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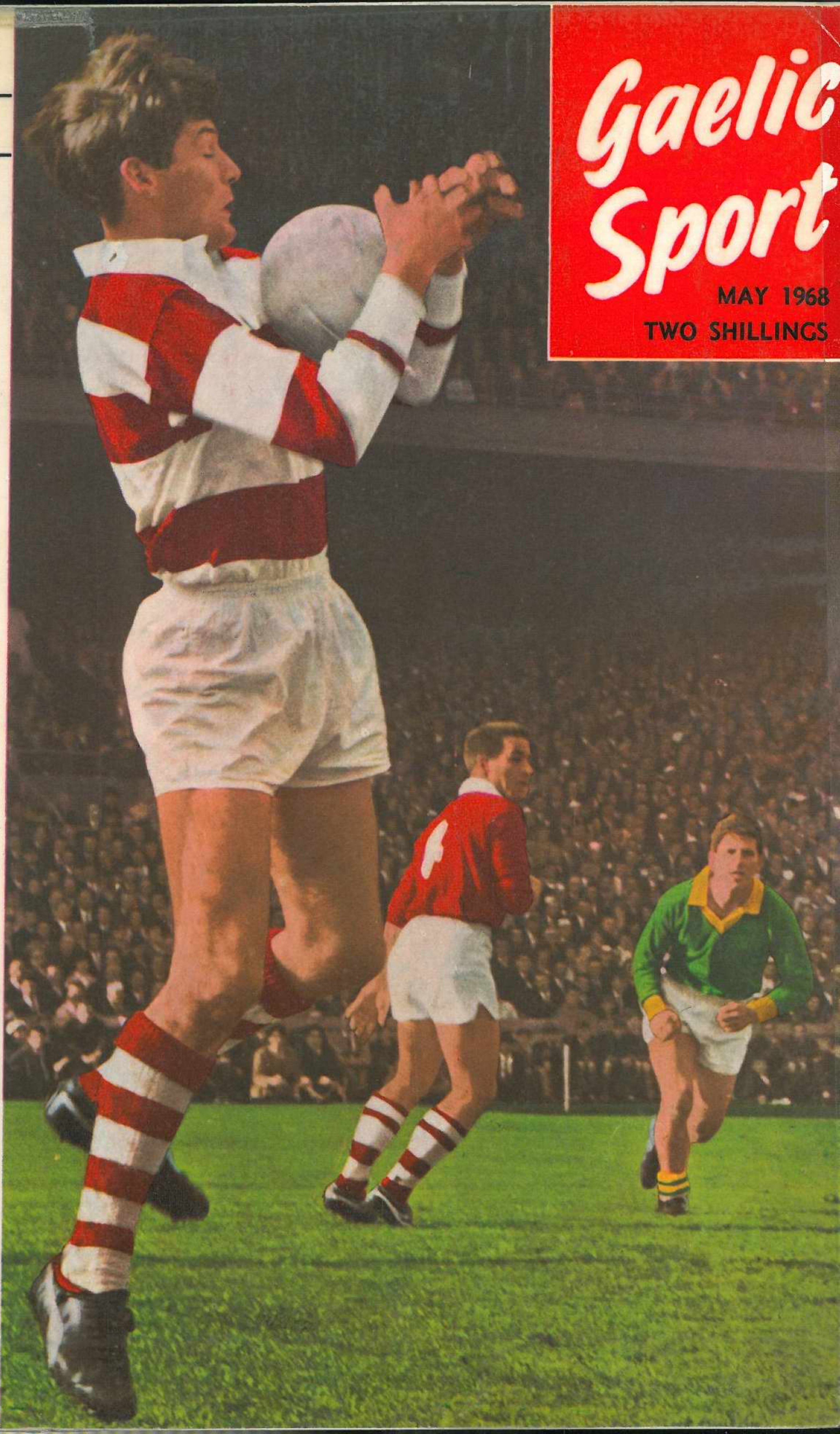
THIS ISSUE

# The Cork G.A.A. story

*by*

**EAMONN  
YOUNG**

WITH SPECIAL  
INTRODUCTION  
BY  
AN TAOISEACH

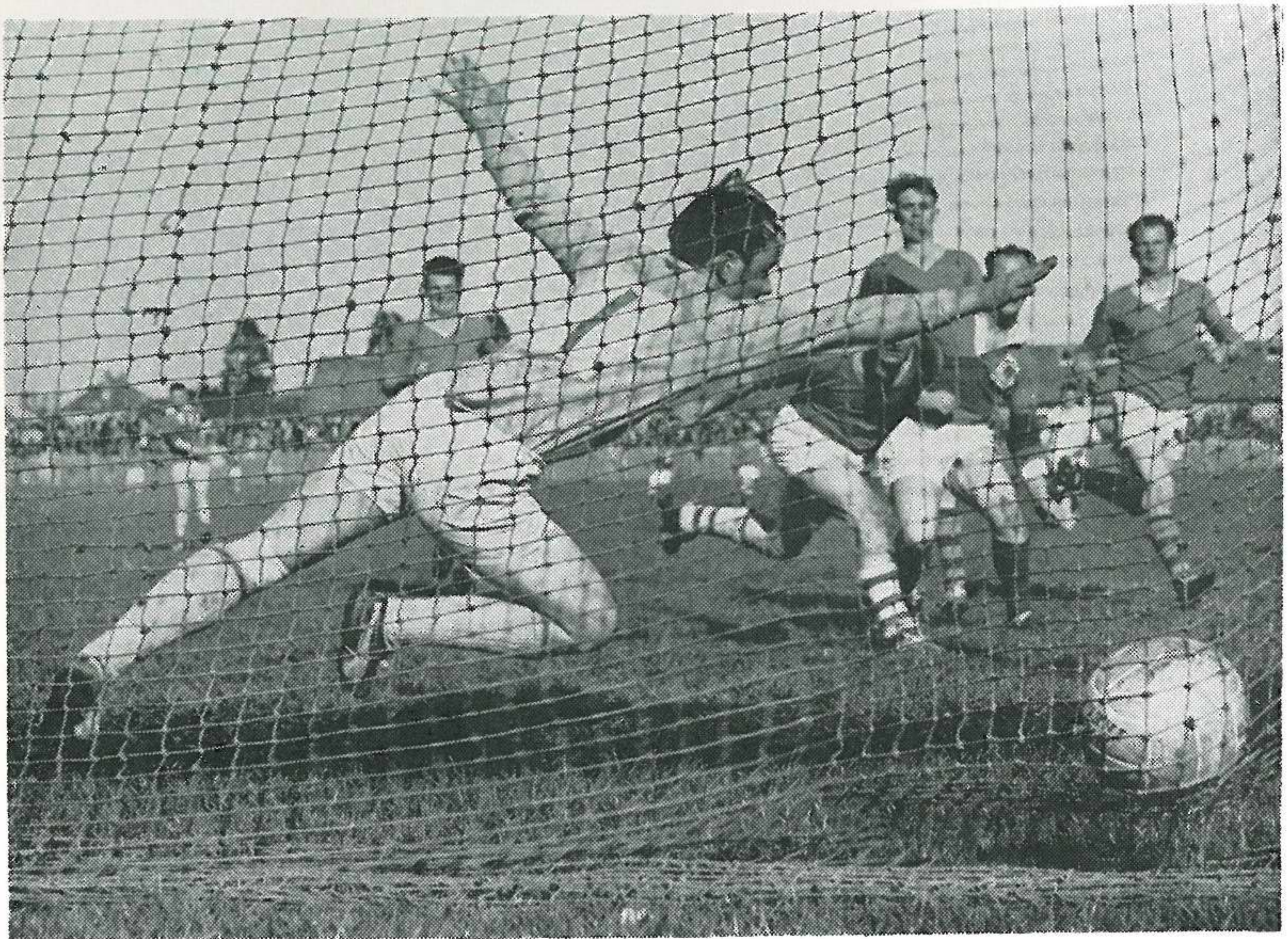


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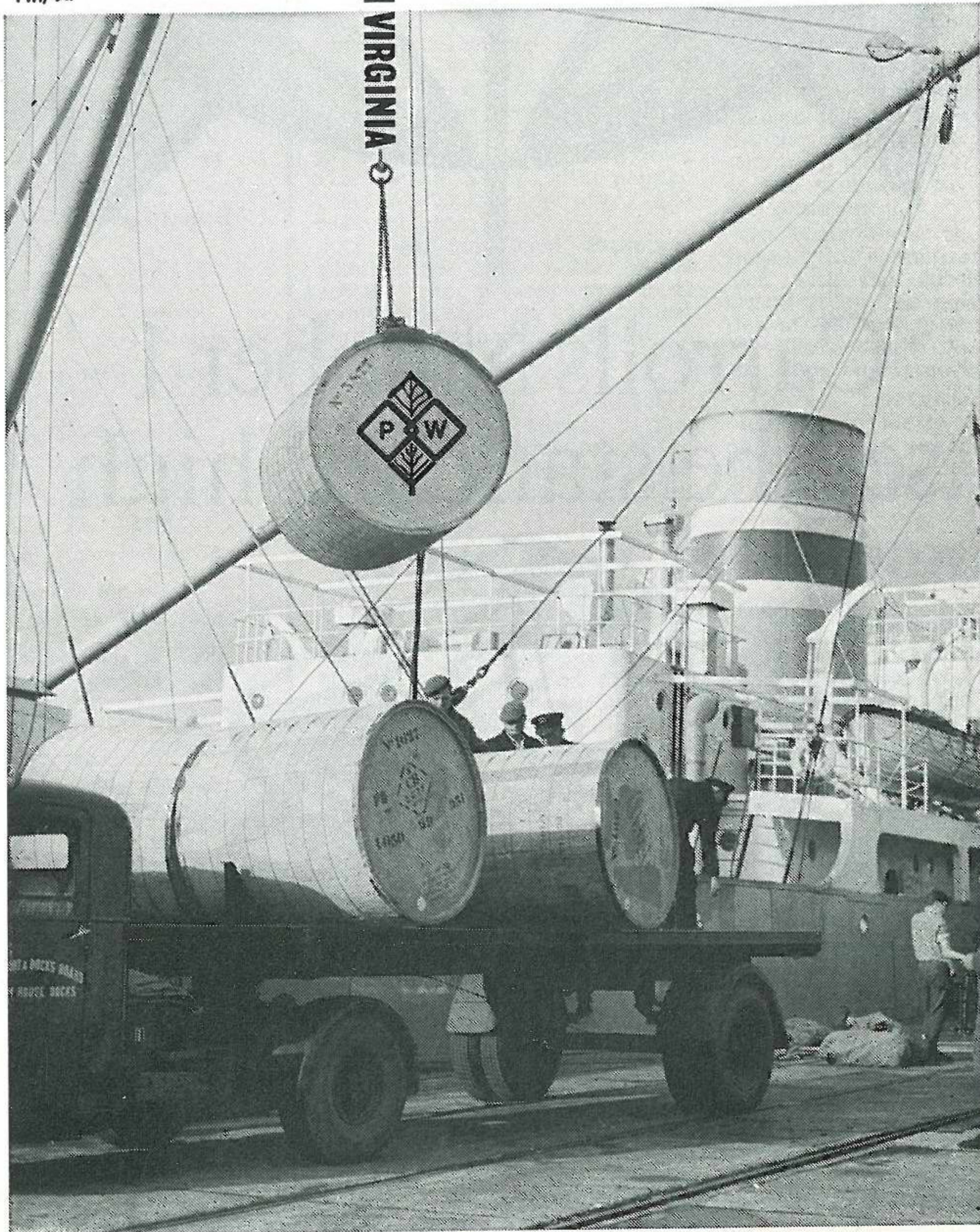


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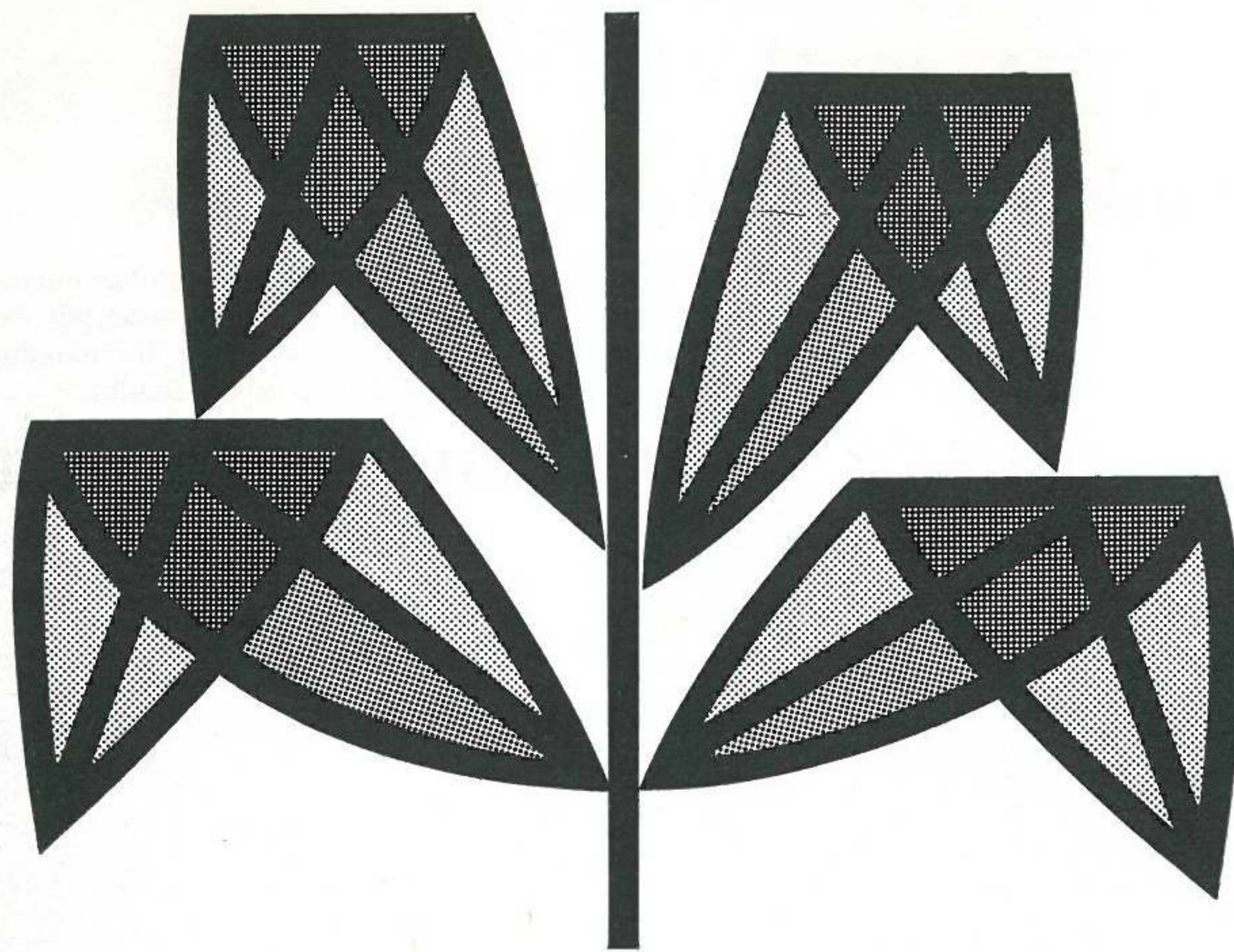
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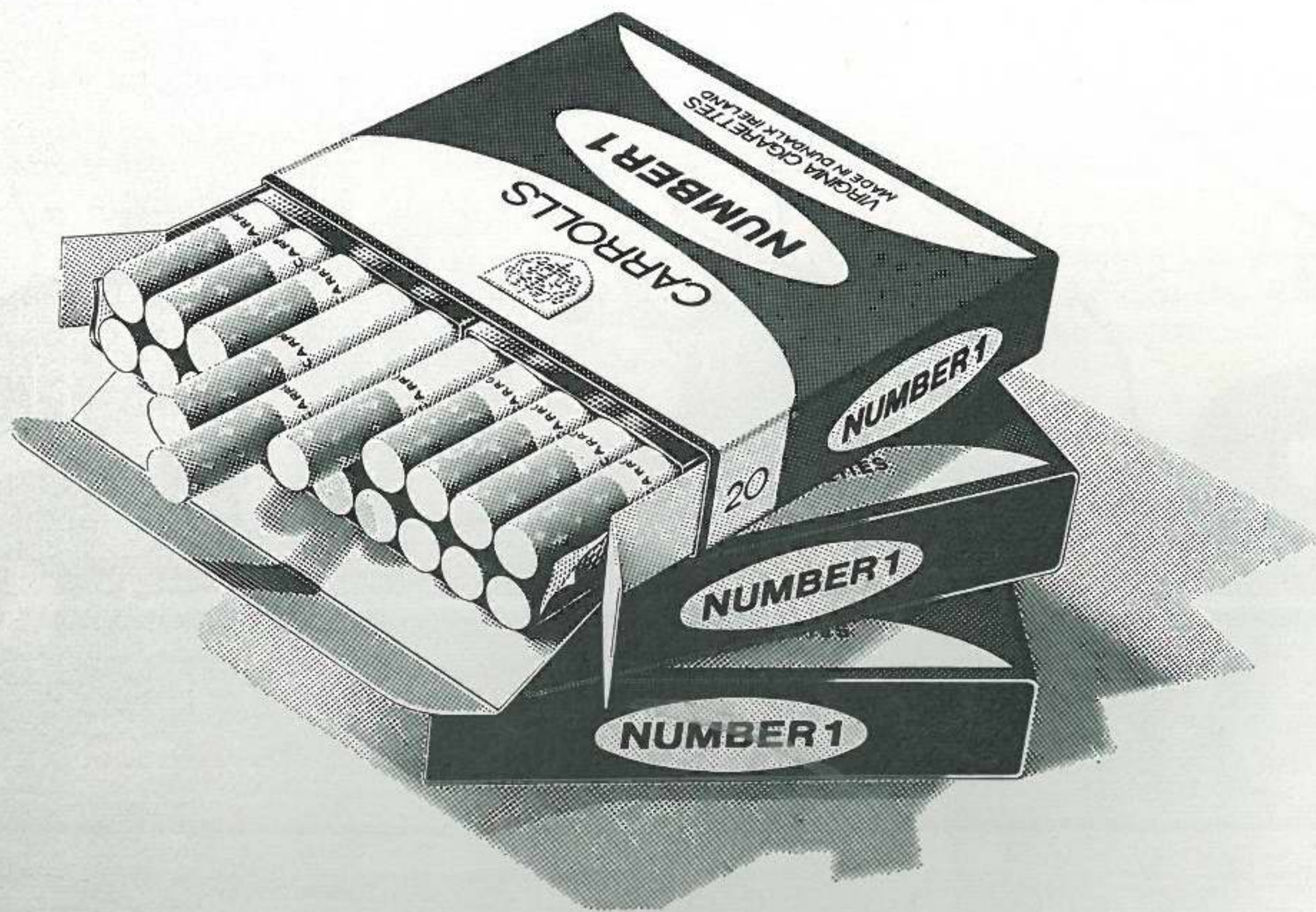
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## COMMENT

### HISTORIC MOVES

TWO decisions that could be of far-reaching import for the G.A.A. were taken at Congress last month. The first, and more important of the two, was the adoption of a Galway motion proposing the appointment of a Central Council Committee to work out a new organisational structure for the Association.

The massive shift of population from country to city and town over the past 20 years or so has, as it were, wrong-footed the G.A.A.'s traditional modes of administration and operation. Hence, the Galway idea advocates the setting up of town committees (for urban areas with populations of 20,000 and over) and regional councils.

It has not been explained whether the latter bodies would replace the present provincial councils, which, as geographical entities, are not representationally equipped to adjust to latter-day population trends.

The Committee, presumably, will give a clear answer to this question. But whether or not the answer will be acceptable to the association as a whole is another

matter; for the institution of regional councils — which, of necessity, would cut across provincial boundaries — might mean the end of provincial championships.

The second major decision taken at Congress was the acceptance of a Mayo motion to establish a Central Council committee "to set forth the present-day reasons for the retention of Rule 27."

Coming after the inevitable defeat of the anti-Ban motions, it showed a praiseworthy desire on the part of Congress to "hold a mirror up and look at ourselves," as the proposer, Fr. Leo Moran phrased it.

In many ways, the investigations of this committee will interlock with the question of reorganisation. The most vital portion of the overlap will centre on the future of the Association in the cities and large towns.

Courage and vision, as complements to ideals, will be the qualities most needed in the members of the committee. The G.A.A. does not lack such men.

### Hurling will benefit

WE were glad that Congress approved of a Cork motion calling for a Central Council report on the best form of headgear for use by hurlers. When the idea of protective headgear was mooted by the U.C.C. club at the Cork Convention in 1967 (it was defeated on that occasion), a writer in a Sunday newspaper sneered at the suggestion. "What" he asked "would John Doyle think of it?" Who cares a hoot what any individual thinks of it, if the introduction of this equipment would promote and improve the game of hurling?

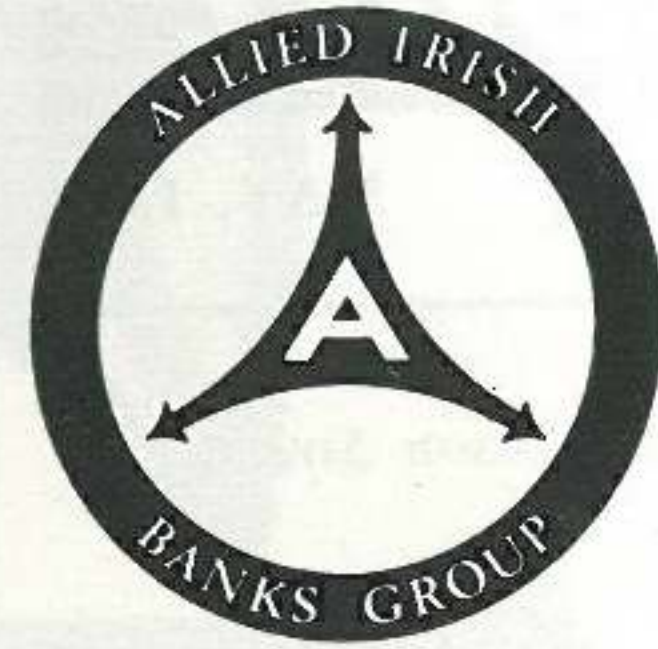
There are those who will still shout "cissy" at the proposal. We call those people unwitting enemies of the national game. Protective headgear, if and when it is devised, will be optional to all players. No-one will be forced to wear it, but all should be advised to do so. Whether we like to admit it or not, every hurler runs the risk of serious head injury. If headgear will help to spread the game by convincing parents that that risk is minimised, then, future generations of Gaels will have reason to thank the foresight of Congress 1968.

### COVER PHOTO

A FINE action shot from the 1967 football final shows Cork's Billie Morgan in possession, with colleague Johnny O'Mahony about to hold off Meath's Paddy Mulvaney.

Picture by courtesy of Lensmen.

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# The Cork G.A.A. story

**WE** are grateful to the Taoiseach, Mr. Jack Lynch, for his kind gesture in writing an introductory note to "The Cork G.A.A. Story," by Eamonn Young, which starts overleaf.

It is appropriate, too, for Mr. Lynch is one of the men, as hurler and footballer (and All-Ireland medalist in both games), who helped to fashion Cork's glorious history on Gaelic fields.

As the Taoiseach says, it is a chronicle of stirring days . . . of thrills and excitement . . . and of many memorable games.

And it is told by a man who, like Jack Lynch, played no small part in its making.

**STARTS PAGE 7**

*. . . With an introductory  
note from An Taoiseach*



ROINN AN TAOISIGH  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2  
DUBLIN 2

I am delighted to be associated with the May issue of Gaelic Sport in which Eamonn Young writes on "The Story of the G.A.A. in Cork".

It is a story well worth telling and one which Eamonn Young, who with his family contributed very much to it, is well fitted to tell.

All who are privileged to have had a part in that story will, through the initiative and enterprise of Gaelic Sport, be able to live again those stirring days with all the thrills and excitement of many memorable games.

For the younger generation, particularly, it will provide a valuable record of many of the great names in Cork hurling and football history, of their prowess and sportsmanship, which have brought honour to themselves and greater honour to their native city and county.

The story of the G.A.A. in Cork adds another worthy chapter to the Association's glorious annals. It is a story of absorbing interest which will, I am sure, be not only a source of pride in past achievements but, for the future, a constant inspiration to uphold the noblest and best traditions of Gaelic sport.

*Jack Lynch.*



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# Ninety-two years — and still growing!

By EAMONN YOUNG



**NINETY-TWO** years old and still growing; that's the story of the G.A.A. in Cork. St. Finbarrs National Hurling and Football Club was founded in 1876 and along with Blackrock and several others, played in competition before ever the famous inaugural meeting was called in Thurles in 1884.

## THE AUTHOR

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

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

Teething troubles inevitably affected Barrs, Rockies and Cork in those early days and in 1899 there were two County Boards which fortunately sank their differences (born of the Parnell Split) in 1894 under the chairmanship of Michael Deering, with Tom Dooley as runáí, two names remembered with affection by the older folk in Cork. By then the county had set its foot firmly on the road.

Championships were usually a year late then and it was in 1895 that Cork, led by Rockies, took the field in Clonturk Park, Dublin, to play Dublin Raparees in the hurling final of the previous year. Rockies were, indeed, champions for they had beaten all comers in the competition of '93 before stopping Kilkenny in the final.

Incidentally it was in this year of '93 that Tullaroan and Rockies acted as both players and groundsmen for, seeing that the knee-deep grass made hurling impossible, rather than disappoint the crowd the players hoisted the goalposts on their shoulders and strode across to the Phoenix Park where they proceeded to give the crowd value for their money in an All-Ireland which the Rockies won.

So when Blackrock met Raparees they wore the honour

of champions and one can imagine the remarks when they were kept waiting two hours before their home-based opponents arrived. Maybe the Corkmen took it out on the loiterers for the final score in their favour was five goals and twenty points to two goals.

But in the following year, with the Rockies still champions of Cork, the county didn't even enter the All-Ireland championship. The reason was the debacle of the previous year's football championship which was won by the famous Nils of Cork, but which is down in the records to Dublin after as disastrous a spot of skull-duggery as one meets in a day's walk. In Cork, men who weren't born 'till thirty years after still get hot under the collar about that one, which I'll tell later on.

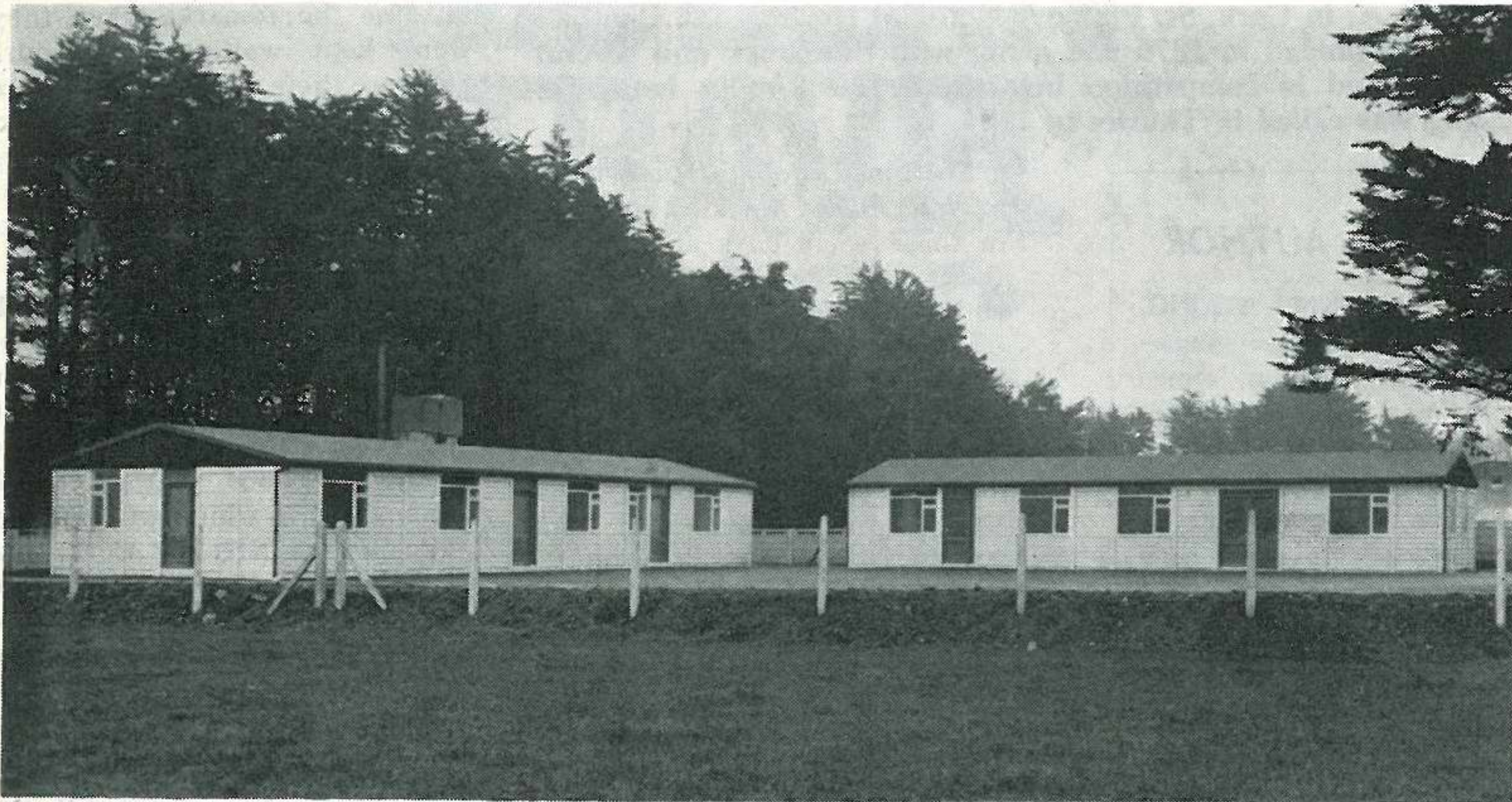
But to get them really worked up one has to discuss the hurling final of 1905. Barrs, right at the top just then, took the Munster title for the fifth time in succession, a record which hasn't been beaten since, and they met Erin's Own of Kilkenny in the final which was played in 1907. It was a cold April day in Tipperary when Christy Young, the Barrs captain led out his team which included Billy Mackessy, Jerry Beckett, Bachus and Chateye Leary, Doudy Kelly, Billex Moloney, Paddy Mehigan (Carbery), Daw MacGrath and the great Jamesy Kelleher.

● TO PAGE 9

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● FROM PAGE 7

Cork won that game but there was a sequel of dismay when Kilkenny objected to the star goalkeeper from Redmonds, small Sonny Jim MacCarthy, on the grounds that he was a member of the militia reserve. Central Council upheld the objection and ordered a replay, which Cork lost. How my father, God rest him (who wasn't related to the captain, Christy) used bemoan that All-Ireland lost to Cork.

There seems no doubt that, up to the forties anyway, there was never a hurler in Cork like Jim Kelleher, the farmer from the East Cork village of Dungourney. The old men will maintain this to the present day, though you may find Eudie Coughlan, Jack Lynch or Christy Ring considered. Jim Kelleher was a wide-shouldered man above average height, loosely

built with a wisp of brown hair over his eyes and the countryman's long, tanned face.

He was strong, quiet, clever, an artist with the stick and on all the fields he played from 1902 to 1914 his name was one of honour for leadership and ball-playing skill, acknowledged among friends and opponents, for Jim Kelleher had no foes.

Yet one of his greatest triumphs wasn't on the hurling field at all, and the story of his steeplechase win at Rathcormac in the early days of the century has never been forgotten by the people.

In the heart of the racing country where only the "gentry" rode, the man of the people wasn't expected to compete. But that day in Rathcormac two thousand years of Celtic blood triumphed not only in Jim Kel-

*Cork's victorious All-Ireland hurling team of 1919. Front row (from left): P. Halloran, T. Nagle, E. Coughlan, M. Murphy, P. Aherne, F. Barry, Middle row (from left): B. Murphy, P. Healy, J. Kennedy (Captain), Fr. Fitzgerald (Selection Committee), J. Murphy, D. Ring, F. Kelleher, J. O'Callaghan (Selection Committee). Back row (from left): J. McCarthy (Selection Committee), E. Grey, C. Lucy, C. Sheehan, R. O'Gorman, Sean Og Murphy, J. J. Hassett, J. Murphy, J. O'Keeffe, T. Irwin (Selection Committee).*

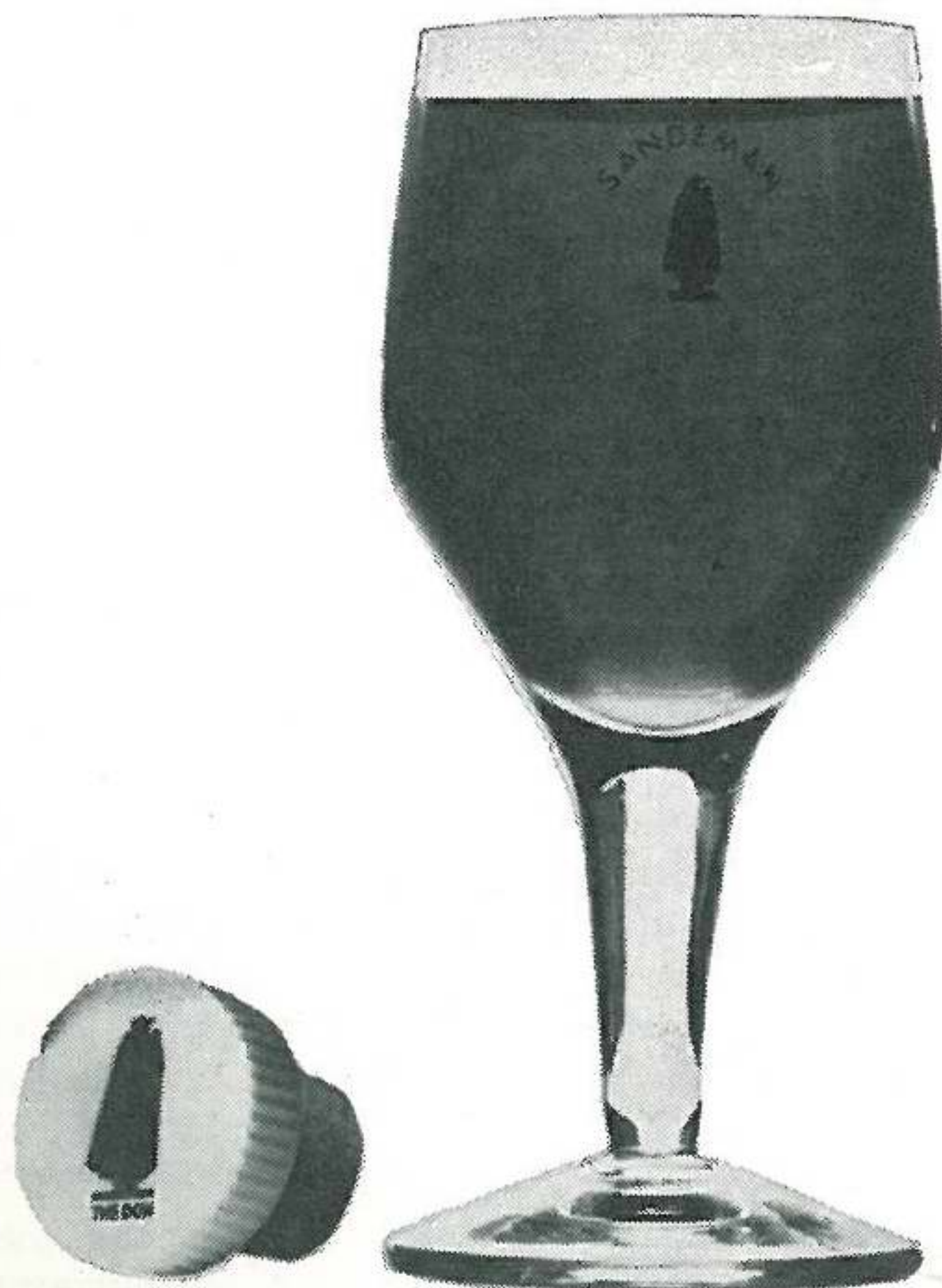
leher, but in the people's wild surge of enthusiasm as they carried their hero shoulder-high around the racecourse. For many a year, Jim Kelleher and his

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● FROM PAGE 9

great mare, Home Chat, were as formidable on the race-course as the Dungourney champion with his blade of ash was on the hurling field.

Whether he was a better man than Bob Mockler, Lowry Meagher, Tom Semple, Mick Gill or Mick Mackey we'll never know; but the old men say with a toss of the head, that on the field Jim Kelleher never met his master.

The All-Ireland of 1901 was played in 1903 and, at home, Redmonds beat all there was though there remained the formality of beating London at Jones Road. A huge crowd travelled up for the day and, anyway, there were nine Corkmen on the London side, led by Tom Barry from Glanworth. The crowd was in good humour until it got to Limerick Junction when a British troop train pulled in ahead and, in keeping with His Majesty's regulations for the Boer War was on, chugged along at twenty miles an hour.

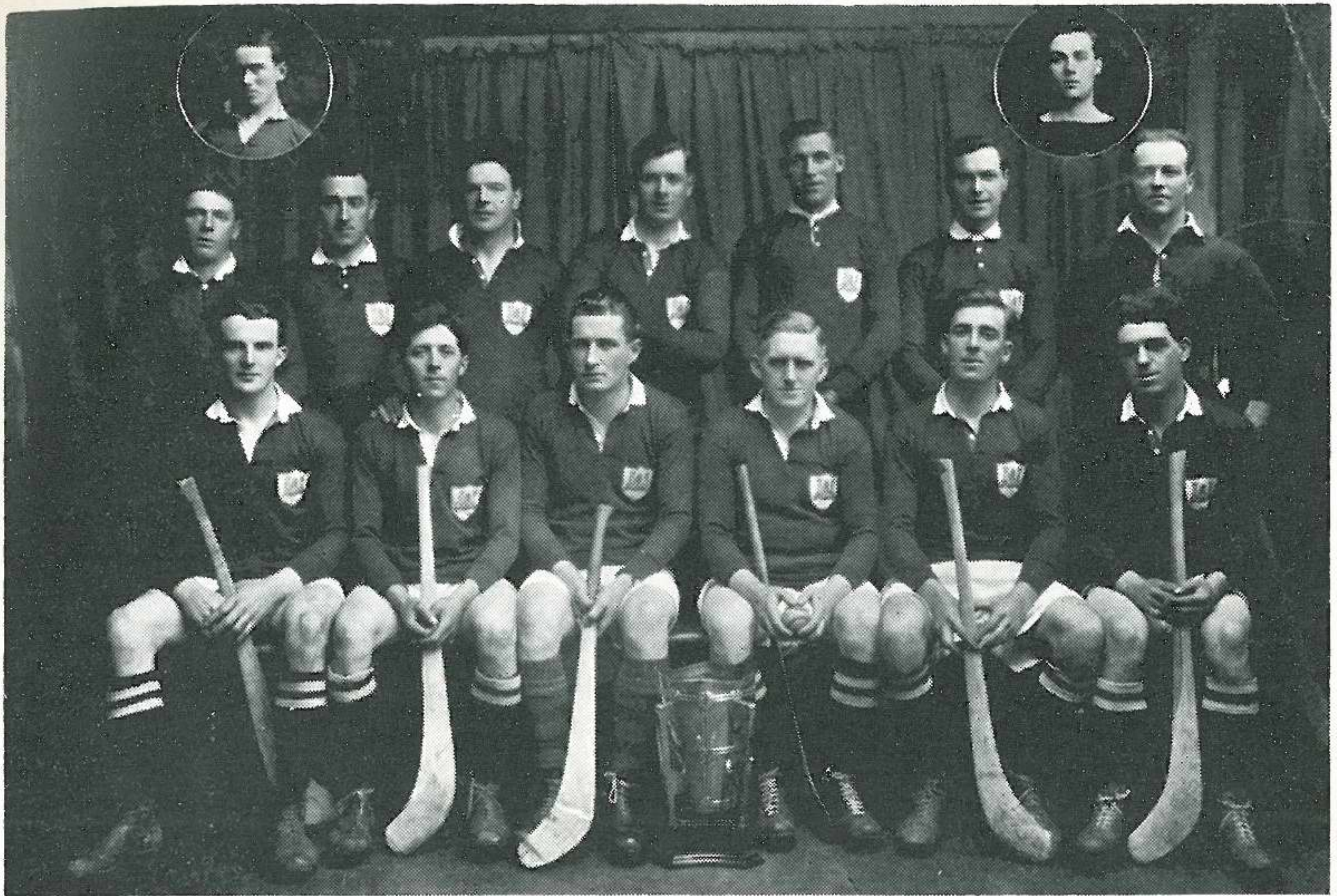
The impatience of the crowd can be imagined but not the chagrin when they arrived in Kingsbridge in time to get the final score. How those fervent followers felt when they found that London had won is better left to the imagination.

The captain of that London team, Tom Barry, is strong and active to-day after a lifetime of building up his auctioneering business in the city. When first he was pointed out to me it was not as an auctioneer, nor a G.A.A. man, but as the captain of the London-Irish team that beat Cork. He remains just that for most of us, though there are few old men who have a greater hold on the affections of the Cork hurling public.

The year 1886 saw the real start of the administrative side of the Association in Cork and the first chairman of the County

● NEXT PAGE

Peter Owens



Board, which sat in 1887, was Alderman D. Horgan. One of the committee was Sir Edward Fitzgerald, afterwards Lord Mayor and father of the famous Canon Eddie, the hurling organiser, and his brother Andy the goalkeeper, both of whom are lively and strong to-day.

Two years after the foundation came the split and for a few years we had two Boards, one under Mr. Crean and the other chaired by the Barrsman, Fr. O'Connor, who had the support of most of the clubs. After the split was healed in 1894, Michael Deering led the Board until 1898 when he was appointed President of the Association, being succeeded by his Fenian friend, Tom Dooley. Michael Deering died in 1901 and is buried in St. Joseph's cemetery, where his monument carrying emblems of Croppy Pike, shamrock, harp, hurley and sliotar carved on a

Celtic cross reflect the dreams not only of his own heart, but those of his many supporters.

It was Tom Dooley who pioneered the idea of provincial government in the G.A.A. which, in preventing the Association's life becoming centralised in Dublin, probably ensured its growth throughout the land. Tom Dooley's lesson of seventy years ago shouldn't be lost on us to-day.

In 1904 Matto Riordan was elected chairman of the Cork County Board and his greatest contribution was the formation of the Munster Colleges Committee and the foundation of the School Shields Competition, which played a vital part in attracting the young people. Matto Riordan's example was followed by Leinster where, incidentally, one of the Colleges Trustees later on was Padraig Pearse.

In 1909 there was elected to

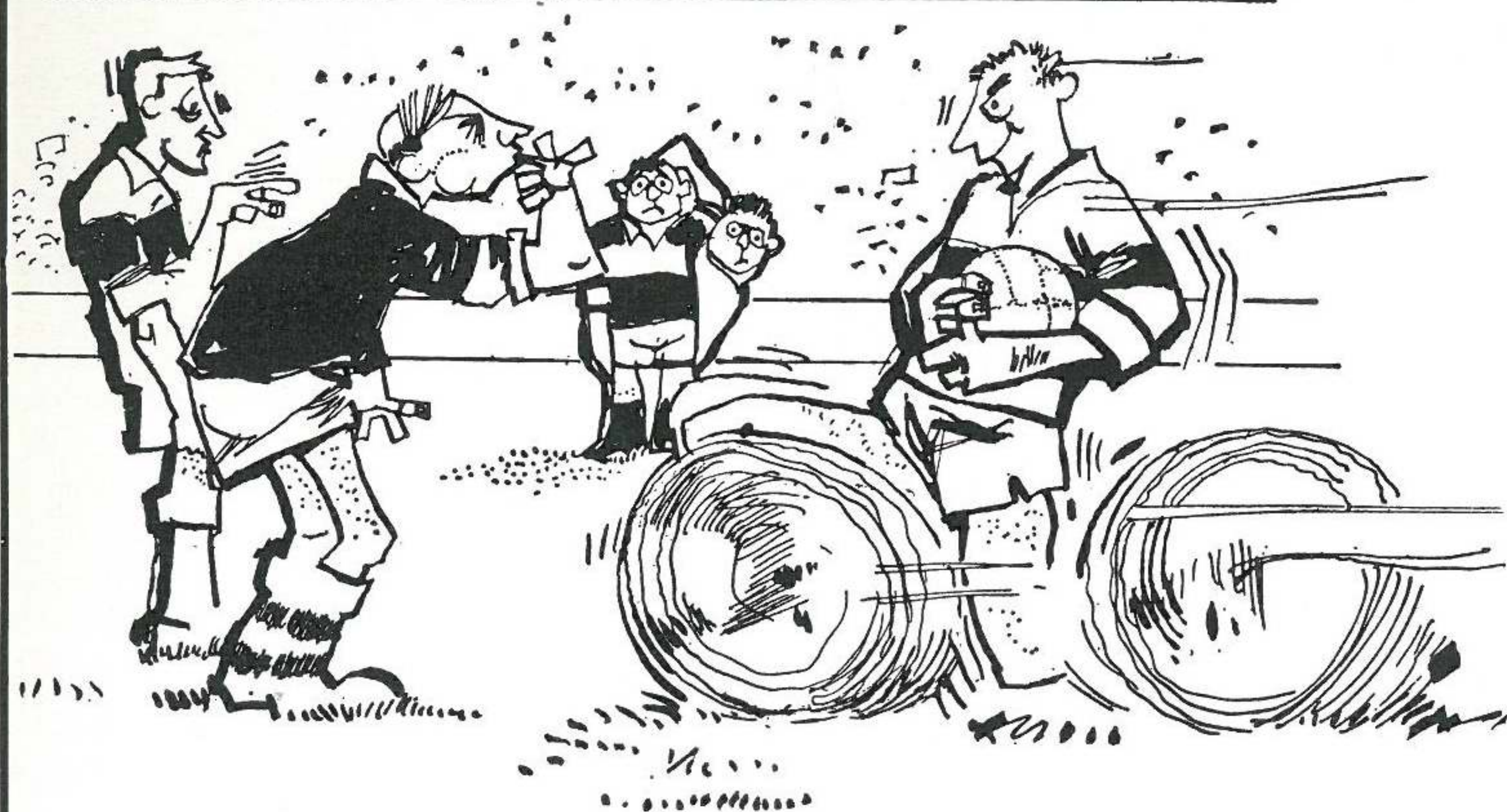
*Cork, All - Ireland hurling champions of 1926. Front row (from left) : J. O'Regan, D. B. Murphy, J. Hurley, Sean Og Murphy (Captain), E. Coughlan, P. Delea. Back row (from left) : Dr. J. Kearney, Michael Murphy, M. Aherne, Maurice Murphy, E. O'Connell, Matt Murphy. Inset (left) J. Coughlan, (right) W. Higgins.*

the Cork chair a young man whose name would yet be known throughout the land. J. J. Walsh, tall, slim and dark, was employed at the Cork G.P.O., but found an outlet in the G.A.A. for his immense drive and burning national spirit, which afterwards led him into the Dublin G.P.O. in 1916 and to a government ministry when the Trouble was over.

J. J. Walsh and his band of progressive young men introduced into the Association a greater

● TO PAGE 13

# SHELL



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

***GOOD MILEAGE*** —



● FROM PAGE 11

discipline, a respect for the referee, turnstiles, accounts audited externally, and a greater sense of punctuality and the Cork Board at this time held a high prestige in the Association. To show it's strength, J. J. Walsh caused one hundred matches to be played on one day with a view, no doubt, to impressing on the servants of His Majesty that this body was no leaf in the wind.

In 1914 the Crown had J. J. Walsh exported, so Jim Downs, the quiet man from Crookstown, held the Board together in the next three years when games took a seat far back behind the fighting men. The fact that players and freedom fighters were often the same men made any real athletic progress impossible and it is significant that the only Cork team in either code which emerged during those years was that of 1915, which was deservedly beaten by the gallant hurlers of Laois.

In 1917 a tall, slight young man came up from Knockavilla near Innishannon and Seán MacCarthy, national teacher, sat at the head of the table for an unprecedented twenty years, and they allowed him to go only after repeated requests. To-day, as President of the Cork organisation, he enjoys the respect and gratitude of all those who know what this man did for the Association. To tell something of this singular man, nationalist Lord Mayor, member of Dáil Eireann, and G.A.A. national president, would fill a book.

His three first-class assistants were county secretaries Tommy Irwin, whose lift-and-strike long puck record of one hundred and eleven yards at O'Neill Crowley Cross, Cork, is still a record; Paddy O'Keeffe, whose incisive mind and organisational ability were, after 1927 at the disposal of the national G.A.A., and 'Paddy's' successor, Seán Og



*The late Pádraig Ó Caoimh, who was secretary of the Cork County Board before his appointment as General Secretary of the Association in 1929.*

Murphy, whose twenty-seven years as secretary was a record of dedicated service apart altogether from the fourteen years of tremendous defensive hurling in the red jersey.

It was during Seán Mac's administration in Cork that Central Council was persuaded to start the National Leagues and the accident scheme for injured players.

After the Board had finally released Seán Mac from service in '37 into the chair stepped a big, level-headed man who measured his words as he spoke, and meant every one of them. During his four years of office, Henry O'Mahony of Passage, whose clear brain planned the successful escape of British-held prisoners from Spike Island during the Trouble, ruled the Cork Board in his decisive way which put no doubt in anyone's mind just where each stood.

Henry O'Mahony's greatest gift

was an ability to cut right through attempts at subterfuge and delay. He earned our respect.

Cork got away to a wonderful start on the All-Ireland playing fields when, in 1890, the county won two All-Irelands. More about the football later on, but Dan Lane's hurling side from Aghabullogue, clad in white jerseys and sprinting in their bare feet, were too lively for a solid Wexford side. Kerry, not yet a football force, slipped out the following year for a good championship win, but in 1892, with the number of players reduced to seventeen for the first time, Cork beat Dublin for the county's second All-Ireland.

In the following year Rockies led Cork to another win over Kilkenny and in 1894 came the famous match against the Dublin Rapparees in Clonturk Park where the county scored it's first treble, which Jim Hurley once said to me should have been five in a row "for we should never have let Ballyduff beat us in 1891." The fact that Jim wasn't born for a dozen years after that didn't make any difference to his regret. Tipperary and Limerick shared the next six finals, until Cork won the Home Final of 1901 only to go down before Tom Barry's Cork-powered fifteen from London.

Jim Kelleher, at the head of his Dungourney selection, won the championship of 1902 and the Rockies had their revenge on London in the following year. Kilkenny beat Cork in the final of 1904 and then came the disastrous objection to Sonny Jim MacCarthy after the 1905 final.

The county went down in three more hurling finals after that, in the championships of 1907, 1912 and 1915, but while we were down we were far from out. In fact, it is singular to record that while between 1903 and 1919

● TO PAGE 14



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Brindley

● FROM PAGE 13

Cork won no hurling All-Ireland, the fact that the county appeared in five finals shows we were in there trying all the time.

If the 1905 final—the Sonny Jim affair—had been allowed to Cork, Paddy Mehigan, the famous Carbery, would have been a national medal-holder in hurling as well as the hop-step-and-jump, while Jerry Beckett, father of dual medallist, Derry, would have been a treble champion for wins in hurling, football and sprinting.

One of the staunchest players on that 1905 team was Daw MacGrath of Redmonds, a burly man with drooping moustaches. Daw was a fearless, dogged back who held six Munster championships and two All-Irelands and spent most of his time, apart from playing ball, bagging corn on the docks. He liked a pint or a "half-wan" to keep his strength up. On the day of the Munster final, selector Fr. Eddie Fitzgerald, with a real paternal eye to his charges was seeing off the team on the train to Thurles ". . . and when you get to Thurles, Daw," said he, "go for a bit of a stroll and then go into the hotel with the lads and have a nice cup of tea". The train began to move slowly away. "Tay, Father," says Daw MacGrath sadly. "Tay, is it? An' we playin' Tipperary."

One of the liveliest old-timers in the country must be Larry Flaherty of Rockies, who won his All-Ireland medal in the 1902 final and who was on Cork teams for another dozen years. Larry is still driving his spotless Model T taxi from the railway station, and he'll talk hurling with zest any day. Larry told me that when learning to drive he had trouble with the reverse so he took the car to the place where he felt most at home and practised backing her between the goal-posts.

● MORE NEXT MONTH



# Charlie the Cat

By JAY DRENNAN



SOME are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. So the saying goes, and so, too, can we fit it with a fair degree of ease to the picture of Gaelic players. Some look the part from an early age, and fulfil their looks; some develop powers gradually and through their own hard work reach a peak; while others who neither thought themselves capable nor were thought capable spring a surprise on all.

Somewhere in the twilight regions beyond all these categories is the unique Cavan man, Charlie Gallagher. He does not look the part he can play, and he never has. Yet, when you see him play once, you know it is natural to him to be great. As he goes barrelling down to his position, chubbily smiling a hello to all in view, he surely suggests the sort of fellow out for a little healthy exercise to keep the poundage down?

But, give Charlie a chance of the ball, and he turns into a cat; he clings on and he squirms about and rolls himself into a plump lump, impossible to lay hand on without being seen to foul, impossible to combat with any known deterrent. Charlies plays "doggo"; everything stops a split second. That is the invitation to perdition which Charlie issues to every defender: the occasion of sin,

"Come and tackle", he invites. They do; almost all of them do. But, they find that it is next to impossible to tackle Charlie, the cat, without ruffling his fur

sufficiently for the referee to cry "cruelty", or without leaving just the gap Charlie was looking for to slip away or take a pot-shot.

Gallagher is a supreme master at free-taking. Hardly any opportunity ever gets away. He loves those frees, and he loves scoring. You can hardly blame him then, everytime he gains possession, for issuing enough rope to the nearest defenders with which to hang themselves. Unashamedly he waits the possibility of a foul before continuing to probe other possible cavities in the area.

He is not a free-maker and free-taker only. Not a bit of it. His game is rounded out to contain all the skills of finishing. But, the skills of distribution and construction, in general, bore him. He had a simple cheerful, estimate of his own unique talents for score-getting, and possession to him means an opportunity to score, not an opportunity to lay on a pass for someone else.

The remarkable consistency of the man, in a team which has not been at the top for years, and only near the top in the last year or two, was brought home to me more fully in reading last month's statistical survey by Owen McCann. Touching on the 800 points mark in a career which had not the benefit of a hurley or of an All-Ireland winning county; and the 46 goals bespeak something more than frees. As far as I can gather, you have to go back to 1966 to find a full game in which he did not score. What a crock of gold Cavan have.

The curious thing is that there seems no reasonable plan that will keep him quiet; sometime he will kick and wriggle his way out of the ruck—I emphasise that he will not kick his opponents, but refer to that odd, stamping, spavined action that he has when holding the ball.

Nowadays, we see less and less of those jet-propelled dashes through an open space to be finished by a low top-spinner to the corner of the net; he doesn't get the room any more from defenders who have learnt sad lessons in the past. But, he can still spin those curvy ones round his shoulder when the way to goal is blocked by muscle and bone. His skill is emphasised further, I think, by the fact that he varies his methods very little! always depends on the foot—scarcely ever the fist—and yet, keeps getting results against defenders who must know instinctively what he will do next, and still are powerless to interfere.

Chubby Charlie goes on and on his scoring way, cheerful in all he does. His sailor-roll would be sadly missed from Railway Cup and Cavan games, wherever he plays. No better tribute can ever be earned by anyone than that he should become so much a household word even when his county has been little to the fore.

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# LEAGUE SIDELIGHTS

By OWEN McCANN

THE National Leagues have grown greatly in prestige, and in popularity in recent years, but despite this, much of the background story to the finals of these competitions is not so well known. For instance, did YOU know that Fermanagh, who have yet to win an Ulster senior football Championship, have appeared in a League final? That there was such an unusual clash as Derry and Clare for the 1947 football crown? . . . That Galway, whose hurling stock has, unfortunately, slumped to such a degree, have a final win over Tipperary (1932) to their credit?

These are some of the interesting sidelights that emerge from a scrutiny of the finals of competitions over 40 years old. The initial decider was in hurling in 1926 and resulted in a win for Cork over Dublin. A year later Laois and Dublin raised the curtain on the football finals story. There was no hurling decider that year, and it was not until 1928 that finals were played in both codes.

There was a blank in football in 1930, and in hurling in 1931. Since 1932 a final in each code has been played every year, except in 1942-43-44-45, when the tests were suspended because of the war.

Although Laois contested that first football final, and also won it, they have not since appeared in the concluding round! At the other end of the scale are Mayo. They contested nine football finals between 1934 and 1954, a record number of final appearances in the code, and won all. Down, unbeaten in 1960 and 1962, and Longford, successful in their

only engagement in 1966, are the only other counties with 100 per cent records.

The first football decider is one of four all-Leinster games. Dublin were also concerned in two of the other three. They beat Meath in 1955, and in 1958 mastered Kildare by 3-13 to 3-8 in a match that produced more scores than any other at a combined total of 39 points. Meath and Wexford were finalists in 1946.

Kerry beat Cork in 1932 in the only year two southern teams were concerned, and Down's initial appearance in 1960 was doubly historic. They won their first title in the only all-Ulster decider so far, against Cavan. As yet no decider has had an all-Connacht presentation.

Fermanagh's solitary outing in 1935 was also doubly noteworthy. Mayo won 5-8 to 0-2 for the most decisive winning margin at 21 minors. The highest score was achieved by Kerry at 4-16 (28 pts.) against 1-5 by Derry in 1961. Only two games failed to produce at least one goal—Cork 0-8 to 0-7 by Meath in 1956, and Down 0-12, Cavan 0-9 in 1960.

Mayo figured in the first drawn game in 1934. That was against Dublin. Cavan (2-11) and Cork (3-8) played the only other draw in 1948, with the Breffni County winning the replay.

In 1965 we had the new set-up featuring two games, with the title going to the team scoring the highest points total in both games. Obviously, those two-leg finals cannot be taken into consideration for the purpose of this summary, as far as scoring is concerned. In addition, we are

spotlighting League finals proper, and are not concerned with "Home" finals.

Kerry, Meath and Dublin have contested eight finals; Cavan seven; Cork and Galway four each. Derry, Kildare, three outings, Down, Wexford, two, and Laois, Fermanagh, Clare, Louth, Carlow and Longford one apiece complete the home list.

Then, there is New York. They had a memorable debut in 1950, when they beat Cavan at Croke Park. Last year they marked their eighth appearance with a third win.

Tipperary lead all the way in hurling. They had a winning first appearance in 1928. Then, following a break of 21 years, and four unsuccessful outings, title No. 2 came in 1949. Since then Tipperary have really dominated the series. In fact, they have appeared in all but six finals—1951, 1958, 1962, 1963, 1966 and 1967. This month sees the Premier County out to win their ticket to their 19th final. Second with 11 engagements are Cork.

Limerick had eight outings from 1933 to 1958. They set the code's record of five titles in succession from 1934 to 1938. Mayo kept in step with Limerick in those years in football, and went on to make it an all-time high for both games with a sixth success in 1939.

Dublin appeared in eight finals. Kilkenny contested seven from 1933 to last year. Wexford and Waterford appeared in four each. Galway three, Laois and Clare complete the tally. Laois had their only game in 1935, and

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Clare, after figuring with Dublin in the first draw in 1946, won the replay, and now stand as the only county unbeaten in a final.

A year later, Limerick and Kilkenny played a draw, and Limerick won the replay. The only other game to go to a second meeting was in 1963, and featured Waterford and New York. The draw was at Croke Park, and Waterford won the replay at Kilkenny.

Limerick landed a unique double in 1937 against Cork. They scored 11 goals, the only two figures goals total in either code. They also raised six white flags in that match for a winning margin of 23 points, the most

clear-cut of all. Cork got 5-1 in that hour, to leave the aggregate total of 55 points. Only one other game produced as many scores, and appropriately enough, Cork were also concerned. In 1940 they beat Tipperary 8-9 (33 pts.) to 6-4 (22 pts.).

In only one game so far was the green flag not raised at least once. That was in 1959, when Tipperary hit 15 points to Waterford's seven.

John Doyle, that mighty man from Holycross, is the giant of the National Leagues. He won his first medal in 1949, and brought his total in 1965 to a record 11. His achievement is all the more impressive when we realise that his medals total is just one short of the Tipperary League titles

record established between 1928 and 1965!

Finally, here is the National Leagues Roll of Honour not, of course, including 1968 :—

**HURLING:** 12, Tipperary (1928 to 1965); 6, Limerick (1934 to 1947); 6, Cork (1926 to 1953); 3, Kilkenny (1933 to 1966); 3, Wexford (1956 to 1967); 2, Dublin (1929, 1939); Galway (1932, 1951); 1, Clare (1946); Waterford (1963).

**FOOTBALL:** 9, Mayo (1934 to 1954); 7, Kerry (1928 to 1963); 3, Dublin (1953 to 1958); 3, Meath (1933 to 1951); 3, Galway (1940 to 1965); 3, New York (1950 to 1967); 2, Cork (1952, 1956); Down (1960, 1962); 1, Laois (1927), Derry (1947), Cavan (1948), Longford (1966).



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# The future of Kerry football

A survey: by TIM HORGAN

**S**EAN OG SHEEHY made football history on a sun-drenched September afternoon in 1962 when he stepped on to the rostrum to receive the Sam Maguire Cup from the G.A.A. President, Hugh Byrne. Along with his brothers, Paudie and Niall, he had helped Kerry to win their twentieth All-Ireland title and thus became the first son of a victorious captain to follow in his father's footsteps.

It was a great day for the Kingdom. The Kerry minors had brushed aside a strong Mayo challenge early in the afternoon and the seniors had made it an outstanding double by beating Roscommon in the second game. Nobody could deny that, after two years in the background, Kerry were on top of the football world again.

The future looked bright for the Kingdom that day. The team, which had made Kerry the first county to win twenty All-Ireland senior titles, seemed destined to stay on top for a long time to come. Young, enthusiastic performers like Timmy O'Sullivan, Garry McMahon and Jimmy Lucey fitted in well with the older, more experienced players and further hope stemmed from the minor team where Seanie Burrows, Paud O'Donoghue, Denis O'Sullivan, Tony Barrett and Derry O'Shea showed great promise.

And yet, despite their fine football double of 1962, Kerry's fortunes were to suffer a sharp decline in the subsequent years.



*Mick O'Connell, back on the Kerry team, may provide the inspiration that will restore the county's fortunes this year.*

They were beaten by Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1963 and, though they reached the national decider the following year, they lost to the Connaught champions again. They made their last championship appearance at Croke Park in September, 1965, and incurred their third consecutive defeat from the Galway team.

To-day, Kerry's football fortunes are at a low ebb. Players in the famous Green and Gold jerseys no longer delight the Croke Park patrons with their own distinctive brand of football. New styles and new techniques have replaced the old, traditional

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*John Cronin, who won All-Ireland medals with his native Kerry in 1953 and '55.*

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catch-and-kick method. New teams and new faces have come to the forefront in the past few years and the old familiar figures from the south-west have slipped quietly into the background.

This is not the first time that football in Kerry has struck a bad period, nor is it likely to be the last, but whenever the kingpins of a code are down, the game itself is bound to suffer. Kerry still hold the highest records in football — 49 provincial titles and 20 All-Irelands — but to-day those hard-earned honours hang about them like borrowed robes. Kerry teams no longer command the respect that made the Kingdom feared and admired throughout the length and breadth of Ireland. The wind of change has blown unfavourably on the Munster county in recent years.

The present state of the game in the Kingdom has caused football enthusiasts a certain amount of worry but it is consoling to find that Kerry have come through worse weather in the past. In the last century, for instance the men from the Reeks managed to qualify for only one All-Ireland final and failed to win it. However, when Thady Gorman of Tralee led Kerry to victory over Kildare in the 1903 final the first chapter in the Kingdom's illustrious history began. Kerry made nine appearances in All-Ireland finals between 1903 and 1915 and were victorious in five of them.

Then came a lean period which kept the Kingdom out of the big time for nine long years. But they were back with a bang in 1924, this time led by Phil Sullivan of Kenmare, and within the next decade Kerry added six national titles to their list. However, after the great full-back, Joe Barrett had captained the '32 team, Kerry struck another bad spell and remained out of the

picture for five years.

A revitalised team brought renewed honour and glory to the Kingdom in 1937, when Miko Doyle led the county to victory over Cavan, and for the next five years Kerry remained the outstanding force in football. They lost narrowly to Galway in a replay of the '38 decider but the team, which included such all-time greats as Danno Keeffe, Joe Keohane, "Gega" O'Connor, Tadhg Healy, Paddy Kennedy and Bill Casey, went on to win the All-Ireland in '39, '40 and '41.

Kerry captured their next All-Ireland title in 1946 but lost to Cavan the following year in New York and went into another period of decline after that. They were overshadowed by Cavan, Meath and Mayo for six years but returned to the scene of former glory in the early 'fifties and regained the Sam Maguire Cup in 1953. Beaten by Meath in '54 they were back again the following year when John Dowling led them to success over Dublin. But they had to wait until 1959 to gain their 19th title and Down were on top for two years before Kerry came back to win their 20th in 1962.

As the annals show, Kerry have found themselves in the doldrums before and have weathered the storm in fine style. Many people feel that the present lethargic condition of football in Kerry will pass and that the Kingdom will reign supreme again in the future. However, circumstances have changed considerably in recent times and the Kerry revival may not be quite as easy as some enthusiasts hope.

The Cork footballers now present a much stronger challenge to the Kingdom than they used to, and, indeed, it must be noted that the Leesiders have trespassed on ground that once was almost sacred to Kerry in the football realm. The Cork minors

have taken provincial honours seven times since 1959 and Colaiste Chríost Rí have kept the Munster Colleges crown in the Rebel County for the past two years. These successes guarantee that Cork will pose a major problem to Kerry in the coming years.

When I spoke to a number of sporting personalities about the Kerry decline some interesting points were raised. Galway's star defender, Enda Colleran, attributed the decline to the change in football styles. "Kerry excelled at the traditional catch and kick approach" he said "but they've been slow to adjust to the combination football which is more successful now." He added that the Kerry decline was only a temporary one.

Donal O'Sullivan, the Cork full-back of the mid-'fifties, observed that the present Kerry players are smaller in stature than their predecessors. "In my time Kerry had a lot of tall, sturdy men. John Dowling, Tom Moriarty, Ned Roche, Jerome O'Shea and Tom Long were strongly-built footballers, who knew how to use their weight well. The present Kerry team could do with a few players like these."

He felt Gaelic football is not the same without Kerry and looked forward to some great clashes between his county and the Kingdom in the future.

"The competition provided by a strong county in Munster would help Cork, as well as Kerry" he added.

Frank Stockwell, Galway's top full-forward in the 'fifties, said he didn't believe there was a decline in Kerry football. "They'll be back very soon. Mark my words."

Cork's manager, Jim Barry, said the decline was inevitable, "but," he warned, "Kerry down are not to be taken as lightly as any other county. They'll rise again like

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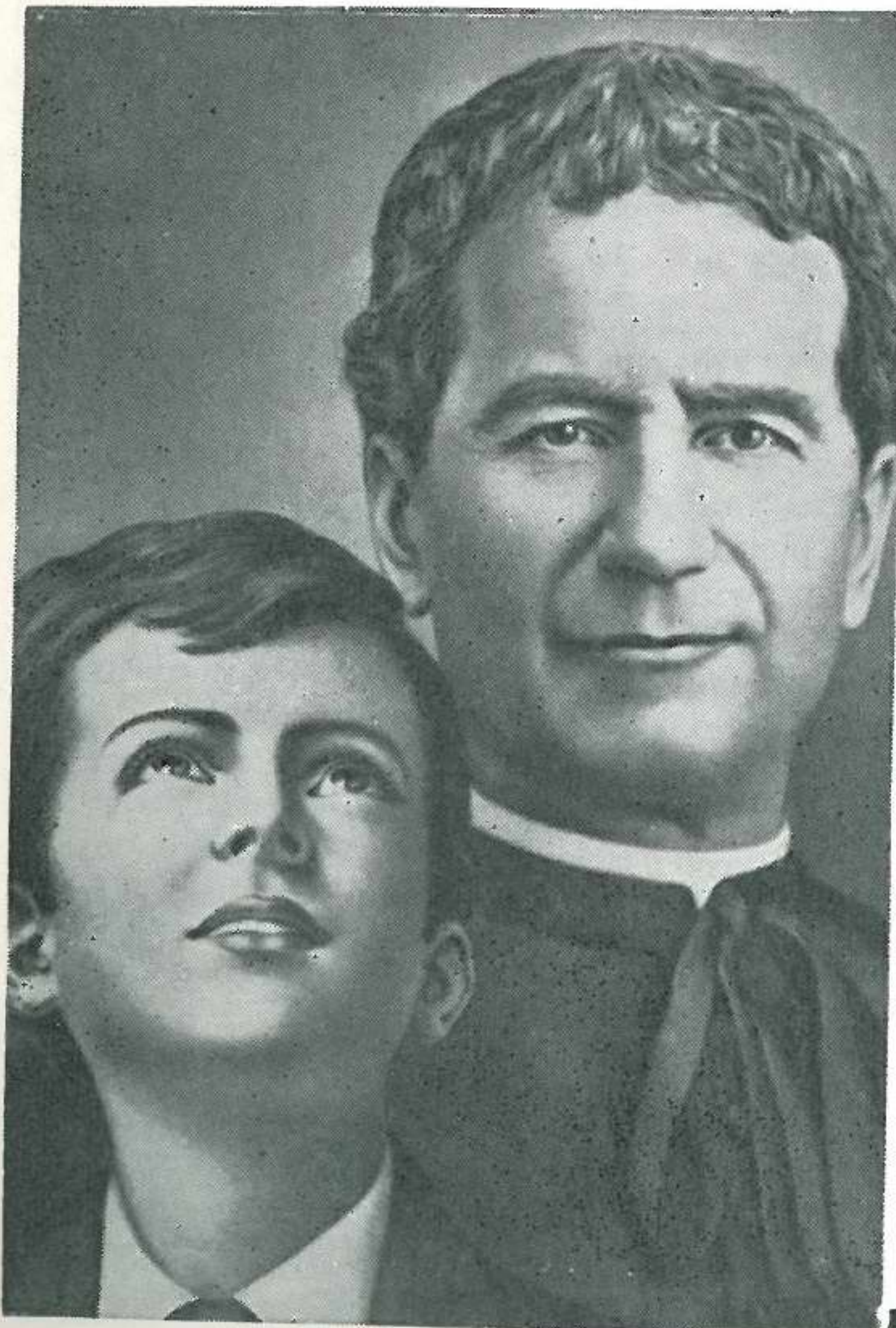


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mushrooms sooner than we expect."

Sean Murphy, who played with Kerry in the 'fifties, said that when he returned from England after three years he found the "atmosphere" different in the Kingdom.

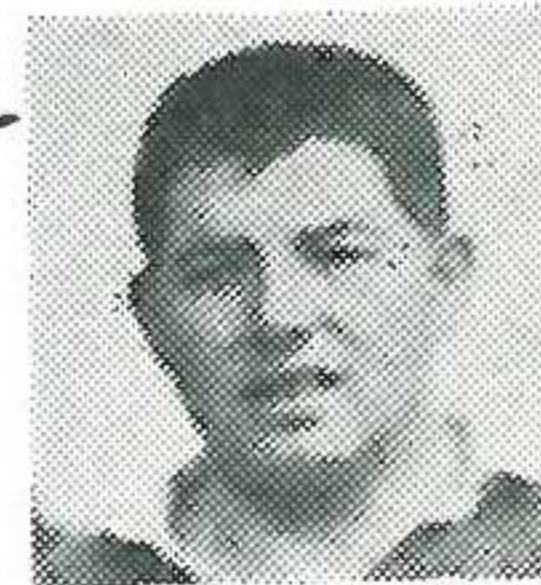
"The interest in football is not as great as it used to be. However, the reason there is a decline in Kerry football at the moment is simply that the stuff is not there, the material for making a good team just isn't there."

Derry O'Shea disagreed. He said the interest is as great as ever but attributed the decline to lack of collective training.

"Some of the players train in Kerry and some in Dublin. If we could all get together before the championship and listen to some good pep talks, it would be a great help. I believe our prospects are good. We have the material. All we need is the proper blend of players, and, of course, some collective training."

Dr. Jim Brosnan was optimistic too and promised that Kerry would be a force in this year's championship. The return of the veterans, Mick O'Connell, Mick O'Dwyer and Seamus Murphy, has injected new life into the team, and already this year Limerick and Mayo have felt the might of the Kingdom. Experienced players like Mick Fleming, Pat Griffin, Paud O'Donoghue, Derry O'Shea and Donie O'Sullivan and newcomers like Brendan Lynch and Pat O'Connell will be the men to watch on a reinvigorated Kerry team.

"There's none can beat the Kingdom sweet," sang Bryan McMahon of Listowel when Kerry defeated Roscommon in 1946. The song may have lost its meaning to-day but, if I know Kerry, it could be sung with great gusto again in the near future.



# MICHAEL KEATING

talks to SEAN MURPHY

TIPPERARY are on the trail of another American trip. After last year's All-Ireland setback and a subsequent trouncing by Wexford at New Ross it definitely looked curtains for the Premier County. But the lads in Blue and Gold, often referred to as National League specialists, maintained that rating by drawing with Kilkenny and later defeating Wexford and Cork to reach the Home League decider once more.

One man who has played no small part in Tipperary's amazing recovery to the top is dual-player Michael Keating who is now revealing the genius and stickwork which resulted in he being acclaimed another "Mick Mackey" in 1964 after his display against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final.

A nephew of the great Tommy Ryan who played with Tipperary on "Bloody Sunday" Michael is also a rare footballer who has played some outstanding games for club, county and Munster.

One of his finest hurling hours was in that tense semi-final against Cork in Limerick when his opponent was none other than that tenacious defender, Denis O'Riordan. Keating displayed amazing coolness and his proficiency in distributing the ball was a treat to watch.

After the game I edged my way

into the Tipperary dressingroom and amid great excitement I had a few words with a likeable Michael Keating, who was slow to talk about his own achievements but was loud in his praise for his teammates.

I asked him if he thought Tipperary were as good as ever. "I have no doubt about it," he said, "as a matter of fact, I think the present team will later this year be acclaimed as the greatest ever. We now have fifteen fighters, all eager and determined while our forwards are in rare scoring mood having notched 34 points in our last two outings.

Who would you like to meet in the League Final, I queried. "Kilkenny, of course," came the reply. "You know we have a score to settle there since last September.

What do you think of this year's Munster championship scene? I asked. Keating gave the question a little though before saying: "There is very little between all five counties but I feel Tipperary and Cork will reach the final."

How do you rate Cork, I asked Keating as he rushed away to the hotel: "They were quite good today but failed to last the pace. However, I think they will be a big threat to our championship hopes."

## WHY DOES THE G.A.A. NEGLECT ROUNDERS?

*Can you help us  
in this crusade?*

IN this article, MOONDHARRIG pinpoints the G.A.A.'s neglect of the ancient and excellent game of rounders, which is included in the Association's Official Guide as one of the four recognised national pastimes.

We invite readers who are interested in this forgotten game to write to us with their views on what might be done to revive it. We also welcome pictures and other information from schools — boys' and girls' — where rounders may still be played.

If the response is encouraging, we promise to do all we can to dislodge this hoary skeleton from the G.A.A.'s cob-webbed cupboard.

WHEN the Meath footballers' trip to Australia was on the verge of becoming reality, a journalist friend of mine in Sydney, where it seems that even the Australian Rules game is something of a mystery, wrote me requesting a copy of the Rules of Gaelic football, so that, as he said himself, he could truthfully inform his editor, when the Meathmen did arrive, that he was something of an authority on this Irish game.

So, to put him completely in the picture I posted him on a copy of the Official Guide.

The other day I had a letter of thanks from him. He said he was very impressed by the ball-control of the Meathmen, and told me not to pay too much attention to the criticisms of our Gaelic game by some of the Australian scribes.

He pointed out that there are

to know who are the Irish Rounders champions, and in how many grades are these championship-teams played!

And that query, let me tell you, fairly floored me because not alone have I never heard of All-Ireland Rounders champions being crowned in any grade, or under any other rules either, but I have never even seen Rounders played under the rules as given in the Official Guide.

I believe that, some years ago, a competition under these rules was run among some of the teams in the Dublin Primary Schools League, and that Rounders under G.A.A. rules was also played in at least a couple of colleges in Ulster and Leinster.

But that was some years ago, and I have heard nothing further about those games since then. To my grief, I never saw one. One thing I do know is that

ferred a ball of sponge rubber as it was livelier.

Such was the rounders game of our school-days but as I shall have sadly to tell my Australian friend, the Rounders of the Official Guide I have never seen, in its own right.

and more's the pity.

It could, if widely practised, prove a great means of getting the players fit and keeping their eyes in as well as being a most interesting and entertaining game

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two schools of thought in Australia at the moment. Those who believe that their own Rules game must evolve some method of securing international competition, if it is to meet the ever-increasing challenge of Rugby Union and Rugby League, and those who maintain that Australian Rules has no need to get mixed up with any other code whatever.

Naturally, he says, the people who are in favour of international competition take a very optimistic view of the prospects of a 'marriage', at international level, between Gaelic and Australian Rules, and were understandably enthusiastic about the whole tour.

On the other hand, those who want to keep Australian Rules exclusively to Australia, went out of their way to decry the merits of Gaelic football and announced to all and sundry that this Irish game was only a wishy-washy business anyway. So he said that we should not take some of the criticism too seriously, as it might well be merely a product of international Australian sporting politics.

Well, I would not know anything about such matters, but, further on in his letter, my Sydney friend came up with a very interesting query indeed. He had read right through the Official Guide and was very much intrigued by the rules for Rounders, because of the similarity to Baseball, which, seemingly, is far more popular in Australia than I had ever imagined. And then came the question to which, as far as I know, there can be no answer. He wants

there were several important differences between the rules of rounders, as it was extensively played in the national school playground of my youth, and the rules I find in the Official Guide.

When we were lads we made a rough ring of stones, at a guess it would be sixty or seventy feet in diameter, with one big stone as the batter's 'box', usually known as 'the bob'.

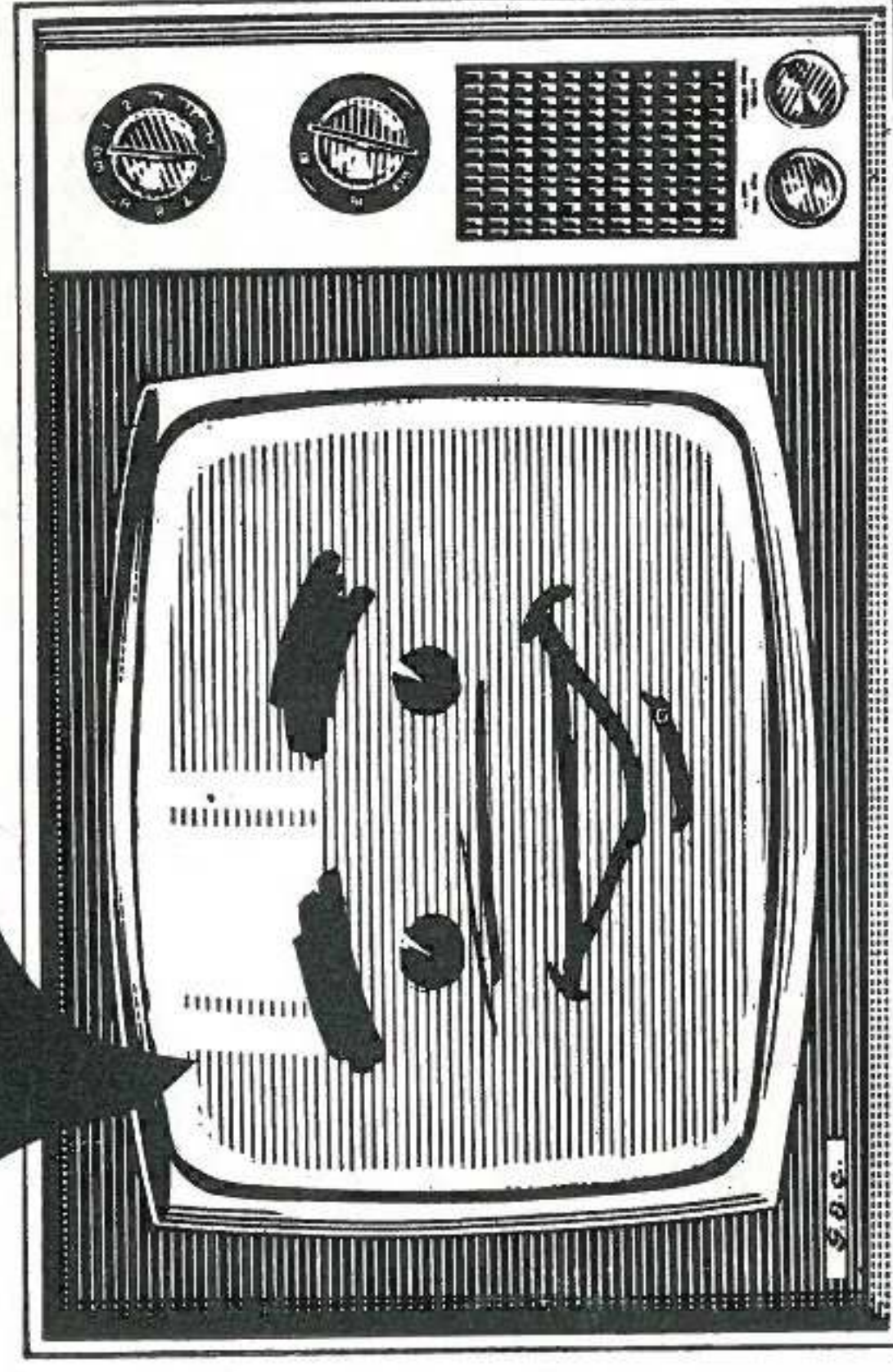
Sides were then chosen on the time honoured principle of 'I lie on you,' and "I lie with you," by the two captains, and then the side that had won the toss went in to bat.

There was a fixed rule that if you missed three 'fair balls' you were out, a 'fair ball' being one that was above knee-high and less than head-high, and 'straight over the bob.' Another fixed rule was that if you hit the ball behind the 'bob,' it did not count. If you did hit the ball fairly you ran as far around the ring of stones as you could get. You were out if you were hit with the ball as you ran between the stones, but if you pulled up at a stone you were safe.

Each player that completed a circuit counted as one run, and the whole team batted in turn. When each player on a team had batted the other team had its innings. But one major rule that was constantly in dispute was whether a catch meant "all hands out" or only meant the dismissal of the player who was actually batting.

The bat was an ordinary hurley, but while the ball might sometimes be a sliothar we far pre-

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# SEAN O'NEILL

—*history maker*

By OWEN McCANN

SEAN O'NEILL helped himself to a slice of Railway Cup football history in Ulster's win over Leinster on St. Patrick's Day. That 11th title success by the North since 1942 earned him the distinction of being the first from the province to figure on six final winning teams.

This gifted Down artist won his first medal on his debut in a decider in 1960. He figured in each of the four finals (1963 to 1966) that resulted in Ulster equalling Leinster's 1952-55 record of four titles in a row. In 1967 he was on the losing side in a final for the only time.

O'Neill and Gabriel Kelly (Cavan) were the only players chosen by Ulster for all 17 games contested by the province in the 'sixties. However, Kelly had to stand down for the 1966 decider, but he was included in the substitutes, and so gained a medal. O'Neill also missed one match—the 1965 semi-final with Munster.

The Newry man scored 5-19 (34 pts.) in his 16 outings in the Ulster jersey, an average of 2.12 points. He had his most successful hour, score-wise, against Munster

in the 1960 final, when he scored 1-5. He was generally credited with three goals in this year's semi-final win at Cavan, but, the first goal in that game was the product of Ulster's three forward newcomers — Neilly Gallagher (Donegal) and Colm McAlarney (Down), who worked the ball up along the left wing, and Mickey Niblock (Derry), who finished the movement with a fine goal.

O'Neill is now joint second with Cyril Dunne (Galway) in the Railway Cup football scoring chart from the 1958 semi-finals up to, and including, this year's final. Dunne has 0-34 from 8 games, or 4.25 points a match. Leading the way is that other Down man with the razor-sharp edge, Paddy Doherty. Including that limited appearance against Connacht at Cavan this year, which he marked by scoring a point, he has 4-60 (72 pts.) from 14 engagements, a 5.14 points average, now the best in the top five.

O'Neill, Doherty and Kelly head the Ulster medals winners list with six each. But, of course, Kelly's total includes that 1966 one as a substitute, and Doherty

gained his first in 1956 also as a substitute. So, O'Neill is an Ulster inter-provincial apart from all others.

The Northern history-maker had nine appearances at right wing forward, six at full forward, and one in the No. 12 jersey. In contrast, Kelly filled the same role in all 16 outings—right full back!

With the story so much one of success on so many fronts for Ulster in modern Railway Cup football history, it is, indeed, surprising, that the province's "Golden Era" has proven a barren spell for once-mighty Antrim. Antrim were represented by Kevin Armstrong in the team that won Ulster's first title, and in 1947 he had the distinction of being the first footballer to bring the Cup over the Border, as the North's captain. Yet, since 1950, when the title went North for the fourth time, no Antrim player has figured on a final winning team. Indeed, in nine finals since then Antrim have been represented only once in an actual line-out.

That was in 1967 when Tony McAtamney was at midfield in

the side that failed to Connacht in that quest for a first five-in-a-row titles run by any province.

Each of the other counties had been represented on at least one final winning team in the 'sixties. The era, in fact, saw Fermanagh take their "place in the sun", with P. T. Treacy winning the county's first medal (as a full member of the team) in 1963.

However, Down are right in the forefront in this most successful chapter ever for the North. Up to 1960, but not including that year's win, the county boasted four medals as against Cavan's 29. From 1960 to last St. Patrick's Day inclusive, the Mourne County gained 33 medals, as against Cavan's 25. The Breffni County lead the chart with 54.

These medals totals include souvenirs won only on the FIELD OF PLAY. I have also included footballers who went in as substitutes during a particular final, and thereby actually figured on a final winning team.

But, I have passed over medals won on the substitute bench. Bearing this in mind, here is the Ulster Railway Cup medals chart: total for each county, and the top medal winner in each.

**Cavan (54)**—T. Maguire (5), 1956, 1960, 1963, 1964, 1965. G. Kelly (5), 1960, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1968.

**Down (37)**—S. O'Neill (6), 1960, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968.

**Donegal (21)**—S. Hoare (4), 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968.

**Armagh (18)** — J. McCullagh (3), 1942, 1943, 1947. J. Whan, (3), 1960, 1963, 1964.

**Antrim (12)**—K. Armstrong (4), 1942, 1943, 1947, 1950.

**Derry (11)**—S. O'Connell (3), 1965, 1966, 1968.

**Tyrone (10)** — J. O'Neill (5), 1960, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966.

**Monaghan (8)**— V. Duffy (2), 1942, 1943.

**Fermanagh (4)**—P. T. Treacy (4), 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966.

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## Can we bridge the gap?

IF future trips by Irish teams to Australia are to really catch on and if these international tests are to win a wider public 'Down Under', then I am convinced that further concessions will have to be made to the Rules game.

Everyone wants to see these trips to Australia becoming an established fact, just as trips to the States have become an accepted feature of our games. But all the sympathy in the world and all the talk about improving international relations will not make a success of the ventures if they fail to draw the crowds. For these trips cost money—big money. And the only way to ensure that the tours will become paying propositions of themselves, is to make the tests attractive enough to guarantee crowds of the size that will cover all expenses.

Now, Meath did very well, indeed, to collect a sizeable five-figure sum to make it possible for them to tour Australia. They could not have gone if their supporters and football lovers in general had not wanted to make the big dream a reality. They could not have gone if men like Peter McDermott had not worked so hard and with so much devotion in making the fund-raising effort the success it proved to be.

But we cannot go on, I feel,

depending on goodwill to make these tours a reality.

There must be a more positive approach. And this approach, to

my mind, must be that the Australian Rules supporter must be won over to a compromise game that will incorporate the best features of Gaelic football and of the Rules game itself.

Before we even go on to discuss a compromise game and further concessions, I would suggest that in future tours, an Ireland team, wearing green jerseys with a Shamrock crest, should go instead of any county selection—even the All-Ireland champions. I know that there is a sharp division of opinion on this point.



*The N.F.A. played its part in helping the fund that made it possible for Meath to travel to Australia. George Claxton, Chairman of the Meath Co. Executive is pictured here presenting a cheque for £100 to Senator Jack Fitzgerald, Meath Central Council representative, who travelled with the team to Australia. In the centre is the N.F.A. P.R.O., Raymond Smith, author of "The Football Immortals," which devotes a special section to the tour and includes a brilliant selection of photographs from Australia.*

But, as I see it, an Irish team would be a bigger drawing card and, furthermore, I am all in favour of any proposal that gives an opportunity of seeing the world to these stars in the lesser counties who keep plugging away year after year with wonderful heart—although they know they have little or no hope of winning an All-Ireland medal.

The main difficulty in building a bridge between Gaelic football and Rules football is that our game has moved from the man-to-man style that predominated in the Kerry-Roscommon tests of the early forties, for example. Teams like Galway (1964-'66) advanced the science of Gaelic football tremendously in the sixties and, as Enda Colleran pointed out to me recently, a slow-moving corner back, who remains 'glued' to the edge of the square, is just not in business in the fluid approach that characterises the modern game at its best.

The Australians, for their part, are wonderfully slick at inter-passing, superior I feel to our own players, but we must remember that Australian spectators don't mind seeing it rough and the Meath men learned to their cost on more than one occasion during the tour that what would be deeply frowned upon at Croke Park won excited cheers at Melbourne Cricket Ground from Rules diehards.

So can we bridge the gap? Can we get over the problem of the tackle?

Joe Lennon, I thought, made a good point recently when he said that it would be tragic if, for the sake of international competition, we should make concessions on the issue of the tackle that would bring the blood-and-thunder, man-to-man approach back into our game. I agree with him in this. I know that men like Jim Barry of Cork feel that Gaelic football was at its best when you had the

real catch-and-kick stuff as played by Kerry in their heyday—the kind of stuff that saw the ball go from end to end with long kicking and high, sure fielding—but we have got to move with the times.

One concession has been made to the Rules game and made without any great difficulty in

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Pat Collier (left) and Mick White, two star performers on the Australian tour.

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the allowing of the ball to be lifted off the ground with the hands. It was permitted in the tests at Croke Park in 1967 when the Australians were over here, and it was allowed in all the games in Australia.

I feel that it should be possible to go further in achieving the goal of a compromise game—and for a start, these concessions

need only be allowed in the international tests while each game could revert to the ordinary rules for the home championships.

Incidentally, I might point out that the idea seemed to get abroad amongst some diehards—both supporters and officials of the Rules game—in Victoria that the Meath team were on a mission of conquest to replace the Rules game with Gaelic football.

But the General Secretary of the G.A.A., Mr. Seán Ó Síocháin, in a magnificent address in Melbourne before 250 guests, won unstinted applause when he made it clear that Meath had come, not in a spirit of conquest, but to bridge the gap between two types of football that had common roots. It was Irishmen who brought football to Australia before the turn of the century.

Harry Beitzel, who organised the Australians' trip to Ireland last October, is determined to promote further trips and intends, in fact, to bring a selection here again later in the year. He put up the International Trophy, which is at present held by New York (they won it by defeating the Aussies in Gaelic Park on the day after the touring side had beaten Mayo in Croke Park).

I am convinced that, with goodwill all round, the dream of a World Cup competition in Gaelic football can become a reality; Ireland could travel to Australia and play the United States on their way home (or maybe meet them first on their way out). And then we could have a return visit from the Aussies, who could take on the United States on their way home (or before they arrive here).

Meath, described to me by the travel agent, Joe Walsh, as "the greatest ambassadors that ever left this country", have shown the way—and they have shown it magnificently by their five memorable wins in Australia—in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne again.

Let us acclaim the conquering heroes from the Royal County. They have written their names indelibly into Gaelic football history and whatever the future holds—and it seems to me that the possibilities are limitless now—we shall remember Meath's historic achievement in 1968.



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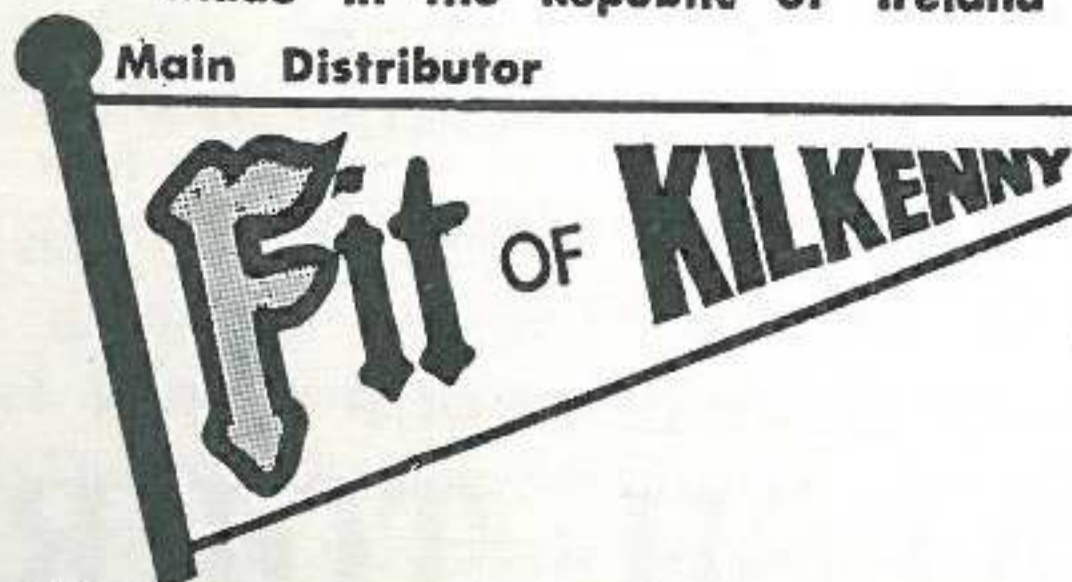


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## SLIGO THREAT

# Change of tune in the West!

By \_\_\_\_\_  
SEAN RICE

THEY were talking in the West in terms of a Mayo-Galway clash in the Connacht final again this year. But suddenly the tune has changed. For with just a little over a month left before the campaign begins the threat of another team looms large.

Sligo, the no-hopers of previous championships, have assumed giant-killing proportions by their dismissal of Cavan from the National League race—the team many had tipped to win the All-Ireland title in September.

The Ulster champions had been warned of Sligo's progress. For they had already beaten a polished and fancied Derry side in the League divisional semi-final. Cavan took no heed and neither did anyone else. Sligo's win was a fluke, they said. Derry were over-confident. They over-indulged in slick football which failed to bring results on the scoreboard and when they

found the swing of the game moving away from them they were unable to do anything about it.

So Sligo got through to the divisional final and shocked the Ulster champions by qualifying for the League semi-finals for the first time in 40 years. It was a personal triumph for Michael Kearins, the dynamic Sligo forward who has done more than his share in trying to bring his county out of the doldrums. And his efforts have renewed followers' hopes of breaking what has appeared an insurmountable barrier in Connacht.

Sligo have performed quite well in the championship in the past few years, but somehow a Connacht title always seemed out of their reach. In 1965 they defeated a fancied Mayo team after being led by nine points at the interval, but the hope which that game ignited was snuffed out when Galway beat them easily in the final. The following year they were again drawn against Mayo and the game ended in a draw, but Mayo won the replay and last year they met again and Mayo had five points to spare.

The chances of the Yeats County team did not appear to be any different in this coming championship than in the past. But now one wonders. For their first appearance in Croke Park in the National League semi-final against Kildare may have given them the necessary fillip to shake the other players out of their lethargic shell and to prepare diligently for the championship. They meet Leitrim in the first round and if they win that, which they should, they will take on Mayo in the semi-final at Castlebar. And it is here their assault on honours was expected to end.

Mayo are the champions, and

playing in MacHale Park, Castlebar, will have a decided advantage. But they have always found Sligo a difficult team to overcome and this year the challenge will be greater, for Sligo beat them in a tournament game just before the outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease. This will inject Sligo with confidence, but whether one can use this game as a yardstick to judge the outcome of their next meeting is doubtful. For Mayo have gained valuable experience in the past nine months and with many of last year's All-Ireland winning under 21 team welded into the senior side, they must start favourites. This will not disturb Sligo, however. They are used to being underdogs and it is the possibility of their creating a surprise that makes the game so attractive.

In the other semi-final, Galway will play Roscommon and here, too, this game promises much. Roscommon have been team-building slowly and ran Mayo to two points in the League last November. They will play the former champions at Ballinasloe and although Galway have shown that they are far from the finished team many had thought, they are going to be stretched to the limit to win. Roscommon are not a very polished side, but they show a lot of enthusiasm and in a pitch like Ballinasloe this type of play is much more effective than in the open expanse of, say, Tuam Stadium.

No more than the Mayo-Sligo clash, no one can be sure that Galway will win this game either. Mayo and Galway appear the likely finalists, but Sligo and Roscommon will present far greater challenges than they have done in the past few years, and this ensures a thrilling year in Connacht football.

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WHERE are they now? That question is often asked by Gaelic followers and they are the stars and heroes of bygone days and recent years who have retired from active participation and have more or less faded into oblivion only to be remembered when their great feats are recalled.

One such ex-stalwart is that great Kerry corner back, Jerome O'Shea, a native of Cahirciveen but now domiciled in Limerick City, where he is Secretary of the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association.

O'Shea began his career with Cahirciveen C.B.S., with whom he captured Dunloe Cup medals. He was later honoured by the Kerry selectors in both minor and senior grades and his trophies won with the Kingdom senior team include three All-Ireland medals, eleven Munster medals, National League and St. Brendan Cup medals while he also won three Kerry championship medals with South Kerry in 1955-56-67.

He had the unique honour of playing for both the Ireland and Universities teams in the annual representative games and he also figured on a U.C.D. team beaten by St. Vincents in the Dublin Senior football final. He also represented Kerry and Munster in basketball competitions.

Although not actively associated with any club at the moment, Jerome O'Shea is still very deeply interested in the welfare and activities of the G.A.A., as I discovered when I interviewed him in his busy office recently.

Murphy—Jerome, looking back over your successful football career, what game stands out in your memory?

O'Shea—Without a doubt, the 1955 final against Dublin rated by many as the greatest final ever. I was only 22 years of age and imagine my delight when selected "Sports Star of the Week". It was also the show-down of the traditional catch and kick Kerry style versus the young, up-and-coming Dublin side and we emerged with honours.

M.—Who was the greatest player you encountered?

O'S.—Kevis Heffernan of Dublin, a most dangerous forward whose swift swerve will long be remembered.

M.—To what do you attribute the present state of football in Kerry?

O'S.—There seems to be a com-

plete lack of interest on the part of players because people to-day seem to be more material in their outlook. Then, too, there is much travelling abroad by students with the result that it is hard to form the basis of a good team.

M.—Do you think Kerry will return to the big time scene?

O'S.—There seems to be plenty of material in the county, but whether the selectors can blend a winning team remains doubtful.

M.—What are your impressions of the general G.A.A. scene?

O'S.—Many major problems confront the Association. In many quarters it is said that if the Ban were removed, it would cure all the ills. I cannot agree with this suggestion as I feel that

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the same problems would still arise. These signs were evident as far back as 1947, but the G.A.A. formulated no policy to meet the situation.

In that year the All-Ireland football final was played in New York, then followed the development of Gaelic Park, an upsurge of interest in the large cities of England and the movement of large numbers of people from the rural districts of Ireland—where the G.A.A. had its roots — to the cities. But the G.A.A. stood still and did not cater for changing trends. In business, firms are constantly doing market research to find out consumer needs and I feel the G.A.A. Policy Committees should have operated on similar lines and issued recommendations. To pinpoint my view, I remember doing a TV programme on the lack of playing pitches for G.A.A. games in a Dublin district of a 25,000 population. Here all the families had G.A.A. backgrounds but received no encouragement to foster Gaelic games, while other codes were booming.

**M.—Any idea you would like to see introduced ?**

**O'S.—**I am all in favour of an ex-players association, whose sole function would be to provide activities for players who have retired. My most enjoyable function was playing on the 1955 Kerry team against the Radio All-Stars in a charity game in Tralee last year. I feel games like these should be continued.

**M.—Any rule in the present set-up you would like to see changed?**

**O'S.—**I would like to see thirteen-a-side introduced in Gaelic football. This would eliminate crowding around the square, jersey pulling, and would open up the game, resulting in more scores!

# Ann Carroll

By *AGNES HOURIGAN*

**N**O more dynamic figure has come onto the camogie scene in recent years than Ann Carroll, who, although yet scarcely out of her teens, has been a force to reckon with already in many phases of the game.

Born in London, where her father was then in business, she took up camogie when the family came home again, and first made her mark with Mercy Convent, Callan, when the latter school entered the Leinster senior Colleges competition on its institution.

In the five years of school competition, Ann won three Stuart Cup medals, and played in four finals, a remarkable record but she had meanwhile swept to fame on the inter-county fields.

She first played inter-county for Kilkenny when in her very early teens, but when she then went to live at Ballintaggart, which is over the Tipperary border, she was next seen in the Premier County ranks.

While still a school-girl she won several Munster championship medals with Tipperary (in fact, in the same year she twice won Leinster championship medals in schools competition and Munster championship medals in senior grade), also won a couple of interprovincial titles with Munster, and captained the Tipperary side in an All-Ireland final, which they lost to Dublin after a great game.

She did, however, win two All-Ireland club championship medals with her Tipperary club, St. Patrick's. Meanwhile, she had come up to University College, Dublin, to study architecture and quickly made her mark by inspiring U.C.D. to win the Ashbourne Cup in her first year.

Something more than twelve months ago, her family moved again, this time back to the town of Kilkenny, and Ann was due to re-appear in the Kilkenny colours when she received a severe but accidental knee injury which threatened to put her out of the game for good.

As it was, she was debarred from active service for more than twelve months, but this did not hinder her work for camogie. As secretary of U.C.D. club she put tireless work into training and coaching the side, which made a brave but vain bid to recapture the Ashbourne Cup at Galway, with Ann herself playing brilliantly in goal.

Nobody is more determined that camogie will advance to its rightful place as the greatest sport for women in Ireland, and she is as willing to work off the field as to play on it, and is, in fact, now treasurer of Leinster Council.

But then, she gets every encouragement and example at home, for her mother is the chairman of Kilkenny County Camogie Board, while her father, best known nowadays as head of Carroll System



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And it is good news for all camogie followers that Ann hopes to be back in full action on the playing fields this summer. The game can ill afford to be without such a great player whose return will be anxiously awaited both by her U.C.D. club-mates and Kilkenny, for whom she hopes to play again this season.



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# ANOTHER BIG ADVANCE

**T**HE new era for camogie advanced another stage at the Annual Congress in Dublin when three very important decisions were taken. One had already been agreed to last year, and was now confirmed. That was a decision to have an All-Ireland championship this season in the junior grade.

The second was the setting up at last of All-Ireland Colleges championships, together with the agreement to approach the Vocational Schools authorities to discuss the feasibility of holding a Vocational Schools championship also.

And the third was a Kilkenny motion which, in effect, calls for a reassessment of the whole position of the Camogie Association.

The junior All-Ireland championship is an obvious need. It will give a tremendous opportunity to the weaker counties to develop and it will increase the general interest in the game. Played in conjunction with the senior final it should increase the attendance considerably.

I am particularly pleased that the All-Ireland Colleges competitions are to become an actuality. As constant readers will know, this has long been a pet theme of mine, and I feel, and have long felt, that such a competition is essential not alone if camogie is to hold the position so hard

won in the Ulster and Leinster schools, but if it is ever to take a real hold in the Connacht and Munster Colleges.

Many other games for school-girls are now offering the bait of international competition, the least we can produce in reply is a national championship. And when the new Colleges Central Council is set up, as I presume one will be, I do hope they will have championships in both senior and junior grade, because there is even more enthusiasm at present in junior than in senior ranks.

With well-organised competitions in both grades in Leinster and Ulster, all that is now needed is to arrange in what way Munster and Connacht will be represented until such time as these provinces are fully organised.

As for the motion about reassessing the position of the Association, anyone who heard the Kilkenny delegate proposing the setting up of a special committee for this purpose immediately realised the people down by the Nore had already given a great deal of thought to this matter and, in fact, the delegate's speech almost gave a blueprint of the task such a committee will face.

Finance, publicity, relationship with the G.A.A. at all levels, organisation, schools, coaching were all mentioned and, if the committee gets quickly to work,

the Camogie Association should really be going places in twelve months time.

One motion that was not passed, to my regret, was a Roscommon bid to have the Central Council expanded to include two extra representatives from each provincial Council. Central Council as at present constituted is really an Executive Committee, confined to the officers of Central Council and of the Provincial Councils.

As such, it is often a bit remote from the ordinary member of the Association, and if it were increased in numbers, even by the inclusion of two further members from each provincial council, more counties would be represented on the governing body, and these counties would therefore have a far greater sense of participation in the top-level working of the Association than they have at present.

There were very divided opinions on the question of retaining the rule which prohibits members of the Association from playing football of any kind. The main problem seemed to be that in some parts of the country, ladies' football competitions are now being sponsored by G.A.A. clubs, and some camogie players feel it is absurd that they should be suspended for playing a Gaelic game. However, the

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# MÍ ÁLUINN

Ní dóigh liom go bhfuil aon mhí eile i rith na bliana go léir níos deise, nó níos gleóite ná Mí Bealtaine, an mhí atá againn i láthair na h-uaire. Ní h-aon iona é annsan, gur toghadh é, chun onóir a thabhairt do mháthair Dé

féin. Tá gach rud go deas úr, is go deas glas—an féar fén ár gcosaibh, is na duilleóga ar na crainn ós ár gcionn i-n-áirde. Bíonn na h-éin ag canntan ó bhreachadh an lae. Chuirfidís cóir scoile i gcuimhne dhuit-iad

## le LIAM O TUAMA

san agus an spéir gheal Ghorm ós a gcionn, chuirfeadh sé na luighe ort go bfuil an Samhradh buailte suas linn. 'Seadh, mí áluinn ar fad, ar fad is eá,—mí Bealtaine, agus ní h-aon iona é annsan gur mí é, a mheallann óg is aosta amach, ag imirt peile, is ag iomáint. Is ar éigin go mbíonn slí dóibh go léir uaireannta ar pháirc na h-iameartha.

### TÚS LE COMÓRTAISÍ

Tá na comórtaisí tosnuighthe cheana féin. Tá comórtaisí na Sóisear geall is a bheith thart. Tosnuigheann siad go h-ana luath i gCúige Uladh i gcómhnaí. Tá níos mó dul chun cinn déanta ag ár gcluichí náisiúnta i gCúige Uladh le dathad blian anuas, ná mar atá déanta i-n-aon Chúige eile, cé go bhfuil níos mó constacaí, sa t-slí orra annsan, ná mar atá i-n-aon áit eile. "Ní h-aithineas go h-aontigheas" adeir an sean-fhocal. Ní foláir do dhuine cómhnaí a bheith air, na gcomhlúadar, chun an cheist a thuiscint i gceart. Bhí an pribhléid sin agam-sa, leath-chéad blian ó shoin anois beagnach. Dá bhrígh sin, tá seana-ghrádh, agus seana-chion agam ar Ghaedhil Uladh, go mór mhór ar fad, an mhéid dióbh go bhfuil cómhnaí orra ins na "Sé Conndaethe". Tá siad géarrtha amach uainn le teóra "mí-nádúra, ach, tá a gcroidhe is a n-anam i gcúis na h-Éireann i gcúis an Phiarsaigh—i gcúis ár dteangan agus, i gcúis ár gcluichí.

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ár gcine, tá buntáiste iontach eile aca, tá sár-rúnaidhe aca—Gearóid Mac Airt. Tá aithne agam air le blianta fada—fear chó deas is a chasfaí ort i siubhal lae. Má tá dul chun cinn déanta ag ár gcluichí i gCúige Uladh, tá roinnt mhór, agus an-roinnt mhór den mholadh ag dul do Geróid Mac Airt. Nuair a toghadh é mar rúnaidhe, bhí cúrsaí ár gcliuchí an-lag sa Chúige. Bhí an caighdán-peile ana lag. Is cuimhin liom, bhuaidh Ciarraidhe ar rogh agus ar thogha an Chúige uair nó dó. Ní dhéanfadh Ciarraidhe ná aon chonndae eile sa tír é sin fé láthair. Rud eile, ní raibh mórán airgid curtha ar leath taoibh aca. A mhalairt ar fad, i dtreó gur thánaigh Comhairle Mumhan i gcabhair orra. Chuireadar fuireann peile ó thuaidh, chun “geata” a dhéanamh dóibh. I láthair na h-uaire, tá Comhairle Uladh go maith as. I dteannta san níl aon teóra leis an mhéid páirceanna imtheara atá aca, cé gur cuimhin liom tráth, ná raibh oiread is ceann amháin. Leo féin aca. Tá siad chun cinn ar na Cúigí eile sa t-slí seo leis. Déanann siad a gcuid gnótha tré theangain ár dtíre féin, ag cruinnithe coiste a’ Chúige. Sin deaghshompla dos na Cúigí eile. Molaim sibh-se, Gaedhil Uladh.

### DÚRLAS MAR IONAD

Beidh roinnt mhaith de chluichí tábhactacha i nDúrlas Éile i rith na míosa. Beidh an Chláir is Portláirge ag iomáint ann, agus seachtmhain na dhiaidh sin arís, beidh Corcaig agus Luimneach ag iomáint ann chó maith. Adéarfainn go mbuadhfaidh Clár ar Phortláirge, agus go mbuadhfaidh Corcaigh ar Luimneach. Níos luaithe fós sa mhí, beidh cluicht peile—sinnsir, i nDúrlas chó maith. Luimneach is Tiobrad Arann a bheidh páirteach sa chomórtas so, agus is deachair a rádh fós, cad é an toradh a bheidh leis. Pé ar domhan é, tá

féasta ag feitheamh le Dúrlas Éile—trí Domhanti i ndiaidh a chéile-comórtaisí sínnisireacha. Is annamh riamh a thárlíonn sé, fiú amháin i bPáire an Chrócaigh. Go luath sa mhí seo chughainn, beidh lá mór eile i nDúrlas Éile—oscailt an árdáin nua. Beidh fíor lá mór ann ar an lá san. Taobh amuigh den oscailt oifigiúil, beidh óráideacha, ar óráideacha, is gach ceann aca tuillte. Beidh rud éigin le rádh agam, san chéad eagrán eile mar gheall ar Dhúrlas mar ionad i gcóir comórtaisí iománíochta. Tá seana-chion agus seana ghrádh agam ar an mbaile féin, agus ar an spéir ós a chionn-i-n-áirde. Tá dríocht éigin ag gabháil leis an áit, maidir le h-iománíocht, rud éigin ná bfuil ag dul le h-aon áit eile i-n-Éirinn is cuma, cad é an áit atá i gceist.

### RIALTAS GAODHALACH

Cheapas leath-chéad blian ó shoin go dtíochfadh an lá, ’na bheadh sean-Éire againn arís—Éire a bheadh, ní h-amháin Gaodhalach, ach saor, chó maith, agus ní h-amháin saor ach Gaodhalach chó maith. Sin é an saghas tíre abhí ag teastáil ó Phádraig Mac Piarais, is ón a chomráidí a thug a raibh sa t-saol so aca, ar son cúis na h-Éireann. Is cuimhin liom an lá—an lá a ghlan airm Shasanna amach, as an dtaobh so den tír. Cheapas go bfacha mé an lá geal sa deire thiar thall. Bheadh ár dteanga féin againn anois, bheadh ár gcluichí féin againn. Leanfaimis ar aghaidh le scéim agus le h-adhm an Phiarsaigh. Ní bhead aon tarraingt siar ann. Thug na Sasannaigh a gcluichí féin isteach sa tír seo. Anois bheadh ár gcluichí féin, i ngach scoil, i ngach choláiste agus i ngach clochar. Theastuigh uainn ár dtír a Ghaodalú, uair eile arís. Lucht leanúna an Phiarsaigh do b’ eadh sinn-ne. Do b’ é a adhm, ár n-adhm ne. Aon scoil, nó aon choláiste, nó aon chlochar ná

bheadh toilthineach teacht linn, ní bhronnfaimis aon deóntas oideachais orra. Ní chuirfimis iachall ar aoinne ár gcluichí féin a imirt, ach ní chaithfimis airgead na h-Éireann chun Éire a choimeád Gallda. Ní fhéadfaimis é a dháanamh. Bhíomar i ndáríribh i dtaobh Gaodhalú na tíre. Ach mo léan is mo mhairigh, brí breall orainn. Is náireach an nidh le rádh é, ná raibh rialtas fíor-Ghaolach againn riamh, ón lá d’imthigh Seán Buí as an dtír seo. I mórán slighte, táimid níos Gallda fé láthair ná mar a bhíomar riamh, riamh. Is searbh an níthe é, an rádh so, ach, mar adeireann an sean-fhochal “bíonn an fhírinne searbh uaireannta.”

*Leabhair Nua*

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(Catholic Standard)

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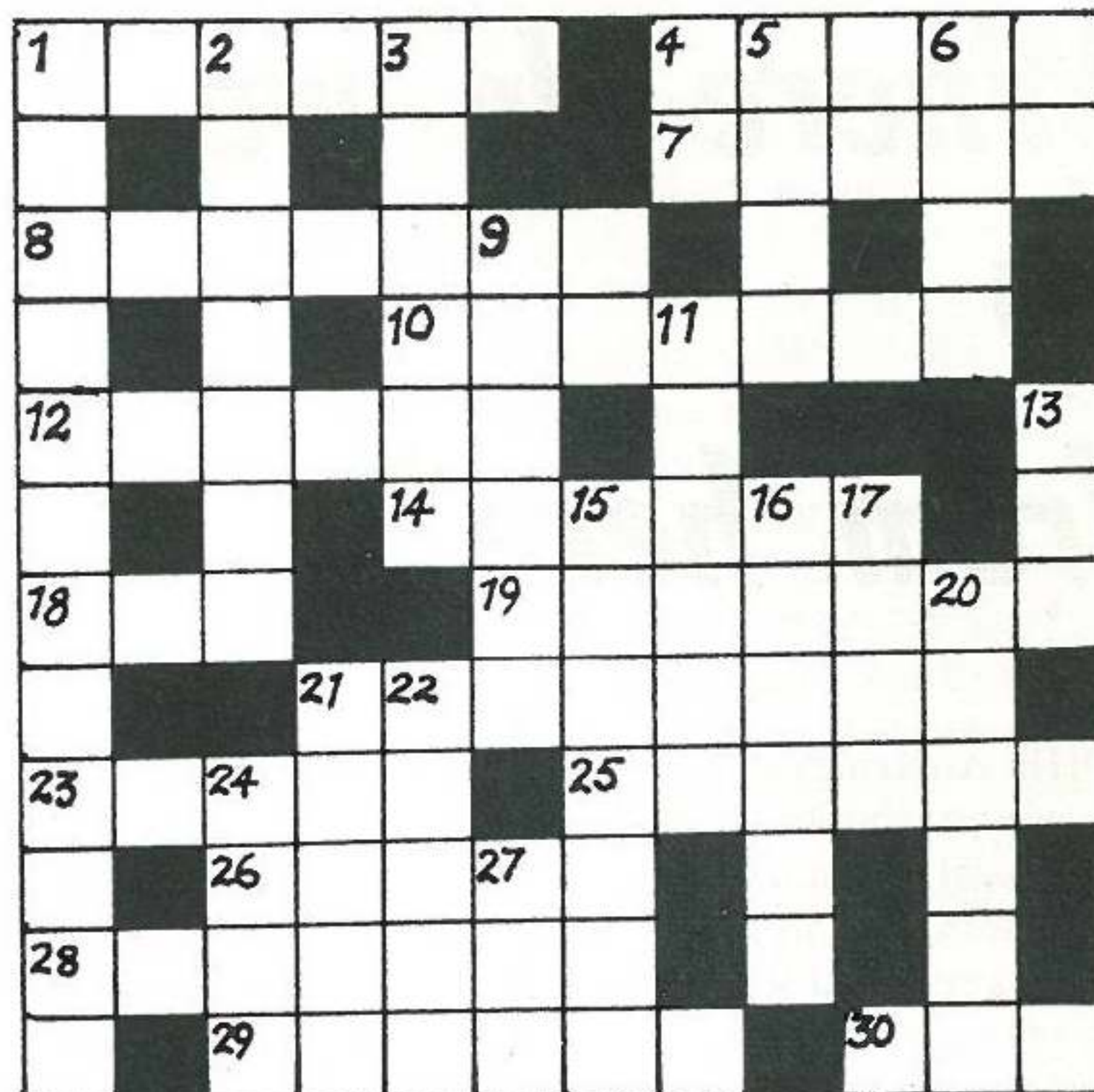
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## ACROSS

- 1—Important Committee of Central Council concerned with planning. (6)
- 4—Antrim camogie star must feel perfectly at home on the lush green playing pitch. (1, 4 or 5)
- 7—One who strives to equal or excel another—often in direct opposition. (6)
- 8—In the general direction of . . . . (7)
- 10—Successfully trained last year's Kilkenny team as far as the P.T. end was concerned. (7)
- 12—Speechmaker such as might make his name at Congress. (6)
- 14—Phil, the Wexford wing-forward — who was centre-field for a long time before his recent change. (6)
- 18—No score. (3)
- 19—Sin hour seems to give health, strength and energy. (7)
- 21—Tipperary newcomer last year who has made himself a big defensive reputation since then. (1, 7)
- 23—All-Ireland hurling winners of 1915. (5)
- 25—Almost one of the Congress sittings. It does not quite finish. (6)
- 26—Be in full accord with. (5)
- 28—It would take several times a Clare forward to make one Ulster Secretary. (7)
- 29—Late ——— are a bugbear of the Association. (6)
- 30—Mix tar for a footballer's Christian name or a tasteful skill. (3)

## DOWN

- 1—The forward or midfield member of a pair of Galway brothers. (3, 9)
- 2—The sort that finds the net. (3, 4)
- 3—Their best was a senior football semi-final in 1944. (6)
- 4—Centre-back for Limerick in 1954, when winning the Munster championship. Initials. (1, 1)
- 5—It must be what a team flies on. (4)



- 6—Iran turns wet, and some teams do not play well in such weather. (4)
- 9—A grind should produce courage in a player. (6)
- 11—All should take this precaution against financial loss through injury. (6)
- 13—Hop goes all wrong and looks initially like Down full-forward of 1960s. (1, 2)
- 15—The slackest possible marking. (7)
- 16—George played his part in Mayo teams that set up all-time League records. (6)
- 17—NIAS, literally. (4)
- 20—Hot shot with rifle—or hurley? Picking off the targets coolly. (6)
- 21—No time for a match—certainly not without floodlights. (5)
- 22—OSRUA. (5)
- 24—Even a sot could produce this grain crop. (4)
- 27—To do this is human; and many a player does. (3)

**SOLUTION PAGE 48**

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# Where do we go from here?

THE Australians came, saw and conquered and although Meath redressed the balance in the most convincing manner a thousand heads keep nodding. "Things will never be the same again," while "reforming" pens continue working overtime.

Change would appear to be "in" and if, in fact, our friends from Down Under visit these shores again in October it seems likely that we will be treated to spectacles which are neither Gaelic nor Australian Rules, but rather a semi-official experimental compromise version of the combined codes.

If improvements which can be translated beneficially to either game emerge from these encoun-

ters the tours—already by all accounts tremendous social successes—will also have brought undreamt of advantages to our playing rules.

Personally, I am not opposed to change if on the evidence it can be clearly justified. But neither am I in favour of a radical overhaul which could leave us exclaiming with Captain Boyle, "The whole world's in a shockin' state of chassis".

Before a patient is treated his illness—and its precise nature—must be established.

Therefore, before our playing rules are tampered with, their defects—if any—must be scrutinised so that effective remedies may be applied.

ASKS —————

DAN McAREAVY

It has been proved beyond year or nay that within the present rules Gaelic football can be played as the most spectacular and enjoyable game in the world, with the possible exception of hurling.

A quick glance backwards over the past 30 years establishes this point. What was "wrong" with the Galway-Kerry drawn classic of 1938? Who did not wax lyrical at the Cavan of 1947 or '48? Who was not enchanted with the symphony which Galway rendered in 1966?

It would seem, therefore, that the evidence tends to "convict" today's exponents of the game rather than the rules and concession of incompetence is never a good policy.

But nothing is perfect, and the G.A.A. can obviously learn, particularly, I would say, from the Australians who have clearly something to offer.

I feel the greatest lesson they taught us was the fundamental principle of the supreme importance of physical fitness. Indeed, if our players concentrated on this single point without reference to anything else the immediate change would be the most revolutionary in the history of the Association. The lethargy and slowness which has crept into the game—particularly at club level—has been due primarily to a lack of fitness.

But to be more particular, it seems clear that the two main

## HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

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*Here's to the next one.*



points which the Australians have thrown into the melting pot concern the pick-up and the tackle.

If, in fact, the "free" pick-up were adopted, additional speed would be introduced—this would put a further premium on fitness—and this would be followed logically, I think, by a clamour for the return of the palmed pass with the nett result—and I know Alf Murray will not agree with this — a "common throwing match".

Far better surely to eliminate the pick-up altogether and put the onus on the player to find a colleague or register a score with a deft kicked pass. As I see it, whatever the method of picking the ball off the ground an unseemly melee results with the player making the lift either fouling or being fouled.

The Australian "tackle" has nothing to recommend it with its penalty on the skilful use of possession and I cannot visualise its acceptance.

Such a change would put the whole emphasis on the use of physical force and discourage the player with the skill to take a ball past an opponent; he should be allowed to retain possession rather than be pulled down.

A strict definition of our present "tackle" would solve any problems in this particular sector.

Little change, therefore, should come after the proposed games in October but we must be grateful to the Australians for giving us much food for thought. The onus is now on the Association to digest it carefully.

P.S. Incidentally, the Australians do not include automatic suspension in their rules. Here is something we might copy with advantage but as I write Congress has not dealt with this question and I am simply keeping my fingers crossed.

## CAMOGIE

● FROM PAGE 37

majority of delegates felt the rule should be retained, so the obvious thing now is to bring the ruling of Congress to the attention of the G.A.A. authorities in the counties concerned.

Finally, this was the most encouraging Congress I have ever attended. There were delegates from more than twenty counties, and the majority of them had no hesitation about expressing their views. What was better again, they all had only one interest,

the advancement of camogie to the place it should hold in the life of the nation. While that spirit prevails the future of our game is assured.

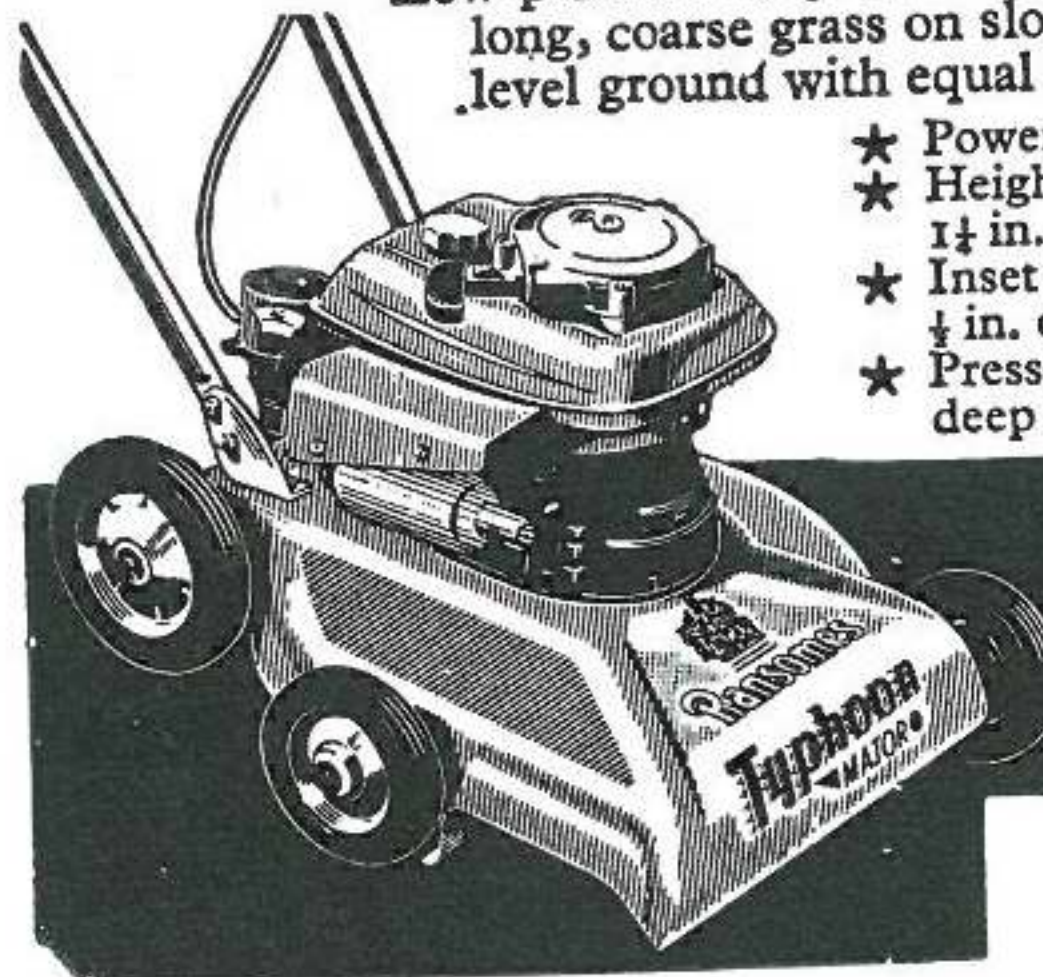
Now I would like to welcome as President Mrs. Rosina McManus who has done so much for the game in the North and particularly during her term as Chairman of Ulster Council. Under her leadership the current advance is bound to continue.

And so forward to the forthcoming championships, which should be the most successful yet played since the All-Ireland series first began in 1932.

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# WHERE DO ALL THE YOUNG LADS GO? AND WHY?

## G.A.A. MUST PROVIDE MORE GAMES

Says SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

**T**ROUBLING earnest G.A.A. workers, particularly in the larger towns and cities is the position of Gaelic games amongst the youth—the lads just turned the fourteen mark and left school; and at a later stage boys just out of their 'teens and facing a career.

The primary schools in most areas are doing splendid work and the games are flourishing. For this happy state of affairs a debt of gratitude is due to the Christian Brothers and many enthusiastic national teachers, who devote much time and energy to propagating a love for hurling and football among the boys.

Difficulties start piling up when schooldays end, and one of the problems facing the G.A.A. rulers is that of improving the position of boys in this category and sustaining their interest in the Association.

This calls for increased competition in under 14, under 15 and under 16 grades and a sustained programme of games extending over the entire season.

We must face the fact that the Association is losing out at this stage and that very many boys turn over to other codes. A thorough investigation in one

area has confirmed that the reason most seek their pleasures elsewhere is for want of sustained activity at Gaelic level.

Boys in their early 'teens require at least two games every week to satisfy their craving for action, and if the G.A.A. is not prepared to provide it, other codes are willing and ready to step in, capture the youth and give them what they want.

G.A.A. competition in most cases is too haphazard and falls down badly in planning. Leagues are the ideal arrangement for teams in the younger age brackets. Some complain that fifteen aside games are more difficult than others to organise, but when circumstances warrant surely there is nothing wrong with reducing teams to thirteen, eleven or even nine aside. The main thing is to provide a continuity of games.

Besides, a trophy for the individual winner there should be a lot more originality in the line of awards for the best togged team; for punctuality in lining out; for the defence conceding the least scores; for special scoring feats; for the player who never missed a game; and for other performances of merit during the season.

There is a lack of communi-

cation in many instances between the school team and the local club and this must be tackled. The latter have all to gain by interesting themselves and even becoming deeply involved in school activities and they could help in very practical fashion in the provision of good class hurleys subsidised to sell at a price even the least well off could afford.

Many other ways of helping will suggest themselves and every avenue should be explored, including the sponsorship of competition on a street league or townland basis designed to ease the transition from school to club affiliation.

A question often posed: "Where do all the good minors go?" pinpoints another leakage stage which in many cases has reached serious proportions.

Whilst many of our secondary schools are doing great work towards the propagation of Gaelic games, others play a very different part and in some instances are actual vehicles for turning youths brought up in the Gaelic tradition over to other games.

Many deep thinking Gaels have long felt that the Association had not been aggressive enough in

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dealing with this serious problem but recent Central Council action in connection with press and television relations suggest a more vigorous approach, long overdue, and which might later on be directed to the colleges front with good effect.

Nobody denies any youth the right to play any game he chooses but it is a very different

matter when boys from Gaelic homes and environment enter a secondary school and are virtually forced to play games alien to the soil and to their traditional way of life.

On the club front much also remains to be done to make conditions attractive enough to retain the allegiance of our youth.

The lack of social life and contact is being increasingly felt in many quarters and in a world that is becoming more practical every day this is a gap that must be filled by G.A.A. clubs—and it must be done right away.

Social activities within the Association must be encouraged and right away let it be understood that the organisation of an annual social or an occasional gathering is not meeting this need.

A social centre has to be established and the ideal place for this is in close proximity to the club grounds. It should be available to the youth of the area every day of the week and a realistic committee should be in charge capable of sensing the requirements and catering for them.

The establishment of these centres is ideal work for the older players who owe it to the Association to remain on as active members and do a good community service in moulding the youth on sound national and Christian lines.

I would like to see each club a closely knit unit with a spirit closely akin to that of the family. The members should be encouraged to help each other in every possible way, in their business as in their recreation, and avenues of employment for the younger members should be explored, thus helping them to remain in the district rather than be forced to seek a livelihood elsewhere — maybe even in a foreign land, to where all too many of our players have to go.

# TOP TEN

THE following ratings in hurling and football are based on inter-provincial and inter-county games played from St. Patrick's Day, Sunday March 17th, to Sunday, April 14th, inclusive.

We would remind readers again that the rankings are based on a points system (10 for the top player and so on down to one for the 10th) and at the end of the year the totals reveal the stars of the season under review. We believe it to be the only sure method of selecting the hurling and football stars of any particular year.

## HURLING

- 1—M. Roche ..... (Tipperary)
- 2—J. Treacy ..... (Kilkenny)
- 3—L. Gaynor ..... (Tipperary)
- 4—P. Henchy ..... (Clare)
- 5—T. Carroll ..... (Kilkenny)
- 6—P. O'Brien ..... (Clare)
- 7—M. Keating ..... (Tipperary)
- 8—P. Barry ..... (Cork)
- 9—L. Devaney ..... (Tipperary)
- 10—J. Cullinane ..... (Clare)

## FOOTBALL

- 1—M. Kearins ..... (Sligo)
- 2—S. O'Neill ..... (Down)
- 3—S. Cleary ..... (Galway)
- 4—T. O'Hare ..... (Down)
- 5—S. Leydon ..... (Galway)
- 6—M. White ..... (Meath)
- 7—N. Ryan ..... (Kildare)
- 8—D. Hunt ..... (Cork)
- 9—M. O'Connell ..... (Kerry)
- 10—J. Earley ..... (Mayo)

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Brindley Adv.



# PROBING THE GRASSROOTS (2)

Concluding a two-part article in which the Armagh Chairman, DAN McAREAVY interviews a local officer Mr. JOSEPH CANNING

**Q.**—Success at inter-county level has deserted Armagh in recent years. What remedy would you prescribe in the circumstances?

**A.**—This is, of course, the 64,000 dollar question. Anyone who could find a formula for instant success would be worth a few thousand pounds to the county. However, success may not be all that far away if the right approach is adopted.

I think the first requirement is optimism. For too long have we heard it said "The players aren't there." I am convinced that the players are there if an effort was made to find them. In the past we have been too much inclined to concentrate on a few clubs when looking for our county players. We have held on to old players for far too long, and when the younger men have been introduced they have not been given enough opportunities to prove themselves.

It will be necessary to have our county players training regularly if we wish to make progress. It is no use waiting until an Ulster Final or a National League semi-final is reached before training is started. Training should be regarded as something that all county players must do irrespective of how far the team may go in any competition. A good example of the importance of training was seen in Limerick's victory over Cork in the National Football League.

To achieve success a team manager is an essential and I think we are extremely lucky in having two men with such ability

and enthusiasm as Harry Hoy and Jimmy Whan. If these two are given co-operation and encouragement I think it will not be long until there will be some silverware on the Armagh sideboard.

**Q.**—Is the Association playing as full a part as it might in the life of the country? Where — if you feel it exists — is the main weakness.

**A.** — The Association has claimed — and rightly so — to have played an important part in the history of the country since its foundation, but I feel it is not now playing as full a part as it might in the life of the country. We claim to be concerned with the well-being of the country, but there are two national problems about which we seem to have done very little — I refer to emigration and the depopulation of rural areas,

especially of the west. For an organisation that had its roots in rural Ireland it seems to me that we could do a lot more to help solve these problems.

Here in the North one of our big problems is community relations. If we say that we are concerned about the well-being of the Irish people, and at the same time are not doing anything about this problem we are not being sincere. I am not saying that we should try to bring "the other side" into the Association—most of them would not be interested anyway — but what I am suggesting is that our rigid attitude with regard to some of our rules is helping to perpetuate the divisions in our community, and it seems to me that if we could get rid of this rigidity—and this does not mean

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## You Said It!

**O**UR Guinea Prize this month goes to Thomas Kemmy, Garbally, Birr, Co. Offaly, for his reply to the question posed in our April issue—"Should Referees Be Paid?" He writes:—

"Yes, I think referees should be paid. If the referee has to handle a dirty game sometimes he gets hurt, and then it is very unfair not to pay him.

If a referee were paid at least one pound per game, I think more men would take up the job. These officials get very tough treatment at some games and it is about time Co. Boards did something on their behalf—financially.

Indeed, the time is long overdue to pay these dedicated men who have the most thankless—and often the most dangerous—job in the G.A.A."

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abandoning our principles — we would be doing a great service to the community.

**Q.—What changes do you visualize in the Association before it reaches its centenary in 1984?**

**A.—**It is difficult to visualize the G.A.A. making many radical changes in the next 20 years, but because of the rapidly changing circumstances of modern living changes must come in even this ultraconservative organisation.

Political commentators examining the “swing” in the “Ban” vote would confidently predict its abolition before 1984, and I would agree with such a prediction at least in regard to attendance at foreign games. Such a development would help put an end to the squalid controversy that I referred to earlier.

It seems almost certain that an All-Ireland Club competition in

both hurling and football will be in full swing by the centenary year. One would hope that with this there will be a severe pruning of inter-county competitions, especially of the junior and intermediate All-Irelands, as it seems to me, that these competitions serve no useful purpose whatever.

By 1984 the Central Council will have discovered the meaning of the word “league” and we will have the 32 counties divided into four groups of eight each for a single round league with promotion and relegation between each division.

The All-Ireland competitions in senior hurling and football will be run on the open draw system, thus obviating the need for provincial councils, these bodies having become by then merely objects of historical interest. Each county will have at least one full-time paid official while the Official Guide will require that a county chairman will hold

office for no longer than six years.

The Ulster Final and one All-Ireland semi-final will be played in Craigavon in a huge sports stadium which will be used by other sporting organisations for their major events.

The number of clubs in rural areas will have declined considerably. Those clubs which survive will each have their own pitch with well-equipped dressing rooms, while each urban club will have a huge social centre which will provide a variety of activities for the members.

A number of changes will have been made in the playing rules. Teams will be 13-a-side and charging the goalkeeper will be abolished while picking the ball off the ground will be forbidden.

The big event in the centenary celebrations will be the first venture into international competition when teams from Ireland, Great Britain, Australia and America will play in Croke Park for the World Cup.

[With acknowledgement to Democrat Newspapers, Coalisland, Co. Tyrone and Mr. Joseph Canning for permission to reproduce the above interview.]

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## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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