

74  
GAA

# Gaelic Sport

TWO SHILLINGS

MARCH, 1968

**STARS  
OF THE  
COUNTY  
DOWN**



# **PLAY THE GAME OF YOUR LIFE WITH THE **PALLOTTINE** FATHERS**



## **WHO ARE THEY ?**

A modern Society of priests who are engaged in a very active and varied apostolate. The word "Pallottine" comes from the name of the founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, who was canonised by the late Holy Father, Pope John XXIII.

## **WHAT DO THEY DO ?**

They spread the Gospel in missionary countries. Direct schools and colleges, serve in parishes, give missions and retreats. Also serve as Chaplains to hospitals, universities, army, air-force and other institutions.

## **WHERE DO THEY WORK ?**

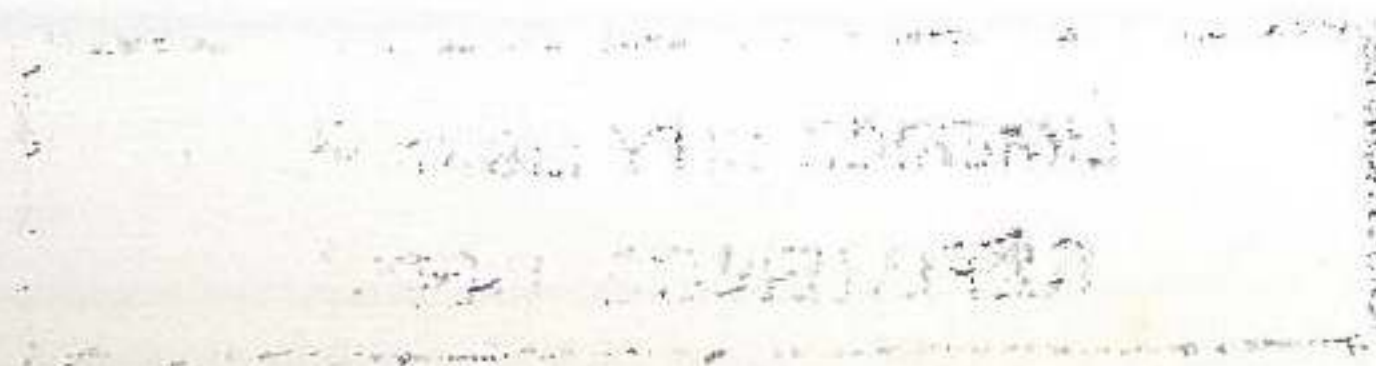
The Irish Pallottines work in Tanzania, the Argentine, the United States (Texas Michigan, Nevada, Virginia, Dallas, New York), Rome, England and Ireland.

If you are doing Leaving Cert., Matriculation or G.C.E. this year write for FREE coloured brochure which gives full information to :

**REV. FATHER MANNION,**  
Pallottine College,  
Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

or

**REV. FATHER A. HARRIS,**  
Pallottine Fathers,  
5, Amwell Street, London, E.C.1.



Ask for

# SWIFT BROOK

Watermarked Paper

Manufacturers of fine Papers at Saggart, Co. Dublin  
since 1795

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

## COMHAIRLE NA MUMHAN

### 1968 Championship Fixtures :

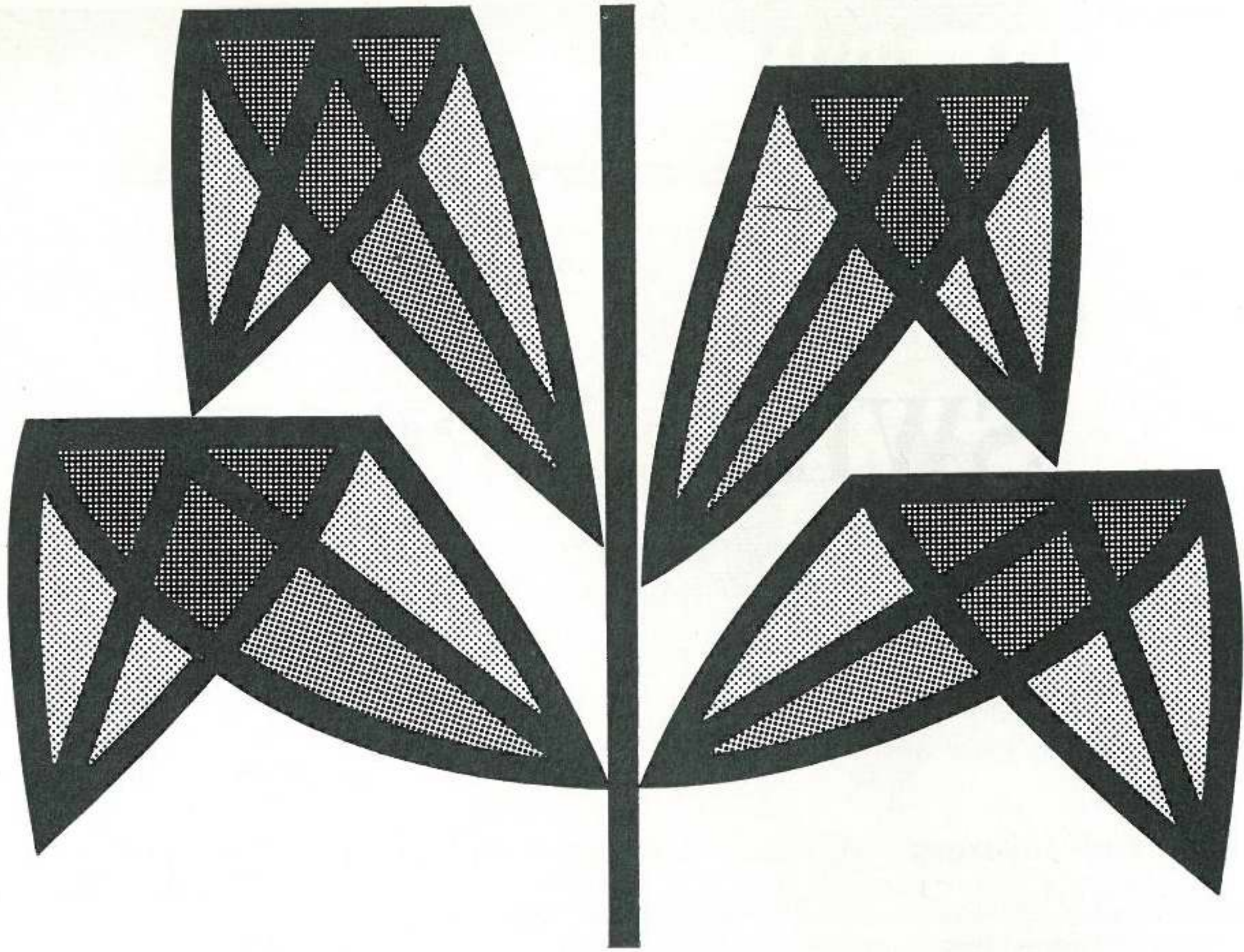
**Munster Senior and Minor Hurling Championships :** Cork v. Limerick, May 26, at Thurles; Clare v. Waterford, May 19th, at Thurles. Semi-finals: Cork or Limerick v. Galway, June 23rd; Clare or Waterford v. Tipperary, June 30th. Final: July 21st.

**Munster Senior and Minor Football Championships :** Waterford v. Clare, May 12th, at Dungarvan; Tipperary v. Limerick, May 12th, at Thurles. Semi-finals to be played on June 16th or 23rd. Final: July 14th.

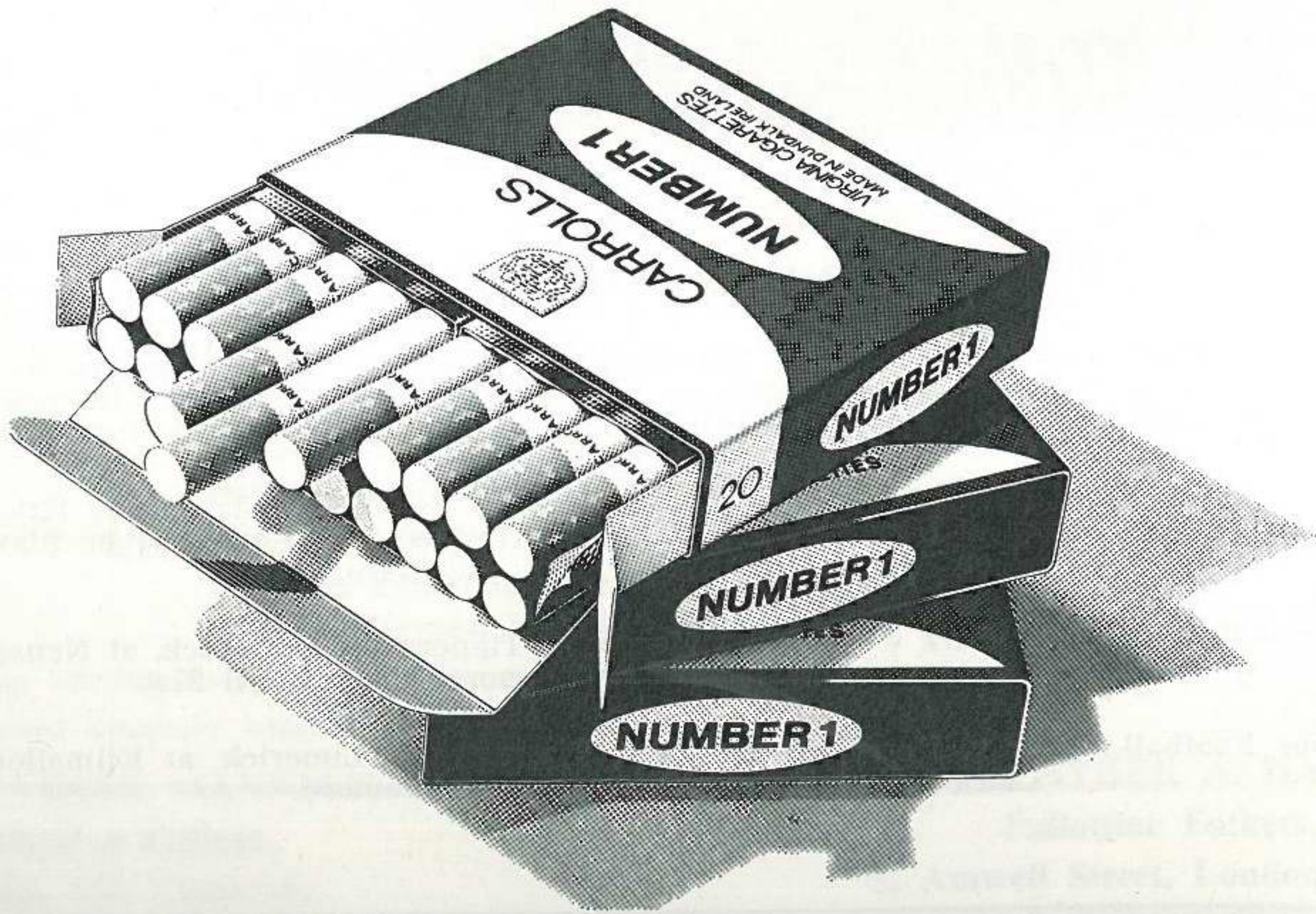
**Intermediate Hurling :** Cork v. Kerry, at Macroom; Tipperary v. Limerick, at Nenagh; Clare v. Waterford, at Waterford or Tramore, all on April 21st.

**Junior Football :** Cork v. Kerry, at Macroom; Tipperary v. Limerick, at Kilmallock; Clare v. Waterford, at Waterford or Tramore.

LIMERICK CITY LIBRARY  
REFERENCE DEPT.



Carrolls Number 1  
set the standard high



LIMERICK CITY BRARY  
REFERENCE DEPT.

Offices:

114 Upper Leeson Street,  
Dublin 4.  
Telephone: 301301.

## INDEX

	Page
Crossroads for the G.A.A.	
—by Eamonn Young	4
Paddy Doherty talks to Seán O'Donnell	7
Top Ten ... ..	9
Railway Cup Special	
—by Owen McCann	10
Stars of the County Down	
—by Terence Roynane	13
Moondharrig's Diary ... ..	14
Grounds—by Fergus Moore ...	17
Targets—by Owen McCann ...	21
League Fixtures Should Vary	
—by Tim Horgan	23
Camogie—by Agnes Hourigan	25
Una O'Connor: A Profile by Agnes Hourigan	26
Handball—by Alleyman ...	28-29
Theo English interviewed by Seán Murphy	30
Cluichí na Féile	
—Le Seán Ó Dálaigh	33
Historic Tour	
—by Flann Reynolds	34
Crossword ... ..	37
A Giant Bows Out	
—by Jay Drennan	38
Johnny Farragher	
—by Seán Rice	41
Ulster Fifteen Meets With Mixed Reaction—by Seamus McCluskey	43
Thrills on the Way	
—by Jay Drennan	45
Whither Hurling?	
—by Seamus O Ceallaigh	48
Letters: Ban Must Stay ...	53
Bernie Hartigan: A Profile	
—by Seán Murphy	55

# NEW HORIZONS

AS Meath's plane curves around half the globe, new horizons open up for Gaelic football and the G.A.A.

It is an exciting thought—an exciting time. Like most great adventures, it had a simple beginning. It began with the visit to these shores last autumn of a group of bronze athletes in slouch-digger hats.

The pioneering Australians prised open the door of international competition for Gaelic football; Meath are now pushing it ajar. By this time twelve months it may well be flung wide on full-scale contests between representative teams from the two countries.

Nothing like this has happened in the G.A.A. since the American tours began in the 1920's. But this is far more important than matches between ourselves and our fellow-Irishmen in the United States. The latter could never be more than a sightseeing extension of domestic competitions.

The Australian venture is vastly different. The glamour of real international competition is now, for the first time, sweeping away the hitherto enforced isolation of the Gaelic game (one wishes that something similar could happen to hurling; but it is not possible).

It is not suggested that the traditional exclusiveness of our national games was a bad or undesirable situation. On the contrary, it was a matter for pride. But, as far as football was concerned, there was—still is—a growing danger of stagnation and there was (even more dangerous to the future well-being of the game) the lure of internationalism provided by certain other sports for our youth, especially urban youth, which our own football could not counteract.

But now, to use an ambiguous phrase, the ball is at our feet. If Meath do well on tour—and we believe they will—the inauguration of full-scale international games between Ireland and Australia will be assured.

But something more will be needed to complete the revolution. Up to this we have had no external standards of comparison. Gaelic football will have to be modified in some respects to attract and to satisfy a wider audience. In the pick-up, for instance, and, perhaps more beneficially, in the laws of possession and dispossession.

Anything so radical as a change in the structure of a game will take time and thought. It is time to start thinking now.

## PRIZES TO BE WON: PAGE 53

# CROSSROADS

THE heart of the G.A.A. is in the rural areas. So I might have written seventy years ago, for our country inherited from early days a society that was intensely rural, with its isolated holdings winking their lights across hill, glen and mountain. Not so in England, where the people huddled together in their little house-clusters, and not so in many places on the continent.

The Irishman, generally speaking, lived in the country while the invader Norseman, Norman or English dwelt in the town. What, then, was more natural than the great, steady pulse-beat of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael would be heard more clearly along by the woods, the streams and the green fields.

But industrialisation has changed all that and the flight from the land has done the rest. The increasing urbanisation of Ireland presents many problems but, fortunately, my task is to consider a homely one, although important.

The rural population will continue to decline for the moment anyway, and I am asked if the switch in G.A.A. emphasis from the rural area to the town and city will continue. The answer to this is that the G.A.A. is interested in people more than places, and wherever men and women want to pursue sport within the Association it will remain the task of that Association to look after them.

The fact that a greater percentage of the country's population now lives in town or city rather than in the rural area means that if it is to continue to maintain its present significant position the G.A.A. must ensure that the urban areas are well organised, without for a moment neglecting the country.

The way to ensure that the city is well organised is as old as the hills; the same qualities of organisational ability, sincerity, hard work and diplomacy which were necessary to build up any organisation will be needed even more in the future. These qualities cannot be bought in a hardware shop: they rest in people, so it is obvious that we must continue to attract these community leaders and, if possible, have them with us from the time they are small boys and girls.

Do we need to make the G.A.A. more attractive? I think so. Today, when we have this famous affluent society (wonderful phrase) people demand a higher standard of living (whether they can pay for it or not is beside the point). Twenty years ago when I spoke at a big G.A.A. gathering about the necessity for dressing-rooms and showers, a rather important man said that our fathers toggled out at the side of the ditch and it was good enough for us. He was applauded. He is still important in the G.A.A. to-day.

Social life is coming into the

*'I see the G.A.A. riding  
proudly along its  
road of destiny if  
it continues to hold  
the affection of  
the people of Ireland'*

clubs at last, though very, very slowly. The habit of leaving the ladies at home to talk about their husbands over the knitting dies hard. But there has been an odd breakthrough which has been publicised.

The clubroom must become a social spot where indoor games such as basketball, badminton and squash can be played. Indoor handball courts will have to go up, where a man can play at seven in the morning or eleven at night.

We must have our dances, our dramatic and musical societies, and our lectures on the many, many subjects in which the ordinary Irishman is interested (and by this I don't mean a discussion on whether the ball should be hopped twice or three times). On the day of the game we should be able to invite a friend in for a drink in the club pavilion.

But to arrange all these things in the city, in the town and also in the village (remember the same policy must be applied to all, for again, it's people, not places, that matter) we must search for and find the leaders and they will be different to the men of my generation and those who won the partial independence we to-day enjoy.

These new leaders must be Irishmen of an affirmative outlook — men who have travelled, who have been educated not to pass examinations but in the un-

By **EAMONN YOUNG**

derstanding of life and what it means, men who want our country to take its place among the nations of the earth with bright eyes turned to the future and not standing aside for fear of contamination by the main-stream of civilisation in which so many see only the seamy side, forgetting the wonder of art, music and learning so dearly beloved by the Gael before ever came the invader.

It is unfortunate that the greatest obstacle in the way of this progress, as I see it, is the Foreign Games Rule. I don't wish to enter into a discussion of it, as enough has already been said, and I wouldn't mention it at all but for the fact that the county delegations to Congress have already had their orders.

But speaking of the need for increased social life in the clubs automatically raises the subject of dances. Whether half-sets and lancers and waltzes, foxtrots and the rest are foreign is not the point. Their merit as a means of making people innocently happy is especially when they are mixed with the many graceful, lively Irish dances.

Attendance at, or playing the excluded games will not affect our desire for greater organisation directly, and in fact I see in the removal of the rule a challenge which our young people will meet, for young people love challenges.

● To Page 47.

## FOR MEATH'S TOUR FUND

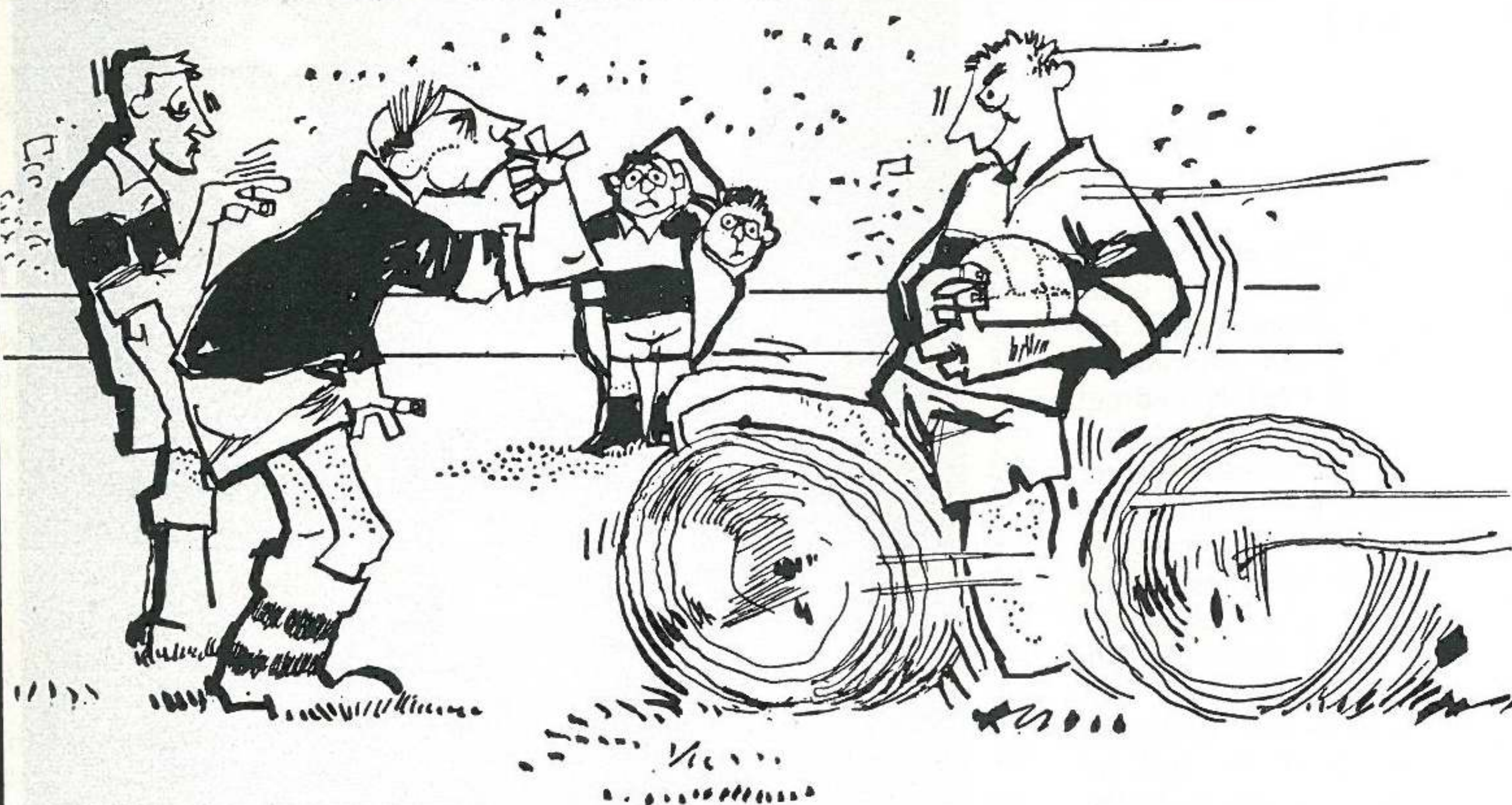


### Outside Leinster House . . .

*Thomas McQuaid (right), the Editor of GAELIC SPORT, presenting the Meath Central Council delegate, Senator Jack Fitzgerald, with a cheque to help defray the cost of the All-Ireland champions' Australian tour.*

*The Editor also gave Senator Fitzgerald a consignment of GAELIC SPORT for distribution among their Australian opponents. (An article on the Meath tour appears in page 34).*

# 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** —





# PADDY DOHERTY

## TALKING TO SEAN O'DONNELL

I HAVE no doubt at all in that Down will be strong contenders for this year's Ulster football crown—and don't forget that I told you so. For I watched the men from the Mourne County give a super display of fast and intelligent football in an opening League engagement against the All-Ireland champions Meath, at Navan on February 4.

Yes, it was a Down team transformed and playing a brand of football not unlike that which won them All-Ireland titles in 1960-'61. Perhaps it was the return to the side of Paddy Doherty which added that extra pep to it all.

After the game I pushed my way into a crowded dressing room where I had the following interview with the Down star.

*O'D.—Paddy, to what do you attribute your great free taking ability?*

*D.—*Constant practice. I have often spent hours practising in order to develop some sort of skill, and regardless of how long you have been playing the game, it is very important that you spend a certain amount of time before each game to concentrate on the basic skills—free taking, catching, kicking, depending, of course, in what position you play. I feel that players should pay more attention to things like

this and particularly county players who should maintain a standard and show some respect for the county they represent.

*O'D.—*During your absence from the game you had a chance to view Down from the side-line. What are your comments?

*D.—*I feel they are a vastly improved team. They have injected some new blood into the side and look to me as the team to watch for 1968. They have a very capable trainer now in Dessie Farley, who is greatly admired by all the players—all in all, I feel they are a very disciplined bunch of lads and they will do our county proud in the not too distant future.

*O'D.—*Do you think that the standard of Ulster football has deteriorated?

*D.—*If you mean in the sense that some counties appear year after year in the final stages of the championship, yes, it has deteriorated—because counties like Armagh, Tyrone, Monaghan and Fermanagh rarely get over the first round games and through no direct fault of their own suffer an injustice year after year. I would like to see something done to amend the situation. I would suggest that the provincial championships be abolished, and that the weaker counties be grouped together and I feel certain this



would lead to an improvement all round.

*O'D.—*How do you feel about coming back to play Gaelic again?

*D.—*I am very happy to be back again. Gaelic football has always been a great love of mine and I get great enjoyment out of it. I only wish more young lads would take it up.

*O'D.—*Why do you think young boys turn to other sports, particularly in the cities, instead of Gaelic games?

*D.—*That is a good question. I think that these lads in the cities and larger towns of Ireland don't wish to be curtailed in their

● To page 9.



## Package Deal

# save pounds with Aer Lingus group travel

Here's a deal with a great deal to offer to people who travel in groups: Aer Lingus gives a special fare reduction of 5% for parties of 10, and 10% for parties of 15 and over, on all

British and Continental routes. In addition, groups of 15 or more flying to the U.S. and Canada can save large amounts on the normal return fares. So get together. Then go visit

your travel agent or Aer Lingus office, And make a deal.



● From Page 7.

sports activities. In fact, I have known boys who not alone play Gaelic, but also participate quite actively in tennis, soccer, boxing and athletics in general, and do it all in the same week. But most lads that I have talked with seemed to express the same opinion, that Gaelic is sadly lacking in its social amenities.

*O'D.—So what are your suggestions, Paddy?*

D.—First of all I believe every club should have a properly-equipped premises where the parish could congregate, and let it be properly controlled by membership on a yearly basis. Apart from the usual officers, a committee could be formed for arranging social functions and inviting another neighbouring club to their function from time to time. If this spirit continued the clubs would increase and no young fellow would have cause to wander in search of better enjoyment elsewhere.

*O'D.—You talk so enthusiastically about Gaelic games, that I must ask — what influenced you to take them up in the first instance?*

D.—The spirit that prevails with the boys who play the game in Ballykinlar had perhaps the greatest influence on me. I got so tired of standing around just watching the other lads at it that I decided to get in there and have a bash myself. Anyway, I much prefer to play than just stand and watch. I must mention here that Fr. Darragh, our local parish priest in Ballykinlar, had a great influence on me at one stage when he enticed me back to the game.

*O'D.—Do I take it that you resent Rule 27?*

D.—Yes, I would like to see the Ban abolished as I fail to see what useful purpose it serves. As I said earlier, young people will not tolerate being confined to one particular sport, especially when they can pick and choose in the

towns and cities.

*O'D.—But how would it help Gaelic games if the Ban were abolished? I mean, you just cannot play two games and remain loyal to your club?*

D.—Well, now why not? After all, the boys on the local club side would play a little better if they were in danger of losing their places to a few sharpshooters from the soccer team on the other side of town who were interested in playing Gaelic. And I have often known players disloyal to their clubs who had not the slightest interest in soccer, or any other game.

*O'D.—Has your suspension changed your attitude towards the games in any way?*

D.—It did at first, but I think it all boils down to which game you love best and I prefer Gaelic to any other game.

*O'D.—Now that you are back, what are your hopes for the future?*

D.—My hopes are to see Down go right through to win the League so that I can get a chance to play against someone like the Australians. I would also like to have both teams at the same function after a game to create a more friendly atmosphere.

*O'D.—Hold on for one last question Paddy. Who are the players you admire most, both past and present?*

D.—I feel that young Colm McAlarney is a much improved player and deserves any recognition that comes his way. Sean O'Neill deserves mention for his consistent displays all the year round; in fact, I have yet to see him play a bad game. Raymond Carolan, of Cavan, is absolutely brilliant in the air and a natural centre field man. Then there is Joe Corcoran of Mayo, who always tries to score more than I do, but he's not going to get away with it, and last but certainly not least Sean Purcell, the pride of the West.

# TOP TEN

WITH field activities resumed since the end of January, our Top Ten ratings on hurling and football return this month. They will continue monthly through the year, on the usual system of 10 points for first place, nine for second and so on down to one point for 10th place. At the end of the year our stars of the season will be chosen on these points totals.

The period under review in this issue is from Sunday, January 28th to Sunday, February 11th.

## HURLING

- 1—Seán Barry ..... (Cork)
- 2—Paddy Fitzgerald ... (Cork)
- 3—Mick Arthurs ..... (Clare)
- 4—John Connolly ... (Galway)
- 5—Ollie Walsh ..... (Kilkenny)
- 6—Pat Nolan ..... (Wexford)
- 7—Seán Moyles ..... (Dublin)
- 8—Vincent Loftus ..... (Clare)
- 9—Ted Carroll ..... (Kilkenny)
- 10—Ned Colfer ..... (Wexford)

## FOOTBALL

- 1—Seán O'Neill ..... (Down)
- 2—Paddy Doherty ..... (Down)
- 3—Colm McAlarney ... (Down)
- 4—Pat Reynolds ..... (Meath)
- 5—Mick Tynan ..... (Limerick)
- 6—Johnny O'Mahony ... (Cork)
- 7—Lar Foley ..... (Dublin)
- 8—Dessie Dolan (Westmeath)
- 9—Mick White ..... (Meath)
- 10—Tony McTeague ... (Offaly)

# SPRING COLLECTIONS!

**L** EINSTER got off to a good start in their Railway Cup final meetings with Munster in hurling, winning the initial decider 1-11 to 2-6 at Croke Park in 1927. But the balance is now very much in favour of the South at 22 wins as against the East's 11 victories.

The provinces played one drawn final. That was in 1963, when each scored 5-5, and Munster won the replay by a point, 2-8 to 2-7. That win forged another link in a chain of events that gives Munster a number of unique distinctions. The province is alone the only one with at least one win against each of the other three in a final, and the South only boasts a replay win in a decider—that 1963 drawn game is the only one so far in 41 deciders played.

Munster beat Ulster in 1945, the only year the North had a direct interest in the concluding round. In seven final outings with Connacht between 1944 and 1959, they won all except that of 1947. Munster have been represented in every final so far.

In football, Leinster are the pace-makers. They won 17 finals, lost nine and drew one, for a total of 27 engagements between 1928 and 1964. Next in line, with one outing fewer, come Munster who, however, boast the poorest record of any province. They have six wins and two draws as against 18 defeats. No fewer than 10 of those defeats were sustained since their last title win in 1949, which was after a replay.

Ulster have contested 19 finals, winning 10, drawing one. The West have won eight finals and lost 6.

Munster is the only province to win a final replay. The South accomplished this feat not once, but twice. In 1941 they beat Ulster at the second attempt and then, in 1949, came that last title win after two games with Leinster.

Christy Ring dominates the Railway Cup finals' story. Between 1942 and 1963, the Cork maestro, who was first chosen by the South as a substitute in the 1941 final, played in 22 finals and one drawn decider, and gained 18 medals, a total that now seems most unlikely ever to be equalled, let alone surpassed. Ring, who made in all 44 appearances in the Munster Blue, and scored 42-105 (231 points), won his medals between 1942 and 1963.

Ollie Walsh completes a notable ten-year cycle this March. He played in his first Railway Cup decider in 1958, and he has been on duty in every final since, except that of 1959, when Leinster were not engaged. With 18 Leinster jerseys, excluding this month's against Ulster at Cavan, he is the most honoured inter-provincial now in Railway Cup hurling.

Ollie has won four Railway Cup medals, the first in 1962, and the last in 1967. So he is now poised to become a Leinster hurler apart from all others, as no player has yet won five medals in the green jersey of the pro-

vince. The Thomastown man had the added distinction last year of captaining Leinster to victory, only the first goalkeeper to lead the East to a Railway Cup title. Jim Ware (Waterford) in 1949, and Mick Cashman (Cork), 1957, captained Munster.

In football, Jack Delaney (Laois) went in as a substitute in the Leinster team that beat Ulster in the 1928 final. He figured on the final winning teams of 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, and went in as a substitute in the 1939 team that accounted for Ulster, to figure in all in seven final winning teams.

Kevin Heffernan equalled this achievement when Leinster beat Ulster in the 1962 decider. He was chosen for all seven final winning teams—1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1959, 1961 and 1962.

Paddy Doherty holds the Ulster football record with outings on five final winning teams (1960, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966), and a medal as a substitute for 1956. Tom Burke, Purty Kelly, Jackie Carney, Paddy Moclair, all of Mayo, and Mick Connaire and Brendan Nestor (Galway) each won four medals with Connacht.

Des Foley has a Railway Cup niche all his own. He was right midfield in the Leinster team that beat Munster in the 1962 hurling final, and filled the same role in the side that beat Ulster for the football final, thus becoming the only player to win Railway Cup medals in both codes on the **SAME** afternoon.

That was the last year both titles went to the one province. It was Leinster's fourth double

By **OWEN McCANN**

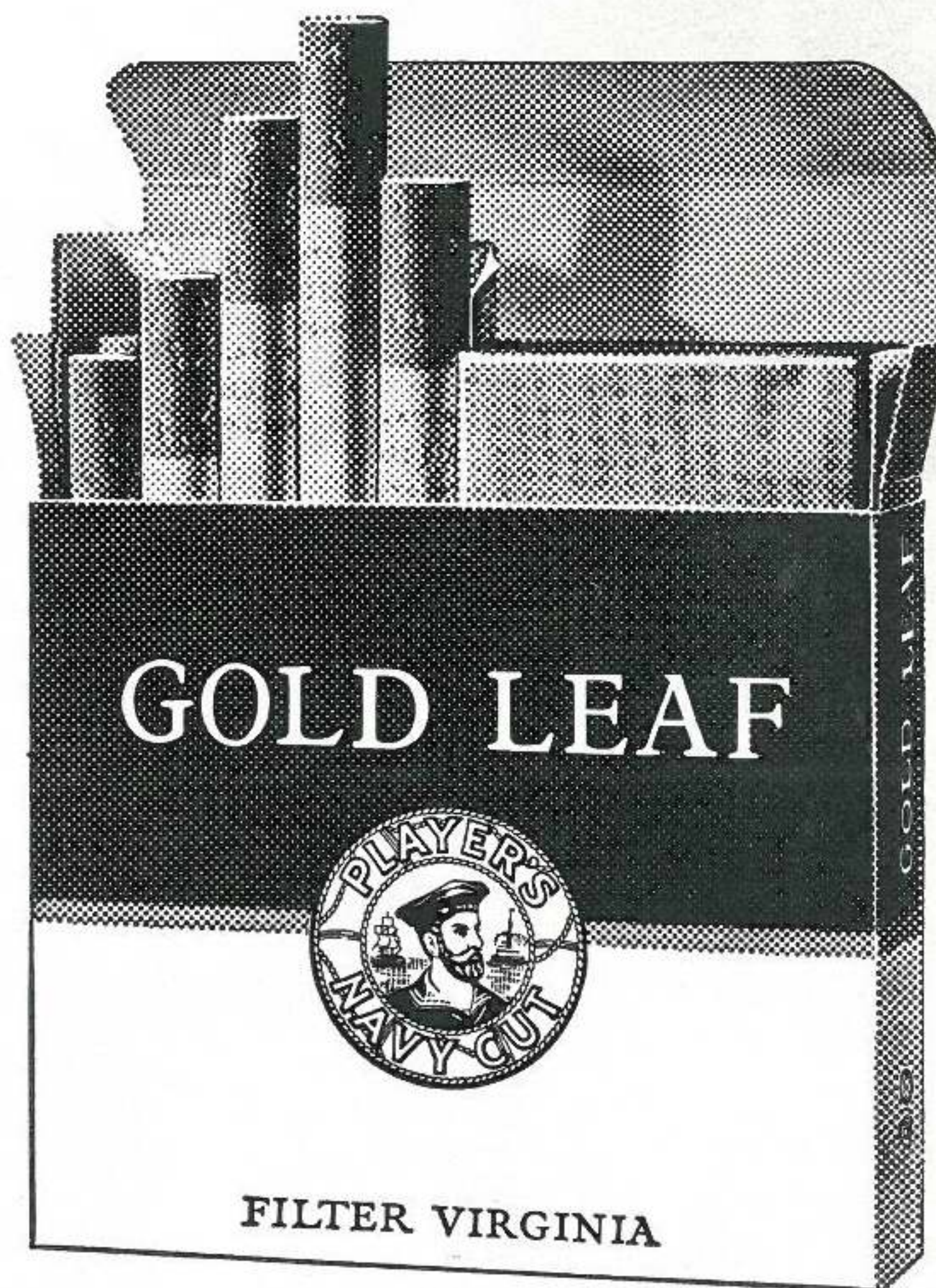
(1932, 1933, 1954, 1962). Munster also have four doubles (1931, 1946, 1948, 1949).

The last year a new name was added to the list of counties represented in Railway Cup football final winning teams was 1963, when P. T. Treacy became the first Fermanagh man to win a medal. Only three counties now remain without at least one representative on a title winning XV — Limerick, Waterford and Kilkenny. Sean Brennan, a native of Kilkenny, did win Railway Cup medals in 1952 and 1953, but he was then playing with Kildare, and I'm concerned here only with footballers honoured while actually **PLAYING** with a particular county, and not the actual county of their birth. In other words, no player while actually turning out in inter-county competition with Limerick, Waterford or Kilkenny has yet won a Railway Cup medal.

In hurling, Paddy Molloy became Offaly's first representative on a final winning XV in 1965. So far, all the Munster counties — other than Kerry — and Kilkenny, Dublin, Wexford, Laois, Westmeath, Carlow and Offaly, and Galway are the only ones on the Railway Cup medals' winning list.

How the mighty have fallen! In 1927, the year of the initial final, an all-Kerry team beat Connaught, the only instance in football of one county supplying all players in a title winning combination. Four years later, fourteen Kerry players, and one "outsider", George Comerford

● TO PAGE 47



Smoke the  
smoothest  
cigarette of all

PG 197

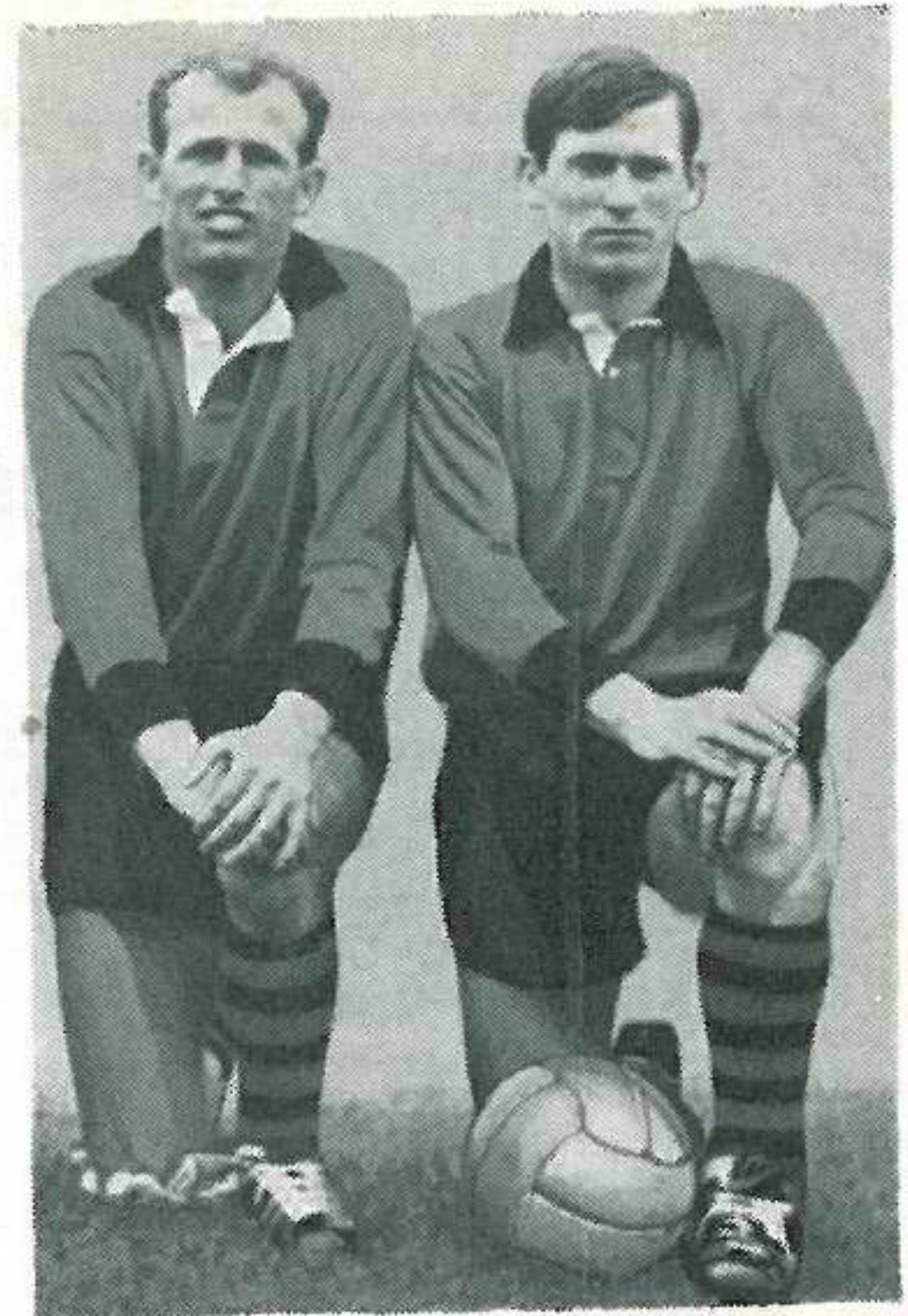


**A little something to  
keep you warm this  
winter...  
All Cashmere!**

Soft and warm. Beautiful lines. Looks  
well on a man. Shades of navy, grey and camel.  
Yours for £14. 15.

**DUBTEX**

# Stars of the County Down



By **TERENCE ROYNANE**

**S**TRICTLY speaking, of course, only one of Down's talented pair of marksmen, Paddy Doherty from Ballykinlar, can claim to come from the Mourne county at all, because the other, Sean O'Neill, comes from Newry, and if he had not been careful, might even have found himself in the county Armagh!

But since the end of the last decade this pair have been veritable thorns in the flesh of every defence that Down has encountered on the senior football fields.

I first came across Paddy Doherty more than a decade ago. He was then a very talented footballer on the way up, but the first time I saw him I remember wondering if he would ever find himself on a Down team that could turn his undoubted talents to full account.

Well, that team came along, although when first they came to Croke Park in 1959, I thought they went down so easily to seasoned Galway that it was more than problematic if they would ever make the grade. Especially when I saw Galway in turn fold up before a not particularly wonderful Kerry team in the subsequent All-Ireland final.

But when Down came back at the start of 1960, they really came back with a bang, and a resounding bang at that.

For two years they reigned supreme and during that time Paddy Doherty and Sean O'Neill were the marksmen that so often made all the difference. Sometimes they played on opposite wings, and sometimes they played on opposite corners, and sometimes one played in the full line and one played in the half line; but wherever they played, you could always make a pretty safe bet that you would find one or other of them in one place in particular, and that was the very place that the opposition least wished either of them to be.

They were also deadly off placed balls. I remember one day at Croke Park some half-a-dozen years ago or thereabouts, the exact opposition now I would not swear to, but, anyway, Down were having rather the worst of the argument through the field. In any case, every time Down got a free within scoring distance they duly scored. Doherty took all the frees on one side of the field and O'Neill took all the frees on the other, and between them they steered Down to a victory that was not entirely deserved.

Indeed, that was not the only victory this pair poached for the Mourne county between their accuracy and opportunism and,

what was more, they played a major part between them in bringing a whole series of Railway football cups to Ulster.

Twelve months ago, following a local difference, it seemed that Doherty might be lost to Down, and that threw a great deal of the onus on Sean O'Neill. He did a man's part, but it was not enough to see Down through to another Ulster title.

But up around him another set of young and eager forwards have been arising, and the Newry star, at full-forward now, has been getting a better response of late to his promptings, as we saw shortly before Christmas in the final of the Cuchulainn Cup tournament at Croke Park.

Now, Doherty has returned again to lend his skill and experience to bringing Down back to the forefront. True, the years are beginning to mount against him now, but his arrival means that not alone will the Mournemen have a real two-pronged threat again in attack, thus diverting attention from Sean O'Neill, but the fact that they have two such crafty and experienced mentors right in the line with them could make all the difference to the young and talented players who now compose the remainder of the Down attack.



*Mattie McDonagh*  
... Railway Cup veteran.

## WANING INTEREST

PERHAPS the long lay-off due to the foot-and-mouth disease had something to do with it, but I thought there was even less enthusiasm than in other years for the Railway Cup series when the semi-final teams were announced.

Years ago, when the competition was still relatively new, the selection of provincial sides in either hurling or football used be awaited almost with bated breath throughout the whole country.

Then, as time went on, we got used to the idea of these inter-provincials, and I am afraid that the players became even more blasé about the whole thing than we, the spectators.

The result was that, especially in hurling, where Munster almost had the competition to themselves for long, long periods, a lot of the zest began to go out of these interprovincial clashes.

I had been saying to myself that the hurling interest had been improving over the past eight or ten years, and then came last year's final, when a terrible lethargy seemed to come down on both the Leinster and Munster teams, and but for Ollie Walsh in the Leinster goal starting what, at times, looked like a private little hurling match of his own with the Munster forwards, you could have gone to sleep in the Hogan Stand, if only you were warm enough.

True, there was far more fire and life to the football game, but then there were two very good reasons why this should be so.

In the first place, Ulster were chasing what would have been a record-breaking fifth Railway Cup in a row. In the second place, Connacht had been so long away from this particular honour that only one man on the whole selection, Mattie McDonagh, had ever previously won an interprovincial medal.

But, to look at it from another angle, what I cannot figure out about the football side of the Railway Cup is the almost complete eclipse of Munster through the past two decades.

I well remember, through the thirties and forties that, except for a couple of flashes of Connacht or Ulster dominance, Munster were usually battling Leinster for Railway Cup supremacy.

Yet, since 1949, and that is exactly twenty seasons ago, this Railway football cup has never gone to the southern province. But since last the trophy went to Munster, teams from the South have won the All-Ireland football title four times (admittedly all these teams were from Kerry), while Munster has supplied the All-Ireland runners-up on no fewer than seven occasions.

Why, then, have the provincial sides failed so signally to distin-

guish themselves of late? The answer, I fear, is beyond me, though two possible factors come to mind. In the first place, Munster selections in recent years tend to look like *mixum-gatherum* sides composed, certainly, of fifteen highly talented individuals, but very badly lacking both in team-work and in the collective understanding of each other's play that is essential to combined effort.

In the second place, and this has been noticeable in recent years, there has been something of a fatalistic approach to these games by some Munster football sides.

This can only be dispelled by a resounding final victory—now many a year overdue. I have to write this, of course, before the semi-finals take place, but even writing 'on the blind', as it were, there can be no harm in hoping that this Railway Cup year of 1968 will see a Munster football resurgence. To re-arouse interest to the full in this competition, we need to have all four provinces battling for supremacy on an equal footing year after year.

But, if a revival of Munster's former power would solve a share of problems as far as the Railway Cup competition is concerned, what can be done to buttress interest in the hurling series?

Optimists will say that the



problem will right itself within the next half-dozen years as the hurling drive approaches fruition, but until Connacht and Ulster begin to approach the standards of Munster and Leinster, what are we going to do to arouse interest in the semi-final stages?

True, Galway, the lone rangers of the West, have succeeded in surprising Leinster from time to time and have even beaten Munster once in a final (1947), but the hard fact that just cannot be by-passed is this.

Only once in 42 years has Galway won the Cup, and while all praise must be given to their gallant struggle, the fact still remains that it has been too often in vain.

As for Ulster—for 25 years they have, with the exception of two inspired afternoons away back in 1943, provided little more than practice matches for the stronger provinces in turn. What did they learn in all those years except to accept defeat gracefully?

True, by the time the Down under-16 side of 1967 are 21, Ulster should have a much stronger side on duty than is available at the moment. But for the present, the only suggestion, and it is not a very good one, that I can put forward is this:

Play a preliminary match between Ulster and Connacht, and then let a combined Connacht-Ulster side play the losers of the previous final, the winners of this game to play the holders in the next final.

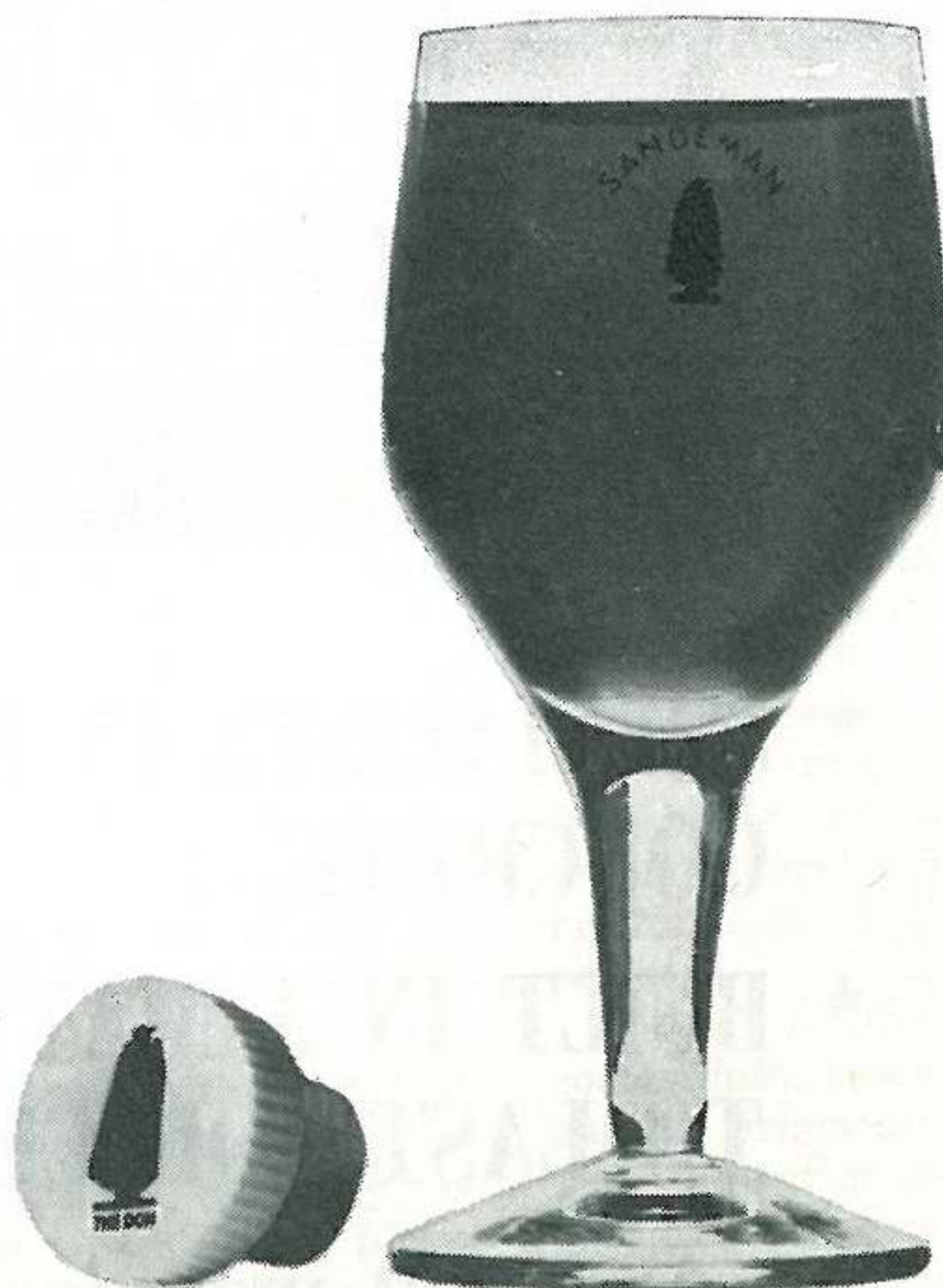
Another suggestion might be to allow Britain to play in this competition as a province and let Connacht-Ulster be the fourth province.

But those can only be stop-gaps. The only answer is the building-up of hurling in the North and West.

INSIST ON

# SANDEMAN PORT

*the wine we all know!*



EDWARD DILLON & COMPANY LTD. 25 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1. Telephone 45954

Peter Owens

# ROH-FAB

(BUILDINGS) LTD.,

Midleton, Co. Cork. Phone 63387.



THE U.C.C. SPORTS PAVILION, CORK.

- ★ **SPECIALISTS IN PRE-FAB CONCRETE.**
- ★ **BUILT IN A MATTER OF DAYS TO LAST FOR CENTURIES**  
(And that includes Sports Pavilions)

# Grounds

*mapping the future*

By FERGUS MOORE

**D**R. JIM BROSNAN, chairman of the Kerry County Board, is reported to have said at his county convention that the governing body of the G.A.A. had sunk vast sums of money unnecessarily in the development of big grounds, while neglecting the club and its basic needs.

Dr. Brosnan said that the big grounds are filled only once a year, implying that Association's money was thrown away on this luxury, while hundreds of clubs existed (if that is the right word) without either playing pitch or pavilion.

Of course, the Kerry chairman is right—up to a point. Without the club, the G.A.A. is nothing. Without a strong club, the Association is fundamentally weak. Dr. Brosnan put his finger on the hub of the matter; but he didn't make himself quite clear.

For instance, it could be taken from his remarks that he disagreed with the development of the big grounds at any time; that the provision of adequate accommodation for the supporters of Gaelic games—the people who provided the cash that went back into reconstruction — was squandermania on the part of the Central Council or, more specifically, of its subsidiary, Bord na bPaire.

What the doctor said, if a little ambiguously, was that the Council and Bord na bPaire had put the cart before the horse. Instead of building the big stadia first, they should have started at the grassroots, the club, providing the basic units with pitches and



*Dr. Jim Brosnan.*

pavilions to cater for existing membership and as amenities to attract new members.

We heartily agree with him. The money already expended on the parks at Thurles, Limerick, Kilkenny, Castlebar and Casement Park (not to mention Croke Park) would have been better spent, in the long term, if it had been channelled to the clubs. The big stadia could come after.

At this point, one should say that it is highly dangerous for the future welfare of the Association to propagate the idea that the club is not obliged to lift a hand to help itself, if money for development is not readily forthcoming from higher authorities. The first responsibility lies with the club itself, with its leadership and the resources which that leadership can tap and utilise in its own locality. Without that

enterprise, grants from Bord na bPaire would be as usefully flushed down a drain.

There are many instances of clubs who have built fine pitches and premises by their own hard work and resourcefulness. Maynooth in Kildare, Kilmacud and Na Fianna in Dublin are shining examples. These are the kind of people the G.A.A. needs at the grassroots.

In any schemes to assist clubs in building grounds and other amenities, it is important to ensure that money will not be wasted on drones, or on small clubs who do not have the type of membership (in numbers and competence) who will make full use of the facilities provided. This touches on the question of fewer but stronger clubs as the future structure of the G.A.A.'s nationwide organisation. But this is not the place to discuss such a big and complicated subject.

What I set out to say, in relation to Dr. Brosnan's criticism, is that while the Central Council may have put the cart before the horse in the matter of grounds development, the transposition is now about to be rectified.

Part II of the Grounds Plan comes into operation this year and is primarily aimed at the development of club grounds and premises, but also allows for the equipment of what are known as county grounds.

It is a very ambitious and a very worthwhile plan. It envisages an initial expenditure of

● To Page 18.

● From Page 17.

something like £600,000, but approximate calculations have shown that it will run to £2 million or more over the next ten to fifteen years. That is big money; but then, it is to be used in a big cause.

For the purpose of operating the plan, the country has been divided into forty sectors made up of the thirty-two counties in addition to Dublin City (regarded as two units), Cork, Limerick, Galway, Belfast, Derry and Waterford.

Each county, or sector, has been given the freedom to blueprint its own development scheme, according to its special needs. These blueprints are being submitted to Bord na bPaire, whose ratification is necessary before grants can be made or work begun.

The scope of the plan is enormous, and the work involved in its completion will be corres-

pondingly great. In some sectors, the emphasis will be on urban development, in others on the provision of proper facilities for existing rural or village clubs. In the long run, however, greater benefits may accrue to the Association from a comprehensive urban programme, because of the current heavy shift of population to towns and cities.

Here one may sound a note of warning. The construction of good playing pitches with first-class surface and adequate comfortable accommodation for spectators (though this is basic) is not enough; nor is the provision of pavilions, even with modern dressing-rooms and showers, going to stand up to the challenge which the G.A.A. has at last recognised and which it must meet head on in the next ten to fifteen years.

Club development must go much further than that. Club rooms must be provided (prefer-

ably, but not necessarily, beside the pitch) which will cater for the social requirements of the membership and, indeed, for a wider segment of the local community.

This will entail the provision of facilities for games like handball, squash, badminton, table tennis, and so on, as well as space for dancing, debates and film shows. It is true that only the few will be in a position to provide all of these, but all clubs in urban areas at any rate, who undertake development at all, must include some of them. Above all, I believe that bars should be installed wherever possible.

Up to now, the G.A.A. as a whole has officially frowned on drink. But the breakthrough has begun; bars have been sanctioned at Casement Park, Belfast, and at Austin Stack Park, Tralee (the latter thanks to that dedicated

● To Next Page.

## All Weather Pitches DRI-PLA

Exclusively and expertly constructed in Ireland by

# POWER DUPLAY LTD.

57, WATERLOO ROAD,  
DUBLIN.

'Phone 689697.

GLENVILLE,  
WATERFORD.

'Phone 5921.

POWER DUPLAY LTD. also construct En-Tout-Cas Tennis Courts and Swimming

Pools. The Company is a subsidiary of

## POWERS of WATERFORD

● From Page 18.

and far-seeing official, Jim Brosnan).

Drink is a social amenity. Club leaders can surely see to it that within their premises it doesn't become an evil. A well-run bar would be a rich source of revenue to a club—but, more important, it would provide a meeting place for former players and other members of the local community—people whom the G.A.A. up to now has lost in vast numbers because of its spartan and out-dated policy of a Sunday match and, after that, the devil take the hindmost.

But a new G.A.A. is now taking shape, and Grounds Plan II is the instrument that maps its course into the future.

## DRI-PLA ALL WEATHER PITCHES

**G**RASS as a playing surface has its limitations. Wet and soggy pitches, constant maintenance, sliding players and a greasy ball are some of the usually encountered drawbacks to grass. With these points in mind, we set out to find a surface that one could truly call "all weather" and which would allow fast games to be played without injury to players. We have now produced the ideal in a safe semi-loose all weather type of pitch which we call Dri-Pla.

This material has been extensively used in Northern Ireland

and Britain for all general games, for Association Football, Hockey, Netball, and, in a great number of cases, sockets are inserted and temporary surrounds are put up so that Lawn Tennis can be enjoyed. It will, therefore, be seen that this material is very versatile from a playing point of view and can be used for many purposes.

It is in great demand at Schools and Colleges, practice grounds for many League Football Clubs and for hockey, particularly where a true run of the ball is required and the standard

● To Page 20.



Chances are  
within the hour  
someone you know  
will make out a  
Bank of Ireland  
cheque...

WHY?

Because more and more people (including your friends) are realising the advantages of a Bank of Ireland account... Complete control of your finances—you carry an instant record of income and expenses... You have at your disposal the valuable advice and comprehensive services of the country's foremost banking institution, including the special facilities of the Bank's Executor and Trustee, Income Tax, and

Foreign Departments... But mostly it's because opening an account with the Bank of Ireland is so simple. A large or small account, a Deposit or Current account—it makes no difference. Simply call at your local Bank of Ireland Branch—where you will find a friendly staff who will be glad to help you on any banking problems.

# BANK OF IRELAND

Head Office: College Green, Dublin 2. Over 150 Offices throughout Ireland.

# ***A Pavilion Problem? Barna have the answer!***

*More and more G.A.A. clubs throughout the country are turning to Barna Buildings Ltd., Enniscorthy, the all-Irish Company, to supply them with pavilions and sports halls.*

*The latest clubs to use Barna Buildings are the Enniscorthy Shamrock and Abbeyside Dungan.*

*Why not send for a FREE BROCHURE giving you full details. Better still, ring Enniscorthy 2291 and ask for advice — ALSO FREE.*

# ***BARNA***

**BARNA BUILDINGS LIMITED**

**DUBLIN ROAD, ENNISCORTHY**

**Telephone 054-2291**

## ● From Page 19.

of play is reasonably high.

Land has become more scarce and more costly to buy, consequently it is essential to make the fullest possible use of play areas—hence the great popularity of Dri-Pla which will give approximately ten times as much use as grass. No one dreams of floodlighting a grass pitch unless there is a financial incentive in drawing crowds, but it is normal practice to floodlight Dri-Pla pitches so that during the winter they can be used after dark.

Dri-Pla is quick drying, hard wearing—in fact, if normal maintenance is given, with occasional light applications of top dressing, its life is almost unlimited. It is reasonably non-slip, it is relatively low in cost of construction and maintenance when compared with the availability of grass. It is resilient and relatively soft to fall on.

Dri-Pla is scientifically controlled throughout its manufacture in order to give, as far as humanly possible, a uniform material. This ensures a good bind, quick recovery from rain and provided the necessary upkeep is given, availability for play at all reasonable times. Foothold is excellent and the good binding qualities ensure fast and accurate play.

The application of Dri-Pla for Gaelic games is obvious, especially for Schools, Colleges, Universities and Seminaries as they will best be able to take advantage of the versatility of the all-weather, all-year-round use of these pitches. Another great use of these pitches is team training for all sports, including athletics. This, and indeed all other aspects of a Dri-Pla area, can be greatly enhanced by floodlighting.

One of these pitches has already been constructed in a Dublin school and both players and the school authorities are delighted with the performance.

G. & S. Doherty

# TARGETS

By OWEN McCANN

WITH the inter-county programme now beginning to move into top gear, this is an opportune time to present football and hurling score-getters with some noteworthy targets to aim at for the months ahead by bringing up to date the county scoring records first published in GAELIC SPORT almost two years ago.

The longest-standing record is Paddy Egan's 11-9 (52 pts.) in 11 engagements in 1955 for the No. One spot in Galway hurling. A year later Niall Fitzgerald set the Cork football peak, and Nick Rackard compiled an "Everest" of a score that seems likely to rank as the all-time high for both codes for many years to come.

Fitzgerald's feat for Cork football is a moderate enough one at 4-35 (47 pts.) in 15 outings. Rackard hit a splendid 35-50 (155 pts.) in 19 hours during 1956—19 points more than the football record of 13-97 (136 pts.) in 24 matches standing to the credit of Paddy Doherty in 1960.

Centuries of points are not all that frequent. In football, only the peaks for seven counties (Cavan, Down, Dublin, Galway, Offaly, Sligo and Tyrone) are in the three figures bracket. In hurling, its down to five—Clare, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford, and Cork.

The chart shows "Yesterday's Men" in very favourable light. The demands on football teams,

especially, have been growing more in recent years, yet such as Ollie Freaney and Sean Purcell, whose counties have been particularly active in the 1960's, are still among the trend-setters.

And, although Meath reached a new peak in 1967 with 28 games, we still have to go back to 1958 for their top figure of 5-64 (79 pts.) by D. O'Brien in 18 games.

However, some new figures

were set last year. Pat Cronin not only smashed the Clare record of 17-18 (69 pts.) in eight games by Jimmy Smyth in 1963, but became the first from the county to better a century of points. Sean O'Connell raised his 1958 Derry record by 14 points, Brendan Hayden improved by eight points on his previous best for Carlow of 1962, and Jack Berry was another to erect a new milestone in 1967.

Points			Score	Games	Year
Total					
<b>ANTRIM</b>					
F.	36	S. Rice	8-12	12	1964
<b>ARMAGH</b>					
F.	45	J. Whan	9-18	16	1961
<b>CAVAN</b>					
F.	125	C. Gallagher	6-107	20	1964
<b>CORK</b>					
F.	47	N. Fitzgerald	4-35	15	1956
H.	104	C. Ring	22-38	13	1961
<b>CARLOW</b>					
F.	66	B. Hayden	7-45	10	1967
H.	26	L. Walsh	2-20	5	1967
<b>CLARE</b>					
F.	24	R. Pyne	1-21	7	1963
H.	104	P. Cronin	11-71	18	1967
<b>DERRY</b>					
F.	77	S. O'Connell	11-44	13	1967
<b>DOWN</b>					
F.	136	P. Doherty	13-97	24	1960
<b>DONEGAL</b>					
F.	80	M. McLoone	10-50	19	1965
<b>DUBLIN</b>					
F.	101	O. Freaney	5-86	17	1959
H.	65	M. Bermingham	12-29	14	1964

● TO PAGE 23

**BECKERS TEA**  
*the best drink*

## They found their evidence in a deserted Croke Park...

Evidence on Asbestos Cement sheeting—and all it can take. If they had suspected it already, they had now seen for themselves how Asbestos Cement requires virtually no maintenance and just cannot rust. Is weather-proof and non-combustible. Lasts indefinitely. Is unaffected by steam.

Asbestos Cement has yet another advantage. It brings ease and speed of construction; and these are factors which keep costs way down. A new pavilion, shower-room or even grandstand can be a reality for your Branch or Club if you specify Asbestos Cement building materials!



**ASBESTOS  
CEMENT LIMITED**

19 Lower Pembroke Street, Dublin 2  
Telephone 65491





● From Page 21.

		<b>FERMANAGH</b>			
F.	58	P. T. Treacy	7-37	14	1966
		<b>GALWAY</b>			
F.	107	S. Purcell	11-74	22	1958
H.	52	P. Egan	11-9	11	1955
		<b>KERRY</b>			
F.	79	B. O'Callaghan	9-52	17	1963
H.	38	D. Lovett	6-20	5	1966
		<b>KILDARE</b>			
F.	75	K. O'Malley	5-60	14	1959
		<b>KILKENNY</b>			
F.	19	T. Wilson	0-19	6	1962
H.	127	E. Keher	16-79	20	1965
		<b>LOUTH</b>			
F.	67	K. Beahan	11-34	16	1961
		<b>LEITRIM</b>			
F.	81	C. Flynn	2-75	17	1959
		<b>LONGFORD</b>			
F.	90	B. Burns	3-81	17	1966
		<b>LIMERICK</b>			
F.	49	E. Cregan	7-28	10	1965
H.	56	L. Maloney	13-17	12	1958
		<b>LAOIS</b>			
F.	72	J. Kenna	4-60	16	1959
H.	48	C. O'Brien	10-18	13	1965
		<b>MAYO</b>			
F.	95	J. Corcoran	8-71	16	1966
		<b>MEATH</b>			
F.	79	D. O'Brien	5-64	18	1958
		<b>MONAGHAN</b>			
F.	33	G. Fitzpatrick	1-30	9	1965
		<b>OFFALY</b>			
F.	120	H. Donnelly	7-99	24	1961
H.	96	P. Molloy	11-63	12	1966
		<b>ROSCOMMON</b>			
F.	92	Don Feeley	3-38	22	1961
		<b>SLIGO</b>			
F.	116	M. Kearins	4-104	17	1965
		<b>TIPPERARY</b>			
F.	36	M. Keating	4-24	11	1966
H.	117	J. Doyle	10-87	17	1964
		<b>TYRONE</b>			
F.	117	F. Donnelly	5-102	22	1957
		<b>WATERFORD</b>			
F.	17	T. Kirwan	2-11	7	1962
H.	87	P. Grimes	10-57	14	1963
		<b>WESTMEATH</b>			
F.	59	T. Monaghan	6-41	18	1959
H.	44	T. Ring	1-41	10	1964
		<b>WEXFORD</b>			
F.	41	Jack Berry	2-35	8	1967
H.	155	N. Rackard	35-50	19	1956
		<b>WICKLOW</b>			
F.	63	J. Timmons	8-39	12	1957

# League groupings should vary each year

Says TIM HORGAN

ON a wind-swept day in the summer of 1957 a large crowd of football supporters converged on the Athletic Grounds in Cork to witness a very special challenge match. The mighty men from Galway, who had just added the League title to their All-Ireland success, were down to play the home county in what promised to be a most memorable encounter. And no true Cork patron worthy of the name could afford to miss the opportunities of seeing the champions in action on his own doorstep.

The game was a major attraction in more ways than one. In the first place, it brought the All-Ireland finalists of the previous September together again and provided Cork with the chance of avenging that defeat. Secondly, it introduced the maroon-jerseyed brigade to football enthusiasts in Cork itself and afforded countless hero-worshipping youngsters the first opportunity of watching Stockwell and Purcell "in real life." It had all the ingredients of a star-studded fixture.

The match proved to be a real thriller. Galway led by four points to two at the interval, but Cork took the initiative after the break and were ahead by two points as the game sizzled to a close. Then Purcell and Stock-

● TO PAGE 27



**Hi·Unit  
Red  
10·10·20**



**Hi·Unit  
Green  
15·5·10**



**Hi·Unit  
Blue  
6·12·18**

**Gouldings  
grows**

# CAMOGIE

By AGNES HOURIGAN

**N**OW that we are looking forward to a very bright future in camogie, I am hoping that this forward-looking view will be reflected in a spate of progressive motions for Congress in March.

Not that I am looking for a revolution or anything like that. Indeed, if there was a revolution as such it really happened at the times of the All-Ireland finals last September and early October. So what we should really be trying to do is to turn to best account the revolution in the attitude to camogie by the rest of the country that then took place.

For a start, I would be inclined to expand the membership of the Central Council. At the moment, the council usually consists of the chairman and secretary of each of the four provincial councils, together with the president, secretary, treasurer, organiser and two trustees.

This means that the Central Council is, in fact, composed entirely of the executive officers of the association. I know that the provincial secretaries need not be members and, in some cases, provinces elect representatives who are not provincial officers but, in actual practice, it would not be right not to have provincial secretaries as part of the Central Council.

What I do suggest is that the present Central Council be retained, but that it be expanded to include two further represen-

tatives from each province, to be elected at the annual provincial conventions. This would give a wider scope to Central Council than it has at present, for the present council is, to all intents and purposes, an executive committee, which I would retain as an executive committee for solving any problems that may crop up between regular council meetings.

I would hope that the representatives from the four provinces would, in the main, consist of the younger members of the Association, for I think it is essential that we should keep as closely in touch with the youth as is at all possible. In this respect, I sincerely trust that this year's Congress will take its courage in its hands and set up an All-Ireland Colleges' championship.

The objection to holding such a competition up to now has been that there are no such competitions at provincial level in Munster or Connacht. But it seems to me that the situation has now arisen that it is imperative to go ahead with an All-Ireland Colleges' competition, whether Munster and Connacht are fully organised or not.

The hard fact to be faced is that there are All-Ireland competitions now available to girls' schools, and being publicised, in other sports. Not alone is an All-Ireland title to be won, but for some there are trips to the Continent. I do not think those Continental trips, great an attrac-

tion though they are, present too great a problem for, as far as I know, the schools, if not the players, have to provide most of the finances for those trips themselves.

But I do believe that if we are to maintain the interest of our young players in the colleges we must at least provide them with an All-Ireland title to aim at. Nor is the problem of Munster and Connacht insuperable. As I have pointed out here before now, there are thriving colleges' competitions in Cork and Galway already, and I am quite certain that the winners in those areas will be capable of sustaining the honour of their respective provinces until such time as proper provincial competitions can be organised.

As something of a corollary to this motion, I think Congress should also appoint a deputation to interview the Students' Unions in the Training Colleges in Limerick, Dublin and Belfast and the Physical Education College at Sion Hill, to see could they be induced to put camogie teams in the field.

The G.A.A. will never be able to assess what it owes to the fact that hurling and football were, from the start, the games practised in St. Patrick's, Drumcondra, and the De la Salle in Waterford. Indeed, it can truthfully be said that the national teachers, more than any other body, were the men who built the G.A.A. It is not too late yet

● TO PAGE 26



● FROM PAGE 23

well went on a typical raid in the last minute and a newcomer named Michael Burke finished off their work with the winning goal.

The spectators, who had come for thrills and excitement, had received an abundance of both and looked forward to the day when more visiting celebrities would grace the Cork football field. However, that day was a long way off and, though Kerry made many appearances in the Athletic Grounds in the subsequent years, it wasn't until 1961 that another star-studded county team paid Cork a visit.

The spectators, who had come players arrived on the banks of the Lee that year, and once again the challenge match aroused enormous enthusiasm. Cork football was in a bad state at the time but the prospect of seeing James McCartan, Paddy Doherty, Joe Lennon and all the other heroes of the '60-'61 triumphs injected new life into the game. The spectators thronged to the Athletic Grounds and enjoyed a pulsating game, which ended in a narrow victory for the visitors.

It was quite clear from the success of these matches that top-class teams would always draw the crowds in Cork. The only regrettable point was that football enthusiasts were not given the opportunity of seeing the big stars often enough. Indeed, many regular patrons at the Athletic Grounds never saw some of the country's best teams at all. The Galway three-in-a-row side of the present decade would have been a great attraction, had they been able to play in Cork. But the league and championship set-up militated against their chances of visiting the southern capital. The same held true for many other counties outside the province.

● TO PAGE 56

# Colds catch you when you are cold!

... if you are exposed to chills

... if you have got a chill

... if you are getting over a chill



# CHALLENGING FOR GREATNESS

By ALLEYMAN

**I**n the past few weeks a lot of attention has been focussed on Joe Maher and his outstanding feat in winning the World championship. Rightly so. It reminds me that we have many more players scattered throughout the globe who are also furthering the cause of Irish handball.

One of those who readily comes to mind is Jimmy Lyng, who emigrated to America in 1956. In a quiet efficient way, Jimmy has won many trophies, among them being the New England title at Worcester, Mass., the Connecticut championship at Bridgeport and the New England A.A.U. Open at Hartford.

In each of these three major victories he beat Jack Gunderson of Hartford. This was a special source of satisfaction to Lyng for he had been beaten by the same opponent on many previous occasions.

He has also thrown down the gauntlet to the great Jimmy Jacobs, who has been National champion many times.

He considers Jacobs the best player he ever competed against. On reflection, it is no way extraordinary that Lyng should be establishing such a healthy reputation in the hard grind of American competition.

Being a member of the Ballyanne family in County Wexford, which has such close affiliations

five per cent of your shots with your strong hand. Your other hand is mainly a defensive weapon."

Besides handball, Jimmy Lyng, as might be expected, has an avid interest in hurling. He hurls with the Irish-American team from County Kerry and rarely misses a match. Lyng has also taken a great liking to America's number one sport, baseball.

He claims to know as much about it as the Americans themselves.

Jimmy returned home two seasons ago and played many exhibition games in his native Wexford. When he comes again he is hopeful that the dreams to have the court at Ballyanne roofed and floodlit will have been realised.

The club executive is thinking very strongly on those lines at present and, should the necessary permission be forthcoming from the local council, work will commence immediately.

It is significant that in this

scheme the main operator is John Lyng, a brother of Jimmy. John has given tremendous service to handball.

A regular competitor down the years, he has also shown an alert interest in administration and, in this sphere, has risen to be the current chairman of the Leinster Council.

I have little doubt that he will leave no stone unturned in an effort to have the Ballyanne court modernised.

## 1967 LAST YEAR FARMERS USED A RECORD AMOUNT OF FERTILISER

- CROP YIELDS WERE HIGH
- GRASS WAS ABUNDANT
- CATTLE AND SHEEP THROVE WELL
- MILK OUTPUT WAS A RECORD



with the handball code, is sufficient explanation.

Indeed, there are many keen students of the game who contend that, as a complete handballer, he gained a higher rating than Richie, who has been to the fore as one of our top players for the past few years. Richie, in fact, has the distinction of being the first player ever to win All-Ireland titles in the minor, junior and senior softball singles grades.

Had Jimmy remained in this country, however, it is quite probable that he would have beaten his younger brother for the honour. He was a long way towards it in 1956, when he emigrated, having in the previous year won the junior softball singles. In 1953 he won the minor championship.

Like Maher, Jimmy Lyng has taken kindly to the smaller American type court.

"At first," he says, "I found it rather difficult to re-adjust my play to the new conditions, but at this stage I would strongly recommend the American court type of play.

"The Irish courts are so big that you have to hit the ball with an under-arm motion in order to reach the front wall.

"On the American courts you can hit most of your shots with a side-arm swing," he added.

Jimmy has some interesting comments to make on what he terms the misconception that you must be equally strong with both hands to reach the top in handball.

"It's certainly nice to have two strong hands but it's not entirely necessary," he says.

"You can play about seventy-



# 1968 MAKE THIS YEAR EVEN BETTER FERTILISE

**DRESS GRASSLAND WELL with PHOSPHATE and Lime and Potash where needed.**

When growth starts 2 cwt. NITROGEN per st. acre will grow early grass in any sound field.

**SHORTEN THE WINTER WITH EARLY GRASS**

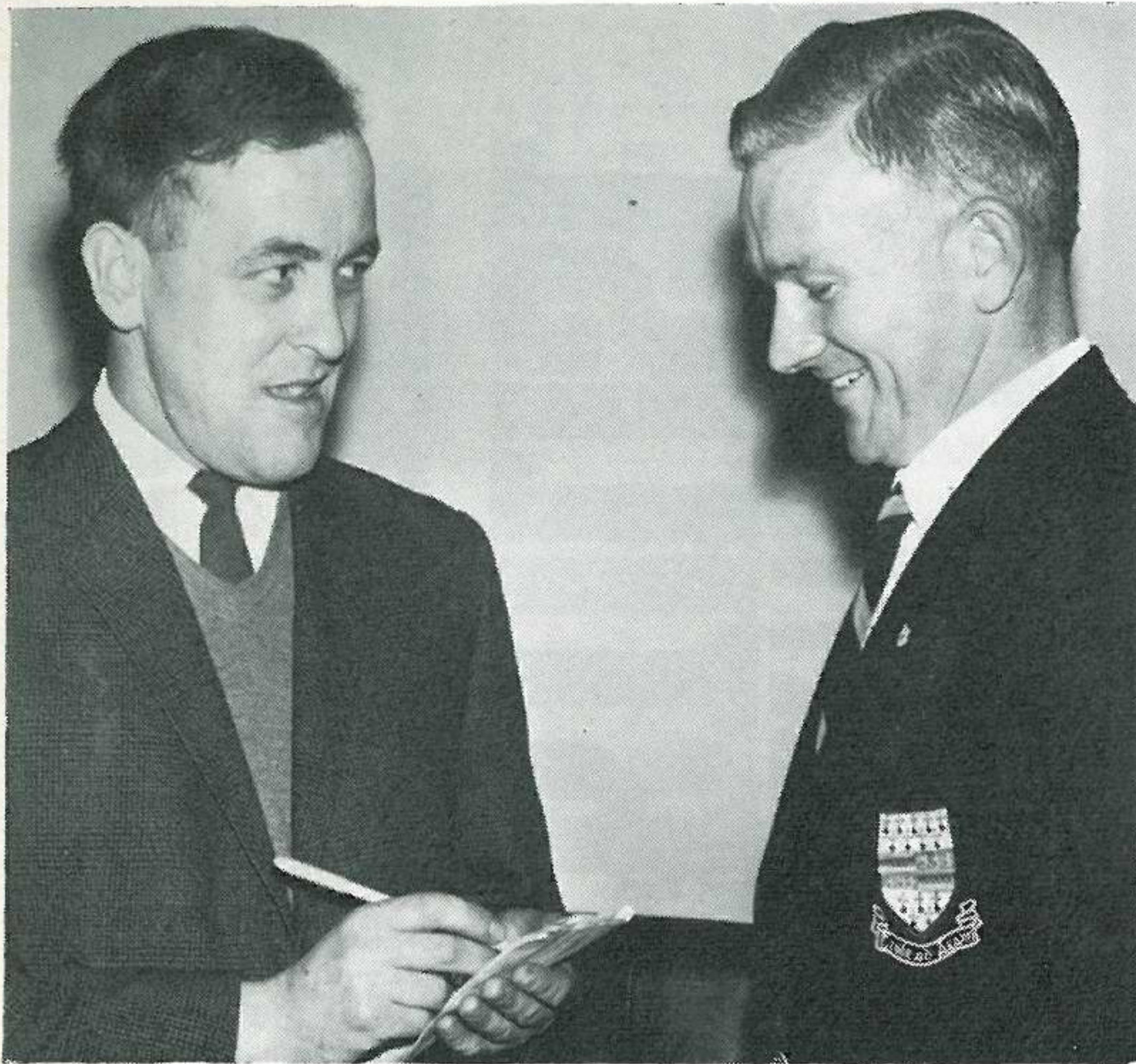
Close off and dress enough acres to feed all your stock.

Brindley Adv.



FERTILISE FOR PROFIT





Theo English (right) talking to GAELIC SPORT columnist Sean Murphy.

**SEAN  
MURPHY**

**talks to**

**THEO  
ENGLISH**

## **'Tipperary will match the best in Munster'**

**W**HEN Kilkenny defeated Tipperary in last year's All-Ireland senior hurling final, the critics were emphatic that Tipperary were "written off" and that it would take a few years before the Premier county would be a mighty force once more. But the longest serving of that vanquished fifteen is still ready, willing and able for inter-county fare — Theo English from Marlfield near Clonmel — maintains that Tipperary are far from finished and will be a match for the best when Munster championship time comes round.

Theo, who has collected an impressive array of hurling awards with Tipperary since he first appeared on the county senior side in 1953, together with some football awards won with Old Bridge and Clonmel Commercials, is a most likeable character, as I discovered when I interviewed him recently in Limerick where he and his fellow-county hurling star, John Doyle, were guests of honour at the annual function organised by the Limerick Tipperary Men's Association.

**Murphy — Were you disappointed after Tipperary's defeat**

**by Kilkenny in last year's All-Ireland final?**

**English —** Naturally, Sean, we were a bit downhearted as we reckoned many of us were having our last fling but "once down is not all the battle" and, of course, you must have a loser always!

**M.—Do you agree with popular opinion that Tipperary are finished?**

**E. —** Most definitely not. I feel that there is a wealth of useful young players coming up and with the proper blending, Tipperary will be a match for the best when the Munster cham-



pionship comes round. The standard of club hurling is very high in the county and all concerned are very enthusiastic to wipe out the memories of last year's disappointment.

**M. — In your fifteen years of active inter-county service who were the best players you encountered?**

**E. —** Des Foley of Dublin, who used his weight and speed to great advantage, and Joe Salmon of Galway, a stylist to his fingertips.

**M.—What game gave you your greatest thrill?**

**E. —** Without a doubt, the Munster hurling final of 1958. It was my first medal after five years on the county team and came at a time when I was inclined to despair.

**M. — What are your impressions of the hurling revival scheme?**

**E. —** Well, I think the standard of the game generally has dropped slightly but the various juvenile boards are doing an excellent job organising the youth. But I think they are not getting the co-operation they deserve, simply because the young lads of to-day are too well off and are not prepared to dedicate themselves to any sport, not just hurling alone. The motor car changed the whole trend of life especially in rural areas.

**M. — Any rule you would like to see changed in the present G.A.A. rule-book.**

**E. —** Not really. After enjoying playing for fifteen years I have little reason to complain. I would like to see Rule 29 relaxed so that clubs could organise dances other than ceili.

**M. — What do you think of this year's Munster championship?**

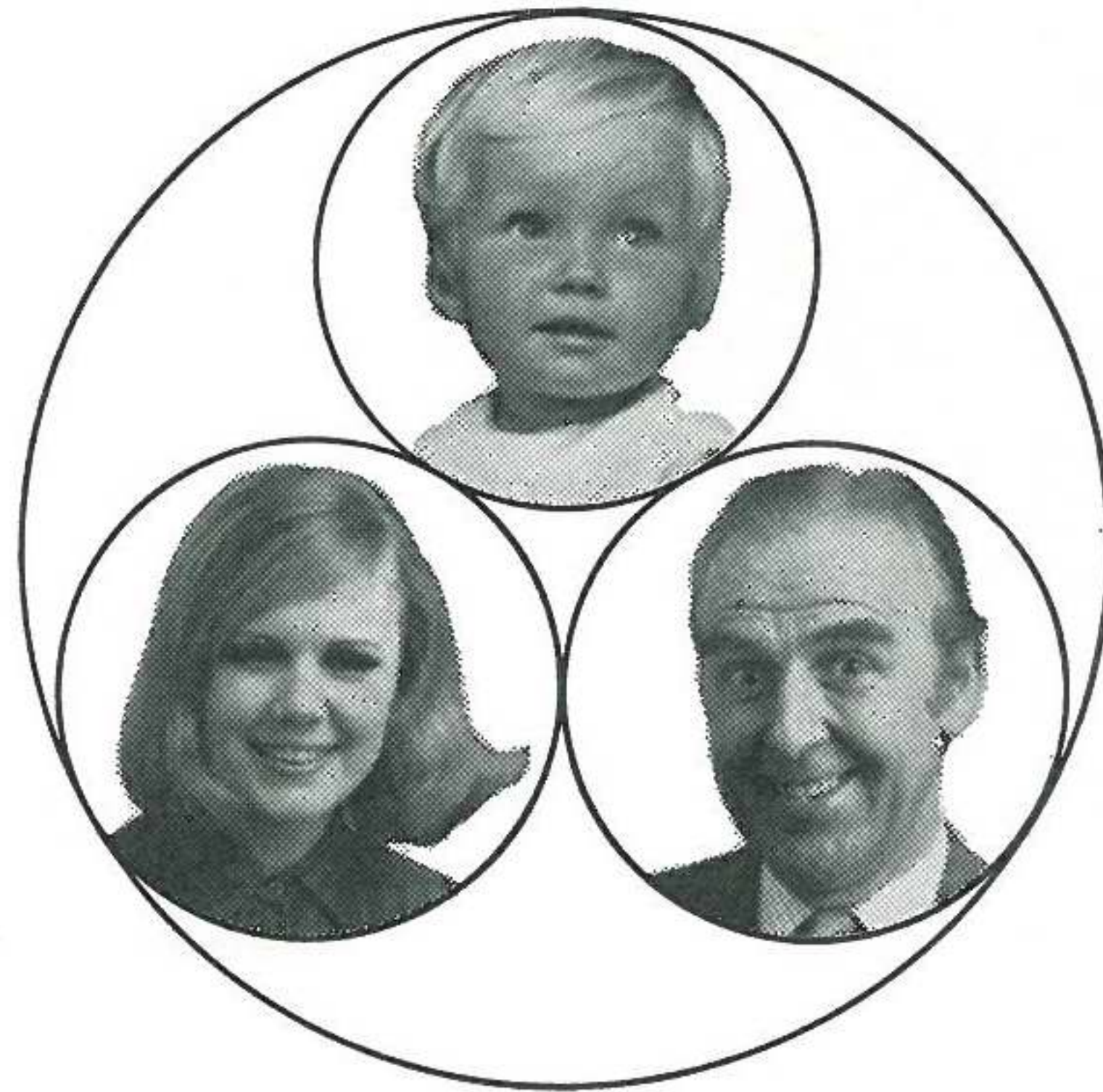
**E. —** There is very little between Cork, Limerick, Clare or

Tipperary and, as I said at the outset, our boys will be there or thereabouts. Of course, luck will play a vital part.

**M. — Having won every avail-**

**able honour in the game what is your ambition now?**

**E. —** To keep playing hurling for as long as God gives me strength.



## You're never too small for a National Bank Account

You can start a National Bank account with a few shillings

Don't think you're too small for a Bank Account—we don't think so. In fact we welcome an account of any size. The new interest rate on deposits is now 4½% (no Tax liability on first £70 interest . . .

equal to over 6½% gross). Get yourself known at the National Bank. It could be a very useful connection in the future. Call to our nearest Branch and make yourself some new friends.

THE  
**NATIONAL BANK**  
OF IRELAND LTD



The bank  
where people matter

# Looking for a fortune?



--FIDDY--

You might get it quicker with a ticket in the Sweepstakes

**3 SWEEPS ANNUALLY**

LINCOLN ● IRISH SWEEPS DERBY ● CAMBRIDGESHIRE

TICKETS £1 EACH

NUMEROUS FIRST PRIZES OF

**£50,000**

**IRISH HOSPITALS' SWEEPSTAKES, BALLSBRIDGE, DUBLIN 4**  
BRANCH SWEEP OFFICES AT CORK, SLIGO, GALWAY AND 9-11 GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN 2

Caps.

# CLUICHÍ NA FÉILE

## Le SEÁN O DÁLAIGH

TÁ lá bféile Phádraig ag teacht Lá mor, agus lá ana mhór e, i mórán áiteanna, ar fuaid on Domhain ní h-amháin annso i Éirinn, ach domhain chó maith. Lá mór is ea é, pé áit sa domhan na bfuil ball de Chlanna Gaodhal le fáil, agus tá siad scaipithe, is scaipithe go maith, agus cuid aca a bfad i gcein. Ach pé fhaid ó bhaile iad, is ar Éirinn, agus ar a gcáirde in Éirinn a bheidh siad ag smaoin-eamh ar lá 'le Phádraig. Tá dríocht éigin ag gabháil leis an lá so, thar aon lá eile i rith na bliana—rud éigin a bhogann ár gcroidhe, mar pháistí.

Beidh mór-shiúlta annso is annsúd ar fuaid na tíre ar an lá san, ach is ar na comórtaisí an Bhóthair Iarainn, i bPáirc an Chrócaigh a bheidh súile furmhór ár ndaoine, adéarfainn. Pádraig Ó Caoimh (solus na bflaitheas dá anam) an t-árd rúnaí abhí, a mhol ag Comhdháil na Cásga na comórtaisí seo a bhunú arís. Is cuimhin liom an chéad bhabhta sa bhlian a naoi déag is a fiche seacht. Lá breágh áluinn abhí ann, agus bhí na comórtaisí ar aon dul leis an lá. Mumha is Connachta abhí páirteach sa pheil. Cúigear

déag Ciarraighigh abhí ar fhuir-eann na Mumhan, is bhuadhadar ar thoga Connacht.

Bhuaidh na Laighnigh ar na Muimhnigh san iomáint. Sár-chluichí abhí ionnta, agus ní dóigh liom go raibh a sárú ann ó shoin i leith, is ní bheidh go fóil, is boal liom.

### BABHTAÍ DÚBALTA

Tá roinnt cluichí tábhachta le h-imirt i rith na Márta. Tá dhá leath-chraobh sa t-sreath náisiúnta i gceist. I bPáirc an Chrócaigh a imreófar an dá chluiche, agus tá coinne againn le dhá shár-chluichí. De ghnáth, bíonn na cluichí seo ar aon dul leis na craobh-chluichí i mí Mheán Fómhair, ach amháin go bhfuil rud éigin, tarraingt dríochta éigin aca san, a mheallann ár ndaoine ó gach áird.

Na conndaethe peile, ná raibh ró-láidir, agus nár dhéin go ró-mhaith i dtosach an t-séasúir, fuairadar atbí uatha—dul ar aghaidh le babhta dúbalta. Chabhruigh an t-Árdchomhairle leo, le sreath bonn, rud éigin chun na fóirne a spreagach. Ana ullamhúchán is ea é leis dos na

comórtaisí idir-chonndaethe, na gcúigí féin, a bheidh ag tosú beagáinín níos déanaí.

### LAG AGUS ANA LAG

Cé nach féidir an iomáint mar chluiche do shárú in aon tír sa domhan iomlán, is ait an nídh é, go bhfuil sé chó lag is atá sé 'na thír dhúthcais mar adéarfá. Tá sé lag i dtrí ceathramhna na tíre. Fiú amháin ins na conndaethe 'na raibh cagdaon an-árd uair amháin — Cúige Mumhan, cuir i gcás. Cad is bun leis an laige seo?

Tá mórán míniú ann is dócha, agus an míniú a bhéadh ag fear amháin, bheadh ceann eile ar fad ag duine éigin eile. Is ea, agus an chúis a bheadh ann i bparóiste, nó i gceanntar abfad ón dá áit seo.

Tá sé ar aigine agam dul isteach sa scéal uair éigin eile, agus an chúis nó na cúiseanna dár lionm-sa do nochtadh. Go dtí san, guidhim beannacht naomh Pádraig, a bheannuigh Éire, ar mo léightheóirí go léir, pioca sa bhaile annso in Éirinn iad, nó abfad i gcéin thar lear iad.



**WHEN YOU'RE THIRSTY FROM  
CHEERING ON THE SIDE**

Refresh yourself with

**Carlo Orange**

**CORCORAN'S OF CARLOW**

# HISTORIC TOUR

## MEATH'S MISSION IN AUSTRALIA

By FLANN REYNOLDS

EVERY member of the G.A.A., indeed everyone who follows Gaelic games and a few besides, will wish Meath bon

voyage as they depart for their historic tour of Australia.

Six months ago, if anyone suggested that the Spring of 1968

would see the All-Ireland football champions setting off on a visit to the other side of the earth and going on to complete a global trip (as Meath are doing), he would have been called nothing less than a nut. Up to that time, the United States, and the eastern seaboard of the States at that, was the limit of our horizon.

But then came the Australian tourists and the invitation to Meath from their promoter and manager, Harry Beitzel. Yet, even when that invitation was issued—first on the day the All-Ireland champions played the Australians at Croke Park and then repeated at a dinner in honour of the teams in Dublin that night (October 29), acceptance seemed impossible.

For the Meath players and officials, the prospect looked like a dream from which they would soon wake up to the grey of an Irish winter morning. Indeed, for nearly two months after Harry Beitzel's invitation, no-one outside of the champion county believed that the fabulous tour would take place.

But there are men of vision and initiative in Meath: men like Fr. Tully, Peter McDermott, Liam Creaven and Jack Fitzgerald. Having got over the first hurdle of sanction from the Executive Committee of the G.A.A., they set about raising the necessary funds. Harry Beitzel guaranteed 12,000 Australian dollars; but a great deal more was needed. It was a mighty task and the original targets were not achieved.

But now they are off — and

**A Wonderful  
World of Holidays  
with  
JOE WALSH**

JOE WALSH TOURS LTD: 16 NASSAU STREET, DUBLIN 2.

## TRAVEL WITH THE MEATH TEAM TO AUSTRALIA

Departing 2nd March — Returning 24th March including stopovers in Rome, Singapore, Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Honolulu, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.

Don't miss this opportunity to combine a holiday of a lifetime with an historic occasion.

For full details contact us NOW!

## JOE WALSH TOURS

16, Nassau Street, Dublin 2. Phone 65918  
31, Castle Street, Belfast 1. Phone 43251

good luck to them. They are due to arrive in Perth on the morning of March 6th, after which they face a hectic programme of five matches between the 9th and 17th — at Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne again. On March 18th, they will leave Australia and fly home around the other side, via Honolulu, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York. They are due to arrive back in Ireland on March 24th.

Their main engagement will be against the State of Victoria at Melbourne on March 11th. The opposition will include most of the Australian players who appeared at Croke Park last autumn. The long journey and the change of climate will add to Meath's task. But they can be depended on to give a good account of themselves.

The All-Ireland champions were unfairly criticised following their defeat by the Australians at Croke Park. What few took into account was that Meath were then at the end of a very strenuous championship campaign and, to make matters worse, were unaware of the skill and fitness of the men they were meeting.

They will now be prepared, in every sense of the word, for the task facing them in Melbourne and the other cities of their tour. But should they lose again, at any or all of those places, what of it?

They are ambassadors of Ireland and of Gaelic football—and they are very worthy ones. They can be depended on to do all they know to win (as the Australians did here) and they can be trusted, too, to play the game by the canons of good sportsmanship, no matter what the results may be.

Their behaviour on or off the field will be more important in the long run than victory. Yet, they will be justified to strive



Joe Walsh, Managing Director of Joe Walsh Tours, will be personally looking after travel arrangements for the Meath trip to Australia.

for victory with all the legitimate means at their disposal.

This is an important event. It could be the forerunner of regular visits to Australia by Irish

teams (county or national) in the future. For that reason, Meath must play well, conduct themselves well, look well.

Nobody has to tell them to do any of these things. They are aware of their mission and they have the ability to accomplish it, in all its aspects.

If they win all their matches in that short space of time, it will be a glorious achievement. If they win three out of the five, they will have done very well . . . and we will light the tar barrels on their return.

## *In brief . . .*

### REFEREE'S AWARD

Roscommon passed an interesting motion at their annual general meeting recently: that an award be made in footballing and hurling for the "Referee of the Year." It is an idea that may be copied by other counties.

*always on the ball*  
*. . . ahead on points*

1. QUALITY UNSURPASSABLE
2. SERVICE UNBEATABLE
3. WEIGHT INDISPUTABLE


**MEATH LIME**  
**TRIM Co. MEATH** TEL : 271

#### LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES :

James Fagan, Crossakiel, Co. Meath.

Michael Rigney, 7 Charlemont St., Dublin. Tel.: 51046.

Gach deá ghuí do fhoireann na Mí  
ar a dturas go dtí an Astráil.



**It's a man's game**

**Blackthorn boots can take the punishment!**

Play the game of your life in the boot that's made for life. Blackthorn vulcanised boots—strength, durability, comfort.


**METEOR S.86**  
Tough moulded rubber sole and top quality box upper. Hard toe.

**CLASSIC S.79**  
Sponge and foam lined. Adjustable screw-in nylon studs. Specially shaped hard toe.

**ULTIMA S.94**  
Maximum lightness, flexibility and comfort. Best glove-like box calf upper. Soft toe.

All in sizes 6 x 10½ and ½ sizes at your favourite sports and footwear stores—now!

**Blackthorn**



**METEOR S.86**

**CLASSIC S.79**

**ULTIMA S.94**

Made by EDWARD J. CONNOLLY-DUNDALK

Padbury

**out of the frying pan...**

into the seat of a brand new tractor. Just the job to develop your farm to its full potential! Why didn't you think of B.W. before this? They're the people who want to help you to expand. Any farmer hampered by lack of capital should get in touch with B.W. Call, ring or write for details of how B.W. can help you.

**B.W. CREDIT CORPORATION LTD.**

Member of the Irish Finance Houses Association.  
14 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2. Tel. 67206 (5 lines).  
F. S. O'Neill, Managing Director. Athlone Road, Roscommon. Tel 6277. T. Rogers, Branch Manager. 34 Grand Parade, Cork. Tel. 24429. J. A. Daly, Branch Manager. Market Cross, Carlow. Tel. 576. F. Eustace, Branch Manger. John St., Kells. Tel. 14. Fintan Ginnity, Branch Manager.

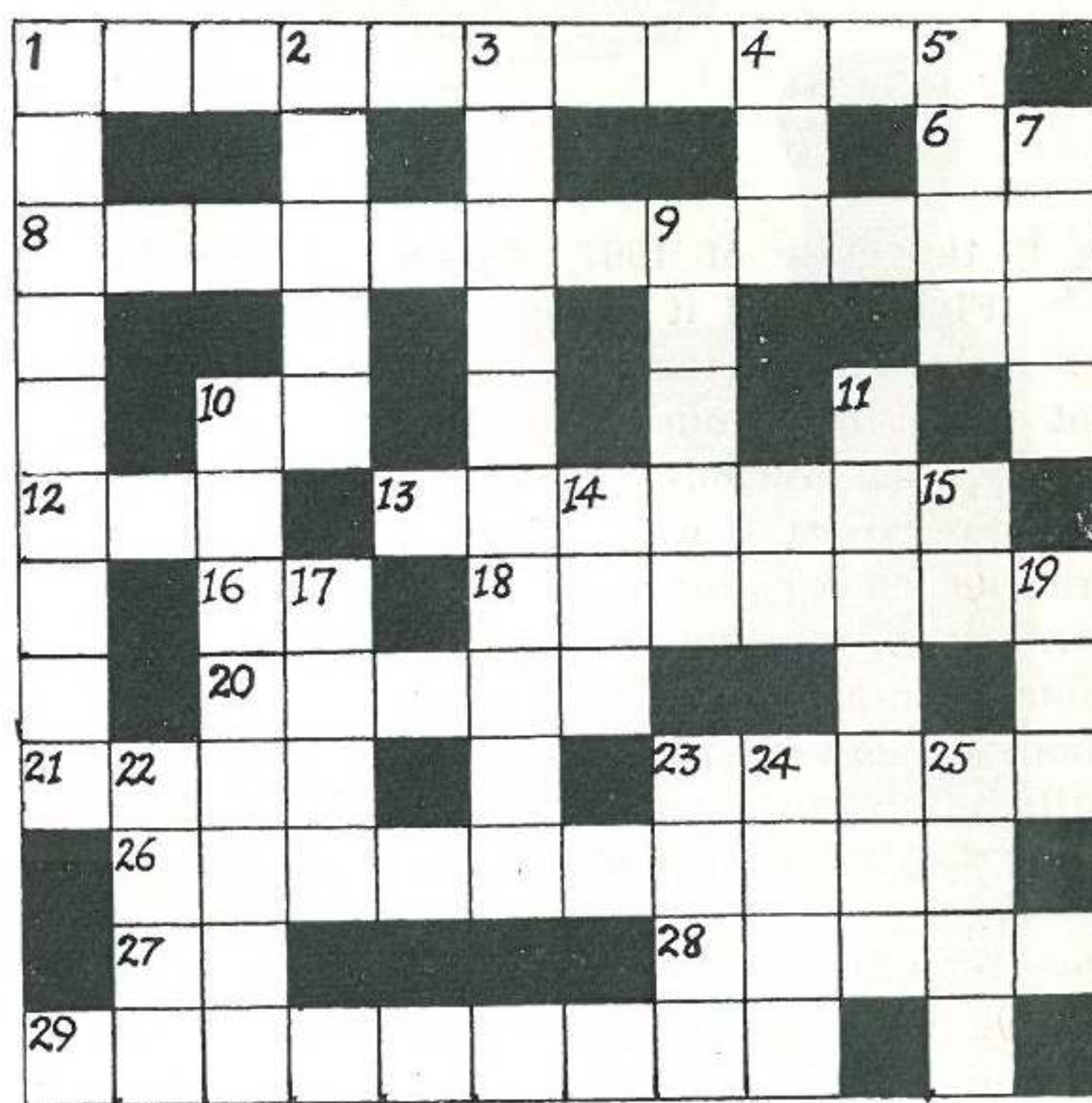


### ACROSS :

- 1—One of the great full-backs of football—40s and early 50s. (5, 6)
- 6—Alternatively. (2)
- 8—Versatile Galway hurler of the 40's and 50's, and a distinguished referee. (4, 8)
- 10—George William Russell, under his pen-name. (2)
- 12—Bounce. (3)
- 13—Dublin centre-forward of the 60's, now, perhaps, past his best. (1, 6)
- 16—Meath centre-field recalled from retirement to help towards their first All-Ireland win. Initials. (1, 1)
- 18—Sad ruse leaves player still full of confidence. (7)
- 20—Comeback from behind. (5)
- 21—Type of half-volley shot sometimes used disastrously by forwards. (4)
- 23—Waterford County Secretary with almost 30 years service. (5)
- 26—Not a difficult match—in horse racing (or show jumping) terms. (4, 6)
- 27—Athletic Club. (2)
- 28—Riled by lazy, chance-wasting player. (5)
- 29—Wicklow and Leinster goalkeeper. (1, 8)

### DOWN

- 1—Often a forward, now a corner-back for Cavan. (9)
- 2—Most famous Tipperary hurler of this generation. (5)
- 3—The goalkeeper who attracts most attention in present-day hurling. (5, 5)
- 4—Dividing of Ireland causes anger. (3)
- 5—Referees take a — of all that happens in a match. (4)



- 7—Tipperaryman who this year played for Clare against his native county. (4)
- 9—Left-half back with Waterford's first All-Ireland team (1948). (5)
- 10—The build-up work is what leads up to scores. (8)
- 11—Johnny the Cork footballer. (7)
- 14—Shy and confused. (3)
- 15—Neither north nor east, exactly. (2)
- 17—Headgear for Gaelic games once popular with the players. (4)
- 19—This is cast when the final whistle blows. (3)
- 22—To harvest the rewards of victory. (4)
- 23—Proper method for holding on to the hurling, or hanging on to the football. (4)
- 24—How the betting expresses a team's chances. (4)
- 25—Broken reed turns out to be swift animal. (4)

**SOLUTION : PAGE 56**

# Farewell to Austin Flynn

~~~~~

## A GIANT BOWS OUT

By JAY DRENNAN

AT the close of 1967, Austin Flynn called it a day. He let it be known that he would not play inter-county hurling again, thus graciously ending a gracious career. It was, indeed, a gracious ending, for even as he announced his retirement, the Munster hurling selectors were about to convene, all, doubtless, with Flynn's names firmly printed in as a certainty for the full-back position. Even at the close of a long period at the top, Austin still dominated and exem-

plified the best in the technique of full-back hurling.

Thickening a bit with the years and slowing in movement, his reflexes remained remarkably quick, and his store of experience was so vast as to be able to think up a way of combating every kind of situation. He intends to continue with his club, Abbeyside, in the hope, no doubt, of achieving his only remaining ambition — a county championship senior medal, yet he could have stayed on in the inter-

county game and held his own for a few years more.

Full-backs in hurling are a curious breed, a mixed bag of more temperamental variety than any other position. Compared to football full-backs, they are usually limited in self-expression almost to the extent of frustration. For instance, it is the stock in trade of the football full-back that he gets the chance to grasp the high lobs as they drop in his territory, burst away from the surrounding forwards and deliver a dramatic and rousing clearance upfield. All the waiting, the watching and edging about for advantage of position, all the unglamorous blocking and shouldering becomes suddenly worthwhile when he gets one of the spectacular ones.

The hurling full-back, however, is a repressed individual by comparison, for seldom if ever do the majority of them get the chance of one of those eye-catching, headline-making sorties. His full sixty minutes may go by without once hitting a true ball on the neat of his hurley, without ever experiencing the thrill of doing something with the satisfaction of full-intention. His time is spent in blocking, covering, getting his full weight into the 50-50 pull whose outcome is often inconclusive and always unpremeditated. In fact, the hurling full-back is saddled with the position where the negation of the opposition is almost a way of life. You could be a great man even in inter-county competition without hitting a spectacular,

|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| <b>G.A.A.</b> | <b>LÁ LE PÁDRAIG</b>         |
|               | <b>i bPáirc An Chrócaigh</b> |
|               | 2.15                         |
|               | <b>IOMÁINT</b>               |
|               | 3.45                         |
|               | <b>PEIL</b>                  |



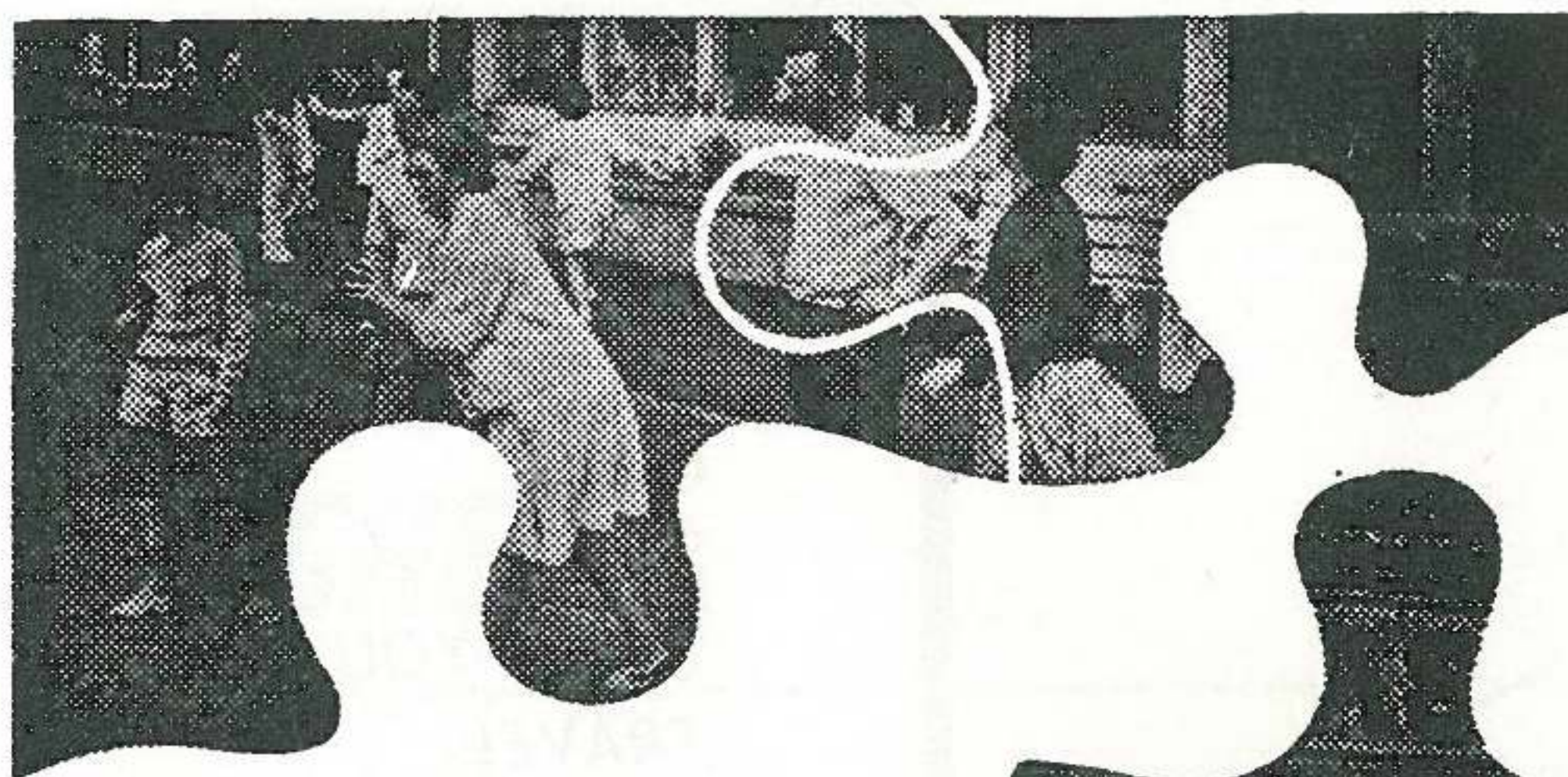
self-justifying clearance in your life.

Michael Maher, a tremendously important link in Tipperary's powerful brigade of the last ten years, was a full-back with this low level of self-gratification. Fearless in the tackle, quick in slipping into the hip-to-hip position for the clash on the rolling ball, strong as an ox in the air-blocking, hardly ever emerging from his self-imposed limits to strike a spectacular clearance, he typified the self-effacement of the hurling full-back.

Austin Flynn was quite different; his whole attitude to full-back play was open and exhilarating. The skullduggery of the edge of the square was never for him; so much so that, in the aftermath of the 1957 All-Ireland final defeat by Kilkenny, when scapegoats were being fashioned in Waterford, the theory was common that Austin Flynn was too clean to be a really effective full-back. Just think of it—too clean! The irony of the situation has been that it was with the same scrupulous methods that he continued to man the square ever since with an effectiveness and brilliance which has silenced all who think a full-back must get his results by catch-as-catch-can tactics.

In one respect, Flynn was typical of the great full-backs; he was immensely strong and could take the hardest battering a game brought yet kept going full out to the end. This strength enabled him to play his game and dictate the style which it took in his territory. I do not know of another full-back who made such an amount of clean and impressive clearances in hurling: he could whip a ball up in a twinkling, and he was never caught for space to swing his stick. His hand responded to a quick eye, and his overhead pulling was the soundest of weapons:

● To Page 42.



Everyone  
fits into the  
picture at ...

*Butlin's*

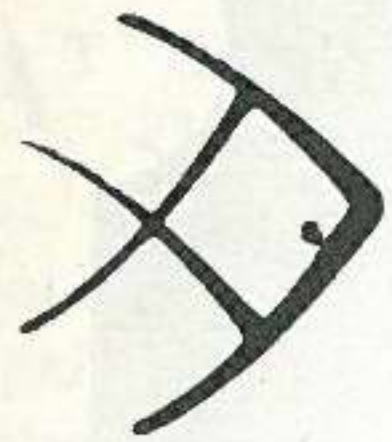
**HOLIDAY CAMP  
MOSNEY**

At Butlins there's something for everyone.  
While youngsters play parents have their own  
well earned holiday!

Apply now for a colour brochure to the  
Camp at Mosney, or 4/5 Trinity St., Dublin 2,  
or, in fact, any Travel Agent.



Brindley



Shannon Travel is Ireland's largest independent travel Agency. This is the organisation with facilities to help to :

**FEEL**

● **Holidays in the sun.**

**SECURE**

● **Pilgrimages to Lourdes.**

**WHEN YOU**

● **All air, sea and land travel.**

**TRAVEL**

**ABROAD**

● **Winter holidays.**

If you are making travel arrangements on behalf of yourself or a Club or Group be sure to contact us.

## **TRAVEL SHANNON TRAVEL**

138, Lr. Baggot St., Dublin 2. 'Phone 63977.  
Offices at : Westmoreland St., Dublin 1;  
Cecil St., Limerick; William St., Galway.

### **SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS**

**MISSIONS  
CALLING**



**AFRICA**

**AUSTRALIA**

**SOUTH AMERICA**

*Boys who feel a desire to devote their lives to God and souls as Missionary Priests and Brothers are invited to write for information and advice to :*

**REV. FR. LIAM O'SULLIVAN, S.M.A.,**  
Director of Vocations,  
AFRICAN MISSIONS,  
BLACKROCK ROAD, CORK.



SEAN RICE talks with . . .

## JOHNNY FARRAGHER



HE was just a wisp of a lad. And as he stepped on to the green turf of Croke Park on that sunny spring afternoon, the eyes of the huge crowd were fixed on him. For there wearing the number six jersey was nineteen-year-old Johnny Farragher, the player Mayo had hoped would prune the thrusts of the great Derry centre half-forward, Jim McKeever.

That was in 1961, and although the tousled-haired centre half-back did manage to curb McKeever, the Derrymen went on to qualify for the final of the National League by a single point, after a gigantic battle.

It was the start of Johnny Farragher's football career. It was also one of the few times the 26-year old salesman played in Croke Park. And since then he has occupied every position on the field for Mayo except full-back and goal.

It was also the start of a long run of disappointments. For six years there was nothing but defeat staring Farragher in the face. Year after year it was the same story until it seemed failure would never end. Then, last year, the long run of defeats ended and suddenly the years ahead seemed brighter than they had for a long time. And it is for that reason Johnny Farragher claims 1967 to be his greatest year in football.

"I won my first Connacht senior championship medal and I captained the junior team that won the Connacht championship as well as having had the experience of playing against the Australians," he said.

A product of St. Colman's College, Claremorris, with whom he won Flanagan and Collieran medals, Farragher has also won two Mayo senior championship medals with his native club, Claremorris. He played at centre half-back for Mayo minors in 1960 and the same year he made his debut on the senior team against Longford in the National League.

For the past couple of seasons he has been playing in the attack for Mayo and although he has been a success in every position he would still prefer to play in defence. "I started out at centre

half-back and would still prefer to play in the half-back line," he said.

But Mayo needs men of the calibre of Johnny Farragher in their attack. Tough and resilient, he never fails to put all he has into a game no matter how unimportant it is. And when the big test came last year he was one of the players whose experience was the guiding light in Connacht. And it was to players like him Mayo looked when they lined out against Meath in the All-Ireland semi-final.

And here again he proved to be one of the most consistent players on the field, which is probably the reason why he says that that game against Meath is the one that stands out in his mind. "It was the most thrilling game of my career," he said.

Farragher regards Cavan's Charlie Gallagher as the best footballer he has played against. "He is one of the best in the business," he said. "I was pitted against him on a few occasions and I found him very difficult to mark. He is strong and wily and if he gets half a chance he will score."

I asked him why he thought his home town—Claremorris—was free from soccer and rugby; if, in fact, it was due to the ban. He said he believed it was. "And I think there would be a change of attitude in the town if the ban were removed," he said.

Did he think the standard of football was improving? "It is. In fact, I think the standard is higher now than it has ever been," he said.

Farragher rates Mayo's chances in the coming championship as being very good, although he thinks Galway are still Mayo's greatest threat. "I believe if we can get over Galway in the Connacht Championship we have a very good chance," he said.

It will take a supreme effort. For there is still much to be done before Mayo win an All-Ireland title. Already, they are whipping themselves into shape for the long, hard battle ahead, and there in the thick of the training sessions is Johnny Farragher, just as he was last year and the year before, hoping as always that this year will see the realisation of his dreams—an All-Ireland title for his county.

# GROUP SAVING SUITS ME FINE



'Was a time I couldn't save a penny. Easy come, easy go I used to say. Then I joined our firm's Savings Group. Didn't miss the few shillings stopped every week. Surprising how quickly they grew into pounds. Soon began to earn interest. Now the family call on Dad when something special comes up. Young John's wedding for instance. That's what the new suit is for, by the way.

If no Group exists where you work, why not suggest one to the Management? The Secretary of the National Savings Committee will explain the Scheme. Phone him at 66305 or write for brochures and details.



**NATIONAL SAVINGS COMMITTEE**  
**AN COISTE COIGILTIS NAISIUNTA**

72/76 ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN 2. Phone 66305

● From Page 39.

from the air he could drive play back well beyond the danger area.

Too clean, too open . . . the thought came as much from his delight in swinging on the high ones with any full-forward who would indulge that old-time pleasure. Once in a while the full-forward closed his eyes, whispered a prayer and connected flush on, and the goal-keeper never saw it. That kind of thing gave rise to whispers again about being too fair and above board; not making sure by negative tactics.

Now Flynn leaves the scene almost the last of the fine team of ten years from 1957 to 1967, but remember that he was on the scene before most of them: his first championship game was at right back to Davy Walsh in one of those disastrous encounters with Tipperary in the early fifties when Tipp were top. But he survived to see the day when his men could reduce Tipperary to similar humiliation, to win all the honours the game had to offer, and to leave the arena with only the fairest of memories behind him.

In all his days, he was never known to play a dirty game; because of his very deep love for the games and his attitude to the Association, I know it will afford him even greater satisfaction that this was so than the laden sideboard. In the future, he will plough back his enthusiasm and expertise through his club, for which, he says, he could do only very little when playing all over the country Sunday after Sunday.

It is typical of the man who so personified fair play and dedicated enthusiasm almost to a fault, that his ambitions for the coming generation are as burning as his were in his own time. He was an ornament that embellished the game of hurling; he brought honour and pride to his county—what more can be said?

# ULSTER FIFTEEN MEETS WITH MIXED REACTION

By SEAMUS McCLUSKEY

ULSTER'S failure to Connacht in last year's Railway Cup football final deprived the northern province of a wonderful chance of going one better than all the others by being the first of the four to win five titles in a row. Ulster had languished for so long at the foot of the Railway Cup ladder in the earlier years of the competition that few would have begrudged them such an honour. Yet nobody will deny that Connacht were the better side in last year's final and the trophy at present rests where it belongs.

The fact that Connacht deprived Ulster of such a golden opportunity adds considerably to the meeting of these two sides at Breffini Park, Cavan, on the first Sunday of the current month (March 3rd).

The team named to do duty against the holders has met with very mixed feelings throughout Ulster. With so many of the famous Down stars gone over the top, it was inevitable that several new faces would make their appearances in the saffron jersey in 1968.

Seamus Hoare of Donegal was a unanimous choice for goalkeeper, although George Eagleson (Antrim) and Seamus McKenna (Monaghan) were also considered. Eagleson received "second preference" in the matter and is listed as substitute goalkeeper. Few can quibble with the full-back line, as Bernard Brady seemed the obvious full-back to front his fellow county man, while Peter Pritchard (Cavan) was one of the province's most consistent performers in the North in the recent National Football League campaign. His county-mate, Gabriel Kelly, has been the

regular choice for the number two jersey for many years. Of late he has lost some of his old élan but I have never yet seen him play a bad game.

It is in the half-back line that the question marks make their appearances and the selection of

Sean McQuillan at right-half caused much surprise in the province, while the centre-half back, Dan McCartan, has not played in this berth for his county for quite some time, and his placing as defence pivot may not be a wise

● To Page 49.



## We wrap safety round those you care for most!

Your family is worth caring for on the road, that means using GOODYEAR, the tyres that have the most vital safety features: The famous wrap-around tread for safer cornering and braking, exclusive to GOODYEAR, improved wet-skid resistance and longer wear, extra mileage.

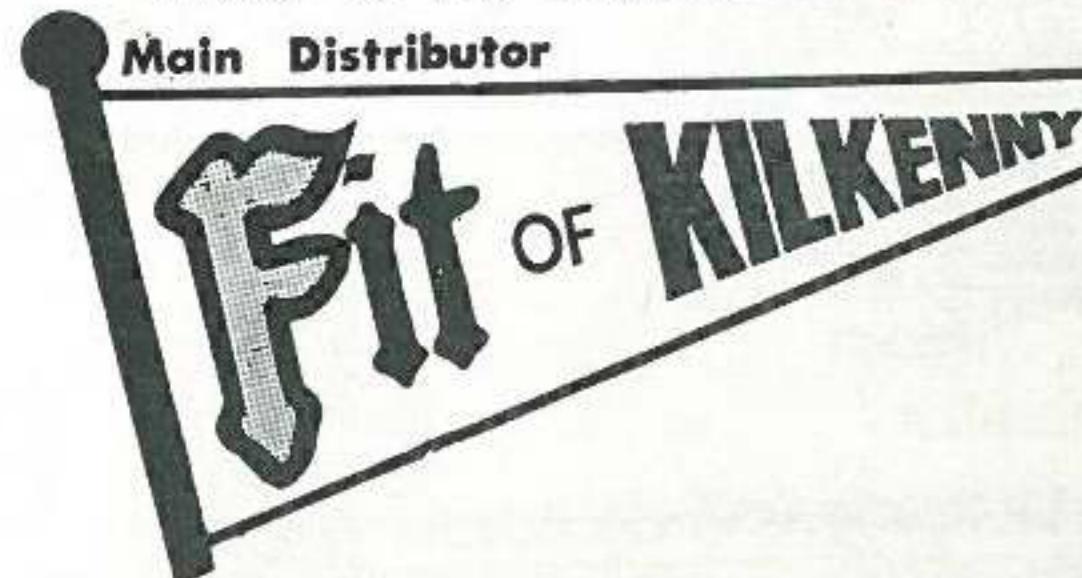
We'll fit GOODYEAR tyres for you—and keep them in good trim by regular checking with the FIT Service, renowned throughout Ireland, the result of expert know-how and ultra-modern equipment. Get the best in safe motoring with GOODYEAR Tyres from any of our depots or appointed dealers.



## GOODYEAR

Made in the Republic of Ireland

Main Distributor



NONE SAFER

When your  
tyres  
are worn  
avail of the

**FIT KILKENNY**  
Remould service

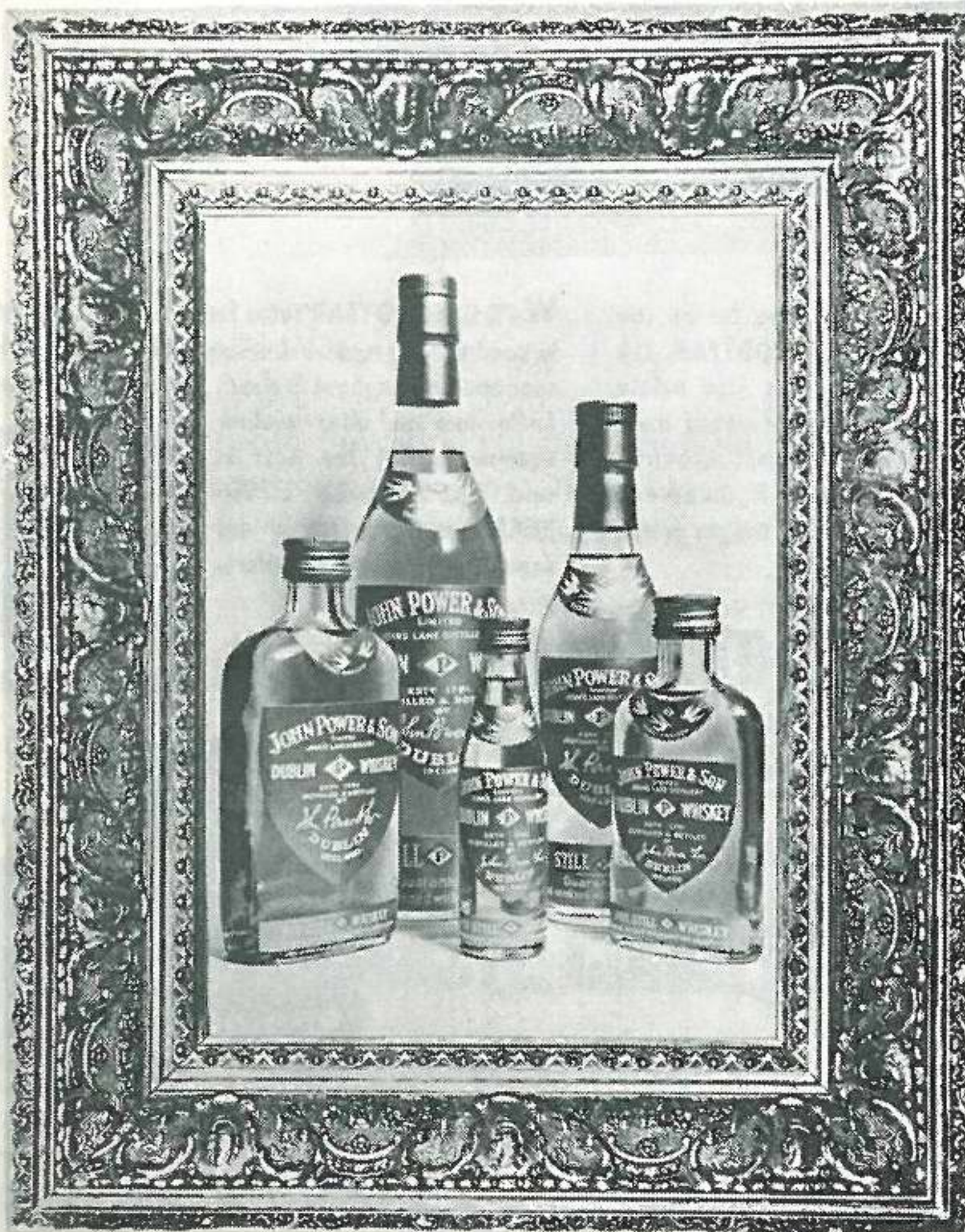
Depots: KILKENNY · DUBLIN · CORK · LIMERICK · GALWAY ·  
LETTERKENNY · ATHLONE · DUNDALK · TRALEE · SLIGO · BELFAST

Specify and insist on **GOODYEAR** tyres every time



If you have a goal in life, you will find that sound finance is the first essential. Start now, by opening a Savings Account with the ULSTER BANK—and see your capital grow, with added interest. Another point—when you need capital, to build a house or to build up your business, you'll find the ULSTER BANK Personal Loan Plan a welcome backing.

**Life is better with the  
Ulster Bank behind you!**



### **A fine old Irish family**

Gold Label is the oldest, best loved family in Ireland. And with good cause. Gold Label is a subtle blend of several vintages of the same fine whiskey ranging from seven to fifteen years old. It has the lightness of youth and the smoothness of age and every member, from the famous baby to the fully grown bottle, has the same noble character. Gold Label comes in five sizes—bottles, half bottles, half pints, naggins and babies. All are bottled and sealed with scrupulous care by Powers themselves to ensure that every member of the family is worthy of the famous name it bears. There is a bottle to suit all needs at a price to suit all pockets.

## **POWERS GOLD LABEL**

DISTILLED BY JOHN POWER AND SON LIMITED AND  
BOTTLED BY THE DISTILLERY

# THRILLS ON THE WAY

By JAY DRENNAN

THE spread of equality in football has been the main cause of its greater popularity in the country as a spectator sport. Those who see hurling acknowledge that it is a more exciting experience; but, it is football which draws the bigger crowds, and this is helped by the fact that the pairings are seldom the same in the finals and semi-finals, or the provincial deciders.

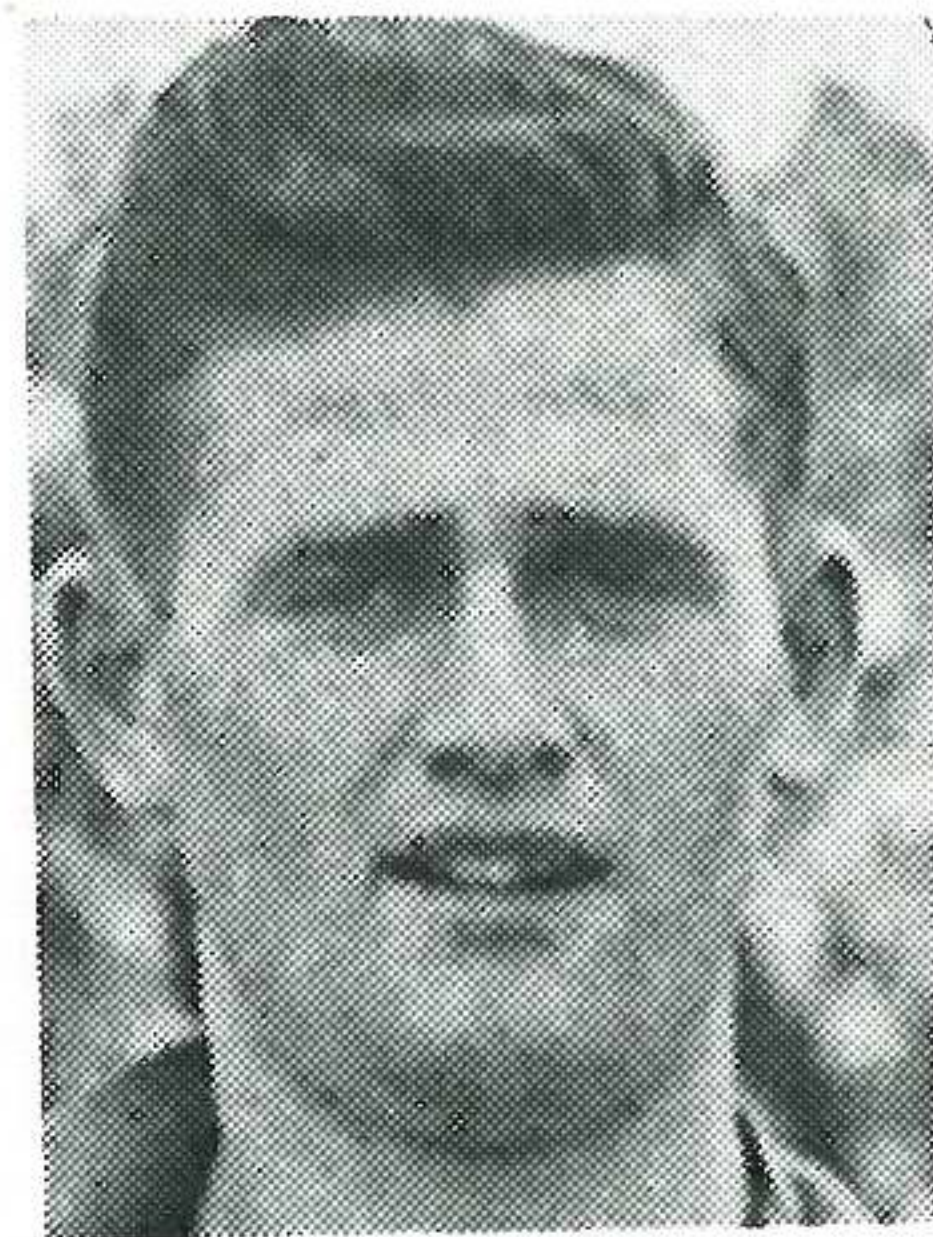
The equality which now exists has not been the doing of a year or a few years, and there was a time when Connacht and Ulster had never won an All-Ireland — some forty and thirty years ago, respectively. The power then rested in Leinster and Munster, and pre-eminently in Kerry, of course. The picture to-day is very different, with an even spread of titles over the provinces, and the majority of titles in the sixties going to Connacht, with Ulster equalling Leinster, and Munster bringing up the rear.

On recent form, indeed, there are few, even of their most devoted followers, who could sanguinely hope that Kerry will capture

another title for some time to come. And, whether we like it or not, the absence of Kerry from the top games deprives the game of something of that special glamour which the green-and-gold jerseys seemed to lend the occasion.

In possession, at the moment, stand the Meathmen, a team which has well earned, through a number of hard-working years, the pennant of champions. The question remains, in view of some of the holes in their formation which the Australians and Cavan have exploited, whether they are good enough to retain that title. Like all teams in that province, the dangers of being toppled in Leinster are as pressing as the dangers of losing in the All-Ireland series.

It will be remembered that Offaly were within an ace of capturing the Leinster crown last year; but for a spirited rally when the tide was running fast against them, Meath might never have been in the All-Ireland series at all. It will be very interesting, then, to find whether Offaly have retained their form, and whether they will be able to produce again the same brand



*Paddy McCormack, one of the veterans of an Offaly team whose chances of succeeding Meath as Leinster Senior football champions are rated highly this year.*

of penetrative and strong football which they showed last summer. If they do, it will be hard to ignore them for the Leinster crown.

Longford, it is encouraging to hear, have settled down to play almost as well as ever after their domestic crisis; they were a very useful and polished team last summer, and a renewal of that form will entitle them to serious rating. Something has been missing in their championship form by comparison with the League performance which gave them their first major honour. But, the drive and enthusiasm of that effort must still be within their compass, and now that they are nearing a maturity which will enable them to produce regular steady levels of form rather than ups and downs, they should be in a position of "now or never." They will be dangerous, without doubt.

Kildare were a disappointment to their followers in 1967, never quite showing the promise that great strength in under-21 competition had suggested. Apart from

● TO PAGE 46

● FROM PAGE 45

Jack Donnelly, who blossomed into a very fine midfielder in the championship, their players have not been able to recapture the form they promised earlier. Of course, this may be a combination of immaturity and the failure of some players, at least, to reproduce their form in the rarified atmosphere of the senior championship. They have been unable to satisfy themselves, also, about the positions in which a couple of men may best serve them. A steady combination playing together over a period of time may be the answer to their problems; it may bring out the teamwork which could develop their potential.

Westmeath and Wicklow were, probably, the teams of the year in the province, after Meath. The improvement in Wicklow's standard was quite exceptional, and a sound beating at the hands of Meath will not deter them, surely, from recapturing or improving on

that form. Dublin continue to disappoint, never having recovered from the defeat by Galway in the League final. Their display against Down recently was reminiscent of a team utterly without spirit. They seem to have lost confidence completely.

Louth had a disastrous early exit from the championship; but a more earnest preparation will, they hope, bring back old glory. The players, however, may be just short of the real quality needed for success. Carlow, Wexford and Laois still skirmish round the fringes of the big-time, and Laois's abundance of good minors over the last few seasons have not yet made a significant impression in the senior ranks. Kilkenny, of course, still qualifies for description as "football revival" territory.

Munster, at present, is the weakest province. In spite of thrusts in recent times by Limerick, and promise by Clare, and in spite of Tipperary's victory over

Dublin in the Bloody Sunday commemoration, the issue lies, only too clearly between Kerry and Cork. And recent form — the League game in Kerry territory is uppermost in mind — would indicate that Cork have a grip in the south for the moment.

Connacht, on the other hand, provides a thrilling prospect. See what has been happening in the province recently: Mayo, the champions and now proven in their quality, fell to Sligo in a tournament, and to Galway in the League. The margin of their win over Roscommon recently was such as to suggest that here, too, there are live prospects for next year's crown.

Such cross-currents of form would suggest a great struggle in the West, though tradition, and the relative ease with which the successful gain success, as opposed to the fierce struggle which it is for the unsuccessful, would suggest that it lies between the old firm — with a shade of odds on Galway once more, for they have been drafting in good replacements, while their proven men stand proven still.

Ulster, so level last year, would seem again to be balancing slightly in favour of Cavan, though the Derry victory over them in the League is significant, I am sure. Down are rebuilding, and doing a good job of it. Have Donegal lost their chance? For much the same reason as in Connacht — success follows the flag — Cavan look likely winners again.

Meath or Offaly in Leinster, Cork from Munster, Cavan from Ulster, Galway or Mayo from Connacht. It may look like a familiar pattern, but what a lot of question-marks lie behind all those choices! What a plethora of thrills on the way!

And how many of the chosen will be fallers? — the glorious uncertainty that means so much to football just now, and which is so sadly lacking in hurling.

try the

“HERN”

swinging weight hurleys  
manufactured from the best  
quality ash

Q.: What is meant by the term “swinging weight”?

A.: Swinging weight is the precise matching of handle and ‘boss’ or head of hurley to obtain a pre-determined balance point which registers on the swing weight scales.

CHIEF ADVANTAGES OF SWING WEIGHT:—

- (1) A correctly balanced hurley
- (2) Quick exact replacement on playing field or from shop.

Available from all Sports Shops.

Sole Distributors: HERN LTD., 6/7 French Church Street, Cork.



## YOUNG . . .

### ● FROM PAGE 5

What the rule will do in the years ahead, if we keep it, is this: it will cut off from the G.A.A. a stream of energetic and intelligent people who will find expression in other associations, not necessarily sporting at all.

To stay in front we must have the best leadership. How can we be sure of getting this when we are turning away so many? To say that the G.A.A. is open to all is not true for so many are automatically barred because of a game they started to play by accident of birth, just as I played G.A.A. games by accident.

We revere the past and find inspiration in it, but we mustn't become its prisoner. We mustn't pull up the roots and stick them in glass cases for public reverence. In this way the tree will die. Rather must we build in the present for the future and work to attract the people of Ireland by our bright affirmative outlook and not to turn them away. Remember that Pearse broke with the past and the present that represented it. Great men take the present and change it.

We must make the people like us, not, of course, by hypocritical smiles but by showing them that we mean to make this Association a great community effort where each man and woman may find expression of his mental and physical energy as well as the emotional outlet which ensures he lives life to the full.

I see the G.A.A. riding proudly along its road of destiny if it continues to hold the affection of the people of Ireland. Remember, it was in this affection we found our real strength. God grant that wise men may direct us in the holding of it. Then I'll have no fear for the future of the people and their games, in either town or city.

## RAILWAY CUP . . .

### ● FROM PAGE 11

(Clare), regained the title for the South. The Kingdom had only two representatives in the

actual line-out against Munster at An Uaimh late last month.

Connacht's only win in 1947 makes Galway the only county to provide the entire selection in a hurling final winning team.



Take care of the gin  
and your friends  
will take care  
of themselves

**C·D·C**

FINEST  
**Cork  
Dry Gin**

20 PROOF  
DISTILLED FROM GRAIN

DISTILLED AND BOTTLED BY  
CORK DISTILLERIES CO. LTD  
CORK IRELAND

*Where good taste prevails*

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a bottle of C.D.C. Cork Dry Gin and two glasses filled with gin. The bottle is on the right, with a label that includes the brand name 'C·D·C', 'FINEST Cork Dry Gin', '20 PROOF DISTILLED FROM GRAIN', and 'DISTILLED AND BOTTLED BY CORK DISTILLERIES CO. LTD CORK IRELAND'. Below the main label is a smaller tagline: 'Where good taste prevails'. To the left of the bottle are two glasses, one in front of the other, both containing a clear liquid. The background is a simple, light-colored surface.

# WHITHER HURLING?

THE symposium "Whither Hurling" at Colaiste Mhuire recently raised some pertinent points and produced a few suggestions with which all hurling lovers are not likely to agree.

To those of us used to the pleas of football enthusiasts for a little more attention and consideration for that Code the suggestion that the G.A.A. is a football association will not cut much ice.

The G.A.A. was formed with the avowed object of "bringing the hurling back to Ireland" and whilst I am not satisfied with the progress made in this regard, still I feel that the revival efforts initiated a few years ago are having an effect and the hurling influence is spreading.

I feel it was a disastrous day for athletics when the G.A.A. surrendered control, and anybody who thinks hurling would be less vulnerable is just not being realistic.

Whatever its shortcomings, the Gaelic Athletic Association is a truly national body, pledged to uphold the best traditions of our race, and I know of no other body that can point to clubs in practically every parish throughout the thirty-two counties of Ireland, and in other lands where ever Irishmen have made a home.

No other organisation no matter how praiseworthy its objects could possibly build an edifice of this nature—and I for one would like to hear how better

to penetrate the non-hurling areas than through the machinery of the G.A.A. I think I will not be alone in asserting that there is no other way.

I do not claim to be an authority on the social history of Ireland in the eighteenth century but I know enough about the times to dismiss out of hand the suggestion that the landlords could by any stretch of the imagination do more for the propagation of hurling than a movement as representative of the plain people of Ireland as the G.A.A. undoubtedly is.

I know how my grand-parents suffered at the hands of cruel landlords and I know how opposed these people were to anything national or racy of the soil. That, at least, came natural to them, for they were English Planters in the main who got their lands as a result of confiscation and plunder. They were lords and masters, the plain people their slaves with no such thing as rights.

I have always felt that the G.A.A. was born out of the death of landlordism and I believe that as an organisation it played a major part in helping to restore their self-respect to countless thousands of Irish youth. It gave them the support and encouragement to both think and act independently and was a leading instrument in developing the temperament that meant so much

## Séamus Ó Ceallaigh comments on Colaiste Mhuire Symposium

to Ireland in the hectic years of the struggle for national freedom.

The exigencies of that struggle and the opposition, violent at times, of those pledged to resist national ideals prevented the Association giving its undivided attention to the spread of hurling.

The game had to be consolidated first in its natural strongholds and this took many years of patient work. All kinds of prejudices had to be broken down and some of the remnants of the landlord class dubbed it "the cricket of savages".

The next important work the G.A.A. had to tackle was the purchase and equipping of playing fields. Many of us remember the time when the Association had hardly a field to its name. Within a span of two score years astounding progress was made until now the ideal of a gaelic field in every parish looks a practical proposition.

A few years ago the Association felt the time was ripe for a big hurling revival effort and I am satisfied they tackled the problem in the only practical way. They decided to build on solid foundations and set 1969 as a year when sufficient progress would be made to ensure a thirty-two county participation in an under eighteen competition. Indications are that this will be accomplished.

Already very valuable new

● To page 51.

● From Page 43.

move. The ever-fit, evergreen Joe Lennon was, undoubtedly, the obvious man to fill the number seven jersey.

Fermanagh supporters are indignant that Mick Brewster did not get a place at centrefield or in the half forward line and, frankly, it is very surprising that he has not even been included in the substitutes. Ray Carolan was an automatic midfield selection, but his partner, Seamus Taggart, if he had to be picked, might have been better employed as leader of the attack.

The wisdom of giving the number eleven spot to the youthful Colm McAlarney is questionable. This great young player from the parish of Leitrim is one of the most promising in the province, but it is rather early to shove so much responsibility on his youthful shoulders. Such a mistake was made last year when this responsibility was placed on Taggart and did not prove successful.

McAlarney's wingmen, Mickey Niblock and Nially Gallagher, are also surprise selections, and the real punch in the attack would appear to come from the

front line, where "oldtimers" Sean O'Connell, Sean O'Neill and Charlie Gallagher should have enough guile and experience to give Ulster plenty of scores. With so much youth in the half forward line, and so much "age" in the front line, the Ulster attack seems a bit lop-sided, and northerners are only hopeful that such a "gimmick" will pay off.

Strange as it may seem, Breffni Park has not been a very happy, or lucky, ground for Ulster football teams in the past and very few home wins have been recorded there. The first-ever Railway Cup football semi-final was played there on November 14, 1926, when Ulster lost to Munster (3-1 to 1-8) in the 1927 competition. In February, 1929, they again lost in the semi-final stage at this venue — this time to Leinster (1-2 to 2-3). Third time proved lucky, however and, on March 1, 1936, Ulster beat Leinster, 1-7 to 1-5, on the Breffni sod.

Two years later, defeat was again Ulster's lot (Connacht 2-8, Ulster 0-3 at Cavan on February 13, 1938), but this was balanced in 1941 with a 1-9 to 2-5 victory over Leinster. The next semi-

finals were staged here in 1946 and 1955, Ulster failing to Leinster opposition on both occasions. 1958 again brought defeat at Cavan—this time by Munster.

With such a dismal record at Breffni Park, and with a rather questionable selection to do duty, an Ulster victory is far from certain, but the memory of that defeat in last year's final should do a lot to spur the northern men on to a super effort.

For best  
selection of all  
**Sports Gear**



come to

**Elverys**



Weatherwear too!

Dublin: 2 Lr. Abbey St.  
34 Nassau St.

Cork: 78 Patrick St.

*the choice of champions*

**JayToR**

**SPORTS SHORTS AND SUPPORTS**

Obtainable From Your Local Sports Outfitters

Manufactured by

**J. T. RUSSELL & Co. Ltd.**

PAUL STREET WORKS, CORK

PHONE : 22447

For all good sports . . .



open up the game  
with the world's freshest,  
truest orange

**CLUB ORANGE**

by  of course!

Ready for a good game!  
not unless your boots have

**EL-JAY LACES**

COTTON  
in  
natural and  
colours.

NYLON  
in  
White.

The **BRAIDS Ltd. Group**

for

LACES, ELASTICS, TAPES, WEBS, etc.  
ZIP FASTENER MANUFACTURERS

ENNIS 21109.

DUBLIN 771186.

Phone



45131

**WYNN'S HOTEL**

*Dublin's Most  
Central Hotel*

For quick service in both Lounge  
and Restaurant

RESTAURANT OPEN AT  
12 NOON FOR  
IMPORTANT MATCHES

## READER'S VIEW

MR. P. J. THOMPSON, of 62 Durham Street, Belfast 12, has sent us the following letter in connection with the article on Fermanagh, which appeared in our January issue:

Sir,—I was delighted to see your story on Fermanagh. But I was shocked, and even disgusted, when I came near the end.

You are perfectly right in saying that many Fermanagh footballers were denied recognition by the Ulster selectors, but P. T. Treacy was not the first Fermanagh man to get a Railway Cup medal. Kevin Screenan was a sub. on the Ulster team that won the Cup in 1956.

Seán McGrath is not the first Fermanagh man to win a Sigerson medal either. Mick Brewster and John O'Neill played for Queen's University when they won the competition in 1958 (after a replay, I think). Eamonn Flanagan played for Queen's in 1964 when they again won and I think a boy called Doherty from Belleek also was on that team.

I might be wrong, but I also think that John Maguire, like McGrath from Ederney, played for U.C.D. when they won the Sigerson Cup about 1950 or 1951.

Your story also says that Malachy Mahon was the first Fermanagh referee to referee inter-county games. This also is wrong. Johnny Monaghan, who is mentioned earlier, was a noted county referee long before Malachy Mahon was even considered for club games. I think also that Tommy Durnin refereed county games.

I was glad to see my native Fermanagh getting a mention in your book, but disappointed that the facts were not right.

## WHITHER HURLING

(from page 48)

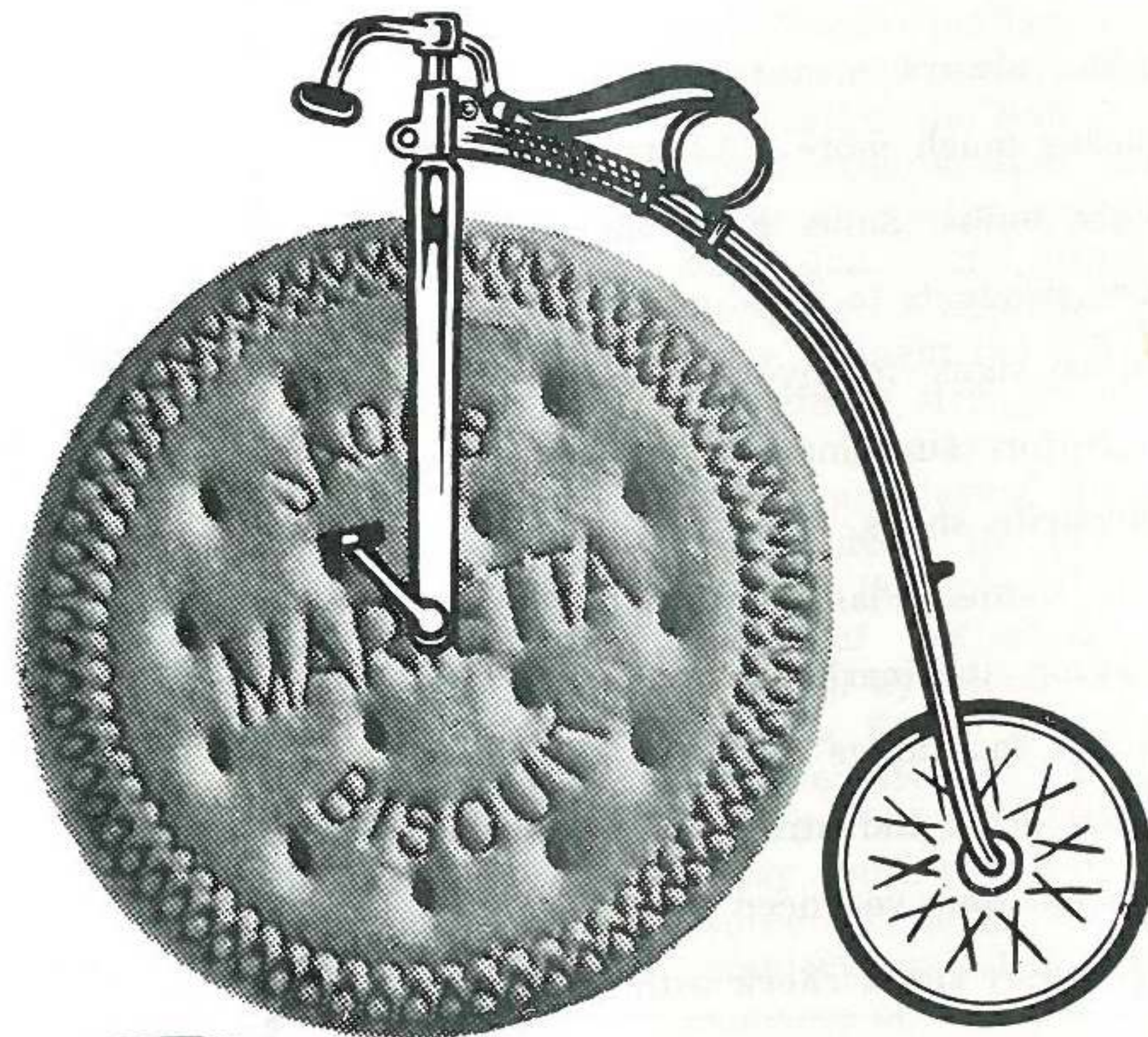
ground has been broken and names have appeared in hurling records that were unthought of not very many years ago.

Progress has been good but I think it would be even better—spectacularly so—if the “life” of the hurley could be prolonged. We must face the fact that hurling is the most expensive of all field games to play, mainly because hurleys break so easily. Could a caman be produced that would be virtually unbreakable it would be cheap at even three times its present cost and would attract many more devotees to the game. This is a problem which I think is not beyond solving.

Hurling too is essentially a summer game and I would like to see inter county activities at

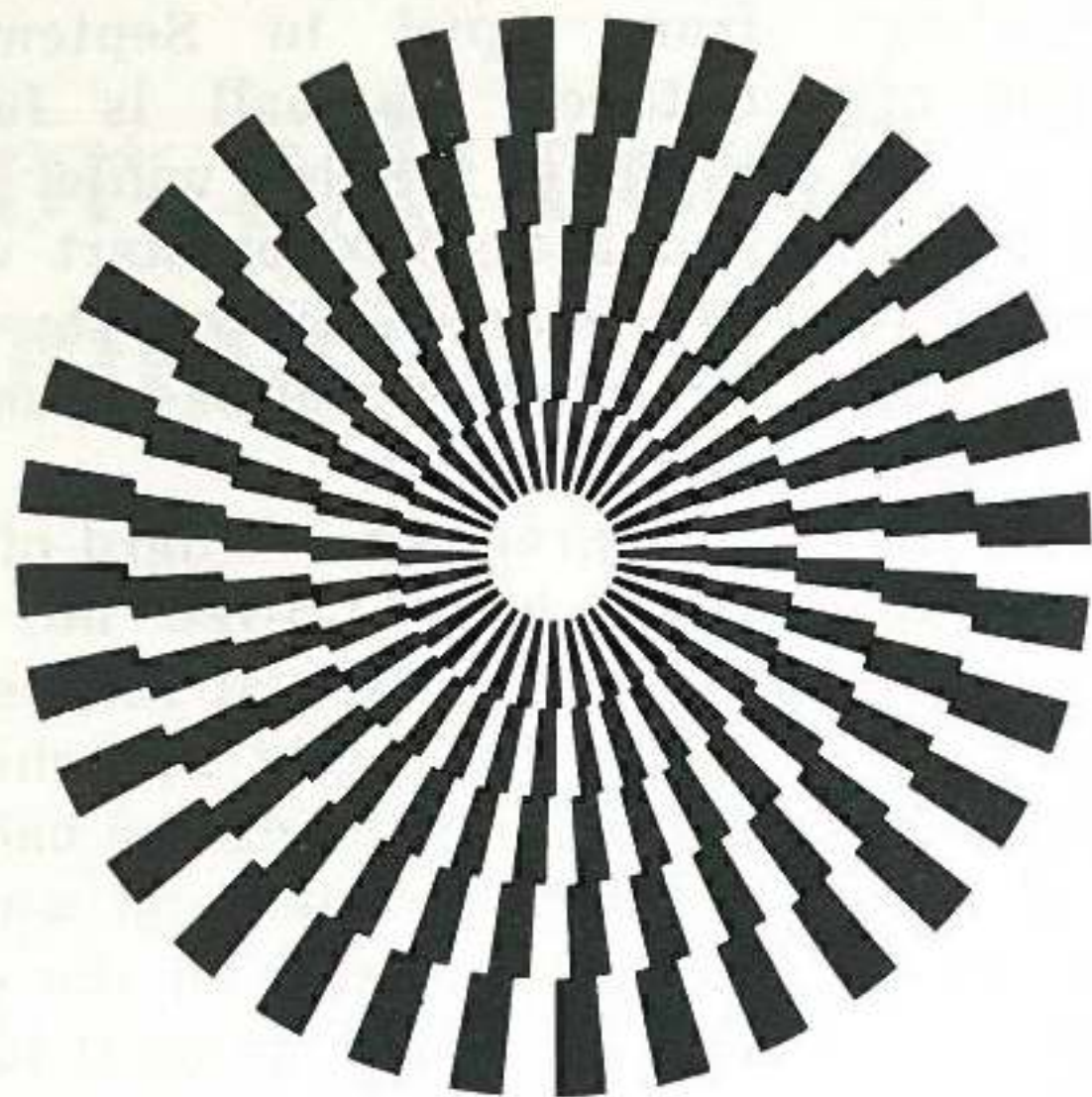
any rate confined to the months from April to September or October. Football is far more suitable to the winter months and a September start with the All-Ireland final on say St. Patrick's Day would be a much better arrangement.

I agree the standard of hurling could be improved but I don't think professional coaches would help. This might be achieved by cutting out lifting the ball off the ground into the hand which only slows the game. In the old days it was nothing unusual to see the ball travel the whole length of the field without touching the ground or without being handled. More whipping on the ball and less stopping could improve the attractiveness of the game to both player and spectator.



 **Jacob's** success cycle

The wheels of progress have brought Jacobs a long way from the Penny-Farthing days. The greatest ingredient for success is consumer satisfaction.



**FROM BULBS  
SOLUS HAVE BLOSSOMED  
INTO A BLAZE  
OF EXCITING COLOUR**

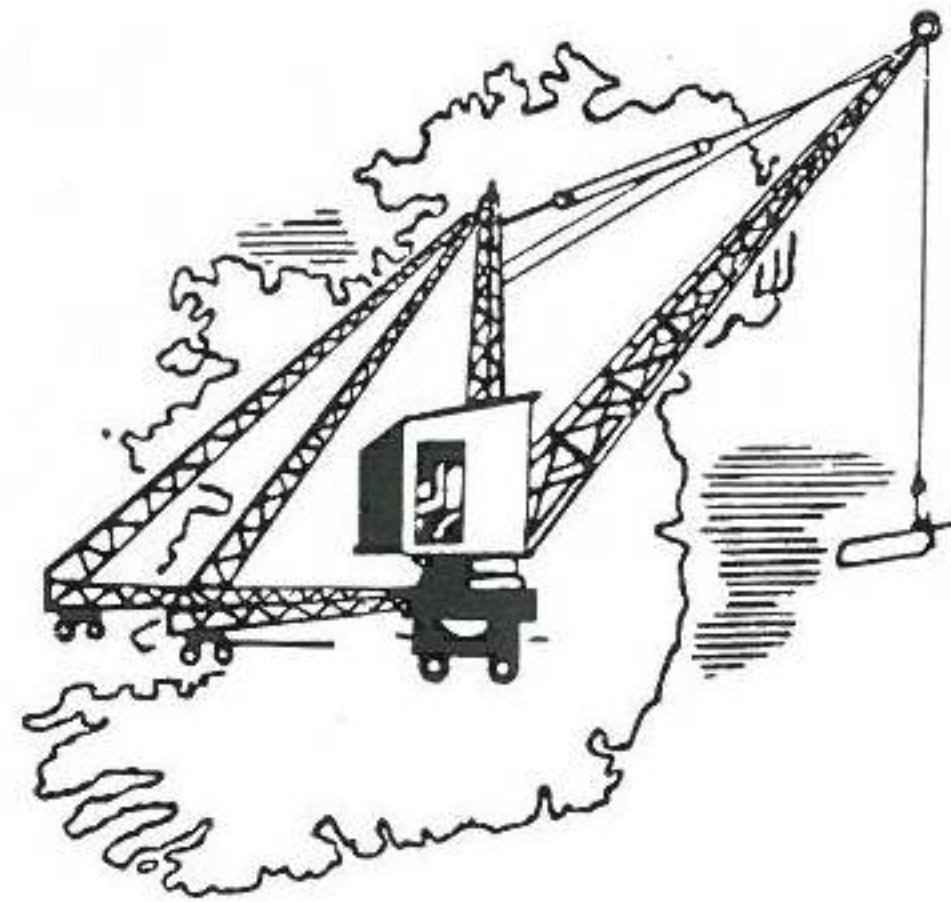
Solus always meant light—but now it means much more. As well as electric light bulbs, Solus have added exciting new products to their range.

Solus signs in lively glowing colours sell for supermarkets, identify your favourite shops.

The Solus Plastics Division, too, is making its mark, producing precision plastic mouldings for the telephone and many other industries.

So next time you need plastic mouldings or display signs, check with Solus before you buy.

**SOLUS TEO**  
CORKE ABBEY · BRAY · CO. DUBLIN TEL: 862984



**DUBLIN  
ERECTION Co. Ltd.**  
18 RICHMOND AVENUE  
FAIRVIEW, DUBLIN 3

PHONE 373617/8

**Steel Fabrication and  
Erection**

**All Types of Roof Sheeting  
Erection of Cranes  
Overhead Gantry  
Scotch Derrick Cranes  
Dockside Cranes**

**Structural Steelwork and Mechanical Plant  
Erection for E.S.B. Generating Stations.**

ALL TYPES OF ERECTION EQUIPMENT  
AVAILABLE FOR HIRE, LORRY MOUNTED  
CRANES UP TO 30 TONS LIFTING  
CAPACITY, JIB LENGTHS 140 FT.

WINCHES; DERRICKS; BLOCKS; DIESEL  
AND MOTOR GENERATOR WELDING  
PLANTS.

# YOU SAID IT!

## Win a prize

**R**eaders of both sexes are asked to restrain themselves before grabbing their pens to reply to this month's question, which is: "IS CAMOGIE A BECOMING GAME FOR GIRLS?"

As usual, there is a first prize of ONE GUINEA for the best letter received. Additional prizes of half a guinea each may be awarded for entries considered by the

adjudicators to be worthy of publication.

Letters should not be longer than 350 words and written on one side of the paper ONLY.

Address entries to: "You Said It", Gaelic Sport, 114 Upper Leeson St., Dublin 4.

Closing date is Saturday, March 9. The winning letter, or letters, will be published in our April issue.

## Ban must stay

**P**ERHAPS the subject was spun out at the county conventions; perhaps people are just plain tired of controversy about Rule 27. Whatever the reason, the response to our question "Should the G.A.A. Retain the Ban" in our February "You Said It" competition was not as heavy as we had anticipated.

But it was by no means sparse and there were several excellent entries in for and against the Rule.

By unanimous choice of the adjudicators, the first prize of ONE GUINEA goes to **Seamus O'Driscoll, Banteer, Co. Cork**, who makes a very telling case in favour of retention. (He is just a shade too long; but it is worth it!). Seamus writes:

"By an accident of history games in this country cannot be dissociated from their social backgrounds. In addition to its association with the ascendancy and alien rulers of our land, Rugby Football has to carry, in

this country, the still more unfortunate burden of a snob-value derived from purely English origins, which burden was further aggravated by the fact that its architects were the social climbers and emerging better-off class in our society at a time when there was a re-awakening of the people's interest in our Gaelic heritage.

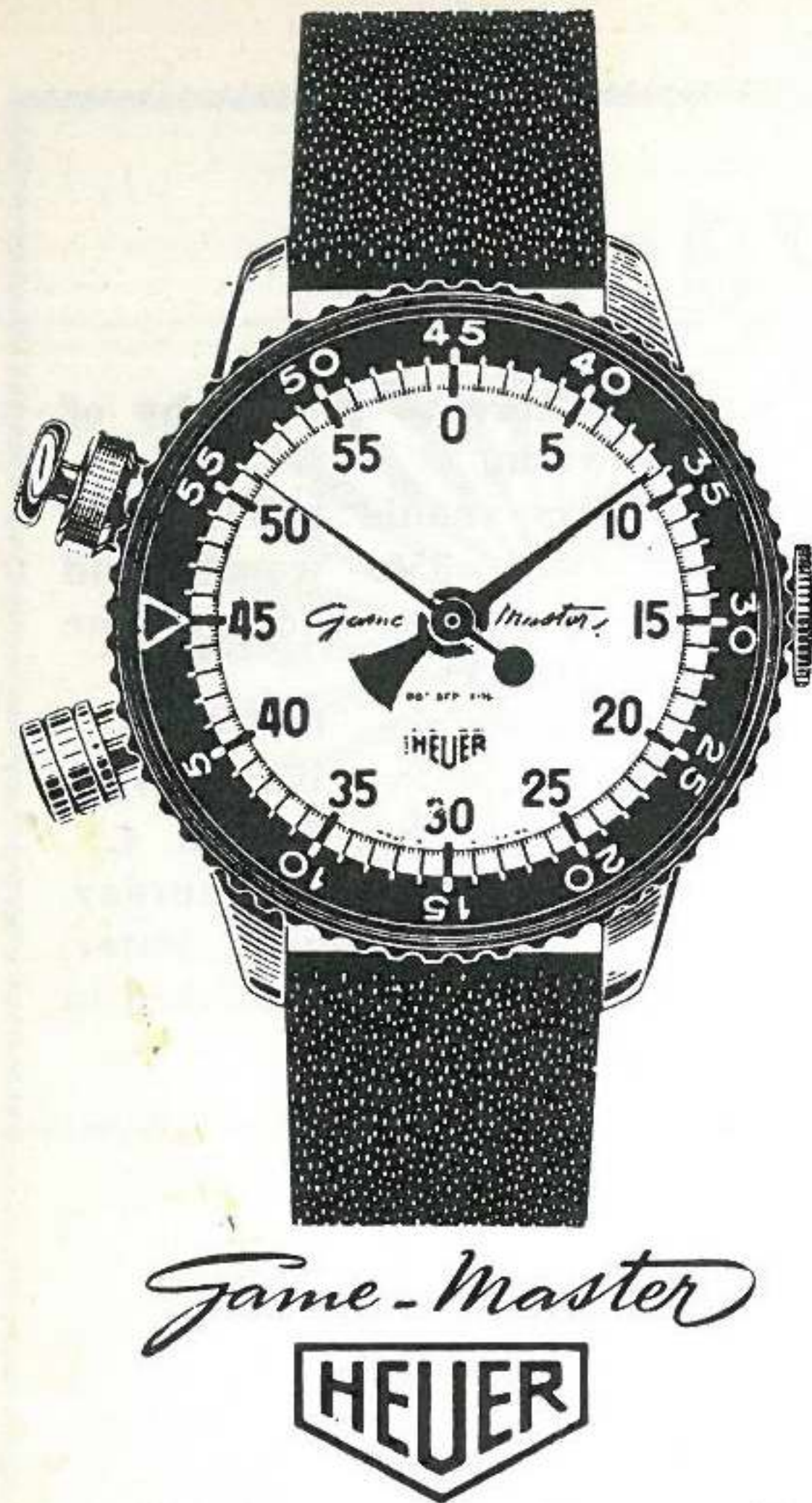
On the G.A.A.'s inauguration the issue of national games versus English games was joined as part of the struggle to assert our independence and racial distinctiveness. More than fifty years later the idea that "Rugby is a bowsies' game played by gentlemen, whereas Gaelic football is a bowsies' game played by bowsies" still has currency in our more expensive boarding schools. English officials still have authority over some of our people. To an extent, the conditions which confronted the infant G.A.A. at the end of the nineteenth century are still with us. On both

social and political grounds there is still reason, therefore, to maintain the Ban.

Political significance, inherent worth as games and a social dimension of incalculable worth, viz., absence of snob value, brought the G.A.A. from strength to strength up to the proud position of to-day. Sneers are losing their effect and suddenly the G.A.A. finds itself in the role of villain accused of ostracising fellow Irishmen by people who never lifted a finger to help when help was needed.

The very strength of the G.A.A. to-day could prove its greatest source of danger—danger of complacency within its ranks, evidence of which is the number of its members who think they are being broadminded when they plead for the removal of the Ban. There can be no end to the struggle for supremacy in sport in this nation of four and a half mil-

● To page 55.



## REFEREE'S responsibility

The players are fighting fiercely to win, the teams, the crowds around the field are like a surging, over-excited mob . . . But YOU, the Referee, must keep cool and be able to take instantly and unhesitatingly the right decision. Nothing must escape you. Your undivided attention must be devoted to the game.

Here at last is the stop-watch which makes it possible for you to concentrate fully on the game—

THE HEUER  
GAME-MASTER



Available from all leading jewellers.

PATRICK MONAHAN & CO. LTD.

THERE IS NO BETTER FOOD THAN  
*Pasteur Cream or  
Pasteur Cream-Cheese*

*They contain the vitamins necessary for  
FITNESS AND VITALITY  
and are SUPREME BODYBUILDERS*

\* Your Local Grocer can supply you \*

**THE PASTEUR DAIRY**

Depot :

19 PEMBROKE LANE, BALLSBRIDGE  
DUBLIN Phone 680222

# CISTE NA BANBAN TEO

We Have Already Paid Out  
£250,000  
To Participating Clubs.

Our New Bonus Scheme will greatly increase  
your club's income from our Pools.

Does your club promote CISTE

If not, why not contact us to-day at :

34 PLÁS PARNELL, CORCAIGH,  
Fon : Corcaigh 23174/5/6

or at

32 SIÚL NA mBAITSILÉIR,  
BLÁ CLIATH.

Fon : 47023



● From page 53.

lion people. The attraction of international competition and the glamour surrounding it because of publicity through Press and Television present the G.A.A. with a challenge greater perhaps than the challenge it faced on its founding.

Retaining the Ban restores a little equilibrium to the uneven contest of 'native' versus international games.

Finally, in smaller centres where Rugby might possibly claim some promoters and adherents, the Ban prevents the teaching of two or three players who could make all the difference between survival or decline of a G.A.A. club. A Rugby club does not cherish all the children of a community equally but the financial backing it could count on would ensure survival.

At local level then, the Ban has a practical value which cannot be ignored."

The following letter is awarded a special prize of half a guinea—for a reason which will be obvious if you read on to the end. The letter comes from **Thomas Kemmy, Garbally, Birr, Co. Offaly**, and it says:

"No, I feel the Ban should not be retained. The G.A.A. could do well without it. I hope the Ban goes very soon. A lot of people seem to think that the G.A.A. could not stand up on its own feet without the Ban.

"Here I disagree most. There would be as many men playing Gaelic as there would be playing soccer or Rugby. I think it would be very good if the G.A.A. allowed its members to attend prohibited games, and so I think the Ban should go.

P.S.—I am sorry for such a short letter. But I am only nine years. But I hope to win."

You DIDN'T HOPE IN VAIN,  
Thomas (Ed.).

# BERNIE HARTIGAN

—TALENTED ALL-ROUNDER

By SEAN MURPHY

**B**ERNIE HARTIGAN the towering Limerick midfielder, whose daring solo runs in recent years have many people talking in terms of another Mick Mackey, must surely rank as Ireland's most versatile athlete for as well as his prowess on the hurling and football scene he has shown exceptional all round talent in the athletic arena.

Bernie, now aged 25, who works as a clerk with Aer Lingus at Shannon Airport, is a native of Donoghmore, a parish some three miles from Limerick. He is nephew of Paddy Hartigan (R.I.P.) rated one of the best-ever hurlers in Limerick. Bernie first came into prominence with famed South Liberties in 1958 when they won the County juvenile hurling championship with a team reckoned to be the greatest side to win this crown, and two years later, in 1960, added the minor title to their list. He won a Corn na Mumhain Munster Colleges senior football medal with Limerick C.B.S. in 1960 but missed the coveted double when a star-studded Limerick side failed to North Monastery in the Dr. Harty Cup final. He transferred to Old Christians in 1962 and was a member of the team that made history by winning the Limerick county senior football championship at their initial attempt.

Bernie Hartigan has the unique distinction of having represented and football. Mid-field is his favourite position in both codes but he admits his best game of football was at left-half back in that historic 1965 Munster final

against Kerry when he completely outshone the Kingdom's ace forward Bernie O'Callaghan.

He is a dedicated player for apart from playing an average of three games per week during the peak season he rarely misses a training session with his club-mates.

Turning to athletics we discover an amazing list of honours credited to Hartigan which would no doubt have been more impressive had he not decided to make Gaelic games his first choice. He has won Irish championship medals for the shot, discus, javelin and hammer and in 1962 gave further evidence of versatility when winning the Limerick senior decathlon—a gruelling 10-event athletic test.

He still holds the record for the shot and discus events. He represented Ireland in the Catholic Student Games and in 1966 won four Limerick senior championships after having helped his club—Old Christians—defeat Athea in the County senior football championship earlier in the afternoon.

Bernie is a non-drinker and non-smoker—surely the key to his peak fitness and a shining example to all young athletes with aspirations to reach the pinnacle of their chosen sport.

## HELD OVER

The second part of Seamus Ó Ceallaigh's article on the history of the Dr. Harty Cup has been held over until our May issue.

● FROM PAGE 27

When proposed changes in the National League groups were announced last year, it was hoped that the newer system would facilitate clashes between counties which rarely met before. But, to the dismay of southern enthusiasts, Cork found themselves confined to an all-Munster section of the league, a situation which was even worse than their previous position.

And so, the prospects of non-Munster teams visiting Cork in the near future remain very remote. Other counties are faced with the same problem. Tournament and challenge games may be arranged between teams from different provinces, but the competitive aspect is missing from these. The ideal solution would find counties like Cork, Tyrone, Dublin and Mayo clashing before the eyes of their own followers in

important league games. This would give Tyrone supporters the chance of seeing the Cork footballers in action and vice-versa. People tire of the same faces year after year and players have very little to learn from the same opponents when they meet season after season. An arrangement whereby a county's league opponents would vary each year would seem to be the ideal answer to the problem.

At any rate, few counties can express full satisfaction at the present National League set up. It is good to see teams like Meath and Down competing against each other in the League, but it would be infinitely better if other counties could enjoy the same variety. Let's hope changes will be made in that direction in the near future, and then perhaps Cork followers will see much more of the All-Ireland champions at the Athletic Grounds.

The  
special gift  
for that  
special  
someone

Colibri

Lighters of Superb Design—Superb Action and they're made in Ireland. Available from leading Stores, Tobacconists and Jewellers.

# BUNTÚS

'Bhfuil an leabhrán ag do chomharsa (bíodh sé óg nó sean) don tsraith nua atá i mbéal na ndaoine, ar an raidió, ar an telefís?

Tá Uimhir I agus II ar díol, 1/- an ceann, nó díreach ón Oifig Dhíolta Foilseachán Rialtais, An Stuara, Baile Átha Cliath, 1, ar 1/6 (postas san áireamh).

GAEILGE SHIMPLÍ

Níor chóir d'aon teaghlach Gaelach bheith gan chóip.

Ceirníní agus téipeanna ar díol freisin.

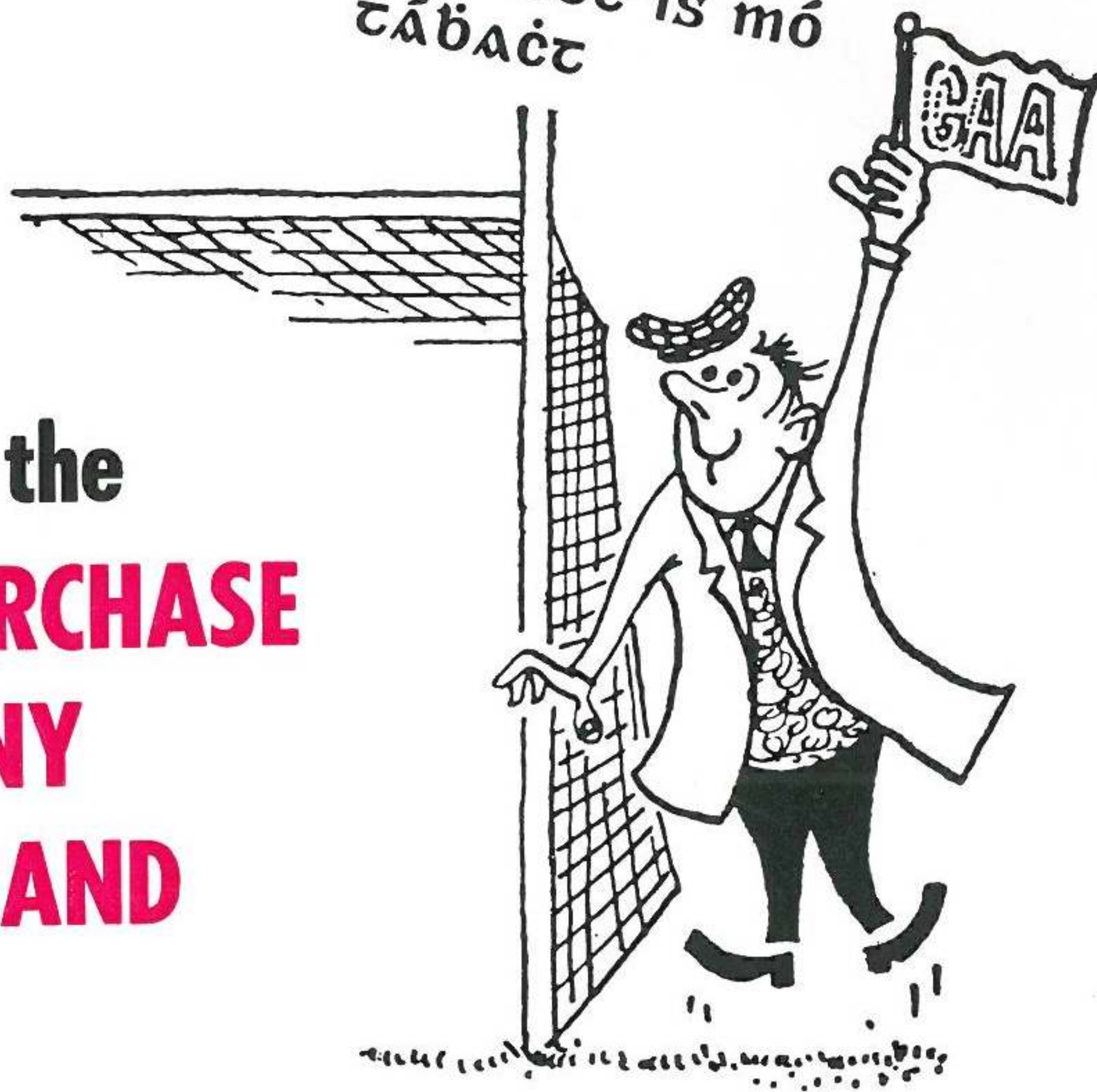
# CAINTE

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

● From Page 37.

|    |   |    |    |   |    |    |   |    |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |   |
|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|---|
| 1  | P | A  | D  | 2 | D  | Y  | 3 | O  | B  | R | 4  | E | 5  | N  |    |   |
|    | R |    |    |   | O  |    |   | L  |    |   | R  | 6 | O  | 7  | R  |   |
| 8  | I | N  | K  | Y | F  | L  | A | 9  | H  | E | R  | T | Y  |    |    |   |
|    | T |    |    |   | L  |    |   | I  |    |   | A  |   |    | E  | A  |   |
|    | C |    | 10 | A | E  |    |   | E  |    | Y | 11 | C |    |    | N  |   |
| 12 | H | O  | P  |   |    | 13 | M | W  | 14 | H | E  | L | A  | 15 | N  |   |
|    | A |    | 16 | P | 17 | C  |   | 18 | A  | S | S  | U | R  | E  | 19 | D |
|    | R |    | 20 | R | A  | L  | L | Y  |    |   |    |   |    |    | R  | I |
| 21 | D | 22 | R  | O | P  |    |   | S  | 23 | G | 24 | O | 25 | D  | E  |   |
|    |   | 26 | E  | A | S  | Y  | H | U  | R  | D | L  | E |    |    |    |   |
|    |   | 27 | A  | C |    |    |   |    |    |   | 28 | I | D  | L  | E  | R |
| 29 | A | P  | H  | I | L  | L  | I | P  | S  |   |    |   |    |    |    | R |

||  
seo é an pointe is mó  
τάβατζ



is that the  
**HIRE-PURCHASE  
COMPANY  
OF IRELAND  
LTD.,**  
is an  
**all-Irish Company**

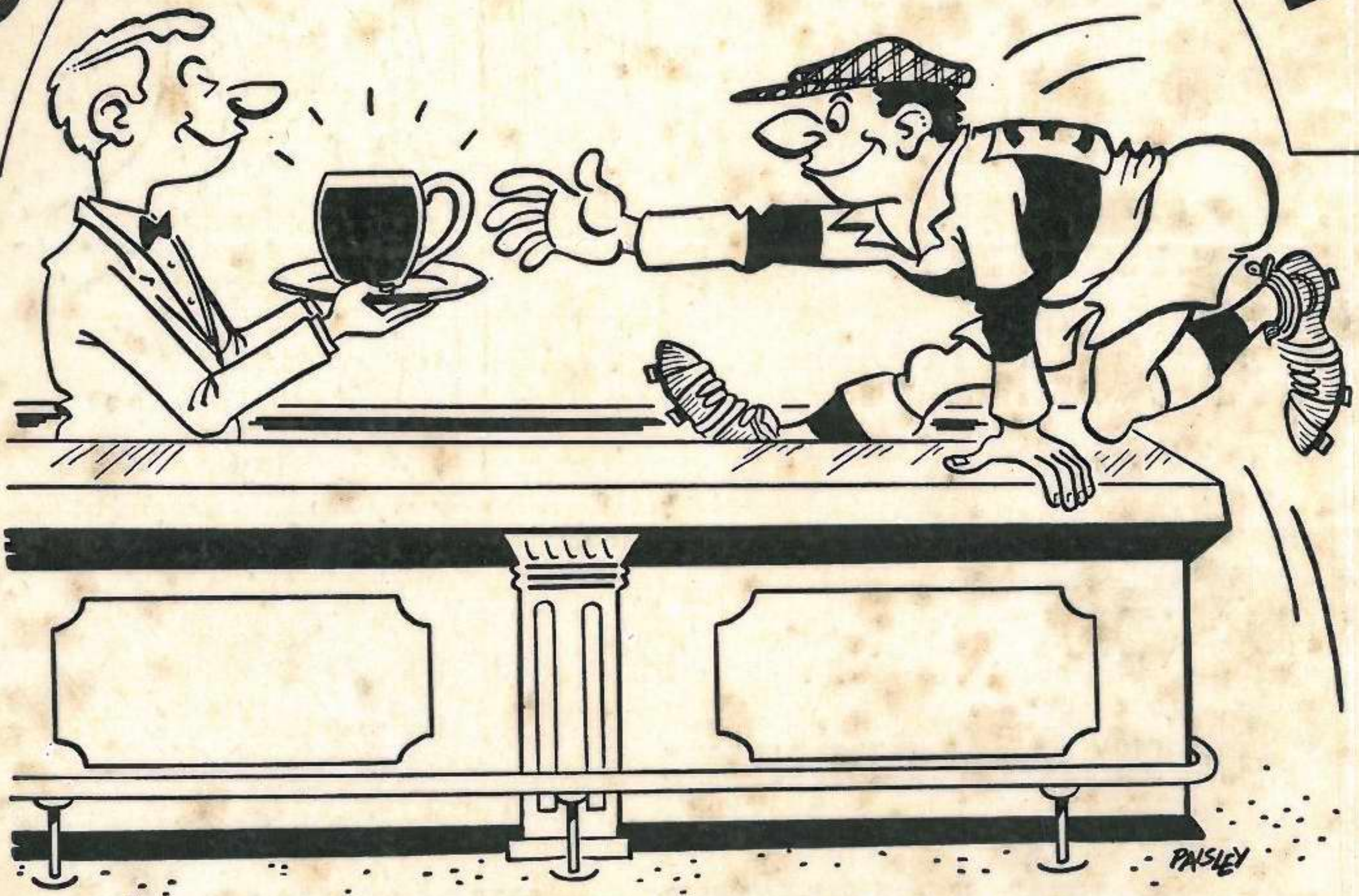
**IRISH FINANCED — IRISH STAFFED**

DUBLIN : 36, Lower Baggot Street. Phone 64611/20  
CORK : 2, South Mall. Phone : Cork 25371  
GALWAY : 5, Eyre Square. Phone : Galway 2048/9  
LIMERICK : 106, O'Connell Street. Phone : Limerick 46211/2  
WATERFORD : 19, The Quay. Phone : 5439  
LONGFORD . 34, Main Street. Phone : 6553  
CARLOW : 135, Tullow Street. Phone : Birr 1248

**MONEY SPENT IN IRELAND — STAYS IN IRELAND**

---

OVER THE BAR FOR A PINT



**GUINNESS**

**the most natural thing  
in the world**