

GAELIC NEWS

NUAHTÁN GAEL

JULY, 1969

Incorporating Gaelic Sportsman, Gaelic Weekly and Gaelic Weekly News

Price 1/2
(including taxes)



Jack Donnelly sends over another point for Kildare en route to the Leinster final.

In This Issue

- Fourteen senior inter-county teams are illegal as a result of players commuting to New York. See page 2.
- The suspension of Clare Chairman John Hanly — impartial inquiry called for — page 6.
- Can Cork beat Kerry this time? Mick Burke gives his view on page 8.
- The G.A.A. in the course of change — see page 23.

INSIGHT



**A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT
THE ANATOMY OF THE G.A.A.**

THE "Jack Berry affair" which helped liven up the G.A.A. scene after the National Hurling League final was a typical example of an attitude of mind which permeates the G.A.A. from the highest to the lowest level. And the Central Council's reaction to the situation presented to it, by Cork alleging officially that Jack Berry had played in New York on April 13 last typified the official attitude on this side of the Atlantic to the whole question of Irish registered players travelling to New York for games. The decision of the Central Council was that a committee should investigate the whole question of players visiting Gaelic Park for games.

In other words, the 48 wise men of Croke Park saw fit to pass the buck rather than take action themselves. This was, despite the fact that Cork had stated publicly that they had proof to back up their allegations in the particular case before the meeting.

Why were Cork not asked to proceed with their case there and then? Why was the whole affair handed over to an unnamed committee, with terms of reference that practically ensure that they cannot recommend any decisive course of action.

BERRY'S ERROR

One reason certainly was that most delegates would not wish the Jack Berry case to be dealt with in isolation. Nobody denies that Jack Berry's greatest error was in getting himself into a position of being a suspect. This is the only difference between him and the dozens of other players who also visit Gaelic Park for special occasions. The number of Central Council delegates

who could have stated at the May meeting that nobody from their county had visited New York to play without transfer for teams there, these would certainly be in a minority, and right well the delegates knew this. It would have been a case of people who live in glass houses not throwing stones.

It is common knowledge that players from the following counties have featured in New York games from time to time: Donegal, Derry, Antrim, Monaghan, Cavan, Wexford, Kilkenny, Longford, Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Kerry and Tipperary.

This is not the first time that attempts have been made by Central Council to investigate alleged trafficking. Only a few years ago a prominent G.A.A. official was sent to Gaelic Park specifically to watch out for certain named players. He reported back that he did not see the players in question!

The basic point in all of this behaviour is much more fundamental than simply the question of whether a particular player is strictly eligible to play in a particular place on a particular day.

BASIC RELATIONSHIP

It involves the basic relationship between the New York G.A.A. and the Central Council. The Association known as the G.A.A. in New York is not directly affiliated to Central Council. The institution known as the American Board of the G.A.A. is fully affiliated at Croke Park but New York have long since opted out of the American Board.

Many of the internal rules of the New York G.A.A. are different to those in the Official Guide. For instance there is no

The Travelling People

such thing in Gaelic Park, as automatic suspension as we know it. Instead, a player who is sent off gets a period of suspension based on matches? Another "house rule" in Gaelic Park is that nobody can play in the final of any competition who has not played in an earlier round.

The point emerges therefore that if the New York Association is not 100 per cent in accord with Official Guide regulations it could be described as a separate sports organisation, playing games almost exactly similar to those organised by the G.A.A. in this country.

Now, there is nothing to prevent any Irish G.A.A. player going off to play baseball or American football in New York if he wishes, since neither sports are affiliated to the G.A.A. Incidentally, American football is also played frequently in Gaelic Park and, in fact, many Gaelic footballers have tried their hand successfully at the American ball game.

Carrying the analogy a step further it can be seen that unless the New York G.A.A. is one hundred per cent affiliated to the G.A.A. in Croke Park, then to some extent it is a different sports body and cannot be governed exclusively by the laws of our G.A.A. There would be no difference therefore between an Irish player going out to New York for a game of Gaelic as opposed to American football.

LEAGUE ARGUMENTS

But these are all legal arguments and whether they would hold good in the face of legal warfare is another matter. To date they have never been put to the test at this level.

There is, of course, another side to this question of well-known players travelling to New York for games. If one were to be technical about the whole business it would be very easy to shout about irregularities and point an accusing finger at this player or that. But for years now a tolerant eye has been cast by most people, indeed by the vast majority of fair-minded G.A.A. members, on any player good enough or fortunate enough to be asked out to play in New York.

From time to time there have been individuals and counties who sought, for some reason of their own, to exploit information at their disposal. In the Jack Berry case we must accept Cork's assertion that their motives were in the best interest of the Association as a whole.

The tolerance displayed by most G.A.A. people down the years can really be attributed to the unwritten evaluation of what constitutes fair play in the mind of the average Irishman. Why should a player be penalised for accepting an opportunity to better

er discredit on our national games — a player slipping off to the States for a game of football or hurling or the player who callously kicks an opponent on the ground or strikes him with a hurley.

MANY REASONS

There are many reasons why a player may accept a secret trip to New York.

● It is an honour to be invited, especially if the player is from a county which would not normally be in line for an official trip.

● There is very often a strong feeling of obligation towards the connections in

of rules involved. It may be the cause of keeping together, as a viable unit, a weak New York team.

What have these counties in common?

**DOWN
CORK
KERRY
LONGFORD
TIPPERARY
SLIGO**

yes, a Gaelic games YEARBOOK.

These six YEARBOOKS are now on sale each priced 2/6.

Whether or not you are from the counties in question, you will enjoy the feast of G.A.A. reading in each of these books.

From leading newsagents or Press Cuchulainn, 58 Haddington Road, Dublin, 4 (post free).



Jack Berry who sparked off the latest investigation of alleged behind the scenes U.S. trips.

himself, by accepting an invitation to travel to Gaelic Park.

And is it not a strange evaluation of right and wrong when the Official Guide specifies a 12 months suspension for playing one game without a transfer, yet for a player deliberately striking an opponent with a hurley or deliberately kicking, the minimum penalty is only six months.

I leave it to the good judgement of the reader to decide for himself which is the greater crime and which action brings great-

New York, based on county or personal loyalty. The financial rewards for the Irish player are hardly ever a factor in influencing the decision.

● Few players there are, who do not secretly get a thrill out of doing something which they know is somewhat underground. This holds through in all walks of life.

● The amount of good done for a sizable section of the Irish community by the visit of a well-known player from Ireland far outweighs any minor breach

FAIRVIEW PARK GARAGE — Fairview

ALL MAKES OF NEW AND USED CARS SUPPLIED

Prop.: Peter Igoo.

Telephone 332266

PHOENIX FILLING STATION Conyngham Road

ALL MAKES OF NEW AND USED CARS SUPPLIED

(Prop.: Peter Igoo)

Congratulations to the Kildare hurlers on their National League victory

Burke Bros. (1968) Ltd.

FORD MAIN DEALERS
KILDARE

Telephone: 21406 and 21228

Great value in Used Cars. H.P. terms arranged
Open all day Saturday

The Society of the Irish Motor Industry.

WALSH MOTORS Ltd.

168, Phibsboro Road, Dublin, 7

Telephone 303137

MOTOR SALES AND SERVICE

Cars Bought, Sold and Exchanged.

Any make of New Car or Van supplied.

MORRIS AND RILEY DEALER



Howlett To Miss Semi-Final

It is now practically certain that when surprise packets Wexford line out in the Leinster football semi-final on July 13 against Westmeath or Offaly they will have to find a replacement for their regular goalkeeper Willie Howlett.

Willie, who comes from Shielbeggan, is a final year medical student at University College, Dublin. As part of his practical experience, he is due to spend three months working in a hospital and like many other present day students he intends spending his summer holidays in the United States.

On June 30, Howlett flies out to take up a position in the Appalachian Regional Hospital, Kentucky, so he will be with

Wexford in spirit only on July 13.

By coincidence, Willie Howlett was a regular on the U.C.D. team for the past three years but not until recently did he get his place with Wexford. Six months ago he was replaced in the U.C.D. goals by Michael Dolan, a nineteen-year-old from Longford who wasn't even on the Longford list of substitutes for the Wexford match.



Willie Howlett who is likely to be in the U.S. when Wexford play in the Leinster semi-final.

Universities Stand By Decision

At the next meeting of the Central Council, approval will be sought for the agreement reached between the Universities and the other colleges of higher education, with regard to next year's competitions.

It will be remembered that the A.G.M. of the Universities Council recently decided to confine their competitions next season to the six Irish universities. This decision evoked a violent reaction not alone from the debarred colleges, but also from many members of the Central Council at their last meeting.

Following protracted discussions between the Executive Council and the President Seamus O Riain and General Secretary Sean O Siochain a meeting was held between representatives from both sets of institutions, where a general agreement was worked out for next season.

Basically the decision of the Universities Council still stands but the other colleges have formed a body of their own to organise games suited to their own needs. The two bodies will come together

for play-offs between the winners in the university and non-university section.

Membership of the Universities Council will remain as heretofore, confined to the five universities with the addition of newcomers Maynooth and Coleraine.

Lectures to be Published

THE nine lectures on "The G.A.A. in the 'Seventies," which were given at the seminar organised by the U.C.G. Football Club, are likely to be published in book form.

The entire seminar was recorded and arrangements are at present being made for the editing of the lecture texts and the transcripts of what was said from the floor.

The lecturers at the seminar were Rev. Dr. Liam Ryan of U.C.C.; Bryan MacMahon of U.C.C.; John Healy of the Irish Times; former President Alf Murray; the President of the Association Seamus O Riain; Dr. Jim Brosnan; Fr. Leo Morahan, Martin Rafferty, General Manager of Allied Irish Investment Bank and Seamus Duke of the Policy Committee.

A FAREWELL TO LONGFORD

THERE are those who will tell you that in sport there is no room for sentiment. If you win you win; if you lose you lose. I'm sure that soccer manager Malcolm Allison, star jockey Lester Piggott, and New Zealand rugby player Colin Meads would agree with this attitude one hundred per cent.

In G.A.A. sports, too, you will find the unemotional ones and no doubt the people in this category will have taken note of the early dismissal from this

By David Collins

year's All-Ireland race of the 1968 Leinster champions Longford as a mere statistic — Wexford in; Longford out. But to some of us sport goes a bit further than statistics and the elimination of Longford only emphasises the human element in the game. Longford were the first of last year's senior provincial football champions to throw their title up for competition in 1969 and they were also the first to hand over that crown.

As yet, we don't know who will be the recipients of the massive trophy which has travelled the Longford circuit for the past ten months.

The harsh fact is that Longford are gone and before we start to eulogise their successors we should

cast a reflective eye on the midlanders. When they failed to follow up their National League victory of 1966 with championship success in either '66 or '67 the general public, whose opinions nowadays are but the diluted thoughts of mass media, dismissed Longford from big time considerations and reverted to the old, if monotonous, reliables, Kerry, Down and Galway.

The result was that in almost every game they played in the 1969 championship, Longford were the underdogs, 'though for the Leinster final against Laois many jumped on the bandwagon to support the newcomers on the grounds that they were the team whom most people would like to see winning.

For the same reason Longford were also the team that everybody wanted to see win when they faced Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final, a game in which they gained more from defeat than they ever did in victory. This is

something that few teams manage to achieve nowadays, when winning seems to be the only criterion of success.

Of course, there were factors which swung the public in Longford's favour in 1969. Firstly they were a "new" team and if there is anything more appealing to the G.A.A. public at the moment than new faces I have yet to know about it.



Fr. Phil McGee

Longford from the start were the underdogs since most of us have a vague idea that the population of

the county is meagre and weren't they great to be able to field a decent team at all! But the biggest point in their favour was their style of play and the almost complete absence of gimmicks. A tactful blend of old and new style football was attractive to watch and even though a few of the Longford men could give as good as they got in any showdown of Longford. Jimmy Flynn, Fr. McGee, Mick Higgins and Sean Donnelly might have lacked some of the guile in sideline repartee which has been brought to a fine art by mentors of many other counties but despite that, or maybe because of it, they were much respected by public and press.

So we bid goodbye to Longford. On the face of things we must assume that their absence will be long enough. The half dozen or so new players which are so obviously necessary will not be easy to come by in a county with such a minute playing strength.

But I'm sure all neutrals will hope that the wait for Longford will not be too long and that when they

do come back Patsy Reilly will still be dispensing the magic bottle with a helping hand from Bertie Allen, that Mick Higgins will still be there in the dugout pulling the cap down on his

head as he prepares to go out to make a switch and the agonised expressions on the faces of the mentors in the second half of the Wexford game will never be repeated.

BREADEN'S MODEL BAKERY

Bakers and Confectioners
ONLY ONE QUALITY — THE BEST
WEDDING CAKES A SPECIALITY

19/20 Dublin Street, Longford

'Phone: Longford 6467

Est. 1927.

'Grams: "Breaden, Longford"

FOR YOUR NEW OR GOOD QUALITY
SECONDHAND CAR call to —

REGENCY CAR SALES (1967)

314 North Circular Road, Dublin, 7

(Opposite St. Peter's Church, Phibsboro on the Phoenix Park Road)

Our Telephone Number is — 305200

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE
FOR THE REAL THING

CURSAI GAELTACHTA

Se Clubanna Tre Ghaeilge



Le Padraig O Mealold

NUAIR a bhí mise in mo bhuachaill óg i nGael-tacht Chonamara is beag a bhí le cloisteáil faoi pheil ná iománaíocht ann, in mo cheantar-sa go háirithe.

Ní raibh a fhios agamsa go raibh a leithéid de rud ann agus Craobh na hEireann. Nuair a bhí mé beagán níos sine ná sin agus nuair a chuir mé eolas ar imeachtaí Chumann Luthchleas Gael go geinearálta sea a thig mé go raibh ceantar Chona-

mara go bocht as chomh fada agus a bhain sé leis na cluichí. Ar ndóigh bhí na heisceachtaí ann, muinntir Mhic Dhonnchadha, Seán agus Piaras O Draighneáin, Aodh O Ciardha, Gaeilgeoirí iad sin uilig a d'imir le Gaillimh, cuid acu le Connacht, mura raibh siad uilig. Ach ba ar coláiste is mó a d'fhoghlaim-eadar a gcuid peile, ní féidir a rá gur de bharr staid an chluiche i gConamara a bhíodar ar barr. Ina theannta sin bhí peil láidir i gcónaí in Uachtar Ard agus sár pheileadóirí ann, na Suilleabháin, ceathrar nó cúigear de mhuintir Mhic Eochaidh, agus tuille. Ach ní fhéadfá a rá gur as an nGaeltacht iad sin le ceart.

Ach le imeacht aimsire tháinig athrú beag. I dtosach na gcogadaí d'fhás foireann maith i gceantar Chois Fharraige agus na Ceathrú Rua, Micheál Breathnach. Chruthaíodar

go maith, agus d'éirigh thar cionn leo i gcomórtas sóisear an chontae. Bhí peileadóirí contae air sin freisin, Liam Mac Donnchadha agus Peadar O Sé beirt a thagann in mo chumhne.

Ag deileail le peil ar fad atá mé go dtí seo. Ní raibh ariamh aon traidisiún iománaíochta ar fud Chonamara. Bhí mé siar Conamara le gairid ag caitheamh súil ar cé mar atá cúrsaí na gcluichí ann anois, agus dhá bharr sin, agus beagáinín taighde, tá mé níos eolais. Maidir leis an iománaíocht, bhí na Draighneáin ar ndóigh ina niománaíthe chomh maith le bheith ina bpeileadóirí. Agus aisteach go leor, má ghlacann tú ceantar a théann abair deich míle siar ó Gaillimh tá traidisiún ann.

Ní inniu na inne a thosnuigh an traidisiún sin, teann se siar 300 no 400 bliain. Himríti Cluichí

Móra na Bealtaine, nó Cluichí na mBláth ag Cnoc an Bhlácaigh, agus is ann a bhíodh cuid mhaith de chluichí móra na Gaillimhe. Bhí foireann iománaíochta sa Spidéal i dtús an chéid seo, agus is as a d'fhás na hOglaigh sa cheantar. Bhíodh Pádraig Mac Piarais á noiliúint ar chúil Choláiste Chonnacht, agus nuair a bhíodh obair tráthnóna déanta aige leo, seo leis siar go Rosmuc, thar éis do gloine uisce agus cupla briosca a chaith-eamh.

Ta foireann laidir iománaíochta ann anois freisin, agus anuraidh bhuadhadar Craobh Sóisearach Iarthar na Gaillimhe. Ta an peil go maith ann freisin, agus bhaineadar an gradam céanna amach anuraidh agus a bhain na hiománaíthe.

D'fhéadfa a rá go bhfuil chuig chlub eile sa bhfor-Ghaeltacht, ar an gCnoc, sa Cheathrú Rua, i Litir Moir, i Rosmuc agus i gCárna.

Ar ndóigh bhí foireann peile i gCárna fadó deirtear liom, bunaíodh é i 1927 agus bhíodar an-laidir go luath ina dhiaidh sin, ach d'ímigh siad as. Ach ta tri foirne acu anois, bhí mionúir an-mhaith acu anuraidh, agus tá páirc bhreá acu a bhfuil rún acu feabhas a chur uirthi. Ta na ceantair eile moran ar an dul ceanna le Cárna ó thaobh foirne peile. Níl áitreabh, páirc agus seom-

raí, ag cuid acu. Tá dhá shean scoil faighte ag club Rosmuc, agus dha thoradh sin tá Cumann Dornálaíochta acu-san freisin. Tá a leath cheann an-laidir ar an gCeathrú Rua. Tá pairceanna maithe annsin agus ar an Spidéal, tá Litir Moir ag deanamh páirce, tá faoi mhuintir an Chnoic ceann a dhéanamh, agus ba mhaith le Rosmuc ceann ní

b'fearr na an ceann atá acu i gCamus.

Tá dhá áit acu, Rosmuc agus an Cheathrú Rua, a bhfuil rún acu pionúir liathróide laimhe a chur suas. Is gné amháin de imeachtaí na Gaeltacht iad na cluichí atá ag dul chun cinn, méadú ar uimhir na gclub, gan bhuíochas don imirce, agus titim uimhir na gclub ar fud na tire.

Comortas Corn Delap

An mhí seo chugainn beidh alt againn faoi comórtas Corn Delap a bheidh da imirt i nGaoth Dobhair i dtús Lúnasa. Ag imirt le Gaoth Dobhair beigh Antón O Cearbhaill (thíos).



NA RINCI GAELACHA SIN

TA comhar a bheith gach uile ábhar a spionadh ag Comh-dháil na Casca den Chumann Luthchleas Gael athspionta agus athspolta go minic ó shin, ach, do chlubanna arbh éigean dóibh mairstin ar chaol teacht isteach, is cinnte gur fháiltigh a bhfurmhór roimh chealú na rialach a dhearbhaigh nach raibh sé ceadmhach ag cumann ar bith siamsa a thionol a mbeadh rincí Gallda mar chuid de.

le Liam Mac Reachtain

Anois, tá cead ag baill uile an Chumainn Luthchleas Gael sean-waltz a dhéanamh bíodh is go bhfeictear dá lán gur peacadh marfach fós é ag Gaeil sean-waltz a dhéanamh ar urlar halla rincí.

Is fada feidhmeannaigh an Chumainn Luthchleas Gael in eolas staid na rincí dúchasacha sa tír seo. I rith an chogaidh dheireanaí, tháinig borradh iontach futhu dála mar a tháinig faoi ghluaiseacht na teanga. Nuair a d'fhill an tsíocháin, tháinig nómshaireacht idirnáisiúnta ina cosamar. Tháinig cúlú ar na rincí Gaelacha. Stop an t-aosóg de bheith ag taithí hallaí na gceilithe agus de reir a chéile thráigh rabharta an dúchas i dtaca leis na rincí Gaelacha de.

Ach, i rith an ama bhí an riail i bhfeidhm, riail a dúirt nach ceadaithe do chumann siamsa a thionol a chlúdódh rincí Gallda. Is minic a rinne mise féin gnó fhear an tí in áiteanna éagsúla ar fud Chúige Uladh, agus le cois a bheith ag tathaint ar an látharlach tánaí éirí amach ar an urlar, is minic a chaithinn modh déanta na rincí Gaelacha a mhíniú dóibh. Agus, ba deimhin, sula mbeadh an oíche istigh go bhfaghainn iarratas ó dhuine éigin sean-waltz a fhogairt.

Agus cad iad na rincí dúchasacha a bhí ar eolas ag an phobal? De na rincí foirne, Tonnaí Thorai, Ballaí Luimní, Baint an Fhéir, Ionsaí na hInse agus rachadh sé rite ort dhá fhoireann iomlána a fháil leis an Cor Séisear Déag a dhéanamh.

Sin a mbeadh ann den éagsúlacht san chuid a ba mhó de na hallaí ceilithe faoin tuath. Níorbh é sin é don chathair, nó ní hé sin é do chathair Bhéal Feirste fós, arae, ní théann oíche Dhomhnaigh ar bith thart nach dtionolann Cumann Ceilí Chontae Aontrama siamsa breá Gaelach i halla mór éigin i mBéal Feirste. Damhsaítear gach cineál rincí Gaelach ann, agus ma dhamhsaítear ceann amháin faoi dho i rith na hoíche is é a shean-obair é.

Be chúram Chomhaltas Uladh de Chonradh na Gaeilge na rincí Gaelacha sa Tuaisceart. Adaím gur tigrach an mhaise acu é na rincí Gaelacha a ghlacadh as láimh agus coimisiún a bhunú lena reachtáil. Arís, bhí, dar lena lán, cuid mhaith den neamhsíomáid suaite leis seo. Mar shampla, aon fhoireann as scoil rincí a chuirfeadh isteach ar chomórtas féise, níor mhór don fhoireann sin teastas a sholathar ag deimhniú go raibh siad ag freastáil rang Gaeilge, nó go raibh an Ghaeilge á teagasc dóibh ar scoil.

Ce mar a d'fhéadfaí riail mar seo a fheidhmiú mura raibh an Ghaeilge á teagasc sna scoileanna? Ná bimís ró-mhortasach as seasamh na Sé Chontae ar son chearta Gael. Tá oidi agus oidi ann, ach dá mbeimis le haireamh a dhéanamh orthu gheobhaimis amach nár bhac dhá dtrian díobh leis an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim, gur beag-mheasúil leo an teanga náisiúnta, agus gur lú ná sin arís an meas atá acu ar na rincí Gaelacha.

Níl a fhios agam cibé acu tá sé (nó bhí sé) mar riail ag Conradh na Gaeilge banna a chur ar shean-waltzanna. Ní cuimhin liom ach an t-aon tagairt amháin don leithéid. Is ar an sean-treimh-seachán uasal sin 'an tUltach' a leigh mé fogra i mbliain airithe de na blianta díreach tar éis an chogaidh. Fogra a bhí ann faoi shiamsa a tionoladh áit éigin i dTír Eoghain. Ceilí agus Sean-Waltzanna a fograíodh! Cad é a bhí Coimisiún na Rincí Gaelacha ag déanamh an uair sin?

Se is cás liom, áfach, a laghad suime a chuir an Cumann Luthchleas Gael féin in athbheochán agus i gcaomhnú na Rincí Gaelacha. Bhí sé ordaithe acu go gcaithfeadh gach club fanacht amach ó shean-waltzanna, ach, ar chuir siad oidi rincí ar fáil leis an rannán sin dár gcultúr (go bhfoiridh Dia orainn!) dúchasach a bhrostú? Dheamhan a heagal dóibh!

Cá mhéid club a chuaigh i ndisc toisc nach bhféadfadh siad airgead a bhailiú le cíos pháirc na himeartha fiú a íoc? Tá eolas agam faoi chumainn iomadúla a ghlac agus a chloigh go díleas leis an riail agus a d'fhéach go dícheallach le ceilithe a reachtáil. Bunús an ama ní bheadh siad in ann oir-ead airgid a bhailiú is a d'íoc-fadh an banna ceilí.

I gcuid maith áiteann stad-adh de bheith ag féacháil le ceilthe a reachtáil mar mhodh cnuasaithe airgid do chiste an chumainn áitiúil. Ní raibh speis a thuilleadh ag an phobal i siamsaíocht nach solathródh rud éigin eadrom dóibh, agus le blianta fada bhí na cúrsaí seo thar a bheith míshásúil. Ach, peacadh marfach é sean-waltz neamhdhocharach a dhéanamh!

Tá deireadh leis an amaidí sin anois. Ach, má tá, seans go bhfuil sé buille beag mall sa lá. Sa Tuaisceart go hairithe, ní féidir le cumann seisiún bingo a reachtáil. Tá sin, fosta, in aghaidh an fli. Níorbh fhéidir, go dtí seo, siamsa a thionol a bhfaigheadh an choitiantacht sásamh as comh fada is a bhain sin le sean-waltzanna — damhsaí a mbíodh an-dúil ag muinntir na tuaithe iontu. Ar ndóigh, bhí sin in éadan dlí Chumainn Luthchleas Gael!

O cealaíodh an riail seo, agus go dtí seo (lár mhí Mheitheamh) ní fhaca mé postaer ar bith a d'fhograigh go mbeadh ceilí agus sean-waltzanna ar siúl faoi choimirce a leithéid seo de chumann. B'fhéidir, indhiadh an iomláin go raibh a leithéid ar siúl i rith an ama agus riail bheannaithe CIG. á briseadh go leathadach!

**CORK MARTS IS ONE
OF EUROPE'S LARGEST
PRODUCER OWNED LIVESTOCK
AND MEAT MARKETING ORGANISATIONS**

**BACKED BY MORE THAN
25,000 PRODUCER MEMBERS**

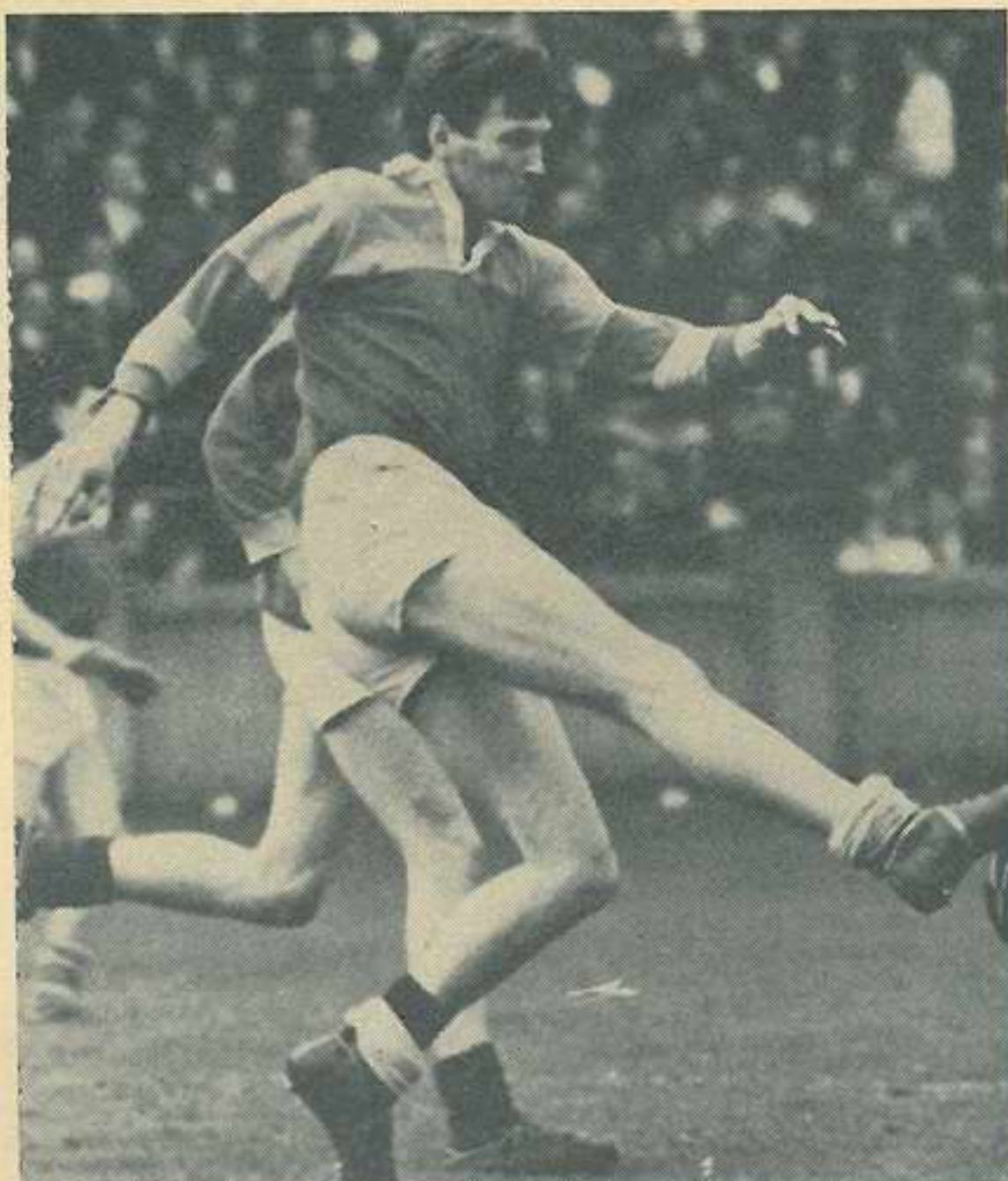
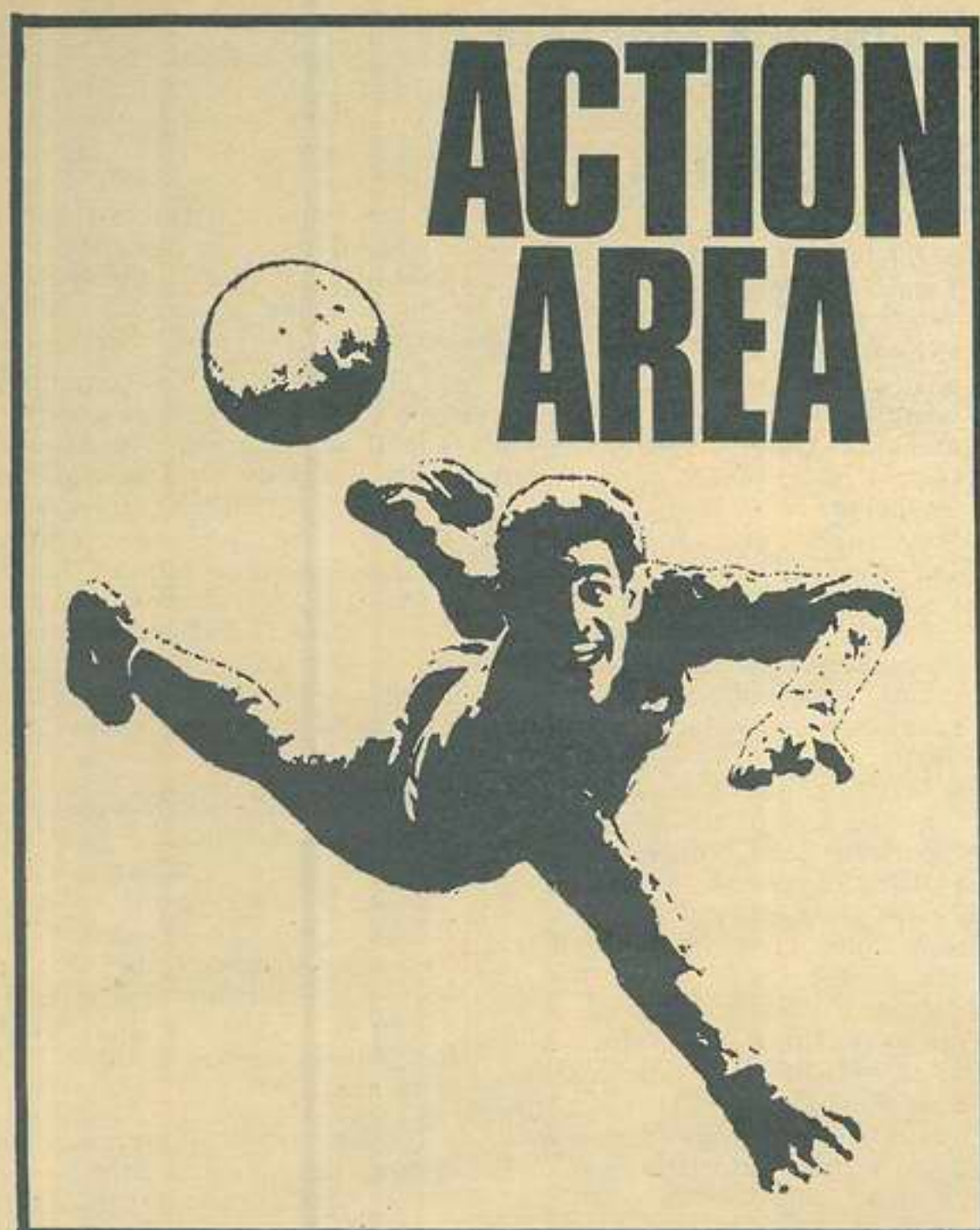
**CORK MARTS OFFERS UNRIVALLED FACILITIES
ON BOTH HOME AND FOREIGN MARKETS**

CORK CO-OP. MARTS LTD.

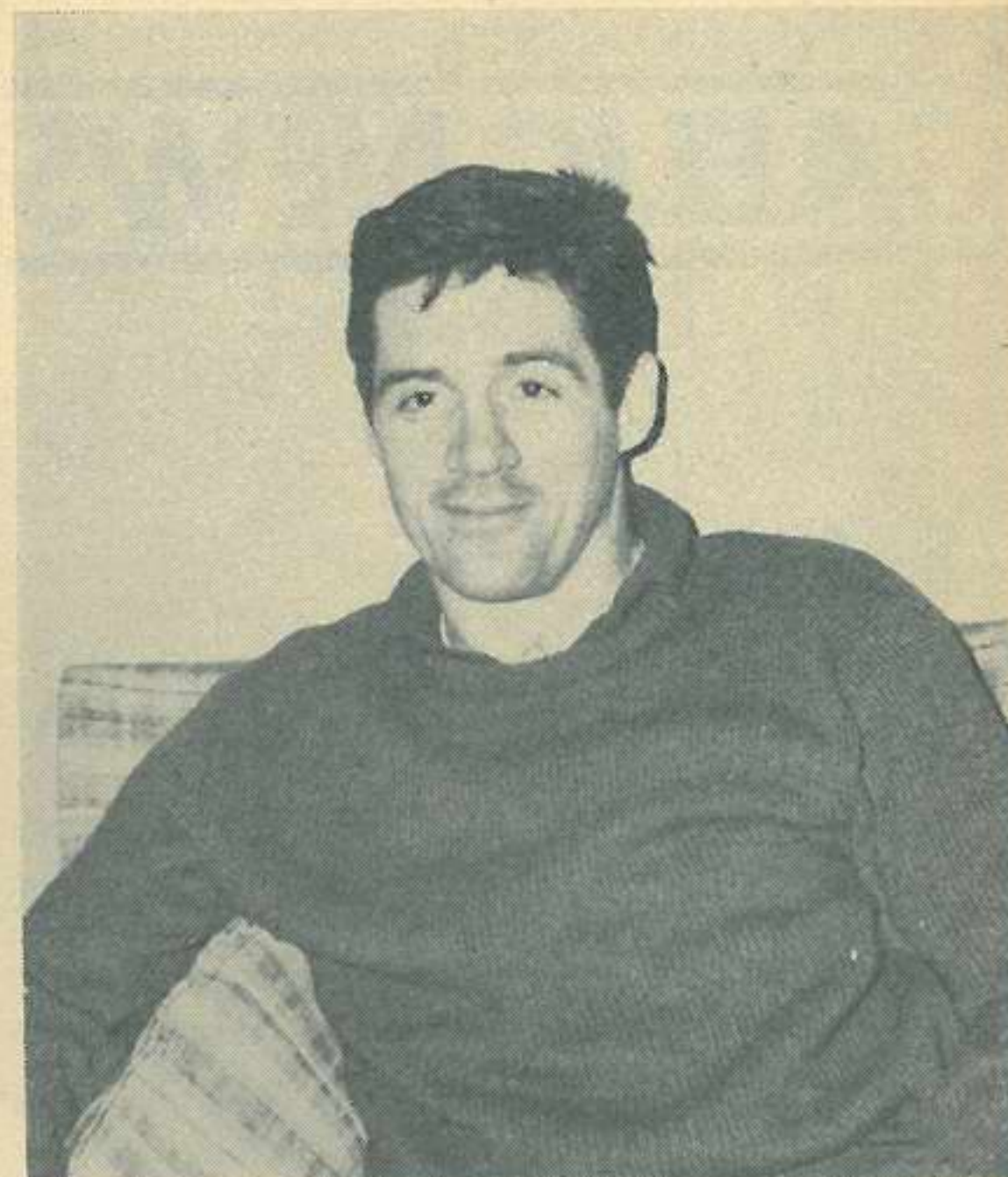
36 Patrick's Quay

CORK

TELEPHONE 51391



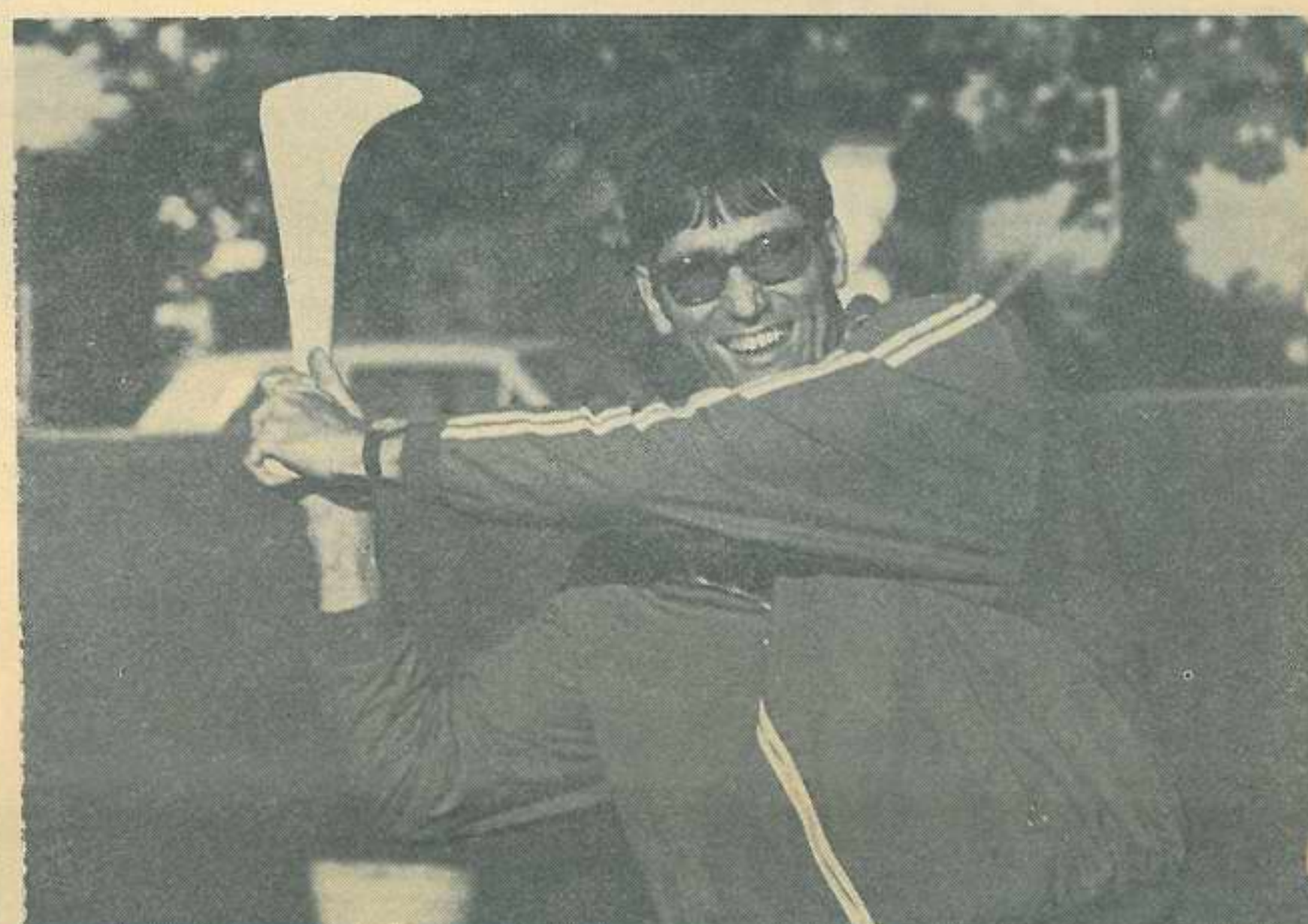
Wexford's Jim Berry in action as the Slaneysiders defeat Longford in the Leinster championship.



Tom Feighery who spends most of his time in Tullamore but crosses the Atlantic to star at midfield for the New York football team.



Who says there is no social life in the G.A.A.? These two U.C.D. players, pictured following their victory in the Dublin under-21 championship, would hardly agree!



This man is the fastest hurler of them all? If you can't name him we will identify him for you next month.



A flashback to last year's championship clash between Galway and Roscommon as Dermot Earley tackles Sean Cleary.



The clash of ash as the camogie season swings into top gear.

GAELIC NEWS

A case for impartial inquiry

THE suspension of Clare Chairman John Hanly by the Munster Council is interesting for a variety of reasons. Hanly, it will be remembered, was suspended for a year as a result of being alleged by referee Tommy Foran of Tipperary to have gone on to the field during the drawn Clare-Cork Munster senior hurling championship game at Thurles on May 11; using obscene language, and declining to give his name but later giving it.

The John Hanly affair differs from an ordinary suspension, firstly, because he is the only County Chairman in memory to have been suspended. As well, he is the only team official, of the many who Sunday after Sunday go onto fields of play and contest decisions, to

have been singled out for punishment. There are recent instances of officials being named in referees' reports — but none of being suspended.

However, there are more unusual aspects of this case. It is known, for example, that a copy of referee Foran's report was in Croke Park before the meeting of the Munster Council which suspended John Hanly took place. It has been suggested in the "Clare Champion" that the decision to 'nail' Hanly was, in fact, taken at an Executive meeting at Croke Park and that Munster Chairman, Paddy Ryan, who pronounced the suspension was acting on a Croke Park directive.

The "Clare Champion" went

further to suggest that Hanly was singled out for suspension because he was one of those who had adopted an aggressive questioning attitude at Congress last Easter.

Other sources have suggested that referee Foran was influenced in the drafting of his report and claim that there is proof of this. Finally, there is the less important issue of the Munster Council deleting the word "obscene" from the report.

We do not say that any of the allegations of irregularity are true. We only say that they are sufficient to create considerable unease and that the Association might be well served by an impartial inquiry into the entire affair.

Where do you stand?

THE time is coming when each member of the G.A.A. who takes his membership seriously must ask himself where he stands on the issue of change.

Congress 1969 marked the beginning. A few delegates who were tired of the pedantic, the platitudes and, most of all, of the sloppy inefficiency of current G.A.A. administration, shouted 'Stop.' Congress was startled but no more than that.

Since Congress the few who

shouted 'Stop' have discovered a widespread response. In all counties there are many who share their discernment — who realise that the G.A.A. is slowly but surely grinding itself into extinction and that if it is allowed to do so Ireland will be the poorer.

As the recent seminar in Galway indicated, the G.A.A. still has among its members and friends some of the most able brains in the country. This being so it has the basic resources necessary to re-find and re-shape itself into

a structure not alone capable of contending with the 'seventies but also capable of greatly enriching Irish life.

Each member of the Association can play a part in deciding whether it is to be the continuance of the present outmoded system or a rejuvenation based on the skills, methods and expertise of our time.

The change will not come easy. If it is to come at all, it will have to be fought for over a period of time. On what side do you stand?

The sides of controversy

ALL will welcome the bridging of the threatened rift between the Universities' Council and the non-university colleges attached to it for playing purposes. No body in modern times has made as significant and as rapid a contribution to the Association as has the Universities' Council and its area of operation is vital to the future of the G.A.A.

The strange thing is that the Universities' Council seemed to have antagonised certain people — mainly, one feels, because it sought to run its affairs in an efficient manner which was not in tune with the traditional slipshod approach in the Association.

In the now concluded controversy regarding the exclusion of the non-university colleges, it was amusing to note

the vindictive comment of some whose only success was in making plain their own lack of knowledge of the situation.

It is to be hoped that the Universities' Council will continue to show the same restraint on the occasion of any future contentious development as was displayed recently and that it will be allowed, without hindrance, to proceed with its excellent work.

Handball:

By Clarach MacEoin

The minors night out

ONE of the most interesting social functions in recent times was the annual presentation of trophies by the Dublin Minor Board in the Auditorium at Colaiste Mhuire in Parnell Square. It was a gala occasion for all concerned, especially so for the officials of the Board — Chairman, Rev. Bro. B. C. Murphy, Vice-Chairman, Rev. Bro. Clavin, Secretary Philip Duignan and Treasurer Dara O'Reilly. They accomplished the wonderful feat of having organised over one thousand matches in the course of the season, allowing for the fact that Croke Park was the only court available.

The victory rostrum, in the main, was monopolised by Scoil Ui Chonaill who had their best season ever. Terenure College, where handball has taken a firm grip over the years, was also very much to the fore, while Colaiste Mhuire, Artane C.B.S. St. Michans and Eoghan Ruadh were also among the prize winners.

World champion, Joe Maher, All-Ireland Secretary Joe Lynch and Dublin Senior Secretary Noel Hannon all paid tribute to the wonderful work being done for the under-age game in Dublin.

Perpetual trophies presented included those from Tayto, Johnston Mooney and O'Brien,

Scoil Ui Chonaill, Joe Lynch, Fianna Eireann and Walter Wiehce.

Another major event in the past month was the successful completion of the Garda championships. Garda Week, was, in fact, a great boost to handball for never, since the initiation of the competition, was there such an influx of new competitors. Leonard Aherne and Gerry O'Leary, the organisers of the event, saw to it that the novice, junior, intermediate and senior events were concluded systematically.

Many players made notable contributions to the week's play especially Mick Sullivan, Richie Walsh, Bill Doran, Noel Clarke, Patsy O'Connor, Ray McAndrew, John Flynn and the Meehan brothers.

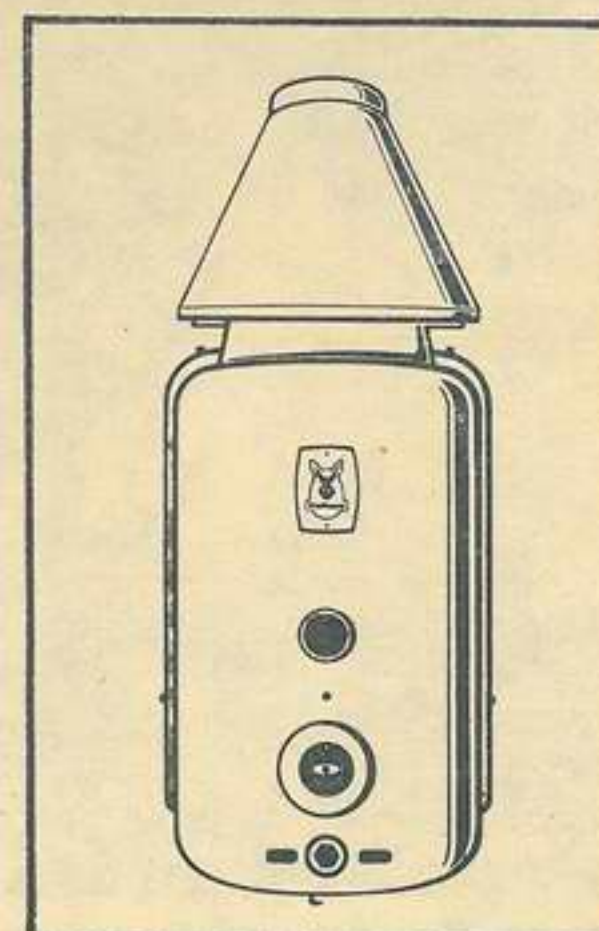
And, to cap a most successful week, the Dublin Garda club went to Kilkenny and won the Beer Festival competition. This was the first time for Garda to win the competition, an especially meritorious achievement, as it was accomplished at the expense of last year's winners — St. Mary's, Wexford. Members of the Garda Club expressed appreciation of the hospitality afforded them after the victory, by the Kilkenny Golf Club and the Fit Remoulds Group.

The paramount point of handball at the present time, is, of course, the new alley for the world championships. While the G.A.A. is committed to building the court, it is a healthy sign of the spirit that filters through handball at the present time, that handballers themselves, should make a tangible contribution to the new court.

The championship committee is not going to let this goodwill slip from its grasp and, accordingly has requested handballers to make an all-out effort with the tickets for the annual raffle. Besides a trip to America for two in conjunction with the National League series, there are also attractive cash prizes and long-term All-Ireland hurling and football final tickets.

It is interesting to note that one of the members of the current world championship committee is Dublin businessman Joe Jennings. Those with vivid memories will remember Joe as both a staunch hurler and footballer who starred with clubs in the Six Counties, Sligo and Dublin.

During a spell in Birmingham he was instrumental in reviving hurling and, also, organised a couple of super-efficient camogie teams. Nowadays, besides his administrative work, he lines out in the Dublin handball championships where his deft touches and classical strokes have made him one of the big attractions amongst the younger players.



any amount, anywhere at minimum cost!

A Calor Gas Waterheater heats any amount of water the instant you need it. So you only pay running costs when the hot tap is running. What could be more economical? A Calor Gas Waterheater can be installed literally anywhere hot water is required. There is a large range available so there is sure to be one tailor-made to your particular requirements. So do call in to your local Calor Dealer and get the cold facts about hot water the Calor Gas way!

CALOR GAS

Calor Gas Ireland Limited, Bannow Road, Cabra West, Dublin, 7.

Munster Title at least for Cork



BY RAYMOND SMITH

CORK are moving now as they moved in 1966 — and, whatever you may think of their prospects of seeing out this decade with another All-Ireland crown, I believe they can win the Munster title.

You can forget that draw the first day against Clare. Cork had scored an impressive win over Wexford in the League Final the previous Sunday at Croke Park, and there was

bound to be a relaxation to their mental approach to the task facing them. They might well have been caught napping — but they managed to hold on and certainly left no doubt about their superiority the second day.

True Clare supporters will immediately point out to me that it might have been all so different if Jimmy Cullinan had decided after winning the toss to play with the wind.

But the fact remains that Cork keep on winning and this was the way it was too in 1966. They claimed Limerick were unlucky that season, they claimed Clare were unlucky also — but Cork were in front at the moment that mattered and went on to beat Waterford in the Munster Final. And later they surprised Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Final.

Of course, Cork did not have Tipperary to contend with in 1966. I remember Justin McCarthy saying to

me that once Tipperary went down to Limerick that season, Cork knew they would win the Munster crown. Cork having beaten Tipperary in the League semi-final — after a lapse of twelve years without a victory in major competition — have now broken what might be termed the "psychological barrier". Only Cork and Tipperary supporters really know how important this is.

In the fifties, between 1952 and 1957 (inclusive), Cork had the winning advantage mentally over Tipperary. The sight of the Red and White jersey seemed to leave the Tipperary hurlers, who were outstanding in League and tournament games, groping to find their best form in the torrid atmosphere of Limerick when the chips were really down against the Leesiders in the Munster semi-final or final.

The boot was on the other foot in the 'sixties, right up to and including last season. We saw Cork

teams that had flattered in the early rounds going out like a damp squib against the rampant Tipperary men. Tipperary held all the aces it seemed.

But the retirement of Tony Wall, Michael Maher, John Doyle, Theo English,

Kieran Carey, Liam Devaney and "Mackey" McKenna from the inter-county scene has brought a levelling off process. The powerful, well-nigh unbeatable Tipperary combination of 1964-'65 has broken up finally.



Justin McCarthy

Some names remain but Tipperary have had a "new-look" about them this season, trying and discarding and trying again but experimenting all the time, in an effort to find the right blend especially at midfield and in defence.

Cork are solid through the field — a team in every sense of the word. Not a great team perhaps — but is real greatness needed to win the Munster title this year? I doubt it.

Cork could win out in Munster with their surging spirit. But there are memories to efface — the remembrance of three dismal performances when hope was at its highest.

If they rise to it mentally, if they can carry the confidence they showed against Wexford into the Munster Final, I believe they will be the champions in the South. They are fit and they are fast — as I have said it's a mental question now more than anything else.

Munster final day alone can answer that question.

O'Connell-Gone Thirty Is Still King

HE comes in through the entrance of the hotel to join his teammates for the after-match meal and his first question is: "Where is Mick O'Dwyer?" The autograph hunters appear as if from nowhere. Young girls sporting green and gold hats, the accents resonant of one county and one county only — Kerry.

Gone 30 now, Mick O'Connell is still King — there is no doubting that. He signs nonchalantly on a programme. Mick Morris, light-hearted in victory is standing beside him. "Micko" — as O'Connell is known to Morris and the others of the side — opens the programme with a mischievous gleam in his eyes and picks out the name "M. Morris." "He's good — Mick is good. Get his autograph," O'Connell suggests to the young autograph seekers.

He knows the spotlight is on himself — but he knows better than anyone that it's a team game and he agrees with selector Joe Keohane that one man cannot win a League crown or an All-Ireland title — it takes a team effort. So Mick O'Connell tries to swing the spotlight away from himself, tries to ride the journalist's questions, as a boxer does the straight lefts. But they keep coming to him, they keep crowding him — for he's the King and the man from Valentia has a way of coming back and silencing the critics just when they are beginning to conclude that he is slipping from his high standards of perfection.

Strange to think that over a decade has elapsed since he first burst like a meteor on the Croke Park scene and they are saying now in the last season of the 'sixties, as they were in the last year of the 'fifties, that he has no peer really in the art of fielding. And they have added that his pinpoint distribution is unmatched for accuracy and consummate skill.

Granted, there are those who fault him for not "mixing" it enough in the close exchanges,

there are those who argue that if beaten in the jump for possession he can be beaten altogether — that he does not rally a losing team. But in modern football the emphasis is on possession being nine points of the law, on shrewd positional play rather than wasting energy chasing a man once you have lost the ball. You start a movement at midfield and if it breaks down, you must mount it all over again.

It pre-supposes men thinking as quickly as O'Connell can when he brings all his genius into play. What has often happened is that O'Connell has been thinking two steps ahead of his colleagues and he has not got the kind of support to utilise his special skills to the best advantage. Kerry built around O'Connell rather than building with O'Connell — as a key stone as it were in the structure but not the only support.

Joe Keohane and his fellow selectors adopted a new approach in the League this season and it paid ample dividends. Thus, O'Connell became more than ever the great distributor, linking up from midfield with Pat Griffin at centre-forward and those fine young players Lynch and O'Donoghue on the wings. The Valentia Island man's pinpoint accuracy in passing was seldom more evident than in the League final against Offaly — but it was not by any means a one-man victory.

It was after that game in the Ormond Hotel by the quays that I renewed acquaintanceship with him.

As in the case of Bobby Rackard, I do not believe in meeting

him every day. The real immortals stand apart. When will you call it a day, Mick? "Impossible to answer that just now," he replies.

I think he is going on from Sunday to Sunday. Somebody remarks that men in other codes have gone on to 35. Mick is now talking in fluent Irish to a friend and I hear the name "Charlton" and I gather with the little Irish

I have left from my Leaving Cert days that the point he is making is that it must be remembered that you are talking about professionals, with the time to train as professionals when you talk about men like Bobby Charlton.

I remark to him that I think there are still weaknesses in defence. He makes the point in reply that you cannot expect

perfection in every position — the young people are not devoting the same time to the game today as in other days, and you have not the same stream of outstanding talent coming forward. You get the Mike O'Shea, like that brilliant half-back Sean Murphy — but Mike O'Sheas do not appear every day.

You have come to learn that you must never say anything to him about his own performance — no matter how brilliant. He is looking ahead. He expresses the view that Cork could be the real obstacle — certainly going on the League encounter between the counties they will be very difficult to beat. They missed a lot of easy chances. Joe Keohane and Paddy Kennedy are chatting to him now. "Pity about Pat," he says. "D.J. was good today, wasn't he?" He is thinking of Griffin's ill-luck in being sent off and of the very fine performance given by his midfield partner, D. J. Crowley. He misses little — and doesn't forget small things.

He knows the sea around Valentia and its moods and he loves the fishing. He talks about the fishing to Joe Keohane, back in Dingle now, where the great Paddy Bawn lives. But Mick O'Connell is on the road these days — working now as a representative of an oil company. Christy Ring works for an oil company too. One, the unique talent of Gaelic football, the other of hurling. Two apart from all the others.

Mick O'Connell is still shy and detached, unchanged by fame. A man who says little in a formal interview, but when he talks about football you listen. A model sportsman — some say in Kerry that others have played on the knowledge that O'Connell will not stoop to dirty tactics. His motto is that when you go out on the field,

you go out to let the spectators see you playing football, and what has the game descended to if others go out with the expressed intention of "getting you." He has taken a lot of punishment, but that does not mean that he is a soft touch — no, not by any means. The few have learned this when O'Connell has been really roused.

You could under-estimate him with the boyish looks. He strips a more strongly-built player than he appears in ordinary clothes. When you get to know him, you find that he has a ready wit, but he confides in few. When the crowds are continually around you and you are withdrawn by nature, you appreciate more your real friends who know you for yourself.

He starred for Kerry again in the defeat of Waterford in the Munster semi-final. Now for Cork in the Munster final, but before that a trip to New York.

Will the trip cause Kerry's defeat in the championship? I expressed this fear to Joe Keohane coming down from the field after the League final. He said they would be looking for a postponement in Munster to give them a chance to get over the effects of the trip. And Kerry got that postponement.

But will the extra time suffice? That remains to be seen, but Joe Keohane was adamant that if Kerry get over Cork they can win the All-Ireland.

I put on a modest bet two years back in a club in Dublin that Kerry wouldn't win an All-Ireland for five years. I gave generous odds. Two years have gone and now I am beginning to get worried that I was too generous. If they do it this year, I will gladly pay — for no team makes the big occasion as well as Kerry.

And no player catches the imagination more than O'Connell — at his best.



Mick O'Connell

Can Cork Beat Kerry This Time

Paddy Hickey talks to Cork midfielder Mick Burke.

JUST like Cork-Tipperary Munster hurling finals, Cork-Kerry provincial football deciders have a special attraction and magic all their own. Kerry monopolised the Munster crown in the period 1958-'65, winning the coveted title eight times on the trot, but Cork came in fine style in 1966 to regain the championship, accounting for Kerry in the final and the Rebel county again proved too good for the men from the Kingdom in the 1967 decider.

The old rivals met once again in the 1968 final with victory going to Kerry on that occasion and the serial will be renewed on July 13 when the two counties meet at the Athletic Grounds. This should be a game well worth seeing and it is given added spice by the fact that all Corkmen and many neutrals claim that the Kingdom were decidedly lucky to win the League Divisional final game between the counties, at Cork, last April. Thus, this game should help to settle all the arguments.

To find how Cork feel about the League game and the impending Munster final, I recently talked to Mick Burke, the county's star midfielder.

Q.: Do you think it was an advantage or disadvantage for Cork to have been beaten by Kerry in the League?

A.: I think it was a disadvantage, not so much from the aspect of the winning team receiving a confidence booster for the Munster final but rather because Kerry by their win, assured themselves of very important match practice. If we had beaten Kerry we would have had an extra one or maybe two matches in the League and these games would have given our forwards an ideal opportunity to develop confidence in their shooting. It's an entirely different matter kicking the ball over the bar in a training session and scoring points in the heat of a League semi-final or final.

Despite what some people think, I believe that winning a League title does a great deal for any team and I don't expect Kerry to be any way complacent when they meet us. The rivalry between Cork and Kerry, in football, is similar to that between Cork and Tipperary, in hurling, and no matter how badly one side has been playing the other side always respects them. A bad Cork team can often beat a good Kerry team and vice versa.

Q.: Do you think that Kerry's U.S. trip will help Cork's chances?

A.: They may be a bit tired when they come back but I don't think it will make that much difference. I don't know what effect these trips have on players, as I've never been to the States myself, or out of the country at all, for that matter. In any case, Kerry will be coming back on June 30, so they should have plenty of time to prepare themselves for the Munster final.

Q.: Will the fact that the Munster final is being played in Cork be much of an advantage to the Cork team?

A.: I suppose it should be an advantage to us but we

often play better out of Cork than at home. Our own supporters are very critical of our forwards and so they're often afraid to take chances and also lack confidence in their shooting. The newspapers are also often very critical of the Cork forwards, particularly here in Cork, and while some players just shrug this criticism off, others react more sensitively and lose confidence in their shooting ability. If we had beaten Kerry and gone on I'm sure that the forwards would have recovered their confidence. Challenge games are a help but they're no substitute for the serious match.

I think that Cork forwards generally play better away from Cork as they don't have the same criticism from the spectators, but I suppose the team as a whole would

have more in the second half, and so their shooting was even worse in this period.

Actually I think we played better against Kerry than against Galway — that is until it came to scoring. The forwards were beating the Kerry backs to the ball all the time but they just weren't getting the scores. In the match against Galway, there were a couple of new lads on the team and they took their chances. And as I said beforehand I think the team played quite well against Clare. There were a few misses by the forwards once again but I expect that this will be rectified by the Munster final.

Q.: In recent games Cork have relied more on combination than formerly. Is this pre-match planned or just impromptu play?

A.: To a degree it is planned, but unfortunately sometimes we tend to over-elaborate. However, looking at modern football now, it's nearly all combination and it's the type of style that's winning matches. The old Kerry style is obsolete and teams have now to adapt themselves to the modern game. In addition, the players themselves on the Cork team favour the combination type of game.

Ray Cummins is playing very well at full-forward and he is bringing the other forwards into the game. This has changed the complete pattern of our game and the other forwards outside him are responding to his promptings. And if Cummins gets the ball he can also score himself.

Q.: Do you think the present side is a better one than the team which reached the 1967 All-Ireland final.

A.: It's hard to say. We haven't gone as far yet as the 1967 team did. The championship is the competition that counts — not the League or anything else. Look at Donegal — they reached the semi-final of the League and yet they were beaten in the first round of the championship. Wait until the championship gets on a bit and then I'll tell you whether it's a better team than the 1967 side.

Q.: Do Cork footballers resent the fact that more support is given to the intercounty hurling team?

A.: No, they don't. Cork has a stronger hurling than football tradition and so I suppose it is only natural that the hurling team receives more support. In addition, both the Chairman and Secretary of the County Board are former hurlers. The hurlers also seem to have that little bit of luck that we on the football team don't get but we'd be just as happy as anybody else to see the hurlers win an All-Ireland.

Another reason for the hurlers receiving more support is that the first love in Cork is hurling. People who follow rugby, soccer and other sports will go to see the hurlers play but the footballers have let them down so often that people are less inclined to follow them. Many Cork football teams have promised much but failed to achieve anything worthwhile but the hurlers, on the other hand, generally live up to expectations.

The Cork footballers were beaten in the All-Ireland finals of 1956, '57 and '67 and in the semi-final of 1966, whereas the Cork hurling team of 1966, of which little was expected, won the senior All-Ireland. So to put it in a nutshell I feel the hurling team receives more support because of tradition and results.



Mick Burke in action.

prefer the Munster final to be in Cork. For myself, it doesn't make any difference to me where the match is played.

Q.: Were you disappointed with the display of the team against Clare?

A.: No, I wasn't. Just to make a comparison. The Cork hurlers were described as a magnificent team after their League final win over Wexford but still they were held to a draw by Clare in the first match of the championship, but we beat the Clare footballers by five points and we were missing Flor Hayes, Ray Cummins and Jimmy Barrett. Clare are a very hard team to beat. They hit very hard and can put good teams off their game. All in all, I was pleased with our win over Clare.

Q.: Did the Cork team make the mistake of underestimating Clare?

A.: No, definitely not. We beat them by only one point in the corresponding game at Ennis last year so we knew we could not afford to take any chances. The absence of Cummins, Barrett and Hayes, who had played against Galway and Kerry probably also affected the rhythm of the side.

Q.: Cork looked a team of great promise when they beat Galway in the League. Subsequently they were beaten by Kerry and had trouble defeating Clare. Do you think that this is an indication that the team might be on the slide?

A.: I wouldn't think so. In the match against Kerry we were completely on top throughout the field, particularly in the second half but unfortunately for our forwards there was an awkward cross wind blowing in this period and so they were reluctant to shoot or else had no confidence in their shooting. They had so many wides in the first half that they were afraid that they were going to

DIGNAMS

BAR AND LOUNGE

A POINT TO REMEMBER

You are sure to meet a Friend in pleasant surroundings

32 Cook St. and 41 Oliver Plunkett St.,

CORCAIGH

Telephone 26598

THE CASTLE INN

SALTHILL, GALWAY

Europe's Largest Lounge Bar — Telephone 3811

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY

THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

GALWAY'S ONLY NIGHT CLUB

Dine, Wine, Drink, Dance until 1.00 a.m.

For Table Reservations — Phone Galway 5329

For your next new car, van or lorry
why not try —

Irish Multiwheel Ltd.

Comprehensive After-Sales Service

Best Trade-in Allowance

1/4 LOWER ERNE STREET, DUBLIN

Telephone 774771

SURVEY '69

One good idea

We have invited a number of people each to contribute a single positive suggestion towards the future well-being of the G.A.A. We begin this important series with an article by BRENDAN MacLUA.

The economics of G.A.A. survival

PROBABLY the major contributor to current G.A.A. ills is the decline in rural population. The Association was built as a rural organisation and remains structured as such. At present, there are more G.A.A. clubs in rural Ireland than there have been in any decade since the Association was founded 85 years ago. The population of rural Ireland has been declining at, on average, 7 per cent per decade since 1887 and, while rural Ireland declines, the G.A.A. has become more and more dependent on it — reaching the present state where the structure of the Association in many rural areas is no more than an empty shell, with clubs existing in name only and depending to a very large extent on bringing players home from the major urban centres such as Dublin.

Paddy McDermott of U.C.G. recently submitted to the Policy Committee a detailed plan for a complete re-structuring of the Association on population lines. In essence, the plan would align the Association with people rather than with areas — the objective being to make each unit of the Association viable.

What chance such a plan has of being adopted by the Association, and then implemented, can only be a matter of speculation at this stage. In its complete form it probably has no chance at all but it must, at least, be hoped that the McDermott plan will awa-

ken an awareness in the Association of the fact that, while the people of Ireland are moving one way (into towns and cities), the G.A.A. is remaining static and deeply embedded in the land.

The McDermott plan may even do more than this. Perhaps, it will be implemented in part and so prompt the beginning of a re-structuring of the G.A.A. on population lines — but even if it were implemented in total and, as it recommends, a complete shift of G.A.A. emphasis took place from sparsely populated countryside to densely populated urban areas and teeming cities, the G.A.A. would not have solved its current problems for the reason that the degree of G.A.A. involvement in urban areas will always be much lower than what is enjoyed in the average rural area. It is probably safe to submit that the G.A.A., irrespective of what it does, will never be as strong in the urban areas as it has been in rural Ireland. In short, while urbanisation continues G.A.A. decline will continue.

It would, therefore, seem that in an effort to bolster against the extreme effects of the population shift, the G.A.A. needs to concern itself with two fronts: (a) making what contribution it can to slowing down the decline in rural population and (b) equipping and re-structuring itself as best it can towards an extension in the urban areas.

Both are major exercises requiring much more professionalism and expertise than the Association to-date has seriously considered involving itself in.

The former — helping to slow down rural decline — is, of course, a contribution to the nation as a whole, as well as being something of benefit to the G.A.A. Any work undertaken by the Association in this context would be the most practical form of patriotism.

There is no denying the contribution made by the

G.A.A. to rural Ireland down the years. Socially, the Association continues to contribute through the physical recreation it provides and the occasions it creates. Economically, though, the G.A.A. has never contributed and, indeed, it can be argued convincingly that this has never been its function. But who will occupy the playing fields and fill the terraces when, as Dr. Newman of Maynooth wrote a few years ago, the "countryside" is a prairie, very sparsely peopled by weal-

thy farmers but haunted by the ghosts of dead towns and villages?"

The G.A.A. may have no ordained function in the preservation of rural Ireland but it has in its own preservation and the latter is indivorceable from the former.

It is a simple and accepted economic fact that small industries are the primary essential in the stabilisation of our rural population. In their absence it cannot be done. The land alone cannot hold the people. The land plus small industries can to a very

large extent.

While accepting that the average rural or small town G.A.A. club is not by its nature, or otherwise, business orientated, it would still be a most constructive exercise for any such club to acquire details of the Industrial Development Authority's Small Industries Programme which provides a vast series of aids for small industries.

In some instances, grants of up to 60 per cent are available, as are loans, training facilities, technical information and advice, as well as marketing assistance and tax concessions.

The G.A.A. club which would devote a special meeting to reading this document might not go forth and build an industry overnight — but it might help to stimulate local thought, and even action, in this direction. The club, or individual members of it, might even go on to take an interest in this area of development and, as a result, maybe a few more of the minors and juveniles of today might not, after all, have to emigrate tomorrow . . . and a club, which otherwise might have died, might live.

Is there any more urgent topic for a club meeting agenda than the assuring of its own future?

For details of the Industrial Development Authority's Small Industries Programme write to: The Manager, Small Industries Division, I.D.A., Lansdowne House, Dublin 4.



Boat-building is a small industry with a bright future. The above photograph shows work in progress at Rodney Lomax, Mullaghmore, Cliffrony, Co. Sligo.

Liam Campbell reports:

Things that did happen

WEMBLEY was more than usually significant this year. I became aware of this special significance on the Friday night, when I bumped into Paddy O'Donoghue, Down County Chairman, in the hotel where all four teams were billeted. He surprised me by the certainty in his voice when he said that his team would win by five points. And that, in view of the previous form of the two football teams concerned, was surely significant.

Kerry were at that time newly-crowned "Home" League champions, Down had been careering downhill at a frantic speed. The only thing that might have suggested a tough game for Kerry was the fact that they were short some big names, but it still didn't seem likely that they could or would lose. Nevertheless, that's just what

did occur, and Paddy O'Donoghue was proved wrong . . . his men won by more than five points!

You can't deny it, when Down are going well they are the best-looking team in the game; what a lesson their forwards can give to any other attack operating at present. Their defeat in the League may have

been a blessing in disguise, and it's safe to say that the team that beats them in the championship will be no mean set of performers.

The hurling game at Wembley was a disappointment; no competition at all for the efficient Tipperarymen. Wexford are not that bad, although it must be said that they haven't been all that good either in their last few matches. Still, the championship is a different thing.

The day after Wembley, I was back at Croke Park to see if, at long last, the promise of 1965 was to be fulfilled for Kildare. Like the man who was once bitten twice shy, I felt that Meath, with even their normal consistency, could do the trick. But long-standing promises are kept sometimes, and Kildare swept to a grand win. No fumbling or foostering here; no lack of confidence in oneself or colleagues; just a thoroughly complete job of winning a match, and in a manner that was easy on the eye. This column is being written in June, mind you, and Kildare may have forgotten their promises again by the time you read it, but on their form against Meath they looked like the stuff that

champions are made of. And about time, too . . . the bushel has been hiding their light for far too long.

The following Sunday I went to Waterford to see the local hurlers face Tipp. in the Munster championship. At least, the game was listed as a Munster championship tie, but you'd never believe it to look at what went on out on the field. The first half was reasonable (only reasonable), but when Tipp shook themselves in the second half the competitive element just vanished. Waterford went out very tamely, too tamely for such a county, and if I were a Waterfordman I'd be sorely troubled by what I saw, and also by what I didn't see. One thing, though: I think young Martin Hickey could yet be a national hurling star, and a second thing—what a shame that such a glorious hurler as John Kirwan should be on a losing team. Yet it is around such men that great teams are built, so who knows?

June 8 won't be forgotten in Wexford for a long time; that was the date on which their footballers put the champions Longford out of the Leinster championship. There was no

possible doubt whatever about the merit of this win, and indeed the sporting Longfordmen were the very first to admit the fact. Wexford are not a Down-type combination; they remind me more of Meath a few years ago, when they were on the way up: a bit raw, maybe, but with buckets of ability and plenty of physical power. Wexford also have that particular talent that seems to go with being a Wexfordman: they just don't know when they're beaten. Perhaps the hurlers will have to take a back seat for a while; and if the footballers make the big break-through, it won't have come too soon at all — just like Kildare.

Everybody else has had their comment on the football League "Home" final, so I'm going to get mine in! The biggest incident was the sending-off of two men, one from each side, and the referee, Mick Loftus, has been criticised for being "hasty." How many of these critics went to the trouble of watching the R.T.E. film of the incident that night? I had a very close look at it, and let me tell you that Loftus was quite right in his action. Just because other referees might have let both

men away with a warning the first time doesn't mean that they are right; the rules don't allow for warnings in this particular type of case, and we either want to see the rules enforced or we don't.

It will be argued that Mick could also have banished two or three others (or more?) during the course of the match, and this is true. But consider: didn't nearly all these niceties occur when the ref. was somewhere else following the ball? And anyway who'd blame Mick Loftus or any other referee for throwing his hat at the whole thing after the vocal reception he got when he did his job? And in case it's thought that I'm having a dig at Offaly only, here's a true story: The day after that particular match, I met a Kerryman, a very level-headed individual, whose only comment on the proceedings was that he thought Loftus was woefully prejudiced against Kerry!

I don't wish to be irreverent, but I'm convinced that if the Lord himself came down to referee a game for us, you'd get some fool to boo him on the way back to heaven.

New Sportsfield For Portlaw

A new G.A.A. sportsfield known as the Dr. De Hindeberg Sportsfield was opened at Portlaw, Co. Waterford on Sunday, May 11, last and Kilkenny and Waterford played a challenge game to mark the occasion. The new ground is named after Dr. De Hindeberg, the famous Irish scholar, a native of Portlaw and one of the founders of Ring College.

The new sportsfield which is situated just outside the town on the Carrick Road

BY PADDY HICKEY

compares very favourably with many first-class grounds and should prove a very popular venue in the years to come. At present the ground is capable of accommodating over 6,000 but the enthusiastic committee are determined to

carry out further improvements and an extension to the embankment and dressing rooms will be added in the next few years.

The sportsfield comprises six acres which the committee purchased at the cost of £175 an acre. To date £2,500 has been spent on the ground and it is estimated that a similar amount will be spent before completion.

When the idea was first mooted there was only a

fund of £30 and the trustees went security in the bank to purchase the field. A carnival, a raffle and other sources of income in addition to grants from the Munster Council and County Board provided further finance and it is hoped to clear the bank overdraft shortly. A boon for the committee is the fact that the County Board has recommended the sportsfield as the No. 1 field for development in the Central Council's Grounds Plan No. 2 scheme.

Portlaw is an ideal centre for games and the ground's success is assured. It is centrally situated between Waterford and Dungarvan between City Division and West Division. Much of the work on the sportsfield was carried out by voluntary labour and every support was forthcoming from the entire parish, spearheaded by

ments or improvements. Now because they have their own ground and a place to call their own the club members will have a greater sense of identity with their club and a greater sense of pride in its achievements.

Portlaw won its one and only county senior hurling title in 1937 and the following year Waterford contested the All-Ireland final only to lose to Dublin. The club went out of existence some years later but since they amalgamated with their parish neighbours Ballyduff four years ago they have become a tremendous force in Waterford hurling once again. Indeed, the club has high hopes of winning the county title this year. One of the best known players to have donned the Ballyduff-Portlaw jersey is the evergreen Tom Cheasty of the unorthodox style. Tom played in the senior All-Ireland finals of 1957, '59 and '63 (all against Kilkenny) — winning a medal in 1959 — and figured at centre forward in the recent Munster championship game against Tipperary.

The Ballyduff - Portlaw club is a very active one and they compete in senior, junior, minor and juvenile grades in both football and hurling. In addition, they organise a tournament for rural schools for which the parish priest, Fr. Fitzgerald, has donated a cup and the trustees of the new sportsfield have donated a set of medals. The club also competes in all of the Waterford city league competitions.

The trustees of the new sportsfield are Councillor Pat Coffey, Councillor Mick Heneberry, Eddie Lacey and Davy Power. Special reference must be made to Davy Power as his dynamism and enthusiasm were largely responsible for the club acquiring and developing the field. Incidentally, Davy was a sub on the Waterford team which won the county's first All-Ireland senior hurling title when they defeated Dublin in the final of 1948.

If these men and their willing helpers have their way it won't be very long before the ground is one of the most popular in the county and able to compare favourably with the best in the land.



Tom Cheasty who plays with Ballyduff-Portlaw.

the Ballyduff-Portlaw club chairman, Rev. Fr. Lucy, C.C.

Prior to the acquisition of their new ground the Ballyduff - Portlaw club played all their matches in a field which was leased from year to year but of course they had no security of tenure and had no authority to carry out develop-

CAMOGIE

Strange Results In Cork

THE past month has seen a good deal of notable events on the camogie fields of three provinces. But the most notable of all occurred in Cork, where the champions of the past seven years, Glen Rovers, were beaten in the semi-final by an Old Aloysians side that had a strong leavening of school-girl players.

BY AINE MEAGHER

But that was not the end of the story. In the subsequent final, Old Als, who were the firm favourites, were beaten in turn by South Presentation Past Pupils, who thus won their first-ever title. But some of the players from South Pres., notably Mel Cummins in goal, Hanna Dinneen, Anna Comerford and Kay Buckley have long been well-known on the intercounty fields.

● Dublin saw Eoghan Ruadh, the holders, reverse a first round result when they retained their title by defeating Austin Stacks in the county final. Ruadh had come back into contention through the losers' group.

And just to show that this championship come-

back was no fluke, the Eoghan Ruadh girls went on to retain the league title as well, without losing a game. It was the third year in succession for Ruadh to achieve the Dublin double, and that is a remarkable record of consistency.

● Antrim, having accounted for All-Ireland junior champions Down easily enough in the semi-final, are through again to the Ulster senior final in which they meet Derry at an Antrim venue on July 6.

● Dublin seniors are already training hard for the Leinster final in which they meet either All-Ireland champions Wexford or Kilkenny.

● Limerick are through to the Munster final in which they will play either Cork or Tipperary. This game will take place on July 13.

● Meta Kelly, who captained U.C.D. to victory in the Ashbourne Cup series last Spring, played at full-back. Her brother John, who is a student at U.C.C., played in the same position for his College, and is at present playing full-back for the Tipperary senior side. So who says that full-backs don't run in families?

CASTLE SERVICENTRE

(Leo Harte)

Cork Road, Waterford

Telephone 4407

Wishes the new Portlaw Sportsfield every success.



PORTLAW BAKERY

Portlaw,

Co. Waterford

Telephone 21

Where the quality of the Bread is the very best and the service excellent.

Extend their sincere good wishes and congratulations to the Sportsfield Committee.

JOHN HEARNE (IRONMONGER)

LTD.

The Quay, Waterford

are proud of their association as suppliers to the new G.A.A. Sportsfield at Portlaw and take this opportunity of congratulating all concerned on a fine job. Telephone 21

JOHN KELLY

FIAT AND STANDARD TRIUMPH

MAIN DEALERS

CATHERINE STREET, WATERFORD

Wish every success to the new G.A.A. Sportsfield at Portlaw.

TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF
CONGRATULATING ALL CONCERNED IN PROVIDING PORTLAW
WITH A NEW G.A.A.
SPORTSFIELD.

McHALE'S GARAGE

(Prop.: M. J. McHale)

Leamybrien, Co. Waterford

Telephone: Leamybrien 31

Day or Night Service; Plant Hire and Civil Engineering; Any make of car, tractor, motor cycle or earth moving equipment supplied. Secondhand tractors and earth moving equipment a speciality.

Where There's a Will . . .

THE steady walk and shy smile of the stranger held my interest, and my friend's remark that "he used to play for Galway," made me curious. Unfortunately, I can be counted among those fans, who on seeing a promising player in action seldom inquire about his whereabouts if he fails to reappear on the horizon of stardom. I didn't recognise Sean Brennan. He was one of those players, but his story is different, very much so.

The day that Ulster won their initial Railway Cup, by defeating Munster by 1-10 to 1-5 — St. Patrick's Day 1942 — Sean Brennan first saw the light of day in Milltown, Co. Galway. For somebody who was to display such enthusiasm for football later, Sean showed little

BY BRENDAN DOYLE

interest in the happenings on the G.A.A. front during his early childhood.

He was first attracted to the game when the great Galway team of the 'fifties, first rose to

prominence but although he was a very wholehearted player he failed to make the Galway minor or junior teams.

Nevertheless, the exploits of his county had instilled in him a dedication which began to bear fruit in the early 'fifties, when he showed great form for his club team Milltown. This form did not go unnoticed by the county selectors and he was chosen at right full-back for a game against Cork, on the occasion of the opening of a new ground at Glenshane in March 1963. He remembers little of the game other than the fact that Galway won and that he was now accepted as company for the Donnellans, Keenan,

McDonagh and Dunne. He was now following in the footsteps of his cousin Noel Tierney who was nominated Caltex "Footballer of the Year" in 1964 and his brother Tommy who has made many appearances for the Galway senior team.

Even though he continued to play excellent club football he failed to hold a place on the county team, but he was still satisfied to be a sub for the '63 Connacht final when Galway hammered Leitrim by 4-11 to 1-6. At 21 years and with a provincial medal on his sideboard, Sean and his comrades trained hard for the All-Ireland semi-final against Kerry at Croke Park.

Kerry, having regained the League title from Down early in the year, marched through Munster to install themselves clear favourites to win the blue riband of Gaelic football.

August 4 arrived and 37,193

spectators passed through the turnstiles at Croke Park to witness a sensational reverse. Sean's moment of glory arrived early in the first half when Bosco McDermott retired injured. This moment will live with him for the rest of his days . . . he can remember it with pride.

Although pitted against Bernie O'Callaghan and Pat Griffin only one point was registered against him from play. Two minutes from time, with the scoreboard reading 0-8 to 1-4 in Kerry's favour, the future looked bleak for Galway but three sensational points from Leydon's left boot snatched victory and booked their passage for an All-Ireland meeting with Dublin. Sean's footballing future looked bright and so did Galway's.

A crowd of 87,106 watched Galway and Dublin enter the Croke Park pitch on September 22, to do battle for All-Ireland

honours. With Bosco recovered sufficiently to take his place, Sean once again occupied the sub's bench, ready for combat if the occasion demanded. It was not one of Galway's best days, and Dublin were deserving, if narrow, winners by 1-9 to 0-10.

An air of great disappointment hung over the Galway dressingroom but their confidence in their ability to win but in 1964 made the feeling bearable. Like the others Sean thought he would be back, but while it is now history that the majority kept their promise and returned in triumph, Sean didn't.

In March '64 an unfortunate accident ended his playing career. Sean's whole world was shattered, his dreams gone up in smoke, but he accepted his burden . . . he could continue only in the role of spectator.

In this capacity he attended a junior club game between Milltown and Corofin in May '65, but he ended up participating as a player. Milltown had not a full team that day so his

His ability improved rapidly, so much so that in 1967 he played a big part in helping his team reach the county senior championship final.

Prominent players hold high opinions of his pre-accident ability. Galway's John Keenan and Sligo's Jim Colleary rate him championship material. Their views are endorsed by Dublin-based Garda Noel Colcler, who said: "Sean's form would have guaranteed him inclusion in our present side. We could use him!"

This may all sound very ordinary and you may say, other players have achieved much more, but when it is revealed that Sean lost his left hand and forearm in that '64 accident, you will understand why I applaud the courage of Sean Brennan.

Sean is at present based in Dublin and continues to train three nights per week in the spacious Phoenix Park and travels home to represent his club when the need arises. As recently as April 6 last he helped himself to 1-2 of his side's total

All Over For Meath

THE comprehensive defeat by which Kildare ended the 1969 championship aspirations of Meath almost certainly marked the end of an era for the present Meath panel. It was the second successive year for the Royal County to be eliminated in the first round of the championship and while there were legitimate post-Australian trip excuses in 1968 there was absolutely no such alibi on May 25 last when Meath fell at Croke Park.

But 'though we must attribute much to the strength and polish of the opposition it would be wrong if we did not ask ourselves where the weak links on the Meath side were. Having done so it is still extremely difficult to point the finger of guilt at any particular player or players. Midfield has always been a problem spot for the Royal County and of the selection of pairings tried against Kildare, none were capable of laying on a match winning service to the forwards. They can be excused somewhat when one recalls the devastating exhibition of Jack Donnelly.

The gamble of playing Pat Reynolds at midfield was worth a try and indeed the very talented Walterstownman would probably have performed more efficiently against a man of less stature than Jack Donnelly. Still, the number seven jersey seems to fit Reynolds better and with Down's Joe Lennon and Mike O'Shea of Kerry he must rank among the top three in that position. Others who would challenge strongly for places on a national selection are Mick White and Jack Quinn.

BY NOEL COOGAN

What of the remainder of the defence? While Pat Collier and Bertie Cunningham tried all they knew to curb the menacing activities of the Kildare front line, this pair are not as agile as of yore and this looks the time for them to step down. Peter Moore is another who is moving along as far as years is concerned and like the aforementioned pair, he seems to have already played his best football. Around '66 and '67 these players were at their best but from now on they will be getting slower and the result will be less efficient performances. It may be argued that men like Mick O'Connell, Joe Lennon and Paddy Doherty are older and playing as good as ever. But these are exceptions and extremely dedicated individuals. Younger and more promising Colmcille Gaels club-mates Frank and Paddy Ward must be given ample opportuni-

ties to prove their worth. There is no shortage of up and coming defenders within the county and among those who come to mind are Henry Callaghan (Dunderry), Austin Lyons (Summerhill), J. J. Farrelly (Moylough), Harry Rayfus (Trim) and Kellsman Johnny Griffin.

Another pleasing aspect about the Meath panel is that it contains a number of versatile performers who are capable of doing well in different positions — Peter Black, Terry Kearns, Matt Kerrigan and Oliver Shanley.

To revert to the team selected to do duty against Kildare. Matt Kerrigan seemed strangely positioned at right half forward and the Summerhill man did better when switched to midfield but he has performed so adequately on the "40" that it is difficult to understand why he is moved around so much. Likewise, Peter Black was steadily improving at left corner back but now he finds himself at full forward. He has not let his county down in either berth but there seems to be a greater dearth of backs. Terry Kearns, one of the stars of the '67 final,

is still a useful midfielder and one wonders if he has been given a fair deal by the selectors. Ollie Shanley has often given the impression that he is "lost" in a corner forward position. A half back or a centre-field place might give the Duleek Garda more freedom to show his real worth and indeed he did just that on a couple of occasions on that '67 title winning road, when switched to midfield. Why not try Kearns and Shanley as a midfield pairing?

There seems to be no shortage of talented forwards in Meath and established attackers Tony Brennan, Mick Mellett and Noel Curran will have to fight hard to retain their places. Tommy O'Dowd made a big impression in his first championship game in the senior grade. Little behind him came Mick Fay and Dessie Murtagh and both of these speedy wingers have shown immense promise.

Since Meath re-emerged as a major footballing force in 1964 they have given their supporters many hours of enjoyment. Over those few seasons more games have been won than lost. Three Leinster titles and one 'All-Ireland' is no bad record. This Meath side has had its share of critics and many of these have not been slow in voicing their opinion that the '67 combination was the worst one to win the title for some years. Ask these same critics which is the hardest provincial crown to capture and they will say without hesitating — "Leinster". Is a team that wins three Leinster titles in four years a poor one? This may not have been a great side, but it was a very good one, one which suffered many setbacks but was not satisfied until all honour was theirs. This team will, of course, also be remembered as the team which became Ireland's first Gaelic football ambassadors in Australia and by returning unbeaten after five games gained new prestige for the G.A.A. and opened new avenues for international competition.

What of the future? As has been already mentioned there is plenty of up and coming talent at the selectors' disposal. If careful team building is indulged in with special emphasis on every player getting a fair chance then Meath's spell in the doldrums may be much shorter than many people expect.

When the Royal County regained the Sam Maguire Cup in 1967 they were bridging a gap of some thirteen years. I will be surprised if Meath have to wait another thirteen years before getting their name on that coveted trophy for the fourth time.



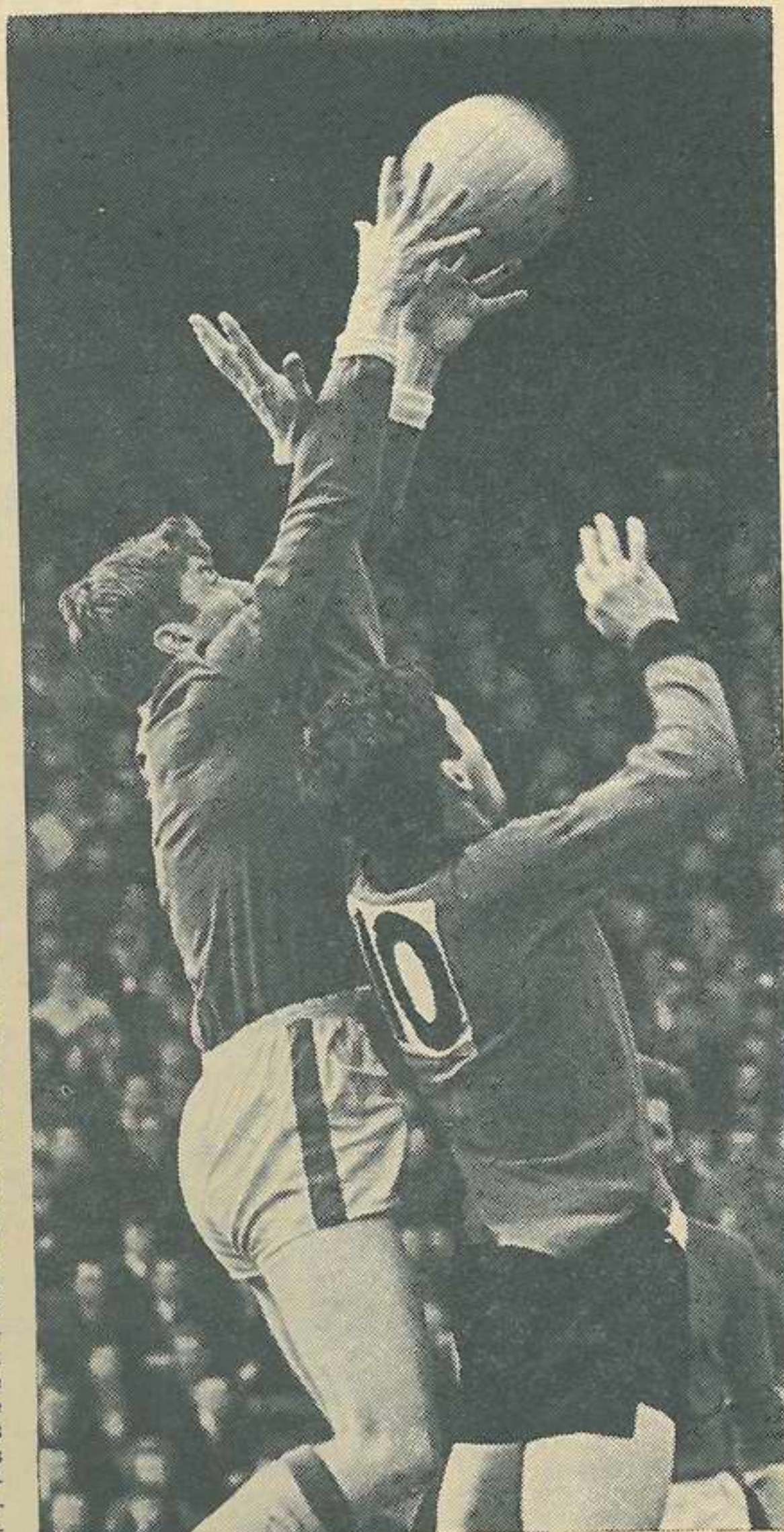
Sean Brennan

comrades persuaded Sean to play. Although his handicap was great, his form, while not outstanding, guaranteed future engagements.

He began practising — a long hard task — but the encouragement he received from his pals, notably Noel Tierney and brother Tommy, gave him the confidence he lacked a few short weeks earlier. He was not the player of yore but at least he was playing the game he loved.

when they defeated Moycullen in the semi-final of this year's Galway senior league, but the final of this competition proved less rewarding. After holding Dunmore to level scoring, Milltown went down to defeat in the replay. Although disappointed, Sean was not dismayed.

Sean's remaining ambition is to win that elusive Galway championship medal. I sincerely hope he does and I hope I'm there to see him do it. He certainly deserves it.



Mick White reaching high

Kavanagh's

(MEN'S AND BOYS' SHOPS)

Offer you an exclusive range in Men's ready-to-wear suits in the newest shades, patterns and designs.

KAVANAGH'S FOR YOUR NEXT HAND
TAILORED SUIT.

146 Phibsboro Road; 185 Lower Kimmage Road; 91 Cabra Road, DUBLIN.

THE MIDLAND

BUS

CO. LIMITED

QUOTATIONS INVITED FOR TOURS,
OUTINGS and PILGRIMAGES

Comfort and Civility Guaranteed

IRISHTOWN, ATHLONE

Telephone 2427

Where the action is

A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT THE MAJOR PROVINCIAL VENUES

Thurles

It could be said that the Railway line — the old G.S.R. — 'made' Thurles as a venue for Munster hurling finals. It brought them in by their thousands in the old days and deposited them there for the day. On Munster final day it was said that every building in the town, bar the Police Station was turned into an hotel. These were the days when the outing didn't end at the final whistle of the game. It lingered on well into the night as ballads were sung and pints were quaffed and even on the following morning the odd straggler could be seen.

It was the 1926 Munster final saga that marked out Thurles in the modern era. The list of great Tipperary and Cork players who were involved in that final reads like a litany from the Hall of Fame, so we will be content to say that Sean Oge and Johnny Leahy were captains of great teams, and that the squat and strong-browed Murphy led Cork to a win at 3-6 to 2-4.

In the following decade or two Thurles throve, sad to say, on Tipperary's troubles in seeking further fame. You couldn't be asking Cork, Limerick or anyone else to play Tipp at Thurles in a final. But Tipp reached only one final from 1931 to 1944, so Thurles was host, in the main, to Cork and Limerick.

The reputé won in 1926 was firmly maintained. The good name for impromptu catering led to a determination that no one would be let away saying he couldn't "get a bit" in Thurles. But the crowning glory was the playing surface itself, spacious, true, full of fiery pace in a good summer, readily absorbent of the rain in a bad one. When the hurlers got into a sustained spell of fast ground-play, and the leather raced to and fro against repeated sharp clashing of ash, then you had a Thurles final in excelsis.

Just as important was the stewarding. Here big Tom Semple ruled with iron hand, dominant presence and stentorian voice. It took a hard-necked intruder to start climbing the wire barrier if Tom Semple was on the receiving end. The same air of authority with which he led and trained the old Blues was a tremendous influence in controlling the Thurles throngs in later days.

THE 'THIRTIES

If 1926 had shown the excellence of Thurles as a venue it wasn't really till the thirties that it was able to build up a solid tradition. To Limerick, as a county, a great proportion of the credit belongs. The wonderful band of players led by Mick Mackey first rose to power in 1933. They dominated Munster four years in a row, even if Kilkenny took alternate All-Irelands off them when they went outside the province. Cork,

their talent thinning out rapidly after the remarkable experiences of 1931, could not hold them, so that the mid-thirties finals are not well remembered. But after Tipp's and Waterford's sudden emergence in 1937 and '38 Cork were again ready to fight their corner. And Thurles got the benefit. The 1939, 1940 and 1944 finals were perhaps the vintage ones, when "Carbery's" lean, staccato phrases re-echoed the thrills and the skills in the "Weekly Examiner." Mick Mackey, without doubt, was the man who mattered most in those days, leading a parade of Scanlon, Clohessy, Hickey, Kennedy, Ryan, Stokes, Power and the rest with the unbuttoned green jersey flaring exuberantly open to emphasise the man's flair and confidence. In the red column beside him marched the great veterans Quirke, and Barrett and the rising talents of Young, Campbell, Murphy, Lotty, Mulcahy, Buckley, Lynch and — as the forties advanced — a compact package of brilliance called Ring. You didn't have to wait for the ball to be thrown in to get excited about those fellows, who had hardness and blazing skill in equal measure.

THE MACKEYS

Everyone has his own highlights of those days — a crashing Mackey goal, from Mick or John; a smoothly taken score from the deft hands of John Quirke, superb overhead ball by Jimmy Ryan or Jack Lynch under the falling ball. There were less pleasing things, too, as is bound to happen now and then: a hushed crowd as Kelly of Blackrock is anointed in 1935; the scenes after the Scanlon-Brennan clash in 1940. In the writer's own memory, sharp with the charity of youth, Ring will forever be nosing that ball onto his sick out near the big bank in the 1944 replay and poor Danny Malone, who played brilliantly and matched astoundingly puck-outs with Billy Murphy, will still be failing to arrest its flight above in the Killinan goal.

Tipp and Limerick played a good final the next year and then came a few tight but unlucky Limerick efforts against the Cork team of 1946 and '47. Waterford won a precious victory in 1948 with the great old-timers Ware and Keane in the lead. Jim Ware's stout chest stopped a vital late one from a man rather prominent at the moment, one Jack Lynch!

After that, one might say, by and large, that Thurles was superseded by Limerick, for the pleasant reason that Tipp were, from 1949 on, contending strongly for the laurels. Good Cork-Waterford ones in 1957 and 1959 and last of all, a hard-hitting Cork-Tipp final in 1960 and the Waterford win over Cork in 1963 have closed the Thurles accounts to date.

— John O'Grady.



Limerick — in the fire of a Munster final.

Limerick

LIMERICK and Cork dominated Munster hurling from 1949 to 1956. This seven-year spell marked the seven fat years of the Ennis Road Grounds and its rise to full stature as the place to be on Munster Final day.

The setting was more urban than you'd get in Thurles, though the Clare hills could be seen over the far embankment. Very often a Trans-Atlantic flight out of or into Shannon would distract us from events on mother earth — but it would have taken a whole squadron to do it if things were delicately-poised between the red and the blue and gold. They often were.

I often noticed the apparently varying length of the trek from the city to the park, on the outward trip it always seemed intolerably long. You got an urgent impulse to quicken your pace or even break into an outright run — just to beat the others to the better vantage points. Coming back to the city the result of the game influenced your feelings. If you had won, the excited chatter, the happy recital of who had done this or that great deed shortened the road remarkably. After a defeat you had run out of comment almost before the Ardhu House was reached. And that's not far from the gates.

It's curious, and just a shade sad, how the temperature of public interest has cooled since the period we are talking about.

In those years people thought nothing of going to the field before noon. In fact, they were rather proud of their dedication and endurance in quest of a sideline seat. Their haste was necessary, too, for crowds of 50,000 and upwards were commonplace at Limerick.

That was just before the Television Age arrived. The fireside screen took away his exalted position from the Man who had Been There. It was disconcerting to find yourself contradicted by someone who hadn't stirred from home at all but had merely seen the Sunday night highlights.

But other factors counted just as much. When Tipp having discovered an ex-Galwayman called Tony Reddan, produced the Kennys, Stakelum, a trio of Ryans, Bannon, Finn, Byrne, Brennan, the DoYLES and Kennedy out of home-grown stock, Cork had a lot of talent to throw into the opposing scale. Above all, they had Christy Ring.

RING'S CLAIM

If Mick Mackey has to be regarded as the prime focus of excitement in the best days of Thurles, Ring has an equal claim to a comparable position at the Ennis Road Grounds. There was a sort of electricity in the man. You saw it when he did that loosening-up routine of daisy-clipping strokes — if there were any left there to clip. A thorough-bred, rearing to go. He was then at the height of

his powers, a man to be idolised or dreaded according to taste.

The very first year of the Cork-Tipp era got off to a memorable start, though it was a first round tie, not a final. People like Lynch, Young and Lotty were probably on their way out in '49 but were still able to hold the younger Tipp level for two solid hours. Better than level, you may be told in Cork. This claim is founded, of course on the famous affair of the ball that did, or did not, hit the timbers behind Reddan at the Clare end. Cork, and even some Tipp people say it happened, though I can't recall the sort of outcry on the spot that you would expect. In any case, Cork later proposed the removal of all such timber from the design of goal-nets. A sensible step, though it abolished the satisfying clatter of a well-hit goal. Extra time, anyhow, gave the fresher Tippiemen the laurels, mainly on Jimmy Kennedy's goal. The slender Puckane artist decorated the last Cork Athletic Grounds final with a superb exhibition of free-taking against unlucky Limerick.

It was two years before the final got back to Limerick. The famous Killarney one intervened in 1950, when Jack Lynch, getting his over-excited supporters back off the lines, did a sporting deed that still wins him respect — and his party a vote or two — in Tipperary!

The 1951 final has a good

case to be called one of the genuine classics of Limerick. Even the scoring, 2-11 to 2-9 for Tipp, mirrors the splendid contest. Ring played at midfield after being less happy than usual against Tommy Doyle in the two previous years. Doyle had found the clue that eluded many players over-obsessed with marking Christy: he went for the ball first, if he could. But Ring in '51 was playing one of his finest games and threatening to take Tipp's crown away. His forty-yarder found a gap just after half-time and then his pointed free and Daly's one from play put Cork three up. The Tipp mentors found an inspired remedy. They put centre-forward Mick Ryan out to midfield and the stylish Roscrea man won enough of the ball to alter the trend. Ned Ryan's goal and Phil Shanahan's point gave Tipp the essential advantage to hold out despite Christy's two pointed frees and his discarding of boots for the last hectic effort.

CORK'S RECORD

An awful weight of pride and prestige hung on the 1952 final. Tipp aimed to make it four All-Irelands in a row, to be able to look Cork straight in the face. Cork, naturally, were keen to safeguard the record of their predecessors. And so they did, in a game that kept reverberating in hot controversy long after the hour was over. Jim Ryan had a Tipp goal disallowed for an undoubted case of

(continued on page 13)

Clones

IN the years prior to World War II, the Ulster Final was played at quite a wide variety of venues and these included Belturbet, Castleblayney, Armagh and the old Breffni Park in Cavan. But with the increasing publicity and widening popularity of the National Pastimes in the Northern province, each of these venues was becoming more and more inadequate to cope with the growing attendance figures, and the final nail was well and truly hammered into the coffin at Castleblayney in 1939 when the crowds surged onto the playing pitch and wandered about like sheep for nearly an hour before the game was abandoned and finally re-played at Croke Park.

The Ulster Council was becoming aware that a central large stadium was an urgent necessity and the trend of World events over the next few years all pointed to Clones as being the ideal centre to fill the bill. The War Clouds burst and transport became difficult. Only the railways remained and the Ulster network had its main "cross-roads" at Clones, with one leg stretching Northeast to Belfast, one Southeast to Dundalk, the third Northwest to Derry and Donegal and, finally one Southwest to Cavan.

The first Ulster Final was played there on Sunday, July 30, 1944, although the Official Opening was not scheduled until the following Sunday — Sunday, August 6, 1944, when Monaghan and Antrim were to play in a senior football challenge game. Nevertheless, the Ulster Council needed the ground so badly that the 1944 final was staged even before the park was officially opened.

That first Ulster Final in Clones turned out to be one of the finest I have ever seen there in the past quarter-century of Ulster Finals. Cavan and Monaghan were in opposition and with Monaghan leading by a single point, 1-2 to 0-4 at the halfway stage it looked as if Cavan's stranglehold on the Ulster Championship (they had held the title for the previous five years in succession) was about to be broken. The champions, however, weathered that Monaghan storm and finished three points in front — Cavan 1-9, Monaghan 1-6 — to give the Blues their sixth title in a row.

VIVID MEMORY

That final has one vivid memory for me and that was the brilliant display of half-back play given by Percy McCooley for the losers. Even though pitted against Tony Tighe, the Donaghmoyneman gave one of the finest performances I have ever seen in an Ulster Final.

A whole series of Ulster Finals followed at the Clones grounds. The wars ended but fuel was still scarce and the railways still formed the main means of transport.

Cavan swamped Fermanagh in a one-sided final in '45 but relinquished their title on that same sod the following year to an awe-inspiring Antrim side that had us all wide-eyed in amazement as Kevin Armstrong and company tore holes in a defence that every Ulster follower thought was impregnable.

That was a wonderful Ulster Final at Clones and Antrim went on to make further history. At Clones again in the following year (1947) Antrim lost the championship back to the Breffnimen, but my only memory of that game was the torrential rain that soaked us to the skin during one of the wettest Provincial Finals that has ever been played in Ulster.

The next four Ulster Finals were also played at the Clones venue to give St. Tiernach's Park a record of staging eight successive Ulster Finals. Cavan were the victors in 1948 (over Antrim) and 1949 (over Armagh) but bit the dust in 1950 (to Armagh) and 1951 (to Antrim). 1952 and 1953 saw Clones lose the Ulster Final to the new Breffni Park in Cavan ('52) and the new Casement Park in Belfast ('53) but it was Clones again without a break from 1954 to 1960 for seven finals in a row. Thus Clones had the honour of staging the Ulster Finals for fifteen years out of seventeen ('44-'60 inc.). These latter finals, too fresh in the memory to go into in details, saw the rise of Tyrone, Derry and Down in succession and the most novel of these was, undoubtedly, the Ulster Final of 1957.

In that year Derry and Tyrone met in the decider on Sunday, 28 July, and there was a strange stillness about the place. Reason was — the absence of the mighty Cavan, as for the first time since 1938, the Blues were



Clones — the hill a blaze of colour as an Ulster title sways with each dropping ball.

not contesting an Ulster Final. For the previous eighteen successive finals they had been part and parcel of the show-piece of Northern football and their absence on this occasion cast some kind of lull over the whole proceedings. As Tyrone and Derry had a similarity of colours, Tyrone, as Ulster champions wore the provincial jerseys while Cavan were honoured in their absence by the Derry team wearing the Royal Blue — it was obvious that we just could not have an Ulster Final without it.

That was a good Ulster final as well as being an historic one and, for the record, the final score read — Tyrone 1-9, Derry 0-10.

DERRY COME BACK

Derry were back again in Clones the following year (1958) to take their only Ulster championship in the second Ulster Final in succession in which Cavan were non-participants. Down were their victims, but like Derry, these Down men were back at Clones the fol-

lowing year (1959) to begin a new reign and a new era in Ulster football. Even though it was one-sided from the scoring point of view, that Ulster final was one of my most entertaining hours at Clones and recalled vivid memories of the Antrim victory of 1946. There were fantastic scenes at the finish and we held our breath as a daring Down youth climbed to the very top of one of the posts at the pavilion and nailed the black-and-red to the top of the mast. I think the ribbons must still have been there for the 1960 final, when Down again had the better of matters with the Cavan men, as those goal-posts in Clones are mighty long ones.

Clones got a rest for the next four years but in 1965 it was Down (winners) and Cavan again. Down felt very much at home here and Clones was proving an exceptionally lucky venue for them in their clashes with Cavan, but Clones is also the next thing to a 'home' venue for the Cavan men when it comes to clashes with the other Ulster counties (with the exception of Monaghan) and, by all the laws of averages, they had to get the better of Down there, sooner or later. It happened in 1967 when Cavan swamped the Ulster champions by 2-12 to 0-8. That was the last Ulster Final to be played at Clones.

There have been quite a few changes made at the Clones grounds since that opening day in August 1944, most important of which was the erection of an uncovered Grandstand and ultra-modern dressing rooms at the Roslea Road end of the grounds in 1950. This is quite an impressive structure and was officially opened in the summer of that year. To mark the opening, Derry and Monaghan played a challenge game for the Eoin O'Duffy Cup — a cup which had first been presented in 1916, was lost during a Black-and-Tan raid on a Clones house in 1919 and turned up again under a stairway in 1944.

The Ulster G.A.A. Council has been very appreciative of the value of the Clones grounds to the Association in this province and quite rightly so. The spacious grounds with its excellent seating accommodation, grandstand and its "Bishop's Hill" — a natural grandstand on the town side of the pitch — can comfortably accommodate anything up to fifty thousand spectators. Gate receipts from the venue have also been extremely impressive as the following figures for the last eight finals played there will show: 1955 — £3,138-15-3; 1956 — £3,236-15-7; 1957 — £3,205-6-6; 1958 — £2,713-12-6; 1959 — £3,542-4-4; 1960 — £3,817-12-0; 1965 — £3,778-1-6; 1967 — £4,486-16-0.

— John O'Grady.

— Seamus McCluskey.

Belfast

WHEN recalling to mind famous games played in Belfast, first and last impressions immediately spring to my memory. The first was a bitterly cold January day in 1944 when Antrim and Louth played a New Year challenge game at famed Corrigan Park, up the Whiterock Road. Air-raid shelters and blackout devices were very much in evidence everywhere, as was a huge Auxiliary Fire Service reservoir on one side of Corrigan Park — and it was in this latter device that the mud-spattered Louth men washed themselves following that particular challenge game.

The last impression was twenty-five years later, on the occasion of 1968 Ulster Final played at the spacious Casement Park in the same city. This time I recall being caught in the worst traffic-jam I have ever experienced — on the M.1. at Dunmurray amid three lanes of cars trying to fit into space provided for two lanes. A horn blew loudly behind me — it was Down selector P. J. McElroy trying to break every rule in the Highway Code to get to Casement Park on time. We did our best to facilitate him and I think he made it in time. I had a Press Pass, but never got as far as the Official Car Park and had to "shank" it most of the way out the Andersonstown Road — still we got there in time for the throw-in.

Belfast came a long way in that quarter-century. Corrigan Park had served the G.A.A. in Belfast extremely well down the years but the ground was overworked and, with a return to normal times in the late 'forties and early 'fifties, the venue became even more overworked, so much so that a new stadium became an immediate and urgent necessity.

AMERICAN AID

The debt seemed unsurmountable but the Irish in America also answered the call to dip in their pocket-books and, eventually, on Sunday, June 14, 1953 the Gaels of Belfast saw their dreams come true as Cardinal D'Alton blessed and performed the official opening of the new Stadium.

Many big games were played in Casement Park before the venue was given its first-ever Ulster Senior Football championship final. Although it had been there from 1953, this premier award did not come until 1961 when Down defeated Armagh 2-10 to 1-10 in a not-so-great game of football. But even though that Final did not impress, Casement Park very definitely did and the 1962 final was also given to this venue by the Ulster Council. Thus Cavan made their first ever Ulster Final appearance in Casement and a right happy day it was for them too. Down were provincial title-holders and All-Ireland champions for the previous two years, but Cavan made light of all this as they swept through

the ranks of the Downmen to record a deserved and decisive 3-6 to 0-5 victory.

VICTORIOUS CAVAN

There was a repeat performance at Casement in the Ulster Final of 1964. Cavan winning this time by 2-10 to Down's 1-10 and the green sward at Andersonstown was swamped in the Blue of the Cavan supporters as Ulster Chairman, Harry Carey of Donegal, presented the Anglo-Celt Cup to the victorious Cavan team. Casement got its fourth Ulster Final in 1966 when Down beat Donegal 1-7 to 0-8 in the first ever televised Ulster final. History was made that day as the T.V. cameras focussed on the men from Down and Donegal but gate receipts suffered as a consequence and the figure dropped below the two-thousand pounds mark for the first time in over a dozen years. Neither did the game itself enhance Ulster's reputation as it was ragged stuff all through and many felt that it would have been much better had it not been televised.

The fifth and last Ulster Final came to Casement in 1968 and, if we can wipe out the memory of that never-to-be-forgotten traffic jam at Dunmurray, this game did quite a bit towards wiping out some of the ill-effects of that 1966 decider and salvaging Ulster Football prestige. Down were in rampant mood as they swept the Cavan challenge aside but, had Cavan not been so afflicted with injuries, things might have been much closer.

Improvements have steadily been made at Casement since that official opening in 1953. The stand is one of the best in Ireland and without a single pillar to obscure one's view, provides comfort and pleasure rarely to be found at other stadia throughout the country. The growing concern over heavy maintenance costs, however, was referred to by secretary Sean Stinson in his Annual Report for 1959 while in his 1960 report he paid tribute to the Gaels of New York for their generous contributions towards the funds of Casement Park. In the 1961 Report appeared mention of proposals to provide extra seating accommodation and other amenities at the Grounds and in 1962 the initial stage of this plan was completed. In 1963 came the greatest step forward when the Central Council decided to proceed with the development of one major ground in each province and Casement Park, Belfast, was the selection made in Ulster's case.

Gate receipts for the five Ulster Finals played at Casement Park have been as follows: 1961 — £4,841-4-0; 1962 — £5,300-18-9; 1964 — £3,517-9-6; 1966 — £1,701-10-0; and 1968 — £6,866-6-6. The last figure is an all-time record for an Ulster Final.

— Seamus McCluskey.

LIMERICK (continued from page 12)

"inside square." But it was the referee's allowing of Liam Dowling's goal even though his whistle had preceded the big East Cork forward's stroke which got the main argument started. Some said the ref. had been swayed by Ring's vehement approach. The single thing I recall best from the day is the arrival of Tony O'Shaughnessy as a corner-back of poise and coolness. His mastery of Paddy Kenny was excellent for Cork morale.

So Cork went on to match Tipp's three in succession. Perhaps their sides hadn't the glitter of the '41-'44 teams but they were fiercely intent on success. Dave Creedon — hurriedly sent for in '52 when young Mick Cashman took ill before the first round — brought calm experience to goal. The Riordan-Lyons-O'Shaughnessy line was immensely solid. Wiry, durable Matt Fouhy, weak-looking but amazingly effective Vin Twomey, and sturdy Sean O'Brien or Derry Hayes formed a grand half-line. Midfield blended the burly destructiveness of Joe Twomey with the elegance of Gerald Murphy. The attack was lethal indeed. Ring needs no further endorsement. He had the persistent Willie John Daly, strong Josie Hartnett and the formidable full-forward drive of Liam Dowling and Paddy Barry as his allies.

Tipp, at any rate, lost the knack of beating them and didn't get it back till the semi-

final of 1958. In '55 Clare rose up with a sturdy team and beat them both. But, in one of the upsets of the decade, on a blazing day Limerick outran and out-pointed them before one of the venue's smallest crowds — a fair index of the way public opinion regarded the match.

FANATICAL CROWDS

Before huge and fanatical crowds in '56 and '57 Tipp's rather patchy teams failed to reverse the tide. In the first of the two Cork brought on young Pat Healy straight off the minor team and he centred the ball that settled a close issue when Paddy Barry rammed it home. Odd things happened in '57. Tipp did a foolish change of goalies at half-way, before there was a really clear need for it, and paid a heavy penalty. The same day Michael Maher applied a heavy charge on Ring out near the big bank. Christy fell on his wrist and had to leave. An alert photographer caught him as he passed behind the city goal, where Mick Mackey was doing umpire. From the picture it certainly seems they exchanged a sharp comment!

Three final-less years followed for the city arena while Thurles was host to Tipp and Waterford, Cork and Waterford and, surprisingly in 1960, Tipp and Cork. This was tit-for-tat for a League final played in Cork earlier that year.

Came the climatic year of '61. Not really for the quality of the play. Hassett minded

Ring capably, O'Brien stopped the Cloyne man's best shots and Tipp won well. There were two loud repercussions. One concerned "who hit Tom Moloughney?" The other involved the near-suffocation of well over 60,000 people. On a day when interest was at a peak and there was no rival attraction anywhere — and, of course, no TV at home — a vast concourse descended on Limerick. This uncomfortable experience, had we but known it, was the high-water level, perhaps for all time. It led to the formation of the Grounds Committee by Central Council and the developments at Thurles, Limerick, Nowlan Park, Castlebar and Casement Park. There was a certain amount of rivalry over the Munster choice, as one would expect. Thurles got the larger share of the money — at the cost of a lot of the old-intimate atmosphere, one would say.

Limerick has had a lot of finals in the interim but none, I fear, of the best calibre for lack of a severe challenge — except by Waterford in '63 — to Tipp's supremacy. Dare we hope that the current championship will culminate in another, and better, Cork v. Tipp encounter at that fine and tradition-laden field?

— John O'Grady.

ON THE CONNACHT CIRCUIT

THE more I think of last year's Connacht final between Galway and Mayo in Castlebar, the more convinced I become that we will never have another one quite like it again. It had everything. Two years before that at the same venue there had been another great final between the same counties. Same result too, Galway winning by a point, if anything more dramatically.

But let us get away from to-day and remember the Connacht final scene as it used to be. As a youngster I was at them annually. It seemed they were all held in Roscommon and what an occasion it used to be. Every house in the town served tea for the occasion and what's more the people at the games remained to eat in the town. That time a Connacht final was a sort of festive occasion where one met old friends and it was usually late into the night before everybody returned home. We had none or very little of this scooting home the minute the final whistle sounded as happens to-day and this

was better, far better too.

If you were at school you more than likely arranged to meet your pals at the game and very often you did too. But times change, interests have broadened, travel is easier and distance has come to mean nothing. Very few remain to eat at Connacht finals now. In other ways though, the venue gains and venues still vie with each other for the honour of staging the Connacht final.

In latter years, Tuam has staged quite a number. Castlebar too. Sligo had its share in the 'fifties when Leitrim and Galway were rivals. Castlereagh used to be a central venue in the old days. Now the popular venues are Castlebar and Tuam and they alone seem capable of presenting Connacht's sporting showpiece of the year. One felt sorry that Carrick-on-Shannon was not selected once in recent years though. For Leitrim has a major struggle on her hands to combat emigration and we should accommodate this wonderful county in any way we can.

Raymond Smith feels there is something unique about a Munster hurling final. Rightly so. Here in Connacht we feel the same about our football final. In the last decade the Connacht final attendance has swelled to record proportions, something we are very proud of here in Connacht in these days of dwindling attendances elsewhere. One sad feature of our showpiece is the lack of an adequate programme for the occasion.

The "excuse" offered is usually an insult rather than an enhancement. Last year I offered to help in this department but the offer fell on deaf ears.

Thinking back on Connacht finals I can see etched in my mind names of men with whom Connacht finals will be linked. Some grew famous. Nace O'Dowd in 1954 at Tuam v. Galway, Sean Purcell in 1956 at Sligo v. Galway; Mick Shivan's goal in 1953, at Roscommon v. Mayo. Tom Sullivan's excellence for Galway v. Mayo at Roscommon in 1948 and Sean Mulderigg's



Action in a Galway-Mayo Connacht championship game.

football artistry. Gerry O'Malley's tour de force in 1962 against Galway in Castlebar, Joe Corcoran's ballet-like effectiveness in Tuam two years ago though faced by a negative opponent, Gerry O'Malley's regal display in Castlebar v. Mayo in 1952, Liam Sammon's winning point in the 1966 Connacht final at the same venue, John Donnel-

lan's mastery of Mickey Kerins in 1965 at Tuam and Mickey Durkan's brilliant fielding on Noel Tierney, Packy McGarty in Roscommon v. Galway in 1957, Purcell v. Carney in 1948, Tom "Pook" Dillon, Tom Langan, Cyril Dunne, Seamus Leydon, Bill Jackson, Sean Flanagan, Pat Donnellan, Cathal Flynn, Mickey Kerins, Aidan

Brady, Paddy Prendergast, John Nallen, Seamus Scanlon . . . and last year John Keenan in one of his greatest displays and one of the greatest personal displays at a Connacht final.

Yes, last year's final had just about everything except a programme worthy of it.

— JACK MAHON

Great Days In Tuam And Castlebar

TUAM Stadium, or as it is referred to locally "the stadjum," has, since it got those big red-gates sometime in 1950 become the hub of activity after eight o'clock in this sugar-beet capital of the west of Ireland.

Of course there is still Parkmore, the old pitch in the race-course. It has always been and always will be. Steeped in glorious tradition, Tuam, for the footballers of the 'forties, 'thirties and earlier, means Parkmore and the "stadjum" will never take its place.

But for the younger boys the golden name "Tuam Stars" recalls great games at the "stadjum" against Vincents, Dunmore McHales, Oughterard, Fr. Griffins. And, of course, some of Galway's great victories have been on this new pitch, too. None remembered better than that first-round championship victory over great rivals Mayo in '54 when Seaneen, at full-back, gave what many will still tell you was his greatest display.

The county team's training headquarters has been

at Tuam Stadium since the 'fifties. Every evening over the years players have been chaffed from various centres like Dunmore, Mountbellew, Ballinasloe, Milltown, Ballygar, and Galway by "Grand Prix" specialists Bill Tyrell, Paddy Furey, Lukie Hehir, Johnny Keely and Bert Coleman, and have congregated at Tuam to be put through their paces by John Dunne and Frank Stockwell.

The ground has seen its share of T.V. cameras and rigged lighting systems and when darkness would have made its way right down to the Dublin road end of the pitch laughter, jollity and the sizzling noise of flowing showers could be heard coming from the cosiest dressingrooms in the business.

Parkmore may have had it, I don't know, but no pitch within my experience has had the atmosphere of Tuam Stadium. They were good times when Jack Callanan and Jimmy Moran were on the tea, milk, and sandwiches, and if a player was really well-in with Jack he got a bottle of

milk all for himself, "provided he took it quietly like."

The last car might not leave the pitch until well after 11 o'clock, and many times it was mine. The gates would close, and the last "goodnight, God-bless and safe home" would come from good ol' caretaker Bill Naughton, who had more character about him than any o' the boys who ever closed a door or gate for Bill Shakespeare. And Tuam Stadium would rest alone.

County players in Galway know every blade of grass in the stadium and for this reason they play better here than in any other pitch, despite the fact that Ballinasloe is regarded as the best winter pitch in the province. It is good indeed, but Tuam can hold its own with any of them.

If Galway did not beat Mayo at Tuam then they had to do it at Castlebar. McHale Park, situated bang in the middle of McHale Road and Connacht's main provincial pitch, is as good as any in the country in

summer, but, as yet, it has to prove its worth as a winter ground. But why think of winter at this time of the year.

Just picture Castlebar with the sun reflecting off the red and green and maroon and white and Paddy Bluett bringing up the rear. If you can picture this scene as vividly as I can, if you can hear the music of a mandolin in the background with intermittent cries of "choc-ice or a tub, mate?" then, like me, you will say to yourself it was good to have been alive for it all.

Mayo is probably Ireland's greatest county for dancing, and it is easy to accept this when one watches the jinking fleet-footed stylists in the red and green.

When the activity of the day would come to an end roads would lead to Tooreen or Ballyhaunis, and Galway boys would bring the day to a close telling the girls from Mayo that next year their county team would surely have better luck if Galway happened to drop out o' the championship.

Tuam, Castlebar . . . these were the days, and there will be more of them. Our gratitude to the players, officials, stewards and

spectators, the folk who have given us our memories.

— BRIAN GERAGHTY

JIM FAHY

INSURANCE BROKER and HOUSING AGENT

MARDYKE STREET, ATHLONE

FOR ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE
CONSULT US — WITHOUT OBLIGATION

KEENEST TERMS OFFERED

Telephone: Athlone 2935 or Gort 214.

ROSCOMMON RACES 1969

— FEATURING —

* TUESDAY, JULY 22nd. — O'GARA CUP

* MONDAY, AUGUST 25th.

*Denotes Evening Meeting.

The Championship Big Hitters

by OWEN McCANN

THE provincial senior championships now hotting up are sure to provide us with some scores and individual scoring achievements to talk about excitedly, and to remember in the years to come. I wonder, however, if when all the provincial titles have been won and lost for another year, whether any new achievements will be entered into the scoring

records book.

The provincial championships have not, in fact, proven generally happy hunting grounds down the years for the big-hitters — the scoring wizards with that elusive flair and ability to win matches virtually on their own. Most of the outstanding individual feats of modern times have been accomplished in competitions other than the provincial tests.

However, two of the really outstanding feats were achieved in cam-

paigns for provincial hurling crowns — both back in 1954. Jimmy Smyth hit 6-4 for Clare in a win over Limerick at Ennis, and Nick Rackard shot exactly the same score for Wexford against Dublin at Kilkenny. Those scores are bracketed with Christy Ring's 6-4 in a 1959 League win by Cork over Wexford, at Cork, for second place in all competitions since 1954.

The nearest any player came to that 22 points mark in the football provincials was in 1960, when

Johnny Joyce helped himself in regal style on a May afternoon at Mullingar to 5-3 in a resounding Dublin football triumph over Longford. That score puts Joyce alongside two other players for ranking in third place in the chart of outstanding football scoring feats for all competitions and challenges.

Next in line comes Brendan Hayden (Carlow) with 3-7 against Kilkenny footballers at Kilkenny in April 1963. Carlow were on the receiving end of another of the spectacular

scoring barrages. That was in 1958 in an encounter with Offaly, in which Peter Nolan landed 4-3.

Also on the 15 points mark is Jimmy Doyle. He shot 4-3 in a Tipperary win over Limerick at Cork in 1960.

Features of the 1966 hurling championships were scores of 3-5 by Paddy Molloy (Offaly) against Westmeath at Mullingar in 1966, and Eamonn Cregan (Limerick) against Tipperary at Cork.

Other notable champion-

ship scores in the provinces are 2-7 by Paddy Doherty against Tyrone at Newry in June 1965, and 2-5 by Mick Tynan in a Limerick football win over Tipperary at Limerick in May 1966.

Surprising that Connacht, which has given such mightily sharp-shooters as Sean Purcell, Cyril Dunne and Mickey Kearins, is not represented in the pre-1969 championships list. Perhaps this will be the West's year for the breakthrough?

G.A.A. Chairman Opens New Motel

EARLIER this year Mr. Dan Kiely, Chairman of the North Kerry G.A.A. Board put a novel suggestion to the clubs in his area when he suggested that the Board should organise a charter flight to the U.S.A. in the Autumn not mind you, for pleasure alone but primarily as a money making proposition for the Board.

His idea was accepted and the flight goes ahead in October. This action was only typical of Dan Kiely's business acumen and his eye for shrewd manage-

ment which he perfected during several years spent in America.

At a more personal level, too, he is just as progressive as is evidenced by Mr. Kiely's latest venture, the opening of a new American style motel at Ahafona Cross in Ballybunion.

He also plans to turn his existing 24 bedroom motel into one with 100 bedrooms, in addition to adding a swimming pool, pitch and putt course and tennis courts.

The first stage in his plan — The Hibernian Ballroom — was opened two years ago. This ballroom is now adjoining the main block of his motel.

"My ideas for the Drive-Inn are American inspired and in my opinion they are something unique in this country," said Mr. Kiely. "It is my intention to give the tourists a very definite American flavour when they stay here."

"A large and spacious functions room, which features old Western 'wanted' posters, guns and the saloon swing doors, in addition to a large stage coach on the stage, can't help but make people feel that they have wandered for a moment into the wild west."

"The continental tourist market is one which has been relatively untapped by the tourist people in this country. I hope to be able to sell my motel there."

"I will be running dances seven nights a week during the months of July and August," said Mr. Kiely.

The resident band for the season will be the Bunny Dalton Showband from Listowel.

"I have plans to provide some of the finest bands in the country for the season as I believe that if one gets the best bands then one is bound to create an atmosphere in which the dancers will enjoy them-

selves," he said.

Mr. Kiely also hopes to attract weddings and functions to his motel.

He said: "We will be offering special rates, which will, I am sure, prove satisfactory to anyone thinking of holding a function."

"In the motel the motorist will be able to drive up to the main building, hop from his car, book in,

return to his car and drive directly to his room," said Mr. Kiely. "It makes for the minimum in inconvenience."

Taking the motel in more detail, it features a souvenir shop, residents lounge, study for guests, a cocktail bar, lounge bar and function room and dining room all of which are sure to satisfy even the most demanding patron.

The New Drive-In Motel Ballybunion

- **DE-LUXE APARTMENTS**
(ALL WITH T.V. AND 'PHONE)
- **SPACIOUS DININGROOM**
- **FUNCTIONS ROOM**
- **COCKTAIL BAR**
- **LOUNGE BAR**
- **SNACK BAR**

HIBERNIAN BALLROOM

**NOW OPEN FOR SEASON WITH ALL
THE BIG BAND NAMES**

Congratulations and best wishes —

SAND AND GRAVEL SUPPLIED BY

JO CONNOR

Telephones: TARBERT 7, FOYNES 43.

Congratulations and Good Wishes to —

DAN KIELY

ON THE OPENING OF HIS

NEW MOTEL, LOUNGE BAR,

DINING ROOM, Etc.

— FROM —

T. J. COSTELLO & SON

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS TO THE JOB AND
SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

Glin, Co. Limerick

Telephone: Glin 8

Congratulations and Best Wishes
— from —

ADAMS'S GARAGE

FIAT, OPEL and RENAULT

DEALERS

GLIN

Telephone 23

The Golf Club—G.A.A. Club Compared

COMPARISONS can be odious but also instructive. A comparison between the structure of the average Irish golf club and the average G.A.A. club is, to my mind, thoroughly instructive.

There is no doubt but that the G.A.A. has a great deal to learn in the matter of club formation and organisation. The golf clubs, on the other hand, are quite "with it" in most cases in this respect.

BY BERNIE DONNELLAN

Most golf clubs maintain their playing areas in impeccable condition, even though these can be quite extensive;

and they also provide excellent club-house facilities.

The vast majority of G.A.A. clubs, though, seem to find it extremely difficult to maintain their small patches of playing areas in good condition; and

they do not seem to worry about the need for club-houses.

Let us take a look at these problems in more detail . . . first of all, the matter of playing fields.

Even the smallest and poorest golf club in Ireland is faced with the prospect of taming and maintaining a playing field which stretches over 40-acres (bigger clubs can be faced with an area up to 200-acres).

This is quite an awesome task and one which can be accomplished only with determination and a professional approach. It is to their credit that most golf clubs succeed in attaining a high standard of excellence in the quality of their playing fields.

Every golf course is made-up of a series of holes each of which contains five different types of playing surface . . . the teeing-ground, the fairway, the rough, the hazards and bunkers, and the putting green.

The object of the game is to play the ball, with the aid of a "stick," from each teeing-ground (starting point) in succession, along the fairways (which may be anything up to 600-yards long), onto the putting-greens (fine lawns) and into a hole in the surface of these.

The person propelling the ball from the teeing-ground into the hole in the least number of strokes wins. The rough, consists of coarse grass just off the edge of the fairways . . . it is difficult to play from and is designed to punish the wayward shot.

The hazards, as their name implies, and bunkers are designed to add to the playing difficulties of the course. Hazards may take the form of trees or streams encroaching on the line of play; and bunkers are pits, lined with fine sand, placed, strategically to catch the slightly imperfect shot and make the next one more difficult.

Each of these areas on the golf course requires special attention. The teeing-grounds and fairways must be completely grassed but not too heavily . . . the texture of the grass must be at all times much finer than that on the average football field. This is necessary because the golf ball is so small, the largest one being 1.68-inches in diameter.

The greens are extremely difficult to maintain all year through. They are lawns of the

highest quality and complaints from club members are quickly heard if they become coarse and the ball does not roll evenly along their surfaces.

The rough demands little attention from the grounds-keeping staff but the hazards and bunkers must at all times be kept tidy and clean.

With so many problems on hand, there is only one way in which a golf club can maintain its playing area in good condition . . . that, by the employment of full-time, skilled workers armed with the necessary equipment.

Most golf clubs employ at least one man and boast a tool-

takes place in such a confined space.

Yet, how many G.A.A. clubs, to your knowledge, employ a man full-time? How many keep their playing fields in good condition all year through?

Is it not more normal to find the grace on the average football field, standing as high as one-foot between games? And to find the local club at panic stations before a big game as the grass must be cut and the pitch lined, little or no thought is given to the requirements of local club members between big games.

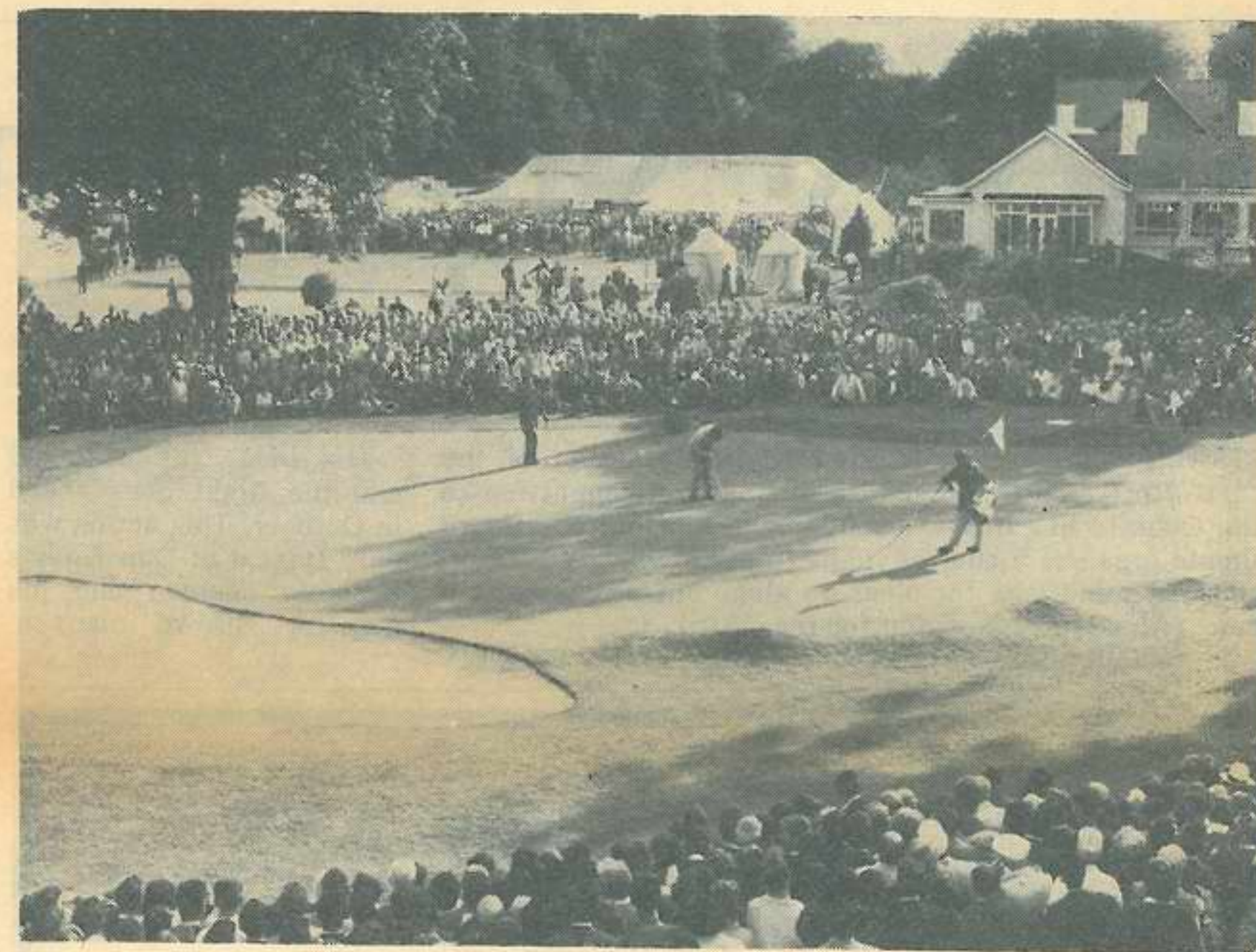
A similar position exists off the playing fields. The vast

a useful amount of business and so . . . revenue for the club.

But how many G.A.A. clubs can boast a club-house affording any of these facilities? Yes, there are a few . . . but too few.

Where club-houses do exist they too often take the form of a hay-barnish building which provides space for changing of clothes. But rarely does one find lockers, toilets, showers, a bar, a games' room or a reading room.

There is no good reason why the G.A.A. should not provide such facilities. In fact, there is every reason why it should . . . both because of the higher



A typical action shot at the 18th green at the Carroll's International at Woodbrook.

shed which contains a tractor or two, mowers of various sizes and shapes, tawn-forks, water-sprayers and so on.

The problems of the G.A.A. club, on the other hand, are not so great. Its playing area is tiny by comparison and, save in times of extreme stress or emergency, could be adequately cared for by one man. But, of course, one must recognise the fact that a football field is subjected to intensive wear-and-tear by the very fact that play

majority of golf clubs provide excellent club-houses which provide locker-room, toilet and shower facilities. Most, also include a bar and dining area and, especially in the larger centres, television rooms, reading rooms and games' rooms.

These club-houses serve a double purpose at one and the same time . . . they attract club members to one central point at more frequent intervals thus deepening the meaning of the name "club"; and they generate

standards demanded by players of all sports today; and the need to crystallise the activities of the Association in all parishes.

There is no doubt but that the G.A.A. could benefit tremendously by widening the scope of its activities at club level. These benefits would be both monetary and, even more important, social. In our next article in GAELIC NEWS we shall suggest some ways in which the G.A.A. can march into the 1970s with a new and vigorous aspect!

IRISH TOUR FACILITIES LTD.



Above is the Plaxton Bristol Super Luxury 52 seater coach — one of our fleet of comfortable Touring Coaches. For full details contact:

Irish Tour Facilities Ltd.,
32 Lr. O'Connell Street,
Dublin 1.
Tel. 41430 or 905786 after 6 pm.

KEVIN O'LEARY'S CAR SALES

BANDON, CO. CORK

MAIN OPEL DEALERS

SALES AND SERVICE

ALL MODELS EX-STOCK

Telephone: BANDON 41264

Their ship came home

Of the little armada of five ships with which Ferdinand Magellan set out from the mouth of the Guadalquivir, 20th September, 1519, only one, the Victoria, succeeded in accomplishing the circumnavigation of the globe. The crew of the Victoria suffered considerable privation but, ably commanded by her master Sebastian del Cano, she eventually returned to Spain on the 6th September 1522. Your ship could come home too . . . with a fortune.

Cambridgeshire Sweepstake

NUMEROUS FIRST PRIZES OF

£50,000

TICKETS £1 EACH
CLOSING DATE SEPT. 19

AS SIMPLE AS A B C

WHY?

- A GOOD DEAL BETTER
- BEST PRICES PAID
- CUT MARKETING EXPENSES
- DELIVERIES ACCEPTED DAILY
- ELIGIBLE ANIMALS INSURED
- FARMERS, HEED THE FOREGOING

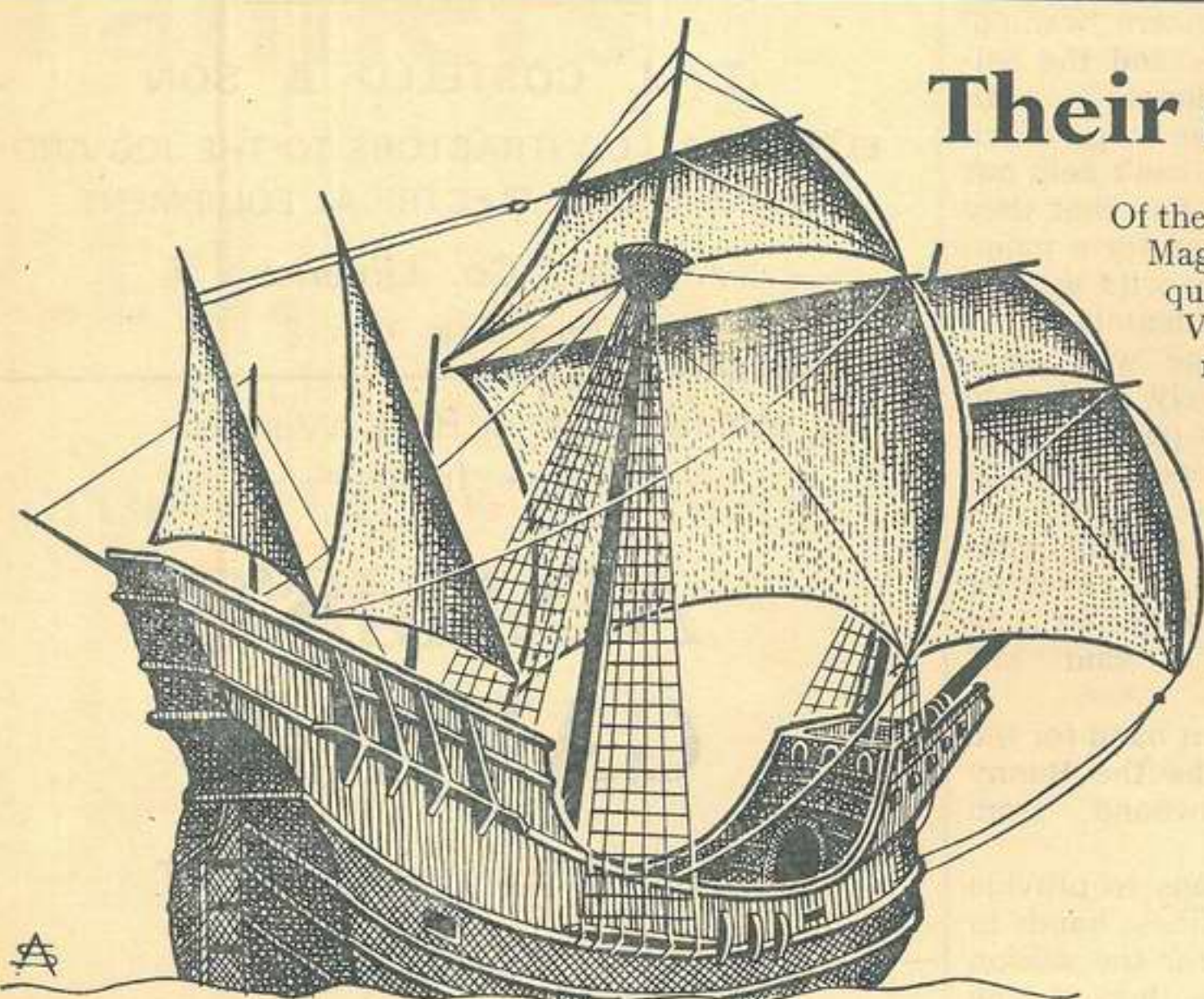
Sell Direct as we require daily all the year round:

- * BULLOCKS
- * HEIFERS
- * COWS
- * LAMB in season

Premier Meat Packers
(Ireland) Ltd.

SALLINS, NAAS, CO. KILDARE

Telephone: NAAS 7891/5.



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

Starting To Play Golf

HOW does one get started in the game of golf? Where does one begin? And, is it a terribly expensive exercise?

These are questions which the readers of GAELIC NEWS may like to have answered however briefly at this time . . . as more-and-more G.A.A. players and administrators take-up golf. Where they go, surely others will want to follow.

BY DONAL COLLINS

Well, first of all, what is the game of golf and where did it begin? Several legends exist concerning the origins of the game but it is generally agreed that it started in Scotland, when a shepherd lad hit a stone with his crook and was delighted to see it bounce along the ground.

He had little else to do, so he hit another stone and then another. Quite soon he was striving to send the stone (ball) greater distances and, when he mastered this aspect of the art, he added the final ingredient . . . finesse.

He decided to try hitting the stone (ball) a great distance and then coax it along the ground and into a little hole. The fewer strokes he took at the ball in executing this exercise, the better!

Of course, the game developed rapidly, and by the time it came to Ireland, around 1850, it was quite sophisticated. Today, it is even more than a game, as 15,000,000 people play it in some fifty different countries and the professional players compete for a total prize-fund in the region of £5,000,000 annually.

Several men, such as Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus, have become millionaires through golf. They not only win vast sums playing the game but gain vast revenue from lending their names and likenesses to advertisers trying to sell golf equipment, clothing and other goods.

It is conservatively estimated that more than £50,000,000 worth of golf goods are sold each year . . . a tidy penny!

Even in Ireland, things have been humming in golf and thirty new golf clubs have appeared since 1960 . . . when the Canada Cup (now golf's World Cup) was played at Portmarnock, outside Dublin.

This brings the total number of golf clubs in Ireland to 229 and these cater for 70,000 players (not to mention non-participants) . . . which works out at one Irishman in every fifty.

And still the numbers are growing and the beginners are faced with various problems which fall under three main headings: a) Where to play; b) What equipment to use; c) Where to learn.

Where to play. There is no problem at all in this depart-

ment if you live in the provinces. The local golf club is likely to have vacancies on its membership list. All you have to do is get some existing members to propose you for membership and be prepared to pay the annual fee, which is unlikely to work out at more than 4/- per week.

In return for this fee you are entitled to play as many rounds of golf as you wish all year; to play in club competitions; to play in "open" competitions organised by other clubs affiliated to the Golfing Union of Ireland; and, if your play improves, compete in the various championships. Of course, you will also gain full access to the club-house facilities.

If you live in Dublin, you will not find it easy to gain membership of a golf club. You may have to settle for membership of a pitch-and-putt club or even better still . . . membership at a driving-range.

The John Jacobs Centre at Leopardstown, and the Spawell Range between Templeogue and

Tallaght both offer excellent facilities and the Jacobs range also boasts a fine club-house and miniature golf course. You can learn a great deal about the game there whilst awaiting membership of a golf club.

What equipment do I need? Well, despite any advice you may receive to the contrary . . . do not rush out to the shops and buy expensive equipment to start.

As your game improves you may find that the equipment you buy at first no longer suits you . . . thus necessitating a change. And we all know that the value of new goods drops drastically when going onto the second-hand market, whereas a carefully purchased second-hand item will most assuredly hold its value and may even gain in the space of a year or two!

All that you require to start is a half-set of golf clubs . . . I would recommend a Number-2 wood; a Number-4 wood; and the following iron clubs . . .

Number-4, Number-6, Number-8; and a putter.

With that lot, you are ready to go forth and do battle or, almost. You will require a couple of golf balls (these have a nasty habit of getting lost so do not buy the expensive ones to start); and a dozen tee-pegs, which will knock you back about 6d.

Then buy a small golf bag in which to carry your clubs, the balls and tee-pegs, and any protective clothing you wish to carry. You should be able to buy all of this for less than £20 . . . not so expensive, is it?

Where and how to learn the game? You can have a friend who already plays teach you the rudiments but this system invariably leads to complications as you learn some mistakes as well. The best thing to do is have a lesson from a professional, there is one at most golf clubs, and this will cost you as little as 7/6. A small price for the key to success and happiness!

In the mantle of Mick Mackey

IN hurling, it is difficult to understand the inconsistency of Limerick. Time and again in the past the county has raised hopes of a return to the days of real glory with an unexpected and impressive competitive win, only to disappoint next time out. The Shannonsiders' performances in the opening rounds of the 1968-69 League — a win over fancied Clare in October, and that failure to Cork in February — are immediate cases in point.

BY OWEN McCANN

A young man, who is playing an outstanding part in Limerick's never-ending bid to get back again on a successful, and consistent, even keel is Eamonn Cregan. If the county had one or two other forwards with the Claughaun man's finishing technique, then the battle back to the top might not prove quite such a testing one.

Cregan, who has represented Munster has a quite impressive scoring record for a comparative newcomer to the big-time. He was a skilled midfielder, and also an inspiring captain, of the Limerick C.B.S. team that won the All-Ireland colleges' senior hurling title for the first time in 1964.

Later that year he made the Limerick senior hurling outfit, and since then he has blossomed into a dynamic and highly valuable unit of the team. Indeed,

he has earned the rare distinction for a rising finisher of having headed the Limerick scoring chart each year since 1965. And he is again making the running for Limerick this year.

Cregan has failed to score in three games with Limerick. He also failed to raise a flag in the Railway Cup final last year. The dashing and intelligent Claughaun man recorded 1-4 against Cork in the National League and scored 1-5 against Wexford in the League semi-final. His final white flag in the Cork game brought his points total, as distinct from points and goals combined, to exactly the century. That goal also left him with 20 green flags, for a tally of 160 points from 42 games as a senior, at the quite good match total of 3.80 points.

In Eamonn Cregan, then, Limerick unquestionably have a young hurler who knows how to quickly and effectively seize the slightest scoring opportunity. And, who knows but that on his score-getting ability, Limerick may yet soon climb right back to the top.

Cregan's super-show in that championship victory over Tipperary is the "Everest" in his scoring record so far, and also ranks as the best tally by a Shannonsider since another great Limerick sharpshooter, Dermot Kelly, a star of their

last Munster championship winning side in 1955, notched 5-2 in a tournament game with Dublin, at Limerick, in April, 1961.

Cregan has failed to score in three games with Limerick. He also failed to raise a flag in the Railway Cup final last year.

The dashing and intelligent Claughaun man recorded 1-4 against Cork in the National League and scored 1-5 against Wexford in the League semi-final. His final white flag in the Cork game brought his points total, as distinct from points and goals combined, to exactly the century. That goal also left him with 20 green flags, for a tally of 160 points from 42 games as a senior, at the quite good match total of 3.80 points.

In Eamonn Cregan, then, Limerick unquestionably have a young hurler who knows how to quickly and effectively seize the slightest scoring opportunity. And, who knows but that on his score-getting ability, Limerick may yet soon climb right back to the top.

To ALL Golfers

FOR NEW AND SECONDHAND CLUBS OF TOP QUALITY AND EXCELLENT REPAIR SERVICE

— consult —

PHIL LAWLOR,
Curragh Golf Club,
Curragh, Co. Kildare

TELEPHONE 41328

DONEGAL DEMOCRAT

"Donegal's Own Newspaper"

A.B.C. NET CIRCULATION, 11,287 COPIES
WEEKLY

best sport, news,
pictures

Head Office:

Tir Connail Street, Ballyshannon
Telephone 65201

Branch: High Road, Letterkenny
Telephone 352

SMYTH CLUBS

SIXTY YEARS IN THE GAME
PARKLINGLY UP TO DATE DESIGN
OPHISTICATED IN PRESENTATION
TOCKED BY ALL DISCERNING
PORTSHOPS AND YOUR PROFES-
SIONAL

FRED SMYTH

GOLF CLUB MANUFACTURER

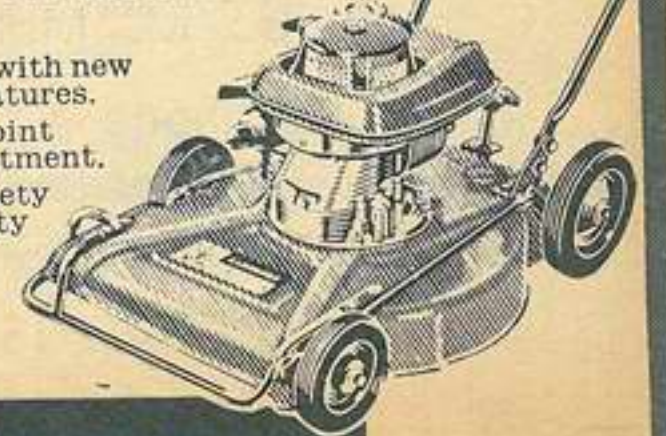
Main Distributors,

Walkers Ltd., 27 Upper Liffey St., Dublin.

Make short work of long grass SAFELY

with the 18" TYPHOON MAJOR Mk 2

Powerful rotary with new advanced design features. NOW with single-point height-of-cut adjustment. NOW with front safety guard and new safety cutters. Masters thick growths or smooth lawns.



RANSOMES

See the best range of hand and motor mowers at your Ransomes stockist.

MAIN IMPORTERS

SALES AND SERVICE

Distributors for

HAND, MOTOR AND

GANG MOWERS

Authorised repair agents

McKENZIES

CORK

Tel. 52301-2-3-4-5

N. CAMERON

and CO. LIMITED

— Specialists in —

ALL TYPES OF FENCING
AND GATES

Supply and Erect

LOCHRIN UNCLIMBABLE STEEL
PALISADING

8 COLLEGE SQUARE, NORTH,
BELFAST, BTI. 6BA.

Telephone 29633 (2 lines)

SMITHS

LTD.

N A A S

Manager: S. Muldoon

Telephone 7675/6/7

MAIN RENAULT and DAVID BROWN
DEALERS

You get a Flying START with
a Lucas Battery

X.L. Battery & Electrical Service Ltd.

JOHN'S GREEN, KILKENNY

Telephone: 21247

Lucas and C.A.V. Agents

M. Lanigan, Proprietor

LUCAS LIGHTS YOUR WAY
TO SAFETY

Best Wishes to Longford —

HART'S RESTAURANT

(Prop.: Martin Lowry)

MAIN STREET,
LONGFORD

Telephone 6352

SPECIAL TERMS FOR ALL
G.A.A. TEAMS

WHEN IN DUNDALK —

WINE, DINE AND STAY

at the

LORNE HOTEL

15 CLANBRASSIL STREET

(Prop.: M. McIllduff)

Telephone 41411

OVEN-READY FRESH FROZEN
CHICKENS

— Processed By —

CO-OP. POULTRY PRODUCTS LTD.

COOTEHILL

AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT IRELAND

Telephone: Cootehill 100

Belfast's Popular Hotel
Attractive Restaurant
Open until 10.45 p.m.
Good Food. Reasonable Tariff
Private Rooms for Weddings,
Dinners, and Ceili Dances
Cocktail and Lounge Bars
54 modern bedrooms with
shower or bath

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

Manager: Tom McGrattan, M.H.C.I.,
DONEGALL SQUARE, SOUTH, BELFAST 1
(Behind City Hall)
Telephone: 20661

1969 KILDARE COUNTY SHOW

ATHY SHOW GROUNDS THURSDAY, 10th JULY

Classes for Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Farm and Garden
Dairy and Poultry, Home Industries, Home Produce,
Flowers and Horse Jumping Events.
Display of Machinery and household equipment
Prize Schedules can be obtained from:
Mrs. A. M. McHugh, Ballylinan. Phone Athy 25125

ABRAMIS HOTEL

Bailieborough, Co. Cavan

"The Hotel you may not have known"

Excellent Accommodation. Select Food in one of Ireland's
Leading Coarse Fishing Areas.

COACH TOURS CATERED FOR

Special Rates for Commercial Travellers all the year round
Brochure from Resident Manager.

Telephone: Bailieborough 73

A.A., R.I.A.C.

G.A.A MEANS BIG BUSINESS

NOTHING makes travellers of so many Irish people annually as does the G.A.A. Virtually every Sunday of the year there are in excess of 500 Gaelic games played and each of these games sends people on the road.

One million people enter Croke Park annually. Other major venues such as Thurles, Nowlan Park, Kilkenny; the Athletic Grounds, Cork; Casement Park, Belfast; the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick; McHale Park, Castlebar; Walsh Park, Waterford; O'Moore Park, Portlaoise; O'Connor Park, Tullamore; Breffni Park, Cavan; Tuam Stadium; Pairc Tailteann, An Uaimh; Pearse Stadium, Galway; Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow; Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney; Austin

Stack Park, Tralee; Markievicz Park, Sligo, Clones and Irvinestown attract attendances which would be in excess of 100,000 and, in some instances, go as high as 500,000.

In short, there is an endless circulation of population caused by Gaelic games and, much more than the G.A.A. itself, the Irish catering industry is the principal beneficiary.

The man who travels to a G.A.A. game spends but a few shillings gaining admission to the ground.

However, he is likely to spend many times more in a local hotel, bar or restaurant.

The G.A.A.'s association with hotels is as old as the organisation itself. It was in a hotel — Hayes's of Thurles that the G.A.A. was founded in 1887 and down the years the Association's contribution to the catering industry has continued to expand to the point that the Association must now rank next to foreign tourists as the industry's principal consumer.

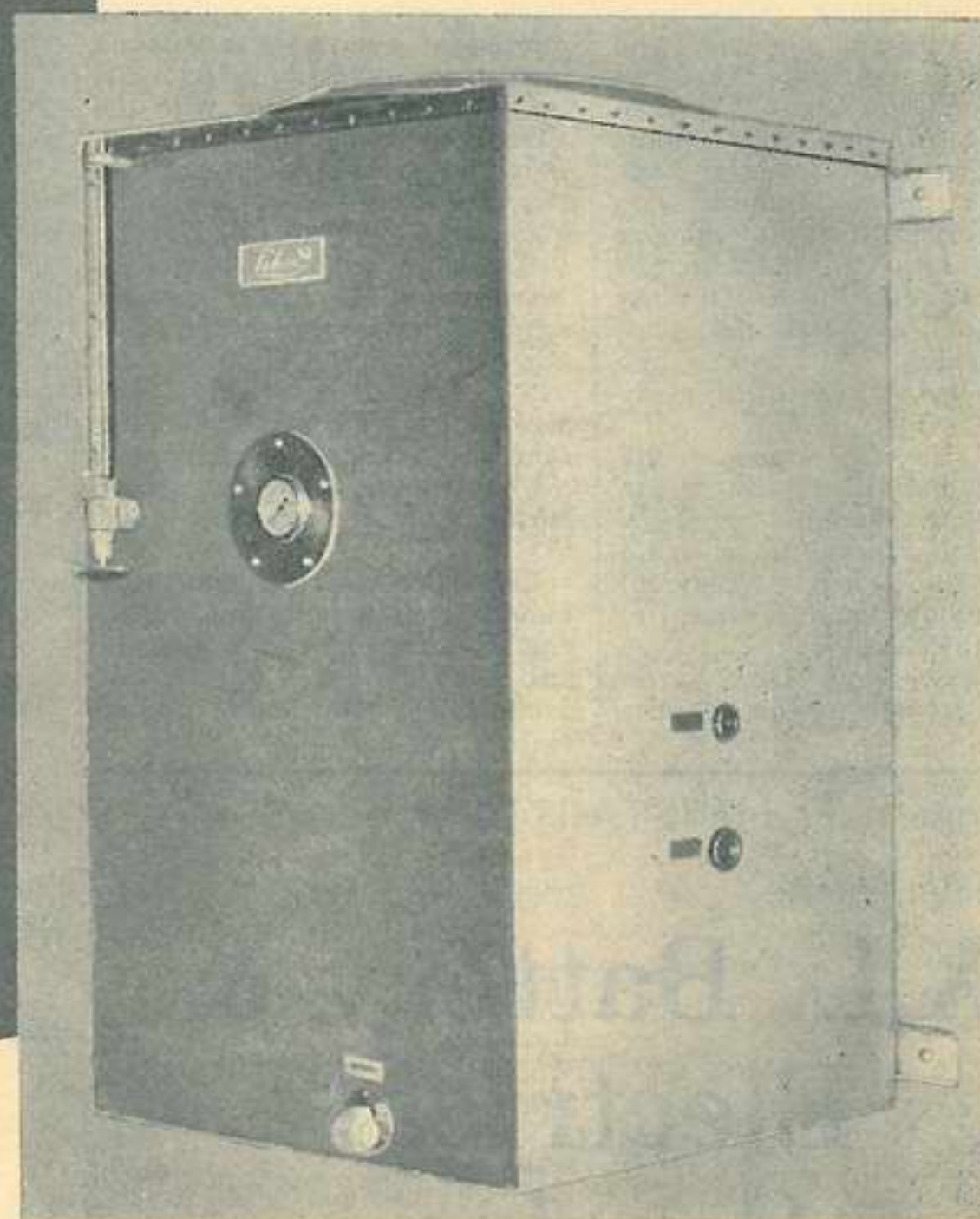
In many of these towns the local hotels have recognised their debt to the G.A.A. by making handsome donations towards

the development of the local grounds. For the hotels and guest houses it is no more than a good form of investment in the future. The better equipped the local G.A.A. ground is, the better is the chance that big games will be played there with a resultant increased patronage for the local catering establishments.

Patronage by the spectators, is of course, only one facet of the trade from the catering point of view. An even steadier trade, albeit on a smaller scale, comes from providing refreshments for the participating teams themselves. This too is on the increase, for while county teams



The special Dairy Heater shown here is ideal for the man with pipeline milking plant who is interested in acidified cleaning. It was designed by Loheat Ltd. to provide water near boiling point — which kills bacteria and puts you in a position to qualify for your clean milk bonus. In three capacities 15, 25 and 35 gallons.



10 GALLON BURCO BOILER

A general purpose water heater which gives hot water at temperatures up to boiling point. Particularly suitable for the bucket-type milking machine, or circulation cleaning.

Other heaters are also available from the ESB to provide the dairy with water at temperatures ranging from 140°—170°F (60°—76.7°C).

Contact your nearest



SERVICE CENTRE

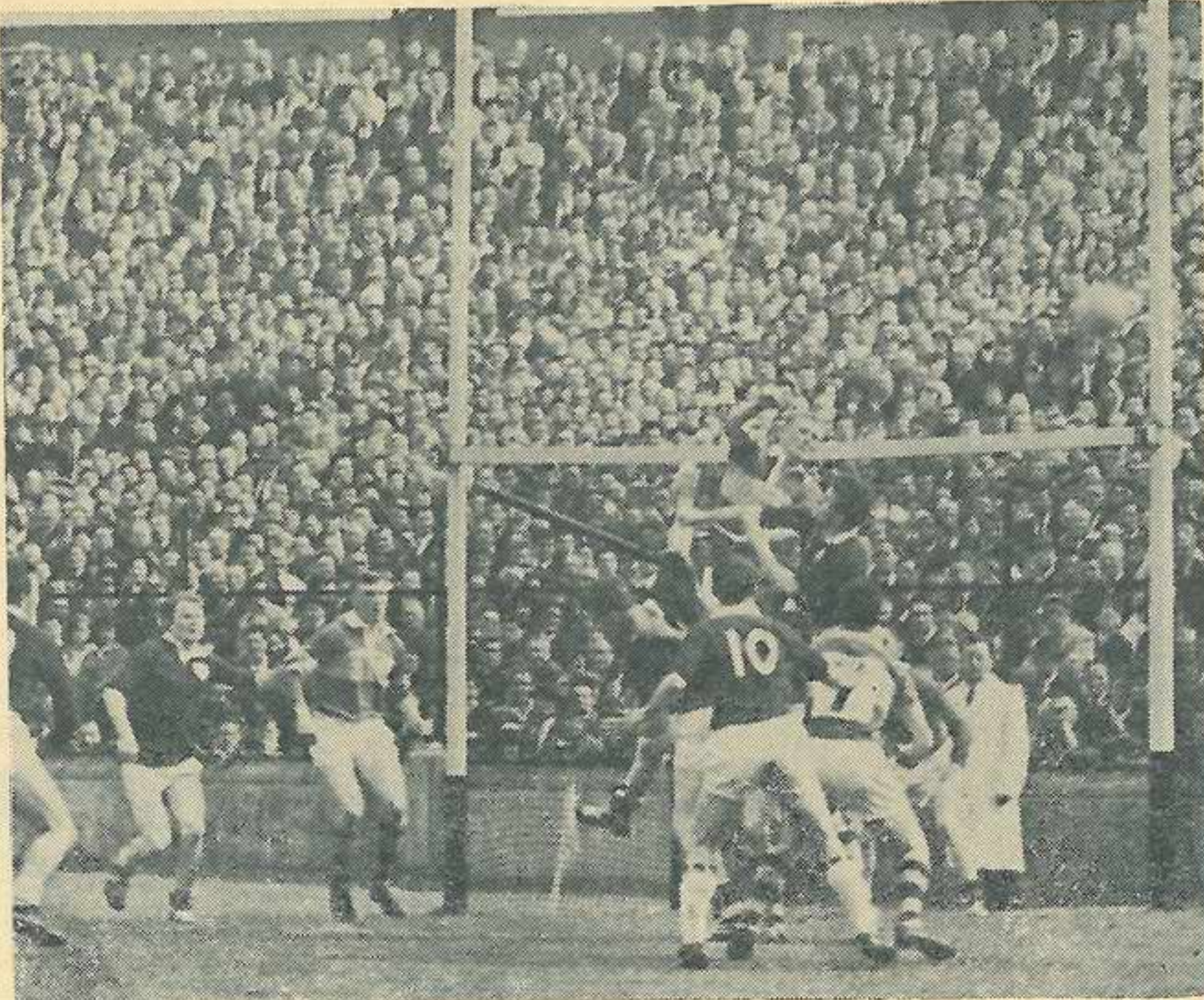
FOR CATERING INDUSTRY

have long been entertained on match days, nowadays more and more clubs are providing meals for their teams after big games.

Another important source of revenue which is provided by clubs is the holding of club socials, especially in the form of annual dinners. There has been a significant increase in the number of these functions in the past few years and the trend in the future will be towards a further expansion.

There is an ever increasing awareness in the G.A.A. at the moment of the need for further development of the social side of the Association's activities and, as this policy is put into action, it is bound to bring further business to the various outlets of the hotel and catering industry.

In the smaller centres of population within the various counties the main revenue provided by G.A.A. games comes from the local club games, but this is something which is very often under estimated. In the main, it is the public



Catering for the multitude

houses which gain most from this kind of G.A.A. patronage. There is rarely any overnight stay involved, nor indeed is there a

great demand for meals but there is usually extensive business accruing to the licensed premises wherever the big county

championship games are held.

There is hardly a town in Ireland that has not a well known G.A.A. pub or two. Here you can get vivid accounts of all the big local games and a visit to such an establishment is for many players and supporters as important as going to the match itself. But it is not only on match days that these football or hurling pubs are frequented by Gaelic followers. They also enjoy a constant passing trade from visitors, who know that there will always be a welcome there for followers of our national games.

The hotel and catering establishments of Ireland have served the G.A.A. well and in return the Association provides the industry with one of its greatest sources of revenue. It is a fair exchange.

Smith's Stores OF CORK

THE CATERING SPECIALISTS

With over a quarter of a century's experience in Hotel Catering, Smith's Stores can truly lay claim to being the specialists in this trade which they have built up through smart service and utter reliability. They now wish to inform their customers they have now opened the first-ever Hotels Cash and Carry in Ireland in Camden Quay where there is ample parking facilities, as these premises occupy over 31,000 sq. ft.

SMITH'S STORES LTD.

99/100 PATRICK STREET,
CORK, and
CLERMONT, DOUGLAS.
Warehouse and Cash
and Carry
CAMDEN QUAY, CORK
Tel. Nos.: 21941 (5 lines)



TOM MANNION TRAVEL

I.P.T.A. and I.A.T.A.
* Air Tickets on the spot
* Sunshine Holidays
* Car Rentals (Selfdrive- and
Chauffeur Driven)
* School of Motoring (with
Dual Control)
Special arrangements for G.A.A.
Teams.
Write, call or phone
ENNIS 21985 (2 lines)

A QUIET REST BETWEEN DUBLIN & BELFAST —

GLENSIDE GUEST HOUSE

Smithstown, Drogheda

Telephone: 7449

COMFORTABLE SURROUNDINGS

EXCELLENT CUISINE
COURTEOUS SERVICE

WEST COUNTY INN

ENNIS, CO. CLARE

WE ARE HONOURED TO BE THE HEADQUARTERS
OF G.A.A. IN COUNTY CLARE

40 BEDROOMS ALL WITH PRIVATE BATHS

Function Room capable of Seating 600

GRILL ROOM AND DINING ROOM ARE WIDELY KNOWN
FOR TOP-CLASS FOOD AND SERVICES

For Further Information —

Telephone Ennis 21421

or

Write to the Manager.

THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

Only 10 miles from Dublin and on the edge of the
Garden of Ireland.

Only 6 miles from British Rail Car Ferry terminal in
Dun Laoghaire, and 10 miles from B + I Car Ferry
terminal in Dublin.

OFFERS GOOD FOOD, COMFORTABLE ACCOMMO-
DATION AND FRIENDLY SERVICE AT REASONABLE
PRICES.

Free Cabaret Nightly in our Ballroom
Throughout the Season

Conferences, dinner dances and private parties catered
for at most competitive rates in the off-season months.

Grade A. Fully Licensed

WRITE FOR BROCHURE —

BRAY, CO. WICKLOW

Telephone 862944

Greenhall Motor Works

Castlecarr, Mallow

MAIN OPEL DEALERS

Complete Range of Spares and
Accessories in Stock

After-Sales Service A Speciality

Telephone: MALLOW 28137

There is NO SUBSTITUTE for the real thing

PASTEUR

PURE FRESH
DAIRY CREAM

DELIVERED EVERY MORNING TO ALL
HIGH-CLASS FOOD STORES

THE PASTEUR DAIRY

19 PEMBROKE LANE, BALLSBRIDGE
DUBLIN, 4.

Telephone: 680222

Cork's most Central Grade A Hotel
When in Cork stay at the Victoria

Victoria Hotel Patrick St., CORK

TELEPHONE 24056

Excellent Cuisine

Open to non-Residents

Champions Alike

ST. BRENDAN'S

— and —

HILLIARDS

— for —

Style and Class

Stockists of —

FOOTBALL JERSEYS, BOOTS and TOGS

also

Agents for "O'Neills All-Ireland" Footballs

FREE QUOTATIONS for all Basketball Gear —
Singlets, Shorts, Track-Suits, Etc.

Congratulations to Fr. Linnane (trainer), John O'Keeffe (captain) and all the St. Brendans team on their All-Ireland success.

HILLIARDS
KILLARNEY

**Aghadoe Heights
Hotel
KILLARNEY**

Telephone: 566

HOW CAN YOU SEE KILLARNEY?

From this new Hotel overlooking the complete Lakeland area.

IDEAL FOR THAT SPECIAL OCCASION

Roof-top Cocktail Bar, Dining and Grill Room. Provides the unique setting for Weddings, Functions, Private Parties.

Entertainment Nightly

Move up to the magic of Killarney's rendezvous in scope.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. BRENDAN'S ON
THEIR SUCCESS FROM —

**LOUGHNANE'S
GARAGE**

KILLARNEY

MAIN AUSTIN DEALERS

SALES AND SERVICE

Telephone Killarney 32.

**Killarney Motor Works
Ltd.**

FORD MAIN DEALER — SALES and SERVICE

NEW ROAD, KILLARNEY

CARS, TRACTORS, COMMERCIAL VEHICLES
FIRST CLASS AFTER SALES SERVICE

Telephone: Killarney 87 and 463.

FIRST TITLE FOR KERRY

MAY 4, 1969 will not easily be forgotten by Kerry men, especially by those from the county who happen to be past pupils of the Diocesan College, St. Brendans, Killarney. A four points victory margin over St. Mary's College, Galway in the final of the All-Ireland Colleges' championship at Thurles marked the culmination of St. Brendans football story.

Strange as it may seem, when one recalls the tremendous record of the Kerry county team, no Kerry college had ever won the All-Ireland football title and, in fact, only once had a school from the county even managed to reach the final. That was in 1963 and on that occasion, too, it was St. Brendans who led the way.

drawn match in which hot favourites St. Mels were fortunate to earn a draw.

Draws, in fact, were part and parcel of St. Brendan's campaign this year. In the Munster final against Colaiste Iosagain, Ballyvourney the teams ended all square and the Killarney college were convincing replay winners, on a score of 3-7 to 2-5.

such as team captain John O'Keeffe, Donal McMahon and Denis Kissane, who scored vital goals against Christ Ri, Ballyvourney and St. Mel's.

Victory in the All-Ireland final was a suitable recompense for the amount of effort put into the team by all concerned and how proud these lads must have felt at achieving an honour which had eluded all the former pupils of the College, who later became national figures in the G.A.A. and other walks of life.

Great players who attended St. Brendans include Kerry men Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan, Jackie, Denny and Tadhg Lyne, Mickey Palmer, Paul Russell, Tim Lyons, Teddy O'Sullivan, Ned Roche, Johnny Walsh, Donie Murphy, Murt Kelly and present day stars Johnny Culloty, Donie O'Sullivan, Mick O'Shea, Tony Barrett, D. J. Crowley and Brendan Lynch, and ex-Cork County Board Chairman "Weeshie" Murphy.



St. Brendan's Killarney, All-Ireland Colleges' champions.

However, fortune did not smile upon Tony Barrett's team that day, as they went under by one point to a St. Mel's Longford side, that included Jimmy Haniffy and Mickey Reilly of the present day Longford senior team.

Because of this result probably the sweetest victory on St. Brendans victory march this year was their one point triumph over St. Mels in the All-Ireland semi-final, in Thurles. This was a replayed game after the sides had earlier played a thrilling

Earlier in the Munster championship, St. Brendans had beaten Colaiste Christ Ri, the holders of the Hogan Cup, on two occasions by four points and three points. They also accounted for Tralee C.B.S. rather comfortably.

Like most colleges' triumphs St. Brendans success stemmed mainly from outstanding team spirit, engendered in many a tough training session under the guidance of trainer Fr. Linnane. There was no shortage either of outstanding individual players

MUCKROSS HOTEL

KILLARNEY

GRADE "A"

One of Ireland's oldest Hotels, it joins Muckross Estate National Park.

Functions, Parties, Clubs and Teams specially catered for.

Manager: Tom Barrett
Telephone: Killarney 208

**VAL O'SHEA
Guest House**

LOUNGE BAR

BRIDGE STREET, TRALEE

Telephone 21559

**URSULINE
CONVENT**

BLACKROCK :: CO. CORK
PUPILS PREPARED FOR ALL PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

**KNIFE AND FORK
RESTAURANT**

KILLARNEY

OPEN 7 DAYS WEEKLY TILL
12.30 a.m.

Home of Good Food in Killarney
with prices to suit
all classes

Personal Supervision: Liam Brown
Telephone: Killarney 565

A Dream Comes True

In this article a famous St. Brendan's and Kerry footballer describes what the first All-Ireland success of St. Brendan's meant to him.

HIS head was sore. He could not remember going to bed at all the night before. It had been another one of those hard nights. He muttered no blessing to the landlady as she tried to arouse him. A quick snack and Jimmy Moran was on the road to Killarney Railway Station. It was an eighty mile drive through the most beautiful countryside in Ireland. To the left, the Kerry Mountains raised their majestic heads as they doffed their cloudy caps in the early morning sun. The Atlantic sea stretched endlessly away to the right. An error of judgement would send the car hurtling down the steep precipice of cliff to be smashed in the gurgling waters below the road.

Jimmy was oblivious of all the resplendent beauty and danger that surrounded him. As the intruding cool morning air refreshed his intoxicated brain his thoughts returned to that similar train journey of many years before, when St. Brendan's set out to win the Hogan Cup. He was as excited now as then.

Muddled memories of the past began to flood his mind. As he sorted them out he began to see his old team-mates parade once more around the spacious regions of his mind. Some were married others were not. Some were carrying God's message around the world. Others taught the quickly expanding legions of the youth at home. Another was a doctor. Only himself appeared lost in the jungle of life. Yet these memories now revived him. Yes indeed all the boys did well. Only one man of all the bunch was still chasing a dream. It was ironic that he should have been the one who worked hardest of all. Jimmy hoped that for Fr. Daly's sake that the boys would pull it off today.

Fr. Daly's and Jimmy's associations with St. Brendan's began at the same

time. They were both friends and enemies, they fought and made friends again. After all these years Jimmy looked forward to meeting Fr. Daly once more. He remembered the training sessions and how they sprinted and raced until they fell with sheer exhaustion. From the snows of January to the heat of summer. He remembered well those cross-country treks by Killarney's lakes, through the glens and back by the woods. But the beauty that surrounded him then went unnoticed as it did now. All was blinded by that dream — The



Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan one of St. Brendan's most famous past pupils.

Hogan Cup for St. Brendan's.

There were the lighter moments too. There was that night when Moran and some of his high-spirited pals decided to celebrate a victory with a sing-song and late night party in Moran's Cubicle. It did not trouble them that they were keeping half the college awake, but the President did not approve. On visiting the source of the commotion, he stood anonymous in the darkness and instantly somebody grabbed his hand pulling him headlong into the festivities. The swiftness with which the good man recovered his composure and regained his dignity terrified Moran and friends who had by then recognised the most recent guest to join the party. The boys scattered like dry-leaves leaving Moran to humour the good President alone. Moran had a way with that President that enabled him to get away with much.

Moran remembered the night when he found it impossible to sleep before an important game after "lights out". He retired to the toilet complete with pillow and book. Hours later when he returned to his cubicle he found the dean patiently waiting for him.

"My my Jimmy! What were you doing in there till now? Moran never a one to be caught for words, quickly replied "Fa — Fa — Father it must have been the fish we had for dinner yesterday evening."

How everybody danced with joy when St. Bren-



Johnny Culloty, ex-St. Brendan's star.

dan's captured their first Munster crown after seventeen years. Fr. Daly's hat became the dressing-room football. Weeks later the whole school opted to remain on over the weekend of the Easter Holidays to cheer on the team whose next victory was to make St. Brendan's the first team from the Southern Province to reach the Hogan Cup final. Only one hour from a dream come true. But a little college from a little

(continued on page 22)

Three Lakes Hotel Killarney, Ireland

GRADE A Centrally Situated

- * Modern Bedrooms — all with bathroom.
- * First Class Service, Cuisine and Cellar
- * Spacious Bars and Lounges
- * Central Heating Throughout
- * Lift to all Floors including Basement Car Park
- * Special Arrangements for Shooting, Fishing and Golfing Holidays.
- * Private Parties Catered For.

FOR ILLUSTRATED BROCHURE WRITE OR PHONE

KILLARNEY 479

How Can You Buy Killarney?

WE HAVE IT
CONSULT US BEFORE YOU
BUY OR SELL

O'SHEA'S

Auctioneers, Valuers and Real Estate
Agents

27-28 HENN STREET, KILLARNEY

Telephone: Killarney 161

SEWELLS' PHARMACY

Killarney

(Prop: Mrs. M. Trant, M.P.S.I.)

Telephone 27

STOCKISTS OF — ORLANE, CYCLAX, ELLEN BETRIX
LENTHERIC, RUBINSTEIN, MELINA, YARDLEY, STEINER
AND MARY QUANT.

PHOTOGRAPHIC GOODS BY POLAROID, KODAK,
AGFA, Etc.

ESTABLISHED 1885

ONE OF IRELAND'S OLDEST FAMILY
PHARMACIES.

Cahernane Hotel KILLARNEY

- * Private Baths
- * Free Fishing on Lakes
- * Grade A (Irish Tourist Board)
- * A.A. and R.I.A.C. appointed
- * Situated on Private Grounds of 100 Acres
- * 1 mile from Killarney Town.

FOR TERMS — APPLY CAHERNANE HOTEL

Telephone: Killarney 95

MICHAEL MORIARTY (Killarney) LTD.

THE SQUARE
GENERAL DRAPER

LADIES AND GENTS OUTFITTERS
SPECIALISTS IN LINENS, TWEEDS, HAND-KNITS
AND RUGS.

Telephone 92

GLENEAGLE HOTEL-BALLROOM KILLARNEY

Congratulates St. Brendan's

Telephone: Killarney 100

UP THE SEM —

Best wishes for the future from —

DONAL SHEAHAN
Ph.C., M.P.S.I.,

Dispensing and Photographic Chemist

34 Main Street, Killarney

DROMHALL HOTEL

MUCKROSS ROAD, KILLARNEY

LICENSED :: SPACIOUS CAR PARK
DANCING AND ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY TO
OUR RESIDENT GROUP.

Telephone 94.

Jeremiah Galvin & Sons Ltd.

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
KILLARNEY

EXTEND HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS
TO ST. BRENDANS ON THEIR

GREAT VICTORY

Telephone: Killarney 295

PARK PALACE HOTEL KILLARNEY

Home of all Gaels before and
after the game

Extend congratulations to St. Brendan's
Telephone Killarney 58

O'SHEA'S GARAGE LTD.

HIGH STREET, KILLARNEY

Main Pierce, Tarrup and Flemstofte Dealers

Any Make of Car, Truck or Tractor
Supplied

Specialists in new and used
Agricultural Machinery

Self Drive Cars Available

Leading Tyre Specialists

Telephone: Killarney 417

In Other Days

When Wexford Football Was Tops

TO characters such as myself, who are getting longer in the tooth every day, it is still a bit amusing to hear people making a wonder out of the fact that Wexford could beat Longford in a senior football game. Because, for well more than half my lifetime on the Gaelic touchlines, Wexford was reckoned as primarily a football county and, indeed, back in the '30's, Wexford hurlers were reckoned to rank behind Laois, Offaly and even Westmeath, and would not be mentioned in the same breath as Kilkenny and Dublin one or other of whom almost invariably won the provincial title.

Indeed, well into the 1950's, most people looked on the Slaneyside hurling revival as nothing more than a flash-in-the-pan, and it was not until they won that second consecutive title in 1956 that the hurlers permanently took over as Wexford's number one side and the footballers were condemned to virtual obscurity.

BY OLD-TIMER

But through all my early years following the Gaels around, when you talked of Wexford's prospects, everyone knew you were referring to the footballers. The days when Wexford was the supreme football force in the land had ended more than a decade before my earliest days on the Leinster circuit, before the men

in the purple and gold jerseys were still a powerful football force.

The first time I ever saw them play was at Nowlan Park in Kilkenny on a warm June day in the very late '20's. They had three men that day who had starred for Ireland in the Tailteann Games, Jack Fane, a fine player called Walsh whose first name I am not sure of, — I think it was Nick, and the even then legendary Martin O'Neill. All three lived up to my expectations that day, as Wexford beat Laois — I have a feeling the game was a replay — and beat them well. But they never could win a provincial title in those years when Kildare were virtually unbeatable in Leinster.

On through the '30's Wexford continued to play

good football — I remember one particularly excellent minor team — but luck was never with them and they just could not achieve the senior breakthrough that would have made all the difference.

Then oddly enough, in the Emergency Years, Wexford began to gather football strength again. When the National League was dropped they showed up well, first in the South Leinster League and then in the Leinster League that succeeded it. There were some really rousing struggles between themselves and Meath for supremacy in that competition.

In one final they served up a hectic hour, and finished level. Extra time was played a quarter of an hour each way and again they finished level. As far as I can recall Meath won the replay though whether it was this game or a championship clash between the counties at about the same time that produced a most unusual score I cannot now recall. What I do know was that at full time the Croke Park score-board read, Wexford 4-0; Meath 0-12,



Martin O'Neill — one of Wexford football all time greats.

and I remember writing at the time that 'to save their lives, Wexford could not score a point nor Meath

score a goal.' Actually I think this game also went to extra time and that Meath won narrowly.

Finally in 1945, Wexford at last won back that Leinster senior title, their big men that day being Willie Goodison, Jackie Culleton and big Nick Rackard ironically enough then better known as a footballer than as a hurler. But Wexford failed narrowly to Cavan in the All-Ireland semi-final, and though they went close to Leinster honours in the next few years they never again took the title.

And this despite the assistance of such fine footballers as Spider Kelly, Rory Dean (who played in a Leinster final on the day of his ordination), Joe and Dessie O'Neill, Larry Larkin and many another.

Besides they had a whole host of dual stars, equally adept at hurling and football. Nicky, Bobby and Billy Rackard, Padge and Paddy Kehoe, Sam ('Wilkie') Thorpe, Mick O'Hanlon...

Wexford's last football flash was in 1956 when they sensationally defeated Leinster champions Dublin at Carlow, but failed to Kildare in the provincial final.

A Dream Comes True

(Continued)

county without an honour laden past upset that dream that day. Moran and his pals had little to sing about that night as they wound the weary way from Croke Park to their mountainy kingdom.

The years that followed brought one frustration

after another for Fr. Daly, but his perseverance never faltered. He saw brilliant teams do badly and bad teams do well but unlucky. Came 1969 and once again he was on the threshold of that unfulfilled dream.

Moran would know none of these boys except one from his home parish. Away to the left he saw the towering Cathedral,

then the deserted College playing pitches, then the empty college itself. The boys had left for the station long ago. He drove quickly to the station. As

he joined the hoards of youth on the platform, boys with bags shouted greetings. He was embarrassed at not knowing their names but he knew from the ner-

vous look in their eye that these were the boys he had been dreaming of all morning. At last Fr. Daly caught his eye, as their outstretched hands clasped in greeting, they both knew that they were about to witness a dream come true before sunset that day.

The Hogan Cup would have come to Kerry for the first time!

C. O'MEARA

GENERAL WHOLESALE and
RETAIL GROCER

Tea, Wine and Spirits
My Teas a Speciality
HACKNEY SERVICE

12 High St., Killarney
Telephone: Killarney 74

KEANE'S
JEWELLERS

2 HIGH STREET, KILLARNEY

For Trophies and Medals

Telephone: Killarney 515.

TEDDY O'CONNOR'S

7 High Street, Killarney

BAR — LOUNGE

ONLY BEST DRINKS SERVED IN COMFORTABLE
SURROUNDINGS

Telephone: Killarney 115



Jackie Lyne

HANDY STORES

Killarney
SOUVENIRS, FISHING
TACKLE
LEADING TOBACCONIST
and
BOX CHOCOLATE
SPECIALISTS
Telephone: Killarney 188

Imperial
Hotel

KILLARNEY,
Co. Kerry

Suberb Cuisine,
Excellent Service

Tel.: Killarney 38

WHEN IN KILLARNEY

— visit the —

LAKELANDS

Lounge Bar

HIGH STREET

FOR BEST DRINKS IN
COMFORT

(Prop.: Tadgh Corkery)

Home of Entertainment
in Killarney —

THE LAURELS

Killarney's Liveliest Night Spot

Telephone: Killarney 149

Complete Funeral Furnishers

MEAL, FLOUR AND GRAIN MERCHANTS

Michael D. O'Shea
& Sons

HIGH-CLASS HARDWARE AND FURNITURE STORES
ELECTRIC SAWMILLS, TIMBER and COAL IMPORTERS

MAIN STREET, KILLARNEY

Telephone: Killarney 29

Seeking a G.A.A. for the '70's

SOMEbody used the cliché that the G.A.A. would never be the same again following the two-day seminar at U.C.G. in mid-June. This was an over-dramatisation of the event. What is certain, though, is that if the G.A.A. can be moved into the process of structural change and modernisation, the Galway seminar will have been to a very large extent responsible.

The gathering was smaller than one might have expected — never more than a hundred — but the quality was exceptionally high. Indeed, it seems safe to presume that never before was such intellectual power applied to G.A.A. problems.

More than one speaker voiced criticism at the absence from the seminar of many prominent Association officials, all of whom had been invited. Among those conspicuously absent were the General Secretary, the two Trustees and the four Provincial Chairmen. This, in fact, meant that the President, Seamus O Riain, was the only member of the Executive in attendance and, as a result, those who could do most to implement the ideas expressed at the seminar did not even hear them. This is to be regretted. Even if the Executive is not open to conversion, which it probably isn't, at least had its members been in Galway they would have gone away appreciating how the current seeking radical change is building up within the Association.

The urgent necessity for structural change was the theme common to all offerings at the seminar and some were surprised to find such as former President Alf Murray and Policy Committee Chairman Pat Fanning firmly on the side of such change.

The need too for converting the Association's ideological base into contemporary form was also stressed by many speakers and there was no great dissension about that either.

JOHN HEALY

Each of the nine lecturers contributed major theses but probably the one which most moved the attendance was that of John Healy, Political Correspondent for the *Irish Times*. He began with a fearsome sincerity and maintained it through a long lecture. Jack Lynch, he said, was down in Eyre Square at that moment but instead of covering the political happenings he, Healy, was at the seminar and he would be remaining there throughout the two days because he was convinced that it was as vital to the future of Ireland as the General Election. The fruits of the seminar would shape the Ireland of the 'seventies as much as would the policies of those who right then were out seeking votes.

The G.A.A. was in decline because rural Ireland was in decline. A massive effort was needed to renew rural Ireland and this effort was directly linked with the welfare of the G.A.A. The G.A.A., he continued,

must involve itself in the issues of Irish life. The Association had thrived when it had a fight on its hands and was immersed in the problems of the day. Unless it identified itself once again with the issues which concerned the people it would by the year 2000 be only a thing of the history books as is the Land League.

Healy went on and on slicing open not alone the G.A.A. but also contemporary Ireland so that the gathering was able to look deep into the guts of both and see the rot.

Bryan MacMahon, Lecturer in Law at U.C.C. and son of the Kerry dramatist and writer of the same name, deftly applied himself to what is the basis of

casions that County Chairmen have come together for informal discussion there were invariably subsequent questions at Central Council and murmurs about "usurping authority."

CENTRAL COUNCIL FUTILE

Neither would Fr. McGee's comments find complete approval at Central Council. He also spoke from the floor and said that he had come to realise that the Central Council was a futile body. He gave various instances of the Council's ineffectualness and none of the audience, which included five Council members, seemed to disagree.

Alf Murray went even further. He despaired for Congress's ability to bring

other angle. He would eliminate cliché nationalism and replace it with positive action. Field activities would be confined to 36 Sundays — March to October — with 18 Sundays being devoted to hurling and 18 to football — each on alternative week-ends. He would abolish the junior, under-21 and intermediate grades.

Fr. Ryan's blueprint for the G.A.A. of the Seventies is a most detailed document deserving of reading and discussion by everybody concerned with the future of the G.A.A. Nothing as well conceived has ever been put forward before.

LINGERING DEATH

Martin Rafferty, General Manager of Allied Irish Investment Bank, stated that unless action was taken the G.A.A. would enter a lingering approach to death. The Association would have to define its objective — where it wanted to go and what precisely it wanted to do. Without the proper organisational structure the best plans in the world would come to nothing.

A clear definition of responsibility was required throughout the Association. The function and authority of the President, of the Executive and of the Central Council, needed to be

clearly defined. The Central Council, made up of 48 men, was too big. The Association must purchase professional skills. Unless a view from outside was brought in it was unlikely the Association of itself would discover the broad perspective necessary for change.

And so the seminar went. The most substantial contributions came, in the main, from people like John Healy, Fr. Ryan and Martin Rafferty who, while of the Association, are not in it.

Where does the G.A.A. go from here — or more pointedly where do the apostles of change next pitch their camp? They are certainly gaining ground, gathering the logic and the eloquence behind them and awakening many to a new realisation of what the G.A.A. must do if it is not to stagnate and die.

The apostles of change have a long road ahead and countless opponents to contend with . . . but one thing is sure, a lot is going to be heard of them from now on. Those few shouts at Congress 1969 were but first shots in what could be a long war.

Commencing next month **GAELIC NEWS** will publish in full the various lectures given at the Galway seminar.

Seminar Quote

A previous speaker has mourned the fact that the G.A.A. has had no Pope John. I think the real trouble is that it has 48 Pope Johns and all of them on the Central Council.

— Galway Chairman Gerry Cloherty.

much of the G.A.A.'s administrative problems — surplus democracy. Democracy was a block around the Association's neck, he said, and should be confined to electing officers once a year. The Central Council he felt could be abolished and replaced by an "inner cabinet" of five or six people with clearly defined authority.

G.A.A. BEING STRANGLED

Galway Chairman, Gerry Cloherty, who spoke from the floor shortly after Bryan MacMahon, fully supported this viewpoint. The Association was being strangled by democracy, he stated. Some sub-committees were doing good work and coming up with good ideas but it was all in vain because of the surplus of democracy which gave everybody a say and resulted in nothing being decided or done. The system had to be changed.

Fr. Macken, the Chairman of the Westmeath County Board and also speaking from the floor, made a good contribution to this topic when suggesting that ideas were not being properly sold within the Association. His suggestion was that the 32 County Chairmen should be brought together and have ideas and schemes explained to them first. They then would go back to their respective counties and would push these ideas and so the necessary groundwork would be done to ensure the necessary innovations being adopted at Congress.

Many Central Council members would not concur with Fr. Macken in that regard. On the few oc-

about the urgent structural changes which were required. He felt that the Officers of the Central Council and the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of each County Board should make-up Congress.

Both Seamus Duke, a member of the Policy Committee and Rev. Dr. Liam Ryan, the former Limerick hurler and now a distinguished sociologist submitted complete and radical plans for the re-structuring of the Association.

Duke too favoured eliminating surplus democracy and changing the Central Council. A Central Council would be elected in the normal way and would then re-form in sub-committees whose decisions would be final and binding on all. He recommended bringing in professional expertise and management consultants to examine, recommend changes and help the Association contend with the task confronting it.

Dr. Ryan went at the same problem from an-

HARBOUR FUEL STORES

Naas, Co. Kildare

Telephone: 7652

— FOR —

BEST FUEL
and
SPEEDY SERVICE

Proprietor:

MR. PETER DALY

KING'S LEAP

(BAY, 1959)

SIRE OF 5 INDIVIDUAL WINNERS OF 9 RACES

FROM HIS FIRST CROP TO DATE

by PRINCELY GIFT out of IMPALA

by BIG GAME out of MOMBASA

KING'S LEAP won weight races and £6,062 from two to six years old, including Great Eastern Handicap, Newmarket (with 9st. 2lb.); Ely Handicap, Newmarket; Bretby Handicap, Newmarket; Taj Mahal Handicap, Brighton (with 9st. 5lb.); and Spital Handicap Stakes, Windsor, twice (breaking the course six-furlong record under top weight of 9st. 1lb. in 1965), placed several times, including third in Victoria Cup.

Bred at the National Stud, KING'S LEAP comes from one of the stud's most successful families. His dam, IMPALA, is a winning daughter of MOMBASA, winner of 10 races, value £5,737, including Princess Royal Stakes, Ascot.

FULL 1966 - 1969

Enquiries to:

MANAGER, MITCHELSTOWN STUD,
ATHBOY, CO. MEATH

Telephone: Trim 32216

KENT RUBBER INTERNATIONAL LTD.

Kilcullen, Co. Kildare

TELEPHONE: CURRAGH 81332

EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KILDARE
HURLING TEAM ON THEIR NATIONAL
LEAGUE VICTORY.

YOUR MAIN DEALER FOR —

BAMFORD, GLASS, J.F., NEW HOLLAND, INTERNATIONAL,
JOHN SALMON, MIL, LISTER HOWARD, McCONNELL,
NICHOLSON, SALOPIAN, SKYOLD, DENING.

Highest Trade-in Allowances. Keenest Cash Prices.

J. R. PERRY

Kildare Road, Athy

Telephone 21272

N. J. HORE

RADIO HOUSE

25 MAIN STREET, WEXFORD

Inspect our range of Television Sets: PYE, PHILIPS,
BUSH, PILOT and ULTRA

RADIO — MUSIC — SPORTS

Distributors of DRYDEX and EXIDE BATTERIES
Telephone 56.

In The News with Bacchus

Offaly to Lose Trainer

The man who as trainer brought Offaly to this year's League final is, it is understood, shortly to leave Ireland.

Fr. Tom Scully, who as a teacher at Belcamp College, Raheny, Dublin brought that college to a couple of All-Ireland finals, is due to spend some time on missionary work in England and no doubt his absence will be felt especially by Offaly with whom he had done wonders in only a few months.

Tony Loughnane

Dublin hurling full forward Tony Loughnane has qualified as a doctor at University College Dublin thus following in the footsteps of his father Dr. Bill Loughnane from Feakle, County Clare.



Paddy Ryan, Chairman of the Munster Council.

Changing Rules

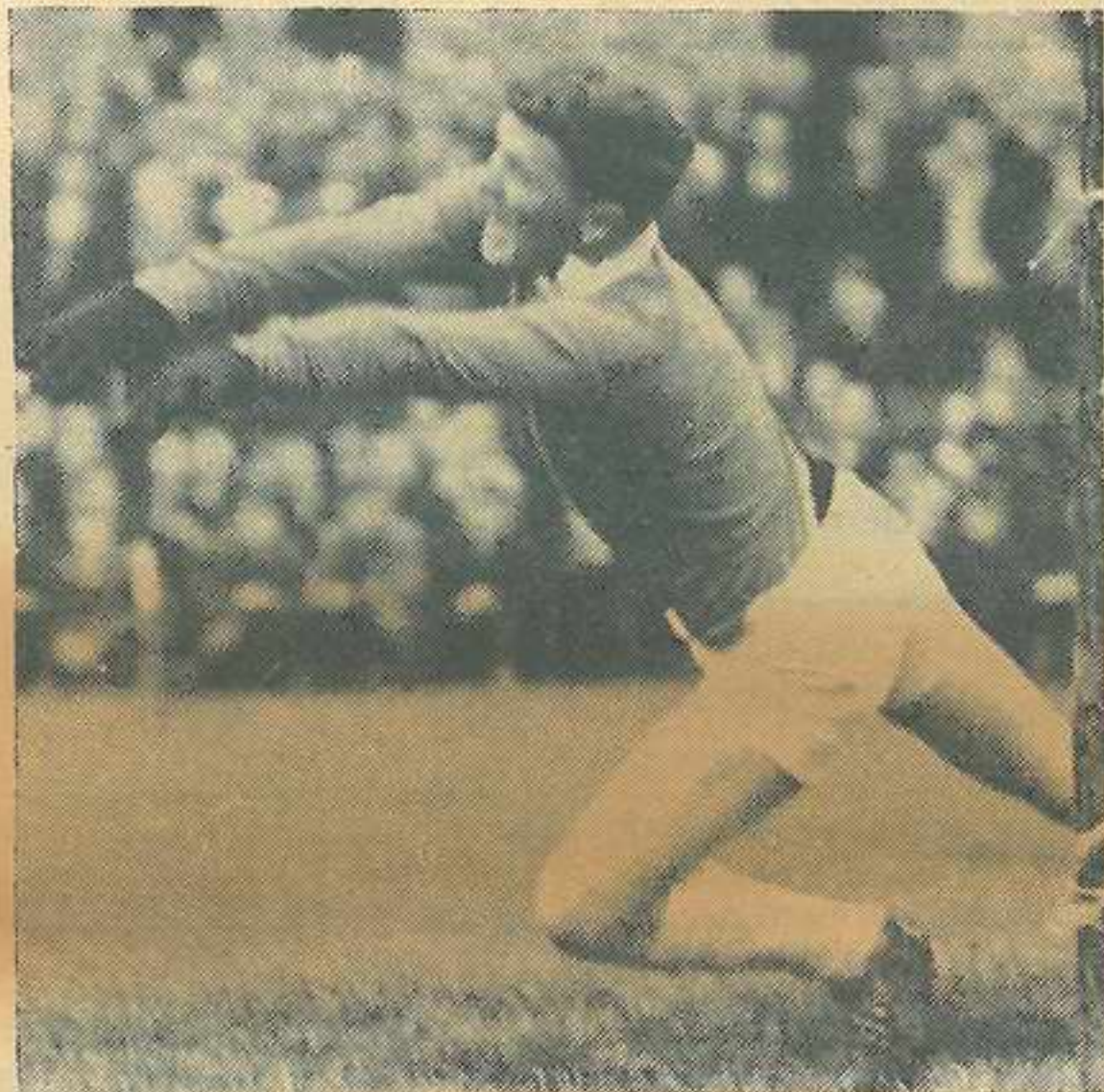
The committee set up by the Central Council to advise on football rule changes presents a rather odd gathering. One could well imagine Sean O'Neill and Weeshie Murphy not seeing eye to eye on the general approach to things on the verge of the square; referee John Dowling being forced to intervene; ex-Garda Bill Shannon having to restrain matters on the sideline and, eventually,

cellent series of instructor-Munster Council Chairman, Paddy Ryan, having to leave his pipe aside and make a pronouncement on the entire affair.

The five-man committee certainly provides a cross-section of the various G.A.A. strata but it is questionable if it is of the ideal composition to recommend on a new and enlightened approach to football. It could have done with more Sean O'Neills.

Sitting Pretty

Nobody can accuse the Roscommon selectors of being influenced by reputations when it comes to picking their senior goal-



John Neill in action

keeper. Against Sligo the job went to John Neill from Kiltoom, while included in the subs was Pat Reynolds the Elphin man who played for Connacht this year against Ulster and went to the U.S.A. with the Railway Cup winners in May.

If, as they say, you can judge a team by its subs I reckon Roscommon are sitting pretty!

The Other Side

When Sligo caused the shock of the season in Gaelic Park, New York, recently by holding Monaghan to a draw in the 1968 League final, one of their star players, at full back, was Tom Stanley who is a son of Kildare's legendary Larry Stanley.

Actually it was only in the final seconds that Sligo got the equaliser when Seamus Gallagher banged home a penalty shot. Longford referee John Kearney was none too popular with Monaghan folk over this penalty decision and, indeed, he had to be 'rescued' by fellow members of the Longford team who were at the game.

tional articles on hurling which were published in "Gaelic Weekly News" last year are to be published in book form. The series was compiled by Fr. Maher (Kilkenny) Des Ferguson and Donie Nealon the chief instructors on the Gormanston Hurling Courses.

Speaking of Gormanston reminds me that the two courses run by the Central

Council there this summer will be officially recognised by the Department of Education. This means that national teachers attending will be granted three days extra holidays; secondary teachers will get travelling expenses plus £5 expenses and vocational teachers come out of it best of all as they can receive full expenses from their County V.E.C.

What have these counties in common?

**DOWN
CORK
KERRY
LONGFORD
TIPPERARY
SLIGO**

yes, a Gaelic games YEARBOOK. These six YEARBOOKS are now on sale each priced 2/6. Whether or not you are from the counties in question, you will enjoy the feast of G.A.A. reading in each of these books. From leading newsagents or Press Cuchulainn, 58 Haddington Road, Dublin 4 (post free).



Referees in Revolt

THE Meath referees were not the only ones to express discontent recently. Since then a referee walked off the field in a Mayo senior football championship game.

It is surely time for the Association to look the question of referees straight in the eye. For years there has been talk of doing something and a few timid contributions, such as issuing a handbook for referees, were made. However, the real issues have been avoided and the stage may soon be reached when rebellious referees may be as common as rebellious students and then the G.A.A. will have a real problem on its hands.

J. & J. O'BYRNE LTD.

congratulate Mr. Kiely on on his industry and enterprise, and we are happy to express our pride and pleasure arising from our position of being exclusive suppliers to all outlets controlled by Mr. Kiely.

Limerick — Ennis Listowel

Gaelic News is published by Press Cuchulainn Ltd., 58 Haddington Rd., Dublin 4 (Phone 60271/7) and printed by Drogheda Printers Ltd., 8 Bolton St., Drogheda. A product of the National Publishing Group Ltd.

Ordained

Among those Maynooth students ordained recently was Jackie Fitzsimons who has figured on Down teams at all levels in recent years.

Ciste na Banban

Just about the handiest way for a G.A.A. club to make money is by availing of one of Ciste na Banban's special draws. The All-Ireland Draw is now being operated and there is still time to get in on the bonanza. Contact Sean O Laoire, Ciste na Banban Teo, 34 Plas Parnell, Cork, for full details.

Gormanston

I'm sure readers will be glad to hear that the ex-

OSMOND BENNETT & SONS LTD.

MAIN DEALERS

DUBLIN ROAD, PORTLAOISE

CARS, TRACTORS, COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Agents for:

RANSOME, ACKTIV KRONE and all popular makes OF FARM MACHINERY

FIRST CLASS AFTER SALES SERVICE

Phone: Portlaoise 21506. Code 0502

CURLEY'S

Ph.C., M.P.S.I.

VETERINARY and DISPENSING CHEMIST AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL SPRAYS, Etc.

MAIN STREET, BALLYHAUNIS

Telephone 110

BOOK NOW!

SELF-DRIVE CARS

MESSRS. CONLON and CONNOLLY Rathangan

Telephone: Kildare 24364

GALWAY RACES

1969 FIXTURES

* TUESDAY, JULY 29th

* WEDNESDAY, JULY 30th

* THURSDAY, JULY 31st

* Denotes Evening Meeting

WE HAVE THE MOST LUXURIOUS AND LARGEST FLEET OF CARS IN IRELAND

PLAY SAFE BY HIRING FROM

MOLEY'S MOTORS

THE SELF-DRIVE SPECIALIST

49, Victoria Square, Belfast

Telephone: 33123

10% DISCOUNT TO ALL G.A.A. CLUBS

YOU'LL NEVER REGRET YOU BOUGHT A KADETT

ROCHE'S GARAGE

MAIN DEALERS FOR OPEL CARS

KILLINICK

Phone Wexford 309

SALES SERVICE
SPARE PARTS