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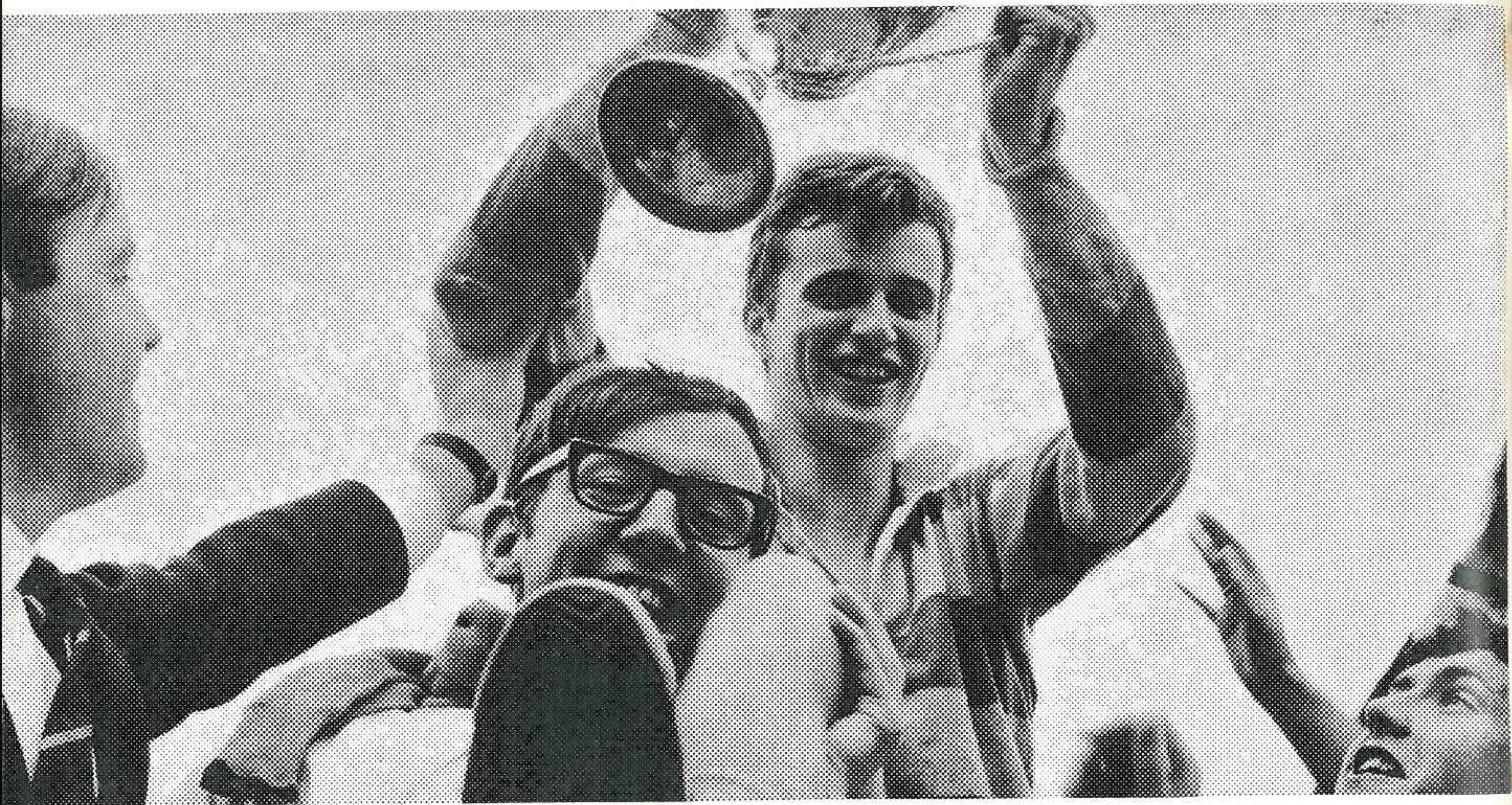


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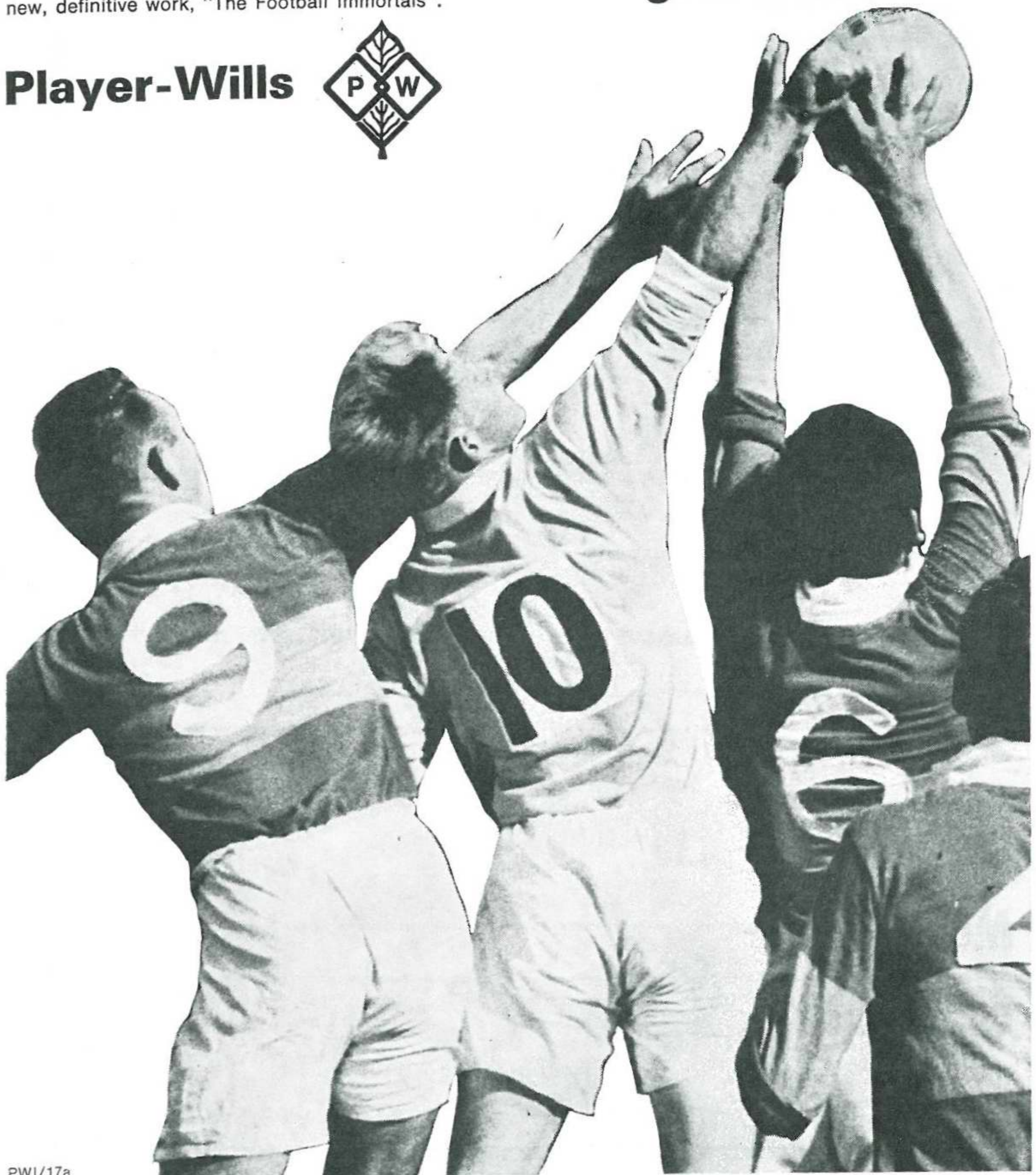
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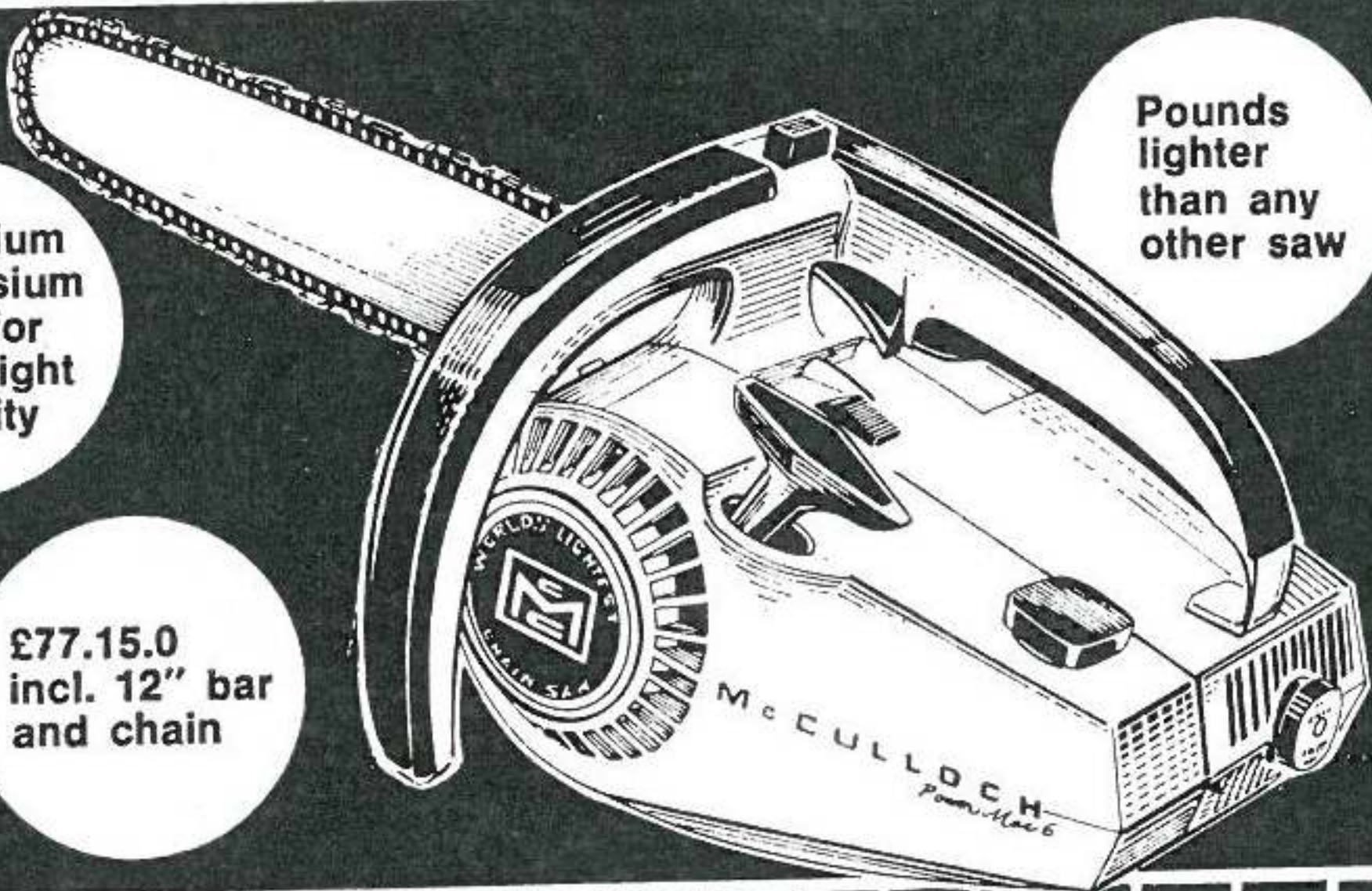
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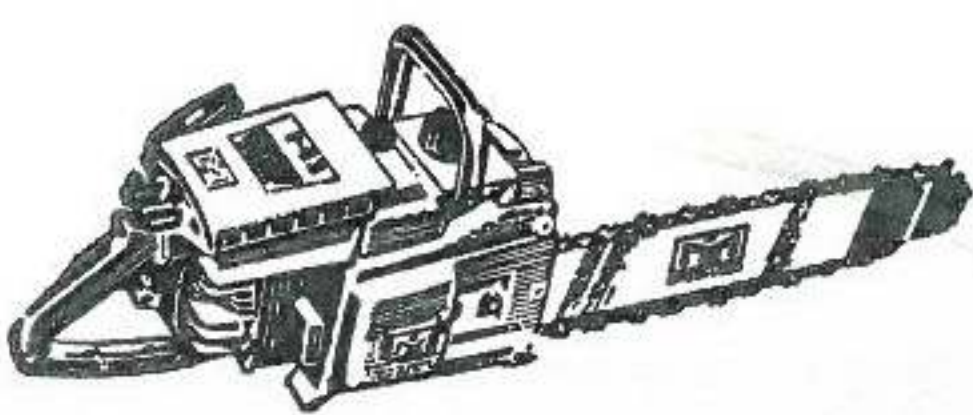
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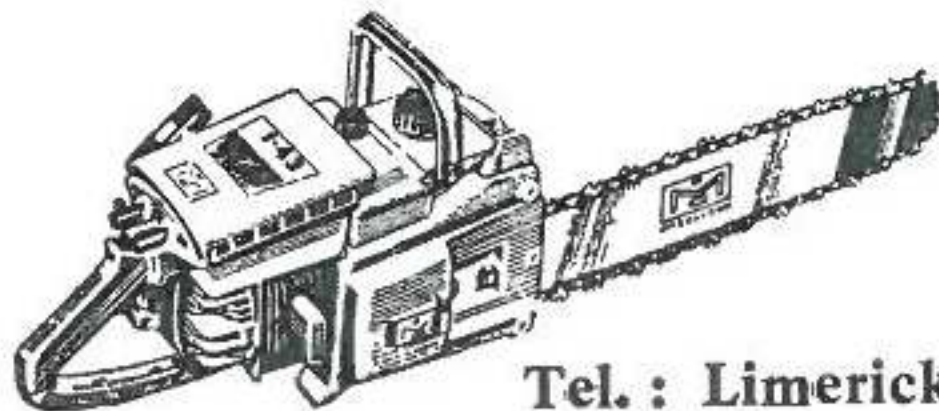
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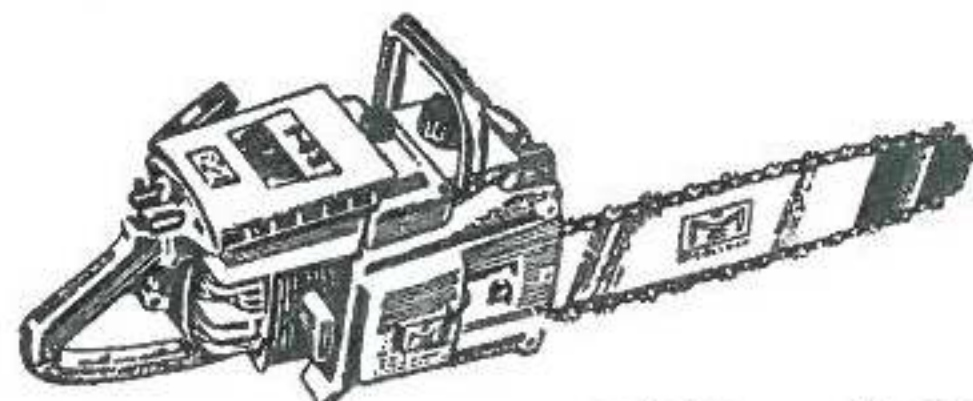
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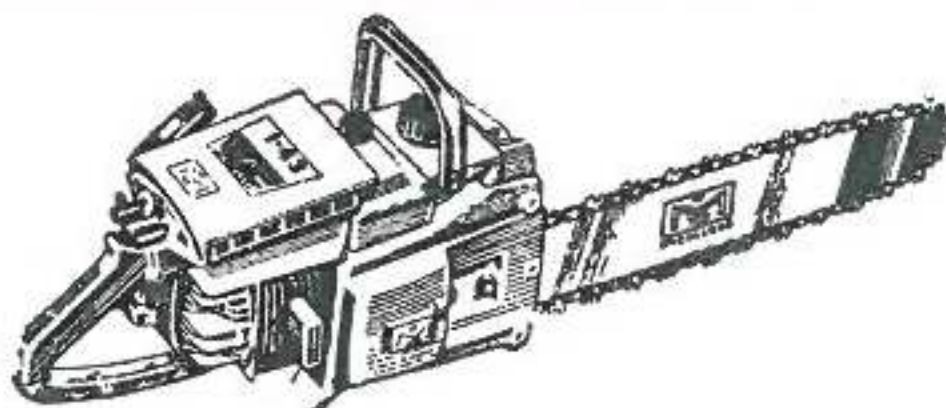
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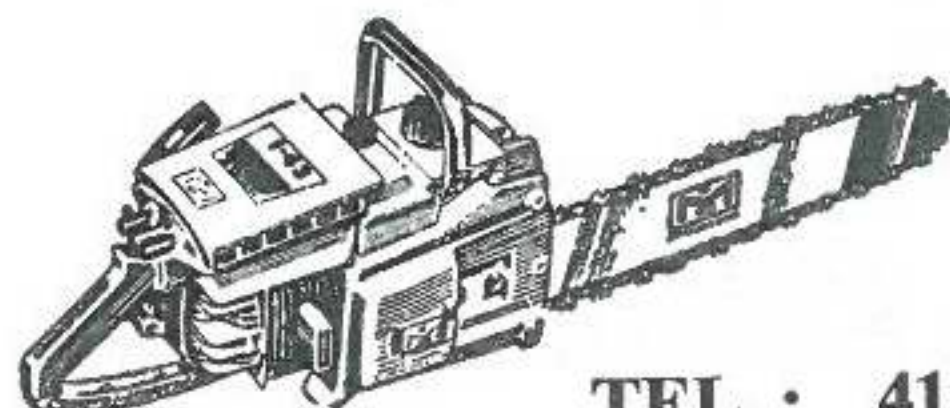


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Gaelic Sport

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STOP PRESS!

ARE the national newspapers about to relegate Gaelic games to a secondary position in their coverage of sport? This is a question that we intend to discuss in a comprehensive way in the near future.

Just now we wish only to draw attention to a trend which has been evident for some time. The massive coverage of the national games which daily has been provided for readers over the past fifteen or twenty years grew out of the competition for sales which began with the launching of the *Irish Press* in the early thirties.

The result of this competition, first between the *Irish Press* and *Irish Independent* and in the last few years involving the *Irish Times* also, has been a huge volume of news presentation, comment and features. Yet, this was no more than the special position of the national games deserved and their nationwide following demanded. In the race also were the Sundays, the Dublin evenings, the *Cork Examiner* and, more recently the three Belfast dailies. (The provincials are not included because they are in a different category).

Lately, the increased emphasis on international sport, soccer and golf particularly, have produced a marked change in the national newspapers' preferences.

Take soccer. There is a plethora of European club competitions for which Irish (that is, Southern Irish) teams enter annually. Although these teams have no earthly chance of success, the Dublin papers have sent

their staff reporters haring all over Europe to record "gallant defeats" (always gallant) by the "fighting Irish boys."

Golf, rugby and other sports get their share of the limelight by the Irish newspapers' travelling staffmen.

Meanwhile, Gaelic games are being pushed out of the headlines by the often spurious international events.

None of the Dublin papers thought it worthwhile to send representatives to America when Galway and Kilkenny visited that country last year. None of them sent staffmen to cover Meath's historic visit to Australia last March.

Presumably they didn't consider it worth the cost. Yet they don't count the cost when soccer's "gallant losers" regularly go forth to their regular clobberings in every hole and corner of Europe.

When Down visited America last month only one Dublin paper, the *Irish Independent*, sent a staff writer to cover the All-Ireland champions' games against New York. The *Belfast Telegraph*, to their credit, had a representative there, too.

None of the others gave a damn about Down — or about their readers. Perhaps Hibs, or Bohs, or Rovers or Drums had big engagements coming up on the Continent! And budgets had to be conserved to bring on-the-spot accounts of further soccer thrashings in Prague or Barcelona.

We will have a lot more to say about this business pretty soon.

The late Jim Barry

THE Gaels of Cork are still mourning the death of Jim Barry. Their father-figure, the symbol of continuity through three generations of victorious All-Ireland teams has departed.

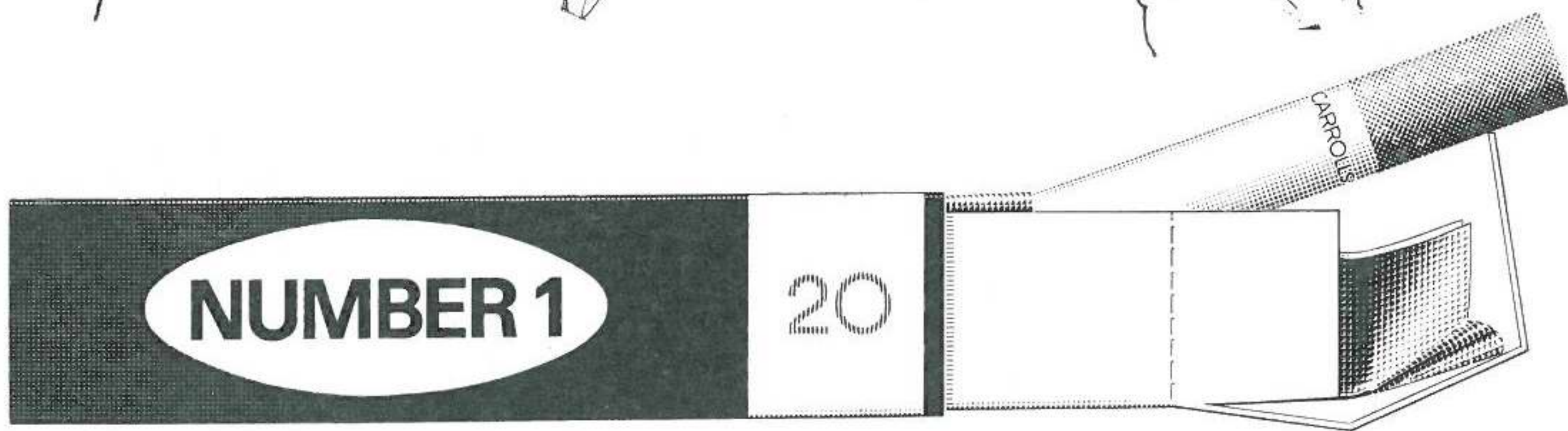
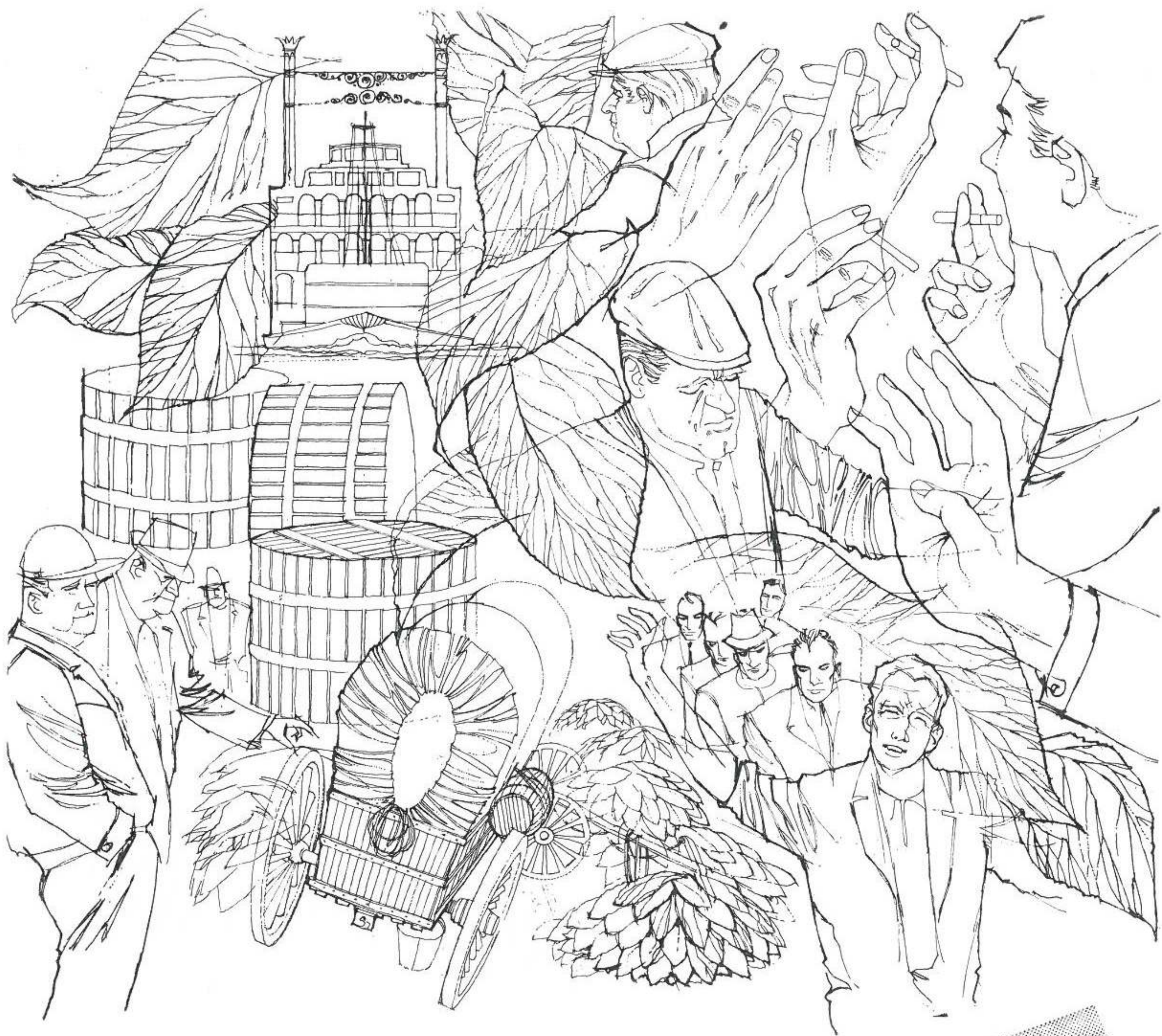
It is a sad parting, and yet the occasion has had the effect—something Jim Barry himself would have liked—of recalling all the joyous years, the years of glory to which that great old man contributed so much.

He began training Cork hurling teams in 1926 and under his dedicated guidance the county won 13 All-Ireland titles, the last of them—and for Jim Barry, per-

haps, the sweetest — just two years ago. In between he trained the Cork side which won the All-Ireland football title of 1945.

But the love and respect in which Jim Barry was held was not confined to Cork's boundaries. The fact that he was manager of Munster's Railway Cup teams in hurling and football since 1927 showed how highly he was regarded in all southern counties.

Indeed, Jim Barry was beloved by Gaels everywhere and his death will be mourned by all for a long time to come. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



**but Carrolls Number 1
are out on their own!**

WONDERFUL WEXFORD

IN case of being accused of being wise after the event I will impose upon you an extract from the piece which I wrote on Wexford's chances in the All-Ireland final, in the September issue :

"In a word there is no ruthlessness in the nature of Wexford hurling. Their approach to the game is positive, never negative or destructive; and, because of that they always give the other team a chance. They seem to take no pleasure in one-sided matches, or in plans to grind the opposition into the dust. To them it is more a matter of honour: we will play our game and you play yours, and let us see in the end who has been most successful.

"It is surely because of their willingness to enter a contest with the intention of playing positively that so many were lost in rousing finishes; but, it is also the cause of so many of their victories being truly memorable ones scored in titanic struggles with high scores".

I do not quote merely to boast of forecasting the manner in which the final would be played, for, indeed, I was not alone in that—thousands up and down the country could tell you much the same thing. My reason is more to emphasise that we knew much the same about the Wexford team, who now glory in the title of All-Ireland champions, before the final as we know now. The final only underlined the qualities in this team which have become the essence of the Wexford hurling tradition, and added thousands of neutral followers to the thousands which have been lured before by similar performances.

By
Jay
Drennan

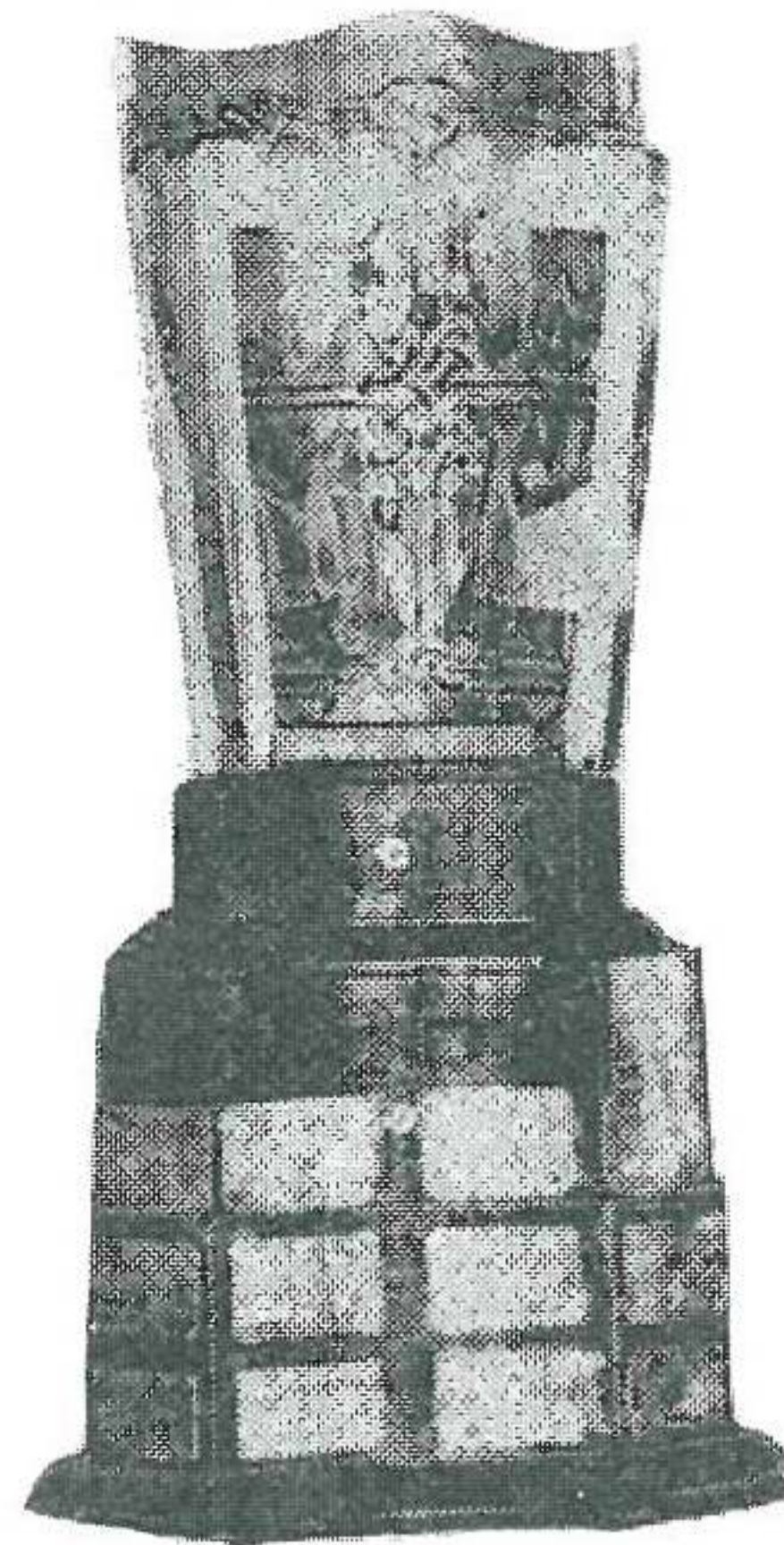
In spirit, in courage, in personal and collective submission to the ideal of the game being greater than the victory, this Wexford team, we now know, is as good as any which has ever come out of that county.

Sportmanship, and the spirit of fair play were never so highly maintained as by them. Hurling as they play it is such a vibrating, live, exciting thing that they can only add immensely to the game's popularity and prestige.

Yet, as a team, a collection of hurlers, analysed in the cold and dehumanising spirit of criticism, how do they stand with other champions in other years? Of one thing we can agree: no other team of champions could achieve any higher or even approach close to the standards of grandeur and physical and moral courage which they displayed in coming back from the brink, from 1-11 to 1-3, a score that will be remembered in Wexford as a symbol of defiance and in Tipperary as a symbol of a half-truth and a job half-done.

But, Wexford, who cut loose in abandoned joyousness in the second half of that final were totally dissimilar to the team which potted and poked and looked so second-rate in the opening half.

How could this be? How could it be, too, that Tipperary mastered them, outhurled them, showed them lessons in tactics and skill in that first half? Does



it not suggest that there is some limitation in this team, some unfulfilled segment of their ability yet unproven?

In a match of two halves Tipperary were as impressively powerful, as magically skilful in the first as Wexford were courageous and enthused in the second. Is it not true to say that Wexford were less than impressive up to the interval; that their defence was pulled and dragged this way and that, outmanoeuvred, outsped even, and certainly outguessed by the knowing elders of the Tipperary front-line?

Centre-field held no advantage at any point, for Nealon was economically moving the ball on its way to his machine-like attack. And there was Mick Roche behind. Having watched the first half from the 14 yard line in Tipperary territory at the Canal End, I find it still incredible to believe that the Wexford forwards who were so pathetic in that period could pro-

● TO PAGE 9

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Jameson Red Seal
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WONDERFUL WEXFORD . . .

● FROM PAGE 7

duce the prodigies which they displayed in the second half.

There is an upper limit and a lower limit to this Wexford champion team, I believe, and though they are able regularly to call forth an effort, when required, which approximates to that upper limit, it is noticeable that the lower limit can overtake them, also. The logical conclusion seems to impel one to believe that somewhere in between lies the average performance of the team.

And settling for this average would be splendid, so satisfying intellectually that one is attracted towards it. But, of course, it is totally illusory—a dream, a pencil and paper game of hurling for children by the fireside, or computers in the hands of faceless programmers.

Wexford have never played an average game; they would not know what you meant by the concept. Wexford can only do two things: one is sheer brilliance and wonderful grandeur; the other is mediocrity and a spiritless moodiness, like the Apostle before the first Pentecost. Sometimes their Pentecost occurs somewhere during a game—as in this year's final—when they drink the life-giving influence of the nobleness of Wexford hurling, its courage and heedless defiance.

Therefore, it is no easy way out in saying that in the right form this Wexford team would certainly beat any team that has won the All-Ireland in the last dozen or so years, except when another Wexford team were to provide the opposition. They would have, also, lost to all of those champions on one of their moderate days.

Now, to get to more specific

detail: we have not, yet, seen this particular team play an inspired game from start to finish in any match it has ever played. So it must be doubtful if they are capable of producing such form consistently; there will be periods of dominance and periods of slack; dominance for less than half the game was enough to shred Tipperary's fibre into tiny pieces.

So, less than 50% of the Wexford best, even if backed up by over 50% of the Wexford worst—as in the final—can still beat the best hurlers of the rest of the country at this moment. It is no exaggeration to say that anything very much over 50% high grandeur would annihilate any of those other counties of whom we spoke.

When Wexford returned to competition after the final it was to play New York in the World Cup. They were singularly unable to capture the spirit, and played a most pedestrian game except for a fleeting glimpse of their real native grandeur. And this fleeting glimpse was enough, even then.

When do Wexford show this spirit? There is no predictability about it, and that is the reason that one must conclude that it would be anybody's game if you could stage, through some sort of time tunnel, contests between the champions of 1968 and the champions of every other year.

But, then, is that not the essential magic of Wexford — tantalising, titillating, but never boring. The future progress of this team rests quite simply on the ability they have of producing their great and exciting best form more consistently. They should, and then they would be even more convincing champions than now.

TOP TEN

THE All-Ireland football final provides the bulk of the rankings in the football list on this occasion. Colm McAlarney of Down is given the leading place, closely followed by his team-mate, Sean O'Neill. Johnny Culloty of Kerry fills third position—and very deservedly, too.

The rankings in both games are compiled from matches played in the period September 22 to October 13, inclusive.

FOOTBALL

- 1—C. McAlarney (Down)
- 2—S. O'Neill (Down)
- 3—J. Culloty (Kerry)
- 4—P. Rooney (Down)
- 5—J. Milligan (Down)
- 6—S. Murphy (Kerry)
- 7—P. Griffin (Kerry)
- 8—S. Donnelly (Longford)
- 9—D. Kelly (Down)
- 10—P. Doherty (Down)

HURLING

- 1—C. McCarthy (Cork)
- 2—W. Murphy (Wexford)
- 3—T. Walsh (Waterford)
- 4—D. Murphy (Cork)
- 5—J. Quigley (Wexford)
- 6—D. Quigley (Wexford)
- 7—J. Kirwan (Waterford)
- 8—P. Nolan (Wexford)
- 9—C. Roche (Cork)
- 10—J. Furlong (Wexford)



UP THE WEE SIX!

says Dan McAreavy

"UP the Wee Six!" — an expression which has been used in varying contexts during the past 40-odd years was never more appropriate—G.A.A.-wise — than in the present season when the Border has seen an unprecedented run on All-Ireland silverware.

Five All-Ireland titles on successive Sundays—special minor hurling (Down), junior camogie (Down), under-21 football (Derry), senior football (Down) and junior football (Tyrone) — gives ample proof that the North has certainly "held on."

Nor must the achievements of Ulster in the Railway Cup—the fifth success in six years—and the Antrim Vocational Schools' team be overlooked in any analysis of the Province's greatest year.

What a pity that reigning Colleges' champions St. Colman's, Newry, should have slipped when all seemed safe against Belcamp while it will always remain a matter of conjecture how a fully-in-form Armagh would have fared against Sligo in the minor football semi-final.

The trail blazed by Armagh in 1926 when the first-ever All-Ireland title—junior football—was brought to Ulster, by Cavan

in 1933 when the senior crown was won for the first time, by the Ulster footballers in 1942 when the Railway Cup made its first trip North, and by Down in 1960 when the Sam Maguire Cup historically crossed the Border has been pursued with such relentless endeavour that 1968 now sees Ulster undisputed king-pins in the season's All-Ireland stakes.

Why the emergence of Northern teams after so many lean years early on? After all we were so success-starved up to 1933 that Cavan supporters are reputed to have taken home some of the sacred Croke Park sod for planting in famed Breffni territory to celebrate the All-Ireland triumph of that year. But afterwards our rations of success were meagre indeed until roughly a decade ago.

Recently I feel I got part of the answer when watching the famous "Olympia '36" film—the classic record of the Berlin Olympics. Here the greatest athletes in the world set up records which seem insignificant by today's standards. I believe—comparatively speaking—many of our counties are still using the methods which are now outdated

compared with the techniques available today.

I am convinced that the athletes of 1936 were basically as good as any who competed at Mexico but that today's squad have used the facilities available, to make them greater—record-wise. In the same way I suggest that only a few of our counties are cashing in on the techniques which are now capable of beating tradition however great.

The technique of the new specialised approach to sport is more pronounced in Ulster and especially in the SIX COUNTIES than in the rest of the country. And to me this is the essence of the problem.

Physical education is an accepted part of the post-primary programme in the SIX COUNTIES. Generally the men in charge of P.E. departments are or have been footballers of outstanding merit and being teachers are well versed in drawing the very last ounce of ability from their pupils.

With these men it is no longer a matter of sheer spirit, courage and natural football ability, but rather computerised planning for success. And natural skills allied with the latest techniques makes for a potent mixture in any sport.

"It is not for me to comment on the Department of Education in the South but from information gleaned it would appear there is a wide gap in its approach to sports techniques and physical education compared with those in the North."

For years only those boys who attended Colleges, or Grammar Schools as they are now known here, had the benefit of this training but since the establishment of the Secondary Schools (Vocational) every boy in the country has the same opportunity to go back to his club — and county—"the finished article."

It is not for me to comment on the Department of Education in the South but from information gleaned here and there it would appear there is a wide gap in its approach to sports techniques and physical education compared with those in the North. Until that gap is bridged I feel SIX COUNTY teams will enjoy a distinct advantage in the All-Ireland series in all grades.

On a less happy note two points continue to worry me.

What will be the final reaction on our clubs in counties involved in long runs in the present glut of inter-county games and why should the number of fouls in our matches continue to average between 40 and 50? But these are points for another time.



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JOE LENNON



talking to SEAN O'DONNELL

BELIEVE me, it's no fun trying to get across to the winners' dressingroom after an All-Ireland final. Some people are complaining about how hard it is to get into Croke Park on the day of the match but sure if they'd only leave it all to me, ye see, I know a fellow who has a friend and his friend has a rope ladder and the rest is a secret. Now, not a word to a soul and Bob's your uncle.

However, I was still trying to get across to Down's dressing-room and down on the park in front of the Hogan Stand the Gardaí were holding hands. I managed to squeeze under their arms and with a little more room to myself I darted across the field in the direction of the dressingroom and after quite a bit of pushing and shoving I got inside. But boy, those bright lights for the television cameras were blinding and the heat was just unbearable.

The team had not arrived as yet but the atmosphere was just great and every man had his own view to offer. It was a happy moment for the men from Down and I felt I just had to shake the hand of trainer, Des Farley. However, Des assured me that the credit was due to the team manager, Gerry Brown, and furthermore, Des feels that Gerry is the best tactician in present day football and that is praise, indeed, coming from Des, who is a physical education teacher in St. Patrick's Inter-

mediate School, Castlewellan, Co. Down.

There was an argument going on in another corner of the dressingroom regarding how much brew the Sam Maguire Cup could hold but Jimmy Falls, keeper of the Press Box, has the answer to that one, for he measured it and says it will take 2½ gallons and not a sup more. There's one for the Guinness Book of Records if ever there was one.

Then the door burst open and in came Joe Lennon with that same Sam Maguire Cup. It was empty, of course, but I am sure that by now it has been filled and emptied many times over. Anyway, Joe was much in demand for interviews with television and radio men swarming around him and I felt the man needed tremendous patience to put up with it all. However, being in such a jubilant mood, he did not seem to mind and he seemed quite relaxed despite all the excitement going on around him.

Eventually I got my chance and I asked him how he felt about the result. "Oh, I feel very happy naturally," said Joe, "and I cannot yet believe that it has come about. I am glad the selectors kept the boys together and did not make any changes. I also wish to congratulate the team generally for being so dedicated and for turning out without fail at every training session. They deserve this

success."

I then asked him how he would compare the present side to the 1960 and 1961 teams. Joe's reply: "The present side have come much earlier than the team of the '60s; of course they are much younger."

Did he feel the standard of Gaelic football had deteriorated in recent years? "Oh, definitely not; in fact, if anything, the game has improved out of all recognition."

On this point the Down man was adamant, although he did feel that more counties should go in for coaching. After all, said Lennon, look what it has done for Down.

Would a reduction in the number of players help, I asked? "To speed up the game, yes; but not necessarily to obtain a better standard, for this is where coaching is required. If it were applied consistently, with all its modern methods, Gaelic football would be all the better for it."

By this time the dressingroom was jam-packed and one just had to give way to other reporters who wanted to interview the Down captain. I must here express a word of thanks to Joe for his co-operation and I only wish I could spend an evening with him to discuss the pros and cons of Gaelic games because he talks with authority about the game he so expertly plays and may he long continue to give his time to it.

Sean O'Donnell describes his efforts to talk with Mick O'Connell after the All-Ireland final

MOOD OF DEFEAT!



IT WOULD be untrue to say that Kerry were happy with the All-Ireland final and most definitely Mick O'Connell was no exception, as I found out when I tried to interview him after the game.

Of course, who could blame him for not being in the best of humour to talk because the Kingdom are not used to being beaten in an All-Ireland final.

Therefore, his reluctance to chat about the game was most obvious. I could not help feeling that had Kerry won, the Valentia Island man would have been more eager and agreeable to talk.

It is a known fact that reporters only invade the winning team's dressingroom to seek interviews and therefore their task is much easier, and quite obviously so. A happy team will co-operate more willingly and, of course, they expect to be interviewed. But not so the defeated side. At least, some players on such occasions are better left to themselves.

However, despite the fact that the great Mick O'Connell was in a very disappointed mood, he did oblige me by waiting in the dressingroom after most of his team-mates had gone and I obliged him by shooting as many questions as I could think of.

I think it is only fair to point out that Mick O'Connell is not a difficult player to talk with but rather shy, withdrawn and seri-

ous in his manner. He is more eager to discuss the finer points of the game than talk about his own achievements.

He felt they were really up against it where Down were concerned and, as the Valentia man explained, "Those fellows in red jerseys seemed to be all over the place. At one stage I was sure they had a few extra men but I could only count fifteen."

Mind you I felt he was only joking but he looked quite serious so I suppose he meant what he said.

I asked him if he thought the game had changed much since he donned the Kerry colours. There was silence for a moment and then he turned to me, shook his head and said: "I don't think it has changed that much, really." Then he turned to me again and said: "Well, what do you think yourself, lad?" I explained my views and I proceeded to ask another question.

By this time there was a crowd of anxious followers gathered around us, some of whom were constantly pushing in their autograph books to be signed and right in the middle of it all was yours truly awaiting a reply to the last question. How would he compare the 1959 side to the present one?

Mick did eventually get around to answering it and he felt it difficult to compare the two

sides. One was as good as the other, he felt.

I was very anxious to know if he planned his game before going out on the field, but his answer was, "No, I just go out and play in the usual way and hope for the best."

The best was just not good enough to beat these men from the County Down.

Had he any notion of retiring, was my next question, and sure I only had the words out of my mouth when I felt sorry I had even mentioned it for O'Connell seemed annoyed with my query and promptly suggested that I ask the selectors. "That is entirely up to them," said he.

Who was the toughest opponent he came up against in his many duels around the centre of the field. Well, he wasn't quite sure, he had met so many or perhaps in this moment of disappointment it was hard to remember.

The interview was preceeding normally and I was just settling down to enjoy the conversation, so I groped for my notes and got set to fire another question but when I looked up the man from Valentia Island had disappeared. Mick O'Connell was gone from the dressingroom and without saying a word, mind you.

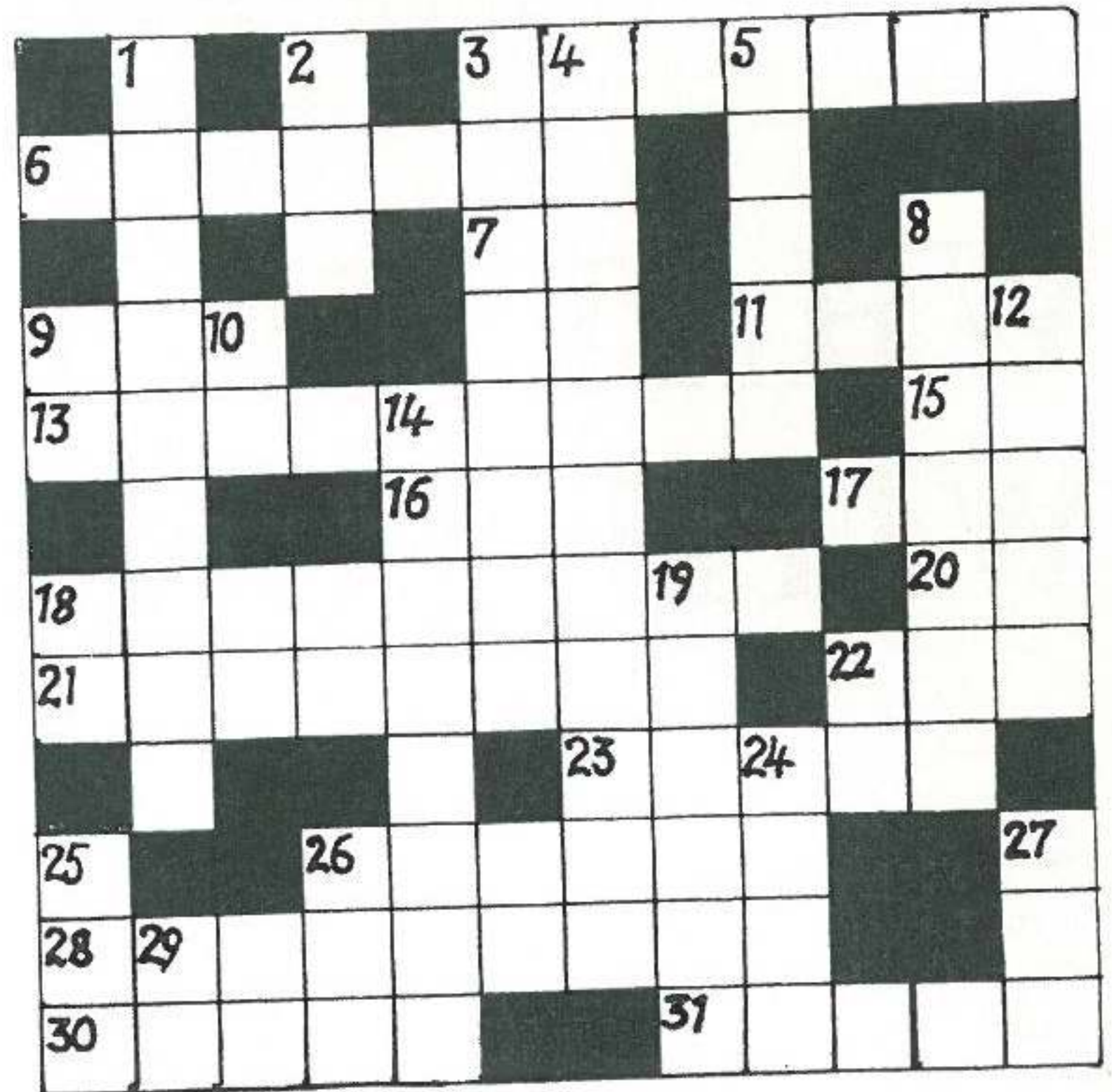
It may not have been a pleasant surprise, but, by golly, it sure was an experience.

ACROSS

3. Laoisman who played for Leinster in 1939, or, perhaps, all-round Army athlete, who was also a Waterford footballer. (7)
6. Newmarket man who figures in Clare forward line; long a Munster representative. (1, 6)
7. Dublin centre-field of the fifties; later a New York representative. Initials. (1, 1).
9. Should be a useful implement for forwards; enable them to shoot. (3)
11. Moab among a rowdy crowd. (1,3)
13. Meath stylist of thirties and forties, several times a Leinster interprovincial. (1, 8)
15. Half a goal is enough to give dash. (2)
16. "... sé do bheatha abhaile", as the song goes. I pray you get it. (3)
17. "Wilkie" Thorpe. (3)
18. Cork football forward. (4, 5)
20. He played All-Irelands for and against Galway in 1941 and 1942. Initials. (1, 1)
21. He was captain of Tipperary seniors in the year that that county captured the "Triple Crown." (8)
22. Confused sot. (3)
23. Dublin and Waterford full-forward, who won an All-Ireland in 1948. (1, 4)
26. One of a set of brothers who played for Kerry in recent years; or it could be a Cork back. (1, 5)
28. Normally such a record is very respectable; but, if it occurs in the first round of the championship, it could mean a poor year. (3, 6)
30. As dye might make a Clare hurler. (5)
31. Regan should make a forward: he seems to have found the distance and direction. (5)

DOWN

1. Offaly midfielder (and Leinster, too) (1, 8)
2. A happy Dublin footballer, who was in the same side as 20 across. (3)
3. Westmeath defender and Leinster representative until falling foul of the laws. (8)
4. It causes trouble and vexation. (2, 9)
5. Creaven of Roscommon. (5)
8. Reverend author of "Tipperary's G.A.A. Story". (7)



9. Captained Cork to the 1966 All-Ireland. Initials. (1, 1)
10. Northern Ireland? (1, 1)
12. Effective power-drives described in terms of destructive war weapons. They both wreak havoc where they are dropped. (5)
14. Stalwart of Limerick hurling, who, at the turn of the century was the star of London-Irish teams in the All-Ireland series, also. (1, 1, 6)
18. Initials of fine Galway defender of the 1938 team might suggest a football club. (1, 1)
19. Ned Rae intends to make himself beloved of the crowd. (6)
22. Lo! look the other way around. (2)
24. Associated Youth Training Academy, perhaps? (1, 1, 1, 1)
25. Half sodden, like the surface of the playing field. (3)
26. Well-known humorous writer and novelist, often signs himself with his initials. (1, 1, 1)
27. Small deer or spawn of fishes to get at a Louth footballer. (3)
29. North-East. (1, 1)

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WHAT TO DO WITH LONDON?

THE year of 1968 is already history on the championship fields. It will, I think, be principally remembered because every championship award in football, except the colleges and the minor title, went to the Six Counties. Down won the senior championship, and the league; Derry the under-21 crown; while Antrim took the Vocational School laurels (the third successive year that this title has gone across the Border) and Tyrone collected the junior title after a couple of very close calls on their way to the final. Only Cork, winners of the minor title and the Colleges' Cup, by Colaiste Chríost Rí, broke the Northern supremacy.

Ulster's current power was again underlined by the fact that the Railway Cup went North also, and the other three provinces have their work cut out for them if they are to swing the balance of football power back to the more traditional centres.

The hurling championship set-up was, however, more in accordance with what one might well have expected. Wexford caused a surprise by defeating Tipperary in the senior final, but

emphasised the reserve of power that is building up by the Slaney, by deservedly taking the minor crown. Cork had consolation for minor defeat by winning the under-21 honours, while London emphasised their present worth by defeating Dublin by 24 points in the Intermediate hurling final.

Indeed this London success poses something of a problem for the Central Council legislators. Are London to be graded intermediate again, after winning this same competition twice in a row? Or are they to get the promotion they deserve to the senior grade? Or will they be left next season in that remarkable limbo in which winning London teams have found themselves before now, between the sea and the shore as it were, in which they are entitled to play.

And while it is all very fine to feel, as I do, that London are well worth a chance in senior hurling ranks, we must also realise that it is going to be rather difficult to fit them in.

Can they be taken into the National League? That is far from likely because the 1968-'69 league competition is already

under way. Can they be fitted in at the semi-final stage? I cannot see that happen either. So the only chance they could have in the League would be to play the home winners, the victors to meet New York in the final proper. As for the championship, since the obvious way to let London in, the open draw, is unlikely to become a practical proposition for at least another five years, the next possibility should be the admission of London into the Leinster championship—which would only be following a well-established precedent, as a Connacht county, Galway, have long been playing in the Munster championship, while Antrim, if I mistake not, played in the Leinster intermediate competition a few seasons ago.

But it is by no means certain that Leinster will accept a London senior side with open arms. After all it was Leinster that the Galway hurlers first elected to join, but their application was summarily turned down by a subsequent Leinster Convention. Nor is there any concrete evidence that Leinster have had any great change of heart in the meantime.

If London apply for permission to play in Leinster, and are accepted, it would solve all the problems. But, if London are not allowed into Leinster, what happens then? Then the whole matter will be fairly and squarely in the lap of Central Council who may well admit London to the semi-final stages—and the senior hurling championship could certainly do with a semi-final, and an injection of new blood.

If they don't come into the All-Ireland "home" champion-

ship, there should still be a place for London in the World Cup series.

The World Cup in hurling is only a little over twelve months in existence but already it seems to be becoming something of a step-child among the annual competitions. The first final ever played in Ireland did not even get to Croke Park, so to give this competition some chance of living up to its imposing name, the very least Central Council can do for the Londoners is to include them in the World Cup and thus give them a chance in a three-cornered competition between the champions of Ireland, the United States and Britain. I feel that the London exiles could give a very good account of themselves in such a series. Indeed, I have a feeling that the exiles across the Channel would also put up a pretty good show in the World Cup football series, especially in view of London's victories over New York beyond in Gaelic Park last spring.

However, if the Gaels in Britain were admitted into the World Cup I would make a concession to them, certainly in football, but possibly also in hurling. And this is that in World Cup games, the Council of Britain be allowed to field a selection from all the Boards under their control. On this basis I think they could hold their own in any company.

And, of course, with the return of the Australians, the whole international position comes up for discussion again. We were all madly keen on international competition last October and shouting our heads off about "new horizons." Now, that the men from Down Under have been back, perhaps we might all re-adjust our sights and see can we glimpse these new horizons all over again.

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Cork's minor footballers, champions of Ireland for the second successive year.

CORK'S FUTURE IS BRIGHT

By TIM HORGAN

THE Cork minor hurlers and footballers went close to a remarkable record this year when they returned to Croke Park to defend their All-Ireland titles against Wexford and Sligo, respectively. Having joined Dublin and Tipperary the previous year as the only counties to bring off the minor "double", the Cork boys stood to make history by becoming the first county to retain the two titles.

Tipperary recorded the first "double" in 1934 when they added their one and only minor football title to the hurling crown, while Dublin won the two championships in 1945 and again in 1954. However, it was left to the Leaside under-eighteens to win both the hurling and football titles on two consecutive years. The footballers were successful — they scored a narrow win over Sligo — but the hurlers were deprived of the double by Wexford, who came out

on top by three points in the final.

Nevertheless, three All-Ireland titles out of four in two years isn't bad going for any county and Cork supporters have reason to be happy with the success of their minor players. The annals reveal that a chain of victories in the under-age grade inevitably leads to a senior triumph for any county, and Cork followers are banking on the minors of the past few years to restore the county's image in the premier competitions in the near future.

Dublin dominated the minor football championship in the mid-fifties and brought off the elusive three-in-a-row between 1954 and 1956. The outstanding performers in those teams developed into notable senior players in the subsequent years and Dublin possessed a senior side strong enough to win the All-Ireland championship in 1958 and 1963. In hurling, the Tipperary minors reigned supreme

in the mid-fifties and laid the foundations to the great senior team which began its triumphant march with an All-Ireland victory in 1958.

It is interesting to note that while the Dublin minors were scoring success after success in the 'fifties, their senior counterparts were fighting hard to regain former glory and prestige. The 1958 victory brought to an end sixteen years in the football wilderness. Tipperary also, experienced lean years in the senior grade, while their minors were beating the best in Ireland. The 1958 victory for Tipperary hurlers marked the end of seven barren years.

Other counties have also pre-faced a brilliant senior run with a minor triumph. Galway footballers, for instance, won the All Ireland minor championship in 1960 and two of their players, Enda Colleran and Seamus Leydon, went on to capture three senior medals.

Kerry were in the football doldrums in the late 'forties but a minor victory in 1950 heralded a senior triumph three years later and another All-Ireland senior title in 1955. In hurling, Kilkenny won the minor championship in 1961 and 1962 and went on to take senior honours in 1963.

The most recent county to benefit from a national victory in the minor grade was Wexford, who won the underage competition in 1966 and followed it up with a senior success this year. Wexford also won the minor championship in 1963, their first title, and it was the cream of performers from those two successful under-eighteen teams who helped the senior side to score such an impressive victory over Tipperary in this year's All-Ireland final.

The Cork senior teams fared badly in hurling and football this year but the law of averages suggests that a Leaside victory in the major grade isn't far off. The Cork minor hurlers have taken possession of the Munster championship for the past three years and, though they lost narrowly to Wexford in 1966 and 1968, they

won the All-Ireland title in 1967. In addition, the Leesiders have won the All-Ireland under-21 hurling championship twice in the past three years.

It seems likely that Cork and Wexford will be the top teams in the senior hurling championship in the next few years. Tipperary are moving slowly but surely downhill, even though they were good enough to trounce the Leesiders in this year's Munster final, and an injection of new blood is needed to bring them back on the victory trail. Cork, on the other hand, have some very promising young players in Mick Malone, Paddy Ring, Tom Buckley and Peter Curley and these could give the forward division the punch it lacked in this year's championship.

The law of averages also suggests that the Cork footballers should be making their mark in the senior grade in the near future. However, teams like Down, who have never won a minor title, upset this law completely and Cork's hopes of a senior title are not so well founded. The Leesiders won the All-Ireland minor championship in 1961 and were beaten by Offaly by a point

in the 1964 final, but these victories meant no more than a trip to the senior decider of '67 and a defeat by Meath.

It is pleasant for Cork supporters to hope that the minor team's successes this season and last year will lead to bigger prizes on the football field. However, only dual-medalists Der Cogan and Seamus Looney showed potential as senior prospects in this year's minor outfit and both these performers are defenders. What the Cork senior football side really needs are a few outstanding forwards, but apart from Donal Hunt, who made the transition from last year's minor team to this year's senior panel, no leading marksman has been promoted.

Cork are not likely to bring the Sam Maguire Cup back to the county of its patron in the near future, but it is possible that an All-Ireland senior hurling title will go south in the next few years. And if the Liam McCarthy Cup is the only result of Cork's dominance in the minor ranks for the past two seasons, then many Leesiders will be very happy, indeed.

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CLERY'S CAN HELP

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Says Barry Keegan

THE day is long gone when the G.A.A. player could get by with a pair of worn-out boots, scruffy shorts and a jersey belonging to his former school team. Whether we like it or not, to-day, to an ever increasing extent we have to think of the image the Association projects to those outside it. The parents weighing up the pros and cons of the various games available to their children must be influenced to some extent by the look of the players on the sportsfield and by what they see on T.V. screens.

People are attracted by neatness and are repelled by untidiness. Attitudes and habits formed when young, die hard and so later on in life the image of the Association suffers. While those within the Association are in no doubt about the fact that our games are the best in the world it is our duty to make this plain to all and sundry. No small aspect is the matter of good appearance on the playing field and, in the case of inter-county stars the matter of dress is equally applicable off the field. Youngsters are easily influenced by their local hero.

The Meath team that went to Australia earlier in the year has set an example both on and off the field of play that will be difficult to emulate. The Meath County Board organised the financial end of the trip and the whole party was fitted out free of charge by various manufacturers. Now not all teams have this sort of good luck but they can help themselves by shrewd

buying in the right place at the right price.

Clery's, situated in the centre of Dublin, could not be handier and the prices charged are within the scope of the most strict budget. This is the store where you can get everything for the sportsman. You often heard the remark "from a needle to an anchor", it must have originated in Clery's—you name it and they have it. The sports department in the basement, where Mr. McCarthy, the Sports Buyer, is waiting to help you, is the one we are particularly interested in. In this department there is everything for the sportsman, whole teams can be fitted out at reduced cost.

Very many senior teams are fitted out each year in Clery's. Perdix jerseys, shorts and stockings, caps, footballs, sliothars and

hurleys of various manufacture are available here with a worthwhile reduction for bulk buying. Dunlop football boots can be purchased in the boot and shot department at the rear of the ground floor.

It is the duty of every G.A.A. member to see to it that his fellow members are made aware of the fact that for five pounds a player can be completely fitted out to rival the best. We say it is a fiver well spent. And when in the pavilion after the game you step up to receive the medal so rightly yours for winning the County Championship a pair of Dubtex slacks with a blazer from Clery's will give you that extra bit of confidence so necessary on such an occasion. It has certainly done wonders for Clery's G.A.A. team which has won the Kickham

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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Cup on ten occasions since its inception. Who is to say that the equipment and the confidence generated by looking the part as well as playing it, didn't contribute to this.

As we mentioned earlier Mr. McCarthy and his assistants in Clerys' sports department are always available to answer your queries and advise as to the personal requirements of each individual customer and also to pass on some very useful hints as to how to get the longest possible wear from your purchases.

So remember, the next time you are in town, call to Clerys. After all if you aspire to emulate stars like Joe Lennon, Enda Colleran, Mick O'Connell or Jackie Devine, first take note of their appearance on the field. For the outlay of five pounds you can at least look like them.



● The above picture illustrates to perfection how our youngsters should strive to appear on the field of play. The picture itself is also a rather historic one, for the young man about to grasp the ball is the former giant of Wexford hurling, Nicky Rackard. This particular picture was taken in 1938 when Nicky was playing with St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny.

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IMPRESSIONS OF A PILOT SCHEME

THERE'S a turretted castle of red brick, built about a hundred years ago, up near Gormanston. As an extension the Franciscans built a long concrete structure, largely inset by glass, to let in the sun and included all the facilities needed to house four hundred boys in what is perhaps the most modern school in Ireland. The rich plains of Meath supply athletic tracks, tennis courts, and playing fields without difficulty and the bright, modern swimming tank is the crowning item in a delightful setting where the big trees croon songs of summer above the still green lawns at the front.

It was here we held the inaugural Gaelic Football Coaches course in August, after Central Council had picked the coaches and placed them under the guidance of **Mick Ryan**, chairman of the Dublin Vocational G.A.A. Committee.

Joe Lennon, who teaches physical education at Gormanston, has studied every aspect of football with an intensity which he communicates to all who hear him. The fact that he's still a first-class player is a great help and in passing I salute him for his captain's part in Down's victory over Kerry. I wonder would the lack of economy in Down's second half display have been so apparent were not Joe forced to retire at half time.

Jim McKeever, a player, memories of whose football continue to delight when he swept through midfield with the grace of a gazelle, teaches physical education in a Belfast college. His charming personality, allied to a great knowledge of the game, make him a fine coach.

Frankie Byrne, the All-Ireland winger of the great Meath teams, graduated from U.C.D. and teaches in Drumcondra. At forty-four this small but very strong player turns out every Monday

By
**Eamonn
Young**



The Football Coaching Course

night with Jimmy Magee's All-Stars and can still go like a bomb, as I found to my cost when trying to stop him over in Limerick, where they beat Joe Keohane's team recently.

Frankie's knowledge of the game, plus his professional instructional ability make him very suitable to coaching. I, myself, brought up the rear and while I know a fair amount about football I found a lot more to learn. But then, soldiers—good soldiers—are always learning!

The students, mostly teachers of the primary or secondary grade, had a few farmers, businessmen, gradáí and one army man, Dermot Earley, among them. Many of them like Eamonn O'Donoghue and Pat Moynihan from Kerry, Martin Queally and Mick Haugh of Clare, Mick Bohane from Cork, Jack Mahon and Sean Cleary from Galway, Alo Kelly of Offaly, Mickey Whelan of Dublin, Mick Brewster and Benny Mone

from the north had inter-county experience; but whether a man was a good performer or not, the outstanding aspect was that all were learning about a game they already loved. Success was inevitable.

Gaelic football was broken down into two fundamental divisions: individual and collective training. Under the individual aspect, the game was divided into a number of skills such as the kick, the fetch, the block, the hand-pass, the trap and dribble.

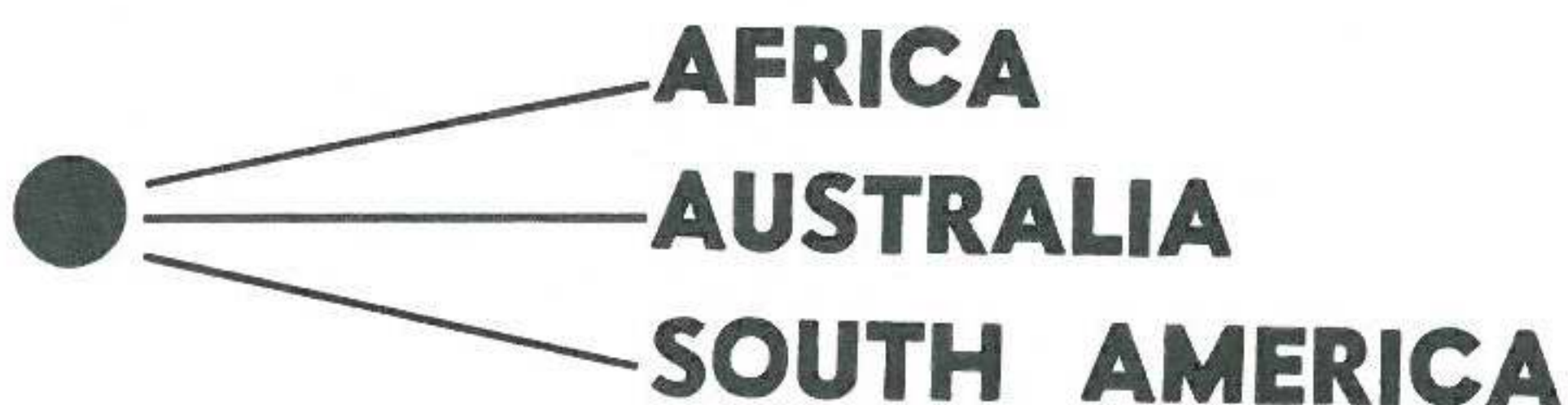
The kick which is, of course, the supreme skill of football was itself considered under the various headings. There's the dead ball as for fifty, side-line, kick-out, short free and penalty. There's the kick from hand for distance, the screw-kick for point, the kick over the head, the thirty yard pass with the foot and the quick drive of the rolling ball along the carpet.

One can easily imagine how

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THE FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE

● FROM PAGE 23

much thinking goes into a discussion of these skills and how much demonstration is necessary. For instance, if a young player asks you should he hold the ball in one hand or two what is the answer? It will probably depend on the distance, his position in the field, the distance he wants to get out of the kick, the chances of interference and the natural style, won't it? By the way, a statement often repeated, and which I liked to hear, was that coaching was intended to improve the performance of skills and not to hurt a good style, either individual or collective.

When the individual skills had been discussed and demonstrated first in class-rooms and later on the playing grounds where each coach had his section of about fifteen with a ball for every two, the class progressed to combined training which included team tactics, functional play and match analysis.

With the term "team tactics" all are familiar; functional play simply means a study of all the things a player must do to play his position well. Match analysis is a tidy term for the discussions, formal and otherwise (mostly otherwise), which players, selectors and trainers carry out all over the country after their games are played. How did we beat them? What did we do right? What did they do wrong? Where were we wrong?

In addition to these, we had a fine talk on sports injuries by Dr. Mick Loftus, in which he told us, among other things, that taking orange juice and honey immediately before the perfor-

mance wasn't guaranteed to improve its merit. In fact we would be there yet answering questions about injuries and training.

Jim McKeever and Joe Lennon gave after-hours lectures on Sport in the Community and Football as an Educational Medium. Captain Mick Mac Donagh, who organises physical education for the Department of Education, visited the course and spoke on the importance of sport to all of us. Seán Ó Síocháin, who opened the course, gave two very informative talks on the attitudes to games generally in the G.A.A. and the community.

By the way, the programme started at nine in the morning and we often finished twelve hours later. In fact, if anyone told me before going up that I would be at ten o'clock on the Friday night correcting examination papers I would have told him to jump in the lake. I wouldn't mind but there was a pint (and good company) waiting up the road in a happy-go-lucky atmosphere.

But we did have a test and the papers had to be marked. Each student was presented formally with a diploma at the end of the course and the standard of answering in the exam, as we expected, was generally high.

One of the nine questions was: List four points that make tackling more effective. Another: Show how do you combine fitness and skill training in a session.

When the course came to an end we all were a little tired, for it was a week of intense mental and physical activity. All, that is, except Joe Lennon, whose fitness made me hope his Down comrades weren't the same. Many of them were.

We sang a few songs and talked a little through our hats the last night, as grown up children always do, and it was with some sadness we parted. There may be another and I think most will be back if they can.

Has the course done good? More good in one week, I am convinced, than in any week's Gaelic training I have seen. Let's hope Central Council are happy about it. I feel they are.

Quotes from the Course

"... Elbow on the counter, telling a yarn and getting great mileage out of a pint"—
Frankie Byrne.

"When training under lights get a qualified electrician to test your arrangements in case somebody steps on a loose wire some night and his eyes light up."—Joe Lennon.

"You must train hard. You bring the players a number of times to near-exhaustion."—
Jim McKeever.

"But when you've got them

to near-exhaustion, just how do you get them back?"—
Alo Kelly of Offaly.

"I'd go through you like a town in England", Mick Mac Donagh, the Dundalkman who first used the simile was impressed by the way the emigrant train sped through English towns in the night.

"A Jervis Street pass. That's what the All-Stars call a ball that's dicey to handle."—
Frankie Byrne. (Jervis Street is the big Dublin hospital.)

An open letter to the G.A.A.

DEAR G.A.A.,—I am on your side. It is for that reason I write. Hurling is my game. As a priest I meet many people. I think I know the way the wind is blowing. In my articles recently I said that you would survive if you used the nation's talent. This is one tiny segment of the nation's talent speaking.

Let's be realistic. Glasgow has four top-grade soccer teams. Two of them, Celtic and Rangers, are world class. Edinburgh has first division teams in Hearts and Hibernians. Dublin fields one inter-county hurling team. Dublin last won a hurling final thirty years ago when its players were not natives of the city. How can you say that hurling is safe when an area that supports nearly three quarters of a million people has only one second-rate hurling team? I will not speak of Belfast and Derry. Dublin should be in a position to put at least five Gaelic football teams in the field, yet you, by means of your organisational set up, limit it to one team in each grade. It would be silly if the English Football Association limited Manchester and Liverpool to one team each. Of course, at present Dublin finds it difficult to field even one team.

I was at the All-Ireland and admired the fine Irish and sincere sentiments of your President.

But we must face facts. Where are all the Limerick minors gone? You did not produce those Limerick minors. They were a Christian Brothers' product. You squandered them. Please pay great attention here. Many new schools are being built by the State. These schools will soon be playing soccer. There is a soccer club in Listowel. There is a soccer club in Foynes, Co. Limerick. There is a soccer club in New Ross. Clubs such as these will spread because your clubs have failed dismally to meet the reality of urban life. How many players on the Tipperary team

You still speak as if you controlled the majority of the nation's youth. What is your strength in Dublin, Limerick, Sligo, Belfast and Derry? I work in a small school. I usually watch the football All-Ireland on television. Only about fifty per cent. of the boys watch it, while over ninety per cent. will watch if Celtic or Manchester United are playing. Most evenings we play Gaelic games, but many of the boys and an increasing number of their parents would favour an occasional game of soccer. If you dropped the ban I would play soccer myself with the lads. If the

By Columba Mansfield, O.S.A.

were from Clonmel? You may blame television for the small attendance at the All-Ireland hurling final, but I blame the clubs who have failed to involve the younger generation in their administrative work.

I realise that the ban is your affair, but I am convinced that the majority of players would like to see it dropped. You can prove me wrong by taking a ballot of senior inter-county players from the thirty-two counties. What is the point of banning so-called English dances? It would be much better to insert an odd Irish dance in a normal night's dancing.

ban went I would advocate a close season for Gaelic games from October till March. During this period, Gaelic players would be free to play soccer and rugby.

I would not presume to speak with any authority on the rules of the game. It may be dangerous to interfere with their present structure. However, some form of tackle is needed in Gaelic football. The recent minor semi-finals were all stoppages and no football. I would also favour no charging of the goalie in both hurling and football. The present match time is too short. How about four twenty minute periods for football? I am of the opinion

to

that players who act in an unsporting manner should be sent to the line for the duration of the half in which the offence occurred. Umpires should be allowed to advise the referee when the necessity arises and in hurling a player should only be allowed to handle the ball once before striking it.

I was pleased with your All-Ireland presentation. The programme was the best that you have ever had and the singing was a good idea. The failure of the crowd to join in the singing of Sliabh na mBan only demonstrates how the people's mentality is changing.

You are an amateur organisation. You have worked hard at your job but for the majority of you the G.A.A. is only a secondary concern. You have your jobs, your families, and other hobbies to think about. You were right in deciding to employ paid operatives but you need at least two full-time workers in each county. Dublin needs at least ten full-time professional G.A.A. workers.

The recent promotion drive by Corsair cigarettes shows to what lengths commercial groups will go to sell their products. You need at least one full-time P.R.O. plus a full time staff for television and radio promotion. You are wrong to crib about press coverage of your games but you



Joe Lennon of Down who, among other prominent personalities, has spotlighted the relative weakness of the G.A.A. in the universities.

should see to it that colleges G.A.A. games get a coverage as sophisticated as that accorded to even junior inter-college rugby games. This points to the need for a full time college organiser in each province.

Where can you get the money to pay these personnel? Well, you don't need any more big stadia at the moment, so the money which went to build your playing pitches can help pay these people in future.

Dublin is one of your weak areas, yet you drag teams away from their own stamping grounds to the city on any pretext. Why not reserve Dublin for All-

Ireland and League finals? In England, only the soccer final and internationals are played at Wembley. Why not try an open draw in both hurling and football over a three year period? If you retain the present system I would suggest that Galway hurlers play the Munster and Leinster champions in All-Ireland semi-finals in alternate years. When this system was in vogue, Galway were a hurling force. I remember them beating Munster in the Railway Cup.

You are not the only sports organisation with problems. In England, cricket has gradually

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● FROM PAGE 27

dwindled in importance because, like the G.A.A., it had its roots in the rural way of life. London has only one top-class cricket team, whereas its population would demand at least eight teams. It is possible that we will have to adjust to the fact that field sports have lost their attraction for the majority of people who are content to watch the great soccer teams of the world on television and play their weekly round of golf. The day when talk of G.A.A. games dominated the Irish scene may be gone.

The Taoiseach, in his address on hurling which was printed on the Munster Final programme, stressed the need of developing your social side. I stressed this in my two articles. How many hurling clubs have club houses that match those of the local golf club? Of course, golfers and rugby players plough their own money into their clubs, G.A.A. families will have to do likewise or else link up with golf.

Writers such as Eamonn Mongey, Joe Lennon and Andy Croke have recently underlined the fact that the universities have let you down. They have. But are you willing to accept help from university men, or are you more concerned with preserving the existing power structure within the organisation?

It's easy to write you a letter like this, but isn't it galling to walk through Dublin and reflect on the fact that the majority of Dubliners are just not worried about the danger to their national games. If a cigarette company can use the game of poker to sell its products you can use your native wit to sell the finest games in the world.

Long may our games survive and may they grow in popularity in the urban areas.

COLUMBA
MANSFIELD, O.S.A.

Fear of failure

is Mayo bogey

By _____

SEAN RICE

ALL over for another year—indeed almost forgotten. Now county committees have turned their thoughts to the League campaign and already the seeds of new dreams have been sown. Aye, even now, in the dying months of an exciting year, the sap has begun to rise. New dreams are being dreamed; old ones forgotten.

Down, just recovering from the transient thing that is ultimate glory, will soon set off again in defence of their National League crown. And the teams they defeated on the path to All-Ireland championship honours are preparing to reverse their fortunes.

Twelve months ago it was not Down or Kerry or Galway or Longford, but Meath and Cork and Cavan and Mayo who were making the headlines. In particular Mayo. For they were to be the team of 1968.

They were the team who tumbled Cork in the Grounds Tournament semi-final. They were the team who played so gallantly against the Australians and who defeated Cavan in the Grounds Tournament final at Croke Park. Surely they were the team of the future, glamorous Mayo.

The promise never materialised. Mayo failed to qualify for the subsequent National League semi-finals and they failed to retain the Connacht crown which they had grasped the previous year from Galway. So now they are back to square one from where they launched their new resurgence early in 1966. And the climb back is going to be a pretty tough one.

It's not that Mayo have lost any of their glamour. That is inbred and can never be shed. Individually,

they have players who will match any in Ireland. Collectively, they are failures. And it is the fear of this failure that has been their undoing. Always Mayo have played well when the burden of responsibility has been removed—when there was not a lot at stake. It was then one saw the full flowering of their capabilities.

Galway, however, have always been their stumbling block. Mayo have been beaten so often so closely by their neighbours that they rarely approach such a game with anything but an inferiority complex; a fear of defeat that forces them into defensive attitudes rather than positive attack at which they can be so adept.

Strangely, it may take the younger members of the team to dispel this unwarranted fear. For the older players are now attuned to certain habits which, no matter how slight, may take too long to

change. The younger players will not want to be associated with such deficiencies and will try to change before they too are too late.

The trouble is that this transition will not take place over night. It will take a stringent League campaign, the introduction of not a little ruthlessness and a few games against Galway before the new much needed Mayo emerges.

But for all their troubles Mayo are almost certain to reach the group-semi-finals of the National League. That seems easy enough. It is then the trouble will start. Will the old fears return? Will the old nagging doubts and self-deprecations again drag them down if they have to take on Galway for the right to qualify for the final?

Time alone will bring the answer. But if Mayo succeed in shaking off these old fears then 1969 will be the brightest year in well over a decade.

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THE GREAT GILMARTIN

A recent visit to the court of the famous Talbots Inch Club in County Kilkenny brought to my notice a plaque hanging on the wall of the dressing room. It portrayed in vivid lettering the names of those knights of the ballcourt, who have brought fame and glory to the club since handball came under the jurisdiction of the G.A.A. in 1924. This list is quite an impressive one though it is easy to discern that it is monopolised by the legendary John Joe Gilmartin.

I will accept that as a cue to say a few words about this doyen of handball players who has certainly left an imprint on the game that will not easily be erased.

They normally refer to him as the Great Gilmartin, Ireland's number one exponent of the code between 1935 and 1950.

During that time he won every honour in the game and collected, in the process, the impressive total of twenty-five All-Ireland titles.

It was in 1935 that Gilmartin first gave any indication of his future potential when he took the junior hardball singles title back to Kilkenny.

Admittedly, most experts of the game did not foresee in him a world-beater, with the possible exception of the present Leinster G.A.A. secretary, Martin O'Neill, who, at that time occupied a simi-

lar position on the Handball Council.

When presenting his annual report for that year, he described him as "a stylist who should go far in the future".

He had only to wait for one year to see his predictions materialise with the winning by Gilmartin of a senior hard singles title and qualifying for a place in the final of soft singles as well.

Unfortunately a serious injury then deprived him of playing this particular match, and his place was taken in the final by Tommy Cherry, who was defeated by Paddy Perry from Roscommon.

For the records, Perry at that time was the top softball player in the country and won the senior title eight times in a row between 1930 and 1937, a feat that was duly recognised by giving him permanent possession of the original Purcell Cup.

It was only natural that speculation was rife as to when the two maestros would clash; but there was not a long wait for the event materialised in 1937 when they met in the All-Ireland semi-final. After a titanic struggle Perry won narrowly.

But just one year later the hardball wheel of fortune had completed its full cycle.

Gilmartin beat Perry at the very

same stage of the championships and went on to account for J. Clarke (Roscommon) in the final.

In the meantime, the Directors of Messrs. Purcell had presented a trophy in substitution for the one now held permanently by Perry, so John Joe became the first holder. 1939 was really the outstanding year of his career for, he won all four senior titles, a feat achieved by only one other player, Wexford's John Ryan in 1957. As a result of this record-breaking run he invariably was referred to as the Great Gilmartin and generally hailed in all quarters as the most accomplished player ever to grace the Irish courts.

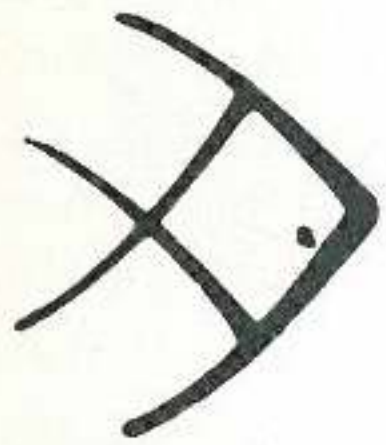
Between 1940 and 1942 he won numerous titles in the black and amber singlet but, then handball suffered a severe blow when his employment took him abroad. Not for long, however, for the call of the homeland and the ballcourt proved too much for John Joe, and, in 1945, he returned home to take up where he had left off.

The inherent handballing tradition in his veins was still there and two further All-Ireland titles, senior hard singles and doubles, found a home on the now loaded sideboard of the Gilmartin family.

But John Joe did not remain playing for long. In the height of his reign Gilmartin decided to call it a day and while he made an effort to come back in 1950, the ballcourt had lost its appeal for him.

So, Gilmartin the Great takes a well-deserved seat in the back ground, to admire, and criticise the play of his present-day successors. There is no more competent man to do so.

As I left the Talbot's Inch court that night, the feats of the great maestro came flooding through my mind—John Joe Gilmartin—a monument to the Talbots Inch Club, to Kilkenny and to handball in general.



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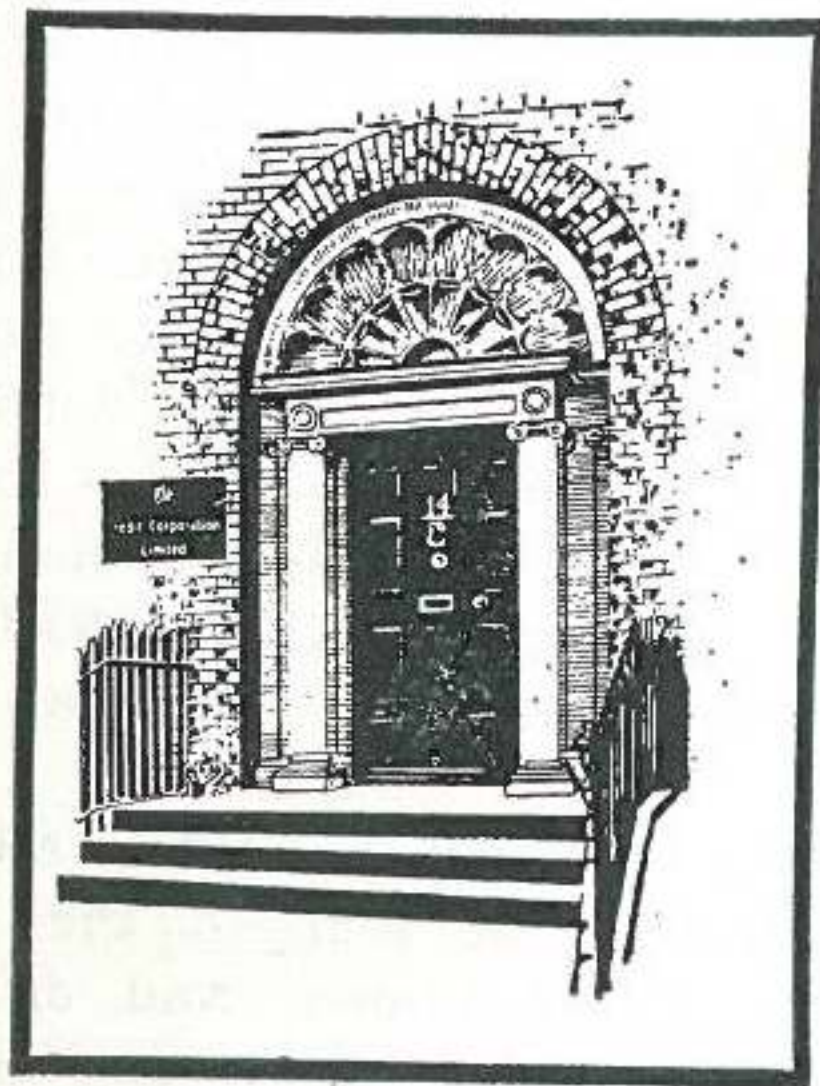
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Paddy Doherty

still supreme

By
**OWEN
McCANN**

ULSTER'S dominance of the premier spot in the football championship scorers' chart has, not surprisingly, been maintained this year. Paddy Doherty takes the distinction to the North for the fourth successive year, and fifth season in all since I started keeping these records in 1955.

This gives Ulster a unique record. Up to this year the best run of the three in a row was shared by Leinster (1957, 1958 and 1959), and the North. However, Leinster has the edge still in that players from the province headed the chart on six separate years. Connacht has gained the premier spot on three separate years, while a Munster footballer has yet to top the chart.

Doherty is only the third player to head the football table more than once, and also the third footballer to take the premier spot in both codes in the same year. The Down sharpshooter cracked home 1-26 (29 pts.) in five games, for a six points lead over his nearest rival in either football or hurling, John Lalor (Laois).

The gifted Ballykinlar forward headed the football chart for the only other time in 1960 with his best score of 4-23 (35 pts.) in six games, but he was still beaten by a point that year by hurling's ace score-getter, Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary).

A year later, 1961, Harry Donnelly (Offaly) became the first footballer to head both charts, Charlie Gallagher (Cavan) was top scorer in both codes in 1965 with the football record score of 3-29 (38 pts.) in five games, the second footballer to take the No. 1 spot for both codes. Gallagher headed

both charts again last year.

Ollie Freaney (Dublin) was football's top scorer in 1955, 1958 and 1959, a record for the code. However, his total was beaten in hurling in each of those years.

Doherty averaged 5.80 points a game this year. This is remarkably close to his 1960 match average of 5.83 points. However, it is still only good enough to give the Down man second place in Ulster, and third in Ireland in this respect. Leading the way are Mickey Kearins (Sligo) with 6.50 points, and Gallagher with 6.33, minors. The record match average is 10.50 points shared by Brendan Hayden (Carlow), 1962, and Mick Tynan (Limerick), last year.

Doherty had his most successful hour score-wise against Donegal in the Ulster semi-final at Cavan, where he helped himself to 1-7. This was one of the two outstanding individual scoring achievements in the championship. John Keenan hit exactly the same score for Galway in their Connacht final win at Castlebar over Mayo.

Of last year's top twenty marksmen, only Sean O'Neill (Down) improved on his 1967 figures. Second in Ulster last year with 1-8 in two games, he filled the same role this season, but with 3-13 (22 pts.) in five games.

Gallagher drops from first place

● TO PAGE 34



Paddy Doherty of Down who has again emerged as the top marksman in senior championship football. The Ballykinlar man takes the distinction to the North for the fourth successive year and the fifth time since the tables were first recorded in 1955.

● FROM PAGE 33

in Ireland with 0-27 in four games to third in Ulster and joint fifth in all Ireland.

Five penalty kicks were awarded in the championship. Three were sent to the net, another by John Keenan in the Down-Galway semi-final was saved by the goalkeeper, Danny Kelly, but resulted in a goal by Cyril Dunne. The remaining kick was stopped by the goalkeeper in the drawn Galway-Roscommon Connacht semi-final.

In hurling, it was the poorest year yet, with Tony Doran taking the premier spot with a record low total of 21 points—6-3 in three games. Previous to this the lowest tally was 2-17 (23 pts.), also in

three ties, by Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary) in 1961.

Doran's match average of seven points, while the best in both codes, is the lowest in hurling since 1957, when the top average was also seven points.



From left: Tony Doran (Wexford), Paul Lynch (Wexford), and Pat Griffin (Kerry) who figure among the top scorers of 1968.


The Buffer's Alley marksman is the first Wexford hurler to head this chart since Nick Rackard led the way with the outstanding score in either code at 12-15 (51 pts.) in 1956. This also, understandably, made a record match average in either code of 12.75 points in each of his four engagements.

Doran, who was not in Leinster's top six scorers last year, just pipped Jimmy Doyle by a point for the chart-topping role. Paul Lynch (Wexford), second in the East in 1967 with 2-8 from two games, pushed his total by three points to 1-14 from one extra, again for second place in Leinster. Mick Keating (Tipperary), second in Munster in 1967 with 3-5 in three ties, played the same number of games this year, but hit two points more at 3-7, again for second place in his province.

Only other links with last year are Eddie Keher (Kilkenny), first in Leinster with 3-15 (24 pts.) in three games to third in the province with 1-10 in two outings, and Tommy Ring (Westmeath) and Paddy Molloy (Offaly).


Ring played two games in each campaign, and scored 1-10 for third place in Leinster in 1967, and 2-5 to share No. 4 ranking with three other hurlers.

Finally, Tommy Ring recorded the outstanding individual score in the hurling championship, when he landed 2-3 in Westmeath's unsuccessful Leinster engagement with Offaly at Mullingar in May.



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Top scorers in 1968 e'ships



M. Keating



A. Brennan



G. McCarthy

FOOTBALL

ULSTER

Points		Score	Games	Average
29	P. Doherty (Down)	1-26	5	5.80
22	S. O'Neill (Down)	3-13	5	4.40
19	C. Gallagher (Cavan)	2-13	3	6.33
12	T. McCrudden (Monaghan)	0-12	3	4.00
10	S. Woods (Monaghan)	0-10	3	3.33
10	M. Cole (Down)	2-4	5	2.00

LEINSTER

Points		Score	Games	Average
23	J. Lalor (Laois)	1-20	5	4.60
16	J. Devine (Longford)	2-10	4	4.00
13	J. Haniffy (Longford)	1-10	4	3.25
12	M. Hopkins (Longford)	0-12	4	3.00
9	A. Brennan (Meath)	0-9	2	4.50
9	M. Fennell (Laois)	2-3	5	1.80

CONNACHT

Points		Score	Games	Average
22	J. Keenan (Galway)	1-19	4	5.50
13	M. Kearins (Sligo)	0-13	2	6.50
11	J. J. Keane (Roscommon)	2-5	2	5.50
9	C. Dunne (Galway)	1-6	4	2.25
8	J. Kelly (Roscommon)	2-2	2	4.00

MUNSTER

Points		Score	Games	Average
19	M. O'Dwyer (Kerry)	0-19	4	4.75
17	P. Griffin (Kerry)	1-14	4	4.25
14	B. Lynch (Kerry)	1-11	4	3.50
11	C. O'Sullivan (Cork)	1-8	2	5.50
11	M. O'Connell (Kerry)	0-11	4	2.75

HURLING

LEINSTER

Points		Score	Games	Average
21	A. Doran (Wexford)	6-3	3	7.00
17	P. Lynch (Wexford)	1-14	3	5.66
13	E. Keher (Kilkenny)	1-10	2	6.50
11	P. Molloy (Offaly)	0-11	2	5.50
11	B. Barry (Offaly)	3-2	2	5.50
11	T. Ring (Westmeath)	2-5	2	5.50
11	J. Berry (Wexford)	3-2	3	3.66

MUNSTER

Points		Score	Games	Average
20	J. Doyle (Tipperary)	1-17	3	6.66
16	M. Keating (Tipperary)	3-7	3	5.33
14	C. McCarthy (Cork)	1-11	3	4.66
8	G. McCarthy (Cork)	0-8	3	2.66
7	T. Ryan (Clare)	1-4	2	3.50

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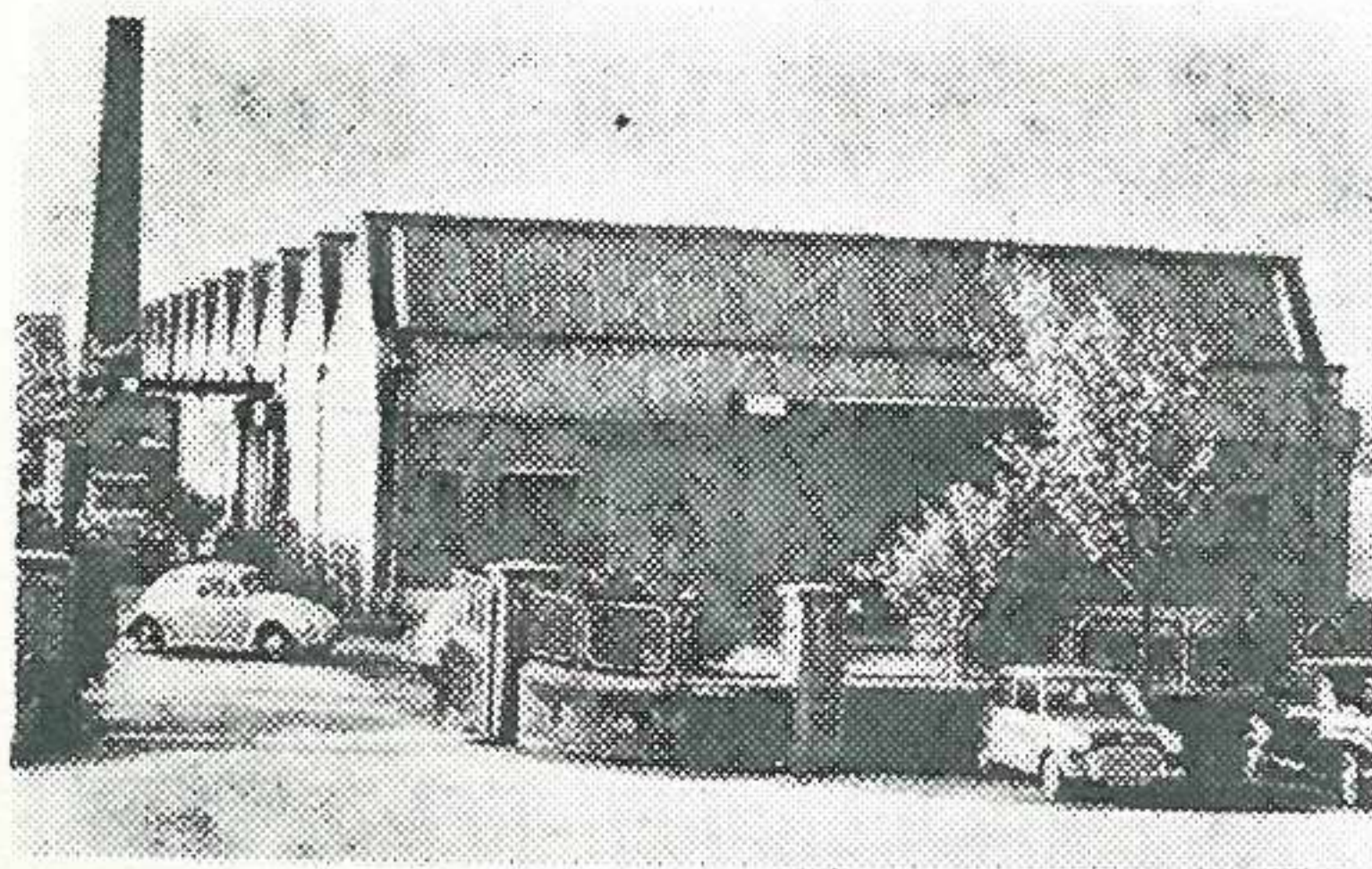
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In response to many requests from our female readers and more especially the wives of our male readers pointing out to us that a monthly item in the magazine dealing strictly with domestic matters would be appreciated, Linda Collins, our indomitable advocate for the rights of G.A.A. men's wives, gladly takes up the cudgel on their behalf in this issue and this month turns the spotlight on central heating in the home. Linda says in the article below and in the following articles on pages 39 and 41 what she thinks about the merits and demerits of the three main central heating systems, Gas, Electricity and Oil-Fired.

THAT'S a term that can mean two different things to two different people. If you're a care-free bachelor it means something amusing that you get a laugh out of. If you're a housewife, particularly a country housewife, "great gas" can be the difference between trying to cook a pot of spuds by blowing your heart out at a sulky heap of damp turf in the hearth and doing the job in a fifth of the time on your bottled gas cooker. "Great Gas" has quietly become part of Irish country life over the last few years. I'm always intrigued, on country trips, to notice the way the bottled gas dealers (and there are about 1,500 of them) leave full containers of gas piled by the roadway in modern-style cairns. In an Irish country district, it simply doesn't occur to anybody that a container could be stolen. And apparently one never is.

But though the "oul' turf fire and the hearth swept clean" is now something that's only laid on for American relations, and piped or bottled gas has taken on the job of cooking our meals for us, we don't seem particularly conscious of the other potentialities of this amazing fuel, which could, if we wanted it to, run our washing machines and fridges, warm our water supply and heat our houses. The possibilities inherent in gas as a fuel haven't occurred to anybody round here yet, because we haven't had much

of a chance to learn about them. Yet many a housewife, wondering how on earth she's going to talk Yer Man into getting central heating, and many a worried club secretary or college or school headmaster faced with the more complex task of heating large and often draughty premises, could find that gas would solve the problem for them.

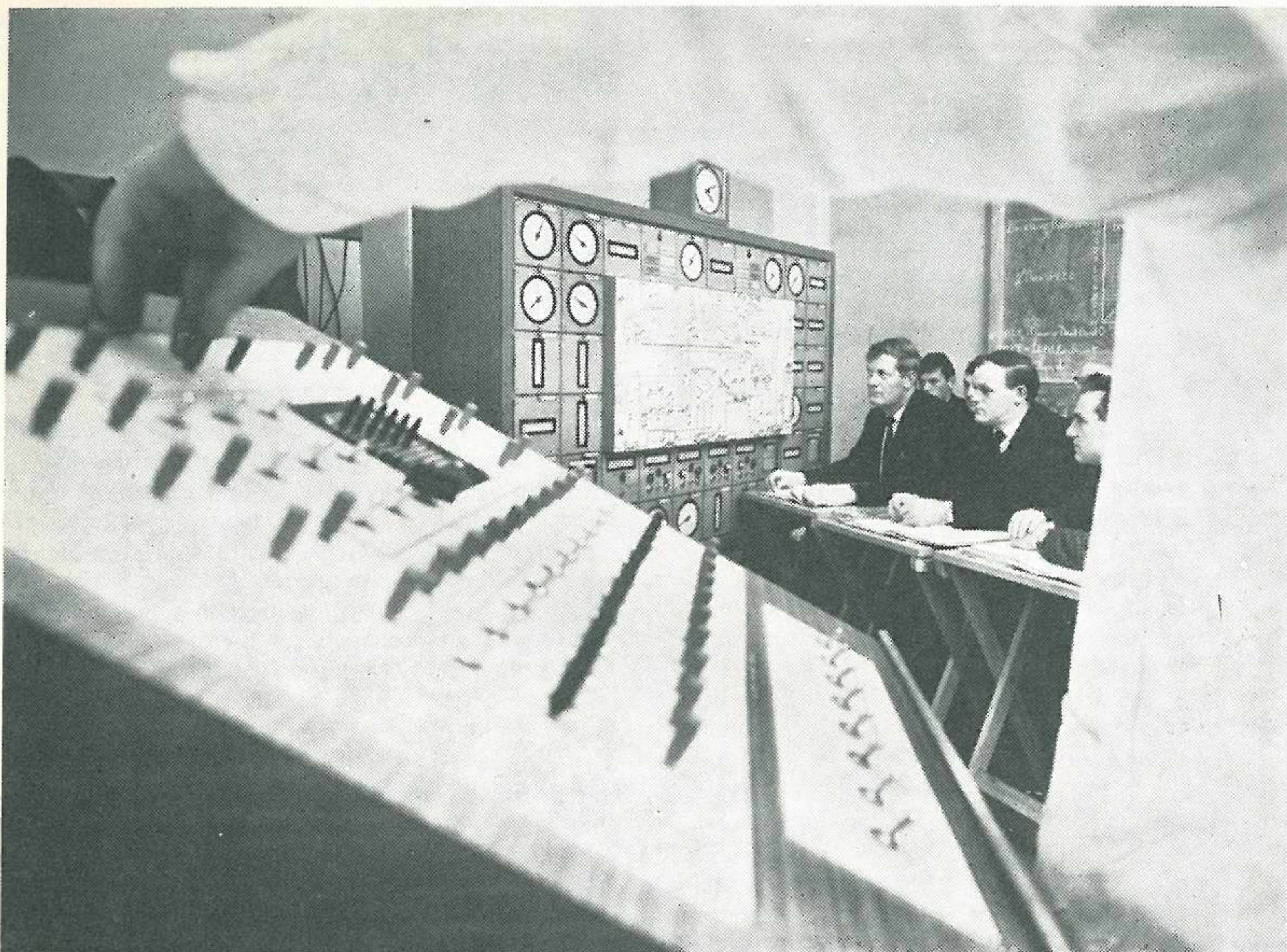
Apart from the bottled gas people, there are over twenty gas companies in Ireland ready and willing to lay the benefit of their expertise at their customers' feet. The first thing most of them will tell us is that today's gas is both quicker, cleaner and more efficient than yesterday's gas. Propane and butane have replaced the old coal gas. Another bit of good news is that the more gas you use, the cheaper it gets. When you install gas central heating you go on a special tariff which can lop nearly a third off what you pay for every therm.

Recently we interviewed James Mitten of General Appliances Industries Ltd., a firm which specialises in selling gas central heating units to shops, offices, factories and homes throughout Ireland, he speaks as a Canadian who has lived through the Christmas Card-type winters they get over there and he says we don't know what a severe climate means. According to Mr. Mitten it's silly to install a lot of cumbersome machinery which will only be used to full capacity on

GREAT GAS...

thirty or forty days a year when we can get along with something simpler. The something simpler being a home heating device which is rather like a big box, sits unobtrusively into a strategic position in your home, office, club house or factory, and proceeds to give you the exact heat you need at any given time. It wafts warm air through the house for you by natural convection and the gorgeous thing about it, if you have an old house with warped doors, is that this heater is more efficient in a rather draughty dwelling! The heat will circulate to every corner of it. This type of space heater operates wonderfully well also in open-plan houses or bungalows while in the more conventional type of building you get maximum heat distribution by leaving the inside doors open.

Larger models, ideal for giving constant even heat in shops or schools, etc., incorporate a gadget to blow the air out at a quicker rate, so you heat even the coldest corners in a matter of minutes, all at the flick of a knob. The great thing about gas is that it's such an obedient fuel—you get immediate control over it. And in our climate, when a sunny morning can change to a hailstorm at lunchtime, a sharp frost after tea, and then a warm muggy dawn the day after, this type of operation is what we want, not just for comfort but for economy too.



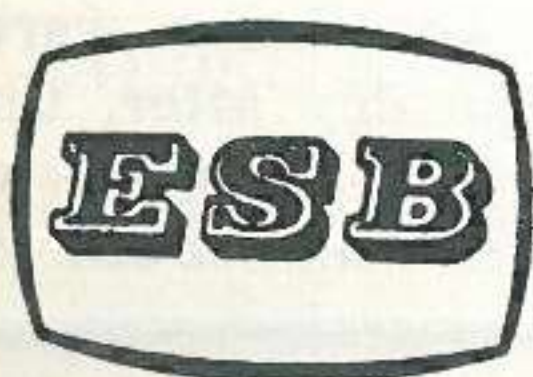
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ARE the Irish going soft? I mean, what would you think if you heard a fellow complaining about the noise made by the electric light switch when he turned it on and off? Not long ago people were thrilled because they were able to illuminate a room merely by clicking a switch—and the louder the “click” the better they were pleased. The electric switch was a status symbol those days. We’ve come a long road since then and there’s hardly a house in the country that hasn’t started using electricity in some form or another.

If you’re thinking of it in terms of central heating, inside the house you’ll be pleased at how easy it is to instal, even in an existing building, how silent and trouble-free it is in maintenance, how clean it is. Naturally all those units will mount up but if you use it sensibly an electric system need cost no more to run than any other. Most people prefer to settle for storage heaters in the main living areas plus convectors in the bedrooms.

Speaking on personal experience of a storage heater which is so old it actually looks like a grandfather, and has children’s initials carved into its metal casing like a trunk of a chestnut tree. I can say the comforting warmth it throws out into a north-facing sitting room, which before its installation was never completely warm, even with a roaring fire in the hearth, is something that’s nice to come home to. This one was installed



★
Newest slim storage heater works on cheap heat taken in during the night, given off during the day. The price per unit on off-peak electricity has not been increased since recent price-rise and therefore represents particularly good heating value.

★

when storage heaters were a real novelty and has proved its worth. Today’s models are much more streamlined and will blend more unobtrusively with the furniture. Some of them have nice wooden trims of teak or striped mahogany but the principle they work on is unchanged. Heat is charged into the storage blocks during the night, at a cheap tariff, about half the usual rate, and then discharged into the atmosphere during the day. So that the heater will still be working well during the evening it’s advisable to get a “boost” of current into them during the afternoon. You pay for the boost at the same cheap rate as the night one.

The ESB, if you ask them, will come and advise you exactly how many storage heaters you need, plus convectors for little used rooms, to make you fully comfortable. The advice doesn’t cost you anything, and if you don’t want to buy the full system all at once, you can proceed step by step over a period of years if

necessary. Most families start by putting a storage heater in the hall. The hot air from it rises and takes the chill from the rest of the house, especially if you leave the bedroom doors open during the day. A point for parents with young children is the safety of storage radiators—they can’t be knocked over and there are no exposed elements for curious fingers to get entangled with. There are different “strengths” of heater—you buy a big one for a big space, a smaller one for a smaller room.

If the thought of heavy winter bills puts you off, remember that the ESB is willing to estimate the total running costs of your electricity consumption over the twelve months, divide the result by six and then send you the same bill — roughly, every two months.

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your chilblainy toes inside your shoes to try and take the sting out of them. Maybe we'll never see an avalanche tumbling down the slopes of Lugnaquilla, but we've got weather conditions worse than ice and snow—damp and cold are what we have to put up with. And having survived an average rainy Irish winter should entitle most people to medals for heroism.

As the century wears on though, even the heroic Irish are finding out they might as well save the heroism for other causes. There's no harm in being comfortable when you can, and nowadays you don't have to be paying supertax to afford oil-fired central heating. In accordance with the good old law of supply and demand, prices per installation have come down as more and more people take the pleasant plunge into central heating.

Naturally you must put your hand in your pocket to get a job such as this done. The mistake some people make, according to the experts at Irish Shell and BP who are a group of selfless men totally dedicated to the motto "Keep Ireland Warm", is that initially we don't dig down as far as the extra couple of fivers which would make all the difference between a perfectly carried out central heating installation and a botched job. If it's done right it will give every satisfaction and years of service. If it's done wrong it will be a heart-scald. So this is no time to call in Joe so-and-so who made a great hand of it when you wanted an extra tap put in the yard. When it comes to oil-fired heating there is no substitute for the expert. And you can call on his services easily enough because Shell and BP will supply you on request with a list of approved installers in

your area. These are firms prepared to stand over their work—and they'll be there to make modifications should you, for instance, decide to build on a couple of extra bedrooms later, and need the heating system extended.

In an existing house you'll usually be advised to get a "wet" system in—an oil-fired boiler heating water which will circulate through radiators. The design of the radiators is improving constantly, and so are the methods by which you can regulate the heat over the whole house, and from room to room. If you're building from scratch a warm-air system, with heat being blown into the rooms through small vents in the walls, will probably be a better proposition. You'll be equally comfortable with either.

What about the economy-minded housewife who yearns for central heating but has a husband or a clatter of sons who object vociferously to giving up the cool bedrooms they've always been used to? She could consider an oil-fired fully automatic cooker in her kitchen, capable of cooking all the family meals and providing plenty of hot water, and also able to heat a few radiators which can be put in strategic places in other rooms. These cookers are the last word in modernity and give you all the advantages of easy control and quick cleaning, plus the constantly available heat which endears this type of cooker to lots of women in the Irish countryside. The "hardware" for the installation—piping and so on—is a good deal cheaper than getting a fully extensive heating system in, and so are installation costs. But again, don't spoil the ship for a ha'porth of tar, installation-wise, or you'll live to regret it.



*Miss M. O'Leary,
Wexford's outstan-
ding player over
the past few years.*

Wexford's historic camogie victory

By AGNES HOURIGAN

SOMETIMES one got the impression from reading the papers around All-Ireland final time that Wexford were newcomers to the camogie world. But that is far from being the case. Forty years ago, Wexford had a camogie Board when the only other camogie Boards in existence were those of Dublin and Cork.

Ever since the start of the present Camogie Association in 1932, Wexford has been an affiliated county, and if the sweet scent of success did not come until recent years, the county regularly fielded a side in the Leinster championships.

Nor did their current historic first All-Ireland victory come out of nowhere.

For many years past the Wexford girls had consistently won the Leinster junior or Intermediate championship year after the year, only to go down to Dublin in the Leinster final. And the experience garnered in those victories and defeats made Wexford a far more experienced side in the All-Ireland.

Another factor that possibly made a difference to Wexford's approach was the fact that Margaret O'Leary, their outstanding player in the past few years, has been playing for the past two or three seasons with the Dublin club Eoghan Ruadh.

The experience and confidence that Margaret gained in winning

Dublin championships and an All-Ireland club championship with Eoghan Ruadh has made a great difference to her, and I have felt that, over the past twelve months, she has passed on much of her own increased knowledge and confidence to some extent to her team-mates.

Certainly, the Wexford side we saw in the All-Ireland final was very good indeed, especially when one considers that they opened on so nervous a note and conceded two early goals a deficit that could have proved fatal to a side less endowed with indomitable spirit.

They owed a great deal to goal-keeper Teresa Shiel from St. Ibar's, Castlebridge who saved them repeatedly and, in the second half of the final, to their magnificent full-back, Mary Sinnott from Taghmon who plays her club camogie with Campile.

The two players from St. John's of Wexford town were Carmel Fortune and Joan Murphy, both very sound in a defence that was completed by Phyllis Kehoe from Ballymurrin who plays for St. Ibar's.

Margaret O'Leary, a native of Garryaniel, Monamolin, who also formerly played for St. Ibar's had a distinguished All-Ireland campaign at mid-field. Indeed, one of the most effective steps ever taken by the Wexford selectors was the moving of Margaret from centre-back to

mid-field at the start of the inter-county season.

On the left wing, relative newcomer Bridget O'Connor, of Campile St. Patrick's, also did well, but one of the brightest stars of the semi-final was the right winger Brigid Doyle.

Brigid, who is married, is one of the Kehoe sisters from Clonleigh, Passage East, five of whom played together none too long ago for the former Ballywilliam camogie club. Brigid was possibly the outstanding player afield in the All-Ireland final, and got plenty of assistance from her young sister Josie, who was playing her first senior game.

As another sister, Kit, had already won All-Ireland medals with Dublin, the Kehoe's from Clonleigh can boast of the only three sisters to hold senior All-Ireland trophies.

Captain Mary Walsh, who also plays for St. Ibar's, comes from the historic Boolavogue countryside and is a native of Ballysimon Monageer. Also from St. Ibar's is corner forward Mary Doyle from Ballymurrin, while full-forward Mary Shannon from Campile is sister of Dick Shannon, who played for Wexford in the All-Ireland hurling final of 1965.

As Wexford also won the Leinster junior title, they have ready-made reserves on the way to the top.

ADHBHAR CAINTE

le LIAM O TUAMA

TÁ na chaobh-chluichí thart, an dá cheann aca. Tá siad thart go ceann bliana eile. Tá an toradh scapaithe ar fuaid an domhain mhóir um an dtacha so. Tá daoine áirithe sásta, agus tá daoine eile mí-shásta. Déarfadh fear amháin gur bhuaidh an fuir-eann is fearr, agus a mhalairt de thuairim a bheidh ag fear eile. Sin mar abhí sé riamh, chó fhada siar agus is cuimhin liom-sa ach go h-áirithe. Sin mar atá fós, agus sin mar a bheidh go deó, deó is dócha.

Tá rud amháin cinnte, thug an dá chluiche adhbhar cainte, dos na mílte, is dos na mílte daoine ar fuaid na h-Éireann, thuaidh, theas, thoir, agus thiar. Ní h-amháin gur thugadar adhbhar cainte dár ndaoine adhbhar cainte dár ndaoine atá abfad i gcéim, scapaithe ar fuaid, an domhain mhór. Tá na cluichí féin thart, ach leanfar an post mortem go ceann abfad fós. Déanfar cur síos orra ag gach crosbhóthar sa tír. Beidh daoine ag trách orra ag dul go dtí an séip-eal Dé Domhnaigh, 'sead is, ag filleadh ón Aifreann chó maith. Cuirfidh fear amháin an milleán ar an imirtheóir seo, nó ar an imirtheóir siúd. Sa t-slighe chéadna, molfaidh fear amháin, imirtheóir áirithe, thar aoinne eile abhí sa pháirc. "É siúd a bhuaidh an cluiche", adéarfadh sé. "Níorbh ea", adéarfadh fear eile, "ach an t-imirtheóir úd, a fuair a leithéid seo, nó a léithéid siúd de scór". Seadh, tá an ceart ag an sean-fhocal—"Bíonn an t-íomán-aidhe is fearr ar an gclaidhe".

GAN SOS, GAN STAONADH

Cé go bfuil na craobh-chluichí thart, ní h-ionann é sin is a rádh go mbeidh sos againn anois, go ceann tamaill. Ní mar sin a bheidh, mar beidh an sreath náisiúnta ag tosnú roimh deire na míosa so. Sa t-slighe sin, ní

bhíonn deire na míosa so. Sa t-slighe sin, ní bhíonn aon stopadh nó aon am sosa maidir le cúrsaí Chumainn Lúth Chleas Gaedhal. Tárlionn sé go ró mhinic, go mbíonn páirc na himtheara fé uisge, agus i dteannta san bíonn pluda, is a lán pluda timcheall béalán chúil. Mo through é an cúl-báire go

minic, mar is mó uair a chonnac é, is é clúdaithe le pluda. Rud eile, do réir mar a druideann tú gairid don Nollaig, eirighíonn na tráthnóintí ana dhorcha. Is is éigin go bféadfá an liathróid, nó an sliotar go mór mhór, d'fheiscint cor ar bith'. Is minic a bhíonn clúdaithe le pluda leis.

● AR LEAN LEATH. 45

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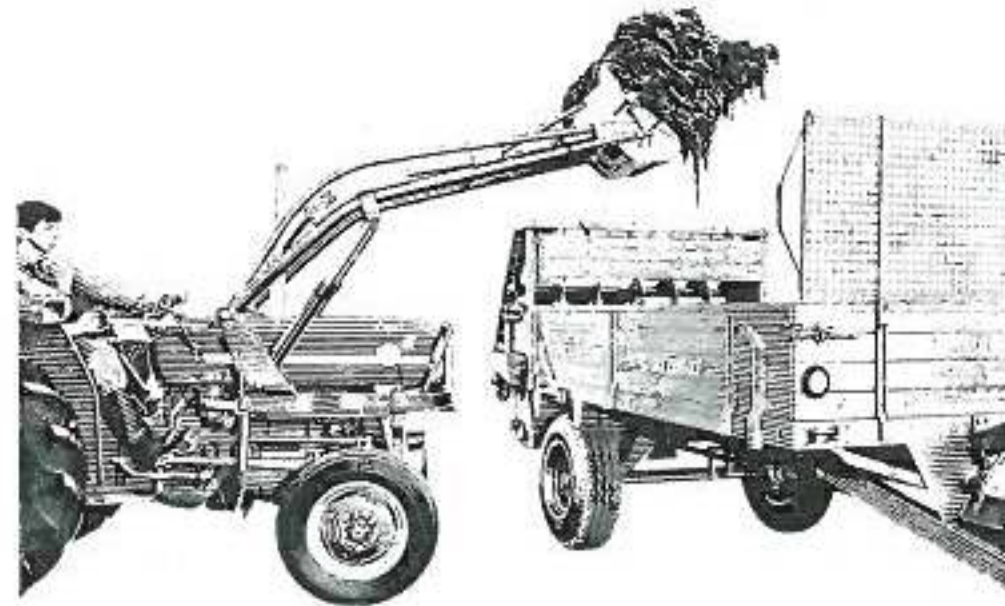
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● Ó LEATH. 43

I rith' na míosa seo leis, imreófar roinnt craobh-chluichí an Chonndae. Is fiú dul abfad ó bhaile chun cuid des na cluichí, seo d' fheiscint. Tógamaís craobh Chorcaige san iomáint cuir i gcás. Is minic abhí idir a fiche is a triocho míle daoine i láthair. Bíonn sár iomáint ins na cluichí seo. Bíonn cuid aca ar aon dul le roinnt mhaith de chraobh-chluichí cheannas na h-Éireann.

CEIST AIRGID ARÍS

Tá constac amháin, i dteannta a lá constacaí eile ag cur isteach ar chéim an aghaidh iománíochta ar fuaid na tíre, i láthair na h-uaire, agus is é sin, costas na gcamán féin. Ceist airgid arís. Tagann ceist airgid isteach i mórán cúrsaí an t-saoil. Is cuimhin liom uair, agus ní sean duine amach is amach mé fós, agus gheóbhfa camáin is fearr sa tír ar chúig scillinge. Gheóbhfa camáin ar suim níos lugha ná san chó maith, ach táim-se ag trácht ar na cinn is daoire abhí sa tír go léir an tráth úd. Is cuimhin liom camáin a bheith le fáil ar leath-choróinn leis, ach tá an lá san thart. Ní fhillfidh sé go deó arís. Is, ag eirighe, is ag eirighe a bheidh luach na gcamán as so amach. Thabhairfeá suas le cúig déag scillinge ar chamán mhaith fé láthair. Seadh, agus tá púnt ar chuid aca. Chonnac camán i siopa i mBaile Átha Cliath tamall éigin ó shoin agus púnt abhí orra. Sin é an pragheas díreách abhí orra. Cé go raibh púnt orra níorbh fhiú púnt iad. Níorbh aon mharghadh iad, fiú amháin ar phraigheas níos lugh ná san, mar ar an gcéad dul síos, ní as préimh an chrainn fuisinseóige a déanadh iad i-n-aon chor, i-n-aon chor. Bhí an snáth nó an "grainne" mar a ghlaodhtar air go minic ceart go leór. Bhí sé ag dul sa treó cheart, ach mar sin féin, duine a bhíonn ar an mbóthar ar feadh abfad-blianta is

blianta, d' fhéadhfhadh sé an dá shaghas camán d' aithint ón a chéile, is cuma conus a d' fhéach-fadh an ceann a déanadh as crann go raibh "casadh nádúra" ann. An camán go raibh a "bhas" fén gcré ar feadh fiche ní fiche cúig de bhlianta, sin do chamán dhuit a dhiune. Seo rud agus ní thuigim riamh é, cad na thaobh ná déantar camáin i gcóir buach-aillí óga 'seadh agus i gcóir

cailíní óga mar a gcéadna, i n-ngach baile beag agus i ngach sráid-bhaile ar fuaid na tíre. Tá sé deachair é do thuiscint, mar tá an mianach mór-thimcheall orra, ar na claidhthe, ar thaobh an bhóthair. Ní iád do dhuine a bheith na cheárdaithe cháiliul chun camán beag a dhéanamh i gcóir garsúin óig. Raghaidh mé isteach sa scéal seo, uair éigin eile le congnamh Dé.



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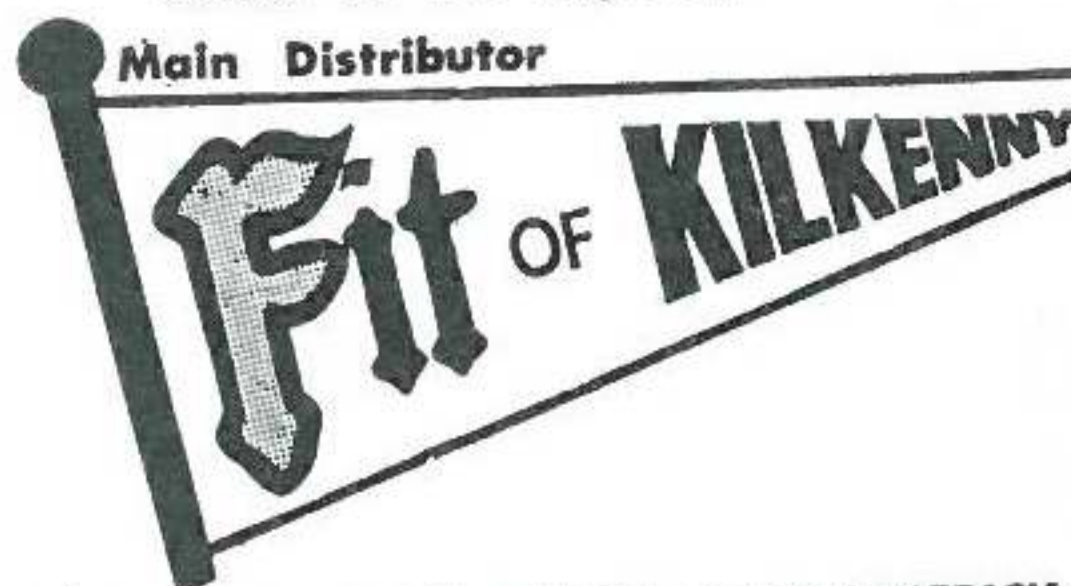


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Two crucial years ahead for Derry

BY
JIM
BENNETT

IT was a noteworthy achievement which brought the under-21 All-Ireland title to Derry this year. They will look upon it, of course, as the second step in the development of their team. At the corresponding stage of their minor careers they won that All-Ireland championship, and, by this latest victory they have proved that they have remained as good as they were in their teens by comparison with their contemporaries.

They have not been overtaken by any other county which was inferior to them in their minor days. The team which they beat in the final as minors was Kerry, and they met them again this year, in the semi-final, winning on home soil.

If they can maintain their development, they should, logically, be All-Ireland senior champions when they come to full maturity. It is true that many of this under-21 team are also in the county's senior team and some have been there for two years and more; and

Derry have been no push-over in senior ranks in that time.

Now, a team which has reached capacity to the extent that Derry's has, can have little more to learn, except, perhaps, the queer quirks of fate. Twenty one—or almost twenty two—is a time of life when you can reasonably expect to be nearing peak. As most of this Derry side have already been in senior competition for two years, at least, they will already be getting impatient for indications of a breakthrough at senior level.

How long more—now that there are no longer any fringe benefits to pick up if they should fail in the senior grade—can they maintain their impetus and desire to succeed?

I am sure that the next two years will be crucial. Indeed, this winter's League will be important, because it may be that in it we shall see some indication of what Derry may be able to do against their most threatening opponents.

Some kind of success in the League would be a great boost. In 1965, they won the minor championship, in 1966 many of those players were again in minor and some in under-21, but it was a year without success—of transition, really. Then 1967 brought the Ulster under-21 title, but defeat at the semi-final stage of the All-Ireland series at the hands of Mayo, a team which was based heavily on the minor champions of the previous year.

This might have seemed an indication that Mayo in one year had made more progress from their minor standards than had Derry in two. Yet, the truth of that is debatable, especially in view of the outcome of this year's championship, when Mayo failed at the semi-final stage to Offaly, and Offaly, in turn, went under convincingly to Derry.

Mayo, in fact, had come before their time; it was altogether against the rules of this kind of thing that



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“If you don't have it in you to win an All-Ireland at 23 or 24, where are you suddenly going to find the ability at 27 or 28?”

they should have carried the under-21 title in 1967. Two factors, however, helped them to that early maturity which had not been going for Derry. They had some men of more mature grounding than merely those of the 1966 minor team; and, secondly, the players on all the Mayo teams in 1967 were swept along on the crest of a tremendous wave of enthusiasm created in the wake of the great Connacht triumph of the seniors.

In fact, if the truth be told, next year should be Mayo's year to win the under-21 title, when all their minors of the successful 1966 campaign will be at maximum age for the 21 year limit, and, therefore, presumably, at their best yet.

In the same context, this year was Derry's and they took their title as scheduled. Thus they are the best prospects of all for senior titles when “the men who were boys when they were boys” have grown into their county senior

teams throughout the rest of the country.

Perhaps, though, there are factors which will make it just a little more difficult for Derry. They have no tradition to give them that unique, though undefinable surge of confidence: their heroes of the fifties ended their best year as mere second bests, in 1958.

And, there is no real depth of alternative talent apart from the personnel of the 1965 minors and the 1968 under-21s to supplement that little company, or, indeed, to drive it to the peak of its ability in pursuit of positions in the senior side.

Further, the one thing which must cause Derry some agonising thought is that their toughest game on the way to this year's victory was that in which they scratched to a narrow victory over Down in the Ulster semi-final at Casement Park.

What with the fact that Down are already so far out in front as

the leading senior side in the land, and have also proved that they have even an under-21 string to tighten the rope at Derry's throat, the hope of being able to reach success against the whole Down strength may be dimmed a little.

Nor is there, in spite of common opinion, any real proof that under-21 success entitles one to the hope of further senior conquest, though it may, normally, guarantee some degree of inter-county prominence. In fact, Kildare, who were one of the best prospects in under-21 ranks have fallen a long way short of the kind of success they had expected.

Their League exploits last year might be considered as some kind of step on the way, but, the fact is that the League was not backed up by championship form, when the chips were down. Cork, with all their minor and under-21 talent have failed to develop much of its material. Roscommon have cause for hope, but still nothing more. Mayo have nothing concrete to indicate or even hope for as a result of their victory last year.

Now, if the idea of the under-21 championships is true, there should already be some indications of success from Kildare and Cork and Roscommon—and there have been indications, but nothing more. And, if you do not have it in you to win an All-Ireland at 23 or 24, where are you suddenly going to find the ability at 27 or 28?

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A SUCCESS STORY

WHEN Mr. and Mrs. Anthony O'Donovan opened their own tailoring business over a shoe shop in Patrick Street, Limerick more than 40 years ago it was hard going at first, but with three generations of Limerick master tailors behind him, Anthony O'Donovan faced the future with confidence.

Soon, the little business prospered. Production of high class handmade suits went up by leaps and bounds and in October, 1936, the O'Donovans took a big decision. They started up their own factory to produce garments in bulk for wholesalers and also for the large Limerick department stores.

Progress at this new level was maintained at such a pace that in 1947 the family decided on a further expansion. Now everything made in their factory would be from O'Donovan selected fabrics, styled to O'Donovan designs, produced throughout to O'Donovan quality and sold under an exclusive brand name—Danus.

Under the Danus brand name the company recorded further success. Most significant of these was the introduction of the Danus "executive" suit to the menswear market. This suit embodying the best in Continental art and styling and making skilful use of lightweight cloths has sold widely at home and abroad.

BEST-SELLER

WITH 9,000 copies of the first edition now disposed of, Raymond Smith's history of Gaelic football, "The Football Immortals", produced with the co-operation of Player-Wills and the G.A.A. authorities has now become the highest-selling G.A.A. book on record.

RESCUE HURLING—NOW!

To-morrow may be too late

Says SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

LOOKING back on the championship scene a point that forcibly struck many close students of the game was the continued decline in the hurling standard, a development that was particularly noticeable in the once great strongholds of the caman code.

I have discussed this matter with many ardent hurling devotees and all without exception were agreed that the image of hurling has suffered badly in recent years and that the downhill trend has to be halted if hurling as a great spectacle, is to be preserved.

On examination it will be found that many factors have contributed to the present slump.

One very important factor is the absence of colourful figures on our playing fields just now. The Jim Kellehers, the Tom Semples, the Mick Mackeys, the Lory Meaghers, the Tull Considines, the John Keanes, the Christy Rings, the Nick Rackards are all only happy memories, and the sad fact is that nobody has emerged in recent times to worthily fill their boots.

Why such lack of stars to-day? Pitches are better than ever before, and more and more are being equipped with all modern amenities—but they are empty most times!

In the days when hurling was flourishing the playing fields were packed all through the summer evenings.

The first task now is to induce the youth back to the training

grounds, for without constant practice there can be no hope of any worthwhile improvement in the standard of hurling.

No skill is acquired in any game or in any profession without study, without application, without dedication, and without perseverance. These are the bare essentials, but much more is required before an individual becomes a hurling star.

I have met many of the great figures of the arena. I have discussed with a number of them their rise to stardom and all without exception spent many long hard hours developing the skills of the game. They practiced and kept on practicing year in year out and agreed they learned something new with every game and from every opponent they encountered.

There is no easy road to success in hurling contrary to what some present-day students of the game seem to think. Neither is there a short cut. The science of the code cannot be imparted in "ten easy lessons" or ten times ten, and while coaching courses are important much more will depend on the individual approach, and his reaction to the necessity of devoting long periods to the game.

Many of the great players of the past will tell that most of the pleasure they got from the game came from the training ground, and that if you do not enjoy your training your prospects of mastering the game are very slim. There is considerable

substance in that and it is a point worth pondering.

The late Johnny Leahy of Tipperary—one of the most far seeing Gaels of his time—once remarked that prosperity would kill the G.A.A. I cannot help thinking how right he was.

In the old days the youth flocked to the playing fields at every opportunity and the main reason probably was that they had very little other attractions to lure them elsewhere—or the means of doing so.

Now we are living in what some term the affluent society, and many of our youth are in receipt of substantial pay packets. They have many other attractions besides the playing fields — and life for them is all too easy.

It is hard to fit hurling into this pattern and harder still to visualise these lads devoting the same time, energy and enthusiasm as their fathers did to the propagation of the game.

What is needed now is a crusade to rescue this undoubtedly our greatest game, from the fate that appears to be overtaking it.

As a first step the rules must be revised, bodily contact must be reduced and all that tends to rough play eliminated. The goalman has to get proper protection and some would advocate a reduction in the number of players to thirteen—achieving this by dropping both the full back and

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the full forward. Under such circumstances it might be worth considering the possibility of confining a selection to fifteen players, and permitting interchange of these during the hour, provided that at no time more than thirteen were on the field.

Foul play must be made unprofitable, even if it means substituting something in the nature of a penalty score for the present free puck, with enhanced scoring value for fouls committed inside the twenty-one yards line. Taking into the hand from a rise off the ground should be prohibited.

There has been no major change in the hurling rules for very many years and it is obvious that some alterations are urgently needed so that the game may be updated to meet modern requirements and to eliminate some of the abuses that have crept in.

Updating, however, on its own will not solve the problems facing the game or restore it to its former greatness. That can only be accomplished by men devoted to the code and prepared to make the necessary sacrifices to portray it at its greatest.

That is a challenge worthy of the best endeavours of our youth—an ideal worth working for.

Remember, now is the time for every true lover of hurling to come to its rescue — tomorrow may be too late!

A walkie-talkie with the Wexford cailíní

SEAN O'DONNELL

WELL, there can be no doubt about the determination of the girls of Wexford for, just like their big brothers on the hurling teams, they went out in Croke Park and brought off the treble and the All-Ireland title to Wexford for the first time.

Mind you, I felt sorry for the Cork girls trooping off on their own and not a soul to bother them; but they did not begrudge Wexford their victory for they were the first to offer congratulations at the finish and they cheered and clapped the victors until they came down from the Hogan Stand with the cup.

It was then I joined in and had a few words with the Wexford girls. I spoke first to Breda Doyle. She said: "I have been waiting five years for this to happen. It was certainly a tough game. However, I felt confident we could do it."

Mary Doyle felt the hard training they went through was chiefly responsible for their success and she expressed her appreciation to the trainer,

Dominic Kiernan, for the great help and encouragement he gave them.

Next I met Joan Murphy, who said: "Our team were very determined to succeed and I felt we just had to win and not let our county down. The success of the hurlers was a great inspiration to us."

Carmel Fortune was too happy to say a word. She is the longest-serving player on the team, having played for the past fourteen years and that is a long time to wait for success. Carmel felt it was well worth it.

For Phyllis Keogh this was her life's ambition and she felt it was just sheer determination that brought them victory. Mary Sinnott, who made some brilliant clearances in typical Ollie Walsh style, felt it was all due to their trainer Dominic Kiernan.

Margaret O'Leary, who played her heart out in the centre of the field, said it was a great win but admitted she felt a bit nervous at the start.

Mary Walsh, the captain of the side, said Cork were a hard team to play against but she was confident that her side could do it as she felt they were faster to the ball.

Theresa Shiels, who played the game of her life in goal, felt the backs deserved to be congratulated on their fine display. The last girl I talked to was Mary Shannon, who scored the goal that really clinched matters. Mary was very happy with her county's success.

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OWEN McCANN calls for :

A YOUTH MOVEMENT!

“AS the year moves towards its close, I keep remembering many bright young men of football and hurling. The parts played by Colm McAlarney (Down) and Mickey Niblock (Derry), both not so long out of the minor grade, in Ulster's Railway Cup win . . . the six 1966 minors who helped nobly to fashion Down's All-Ireland senior title win . . . bright individual displays in the Under-21 championships . . . the sporting gesture by Sligo players in chairing off Cork's minor captain after the All-Ireland minor football final.

And not for the first time either, I also find myself pondering more and more on the question: Is the Association living up fully to its responsibilities to youth?

I know boys playing other sports who have won inter-provincial jerseys, yet such distinctions are denied to Gaelic Sports minded youth. Why? In my book those boys playing football and hurling are fully entitled to the chance of gaining as many honours in the national games as are open to boys playing other sports.

I can also see no really valid

reason why minor inter-provincial championships in football and hurling similar to the Railway Cups could not be staged annually, with the semi-finals, say, in the provinces on the first Sunday of October, and the finals at Croke Park on the last Sunday of that month—an annual youth day, in fact, at headquarters! This would enable the provincial selectors to use the minor championships as a guide to form when selecting their teams.

The minor championships, and the Colleges' and Vocational Schools' championships, have all grown so steadily in popularity that there can now be little doubt that minor inter-provincial games would be real box-office. More important, they would help greatly to boost football and hurling among the youth.

Then, what about the many young footballers in the counties where football is weak? In hurling, the position has been improved somewhat by the introduction last year of special All-Ireland championships at under-16, minor and under-21 for the under-de-

veloped counties. I have no doubt that these tests will help in time to accelerate the progress of hurling in the areas concerned.

But, let's also face the fact that, while football is the most widely played game in the country, and by far our greatest crowd-puller, the standard still leaves much to be desired in more than half of the 32 counties. The best way to improve this position is, of course, to concentrate on youth. And, the more incentives a sport provides for boys the greater will be its development.

Here is where football is falling down badly at present. Under the current championship set-up, boys in the weaker counties have little or no chance of gaining some reward in the form of a national medal for their endeavours.

Special youth championships on a nation-wide basis for the weaker counties similar to those now in hurling would bridge this gap efficiently. They would, as is the case in hurling, also create the type of interest needed to encourage boys in the areas concerned

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to persevere at the game, and train even more earnestly. Then again, a national title win—or even a provincial success—would fire the imagination of youth in the county concerned.

This would also result in winning new recruits for the game in the county. On a nation-wide basis, it would also give new hope and encouragement to budding footballers in the weak counties generally. The attitude of boys in, say, Clare, would be "What Waterford have just won, we can win next year". This would, too, be all to the good for the nation-wide advancement of football.

I also feel there is a good case for the introduction of under-21 inter-county Leagues in hurling and football. After all, the majority of players in the 18-21 age group are not mature enough for senior inter-county fare, and so, are starved of top-class competition.

True enough, the All-Ireland under-21 championships have helped to improve this position. Remember, however, that half of the starters are out of the hunt after only one round. In short, the vast majority of the young stars honoured in the under-21

championship play only one game a year.

Players in this age group are not always that well catered for either by club games between November and March, especially. At this time the opposition is invariably strong from other codes, so one cannot blame those who drift to other codes . . . codes which, from all we are led to believe, provide the 18-21 group with plenty of match-play during the winter.

The under-21 inter-county Leagues could be run off first in regions embracing four or five neighbouring counties. The winners of bordering regions could play-off on the knock-out basis for the title proper. In this way, travelling would be kept to a minimum.

There are bound to be snags that I have not considered in the way of introducing the competitions I have advocated. But difficulties are made to be overcome and I'm convinced the development of hurling and football nationally would be dramatically accelerated by the launching of these youth tests. That, as I see it, should be the outstanding consideration of all.

YOUNGSTER PLEADS . . .

"Please save the Association"

A Chara—I would like to congratulate you on your two All-Ireland final issues. The covers, in particular, were outstanding, depicting the All-Ireland hurling and football finalists in full colour. In fact, I have already cut them out, framed them and hung them in my bedroom.

I was very interested in the articles written by Father Columba Mansfield. I think the leaders of the G.A.A. should pay attention to what he has to say. I am only a 'teenager, but I can see how the Association is losing in Dublin City. If it is losing the youth on the same scale in other cities and towns things are in a very bad way.

The G.A.A. of the future, good or bad, will be my association. I appeal now to the old men to save it for me and my generation.

You, in GAELIC SPORT, can help to persuade them that they must modernise if they are to hold the youth. You are doing the right thing by publishing writers like Fr. Mansfield.

Eoin Watkins (17 yrs.)

Terenure, Dublin.

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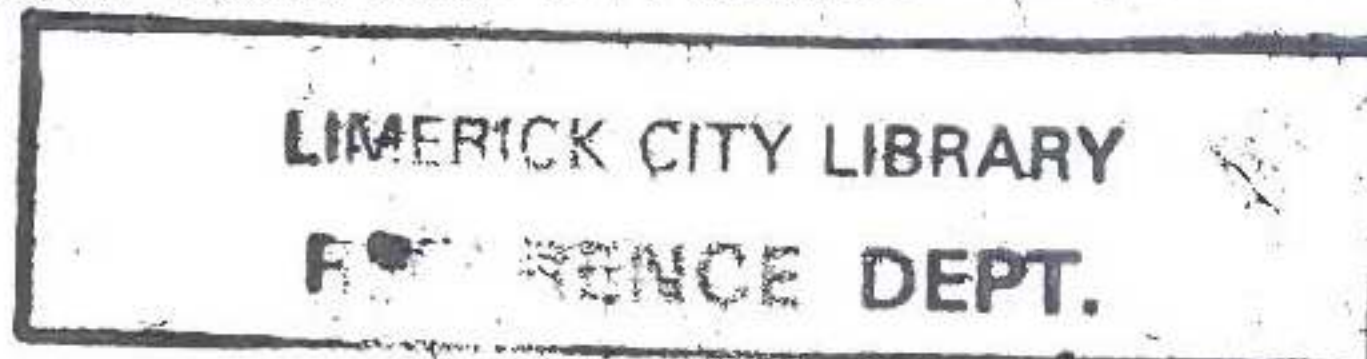
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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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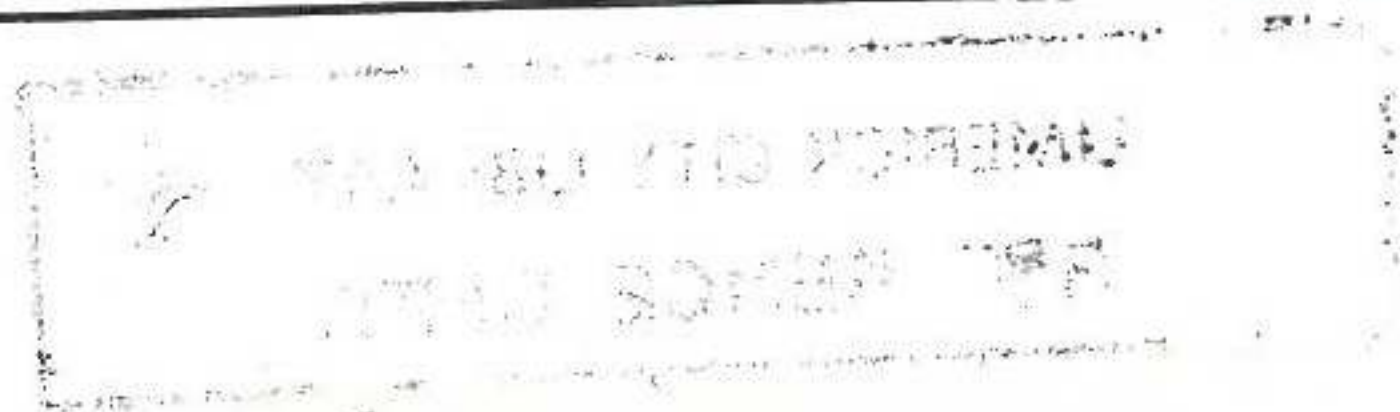
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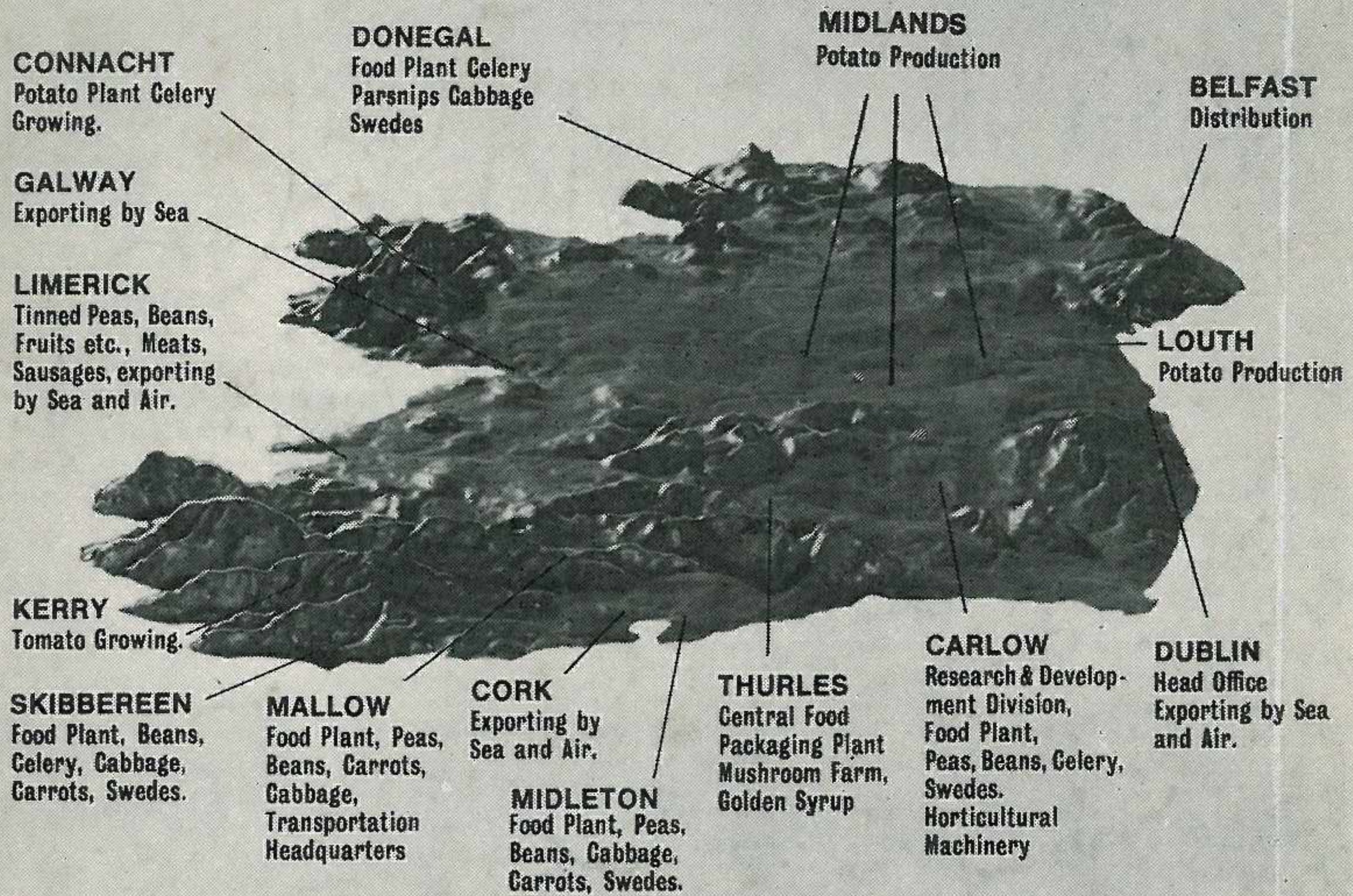
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