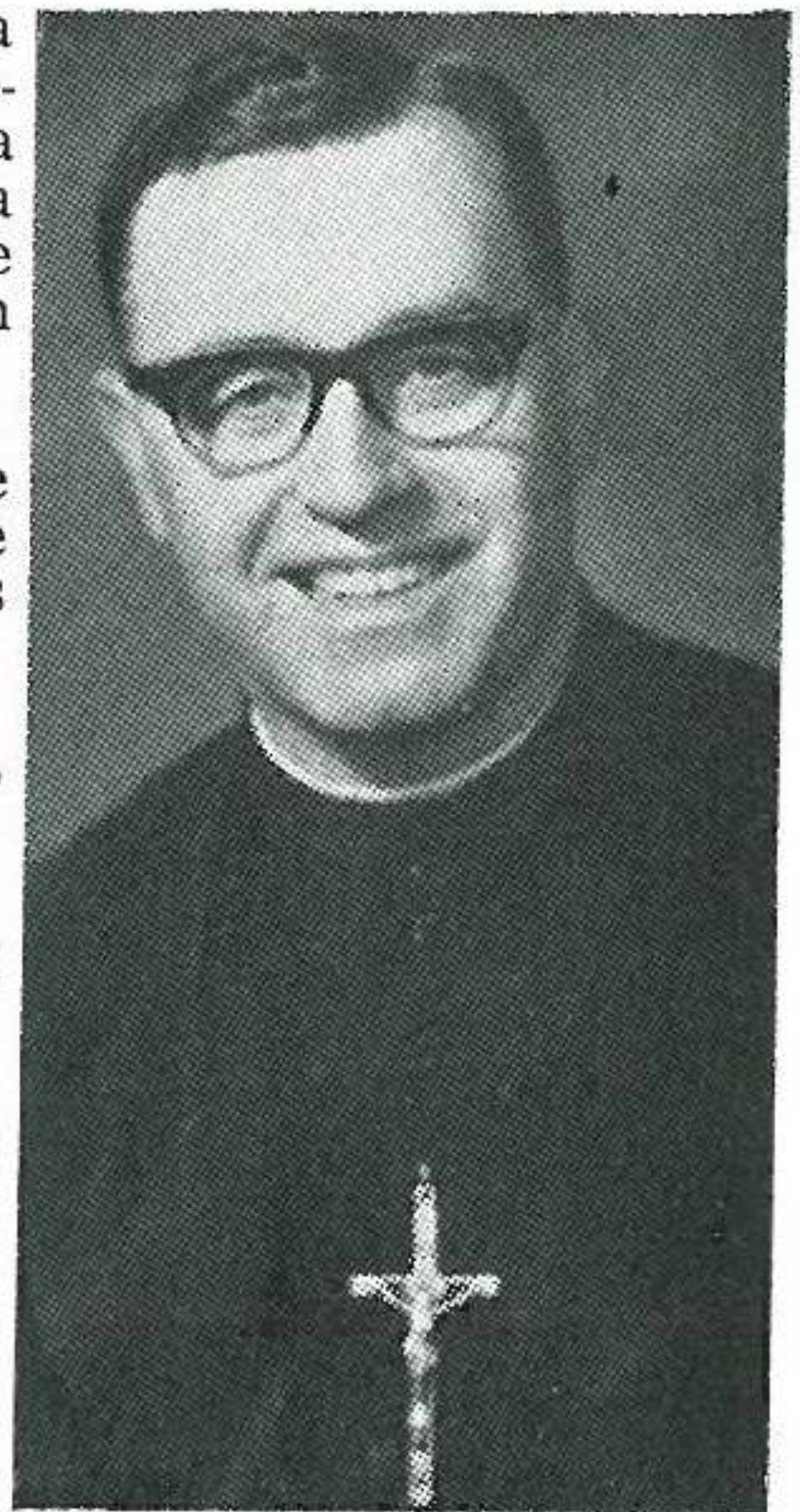
Religious Exercises: Divine Office, mental prayer, Holy Mass, rosary, evening contemplation before the Blessed Sacrament, *lectura divina*.

Details of Novitiate: The usual grammar course is widened at the top with philosophy and in the novitiate a course of theology is spread over 3 or 4 years with some opportunities for practical teaching.

Qualifications: Under 25. The Institute accepts candidates qualified to perform services ancillary to education—secretaries, librarians, printers, etc.

Description of Habit: Black cassock, buttoned on the outside from collar to waist; a crucifix worn externally on the breast.

For further information please write to: Brother Provincial, La Mennais House, 26 Strawberry Hill Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Brief History: Founded in 1866 at Aix in the south of France by Fr. Charles Joseph Eugene de Mazenod—afterwards Bishop of Marseilles. Given the status of a Congregation in 1926 by Pope Leo XII. Soon the Congregation spread all over the world and today Oblate priests and brothers can be found in every continent.

Purpose: The motto of the Congregation is 'To preach the Gospel to the Poor'. To this end the work is varied: parochial work, preaching missions; teaching in seminaries and colleges; and above all, foreign missionary work.

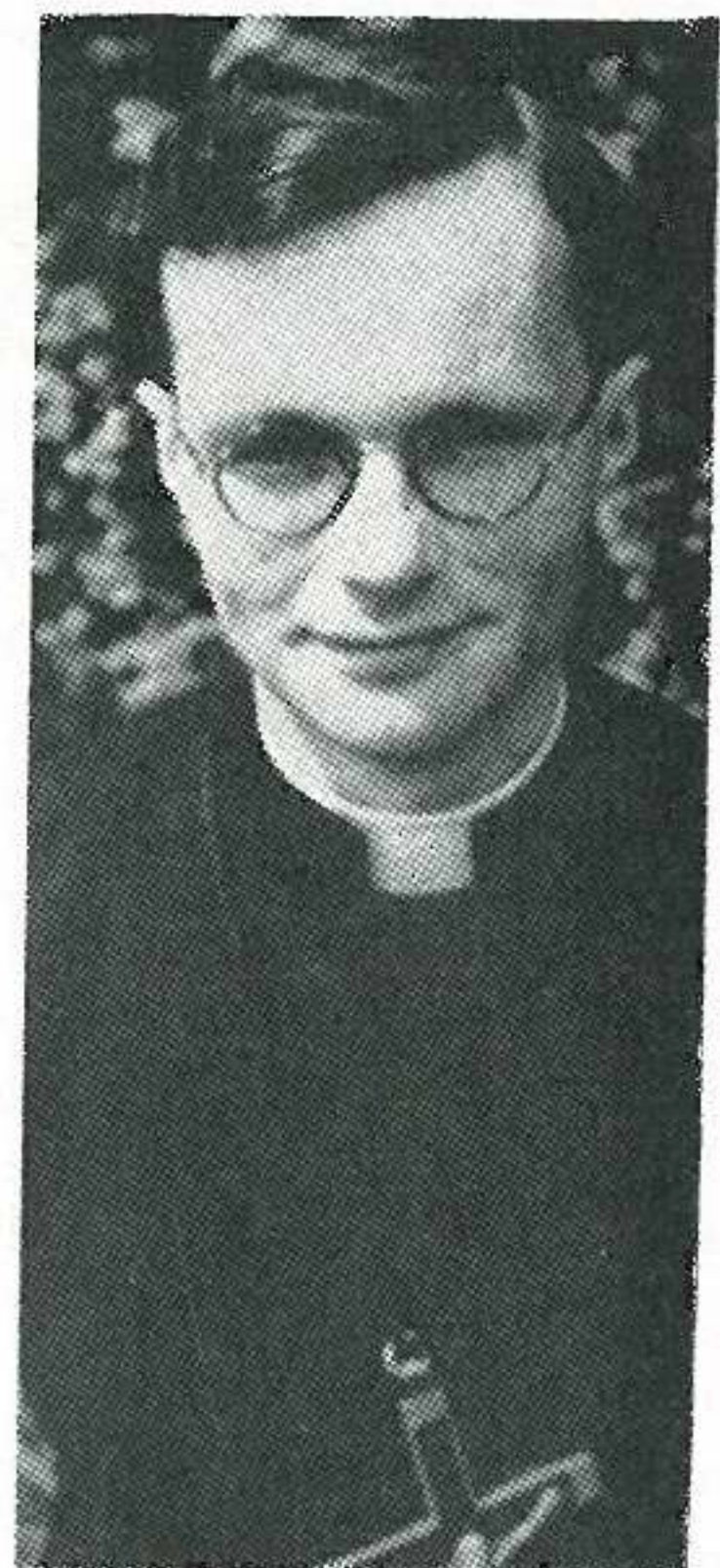
Religious Exercises: The priests and brothers live the ordinary religious life: daily Mass and meditation, Divine Office, etc., according to the Oblate Rule Book.

Details of Novitiate: After GCE or Leaving Certificate examination candidates do a novitiate for 1 year, followed by 3 years philosophy, sometimes at the university, then 4 years theology, after which they are ordained priests. Before entering the ministry they do pastoral theology for 1 year.

Qualifications: In the juniorate, 11 years; for the novitiate, 17 years. Good health, morals and average intelligence.

Description of Habit: The dress of the diocesan priest: i.e. black cassock and cincture. The distinctive mark is the Oblate crucifix, worn by a cord round the neck and supported by the cincture.

For further information please write to: Rev. Jos Ryan, O.M.I., Holy Cross, Great Crosshall Street, Liverpool 3, or Rev. Vocations Director, Inchicore, Dublin 8.



VOCATION

● FROM PAGE 29

salvation. What other vocation, profession, trade or task known to man could be more satisfying than helping to save the soul of a fellow human being. Indeed, on reflection, every other task seems trivial by comparison.

As we said earlier, if you feel

you have a Vocation, discuss the matter with your confessor. Don't keep putting it on the long finger, don't be waiting for God to appear to you in a vision, don't worry yourself into a state of nervous disorder. Nobody is going to make fun of you. You will be agreeably surprised at the reaction when you express yourself in conversation with a **responsible** person about your innermost feelings or desires,

you can't expect to know it all at seventeen or eighteen years of age and, after all, what are fathers and mothers and priests for but primarily to help and advise the young.

In this issue of "Gaelic Sport" we carry notices from many Religious Communities whose Principals will be more than pleased to let you have, in con-

● TO PAGE 33

HAVE YOU MET THE POOR SISTERS OF NAZARETH?



If you have not you have missed something in your life. They are a challenge to you if you wish to spend your life for others. Can you imagine yourself as one of them, lovingly caring for children standing in need of that care—both boys and girls from 0 to 15 years of age? Or perhaps looking after the old folk in their declining years?

Do you want to know more about their life?

Then address your enquiries to :—

**REVEREND MOTHER GENERAL
Nazareth House, Hammersmith, London W.6**



FOLLOW CHRIST

AS A
SALVATORIAN
SISTER

Write to :

**Divine Saviour Convent,
74, Gallows Hill Lane,
Abbots Langley,
Watford, Herts.,
England.**

Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Brief History: Founded in 1846 by a young American convert, Cornelia Connelly, who was invited by Cardinal Wiseman to provide an education suited to the children of English converts of the 'second spring'. She established boarding and poor schools, orphanages and a training college at St. Leonards-on-Sea. Eventual success followed and foundations were made throughout England, in France and America during her lifetime. Following her death there have also been foundations in Ireland, West Africa and South America.

Purpose: The Society is an apostolic institute which seeks the spread of God's kingdom by combining contemplation with apostolic love. Its principal work lies in the field of education and training, in schools and colleges of all types, from primary to university level, at home and on the mission fields.

Religious Exercises: Daily Mass; Lauds, Vespers and Compline in choir; mental prayer; spiritual reading, retreats.

Details of Novitiate: A postulancy of 6-9 months is followed by a novitiate of 2 years, temporary vows of 5 years, including 2 years spent in the scholasticate. The first year of the novitiate is devoted exclusively to spiritual formation and throughout the novitiate and scholasticate emphasis is laid on a full programme of sacred studies. Subsequent professional training is given to all, according to their aptitude.

Qualifications for Entry: Age range 18-30, but older applicants considered on their merits. An open, well-balanced character; good health; an interest in education as the means of bringing souls to God.

Description of Habit: Original habit (see illustration) will shortly be replaced by a more contemporary one. Experiments are at present being tried.

For further information please write to: Rev. Mother Provincial, Convent of the Holy Child Jesus, Mayfield, Sussex, or to The Mother Superior, 70 Harcourt Street, Dublin.



FRANCISCAN SISTERS (LITTLE HAMPTON)

A LIFE FULL OF CHALLENGE FOR A GIRL FULL OF LIFE

Are you thinking of serving Christ through a life wholly dedicated to Him as a **TEACHER, SOCIAL WORKER, CHILD CARE WORKER, CARE OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, NURSING OR VARIOUS FORMS OF DOMESTIC WORK.**

Now is your opportunity to take up a life of self-sacrifice, a life that does not promise to be easy. Here-in lies the challenge. Christ today needs young people of spirit and courage.

If you are interested write to:—

Rev. Mother General,
St. Joseph's Convent,
East Street,
Littlehampton,
Sussex.

OR



Sister M. Immaculata,
St. Anthony's Convent,
Bradford Road,
Bradford 7,
Yorkshire.

VOCATION

● FROM PAGE 31

confidence, any advice or help you seek in helping to formulate this desire to serve Christ. Remember, if you feel drawn to Religious life the time to act is NOW. An invitation or a calling from God is a precious thing; don't sit on it.

One final point—in all Religious Communities there is a training period. It is important to remember this. Just because you enter a Religious Community it does not mean you are committed to stay there for the rest of your life. At the end of this period of training or study, call it what you will, you are free to pack your bags and go home if you so wish.



Concern . . . THE SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

share Christ's concern for troubled teenage girls. Will you give not merely your time, not merely your talents, but dedicate your life to the Good Shepherd so that through you He may care for them?

ST. MARY EUPHRASIA – Mother Foundress of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, the centenary of whose death they celebrate this year, said:

**“A soul is of more value
than a world”**

Do YOU agree?

If you would like more information about us and our work, write to me:

Mother Provincial,
Good Shepherd Convent,
East Finchley, London, N.2.

**IS
GOD
CALLING
YOU?**

**SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS
PHILADELPHIA
U.S.A.**

are seeking new members desirous of serving God as Franciscan teachers and nurses in the United States.

Generous young hearts are ever eager to give their lives to God so that He may be better known and loved.

**ARE YOU
ONE OF THESE?**

Write to:

**VOCATION DIRECTRESS,
Immaculate Convent,
Mount Alvernia,
MALLOW, Co. Cork.**

SISTERS OF MISERICORDE OF SEES

Brief History: Founded in 1823 at Sees by Rev. J. J. Bazin, Confessor of the Faith. Fr. Bazin suffered because he saw so many young girls unable to enter a community for lack of a dowry. He was also distressed by the poor afflicted sick and was inspired to form a group of young girls too poor to enter other convents.

Purpose: The Sisters nurse the sick in their own homes without fees, preference being given to the poor. They also seek to maintain and strengthen the bond of family life in the homes they visit. The aim of the Sisters is to spread the spirit of Christ, by living themselves in the spirit of the Gospel.

Religious Exercises: Office, meditation, Holy Mass, visit to the Blessed Sacrament, rosary, etc. Monthly and yearly retreats.

Details of Novitiate: Normally 6 months' postulancy in a community and 2 years' novitiate. The time is passed in studying the 3 vows by which a girl may consecrate herself to God. After the novitiate Sisters are trained for nursing and the different needs of the works of the Congregation, if they have not been before entering, which is preferable.

Qualifications: 20. Usually senior secondary education but junior secondary may also be accepted.

Description of Habit: Black with imitation scapulars reaching above the ankles; small crucifix at the breast; black veil posed on a white headband.

For further information please write to: Rev. Mother, 10 South Crescent, Ardrossan, Scotland.



Congregation of the Sisters of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Resurrection Sisters)

Brief History: Founded in Rome, 1891, by mother and daughter, Celine Choudzinska-Borzecka and Hedwig Borzecka. They organised schools, parish and other apostolic activities, which are now conducted in Italy, Poland, United States, Canada, England, Australia and Argentina, with 6 novitiates. The primary apostolate, education, embraces pre-school children through to young women. The Sisters operate hospitals, nursing homes, care for the aged and do social work.

Purpose: The personal sanctification according to the Pauline doctrine of death to self and co-resurrection with Christ, culminating in the apostle's ideal: 'I live, now not I, but Christ lives in me,' and the spirit of the kingdom of Christ in the spirit of St. Paul's doctrine of the Mystical Body. The Congregation undertakes every apostolate, following the directives of the Church.

Religious Exercises: Brief morning and evening prayers; meditation; Mass; communion; noon examen, rosary; spiritual reading.

Details of Novitiate: During postulancy and 1 year novitiate the meaning and excellence of the religious vocation in the spirit of the resurrection is studied.

Qualifications: 14-35. In exceptional cases widows and older single women may be accepted. Pure intention is most important. Spiritual and moral stamina; intelligence and physical health are needed for a dedicated life.

Description of Habit: Black, simply pleated front and back; 'V' shaped collar with simple white wimple; black veil, falling a little below the waistline; silver crosslet with monograms on one side and the motto on the other, suspended from the point of the collar.

For further information please write to: Sister Mistress, Sisters of the Resurrection, Clairmount, Coworth Park, Sunningdale, Berks., England.



SEARCHED TO SERIALS
SERIALS SECTION
1950

A JUNIOR FILLIP

BY the time this article appears in print the greatest championship season camogie has ever known will be well under way, and the reason the game has got such a fillip already is the decision by Congress to go ahead with the junior All-Ireland championship.

The delegates to the adjourned session of the annual meeting devoted a great deal of time to grading the counties for these junior tests, but it was time very well spent and should result in very exciting games in all provinces before the competition reaches the semi-final stages.

There have had, of course, to be changes to allow for the new competition. Leinster has dropped its intermediate grade and, presumably, Munster's present secondary championship will also fall by the wayside.

Another significant change in Leinster is that Dublin, who only played one senior game in their own province in previous years (they were the only side graded senior, and played the intermediate winners in the senior

final) are now going to have plenty of match-play through the competition.

In recent years, Dublin were in the position that the senior county's first competitive outing in the year was usually in mid-July, in the Leinster final, and it is a tribute to their trainers and mentors that, despite this lack of match-play, the county won ten All-Irelands in succession.

This year the position is very different, for Dublin had two inter-county games scheduled for May, against Antrim in the All-Ireland 'replay' at Magherafelt, and against Offaly in the first round of the Leinster championship.

This means that the Dublin selectors will this year have a far better opportunity of trying out their side than has been the case for many years past. It may just be coincidence, of course, or it may be that Dublin are very determined, indeed, on winning back that All-Ireland title.

The junior championships

should be a great boost to the game in all provinces and more especially among what we have come to regard as the weaker counties. If all the counties who were graded at Congress actually play, and I have no reason at all to believe that they will not, then we will have twenty-eight of the 32 counties in action in this junior competition — surely a record for any All-Ireland camogie series. Indeed there can be no harm in listing the four missing counties.

They are Carlow, Longford, Leitrim and Donegal, and I have reason to believe that Leitrim will have affiliated before the championship starts and, therefore, may yet take part.

When the All-Ireland Colleges championship gets going next season, the popularity of the game will be even further increased. Already Colleges that have not shown any great interest heretofore have been making enquiries about entering, and those who thought that the Cork winners would advance as Munster representatives into the All-Ireland semi-finals will have reason to think again. I understand they will have to contend with strong opposition, certainly from Waterford, and probably from Limerick and Clare as well.

And that is all to the good. Indeed, when the Colleges semi-finals do come round next spring, I expect to see strong representatives from all four provinces battling for the honours.

GALLOWGLASS CEILI BAND

MARIAN VILLA, BLESSINGTON ROAD, NAAS, CO. KILDARE. Phone: NAAS 7269

PAT MCGARR

Looks forward to meeting all his old friends and lots of new ones, during the current Holiday Season,

Canons Regular of St. Augustine (Lateran Congregation)

Brief History: The Order of Canons Regular has no founder. It is an outcome of the living organism of the Church, newly emerged from the era of persecutions. Many of the clergy endeavoured to put into practice the apostolic ideal: 'All the faithful held together, and shared all they had, selling their possessions and their means of livelihood.' (Acts ii.4) but it was St. Augustine who was a great pioneer and exemplar of this way of life. He is the 'Holy Father' of the Order.

Purpose: To provide for the individual the means of sanctification through the ministry of the priesthood within the framework of community life; to live a life completely dedicated to God (by the solemn vows of poverty, chastity and obedience) in the pastoral care of souls.

Religious Exercises: Community Mass, Divine Office in choir, meditation, spiritual reading and community acts of devotion towards our Blessed Lady.

Details of Novitiate: After a short postulancy the novitiate begins and continues for a whole year in normal circumstances. During this time the novice is trained in the basic elements of the religious life and is prepared by instruction for his simple profession which comes at the end of his novitiate.

Qualifications: 17-35. Average, or above average, intelligence; reasonably good health; a great desire to save souls.

Description of Habit: In choir; white cassock, linen rochet and red mozzetta. Out of choir: ordinary black cassock.

For further information please write to: Rt. Rev. Abbot C. J. White, CRL., "St. Dominic's", 54 Castle Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin 3.



Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary

Brief History: Founded in 1847 in the south of France, the joint work of two saintly souls, Fr. John Gailhac and Mme. Pelissier Cure. Widowed at 39, Mme. Cure placed herself at the disposal of Fr. Gailhac who had already founded a refuge for penitents and an orphanage. With her he founded the Congregation, whose members now work in three continents.

Purpose: The Christian education of youth of every rank of society is the chief work of the Congregation. As this requires the co-operation of workers in many fields, members are trained for household management, nursing, secretarial work, etc., as well as in all branches of teaching.

Religious Exercises: Meditation, Mass, the rosary, examen of conscience, etc.

Details of Novitiate. A 6 months' postulancy initiates the aspirant into the daily 'routine', then follows the clothing ceremony, after which she gives 2 years to spiritual formation with the necessary scriptural, theological and liturgical studies. The taking of the vows then makes her a member of the Congregation, where her studies continue according to her aptitudes.

Qualifications: 16 and over. A right intention in seeking religion and life; reasonably good health; those qualities of character that enable the aspirant to fulfil the obligations of the religious life; and at least general ability for the training required for one or other of the works of the Congregation.

Description of Habit: A navy dress, pleated, ankle length; navy pelerine with narrow white collar; silver cross suspended, by silver chain, from the neck; white headdress—off the face so as not to obstruct vision; black veil.

For further information please write to: Rev. Mother, Convent of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Seafield, Great Crosby, Liverpool 23.



EILEEN NAUGHTON

Superb goalkeeper

MANY great camogie players have come out of the West since Peggy Morris led a gallant and unlucky Galway side in the Tailteann Games of 1932 and the first All-Ireland finals that followed, but it is doubtful if Galway has ever seen greater than Eileen Naughton, possibly the most outstanding goal-keeper the game has yet known.

A native of Galway City, Eileen first made her mark in Colleges camogie, and was so distinguished as a young player that, while still a school-girl, she was already a star of the Galway inter-county team.

Indeed, she was still a school-girl when she first appeared in an All-Ireland final at Croke Park, for Galway against Dublin in 1960. But Dublin had already heard of her for she had foiled Antrim in amazing fashion in the semi-final at Casement Park and it was her superb brilliance in goal that carried the Western champions to the final. She again played brilliantly in the All-Ireland final but could not save Galway from defeat this time.

Two years later, Eileen was again the star of a sensational Galway semi-final victory, this time when they beat Cork at Fermoy. Again they met Dublin in a Croke Park final, and again Eileen Naughton gave a wonderful display, but again not all her brilliance could save Galway, even though spectators agreed that she had given the

finest display of goal-keeping ever seen in an All-Ireland final.

Meanwhile Eileen Naughton had become a medical student at University College, Galway, and there, in 1964, was the star of

By _____
Agnes Hourigan

the U.C.G. side that scored a great victory over U.C.C. in the final of the Ashbourne Cup inter-varsity competition.

Unfortunately, pressure of studies in more recent years has meant that Eileen has not been able to

devote as much time as before to camogie, and her loss has been sorely felt in the West. However, she did make a triumphant return this spring, when she again played a major part in another Galway Ashbourne Cup victory.

Moreover, as she hopes to qualify this summer, she is likely to have more time for camogie thereafter, and it is the earnest hope of followers of the game far outside Galway that, through the year ahead, we shall have the pleasure of seeing many more fine displays of goal-keeping from the Ollie Walsh of camogie, who, when the opportunity presents, has, like Ollie, a love of playing an occasional game in the forward-line.



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Eamonn Cregan

THE YOUNG EAGLES

*How they
are
faring*

By OWEN McCANN

“WHO are the ‘Young Eagles’ with the all-important score-getting ability who are most likely to soar to the heights of brilliance attained in expert and consistent marksmanship by such experienced performers as Jimmy Doyle, Eddie Keher and Cyril Dunne?”

That was the intriguing question I posed in our issue of April, 1967, and went on to nominate three—Kevin Kelly (Kildare), Eamonn Cregan (Limerick) and Tony McTeague (Offaly). How have they progressed since then, how do they stand now in the scoring stakes?

McTeague takes the chief honours. When my original article was published he had 2-125 (131 pts.) from 29 outings in the premier grade. Since then he has had only 13 engagements, but he has boosted his match-average. He notched up the first 131 points at the fine match average of 4.51 points, but in each of his last 13 games he went near to six minors an hour at 5.92 points for a total of 3-68 (77 pts.). This brings his record from 42 games in the premier grade to 5-193 (208 pts.), at the over-all “work-rate” an hour of an impressive 4.95 minors.

This year, too, McTeague is

setting the pace for all score-getters in Leinster. He had his most successful year yet in 1966, when he took third place in the provincial chart with 1-65 (68 pts.) in 15 games. He is virtually certain to improve on that figure during the current campaign, for after only six matches at the time of writing he was just 24 points below his personal best at 2-38 (44 pts.).

He will have to really hustle, however, if he is to beat the Offaly county record of 7-99 (120 pts.). This was established by Harry Donnelly in 1961, when he headed the nation-wide football chart, and stands as the Leinster record. Donnelly, who played 24 games in that record-making year, is the only Offaly player yet to capture the No. 1 spot for one year’s full campaign.

However, McTeague’s feat in hitting 44 points is still a grand start to the season’s programme. It is already one point more than the 1-40 from 9 games that left him his county’s top marksman last year for the third successive season. Let us not forget, either, that this brilliant score-getting hero of Offaly’s only All-Ireland minor championship winning team of 1964 (he probably set a record for this championship

grade with a personal total of 2-35 (41 pts.) in the five games) also gained with his class and ability two Leinster jerseys this year.

All in all, then, Tony McTeague is certainly justifying my forecast that he had what it takes to graduate with honours in the match-winning role of Bachelor of the Scoring Science.

Kelly has not since quite lived up to the early promise he displayed in the senior grade as a goal-getter. In 1966 he was the chief goal scorer in Leinster with 10 green flags, and he also shared the top spot for All-Ireland that year in this regard with the much more experienced John Keenan—despite the fact that the Galway man had four more engagements during that campaign.

However, in 17 games since my last review, this 1965 All-Ireland Under-21 championship medalist from Carbury has found the net only five times. He also raised 32 white flags in those games, for a total of 47 points. This means that his match average is down slightly—2.76 minors an hour as against the three points he notched in each of his first 32 engagements that added up to a grand total of 12-60 (96 pts.).

Nevertheless, Kelly, who was

Kildare's ace marksman last year with 3-28 (37 pts.) in 14 ties, still boasts quite an impressive scoring record in the top grade. It now stands at 17-92 (143 pts.), which works out at the quite high total of 2.91 points in each of these 49 matches.

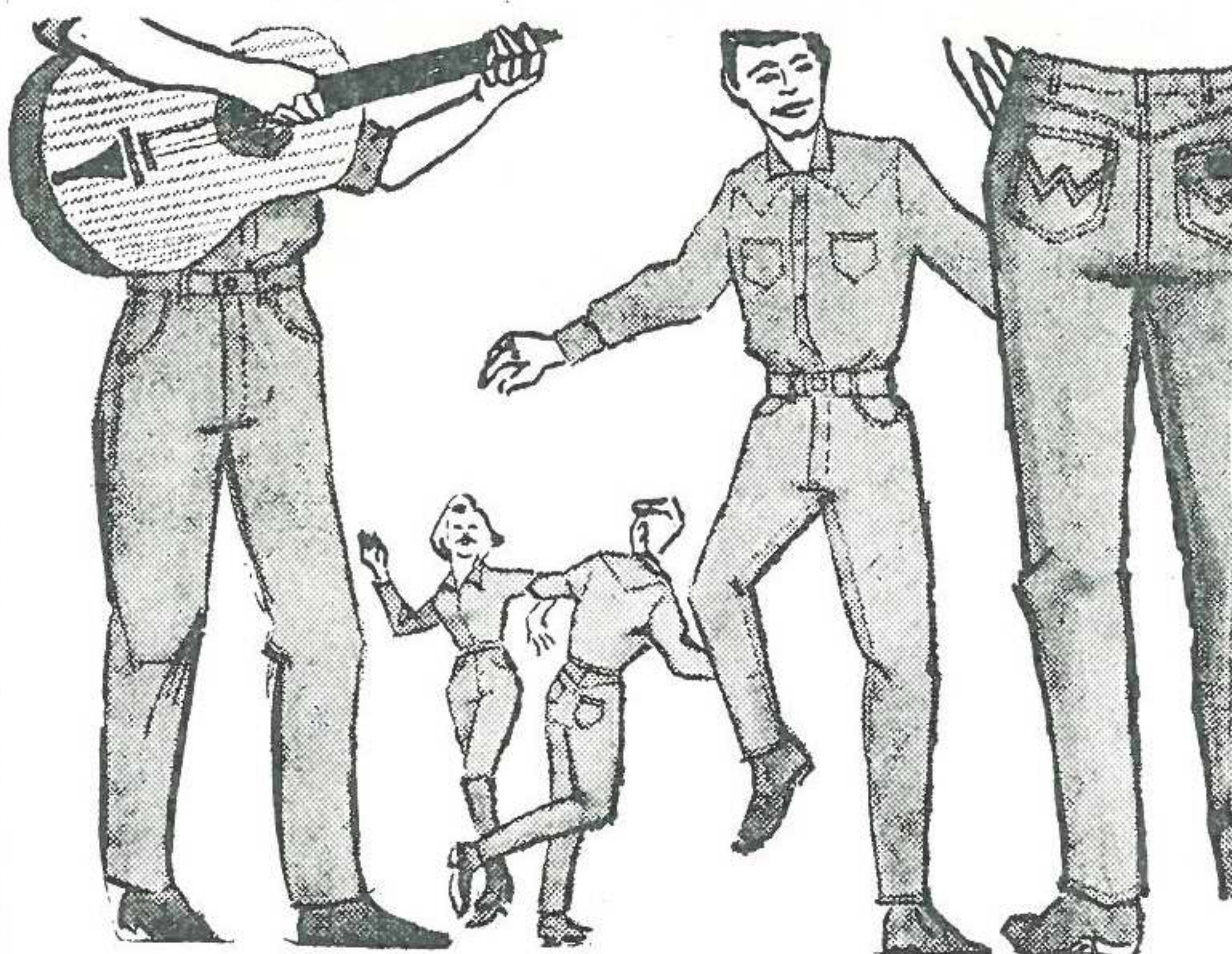
His highest yearly total was recorded in 1966 at 10-33 (63 pts.) in 20 games for second place in Kildare, and fourth that year in Leinster. In six games in 1968 he hit 3-8.

Eamonn Cregan had 15-52 (97 pts.) from 22 games at my initial review stage. Included in that total, which he averaged at 4.40 points an hour, was the 9-21 (48 pts.) in 10 games that made him Munster's second highest scorer in 1966, and is, of course, his best for one full season's campaign. He has had only 13 games since then, and his average has dropped to 2.23 pts. for a total of 1-26 (29 pts.).

As against that, however, when we average out the nippy Cloughaun hurler's record of 16-78 (126 pts.) from his 35 hours on senior duty, it will be seen that his over-all total stands at the quite good figure of 3.31 points. This is only a little over a point an hour below what he recorded in each of those first 22 games, so he too, generally, is keeping up quite well to his earlier good score-getting form. As well, the Limerick man captured the support of his provincial selectors this year, and highlighted his two appearances in the Munster Blue by winning a Railway Cup medal.

Summing up, then, it can be said of McTeague, Kelly and Cregan that, in each case, it has been steady, if not highly spectacular progress in the role of score-getters with that elusive potential plus; progress that augurs well for the prospects of keeping goalkeepers very much on their toes and the umpires busy in the years ahead!

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FIXTURES NEED PRUNING

PERHAPS I am the only one to think so, but I was glad that the recent G.A.A. Congress did not agree to the setting up of an All-Ireland club championship in hurling or football. Not, mark you, that I am at all opposed to All-Ireland club championships as such, but because I see no point in further over-loading the current fixture-list, which is more than top-heavy already.

It may be advanced as a conclusive argument in favour of such a move that an All-Ireland club championship has been run successfully by the Camogie Association through the past four seasons.

But the Camogie people, up to

now, have had only two other nation-wide competitions to cater for, the senior All-Ireland championship and the inter-provincial series for the Gael-Linn Cup, so that it was reasonably easy to fit in the inter-club tests. They may not find it quite so easy to do so this season when they will have to cope with a junior All-Ireland series in addition to their other commitments.

As it is, the Camogie Association has never been able to finish its club championship earlier than November in any single year, and twice out of four years their final has run much later than that.

What chance then would the

G.A.A. have of running off All-Ireland club hurling and football competitions when one considers the multiplicity of championships in both codes that have to be fitted in at the moment?

Even to try and list all the current competitions is, in itself, a pretty formidable task. Let's take hurling first. We have All-Ireland championships in the following grades—senior, intermediate, junior, minor, under-21, special minor, special under-21, special under-16, Vocational Schools, Senior Colleges, B. Colleges, Factories. Add on National Leagues, Interprovincials, Grounds Tournament, Wembley Tournament and the Walsh Cup in Leinster and the county championships and one is left wondering how the men who make the hurling fixtures ever get a schedule worked out.

The football situation is a bit better but only relatively so. There are All-Ireland championships in senior, junior, minor and under-21, Vocational Schools, Colleges and Factories. Then there is also the National League, Interprovincials, Grounds Tournament, Wembley Tournament, O'Byrne Cup in Leinster, McKenna Cup in Ulster, and Gael-Linn Cup in Connacht, plus a number of small and relatively local inter-county competitions.

The tragedy of it is, of course, that a star player, if under-21, could find himself on duty for his county in senior, under-21, National League, Grounds Tournament, Wembley Tournament

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WILSON HARTNELL

and one of the Accident Fund competitions all in the one season. If he plays in Leinster, the biggest province, and his county gets to all finals, that would keep him very busy indeed.

In the championship he would have, in football, possibly six senior matches and as many under-21 matches, seven National League games, two in the Grounds Tournament, two in the Wembley Tournament and four in the O'Byrne Cup. That would give him 27 inter-county matches in one season, not allowing for draws or challenge games.

No wonder top players are inclined to lose their zest, since, allowing for an average nine-month inter-county year, from the middle of February to the middle of November, there are only about 44 week-ends available. If the player is to be on duty for his county on 27 of those that leaves him 17 Sundays

available for his club, if he is willing to field out every single Sunday of the playing season — and, in my opinion, no player should be called upon to give of his best, week-end after week-end.

So the new Commission, which is to investigate the whole organisation of the G.A.A. might well give high priority to rationalising the whole matter of this multiplicity of competitions. Let us have an All-Ireland club championship by all means, if the majority of the Association think such competition desirable, but it will be necessary to clear the way for them first by weeding out some of the competitions we already have.

Meanwhile, we are already moving fast into the new championship season with high hopes raised by the recent league campaign that we shall see some new forces both in football and hurling.

The league deeds of Kildare and Sligo will cause all the 'established' football counties in Connacht and Leinster to look forward with some anxiety to championship clashes with either county, while, on current form, Down must be hot favourites to regain at least the Ulster crown.

In hurling, those three clashes with Kilkenny in the hurling league semi-final must have proved of tremendous benefit to Clare, who should come forth, giants refreshed, for the championship, but they do need more penetration in their attack.

Surprise teams? There could well be a couple.

Limerick could well spring a surprise, or two, in football and in hurling, while there is one team in the North that has more potential than it has yet turned to account on the football fields — and that team is Antrim.

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

COMAIRLE LAISEAN

Clar na gCluichi

2-6-'68—TULACH MÓR :

ÁTH CLIATH v. LONGPHORT

Senior Football 3.30 p.m. J. Dowling (Offaly).

9-6-'68—CEATHARLACH :

CILL DARA v. LAOIS

Senior Football 3.30 p.m. J. Hatton (Wicklow).

16-6-'68—PÁIRC AN CRÓCAIGH :

LÚBHAÍ v. UA bhFÁILÍ

Senior Football 3.30 p.m.

16-6-'68—CILL CHOINNIGH :

LOCH GARMAN v. ÁTH CLIATH

Senior Hurling Semi-final 3.30 p.m. J. Murphy (Wicklow)

23-6-'68—PÁIRC AN CRÓCAIGH :

IAR MHÍ v. AN MHÍ

Senior Football 3.30 p.m.

Date to be arranged — Senior Hurling Semi-final — Cill Choinnigh v. Ua bhFáilí nó Iar Mhí at Portlaoise : D. Ferguson (Dublin).

30-6-'68—

LÚBHAÍ nó UA bhFÁILÍ

v.

CILL DARA nó LAOIS

Senior Football Semi-final. All pairings at Páirc an Crócaigh unless Ua bhFáilí v. Laois which will be at Tulach Mór.

7-7-'68—

IAR MHÍ nó AN MHÍ

v.

LONGPHORT nó ÁTH CLIATH

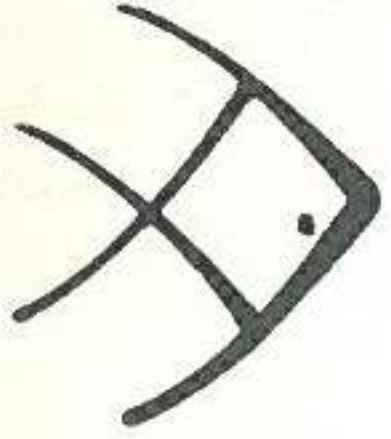
Minor Football and Senior Football Semi-finals.

If Longphort v. Iar Mhí at Tulach Mór; if Longphort v. An Mhí at Muileann Cearn; if Áth Cliath v. Iar Mhí at An Uaimh; if Áth Cliath v. An Mhí at An Uaimh.

30-7-'68—PÁIRC AN CRÓCAIGH :

CILL CHOINNIGH v. LOCH GARMAN

Walsh Cup Final (1967)



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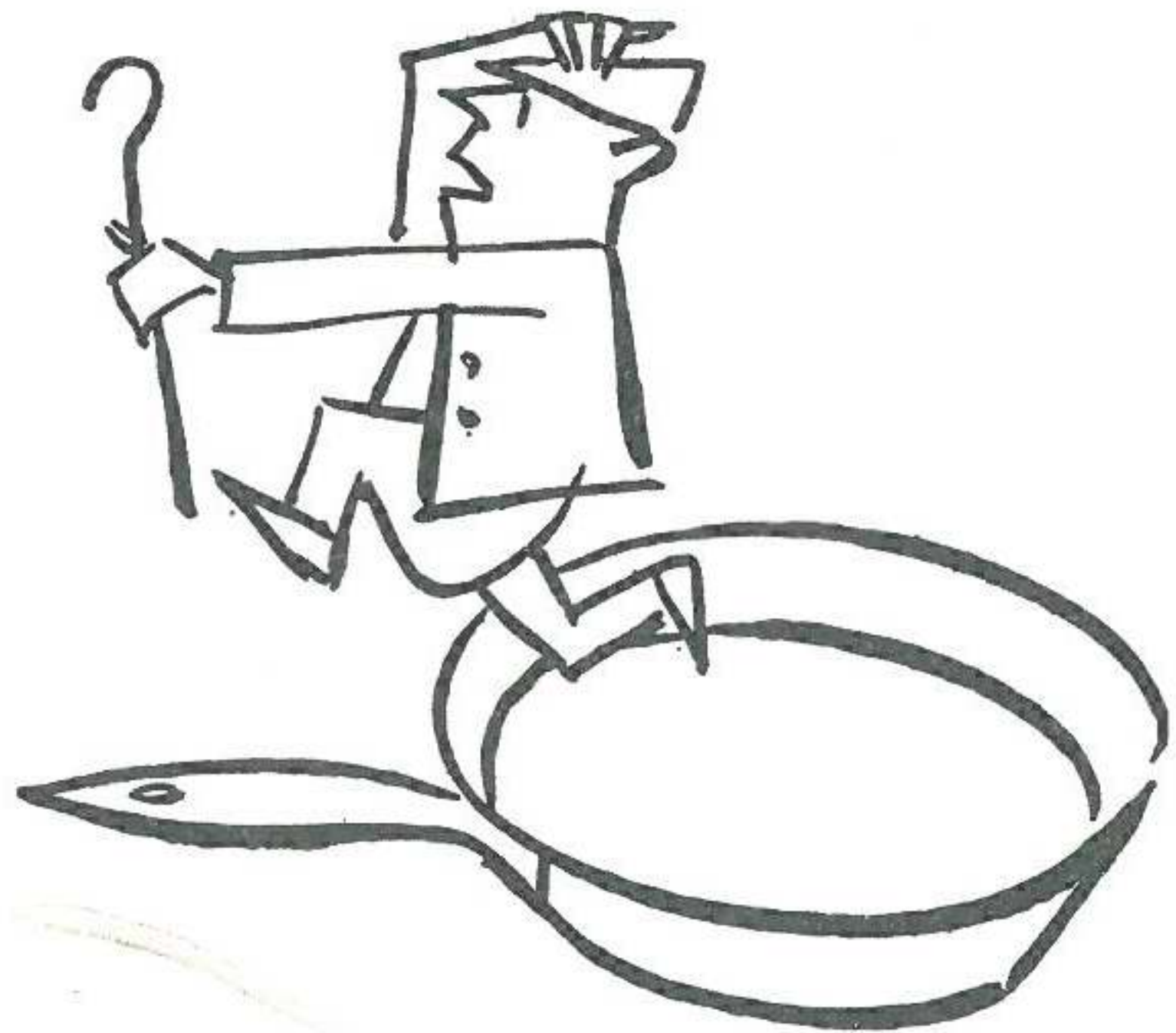
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THE NEW PRESIDENT

ONE of the most significant events in the handball code over the past month was the election of Brother B. C. Murphy as President of the All-Ireland Council.

He succeeded the Antrim representative, Gerry McGowan, who had completed his statutory three year term of office.

The appointment of Brother Murphy, who is based in the O'Connell Schools, Dublin, is a further addition to the contribution made by the Christian Brothers to our National Games. In fact, it is the first time that a member of the Community has held the Handball presidency.

And, for my part, it is not possible to think of a more worthy occupant of the position. Brother Murphy was born in Newbridge and was educated at Westland Row C.B.S. Even in those days he had a close attachment with the Association, being an able hurler and footballer, though he freely admits that handball always held a special place for him.

If I intended this as a general biography, a deep concentration would be required of his contribution to various aspects of the Irish language movement or the honour he has attained in leading school choirs to resounding successes at competitive level.

Or indeed, his reputation, at one stage, as an amateur photographer which indicated that he could also have gone very far in this field.

However, to get back on the

rails again, my thoughts are at once reflected to his association with the Tipperary minor football team of 1955.

At that time he was based in Templemore and the image comes to mind so easily, for the simple reason that Tipperary, with a brilliant squad of players, appeared to be on the verge of a great football resurgence.

Subsequently, they were beaten by Dublin in the final. A few years later his flair for leadership came to light in Ceanannus Mór. While based in the Meath town he was instrumental in rekindling the handball flame amongst the youth of the town. Today, the results of that effort live on.

Small wonder that Ceanannus Mór has a handball reputation second to none; that the St. Colmille club is recognised to be one of the strongest clubs in the country; that titles at all levels now flow freely towards members of the club and the youth of the Christian Brothers School. And one of the proudest boasts of all—it was two players from the town, Liam Molloy and Dessie McGovern, who played for Ireland in the last World Games.

When you converse with a Ceanannus Mór handball man on these achievements it is inevitable that he will throw many of the kudos on the shoulders of the new President. But just to bring home the point even more vividly, a glance at his record since arriving in Dublin is appropriate.

One hardly thinks that the

emergence of the O'Connell Schools as a major force in the context of under-age handball was by mere chance. Or that his position as a leading official of the Dublin minor Handball Board was not a contributory factor to the wonderful success story of that unit.

I could go on in this vein indefinitely, but I think the case is proved. I asked Brother Murphy some of the stereotyped questions.

What did he hope to accomplish in his new position?

His reply was frank, "I am not going to make promises," he said, "I have heard so many rash promises made about handball and none of them have ever been realised."

"During my term of office I would dearly like to see the game advanced at school level and, where possible, that school authorities would provide Handball Alleys as part of the provisions for recreational facilities."

He would also like to see more interest taken by G.A.A. County Boards in the game, while he says that the attention given by R.T.E. to handball is disgraceful.

Thus Brother Murphy commences his three year term as President of the Irish Council. I can safely predict that it will be a glorious innings.

The new President has the ideal make-up for the position and he is not afraid to show how a plan can be implemented by getting down to the work himself. We wish him well.

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● FROM PAGE 23

princes and did everything they could to make us feel happy.

O'D. — Looking ahead to the championship Mick, who do you feel will give Meath most trouble in Leinster?

W.—I expect most trouble will come from Kildare and Offaly, but I hope the team will be well rested and ready to meet whatever comes its way.

O'D.—Who is the best player you ever played on here at home?

W.—Without a doubt, Paddy Doherty. But I have also had some tough games against Kevin Kelly of Kildare and Liam Leech of Louth.

O'D.—One last question. Would you favour any changes in the Rule Book?

W.—Yes, I feel the hand pick up should be allowed. It would speed up the game considerably. I also feel that there should be some sort of compromise regarding the rules between the Australians and the G.A.A.

HISTORIC HOTEL

WYNN'S Hotel, one of Ireland's oldest and best known hostels was the original meeting place for an historic meeting which had a decisive effect on the history of Ireland in this century—the decision to establish Óglaigh na hÉireann—the “Irish Volunteers.”

It was at Wynn's Hotel on the 11th of November, 1913, that the meeting, under the chairmanship of Eoin MacNeill, decided to establish an Irish Volunteer force. Of the small group who attended this historic meeting four died as a result of the Easter Rising, Pearse, Ceannt, MacDiarmada and the O'Rahilly.

Within hours of the meeting being held the Manager of the hotel was warned by detectives from Dublin Castle not to allow any further meetings of this kind, a warning which was ignored.

G. & S. Doherty

CHAMPIONSHIP PROSPECTS

THE BATTLE IN ULSTER

By SEAMUS McCLUSKEY

LIKE all Ulster folk, I am looking forward to the 1968 Ulster senior football championship with much greater interest than ever before, and for several very good reasons. Never before in the history of the game have so many counties in the northern province reached the top bracket of the football ladder at the same time. Never before has there been such keen competition between the Ulster counties themselves, and never before has the North been so anxious to see one of its counties take the Sam Maguire Cup back across the Boyne—it hasn't come our way since 1961.

At the moment, Down are hot favourites to win the 1968 Ulster senior crown, with the present holders, Cavan, in second place. Derry are placed third in the estimates and Donegal fourth. Monaghan have jumped up from their lowly 1967 position to the fifth rung of the ladder while Antrim, Armagh, Fermanagh and Tyrone, although outsiders, must always be given a chance. Any one of the latter four counties could always spring a first round surprise but further advancement on their part would, at the moment, seem somewhat remote.

THE PAIRINGS :

Fermanagh v. Tyrone: These two counties set the ball rolling at Irvinestown on the first Sunday in June and the winners meet Monaghan at a Monaghan venue (Clones, if Monaghan v Fermanagh, and Castleblayney if Monaghan v. Tyrone). Of the three,

Monaghan appear the most likely to qualify for the semi-final stage. Their displays in the recent Supplementary League, in which they accounted for Armagh, Antrim and Louth, were very encouraging for the team manager, Father Enda McCormick and his assistant selectors, Hughie McKearney and Eugene McDonald.

These Oriel men did quite a bit of training during the winter period at Emmet Park, Carrickmacross, and at the Sluagh Hall, Castleblayney (by kind permission of the F.C.A. authorities). Built around Tony Carville at full back, Benny Mone in the Number six spot, midfielder Dessie Duffy and scoregetters Cathal McCarthy, Sean Woods and Gerry Fitzpatrick, they have the nucleus of a fine side that could prove too strong for Mick Brewster's Fermanagh men or for the Seamus Taggart led Tyrone side.

Derry v. Down: The meeting of Down and Derry at Ballinascreen on Sunday, June 9 could well be the game of the championship and it is nothing less than real tragedy that these two great sides are thrown together in the very first round. Down have been exceptionally impressive throughout the spring and with no less than six Ulster Railway Cup players in their side, they are going to take a deal of stopping.

They have a magnificent blend of youth and experience—youngsters like Colm McAlarney, John Murphy, John Purdy and company are fitting in delightfully

with the old maestros, Sean O'Neill, Paddy Doherty, Joe Lennon, Tom O'Hare and Dan McCartan.

Derry are preparing diligently under the expert eyes of Jim McKeever and Sean O'Connell and they, too, have a lovely blend of youth and experience. They have one of the finest forwards in Ulster in Mickey Niblock and for teamwork they have few equals. Many of the side played together on St. Columb's College side and county minor sides.

If they can cross this first hurdle they will win the Ulster title, but what a mighty hurdle it is and even the advantage of playing on their own Ballinascreen sod may not be of any assistance against a Down side that has its sight set, not just on the Ulster crown, but on a third All-Ireland title. With their junior string out of the running, Down can concentrate on this latter aim and, like many another Ulster man, I think this will be their year.

Donegal v. Armagh: Donegal have been knocking at the Ulster door for longer than Tír Connail folk care to remember and over the past six years have threatened a lot only to fall at the concluding hurdles. With Seamus Hoare, Bernard Brady, Neillie Gallagher and Declan O'Carroll of the Ulster Railway Cup team backboning their side, they should at least be able to cross this first hurdle against Armagh, who seem to have

● TO PAGE 47

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● FROM PAGE 45

slipped somewhat from their 1967 position. They failed to collect a single point in the Supplementary League and also made a very early exit from the Dr. McKenna Cup competition. Armagh are always capable of causing an upset, but victory over Donegal in the first round would indeed be a major surprise.

Cavan v. Antrim: The Ulster champions, Cavan, make their first defence of their title against Antrim at Breffni Park on Sunday, June 16 and with players of the calibre of Gabriel Kelly, Peter Pritchard, John Joe O'Reilly, Charlie Gallagher and Ray Carolan of their side, all among Ireland's top players, it certainly looks as if the Blues will, at least, overcome this first obstacle. Antrim defeated both Louth and Armagh in the Supplementary League and have a wonderful half-back in Sean McQuillan, but one swallow never made a summer, and the Breffni men would appear to have far too many Big Guns for them.

So, to me at least, it looks as if the semi-final pairing will be Donegal v. Down and Cavan v. Monaghan.

Last year's changes in the League competitions gave so many of the Ulster counties the opportunity of showing their prowess against opposition from outside the province, and the results so promising, from a northern point of view, that the forthcoming championship race must inevitably benefit considerably. No wonder that Ulstermen are confident that the 1968 provincial championship will be "The Greatest Ever" in the history of Ulster football.

◀ *LEFT: Sean O'Connell will be Derry's key man in their bid to win the Ulster senior football title this year.*

LÁ MÓR GAODHALACH

Le LIAM Ó TUAMA

Ní bheadh sé ceart ná cóir an ócáid seo a leogaint thart, agus gan tagairt a dhéanamh d'oscailt an Ardáin nua i nDúrlas Éile, a thárlóchaidh ar an naoimhadh lá den mhí seo. Lá mór, agus lá ana mhór a bheidh ann, go mó mhór má bhíonn an aimsear fé mar ba mhaith linn í a bheith. Adéarfainn go mbeidh sluagh mór i láthair, agus le congnamh Dé beidh lá mór Gaodhalach ann.

Ní fhaca an t-árdán nua fós,

ach do réir mar a chloisim, ceann an-bhreágh ar fad é. Cuireann sé áthais chroidhe orainn-ne é sin a chlos. Tá sé tuillte, is tuillte go maith ag Dúrlas. Is i nDúrlas Éile a cuireadh Cumann Lúth Chleas Gaedheal ar bun, an chéad lá riamh. I dteach ósta Uí h-Aodha abhí an cruinniú, agus tá fógra ar an bfalla ar do shlí isteach, a chuireann é sin i gcuimhne dhuit. An turas deirin-each 'na rabhas ann, chuireas ceist ar mhuintir an tighe ósta,

cioca seómra 'na raibh an chéad chrinniú, ach ní rabhadar cinnte de sin. Is dócha go ndéanfaidh an t-Ard Easbog an t-árdán a bheannú i dtosach agus go ndéanfar é d'oscailt go h-oifigiúil na dhaidh sin.

Tabhairfidh duine éigin óráid a bheidh oireamhnach don ócáid. Déanfaidh sé tagairt is dócha do bhunú an Chumainn sa bhaile, agus don onóir mhór, ag don phribhléid mhór abhí ag an mbaile. Déanfaidh sé tagairt gan amhras dos na mílte cluiche a d'imrigheadh ann, blian i ndiadh blina. Tá seans ann go ndéanfaidh sé tagairt don bpáirc féin, mar tá sé ráidte riamh ná bfuil aon pháirc i-n Éirinn, thuaidh nó theas níos oirmhnaighe don iomáint ná an fód i bpáirc Dhúrlais. Adeirtear, agus is mór an moladh é, go bfuil sé níos fearr ná Páirc a' Chrócaigh féin. Dhá chonndae abhí, gonnibh a chéile go minic ar an bpáirc chéadna, a bheidh páir-teach lá na h-oscailte-Corcaigh agus Tiobrad Árann féin.

Is mó cluiche cruaidh abhí aca i gcoinnibh a chéile ó am go h-am, agus ní mór é an tuille abhí ag aon cheann aca ar a chéile riamh. Ní raibh cuid des na cluichí ró-cháirdiúl anois is arís, ach chó luath is abhí an cluiche thart, bhí gach nídh thart. Aon teasíocht abhí sa chluiche, ní ón a gcroidhe a thánaigh sé. Ní raibh ann mar adéarfá ach cogadh na mbó maol. Tá clú agus cáil tuillte ag an dá chonndae maidir le sár-iománíocht. Tá níos mó craobh-chluichí cheannais na h-Éireann bainte amach ag an dá chonndae seo le chéile, ná mar atá ag an gcuid eile den tír curtha le chéile. Nách mór an gaisce é sin. Coiste iomána, nó gan coiste iomána mairfidh an iomáint i



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MÓR-CHUID CLUICHÍ

Ag dul i méid atá na comórtaisí éagsamhla ó bhlian go blian. Is cuimhin liom uair, agus ní bheadh aon chomórtaisí idir-chonndaithe ach peil sínnsireach, agus peil sóireach, iomáint síonn-sireach agus iomáint sóisireach. Ó shin i leith, táimid ag cur leis sin. Sa bhlian naoi deag is a fiche naoi cuireadh tús le comórtas nua-iomáint na n-ógánach agus peil na n-ógánach. Comórtus ana mhaith is ea é seo. Go dtí gur cuireadh é seo ar bun, bhí bearna mór idir bhuachaillí scoile agus buachaillí choláistí abhí ró óg chun a bheith páirteach i gcomórtaisí na sóisear. Rud eile, fós, tá na comórtaisí seo a bfad Éireann níos siumúla na comórtaisí na sóisear nó comórtaisí na sínnsir go ró-mhinic. Tógaimís an teasbántas a thug ógánaig nó mionúir Chorcaighe sa chraobh chluiche cheannais anuirid, i bPáirc an Chrócaigh, ná raibh peil iontach ann, péil glan, Ghaodhalach amach is amach. Ní cuimhin liom aon chluiche peile a dhéanfadh é a shárú, cé go bfacha mé cluichí peile i ngach cúige ó am go h-am. Na buachaillí breághtha óga ó Chorcaigh, d' imrigheadar peil Ghaodhalach fé mar is cóir i d'imirt. Chlaoidheadar leis an seana-stíl—beir uirrí agus buail í. Gheárradar amach na geátsaí. Scaoileadar leis an liathróid, chó luath is a fuairadar greim uirrí. Dhéineadar an nídh ciallmhar mar níl aoinne, fiú amháin an reathaidhe is mire atá sa domhan, a bhuaadh-fadh ar liathróid ag teastal tríd an aér.

Ní gan cúis annsan a fuairadar moladh ó gach aoinne abhí i láthair. I dteannta san, fuairadar buaileadh bas iontach, ag imtheach den pháirc dóibh. Bhí sé tuillte aca, agus ní chuirfeadh sé aon iona orm dá mbainfidis Páirc a' Chrócaigh amach arís i mbliana chun teasbántas eile a

thabhairt dúinn, ceann a bheadh ar aon dul leis an gceann a thugadar dúinn anuiridh. Ba mhaith liom-sa, ach go h-áirithe, teasbántas eile den t-saghas chéadna d'fheiscint, mar is anamh riamh a chímíd teasbántas i n-aon ghrád a bhíonn ar aon dul leis. Tá peil Ghaodhalach ag sleamhanú siar is ag cúlú le cúpla blian anuas. Tá smut de seo is smut de siúd ag teach isteach ann. Ní h-aon iona é annsan, go

bfuil mórán dár ndaoine óga claonta chun cluichí, ná chluichí Gaothhalacha iad. Má tá an scéal amhlaidh, orainn féin atá an locht, mar tá peil Ghaodhach ar aon dul ar a laighead, le h-aon saghas peile a imrightear sa tír seo, nó taobh amuigh de chó maith—sé sin, ar an gcoingheall go n-imrightear í i gceart, gan aon tarrainght, gan aon fheall, ach ceann teicniciúil anois is arís.



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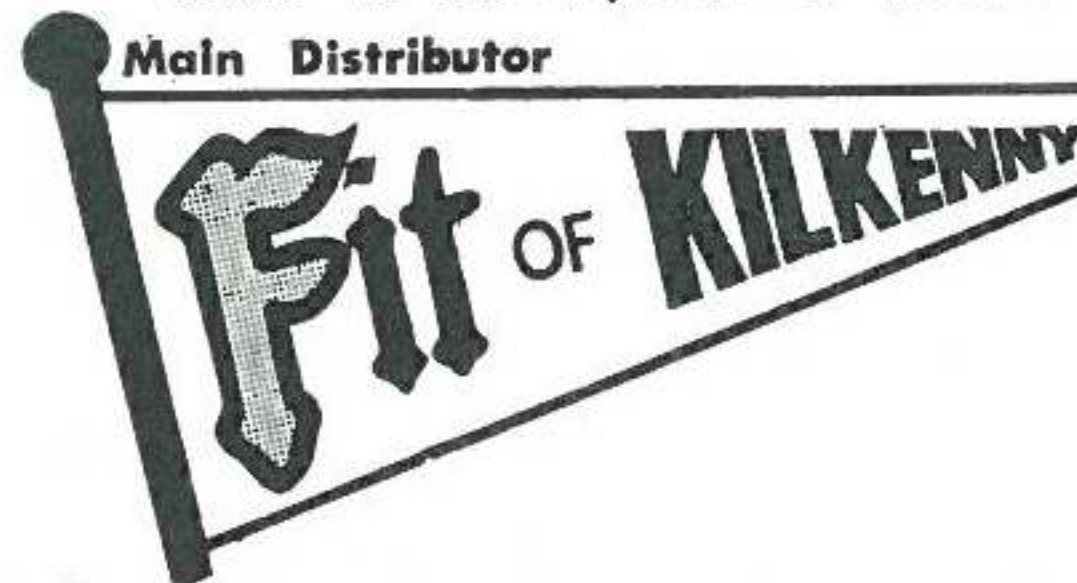


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TOP TEN

THE emergence of Kildare and Sligo in the final stages of the National Football League provided a number of the stars who appear in this month's ratings.

Similarly, Kilkenny and Clare held the limelight in hurling in the last half of April and this fact, also, is reflected in the list below—though a Tipperary player, Michael Keating, deservedly heads the list as a result of his performance in the home final of the National League.

HURLING

- 1—Michael Keating (Tipperary).
- 2—Frank Jackson (Westmeath).
- 3—Mick Roche ... (Tipperary).
- 4—Jimmy Cullinane ... (Clare).
- 5—Pat Henderson (Kilkenny).
- 6—Pat Bradley ... (Westmeath).
- 7—Jim Lynch (Kilkenny).
- 8—Pascal O'Brien (Clare).
- 9—Pat Henchy (Clare).
- 10—Eddie Keher ... (Kilkenny).

FOOTBALL

- 1—Pat Mangan (Kildare).
- 2—Pat Dunny (Kildare).
- 3—Tom O'Hare (Down).
- 4—Cathal Cawley (Sligo).
- 5—Seán O'Neill (Down).
- 6—J. J. O'Reilly (Cavan).
- 7—Brendan Doyle ... (Carlow).
- 8—Mick White (Meath).
- 9—Liam Caffrey (Sligo).
- 10—J. Donnelly (Kildare).



Waterford must bank on youth

By
**TIM
HORGAN**

Phil Grimes, one of the great figures in Waterford's hurling revival in the second half of the last decade.

With young, promising hurlers like Declan Goode, Danny Wyse and "Locky" Byrne they won the All-Ireland minor title that year and followed up this victory by reaching the Munster senior final in 1931, '33 and '34.

They were beaten by Cork and Limerick in these games but in 1938 the big break through came when Waterford defeated Clare by a goal (3-5 to 2-5) in the provincial final. They failed to beat Dublin in the All-Ireland later in the year and for the next decade or so the Decies faded into the background as Cork and Tipperary dominated the Munster hurling scene. But then, in 1948, Waterford came forward again, this time to attain unprecedented heights in the All-Ireland championship.

Ace goalkeeper Jim Ware captained the team that year and led them to victory over Cork in a thrill-packed Munster final. The legendary John Keane was another key figure in the Waterford team, playing brilliantly in the half-forward line with his '38 colleague, Christy Moylan. They met Dublin in the All-Ireland final on a damp, September day and coasted to a magnificent win. History was made, Waterford won their first senior title, and, to make the day even more memorable, the county minors, led by a youngster named Mick Flannelly, completed a great double by beating Kilkenny.

● TO PAGE 52

TWELVE months ago, at the Willie Walsh Park in Waterford, the local hurlers created one of the biggest upsets of the year when they defeated the All-Ireland title-holders, Cork, in the first round of the provincial championship. It was a remarkable game in many ways but by far the most pleasing aspect of the victory was the great enthusiasm it engendered in Waterford's hurling fortunes.

For several weeks after that match the city and county "talked nothing but hurling." Old warriors like Tom Cheasty, Frankie Walsh, Austin Flynn and Larry Guinan became the heroes

of the hour once again and Waterford looked to these stalwarts to bring back former glory. It was obvious that the defeat of Cork had given hurling the fillip it needed so badly in Waterford and memories of past successes came flooding back as the Decies set their sights on the championship.

Waterford has always been a stronghold of hurling, though the county hadn't fared so well trophy-wise down through the decades. The game has been played there since the foundation of the G.A.A. but the Decies had to wait until 1929 to make a big impression in the championship.

● FROM PAGE 51

Many of the older players retired after that great triumph in 1948 and for the next nine years the county languished in the depths of ill-luck and misfortune. But then the tide changed again in 1957, and Waterford came forward with a new and brilliant hurling fifteen. Spearheaded by Phil Grimes, the stylish captain at midfield, and including such stars as Seamus Power, John Kiely, Johnny O'Connor and Donal Whelan, the Decies topped a great campaign in Munster by beating Cork in the final and later qualified to meet Kilkenny in the national decider.

After what was described as one of the most exciting All-Ireland finals of all, Kilkenny staged a great second-half rally and went on to win by one point (4-10 to 3-12) but it was clear that Waterford would be back in Croke Park soon after that defeat. And sure enough, two years later the neighbouring counties were to cross hurleys again in the final

This time the teams finished on level terms at the end of another pulsating hour. But the Decies



SEAMUS POWER

were not to be outdone in the replay and a magnificent performance by Tom Cheasty spurred them on to win their second All-Ireland senior championship. This victory seemed to mark the end of an era for a great Waterford team but many of the players who participated in that final were to be back in Croke Park again four years later. They defeated Tipperary in a palpitating League final early in 1963 but lost narrowly to old rivals Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final. Waterford's swan song had been sung.

For the next three years Waterford's hurling fortunes suffered a sharp decline. New players were sought to fill places vacated by the older established performers and many of those tested failed to make the grade. The county no longer presented a strong challenge to other teams in Munster and the constant repetition of defeat after defeat aggravated the situation. When Waterford qualified for the provincial final of 1966, by virtue of a facile win over a weak Galway team, few critics rated their chances highly against Cork. But worse still, the Waterford supporters themselves had so little confidence in their team that very few of them bothered to go to Limerick to see the final. Hurling in Waterford from a spectator's point of view, had reached an all time low.

And then came the championship game against Cork in Walsh Memorial Park early in June, 1967. This match, so sensational and controversial, and so surprising in its result was to mark a turning point for the Decies, and for the next three weeks hurling regained its former position of prominence and esteem in the southern city.

The glory and the enthusiasm came to a sharp end when Tipperary trounced Waterford in the semi-final, but the victory over Cork proved a valuable lesson.

As far as sportsmen are concerned, hurling is still the most popular game in Waterford, despite the recent competition from a highly successful soccer team. All that is needed to bring the ancient game to the forefront once again is the acquisition of some important trophy on the playing field. To do this, Waterford must build up a brand new team, as they did after the '48 triumph, and place their trust in the youthful players scattered throughout the county.

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