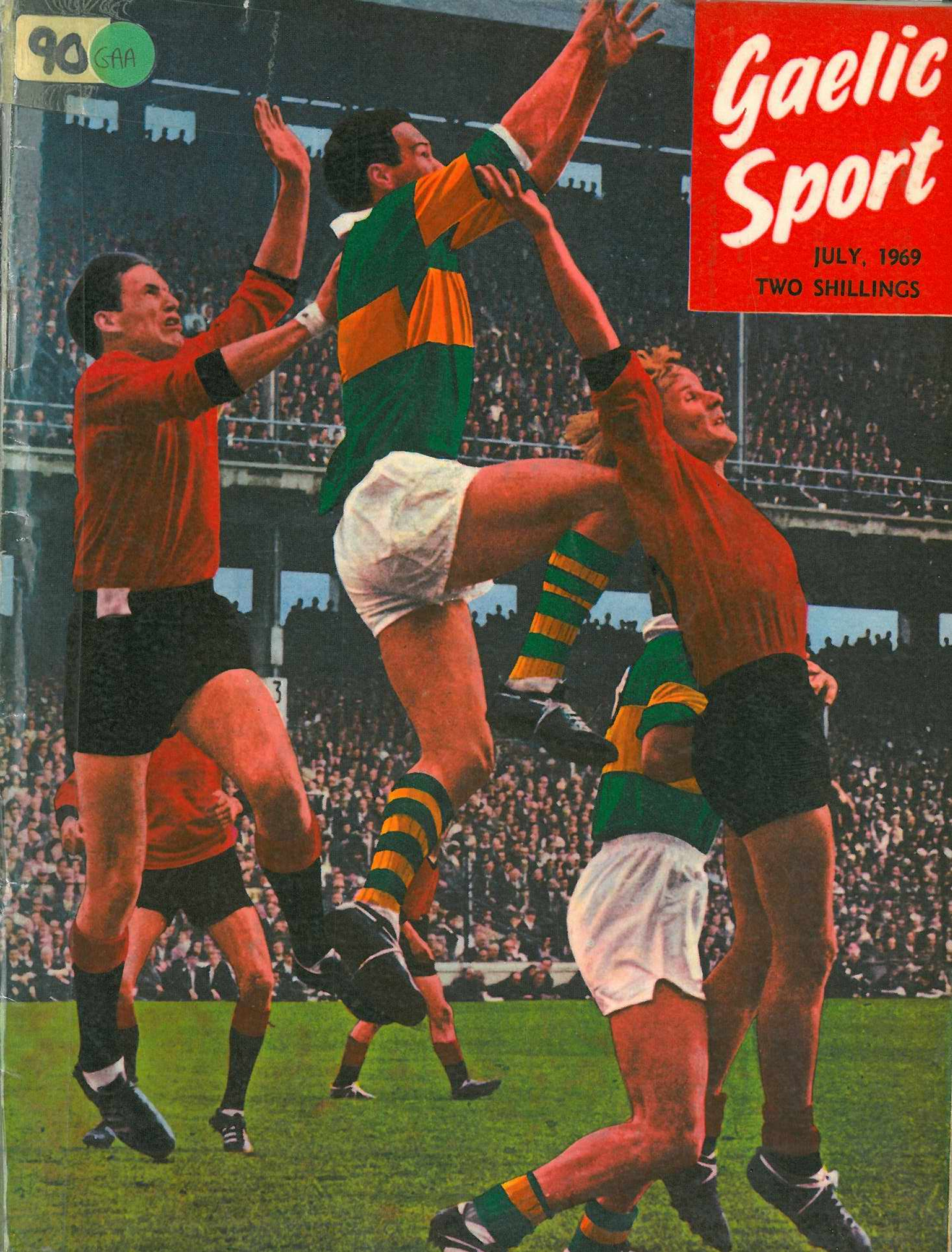
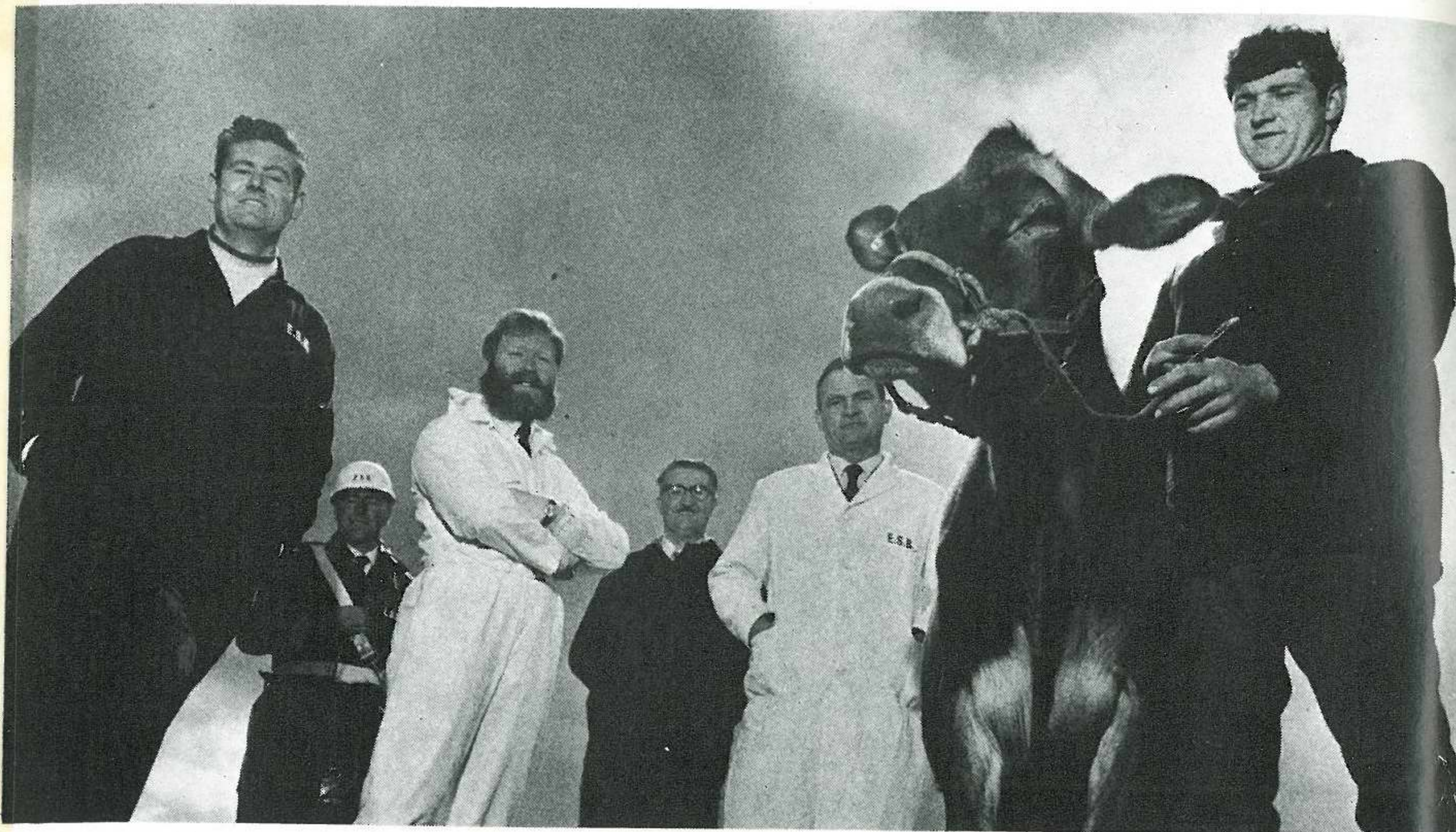


90 GAA

Gaelic Sport

JULY, 1969
TWO SHILLINGS



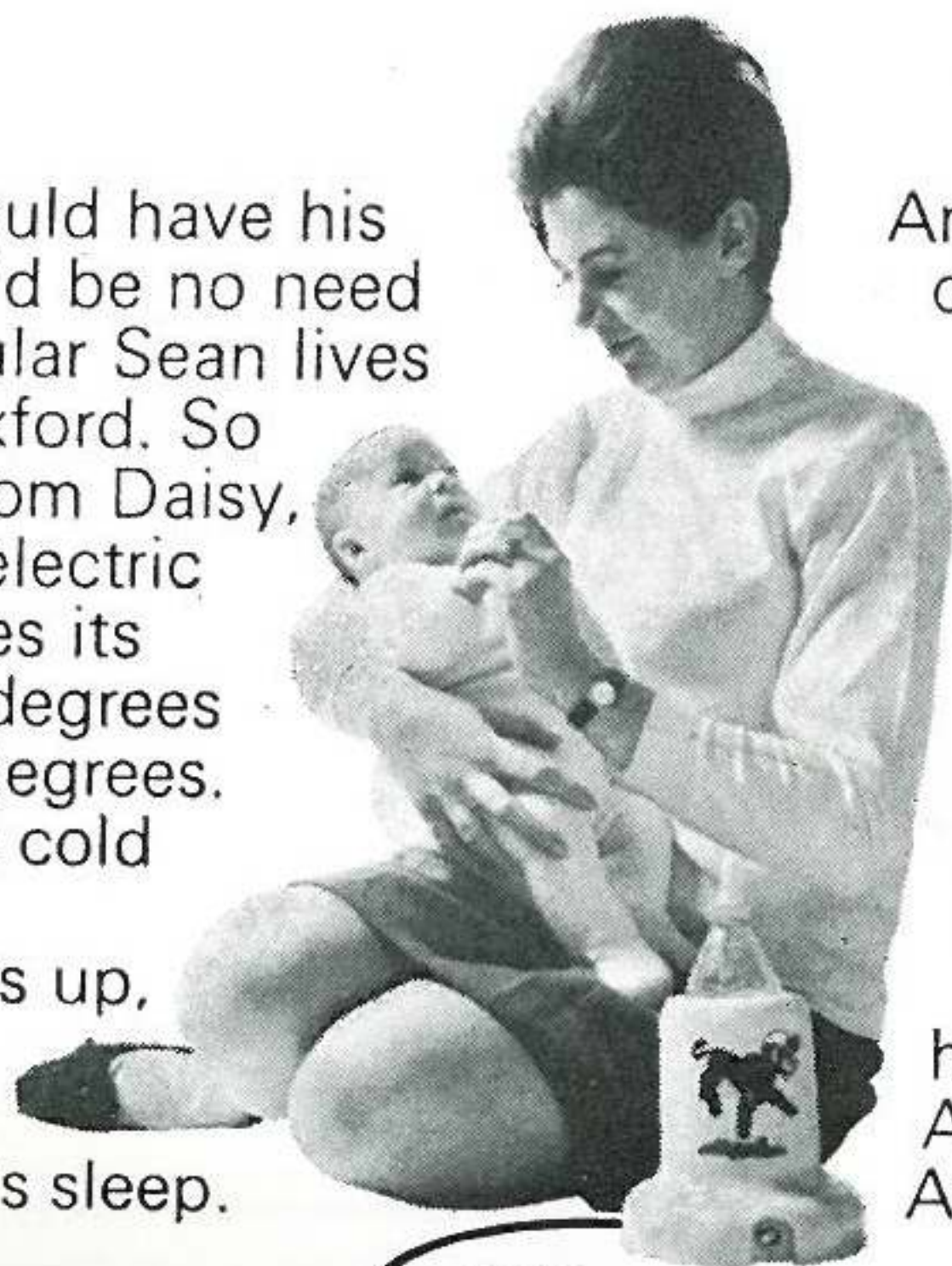


We cooled Daisy's milk this morning

And we'll warm Sean's tonight

If every single Sean could have his own individual Daisy, there'd be no need for the ESB. But this particular Sean lives in Dublin, and Daisy in Wexford. So when the milk comes hot from Daisy, it goes straight through an electric cooling plant. In two minutes its temperature drops from 70 degrees to a safe-from-bacteria 45 degrees. So that Sean's Mum buys it cold but clean.

Then when Sean wakes up, it's on with the bottle-warmer. He gets his heated milk. His Mum gets a night's sleep.

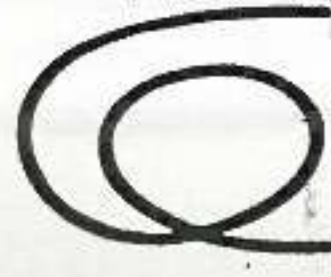


And the ESB gets three more contented customers.

It takes teamwork.

It takes a team of over 10,000 men and women in the ESB to make sure that Daisy gets her milk cooled and Sean his warm. The same team, the same experts are working for you. Planning, generating, installing and often literally slogging away morning, noon and night.

So that when you press a switch, hot becomes cold. And cold hot. And dark bright. And wheels turn. And fires burn. And and and and and.

 a little plug
for the ESB

Cumann Lúit-Éileas Saeóeal Comairle Laisean

Páirc an Chrocaigh

SENIOR HURLING FINAL: SUNDAY, 20th JULY

SENIOR FOOTBALL FINAL: SUNDAY, 27th JULY

★ GAELS OF THE PROVINCE, MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES ★

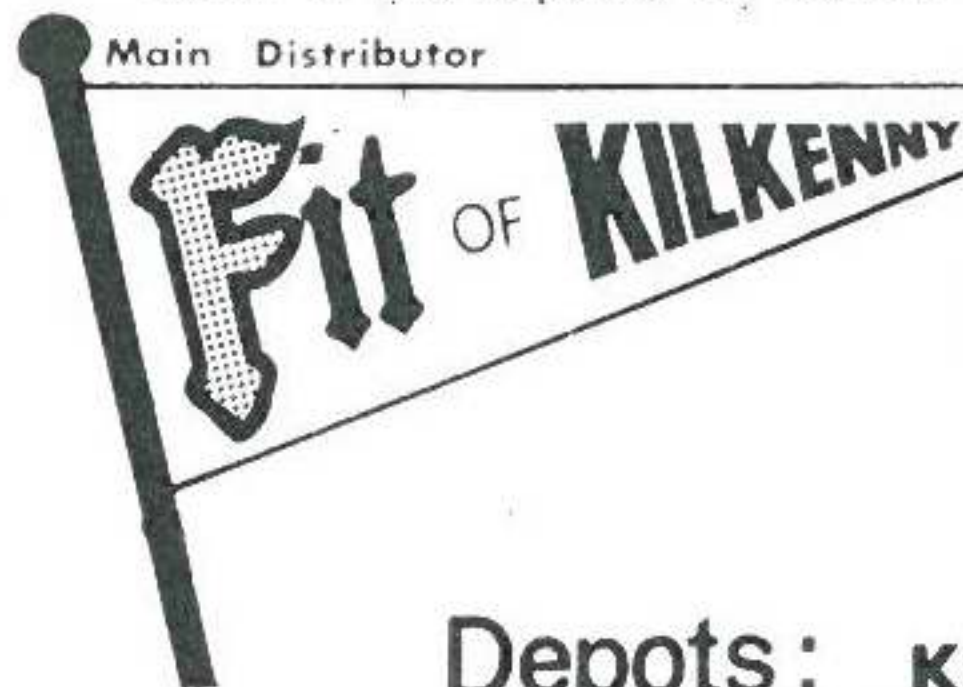
Goodgrip! Goodwear! GOOD YEAR!

Let us fit your car with GOODYEAR G800 Radials or G8 Cross-Ply tyres, plus the full range of GOODYEAR Tyres for car, van, truck or tractor. Come to the experts — Fit of Kilkenny.

GOOD YEAR

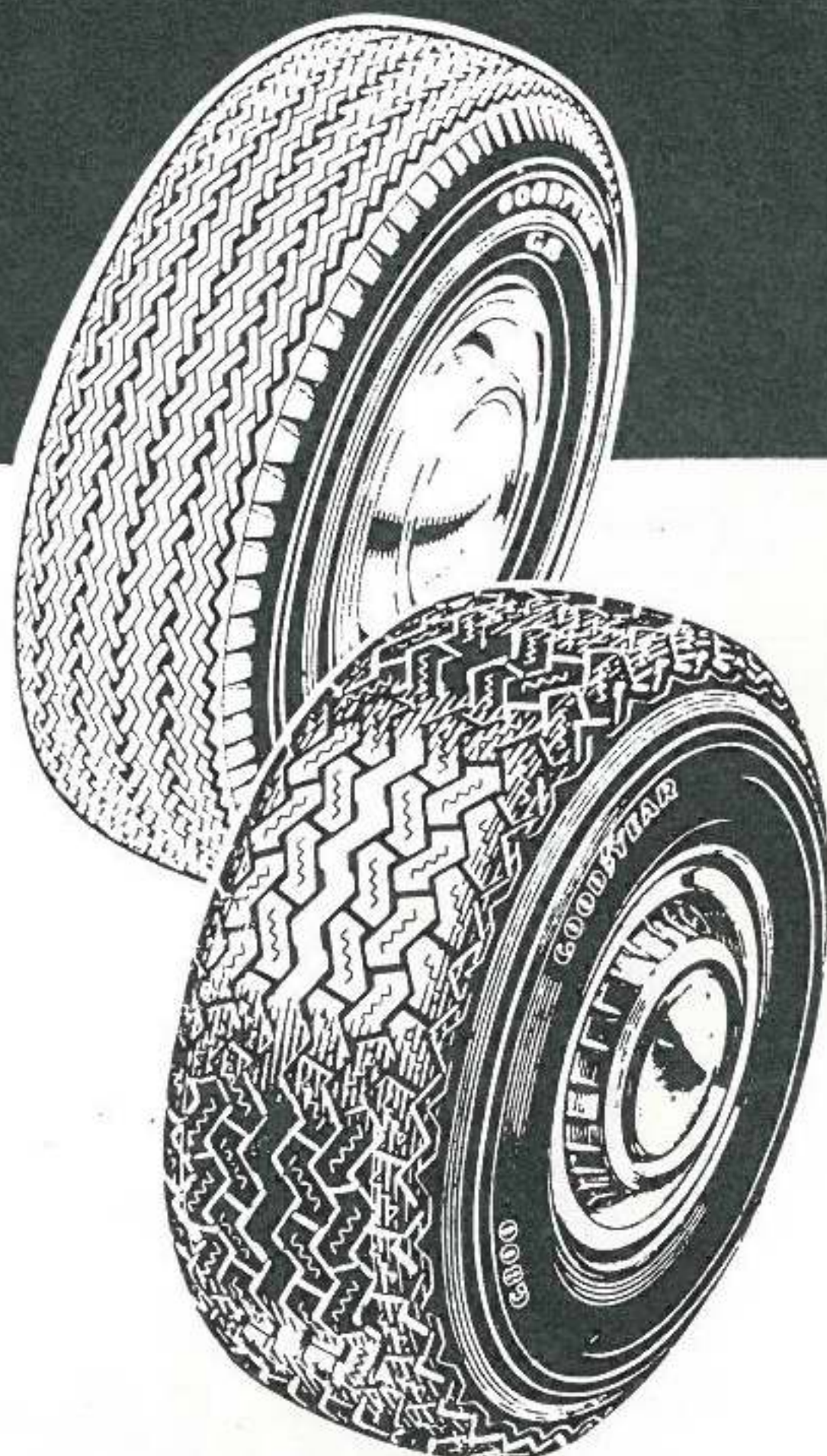
Made in the Republic of Ireland

Main Distributor



When your
tyres
are worn
avail of the
FIT KILKENNY
Remould service

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



LIMERICK CITY LIBRARY
REFERENCE DEPT.

J. B. ROCHE Ltd.

The complete
outdoor
leisure-life
specialist

- SKIN-DIVING EQUIPMENT
- POWER BOATS
- CRUISERS
- TENTS
- PICNIC EQUIPMENT
- WATER SKIING
- YACHTS
- CANOES
- CAMPING EQUIPMENT
- SAILING CLOTHS
- FOOTWEAR

CALL TO :

13 Cornmarket, Dublin 8

City end Thomas St. Half day Saturday.

1/2 Cornmarket Street,

Cork — Open all day Saturday

A wide-open world
awaits you—at Roche's



for Boats and Chrysler outboards
— sales, service and advice

J. B. ROCHE LTD.,

**13 CORNMARKE,
DUBLIN 8.**

CHRYSLER
MAKE THINGS

MOVE



YAMAHA

*T.V.O. Paraffin
9 h.p. model
P 125 A
Outboard model*

The Yamaha P125A 9 h.p. Outboard Motor runs for only 8d. per hour. To start with, it costs only £135-0-0, about £40-0-0 less than ordinary motors. One gallon fuel — T. V. O. Paraffin Oil—lasts a full 3 hours cruising.

Call and see this and all others models at—

J. B. Roche Ltd.

**13 Cornmarket, Dublin 8.
and
1/2 Cornmarket St., Cork.**



**O'SULLIVAN'S, YAMAHA DISTRIBUTORS,
ROCK STREET, TRALEE. PHONE 066-21011.**

Water Sports

NOWADAYS an interest in a hobby such as water-skiing or skin-diving or even aqualung diving is not something confined solely to the sporting millionaire. It is coming within the pocket of more and more people, even those of us who have to look twice at a pound note before spending it.

To take water-skiing first, this is already a thriving sport here, as the Irish Waterski Federation will testify. Shops like the fascinating and spacious one of J. B. Roche Ltd., in Cornmarket Street, Dublin, find that quite a proportion of their business now comes from supplying equipment to water-skiers.

To begin with you need a pair of skis, and these come in various types and prices to suit beginners and experts, as well as special small skis for children. It helps before you start skiing if you can swim, but non-swimmers can also ski if they remember always to wear a life-jacket. In the Irish climate it is also advisable to wear what's called a "wet-suit". This is a skin-tight suit, made of neoprene, which is like rubber, sometimes lined with nylon. You can begin with the "shorty" version and add trousers and arm pieces afterwards if you like.

Water is trapped between the body and the close fitting suit and is quickly warmed to body heat. This insulates you against cold and you remain beautifully warm and comfortable in the coldest water. Without a wet suit you'd find it hard to keep skiing for long except on the hottest days of the Irish summer although some hardy people insist on skiing without them.

Water-skiing is a group sport in that the skier needs someone to drive the boat that pulls him along

and also someone else with the driver to keep an eye on the skier. People usually take it in turns to either drive the boat, keep watch or have a go on the skies. A tip for those who want to try water skiing: never pull on the ski rope which connects you to the towing boat, let it pull you. If you jerk it . . . look out for a ducking.

Talking of boats, it is opportune here to mention the world famous Yamaha outboard motor. These motors first appeared on the Irish market about six years ago. They were like all new makes of outboards—received with reservations, but encouraging sales followed and they are now perhaps the fastest selling outboard motor on the Irish

market. The outstanding advantage of the Yamaha is that it burns T.V.O. paraffin and for one gallon you can have three hours cruising at 1s. 7d. per gallon, also being air cooled there is no problem with vapourising.

Free-diving, though it is connected with water-skiing in that both pursuits assume involvement with water, is a different kettle of fish if you'll pardon the expression under the circumstances. Most divers are bitten by the deep-sea bug after having spent some time finning around near the surface of the water with flippers and a snorkel. You can pass many fascinating hours doing this and perhaps it'll interest you to know that you can equip yourself completely for this by an outlay of about six pounds or so.

We have this on the authority of Mr. Balfe, the young general manager of Divers Supply Co. Ltd. of Hatch St. Mr. Balfe, himself a keen diver, has salvaged pieces of pottery from a coffin ship which set out for America during the famine times and sank while still within sight of the Irish mainland. Other divers are fascinated by marine life, while others make

● TO PAGE 31



● J. B. Roche carry a most comprehensive range in water sports equipment.

You'd be surprised

... how easy it is to open a savings account with AIB, and at how much you will accumulate with a little effort and regular deposits . . . Which after all is the secret of successful saving.

With an AIB Savings Book you can actually see your account growing. (You will in fact be paid $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ interest on your savings.)

To open an account is a very simple matter ; just drop into any one of the 430 AIB branches throughout Ireland ; AIB staff are friendly people who will give you all the information and encouragement you need.

Don't forget if you become a friend of AIB now ; they'll be your friend, when you need them.



Allied Irish Banks

Munster & Leinster Bank, Provincial Bank, Royal Bank

Gaelic Sport

Vol. 12. No. 7 JULY, 1969.

Offices:
605 North Circular Road,
Dublin 1.
Telephone: 44211

INDEX

	Page
<i>Youth and Gaelic Games: The Making of Heroes</i> —by Eamon Flanagan, C.M.	6
<i>Top Ten</i>	7
<i>The 'Wandering Player'</i> —by Moondharrig	9
<i>Fonsie Condon will cheer for London</i> —by Sean Murphy	11
<i>New Crowd Records Unlikely</i> —by Owen McCann	13
<i>Denis Coughlan — talking to Noel Coogan</i>	15
<i>Playing Rules Committee: A step in the right direction</i> —by Eamonn Young	17
<i>A Profile of Brendan Lynch</i> —by Jim Bennett	19
<i>Crossword</i>	23
<i>The Buchanan Report and the G.A.A.: 1—Blueprint for Disaster?</i> by Jay Drennan ...	24
<i>2—Action Needed Now!</i> —by Seamus O Ceallaigh	27
<i>Coming Back to Youth</i> by Owen McCann	29
<i>Tír, Teanga, Cluichí</i> —Seán Bán do scri	31
<i>The Schools and Colleges</i> —by Paul Grace	39
<i>Handball</i> —by Alleyman	41
<i>Disturbing Revelations</i> —by Seamus O Ceallaigh	42
<i>Gaelic Games Still Far Out in Front</i> —by Noel Coogan ...	45
<i>Quiz</i>	46

COVER PHOTO

Our cover picture this month features that Prince of footballers, Mick O'Connell of Kerry, out-jumping Sean O'Neill (left) and John Purdy of Down (see page 47).

CLARE'S EXAMPLE

IN his report to Congress '69, the General Secretary, Mr. Seán Ó Síocháin, criticised what he called the "little republics" which were emerging within the G.A.A. He was referring to units, and perhaps groups of individuals, who refused to accept the decisions of higher bodies and in doing so rejected the right and the duty of those in authority to fulfil the functions for which they were democratically elected—that is, **TO RULE**.

The right to protest is inalienable. But to undermine authority by flouting its decisions is a highly dangerous activity, for if authority breaks down only chaos can follow and society itself is eventually the only sufferer.

Society in this microcosm of the wider affairs of man is the membership of the G.A.A. The Association has always prided itself on the thoroughly democratic procedures on which it operates, from the club grass-roots right up to Congress.

The people in authority at all levels are in that position by vote of the members. They can be removed and replaced by vote. In the meantime the right of

elected officials to fulfil their mandate, that is to govern, is as fundamental as is their duty to dispense government with justice.

Last year, the Cork club, Glen Rovers, refused to accept the authority of the Cork County Board when that body expelled Andrew O'Flynn. Glen Rovers were wrong, however aggrieved they may have been by what seemed to them an unjust ruling.

Recently, it was rumoured that Clare would withdraw from the Munster championships when their chairman was suspended for twelve months by the Munster Council. Happily, wisdom prevailed: the Clare County Board eschewed irresponsible action. Instead their chairman has taken the democratic course—he has appealed his case to the Central Council.

Thus has authority been respected. Clare were aggrieved by the ruling of the Munster Council. But they accepted that ruling. Democracy has been well served. The headline will stand for all who might wish, in similar circumstances, to set up their own "little republic."

THE MAKING OF HEROES

By EAMON FLANAGAN, C.M.

IN this age of sudden change, all established institutions are undergoing a searching analysis. The Gaelic Athletic Association is no exception. In the larger cities, Gaelic games are getting a severe shaking from other forms of sport. In many quarters in the 26-Counties the appeal of these games to youth is not as alluring as it used to be. This is even more significantly true of youth in the Six Counties of the North-east.

After living here for some years, I can say that the state of our games among youth in the Six Counties is anything but encouraging. The sport which chiefly attracts youth here is soccer, and this for a number of reasons. The mass media portray soccer as a most glamorous game, particularly by way of television and colour magazines. Young lads want heroes, and if they don't find them in their street or town, they'll find them on T.V. or in the glossy magazines. The telly can make an individual more 'real' than the chap you must travel twenty miles to see on a cold winter afternoon.

Because we, as members of the G.A.A. do not present our own manly heroes in a fashion that is neither idolatrous nor irrelevant, they must seek heroes elsewhere. I would like to give some suggestions as to how this can be done.

Firstly, we must begin with a right attitude. This must be an attitude of positive effort, not a critical one, deploring our youths' infatuation with English soccer stars. Anyway, lamenting the fact doesn't change it. Instead, let's cash in on it. For Northern youth, I think the whole image of Gaelic games must be changed. This is quite possible and will not do violence to the Association's aims. The standard of play must be improved and then the games should be brought to T.V. and into magazines.

The objection is heard that we cannot televise games as in England. Financially, this should not be a loss to the G.A.A. It would be a gain in prestige and interest from the point of view of youth, and this is what counts if we want to ensure the future. In England, each week two soccer games are shown on television

after they have been played. In this way the gate receipts are not affected, though in fact fans will go out to see good football, irrespective of T.V., if the standard is really good and something worthwhile is at stake.

Our own All-Ireland finals are an example. Our games need to be of a high standard if they are to go over well on T.V. This demands a lot from amateurs. But it is quite feasible, as we have seen so well realised by Down and Galway in this decade, and even by some minor teams. The excuse that it's difficult to achieve is not really acceptable, because our games must of necessity be good and be perfected still further, if they are to compete with other ball games. And all of us wish our national games to be first-class in their own right.

It is not asking too much to request that one Gaelic game a week (40 minutes of it, after the total length of a match has been lengthened to 80 minutes) be filmed for television and shown later at a reasonable hour of the evening. There are obstacles of a technical nature, I understand, to televising matches outside Dublin. But R.T.E. is a national service and could manage to extend a little here. Quite a lot of race meetings in Ireland are televised. The Northern Ireland T.V. channels could also be enlisted in the general plan.

In order to have good material available each week, there could be a revised National League structure with, say, three divisions in both hurling and football to cover the diverse standards in each game. When we think of the impact of the World Cup games in soccer in

1966, we soon see the great possibilities of television in "selling" Gaelic games. It seems to me that this approach is needed, and the sooner, the better; otherwise, a great opportunity will have been lost, perhaps irreparably.

Coming to the subject of magazines, it seems essential that at least one good weekly be launched on the Irish market to cater for Gaelic games. It should be of good quality paper and should sell at about a shilling. If it costs more, it may put off the youngsters rather than attract them. The pictures in this magazine would be the most appealing part. The soccer weeklies currently on sale here feature lots of pictures. One of these weeklies has six full colour photograph pages, two of which are the centre pages, depicting a team every week. Players appear on the others in portrait or action roles. The youngsters (and in-

deed, adults) love to see these each week, and lads will naturally cut out their pin-ups to adorn their bedrooms.

More power to them. But why not add a colour-photo of Seán O'Neill, Jimmy Doyle or Mick O'Connell and many others, equally great heroes in their own spheres, but not sufficiently known, acknowledged, and imitated in their play? It would be wonderful to have a county team each week in full colour.

Young fellows like to know about their heroes, about their styles of play, their training, and also about their occupations and backgrounds (especially if a player has had an uphill fight). It makes interesting reading to discover that Bobby Charlton, the great soccer player, is also a man with a sense of humour and does a lot for charity.

Aspects like these and many more could be brought to the

fore. The potentialities of a good magazine are endless, given imagination and skill. It is very important that the magazine be about PLAYERS, not about meetings, officials and social activities. The latter, although of significance in their own place, make boring reading for active youth. Games and players are what interest the young people.

These are some of the improvements I would suggest at present to interest and involve our youth. I would see them more attracted along these lines than by spacious bars and elaborate social centres, which exist in some other sporting societies and yet have no great magnetism for youth.

After all, it's thirty PLAYERS of Gaelic football who draw the biggest crowds to any Irish sporting stadium. It's up to us to ensure that we don't rest on their laurels.

TOP TEN

THIS is one of those rare occasions since we introduced our new rating system when one player is awarded a maximum ten points.

That distinguished man is Kildare's Jack Donnelly, who played absolutely superbly at midfield when the Lilywhites defeated Meath in the Leinster championship at Croke Park on Sunday, May 25.

Mick Roche of Tipperary: tops the hurling list.



Another auspicious event occurred during the period from which these lists are compiled (May 25 to June 8). That was Wexford's sensational victory over the 1968 champions, Longford, in the Leinster football championship at Croke Park on June 8. Joe Foley and Andy Merrigan, who laid the foundations of victory at midfield, take second and third places to Kildare's Donnelly.

Hurling did not figure very prominently in the period under review, which accounts for the preponderance of Tipperary players in the list. The Munster

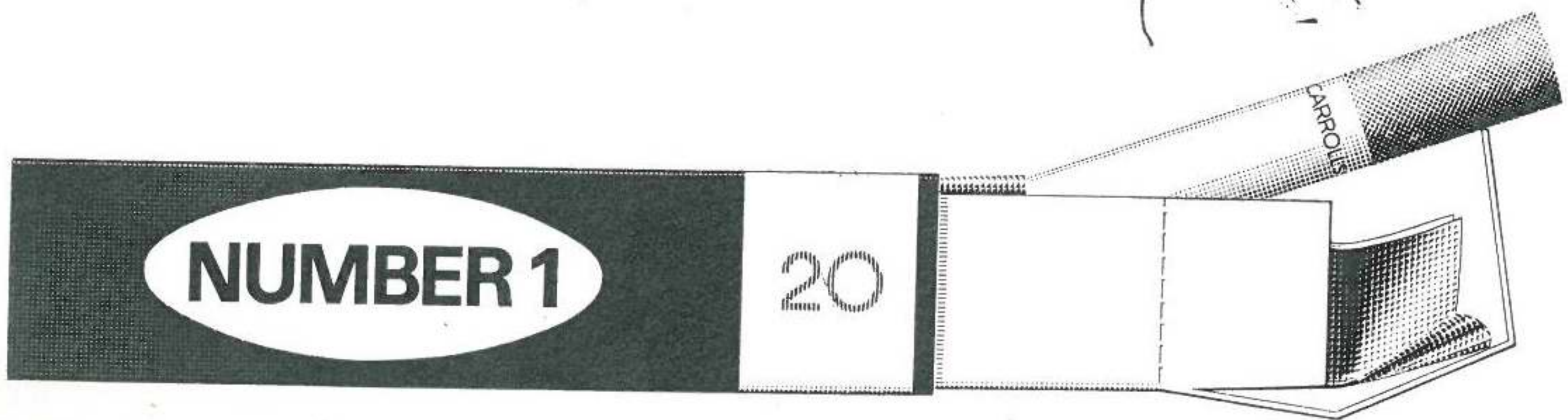
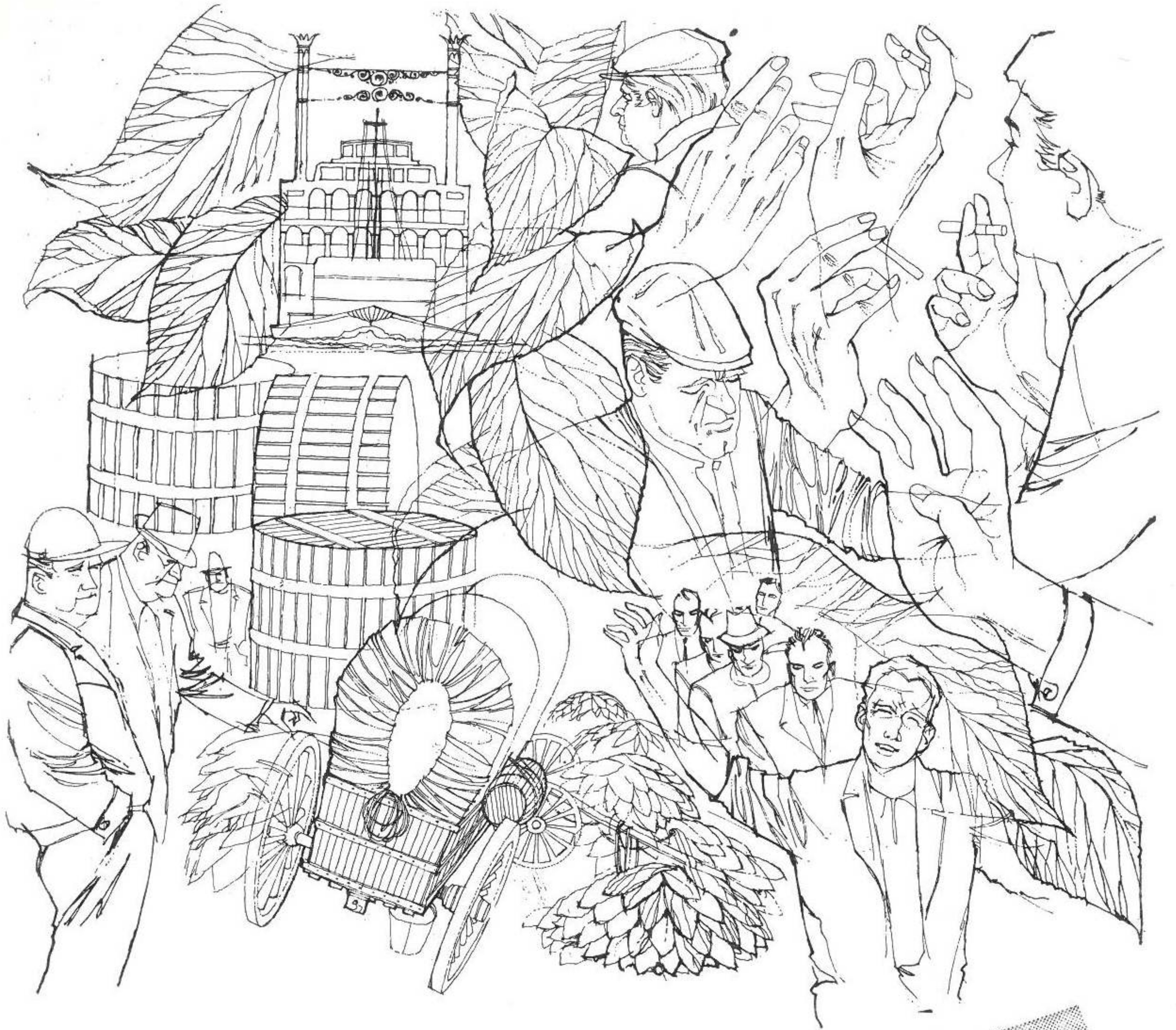
champions had many stars in their provincial championship win over Waterford on June 1—as they also had at Wembley on Saturday, May 24.

FOOTBALL

- (10) J. Donnelly Kildare
- (9) J. Foley Wexford
- (8) A. Merrigan Wexford
- (8) T. Carew Kildare
- (8) C. Conlon Westmeath
- (7) D. Long Cork
- (7) S. O'Neill Down
- (7) P. Doherty Down
- (6) M. Greene Antrim
- (6) F. Cogan Cork

HURLING

- (9) M. Roche Tipperary
- (9) P. Nolan Wexford
- (8) M. Keating Tipperary
- (8) J. Kirwan Waterford
- (8) P. J. Ryan Tipperary
- (8) J. Doyle Tipperary
- (7) T. Walsh Waterford
- (7) M. O'Dwyer Tipperary
- (7) P. Conroy Laois
- (7) J. Lyons Laois



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

The 'Wandering Player'

THE "wandering player" we have always had with us on the G.A.A. fields, nor, unless the wanderer was stepping down too far altogether out of his class, was it looked upon as a particularly heinous crime in my young days.

There was a kind of unwritten code about the whole thing. You did not play an All-Ireland star from some other part of the country and who happened to be a close friend of yours in a junior championship game. In the first place, the All-Ireland man would probably prove so good that he would stick out like a sore thumb and start all sorts of people asking all sorts of questions. And even forty years ago, when communications were not nearly as good as they are to-day, All-Ireland players were all too likely to be recognised.

But, if the All-Ireland star had, in turn, a friend who was a useful club-player, unknown outside his own immediate locality, you would never know where that man might turn up during his holidays. But the most famous incident in this regard that lingers in my mind occurred in a certain South Leinster county—no names, no pack-drill and, even after forty years, it is just as well to tread warily.

Anyway, a clerical student home on holidays, found that a

junior club, which usually went out in the first round, had got a first round bye, a second round walk-over and was still in the county championship. This clerical student, himself a great hurling enthusiast, made a game attempt to whip the same enthusiasm into the team. However they pointed out that as there were two other hurling teams in the parish, one of them senior, they just had not the material.

So the clerical student hit on the bright idea of importing his own material. For the next game, against a not very powerful side, he called in two or three of his College friends and his team won, narrowly.

This really made him ambitious. The next game which was not played for some weeks, was against what was acknowledged as the best team in the county, and the clerical student really spread his net for this one. This time he produced two or three real "springers", some of the best men of whom Maynooth could then boast and, to the

amazement of the county, that obscure club beat the favourites with something to spare.

The end of the story can, I suppose, be used to prove conclusively that crime does not pay. Due to replays and objections in the other end of the county, the final was delayed until late in the year. All the clerics had by then long returned to their studies, the obscure club had to fall back on its own resources, and was sadly routed.

But in recent years the problem of the "wandering player" has taken on a very different aspect, almost entirely due to the increased speed of long-distance travel. Ever since the last war for instance, there have been instances of players, some of them pretty well known, popping up on club teams in Britain without any transfer from their club teams at home.

It is only fair to point out two facts about this abuse of the rules. In the first place, the men who so transgressed had not gone to England to play. Almost invariably, they were men who had gone over there to work in temporary jobs and who were lured into breaking the rules by the appeals of their friends and by their own innate love of the games. In addition, the G.A.A. authorities in Britain have never countenanced such conduct, and, where illegality could be proved, have taken severe action, even against inter-county stars.

In the last few years, however, we have had an entirely new development, in the flying out, by county teams in New York, of players from home to strengthen their sides in competitive games over there. And the demand for players in New York is becoming all the keener

● TO PAGE 11

**Texaco announce
a radical new fuel:**



**The new
clean power
anti-wear petrol**



● FROM PAGE 9

because due to the restrictions on immigration, many exiled teams are finding it well nigh impossible to maintain playing strength from the material permanently at their disposal.

Moreover, it is now possible for a man to fly out of Shannon on Saturday, play in New York on Sunday and be back in Shannon on Monday morning. And what is more, if he wants it that way, no one need ever know he left the country except the immigration officials at the airport.

Now, I would be the last to deprive anyone of an American trip, but the position now is that some steps must be taken either to regularise this traffic or to stop it.

In the first place, players from here who cross over to play in New York are, without transfer from their own clubs, or permission from their own Boards, taking part illegally in competitive games. In fact, their transgressions are far more serious than those of men who play illegally in Britain, for the teams they play for and against in New York are not affiliated to the G.A.A. at all.

Now, the cost of flying out those players and maintaining them in New York, even for a few days, is not chicken-feed, but it is obviously paying someone to do so.

To my mind, it is high time Central Council held an enquiry into this whole matter and laid down some definite rules one way or another, because, if my information is correct, and I have no reason to doubt it, up to a dozen "wandering players" from home were seen in action in a series of New York games on a recent Sunday, and I doubt if all or any of them whose names were mentioned to me had permission to be there at all.

Fonsie Condon will cheer for London

By SEAN MURPHY

LONDON senior hurlers are back in the race for All-Ireland championship honours again this year, for the first time since 1903. The decision of Congress to admit them at the semi-final stage has been received with mixed feelings everywhere.

Many feel that the exiles are still not up to senior standard, and it would have been better to let them play in the Leinster championship. One man who refutes all this and thinks that London will be a match for the best is Tipperary-born Fonsie Condon, who won an intermediate medal with London last year.

Fonsie is a native of Lattin-Cullen, in West Tipperary, a football stronghold. He learned his hurling at Tipperary C.B.S. and was a member of the team that won the Harty Cup for that school in 1959—the Abbey's only success in this coveted Munster colleges award. A team-mate on that occasion was the present Tipperary goalkeeper, John O'Donoghue.

He later figured on Tipperary minor hurling and football teams and won an All-Ireland intermediate hurling medal with his native county in 1963. Later, he emigrated to London and joined Brian Boru's, one of the strongest hurling units in the English capital.

Now back in Ireland, he is employed as a clerk with A.C.C. in Dublin. He had many outings

with Tipperary's senior hurlers recently and is also a member of the Premier county junior football team.

Recently I quizzed the genial Condon about London's entry to senior status and he told me he had no doubt that London would prove their worth.

"The standard of club hurling is very high in London," he continued and the panel of players for inter-county matches are a most enthusiastic bunch, dedicated to training. With the spirit that prevails in the camp prior to a championship game they will have to succeed.

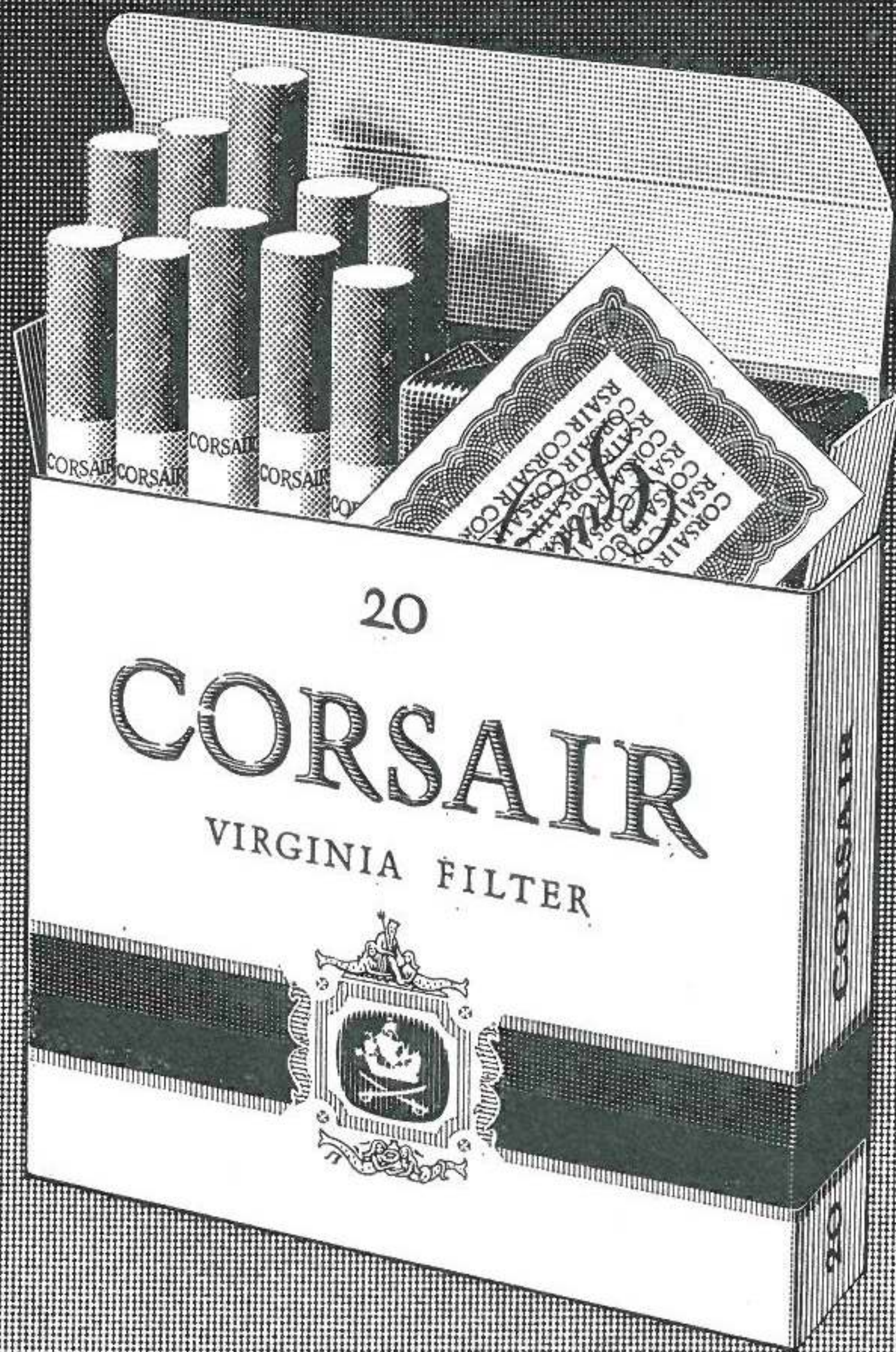
I pointed out that enthusiasm is all very well, but surely there is a big gap in standards between the intermediate and senior grades.

"I agree thoroughly", Fonsie replied, "but most of the London side could command a regular place on any county senior team. Such players as Jim Bennett, Pat Quigley, Matt Meaney, Pat O'Neill and Matt Kirwan are really experienced performers who will inspire and lead the remainder.

Would you like to assist London this year I asked?

"I would, definitely," he said. "I enjoyed my term with the team, but the call of Ireland was too much for me and I am glad to have a job in my native land. Nevertheless, I will be cheering London on August 17th."

Corsair for guaranteed quality



4'6
for twenty

CRE/13

NEW CROWD RECORDS UNLIKELY

THE fact that the All-Ireland senior championships look more open this season than for many years past is certain to be reflected in bumper attendances at this month's concluding games in the provincial championships.

Nevertheless, the odds are still against new attendance peaks being scaled, for the records for the majority of the finals are pretty impressive and, in addition, the arrival of the family car, while undoubtedly a help to "gates," also frequently means nowadays that matches lose out in competition with the seaside on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

The greatest gathering yet at a provincial final was at Limerick in 1961 to see a Munster hurling clash between those legendary rivals, Tipperary and Cork. A tremendous crowd of 60,177 paid £7,469-15-5. The previous peak for any provincial final was reached at another Munster hurling game two years earlier, when 55,174 enthusiasts passed

through the Thurles turnstiles for a set-to featuring Waterford and Cork.

The best attendance at a Southern decider since that 1961 high-point was at the 1964 clash of Tipperary and Cork, which drew 44,245 at Limerick. Last year, the same counties attracted 43,238 fans to Limerick. These rank as the only 40,000-plus attendances since 1961.

In Leinster, we have to go back to a 1957 meeting of Kilkenny and Wexford for the provincial hurling attendance record. That game was watched by the biggest attendance until then at any provincial hurling game — 52,272.

The Leinster decider with the greatest appeal since then was that of 1962, when 45,303 watched Wexford beat Kilkenny. That is the third provincial highest of the present decade. Second to the 1961 record is a gathering of 49,670 at Tipperary's win over Cork in 1960 at Thurles. That year, too, the Leinster final attracted 42,332—the only 40,000-plus crowd, other than in 1962, at an Eastern fixture in the 'sixties.

1962 was in the nature of a vintage year for Leinster. Dublin and Offaly pulled in 59,643 to Croke Park for their football final clash, which still stands as the No. 1 for all four provinces in this code. That figure smashed by a whopping 10,738 the previous Leinster best of 48,860 at the 1955 Dublin-Meath clash. In 1964, Croke Park housed 57,133 for Meath against Dublin.

That year, 1962, also stands out in Ulster. A year earlier a new record went into the book at 38,500 for the Casement Park clash of Down and Armagh. It was Down against Cavan in the 1962 final, and that Casement Park encounter

brought 40,000-plus fans through the turnstiles.

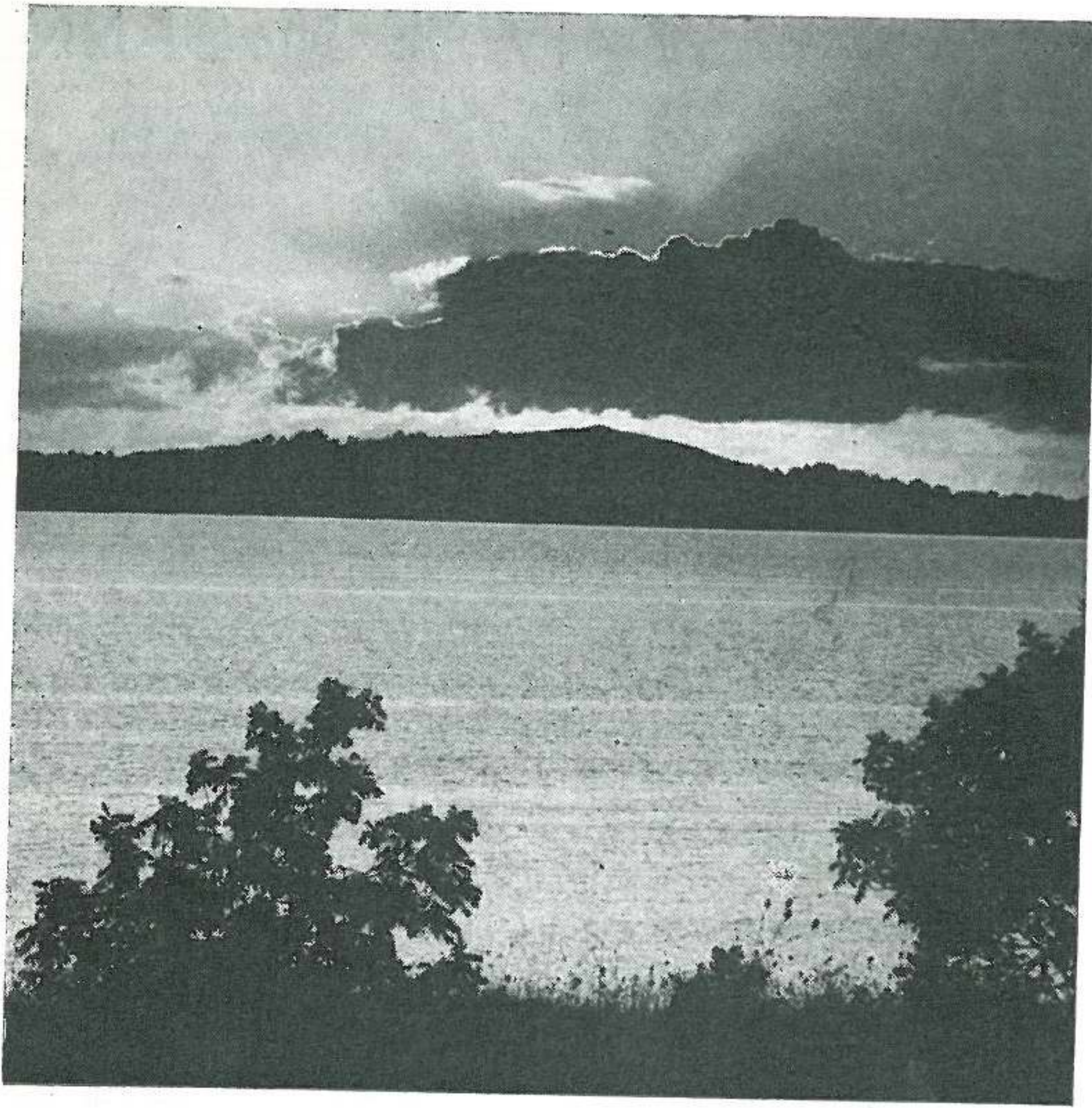
Galway and Mayo set new figures for their 1964 Connacht football summit at Tuam. A crowd of 30,000 smashed the previous Connacht record of 22,300 at the 1962 meeting of Roscommon and Galway at Castlebar. Galway and Sligo drew another 30,000 at the 1965 decider at Tuam, and there was a capacity 30,000 at Castlebar last year, when Galway beat Mayo.

The Munster football final has not been drawing the crowds to the same extent as the other deciders, understandably so, of course, in view of the position of the game outside of Kerry and Cork. The outstanding figure for the present decade is 27,852 for a replay at Killarney in 1961. The Cork Athletic Grounds accommodated the tops in the 'sixties—26,028 in 1964. That was for a final.

In the provincial championships "stakes" Kerry are the pace-setters as regards titles won in one particular senior championship. This, of course, leaves aside Galway, who have won more provincial titles in the one code than any county — 60 in hurling. This total, however, includes all the years the county went into the All-Ireland championship proper without having played a single game.

Kerry reached the half-century last year. It is interesting to note that Cavan, who are Kerry's nearest rivals in both codes with 46 crowns, had no fewer than 11 titles to their credit when Kerry only won out in Munster for the second time in 1903. The provincial specialists took the first of their 50 championships in 1892, while Cavan were last victorious in Ulster in 1967.

● TO PAGE 14



How you can buy Killarney etc...

Once you're in Ireland, all the famous and fabled spots you've longed to see are easily within your reach. For the price of a CIE train or coach ticket, you can buy Killarney or Glendalough or Connemara and travel in style, too. Our radio train trips across country are a great favourite. We whisk you from Dublin to Killarney's blue lakes, Connemara's rugged splendour, or to Limerick for a Shannon cruise. Some people like our trains so much they buy a Rambler Ticket for a full 15 days' unlimited travel on our services. A bargain at £9. Another £2 will provide unlimited travel on provincial bus routes. If you want to see some scenic splendour without stirring too far from Dublin, we have the answer, too. Our day trips by coach to Glendalough, Doonaree, the Boyne Valley, Powerscourt Demesne or the Blessington Lakes. Or you can choose a CIE Golden Holiday for a relaxed holiday of a week or two at any of our famous resorts. Could be the holiday of a lifetime. For full glorious details, contact Tours Manager, CIE, 59 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1.



● FROM PAGE 13

Well behind this pair in third place are Kilkenny with 40 Leinster hurling championships between 1887 and 1967. Cork come next with 30 in hurling from 1890 to 1966, and Tipperary reached the 29 mark last year. Their first was in 1887.

Dublin and Mayo also have 29 crowns. The Leinster county won their honours between 1891 and 1965, and Mayo's were chalked up in the period 1901-1967. These are football successes.

As regards the football and hurling championships combined, it's Galway well ahead with 26 in football backing up those 60 in hurling, for a total of 86. Antrim are next with 54 (11 football, 43 hurling).

I don't think, however, anyone in Galway or Antrim would dispute the fact that Dublin are really the outstanding county in this regard. As well as their 29 football wins, they have 23 in hurling, which is 52 championships in all. And Kerry are only one behind, for they have one hurling title as well. Cork come next with 49, including 19 in football.

Longford are the newcomers to the provincial roll of honour with that senior football success in Leinster last year. Previous to that we had to go back to the win of Offaly in 1960 for the last year a new name was added to the list.

In 1959, Down won out in Ulster for the first time. A year earlier Derry took their only Northern crown, and in 1956, Tyrone made the big breakthrough in the North. That Tyrone success ended a 12 year "famine" from Carlow's lone Leinster football win in 1944.

Finally, only three counties are now without a single senior provincial crown to their credit — Fermanagh, Westmeath and Wicklow.

DENIS COUGHLAN

talking to NOEL COOGAN



SUNDAY, June 1, was a big day for Athboy, Meath senior hurling champions for the last three years. The event was the official opening of the club's new dressing rooms and for the occasion the renowned Glen Rovers from Cork were invited up to take on the local side in a challenge match.

Of special interest to the large crowd who turned out to watch the game was the fact that the visitors included in their line-out, Denis Coughlan, one of the most versatile performers on Gaelic fields at present.

The 24-year-old star has represented Cork with distinction in both hurling and football for the past few seasons. This year he stands an excellent chance of winning All-Ireland medals in both games. After that game—which was won by Glen Rovers—I had the pleasure of meeting Denis. Our conversation went as follows.

N.C.—Do you find it much of a strain playing both hurling and football at top level?

D.C.—I find it a bit of a strain sometimes, especially in the summer months. At that time I am usually playing for four different teams week after week.

N.C.—Which of the two games do you prefer?

D.C.—Hurling.

N.C.—In which game do you think Cork have the better

chance of winning an All-Ireland title this year?

D.C.—I think the chances of both are equal and very good, especially after their performances in the National Leagues.

N.C.—Can the 'double'—hurling and football titles in the same season — be achieved by Cork soon?

D.C.—Yes. I believe Cork can bring off the 'double' within the next five years.

N.C.—If you had to settle for one All-Ireland medal this year, which would you take, a hurling or a football one?

D.C.—I would settle for a football medal as that one is likely to be the hardest to win. Cork are likely to win more hurling titles in the coming seasons as that title is easier won.

N.C.—Are you happy with the playing rules in both games?

D.C.—No. I would like to see 13-a-side introduced into each of them as it would eliminate a lot of rough play around the square.

N.C.—Do you think the G.A.A. is doing enough to make our national games really attractive?

D.C.—They are doing a lot of good work in this respect in recent years. I would like to see more meetings between clubs from different counties. I would also like to see some of the stronger hurling counties play-

ing challenge matches in weaker counties and likewise in football. This, I feel would help to make the games more popular in these areas.

N.C.—Can you name a few players in both codes whom you particularly admire and enjoy playing against?

D.C.—Mick O'Connell (Kerry) and Jimmy Duggan (Galway) in football and the Tipperary pair, Mick Roche and P. J. Ryan in hurling.

N.C. — Besides winning All-Ireland medals in hurling and football, is there anything else which you would like to achieve.

D.C. — I would like to win Railway Cup medals.

N.C.—Have you had any big disappointments in your career so far?

D.C. — My biggest disappointment was losing the 1967 football final against Meath, when I was captain.

N.C.—Which counties do you consider the main dangers to Cork's title hopes this year?

D.C. — In hurling, Tipperary must be the big danger. I feel we can beat Kerry in the Munster football final, as we were very unlucky against them in the League. We definitely have the beating of Kerry and after that, Down might be the biggest problem.

Of the people and for the people:

Fianna Fail is the party of all the people. There are more trade unionists, more professional and business people, more students, more farmers and farm workers in Fianna Fail than in any other party.

Every section of the community is represented in its ranks.

Fianna Fail stands firmly for social justice. Its record on social services, on health, on welfare, on education and on housing is not surpassed by any party anywhere.

By its successful programmes for establishing new industries, Fianna Fail has created new jobs and new opportunities, and now our young people can have confidence in their future in their own country, without fear of having to emigrate.

Fianna Fail cares—for the family, the old, the needy, the sick, the unemployed and underpaid.

Because Fianna Fail is of the people, and for the people—all the people.

FIANNA FAIL



ISSUED BY FIANNA FAIL

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

SOME time ago Central Council appointed a Playing Rules Committee. The men selected were to represent various sections of the great host which loves Gaelic Football and the idea was that these men would subject the rules to a critical study with a view to improvement if this was thought necessary.

First of all, Pat Ryan, Munster Council chairman, was picked to represent the authority of the Association. On the other end of the scale, is the present-day player, Sean O'Neill. Weesh Murphy of Cork, though he is vice-chairman of the Munster Council and a member of the Cork Board, can be regarded more as an ex-player with vast experience. Bill Shannon represents the Old Players' Association which, needless to say, would have a lot to say on rules were the question put to it, and as a very busy referee, John Dowling of Offaly, who is also a Central Council representative, is in close contact with the interpretation of the rules we have, and perhaps has ideas on ones which we should have.

Representing as it does the various sections of the Association the committee should be able to pool a lot of opinions, evolving from contact with the games in different spheres and as such I think it adequate. One might argue that somebody from the coaches' panel selected by Central Council should have been included, and no doubt, Jim McKeever, Joe Lennon and Frankie Byrne have interesting ideas on the games. Still, the

great experience and undoubted enthusiasm of those chosen should give us the desired results.

It is hoped that, at next Congress, there would be available to the gathering the considered opinions of this committee on the rules, as they are at present framed. There would, no doubt, be many committee meetings before this would be given. The work has not been started collectively yet, but each, I'm sure, has been thinking over the job and when I spoke with Weesh Murphy the other evening he was looking forward to the gathering.

In answer to a question about the suggested Australian pick-up, he said he was not in favour and felt that eager hands scraping a ball off the ground might be an invitation to a back's enthusiastic boot. I'm afraid there's something in the idea, for backs are not noted for restraint, especially in the goal-mouth area, which some kind soul called, "Hell's Kitchen".

Gaelic Sport feels we should get rid of the fisted score and this idea has support, though I am not behind it, even though I would prefer a kicked score. The thirteen-a-side game will be

debated and I am doubtful of the validity of the present argument, that with less being re-created we will have more on the sideline. That argument is hardly consistent with the idea that we now have too many matches. In fact, the present day tendency is to forget the real value of the training spell where everybody is fully re-created in an atmosphere far more relaxed and homely than the match. In our day, we played less matches and trained, I am convinced far more. I wonder did we enjoy ourselves more?

That outrageous affair, the deliberate pull-down, will, no doubt, be debated and I suspect Sean O'Neill will have a very personal interest in this. As the editorial of *Gaelic Sport* already said there is, indeed, a punishment for this, but it only serves to emphasise our neglect of this important omission by the rule-makers of the G.A.A.

I'll bet my last ha'penny we'll have a recommendation on this and we may soon see the end of the most disgraceful and unsporting incident in Gaelic football. Should the ball be kicked as soon as the player is ready in the case of the line ball? What should be done to the player who stands in front of the man who wants to take a quick free. This new and unsporting technique was, I'm afraid, rather obvious in the televised game from Wembley.

There are many things for the committee to think over and the next job will be the presentation of the observations.

At present, only counties can submit motions. These motions are first submitted at the county conventions and have to run the gauntlet of critical appraisal by other club delegates.

● TO PAGE 18

● FROM PAGE 17

I didn't think this funny then, but now it raises a smile. Many years ago I proposed that, in the case of the deliberate pull-down inside the twenty-one, a penalty should be awarded and if it happened outside the twenty-one a free from the twenty-one would be given. There was great rivalry between my club and another at the time and a spot of personal rivalry as well. A friendly opponent just proposed a direct negative (whatever that was) and there went my chance of cutting out the deliberate pull-down.

If the Playing Rules Committee would be entitled to propose motions directly to Congress a great advance would be made because we must assume that anything coming from this bunch of experts would be worth debating. However, it does not seem to be known just now if the committee will have this power and I am not sure if Central Council can give it, for it may lie solely in the hands of Congress.

If they are not allowed to submit motions, the only thing to be done is to have the members encourage their clubs to take the matter up at grass-roots level.

My recommendations would be to allow the committee to propose direct to Congress, after having had the motions circulated in December so that each club and county could consider the amendments carefully and instruct their delegation to County Convention and Congress to vote For or Against.

I think this committee is a step in the right direction and we will be very interested in the result. As with all committees, the results will be a true reflection of the wisdom, enthusiasm and diligence of its members.

There is, indeed, work to be done.



the real taste of cognac

Every drop of Hennessy brandy comes from the largest stock of matured cognacs in the world—giving you the real taste of cognac—every time.

Mix it with ginger ale or soda water, or simply sip Hennessy straight. That's the long and short of it.

HENNESSY

STRIKING BRAVELY FOR GOAL

A profile of Brendan Lynch

By
JIM BENNETT

(Picture page 21)

THE most exciting thing in football, just now, is to see Brendan Lynch, quite a light and finely wrought young man, striking bravely for goal. He will have picked up a sweetly-judged pass from Mick O'Connell, which draws him into a hard run to gather in full stride; he makes away in possession with a sort of bobbing action from the back and a deadly intensity from the front. He survives a tackle, as much from sheer drive as from clever avoidance; he goes on with the solo, going through the next tackle as though he never saw it by sheer dint of dash; collecting himself and going on again, headstrongly one thinks, to stagger through a third tackle by nothing but guts and the desire which has brought him so far.

And there, lo and behold, is journey's end—the crock of gold—and he lifts the ball, drops it with a push towards his flashing left foot . . . and, instantly, the back of the net bulges like the face of a boy with a bull's eye in his mouth.

He almost falls down with the effort; but the adrenalin is running now, the worst pangs of hunger satisfied, and here he comes chasing back to his position . . . very like the boy with the bull's eye and looking for more.

Brendan Lynch is really only a boyeen, hardly 20 in age, and a teenager in appearance and build. A lithe lad, good for running maybe, you would think. But they were never prejudiced in Kerry, in spite of their love of the high catch. After all, the "Castlegregory Aeroplane" was only a little man but he was the greatest catcher of a high ball that ever played football.

Young Lynch is in love with football — mad about the game. But, like the gentle knight in the poem, he is in thrall to scoring—

it is "La Belle Dame Sans Merci" which gives him no ease, raising him up and dashing him down, exhausting his muscles and his nerves, alternating joy and sorrow and eating into his being for more and more.

Give him the ball anywhere in the other team's half of the field and no physical or mental barrier can stop him if there is a chance to score. He will get knocked down, or pulled down, or fall down from a charge, but he will not give up. He will be beaten for possession as the ball is knocked away from him, but he will continue the fight. He will give away a pass to a better placed colleague, but never yield possession for a less worthy cause. All in the service of "La Belle Dame Sans Merci."

It is not an easy life being Brendan Lynch. From his first big championship game he was a marked man. His game against Longford in last year's semi-final made him the man to stop in the final. Every game he has played since then he has been the man to stop.

So many youngsters have promised great things, but through the caution of opponents have never been able to keep up their brilliance. Lynch is different: he has real quality metal in his soul where football is concerned; he will not be intimidated (a Mayo half-back can testify to this), nor will he shirk what must be endured for love of scoring.

I look forward every game to his genuine, simple enthusiasm, to the uncanny understanding between O'Connell and himself, as though the Master sees, at last, a suitable pupil for the bestowal of all his favours. And I look to sharing the simple joy of the boy—may he prove a Peter Pan—when the ball bulges the back of the net.

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

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


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



**ASBESTOS
CEMENT LIMITED**

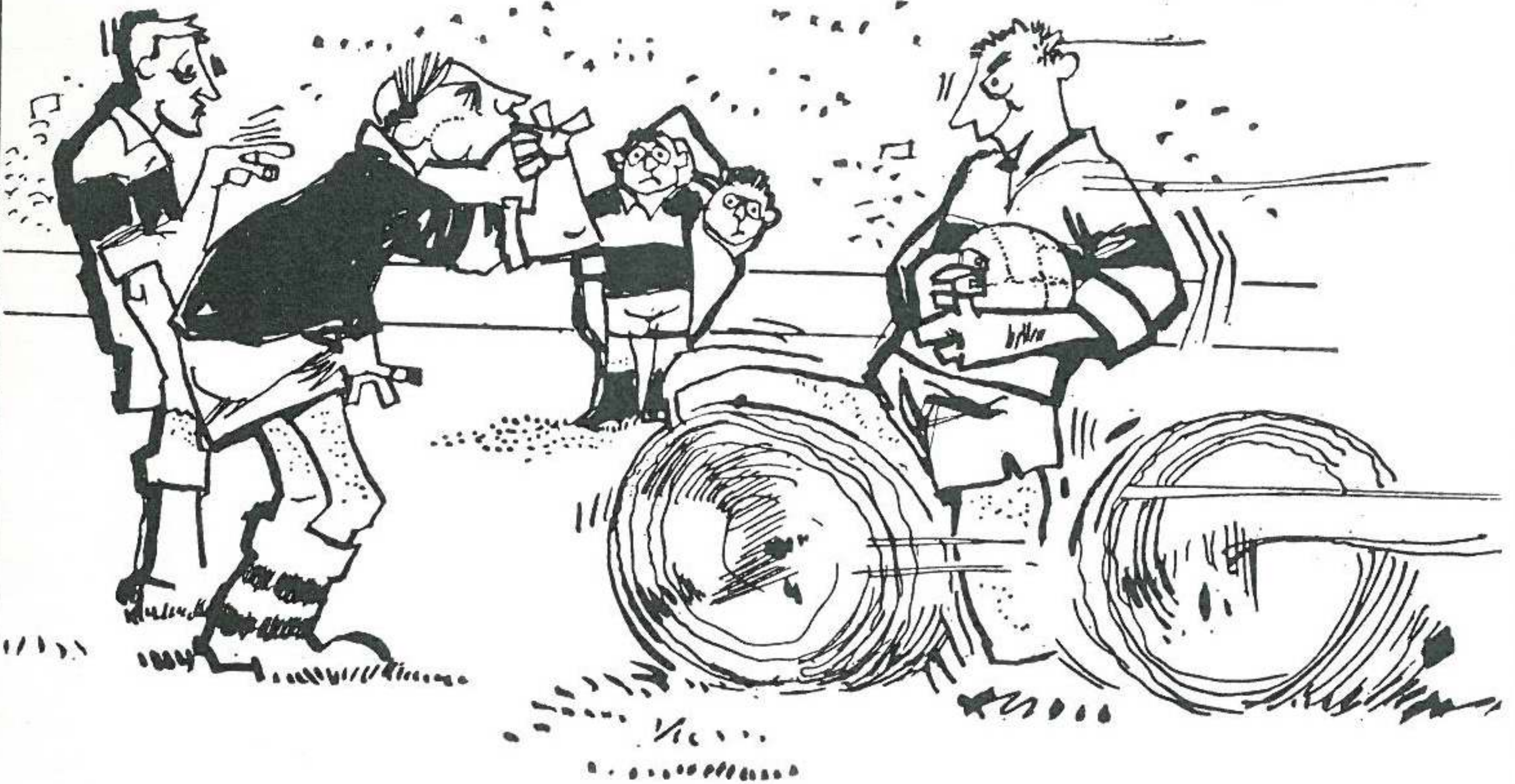
19 Lower Pembroke Street, Dublin 2
Telephone 65851





Brendan Lynch (left) in a clash with Joe Lennon during the 1968 All-Ireland final between Down and Kerry.

SHELL



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

GOOD MILEAGE —

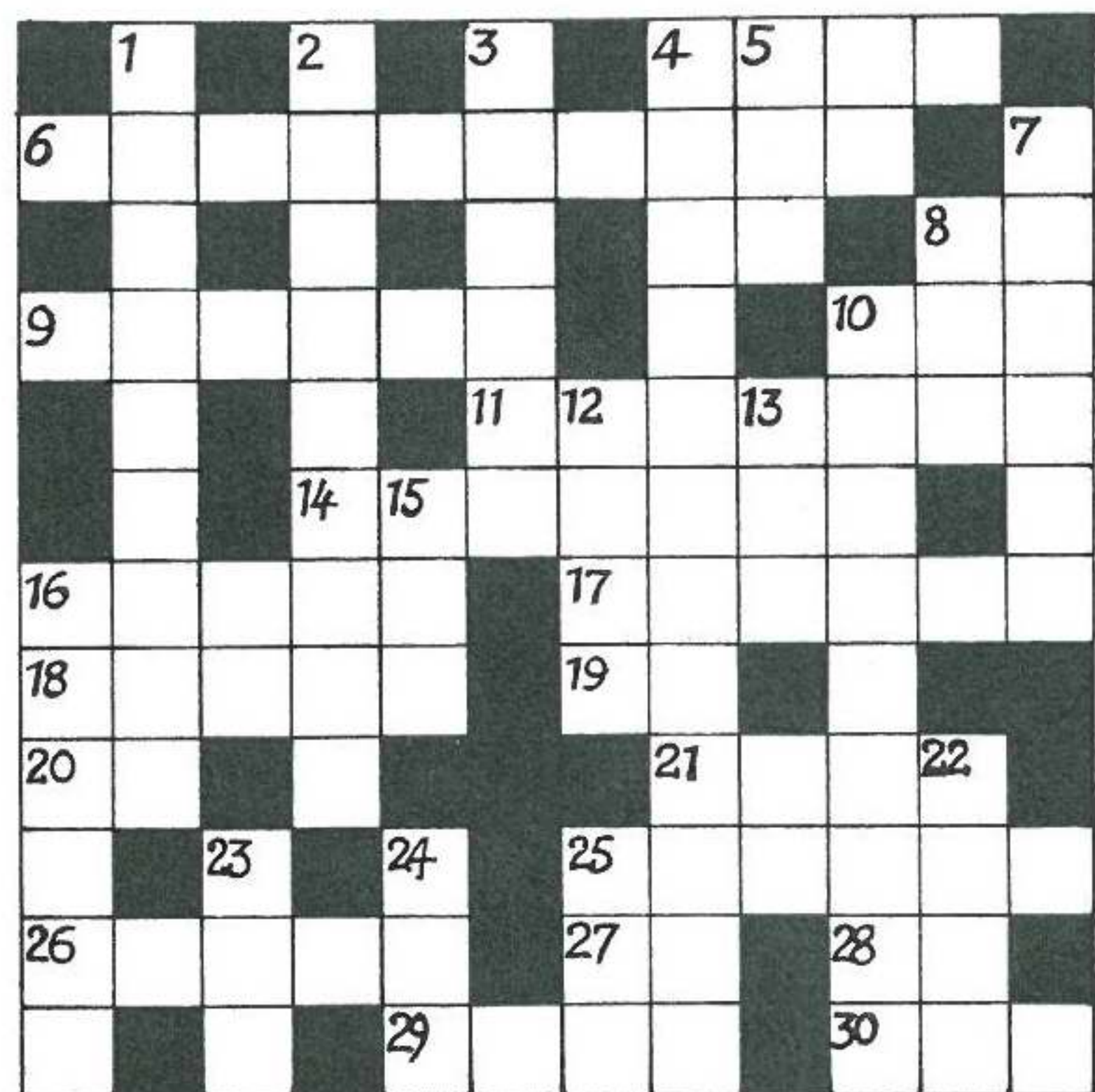


ACROSS :

- 4—The current holders of the minor football championship. (4)
- 6—Colourful preventer of scores for the All-Ireland champions. (5, 5)
- 8—Aghabullogue stalwart on London's only All-Ireland winning hurling team. Initials. (1, 1)
- 9—Recently at centre-half back for Down. (1, 5)
- 10—To express disapproval of foul play. (3)
- 11—Nail 3 G's and still find you are dropping behind. (7)
- 14—The kind of ball required to foretell the winners of next year's All-Ireland. (7)
- 16—Tot a and r to start a gentle training gallop. (1, 4)
- 17—Plop into silk mixture, perhaps suitable for jerseys. (6)
- 18—Room E for Meath centre-fielder. (5)
- 19—South Africa ? (1, 1)
- 20—Pen name of famous Irishman, George William Russell ?
- 21—New deal gives a team the advantage.
- 25—(See 8 Down).
- 26—Offaly half-back. (5)
- 27—Alcoholics Anonymous. (2)
- 28—Initials of Dublin club in reverse, or of one-time Cork hurling captain. (1, 1)
- 29—Dent is straightened out as ambulance men care for injured. (4)
- 30—Strike. (3)

DOWN :

- 1—The usual kind of solo run. (4, 2, 3)
- 2—Tally would be nil, if it were not for this. (4, 5)
- 3—Tipperary hurler who made a name also in equestrian sports. (1, 5)
- 4—Hang on tenaciously to one's advantage while ahead. (5, 2, 1, 4)



- 5—Almost sold, but seems aged. (3)
- 7—Newcomer to the Tipperary half-back line. (1, 5)
- 8—(and 25) Sharp Roscommon forward in the early sixties. (3, 6)
- 10—Used to play at left half-back for Kilkenny. (4, 5)
- 12—As dangerous as vipers when a pass goes astray. (1, 4)
- 13—A hole through a fence or a large clear space through a defence. (3)
- 15—The organisation which broadcasts the G.A.A. games. (3)
- 16—Good young newcomer to the Cork full-back line. (1, 5)
- 22—Part of a decimetre. (4)
- 23—Form of headgear used for sunny days. (3)
- 24—Most of the cost is here. (3)
- 25—Rabid supporter uses one to keep cool. (3)

Solution : Page 48

HAVE you read and digested the Buchanan Report? Well, neither have I, but I have taken some time to ponder on the fairly detailed summaries of it which appeared in the press. And, if this projection of the planning expert were to come into force in its totality, I was thinking that the G.A.A. would be set a heavy set of problems.

Would the Association stand up under the pressure of the demands placed upon it, or would it find itself entirely unable to grapple with what can only be described as a completely changed society.

Briefly, and avoiding the technicalities, it would seem to me that Buchanan would envisage an Ireland in which the rural population would have to be far more drastically cut than even the last twenty-five years have been able to achieve through natural pressures. The price would be paid partly, at least, in emigration, which even Buchanan would not discount, but considerably in movement from rural to urban areas.

Growth centres, major urban complexes they will be, centre the pattern. They will not alone be heavily concentrated centres of population in themselves but will attract to them by the force of economic necessity many smaller urban areas—some with a prosperous result, some with living death.

It is thought, for instance, that, in some similar way to the manner in which the towns in the area of Dublin have gained in prosperity in the wake of Dublin's growth, so Midleton, Carrigtwohill, Blarney and other towns in the immediate vicinity of Cork would prosper in a way unheard of until now.

But, as against that, the outer

circle of towns and villages round that industrial centre would die, and their work force would be attracted into the power centre of industry. The land between and beyond would be in the hands of ranchers, one presumes, in view of the hectic drop in rural population.

The picture of Ireland emerges as consisting of several dense areas of urban population, surrounded by a prospering wide belt of suburbia, and a green belt surrounding all. Now, the founding of the G.A.A. was always a rural thing, to begin with, and its power in towns and cities was explicable through the simple fact of the great empathy which existed between the rural and urban population. This was so, except, perhaps, in areas of the cities—Dublin, in particular—until recent times. Nobody grew too far away from the soil; town and city residents had a background, or a connection with the land.

That whole social pattern has changed in the industrial era which has come upon us in the last twenty years. The change has been accelerated and

widened in the last ten years and it has reached proportions which cause much concern to those who remember the former state of things in the very recent past.

There is, now, a significant segment of the country's population which has lost touch with and sympathy with the rural dweller; a block has raised itself up in their attitudes towards

By JAY D

one another. And their values have become almost incomprehensible one to another.

The G.A.A. has gone on its way without any Buchanan reports or any great attention to those amateur Buchanans who may have sounded warnings. There has been little effort to adapt the Association to the changing patterns of society about it. Almost unknown to the G.A.A., the rural areas were being drained of players and the urban areas were becoming great waste lands as far as the Association was concerned.

Buchanan Report were accepted by the Government, the Association would be faced with problems of staggering enormity: accelerated rural decline and urban growth which the Association, in its present form, would not be geared to cope with. Our correspondents discuss the implications in this issue, starting with Jay Drennan on these pages. Seamus O Ceallaigh follows on page 27.

Blueprint for disaster?

When realisation came, and it is not altogether clear that it has reached some areas of the Association's leadership even yet, the social pattern had changed considerably. Concern for the less fruitful workings in towns and cities came ten or more years after the rot had set in.

Even at this time, the Association is miles behind the times

DRENNAN

and years behind the optimum in tackling the problems of furthering the games of the Association in urban areas. However, as regards the other objectives and ideals which attend these games, it is likely that so much ground has been lost that they have fallen completely out of sight in many areas.

The problem of catching up is a huge one. If it were to be magnified further by the implementation of the Buchanan Report at this stage, one can only boggle at the problems

which would be added to an already heavy burden.

It is conceivable, of course, in the further pattern of things, *A Là Buchanan*, that the Association would lose further ground in the conurbations and suburban belts. Just how far the Association could lose such ground without registration of a complete failure in these areas is a matter of opinion at the moment. But, at least, it must be conceded that the expert advice and expert planning which an attack on this social pattern as it develops would be far beyond the skills of the amateurs who have been so successful in the old dispensation.

Problems of grounds and facilities, of course, are primary and they would have to be envisaged far in advance of the development; in other words, they would have to be planned for from now on, as the development began. There will simply be no place for the facilities, or no money of the kind land and building would fetch in those areas, if the assault is left until after the Buchanan society has emerged.

But even more crucial, and less ponderable, are the social problems emerging from the loss of community identity which is the price one pays for large amorphous centres of population. The G.A.A. has always based itself on certain threads of common loyalty. The whole competitive pattern of games gains impact and attractiveness from this setting of parish against parish, village against village, town against town; urban area against other urban areas in the same town or city.

In other words, the G.A.A. will have a set of social problems on hand which it must attack from the beginning, and which will be as germane to the national interest in making life liveable in the big centres as the games are important in the sporting arena. For such liveable conditions will depend on the community grouping of the new cities, giving area loyalties and inter-action of social and charitable virtues, and it will be the function of the G.A.A., for its own existence, as much as the Churches, for their's, and the

● TO PAGE 26

● FROM PAGE 25

agencies for justice and education, for their's, to build the cities along the best community lines.

If the G.A.A. succeeds in the structuring of the new growth areas, they must become the focus of big competition in the future. They will have the numbers, and, by the law of averages, the greater number of stars. The rural areas will inevitably be weakened, for even 100% playing capacity in the population would hardly make it feasible to have teams in each parish, and county strength must fail in the areas where development centres are not scheduled. There could be little hope for Kerry, in the future, against Cork, in a Munster football final, one supposes.

With the inevitable disruption of inter-county competition on the lines which have been traditional since the founding of the Association, a new line would have to be thought out: the possibility exists that the club might become the major competing unit, far more impressive in scope than in the present, more widely embracing and running a multitude of teams in different grades and competitions.

What would happen the rural counties it is hard to say; without the close association in clubs which has made the games strength of such rural counties as Tipperary and Mayo and Kerry, they could not develop the same strength as in the past. They would probably be grouped into sections to form units of similar strength to clubs in

city areas. Or, perhaps, to compete in a secondary competition of their own.

Of course, the G.A.A. might fail to get into the picture in the formation of the new urban patterns. If they do, it will hardly be possible to make up the lost ground afterwards. One can only see failure as the result. If the urban areas were to be undeveloped territory as far as Gaelic games were concerned in the Buchanan society, there would only remain the remote rural areas with any survival of games' interest. And the Association which governed such a small and unregarded section of our community would be only a bastard Association and an impotent power with neither cultural nor national significance.

EVER READY POWER PACKS

The best batteries
for all transistor radios



EVER READY (IRELAND) LTD.

PORTOBELLO HARBOUR, DUBLIN 8. PHONE 52327

Action needed now

G.A.A. vitally involved

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

THE Buchanan Report, recently published, has some very serious implications for the G.A.A.

I would say that very few have really studied the full million words of the document but even a superficial examination revealed some very disturbing factors.

Stress has been laid on stemming the rush to Dublin and on building very large centres of population in Cork and Limerick, and to a lesser degree in a number of smaller places.

At what cost this growth is to be accomplished is not made very clear, yet it does not take a lot to realise that it will be at the expense of the rural parts, and that even some of our sizeable towns will suffer seriously.

We know that already, during the past forty years, the population of some areas has declined at an alarming rate of some thirty per cent and that others, whilst not suffering quite so badly, have still lost one out of every five of their residents. And the fact that most of those

who have left were young, only adds to the difficulties.

This drain of our best blood is occurring even in some quite large centres of population, and recently I was more than surprised to hear the story of a class of girls, all of whom secured their leaving certificate at a large city convent school last year.

Two out of twenty-six returned to repeat the examination again, in search for scholarships. Of the remaining twenty-four,

● TO PAGE 28



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

Refresh yourself with

Carlo Orange

CORCORAN'S OF CARLOW

● FROM PAGE 27

only one received employment in her native city. Six passed for the Bank, five got the Civil Service, but two subsequently gave up for nursing, to which six others also were called — mainly outside Ireland, unfortunately. Two of the remaining six went on to a university and the others took up commercial appointments in Dublin.

On further enquiry I found that the good openings for a well educated boy were almost as restricted. If they wished to remain at home. This, in a fairly

large city! What hope for the smaller centres?

We often hear the query: "Where do all the good minors go?" And I am assured by those in a position to know that a survey of any particular team would rouse many to the seriousness of the position.

The lifeblood of the nation is being drained away already — and the G.A.A. is vitally involved. It is not a rural problem alone, for as we have seen, even quite large centres are being denuded of their youth, and action must be taken immediately —

for even to-morrow may be too late.

A study of the Buchanan Report could alert many to the dangers involved, for this blueprint to the future could spell ruin to the Ireland on which our cultural and historic values are built.

We cannot blind ourselves to the fact that quite a bit of what is contained in the report is already progressing in too many parishes, which are rapidly becoming dormitory areas. They cannot hope to continue even in this restricted role, and decay stares them in the face.

We cannot allow our countryside to be denuded without a fight. Too many appear to be complacent about the whole position, but the G.A.A. cannot afford to let things deteriorate any further, and urgent action is needed now.

The local club must spearhead the drive—but leadership is lacking. The powers that be must provide this and they should get moving about it before any further ground is lost—and it is too late.

A plan of campaign must be drawn up, the help of kindred organisations must be enlisted, and a concerted move made without delay to save the soul of Ireland.

This can only be achieved at the grass roots, and it is encouraging to know that the few who have tackled the problem with resolution and courage did succeed in at least stemming the delay.

The movement must be made a nationwide one, and there is no better organisation than the G.A.A. to spearhead the drive, particularly when its own existence, and the whole future of all it stands for, is so much at stake.

BALLYELLEN

magnesium limestone flour



SERVES
4,000
SOUTH
LEINSTER
FARMERS
WITH
TOP
QUALITY
LIME

BALLYELLEN Limestone Flour Works
Goresbridge, Co. Carlow, Tel. Goresbridge 7

≡≡≡ COMING BACK TO YOUTH ≡≡≡

LATE last year I suggested that the time was opportune, in the interests of the national games, to introduce a number of new youth competitions. I make no apology for returning now to this subject, for the more thought and effort put into the promotion of hurling and football among the youth, the brighter will be the future for the Association.

I do not join in the current wave of pessimism in some circles about the future of the G.A.A. I have too much faith in our youth for that, and also too much respect for the dedication and resilience of the many officials up and down the land, who are giving of their time and efforts—often at the expense of their own pockets—in the promotion of the games.

Having been reared in a soccer stronghold, I'm also inclined to smile wryly at those who unceasingly greet the news of the formation of every new soccer or rugby club in the provinces with wails about the extinction of the Association. Many of these clubs invariably do not last; those that do can HELP, rather than hinder, the promotion of Gaelic games!

In my youth, victory was all the sweeter when achieved on a day that the local soccer club lost. Likewise, defeat was harder to "take" when we learned from delighted soccer fans that their side had just scored a win. All of this kept us on our toes, and made for greater effort all along the line. In short, the old adage about "competition is the life of the trade".

We have in football and hurling the products to compete more than successfully with

other sports, but where we are frequently falling down badly is in "marketing". Take, for instance, the junior championships, especially the football test.

Here is a classic example of a competition not realising anything like its potential because of bad presentation and a too-liberal rule governing the eligibility of players. Derry were involved in three games on successive Sundays at the end of May in winning out in Ulster—yet the All-Ireland semi-finals will not be played until next month! Then, in the provincial

By
**OWEN
McCANN**

series, we again this year saw a number of recognised seniors in action.

Little wonder that so few rank and file supporters can get so worked up about this particular championship. I say that the money spent on the promotion of the junior championships would reap a much greater dividend—financial-wise and in the interests of the promotion of the games—if we confined these tests to players under 24, without any senior inter-county experience whatever, and also played-off the tests over a period of not more than 14 weeks. Games would be played on Saturdays and week evenings.

This would open up a new field for younger players, generally, and would give them an extra goal to aim at. The tests, too, would take on an important new status in the

● TO PAGE 30

Ballinahina Dairies LIMITED

MASTERS OF
MILK PRODUCTION
PROCESSING
DISTRIBUTION

For your herd's sake, buy your next
STOCK BULL from
"BALLINAHINA"

For your health's sake drink your
DAILY PINTA

For added strength and vitality, make
sure it's
"BALLINAHINA"

PHONE 53538

● FROM PAGE 29

annual calendar and thereby play a much greater part all round in the development of football and hurling. There is nothing like regular fixtures staged efficiently over a short period for whipping up and maintaining both the spectator and player appeal in a competition . . . something which, it seems to me, is not as widely appreciated as it should be in the G.A.A.

The position in hurling, admittedly, is not quite as bad, as the top counties do not now compete, but the moves I suggest would also greatly enhance this series.

I continue to regret that we are not availing ourselves of the under-21 championships to experiment. The introduction of these tests in 1964 provided a golden opportunity to break away from tradition and to provide an exciting new dimension.

Why stick rigidly, for instance, to provincial barriers? I would not be completely in favour of an All-Ireland open-draw, because of the travelling involved. However, in football at least, we could still conveniently have two separate groups of 16 counties, based North and South of an imaginary line from Dublin to Galway, and played-off on the open-draw.

Think of the talking points

the draw for each round would alone provide! Consider the boost football would receive with many new and attractive pairings. Ponder on the sense of pride and achievement if two teams from the one province reached the sectional final, which, of course, would also be an All-Ireland semi-final. And, all this with the emphasis completely on youth.

The same would hold true in hurling, but here, with only some 14 starters, we could have a truly All-Ireland open-draw without any real inconvenience to the counties.

All this would mean that the under-21 championships would compete much more strenuously than at present with the senior grades for the national headlines and they would also take on a new importance and an image unrivalled by youth competitions in other codes.

But why stop there? Why not climax the season with a youth festival towards the end of August? The festival could start on a Saturday with the All-Ireland junior football final (this would qualify under the innovations I have suggested above). The All-Ireland under-21 semi-finals could be played on the first Sunday, and the All-Ireland minor football semi-finals on week evenings. The All-Ireland junior hurling final on the

second Saturday, and the two under-21 finals on the Sunday could wind up the festival.

Just imagine what a wonderful boost such a youth festival would give to the games! And, if we could interest television—and that should not prove too difficult—so much greater would be the nationwide impact.

Such a festival would also greatly encourage many in charge of juvenile clubs in the provinces to arrange visits to Dublin for their teams to take in one or two of the All-Ireland games and also to engage in a couple of friendlies with Dublin sides. This would bring about greater contact between provincial and Dublin clubs and thereby leave the Metropolitan officials in a better position to compete with many of the city soccer clubs that nowadays annually sponsor regular visits for their young members to cross-channel cities and towns.

Of course, this is a radical approach to under-age competitions. Admittedly, there would be many difficulties and a lot of extra hard work would be thrown on officials. But the efforts would be well worth while, would give a new and vigorous impetus to the games nationally and help to put the G.A.A. in a much stronger position to effectively meet the challenges of the 'Seventies.

N. J. HORE RADIO HOUSE

25 Main Street, Wexford

Distributors of : DRYDEX and EXIDE BATTERIES

TELEPHONE : WEXFORD 56

- ★ TELEVISION
- ★ RADIO
- ★ MUSIC
- ★ TRANSISTORS
- ★ SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Tír, Teanga, Cluichí

Seán Bán do scrí

IS cuimhin liom a bheith ar cuairt go dtí scoil áirithe i mBaile Átha Cliath roinnt blianta ó shoin. Muimhneach do b'ea an múinteoir, fear breágh mór, agus árd. Bhí greas cainte agam leis agus tré Ghaedhilge do dhéineamar ár gcuid gnótha dár ndóigh. Bhí seómra-scoile deas aige, ach níorbh é an seómra féin a chuidh abhaile orm, nó an tros-cán abhí ann ná, na léisgala abhí ar na fallaí, ach fógra abhí scríobhtha i litreacha móra daite, is ag crochadh leis an bfalla ós cóir na mbuachaillí amach. Na trí focail atá luaite agam thuas abhí ar an bfógra aige. Pé tagairt a dhéineas dóibh, do thosnuigh ár geara agus do mhínigh sé dhom go raibh an soiscéal Gaodhalach ar fad, ar fad san teagasc san, "é sin" ar seisean "agus creideamh ár sinnsir." "Orra san atá mo theagasc go léir bunaithe" ar seisean liom. "Ar an gcéad dul síos" ar seisean déanaim mo dhicheall a chur 'na luighe ar na scoláirí go bfuil grádh tíre agus grádh Dé fichte fuaite ar a chéile sa tír seo againn-ne. Adeirim leo arís is arís Éire a ghrádhú agus gach fód atá innti ó Dhoire Colm Cille go dtí Daingean Uí Chúise.

ROINNT MHAITH THART

Tá roinnt mhaith des na comórtaisí — peal sinnsir is iomáint sinnsir thart um an dtacha so. Ar an tríú Domhnach den mhí imróchfar trí comórtaisí, agus ba mhaith liom a bheith i láthair ag gach ceann aca, rud nách féidir dár ndóigh. Ar an gcéad dul síos imróchfar craobh na Mumhan san iomáint. Tá draoideacht éigin i gcómhnaí riamh ag gabháil leis an gcomórtas so. Meallann sé daoine ní h-amháin ón Mhumha

féin ach meallann sé daoine ós na cúigí eile chó maith. Bhuail le cáirde ó chonndae Aontruma ann ó am go h-am. Déineadar an turas fada agus bhí áthas orra gur dhéin. Cuireann na Muimh-nigh níos mó suime san iomaníocht ná mar a chuireann muinntir aon chúige eile. Corcaigh is Tiobrad Árann, idir eatra a bhíonn sé de ghna.

Beidh craobh Connacht ar siubhal ar an dtríú Domhnach den mhí seo leis. Tá sé mar nós aca i gConnachta an chraobh a bheith ann ar an lá so. Ní bhíonn sé ar siubhal ar an gceathrú

Domhnach riamh mar lá fé leith ar fad, ar fad sa chuige, is ea an lá so Domhnach na Cruaiche mar a ghlaodhann siad air.

Le noc áluinn is ea Cruach Phádraig. Tá an déanamh céadna air, is atá ar Cnoc Errigal thuas i nDún na nGall. Dhéin Pádraig naomhtha ana rogha, nuair a phioch sé amach an cnoc so, thar aon chnoc eile i n-Éirinn chun pianós a dheanamh is a iarraidh ar Dhia ón a chroidhe amach athchuinge amháin a thabhairt dhó — ná chaillfeadh Clanna Gaodhal an fíor-chreideamh riamh, riamh, riamh.

WATER SPORTS • FROM PAGE 3

underwater photography their hobby. The thing to realise about it all is that this is a fascinating sport, and it's well organised and thriving throughout the country.

If you want information about it you could get in touch with

Annette Nulty, 82 Taney Crescent, Dundrum, Dublin 14, who is now secretary of Comhairle Fo-Thuinn, otherwise known as the Irish Underwater Council, to which all sub-aqua clubs throughout the country are attached.



For the Finest Range
of Professional and
Amateur Diving & Skiing
Equipment.

COMPRESSOR SERVICE AVAILABLE

Call, Write or Phone :

Divers Supply Co. Ltd.

INCORPORATING ATLANTIC WATERSPORTS,

1 Upper Hatch Street, Dublin 2. Phone 53307.

you can't win them all

But you can't stop trying either.

And that's just what we're doing. We've started with a complete overhaul of our present way of banking.

Devised new services and improved existing ones to give you the most modern and practical banking system in the world. We figure that by making our present customers happy, the word will spread. And the next thing you know, you'll all be trying to

join our team!

Bank of Ireland Group

Bank of Ireland / National Bank of Ireland / Hibernian Bank



Money matters

LIKE most people you too have probably become aware of the much changed atmosphere that now prevails in your local bank. Gone are the days when one entered the bank with a feeling of trepidation, indeed one might even say with a feeling of inferiority. Today one finds a much happier and friendlier atmosphere and going into a bank nowadays is just as common as doing your morning shopping.

Banks are competitive. Like a businessman they must generate more business and to do this they must make people feel at ease and produce services to satisfy their everyday needs. There are two major banking groups operating in Ireland—on the one hand Allied Irish Banks and on the other, the Bank of Ireland Group which comprises the Bank of Ireland, National Bank of Ireland and Hibernian Bank.

Recently I paid a visit to the headquarters of the Bank of Ireland Group and was agreeably surprised at the scope of services available to all sectors of the community. I'll give a brief resume of some of the various schemes now being operated by the Bank of Ireland Group for your convenience.

Student Loan Plan: They have a specially designed scheme for students and for students' parents called the Parent Student Aid Scheme, which provides security free finance to ease the burden of the cost of higher education. If you are a post graduate or final year student you can get a loan to cover fees, books and equipment under this plan.

Motor Loan Plan: This scheme enables you to buy a new car or change your old one at rates far more competitive than the traditional forms of Hire Purchase. The bank advances you the cash and you can go off and shop in the keenest market with the knowledge that you are saving yourself money by having income tax relief into the bargain.

Home Projects Plan: It would be virtually impossible to cover the range of items included in this scheme, but if you are thinking of installing central heating, double glazing or modernising your kitchen this plan is just for you. Repayments, of course, are again spread out to suit your income.

drink
to your
health

milk from...

premier
dairies



Premier Dairies Ltd. (Dublin Dairies, Merville, Suttons TEK) Kimmage, Finglas, Monkstown, Dublin
WILSON HARTNELL



IRISH PHOTO ENGRAVING CO. LTD.

CUFFE LANE (OFF CUFFE STREET),

Near St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel. 56121

Style for the life you lead



Comes from

Dublin &
Dun Laoghaire

PREMIER
Manshops

SPOTLIGHT ON

PREMIER MANSHOPS

by PETER HARRIS

THERE'S nothing more boring than statistics so I won't quote the one at you which proves that Irishmen are buying more clothes for themselves nowadays than they ever did before. We can accept it as fact that most of us now buy a shirt as casually as our wives buy a pair of stockings—though maybe not quite so often. More of us are discovering the relaxation and freedom of leisure wear—casual slacks worn with cardigans and roll-neck shirts rather than formal three-piece suits. I thought it was very significant when a young priest I met the other day proudly showed me a white nylon roll-necked shirt he was wearing. It looked perfect clerical garb under his black suit but as he explained delightedly, "I can wash this thing at night myself, no bother, and the comfort of it compared to the old-fashioned stiff collar and stock!" We're all coming to appreciate easy-care items like these, whether it's the drip-dry cotton shirts or the slacks with the creases permanently pressed in.

If you want real satisfaction out of the money you spend on clothes, patronise the shops with the most forward-looking approach. Now that the modernisation programme on all the shops belonging to the Dublin chain of Premier Manshops has been completed these are some of the best venues to make for when next you set out on a buying spree. An old family firm which started out originally to sell nothing but suits, Premier Manshops have moved with the times and their ideas on stock have been changed so that now you can buy any item of men's or boys'

●
*Down
star
Joe
Lennon
emerges
from
Premier
Manshops
in his
new
"Danus"
suit
and
seems
quite
pleased
with his
purchase.*



●
clothing from them. The shops themselves have also been facelifted and now you can stroll around any of them unimpeded by counters and just flick through rails of stuff 'till you pick out what you want.

Premier Manshops carry a comprehensive range of perfectly cut suits bearing the renowned "Danus" label which for cut, style and price would be very difficult to surpass. There's something special about a "Danus" suit.

They also carry their own range of exclusively designed suits, made up especially for them and sold under the Premier label. But there will always be men who prefer to have a suit individually tailored to their own

● TO PAGE 37



LADY



BEWARE!

Suddenly, two words are rocking the whole world of men's fashion. Changing the shape of style patterns—and even of men themselves! Danus Executive. Ahead-of-its-time fashion in suits that make men look slimmer and younger. Danus Executive. Longer, more elegant looking jackets. Natural shoulders. Deeper vents. Dashing new colours. Superfine materials. Right in line with forecasts by the Menswear Council of Ireland. Lady Beware! This man size fashion will sweep you off your feet. Danus Executive—two words that sum up all that is new in men's fashion to-day—and for years to come. Danus Executive. Available at top-class men's outfitters all over the country.

DANUS EXECUTIVE



PREMIER MANSHOPS

● FROM PAGE 35

measurements and for them Premier Manshops run a tailoring service which provides made-to-measure suits starting at seventeen guineas and going up to thirty pounds approximately. The price differences occur according to what fabric you choose to have the suit made up in. Three fittings per customer are the normal rule for these but if difficulties arise then no fuss will be made about letting you have as many fittings as are necessary to get the suit looking good on you.

With parking in the city becoming more of a headache every day, it helps to be able to buy all the accessories—shirts, ties, under-

wear and handkerchiefs even—at the same time that you make some major purchase. Worth inspection are the Premier ranges of knitted goods which cover a wide range of sizes and include some good-looking imports.

For those who find it convenient to pay for purchases over a period of time, Premier Manshops run a budget account system which works satisfactorily and is not confined to city clients only but is available to people living any where in Ireland. With expansion in the air, it's not a wild guess to estimate that Premier will be spreading their wings outside the Dublin area some time in the future, but until a branch pops up a little nearer home, make a point of dropping in to see what they've got to offer in Dublin next time you're in the city.

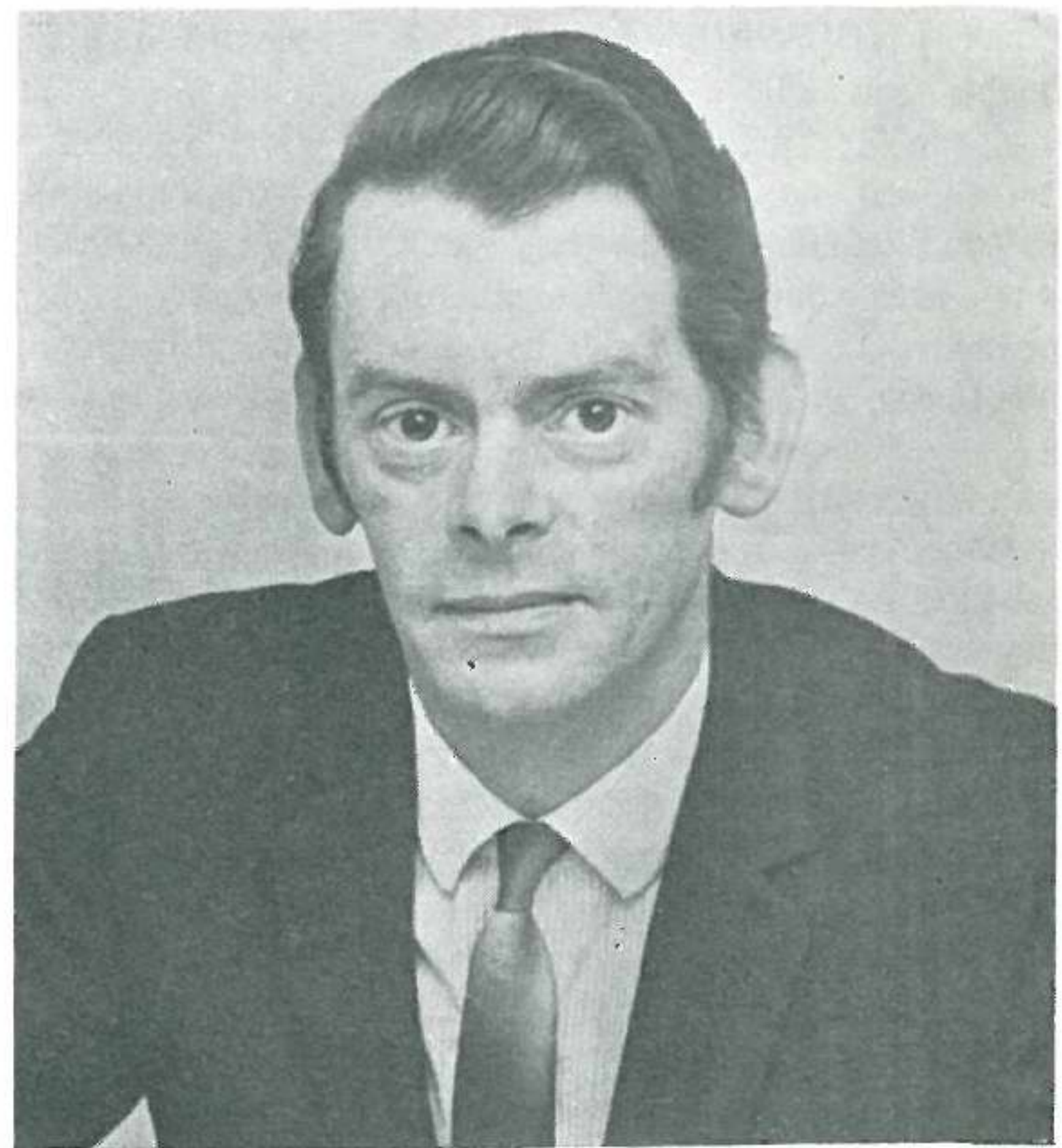
Hibernian forge ahead

THE Hibernian Insurance Co. Ltd. recently opened a new branch office at 6 Bindon Street, Ennis. It brings the company's total number of offices to thirty, and is part of a continuing programme to extend its network of local offices throughout Ireland. A new office in Nenagh will be opened shortly.

Speaking at the opening, David Weston, general manager, said that up to now the Ennis area had been serviced by the Limerick office, but the steady growth of business development in Ennis and his company's increased volume of business had justified a separate office. He said that the new office would provide expert advice both to businessmen and individuals in the area on all aspects of general insurance.

Richard J. Levis, A.C.I.I., has been appointed manager for Ennis. A native of Glanmire, Cork, Mr. Levis was a claims inspector with the company's Cork branch and was subsequently a general inspector at the Limerick office.

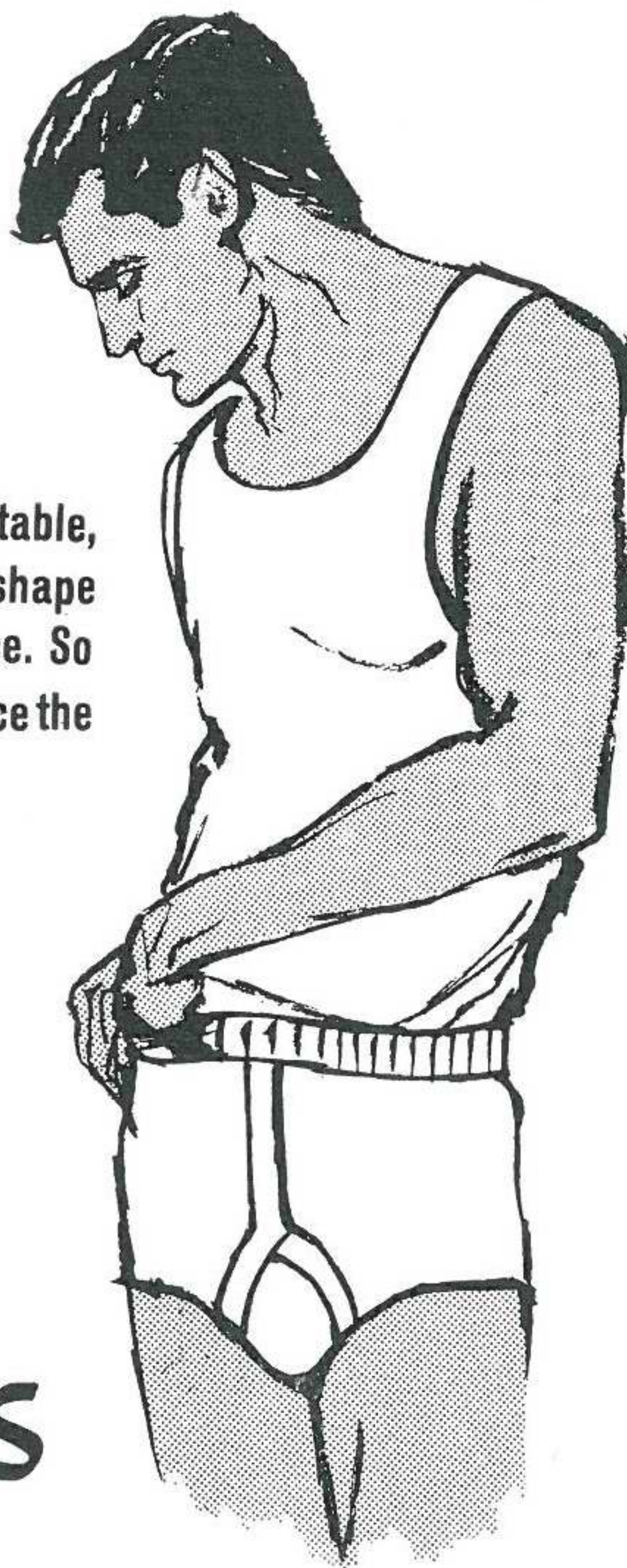
The official opening was attended by leading civic and business people in the area. They included Joseph Boland, county manager; Mr. O. Linnane, chairman U.D.C.; Liam Casey, town clerk; Senator D. P. Honan; Ignatius Houlihan, Solicitor, and Edward Shields, president, Ennis Junior Chamber of Commerce.



● Fintan O'Byrne, New Road Kilkenny, has been recently appointed to the Board of Fit Remoulds Ltd., Kilkenny. He joined the company as accountant, nine years ago and is now chief accountant. Aged 37 years, he is married and has two children. He received his early education at St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny.

Dear Sir

You want underwear that's warm and comfortable, that washes well, lasts longer, keeps fit and shape forever. And you want it at a practical price. So here it is . . . in 100% pure cotton, looks twice the price you pay and gives twice the value.



Faithfully
yours

national

THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

By PAUL GRACE

THE curtain has already rung down on our schools' and colleges' activities on the playing fields in all four provinces. The same applies to scholastic activities in our secondary and vocational schools. It is our ardent wish that the highest of success will be forthcoming to all our hurlers, footballers and handballers as well as to their loyal and helpful supporters.

At present, they are all enjoying a well earned rest, except those who prefer to accept some satisfactory employment, that would enable them to lay aside some money that could be most useful later on, in case they intend to attend any of our universities.

We are aware that quite a few of our pupils go across the water for a month or two to earn larger sums of money than can be got in their native land. In very many cases the environment beyond the sea is totally different to that experienced here at home. It is on occasions like this that one's character is put to the test. The weaklings fall, but the brave survive. In order to overcome the various obstacles that our young people may encounter, even during that brief period of exile, it is absolutely necessary that they pay full attention to the religious side of their education, which includes regular daily prayer and regular attendance at their other religious duties. Coming from a race that has survived a long night of religious persecution, and being heirs of a rich tradition of Christianity, it is to be expected that they present the noblest image possible of our native land. I think that the ideal is best expressed

in a little rann written by the late Brian O Huiginn, where he tells our youth to be "stuama, dána Gaodhalach agus múinte, mánla, béasach."

VICTORY AND DEFEAT

Looking back over the year's activities on the field of play, we encounter those teams which set out with the highest of ambitions, but notwithstanding their utmost efforts failed by the narrowest of margins in many cases, from reaching their objective. Whilst we honour and congratulate those who reached the summit, we likewise wish to honour those who strove manfully and heroically as gallant losers.

Hurling honours, once more went to the Munster representatives—St. Finbar's College, Farranferris, in Cork city. We congratulate them for bringing the Hogan Cup for the second time to the city by the Lee. Their opponents from the marble city—St. Kieran's College, offered only a token resistance, notwithstanding the fact that they had one of the most outstanding hurling tutors in the person of the Rev. Fr. Tommy Maher. It just goes to prove that even the most efficient tuition alone is not enough; you must have the best of material to work upon as well.

The Vocational Schools Final, played in Croke Park, as a curtain raiser to the National League Hurling Final, between Cork and Wexford, was a credit to all concerned.

The North Tipperary boys proved themselves very much superior to their neighbours from Ua BhFáilí, especially in the last quarter of the game. Nevertheless, the losers served up some lovely hurling, both on the

ground and overhead. Tipperary, in this competition are a law unto themselves. During the nine years that this competition is in existence, they have won it on seven occasions. Whilst on the other hand they are to be admired for their prowess and efficiency, we would also dearly love to see the spoils going elsewhere for the betterment of the game. Up to now, it has been practically an all Munster possession. Would that we could see it going up to the "wee six", or over to Connacht.

FOOTBALL—NORTH AND SOUTH

Tír Eoghain, for the second time brought the Vocational Football trophy to the North. They played a beautiful brand of intelligent football, that was somewhat superior to that of their opponents from the Dublin city schools.

The Secondary Schools and Colleges senior football competition was well up to the standard of other years. For the first time ever, the cup was carried in triumph to the foot of the McGillicuddy reeks — to beauty's home, Killarney. This victory was no push-over for St. Brendan's Seminary. They earned their honours the hard way. It was only on a replay that they conquered stiff opposition in breaking a gallant Ballyvourney team. They beat St. Mel's, Longford, who were favourites, on a replay, likewise.

The following Sunday they paid their third successive visit to Thurles, and after some hectic exchanges they disposed of St. Mel's College, Galway, Connacht's best. More to say later on as regards sportsmanship, etc.

the to-morrow builders



The times they are a-changin'. Fast. Even now, programmed learning is opening up new dimensions in education. The push button classroom, with its computers, its talking typewriters and light pencils, is it so far away? To-day's dream, to-morrow's reality. A reality made possible by people to whom the future is ever present. People like Hibernian, largest General Insurance Company in the country, who continue to invest their funds in an Ireland that is growing excitingly fast. When you take out a Hibernian Policy, against fire or theft or accident, you not only protect to-morrow; you help build it.

hi **HIBERNIAN
INSURANCE**

in association with Commercial Union Assurance Group.
Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2. Tel 772911.

WILSON HARTNELL

START OF THE WORLD SERIES?

THE World championships continue to be handball's most interesting topic. As the event is now less than twelve months away those interested in the game continue to probe different aspects of it. Like the young juvenile player from Dublin who wanted to know how often a full scale World championship has been held according to modern records of the game.

This was, indeed, food for thought and rather an awkward one too, for, unfortunately, the sparsity of records means that many of the notable events of handball are clouded in the mists of the past.

However, by my reckoning, the World championships played in the New York Athletic Club in October, 1964, did, in fact, constitute the first international organised on a combined administrative system.

That is not to infer that handball is solely a localised game, for, if we hark back even to the last century we find that a keen rivalry always existed between the Irish and American champions.

In those days, of course, the game was in the unhappy position of being caught between the two stools of amateurism and professionalism.

Individualism was the keynote and the inevitable side-stake of major importance.

Everybody has heard of the legendary John Lalor, the Dublin jarvey who played for the championship of the world in the eighties and lived on to become the first President of the Irish Handball Council, when the G.A.A. took control of the sport in 1924.

Lalor, it was, who designed and laid out the famed Boot ballcourt, at Ballymun, scene of many a titanic struggle. He won his first Irish title when he dethroned Dave Browning of Limerick.

Then, setting his sights on further glory, he challenged the champion of America, Phil Casey, an Irishman from Mountrath, who emigrated in his early youth and was resident in Brooklyn.

The big game took place in Cork. The prize at stake was the world title and for good measure there was a side-stake of £400—quite a tidy sum in those days.

Lalor won by seven games to three but, then, in accordance with the terms of the contract, had to cross the Atlantic to play the second leg.

It was played in Brooklyn in 1887 and Casey reaped havoc with the Irishman in his own magnificent court, which was equipped with a boarded floor and glass back wall.

The world title had returned to America and while Lalor made numerous attempts to regain it, he never succeeded.

In turn, the feats of such well-known exponents of the code as James Fitzgerald of Tralee, who emigrated to America and succeeded Casey as world champion, Michael Egan from Galway, Tim Twohill of Kanturk, Limerick's J. J. Bowles, Barney McQuaide, Jim Dunne, all make interesting reading.

When the G.A.A. took control in 1924, the new executives concentrated mainly in developing the game at home.

The system of nominating American and Irish champions for World series games ceased until 1954, when Henry Hyde and

Tom Guerin revived links with the past by representing America in a series of games with our own players.

The late Pádraig Ó Caoimh took particular pride in this new innovation and delivered an address of welcome to the visitors prior to the games at Croke Park.

Thereafter, the Handball Council was host to the Americans and brought them on an extensive tour of the country.

They played in most of the major alleys, met the cream of our top players, distinguished themselves in the process, as well as cementing firmly the relations between the two Associations.

Later on, John Ryan, the Wexford star, visited the United States where the quality of his ball-play, superior sportsmanship and great modesty is still spoken of with pride.

While the contests I have recounted were referred to as World championships, it is more correct to say that they were, in effect, individual challenges between Irish and American champions.

It was not until 1964, after the formation of an International Committee that a World championship in a real sense was staged at the New York Athletic Club.

After those games, the international Committee decided that the games would be played at three years intervals.

True to form, the next series was staged in 1967 and now we are in the throes of preparation for the big show-down in 1970.

There are many other facets of these championships which I hope to cover in later issues.

||||| **DISTURBING REVELATIONS** |||||

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

HURLING on the surface looks set for a good season and the prospects of an exciting finale to the championship are extremely favourable.

The hurling revival plan, whilst not arousing as much interest as in its initial years, appears to be making reasonable progress in at least some of the weaker counties.

Close students of the games are nevertheless worried and I feel with good reason. Most concern seems to be felt in the traditional areas where it is generally accepted that hurling is in anything but a healthy state.

The primary schools, particularly in the larger areas of population, are doing an excellent job and it is doubtful if ever there was more activity at this level. Many dedicated religious and lay teachers are putting tremendous effort into keeping the games going and governing bodies are playing their part by providing hurleys at a reasonable price.

Some teachers and even schools are fighting shy of participation and the reason they give is a fear of being held responsible should any of their players suffer serious injury. Such happening is extremely rare, particularly in

school ranks, but we must admit the degree is there and the Association should give a guarantee that such an injury would be covered by the accident scheme — thus relieving the teacher or school of any liability.

When primary schooldays end a big number of our youth drift from Gaelic games — a number that has grown to alarming proportions over the past few years.

Along with a few interested Gaels I recently participated in a spot check involving schools in different localities and counties, covering boys drawn from all strata of society.

As regards the larger cities and in schools catering mainly for working class families we came up with the very disturbing fact that only one in every ten continued to play Gaelic games when they left school. Of the nine who fell by the wayside, as it were, three gave up games altogether, and five of the remaining six turned to soccer.

Boys drawn from the middle classes were only slightly better in their adherence to native past-times. Those who went on to secondary schools where G.A.A. games were played continued to do so, but even here it was unpleasant indeed, to learn of fairly considerable numbers who, whilst playing Gaelic with the school teams, were engaged in alien codes in outside competitions.

Nearly all of the boys who transferred to secondary schools where Gaelic games were not encouraged turned to other codes—mainly rugby—and very few of

DEVELOPMENT OF PLAYING FIELDS

We are geared to carry out bulk excavation with our machines. Design, fabricate and erect our "Prestige" system built dressing rooms. Manufacture and erect our "Spanlite" prestressed concrete seating. We invite you to see fields recently developed by us for Rathluirc, Kanturk and Courcey Rovers Clubs.

**J. J. O'LEARY & SONS
(Contractors) LTD.**

FERMOY, CO. CORK

Telephone : 119

them returned to the Gaelic fold. The few who did, however, were usually very loyal afterwards to the exclusion rules.

Not so, however, with all too many of the others. It was a shock to hear of an all too numerous group who, whilst playing Gaelic games regularly, have no hesitation in participating also in other codes. Many of the offenders figure mainly in inter-firm competitions but a sizeable number also play in club ties.

No Gael of any standing can be happy with this set-up, which revealed a disturbing lack of sincerity that will undermine the whole Association should it continue.

The Special Committee, who are at present examining the effects of the exclusion rules must give long and serious consideration to this aspect, and its corroding influence.

The fact can no longer be hidden that the dancing rule is being flagrantly violated at almost every club function, and at most of which leading County Board and often higher officials of the Association are present.

A similar situation is rapidly developing as regards the exclusion rules and it is widely accepted that were a serious attempt made to really enforce them that very many clubs would be forced out of existence.

This is anything but a healthy situation for, already, very great difficulties are being experienced by some clubs in fielding teams, particularly in the minor hurling competitions.

When seeking some reasons for this, one of the big obstacles appeared to be the high cost of hurling, which is easily the most expensive of the popular field games.

The high charges for hurley replacements is leaning heavily

on clubs and players alike and if hurling is to flourish it is very evident that a solution to this problem has to be found. Most players with whom I discussed the matter expressed their willingness to pay considerably more for a hurley if it could be guaranteed against breakage.

This is a question demanding the urgent attention of An Coiste Iomána. It was reported some time ago that a hurley manufacturer in South Tipperary had perfected a very suitable stick of his nature. The possibility of manufacture on a large scale should be immediately examined and generous financial aid provided.

The danger of injury is very much exaggerated but it has deterred many from playing the game. The wearing of a helmet was advocated in university circles some time ago but it is cumbersome and not likely to gain universal favour.

I saw a very suitable headgear demonstrated recently. It consisted of a circular ring of foam covered in plastic, something like the band of an ordinary hat, with three similar rings interlaced and designed to give adequate protection whilst still extremely light in weight and allowing free circulation of air.

The elimination of the ridges from the hurling ball should be quite practicable and could prove another factor in reducing the risk of injury.

Some hurling enthusiasts may feel these methods are not important, but a study of modern youth would convince them that quite a sizeable proportion are now extra conscious of their appearance and would not want to go to a dance with a piece of sticking plaster on their face or a bandage on their head. It was a manly thing to do one time—but that's old fashioned now!

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.

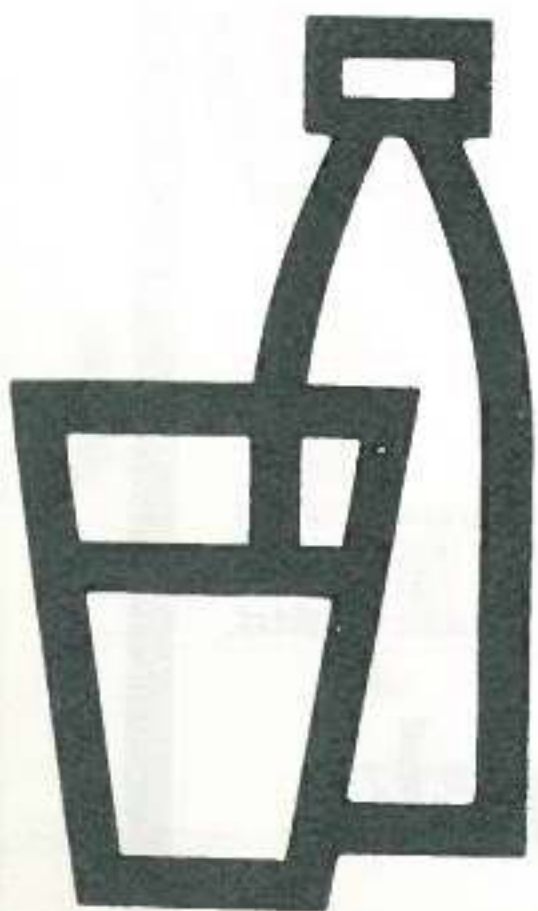
McKenzies, Cork

TELEPHONE : 52301 (5 LINES)

**AFTER
THE GAME**

**have a
rewarding
refreshing
pint of milk**

**Milk makes the
Sportsman**



The National Dairy
Council

**LEAVING SCHOOL ?
STARTING WORK ?
ANYTIME OF IMPORTANT
DECISIONS**

Whatever your occupation in life may be, it will have as profound an influence on your spiritual as on your material well-being. In it, and through it, you will have to save your soul.

Would you care to give yourself totally to the work for which Christ entered the world? His business. The Salvation of souls. The Priesthood. Religious Life.

Perhaps you feel inadequate. So did the Apostles. A later vocation may have much to offer Christ.

**Whatever your decision, you will make it
better after a**

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Write to :

**The Superior, Canons Regular of the
Lateran,**

**54 Castle Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin 3.
Telephone : 333229**

THERE IS NO BETTER FOOD THAN

***Pasteur Cream or
Pasteur Cream-Cheese***

They contain the vitamins necessary for

FITNESS AND VITALITY

and are **SUPREME BODYBUILDERS**

*** Your Local Grocer can supply you ***

THE PASTEUR DAIRY

Depot :

**19 PEMBROKE LANE, BALLSBRIDGE
DUBLIN**

Phone 680222

STILL FAR OUT IN FRONT

DESPITE noticeable reductions in attendances at major games in recent months, there can be no doubt that Gaelic football and hurling remain Ireland's most popular sports. However, the fact that most important G.A.A. competitions have been experiencing declining crowds and of course smaller gate receipts of late cannot be ignored.

Much has been spoken about the fading interest in the Railway Cups, which not so long ago were capable of making Croke Park a mecca for Gaels North, South, East and West, on our National Holiday. An attendance slump from fifty thousand to a mere nine thousand last March clearly illustrates the loss of popularity in the interprovincial championship.

There has been a similar trend—although to a much smaller

extent—in the concluding stages of the League and Championships.

Although such statistics may give reason for a certain amount of alarm within the Association, we should console ourselves with the thought that attendances at Gaelic compare very favourably with the other two big crowd-pulling ball games, rugby and soccer.

What other sport in this country is capable of attracting seventy thousand plus to its championship final? It is interesting to note that the replay of this year's F.A.I. Cup final drew a mere eighteen thousand, while the figures of its counterpart in the Six Counties also failed to rise above the not very impressive total of twenty thousand.

Can you imagine such a small gathering at Casement Park on Ulster final day? And then there was the All-Ireland soccer final—or should I say the "Battle of the Boyne"—which was held recently. No official figures were issued for the two-leg contest, but one wonders if the total attendance exceeded twenty thousand!

The "powers that be" in Irish soccer prefer to issue the gate receipts rather than the actual number of spectators who saw the game. On reading these money figures one might be led to believe that most of these fixtures are well attended, but when the extravagant admission prices are considered, a clearer picture of the actual crowd is obtained.

At a recent meeting it was decided to fix a minimum admission price of three and six for all League and Cup matches on the Irish Soccer calendar next season. A few days later a letter appeared in a Dublin evening newspaper from a soccer fan who

stated that most of the games were worth only one and six and some of them only a shilling. How right that correspondent was! Indeed, one would want to be paid to watch some of them!

A few weeks ago, an acquaintance of mine, who is a fanatical soccer supporter and a detester of our national games, was not slow to express his feelings of satisfaction because two thousand more attended the Ireland v. Czechoslovakia World Cup game than the Cork v. Wexford National Hurling League final on the same day. But I wonder which of them would have attracted the larger gathering if both had to be replayed the following Sunday?

Twelve games on the G.A.A. calendar are televised live each year, thus bringing much enjoyment to many who for one reason or another are unable to "make" the big match. A couple of years ago, the F.A.I. granted the rights to R.T.E. to televise their Cup Final live. But so many empty spaces were evident at Dalymount Park that the stay-at-home soccer fans—and they are growing in number—are not likely to watch the Cup Final from their armchairs for some time.

Extra proof of the popularity of Gaelic games lies in the fact that the major games are capable of satisfying both the fans on the terraces and the stay at home supporters.

Now, what about the other popular sport—rugby? Like the G.A.A. the I.R.F.U. can give television rights for their big games—two internationals per year—and still draw satisfactory crowds. But on the other hand, most club matches are usually watched by a handful of loyal supporters, most of them holding

● TO PAGE 48

QUIZ-TIME

POINTS :

1—Who was top-scorer when Tipperary met Waterford in the first round of this year's Munster hurling championship?

(Time limit: 7 seconds.)

2—What prominent player was absent from the Clare line-out when they faced Cork in the Munster football championship?

(Time limit: 5 seconds.)

3—Meath reached their first All-Ireland final in 1939. Can you say who was captain of that team?

(Time limit: 10 seconds)

4—What was remarkable about the meeting of Westmeath and Louth in the Leinster football championship recently, and about the result of that game?

5—Galway were listed as All-Ireland champions for 1925. But what unusual circumstance attended that first championship for the county?

6—For which county did Jerry ('Pluggy') Moriarty play?

7—Was a football (a) bigger or (b) smaller 50 years ago than it is to-day? And was it (c) lighter or (d) heavier?

8—Which counties played in the first football championship game under G.A.A. rules?

9—The first All-Ireland championship in camogaiocht was played in 1932. Who were the winners and runners-up?

10—What big handball occasion is scheduled for Dublin next summer?

(Time limit: 5 seconds.)

GOALS :

11—What is the origin of the design of the All-Ireland medal?

(Time limit: 10 seconds.)

12—Upright striking was a feature of hurling skill in the old days? True or false?

13—Where and how did camogaiocht originate?

14—Who presented the Fitz-

gibbon Cup, and for what competition is it the trophy? (Note: Fitzgibbon will not be a satisfactory answer to the first part of this question).

15—With what county and in what part of the team did Garrett Howard play?

(Time limit: 7 seconds.)

16—When was the first minor hurling All-Ireland championship contested?

(Time limit: 5 seconds.)

17—Who were the first All-Ireland minor hurling champions?

(Time limit: 7 seconds.)

18—What must be the weight of a hurling ball?

(Time limit: 5 seconds.)

19—And what must be the measure of the circumference?

(Time limit: 5 seconds.)

20—When a player takes a line-ball in hurling how far away must the opposing players be?

(Time limit: 5 seconds.)

ANSWERS PAGE 48

A. J. JENNINGS & CO., LTD.

Building & Civil Engineering Contractors

DUN LAOGHAIRE

SPORTSMAN SUPREME

CROWN PRINCE of Gaelic Football . . . now what fair minded follower of Gaelic Games would argue that title being applied to Mick O'Connell. Supreme in the air as he fetches the ball out of the clouds with a half dozen more hands grasping for possession at the same time. Accurate in his shooting from play or from placed balls way beyond the 50 yard mark and regardless of what pressure he is under, when in possession, he never retaliates and always remains cool.

Yes sir, a true sportsman in every sense of the word is Kerry's king pin of the Gaelic football arena and a shining example to every aspiring young lad who is hoping to make the grade.

Most of us know that Mick hates being bothered by reporters, photographers and the like, but when he does speak out his comments are fair and his ideas practical, like a recent interview with Brendan O'Reilly on R.T.E. when the questioner asked about his greatest thrill in football and O'Connell's answer "every time I catch a high ball in the air". A simple but honest reply which definitely indicates that the Kerryman plays the game purely for the love and enjoyment he derives from it.

And after all if a man does not get any joy out of playing or participating in a particular sport he should not play at all and when you stop to think, it is to be regretted that certain so called sportsmen only play the game because they are paid for doing so. I honestly believe that by paying men or women to participate in any sport, places too much emphasis on the winning and no thought at all to the sporting conduct of the player.

Well like all personalities, sporting ones that is, people tend to look for faults and the general crib about Mick O'Connell is that he does not fight hard enough for the ball and if beaten he leaves it at that. But you watch more closely the next time the Valentia man is playing and believe me if there is the slightest chance of a score Mick will not be the one to miss out on it through lack of effort. Mind you he is not one to use up valuable energy chasing forlorn chances for he knows better than most where to place himself when that high dropping ball is coming out from goal. If he was not showing great form some time ago I believe it was only because he was wrongly placed in the full forward line, for I feel that Mick prefers to be in the thick of things and play his part in sending the ball goalwards instead of waiting for it to come to him in the full forward position.

**MICK
scores
a new
goal!**

Mick O'Connell joins Ireland's most progressive petrol company

Mick O'Connell will be scoring selling points from now on. McMullan Brothers Ltd. are fortunate in having secured this dynamic sportsman to use his energies in furthering sales of MEX and MAXOL. We're confident he'll put up a great performance in this new field.

**If it's great performance
you're after, choose**

MEX

PETROL

MaxOL

OILS

McMULLAN BROTHERS LTD.
1-2 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1.

THE ANSWERS

● FROM PAGE 46.

- 1—Tom Walsh (Waterford) with 1-9.
- 2—Paddy McMahon, the Munster interprovincial midfielder.
- 3—Mattie Gilsenan.
- 4—It gave Westmeath their first ever championship success in Croke Park.
- 5—The All-Ireland series was not finished, Kerry and Cavan both being declared illegal. The All-Ireland semi-finals were played and it was Mayo who represented Connacht. The All-Ireland was substituted for by a tournament for gold medals. But, since Mayo had been winners of the only semi-final which remained valid (Kerry and Cavan had met in the other) they would have been declared champions but for the fact that they still had to play Galway in the unfinished Connacht championship. When they met, Galway were the winners, and thus became All-Ireland titleholders. Galway, however, proved their worth by winning the substitute Gold Medal tournament easily.
- 6—Kerry.
- 7—(a) and (d).
- 8—Waterford (Ballyduff Lower) and Louth (Dundalk Young Irelands) on July 21st, 1887, at Elm Park, Merrion, Dublin, Louth winning by 1 goal

● FROM PAGE 45

affinity to one of the participating sides. Interprovincials and cup finals in rugby are not as popular as their counterparts in the G.A.A. either and seldom attract five figure attendances.

Much has been said in recent times about the need for making the G.A.A. more attractive. While the objective of every organis-

- 8 points, 2 forfeit points to 3 points, 1 forfeit point.
- 9—Winners: Dublin; runners-up: Galway.
- 10—The World championships.
- 11—It is in the form of a Celtic Cross, and the design was copied from the head of the ancient cross at Monasterboice.
- 12—True. The ball was hit high in the air, and without stirring the feet was to be hit up again after one bounce only.
- 13—In 1904 when Craobh an Cheitinnigh (Dublin) of Connradh na Gaeilge started the game as a variant of hurling for ladies.
- 14—To promote hurling in the Universities, Dr. Edwin Fitzgibbon, Provincial of the Capuchin Order, presented the cup for competition between the Universities in 1912.
- 15—Limerick; at half-back (where he is widely considered one of finest ever to play).
- 16—1928.
- 17—Cork.
- 18—From a lower limit of 3½ ounces to an upper limit of 4½ ounces (cf. Rule 139, O.G.).
- 19—From 9 to 10 inches (cf. Rule 139, O.G.).
- 20—14 yards or more. Incidentally, the players of the taker's side must also be 14 yards away. The penalty is a free against any offender (cf. Rule 148, O.G.).

ation should surely be to move with the times and whether the Gaelic Athletic Association is doing this or not, they certainly have much to offer to the average everyday Irish sports fan.

And judging by the reaction of that same fan, the best value in Irish sport is to be had at Croke Park and Gaelic venues up and down the country.

AN GÚM

PEADAR Ó DOIRNIN

A bheatha agus a shaothar in eagar ag Seán de Rís, M.A.

10/-

MICHEAL MAC SUIBHNE
AGUS FILIDH AN tSLÉIBHE

(Tomás Ó Máille, Ph.D., D.Litt.)

Athchló 1969. 7/6

DÁNTA DIADHA ULADH

(Enrí Ó Muirgheasa)

Athchló 1969. 12/6

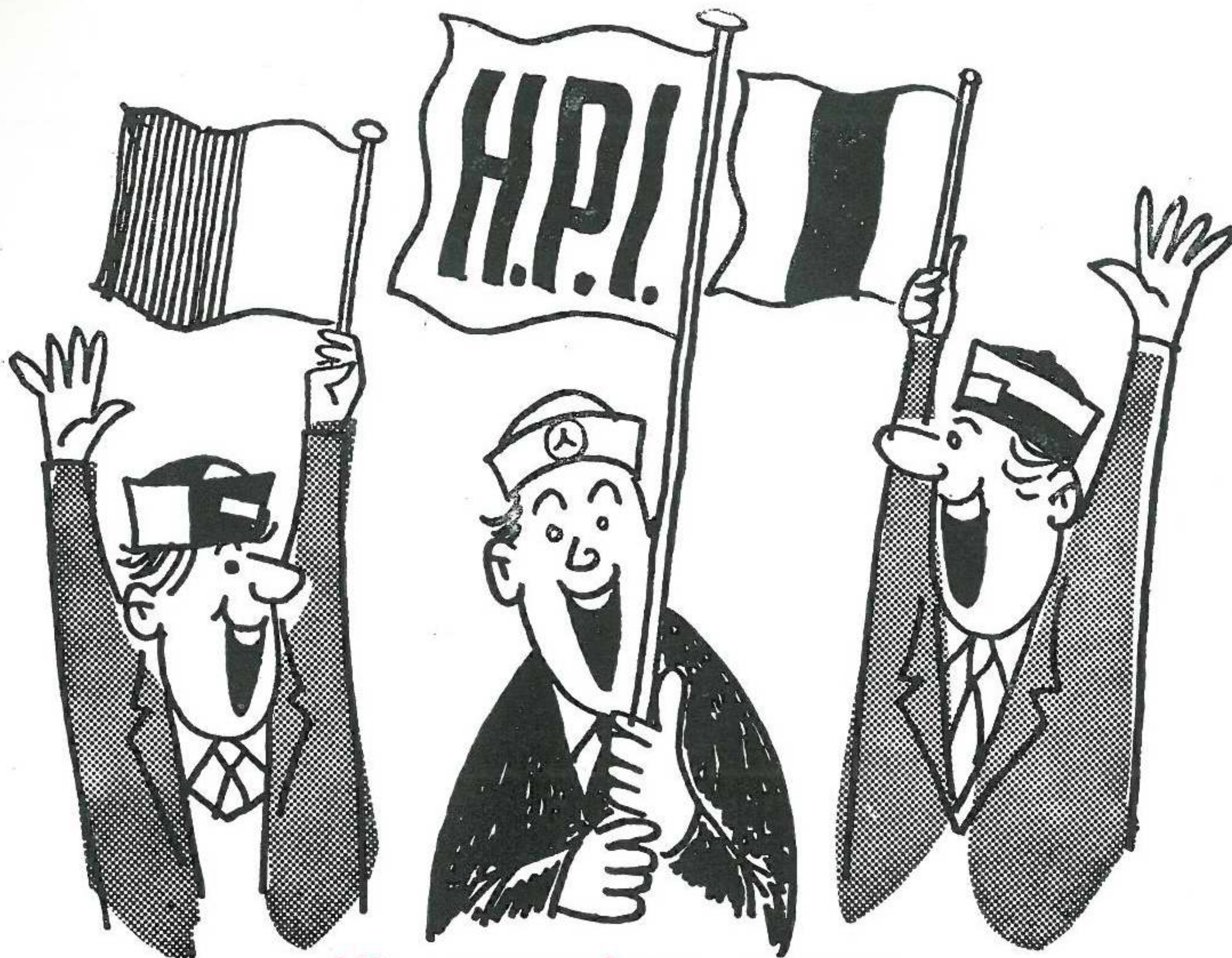
OIFIG DHÍOLTA

FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
AN STUARA, BAILE ÁTHA
CLIATH, 1

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

● FROM PAGE 23

1H	20	3L	4C	5O	R	K
6D	A	N	N	Y	K	E
	N	L	I	I	D	8D
9W	D	O	Y	L	E	N
	T	S	11L	12A	13G	14I
	O	15R	16Y	17S	18T	19A
16A	T	R	O	T	17P	18O
19M	M	O	O	R	E	19S
20A	E	E		22L	E	23A
H	24C	25O		26F	E	E
27E	V	A	N	S	28A	29C
R	P	30T	E	N	D	31H



**All supporters agree
that their best supporter is
The Hire-Purchase Company of Ireland Ltd.**

IRISH FINANCED

DUBLIN: 36/37 Lower Baggot Street.
Phones 64611 & 64621/5

CORK: 2 South Mall. Phone 25371/2

GALWAY: 5 Eyre Square. Phone 2048/9

LIMERICK: 92 O'Connell Street.
Phones 46211/2 & 46523

IRISH OWNED

WATERFORD: 1 George's St. Phone
5439

LONGFORD: 34 Main Street. Phones
6553 & 6567

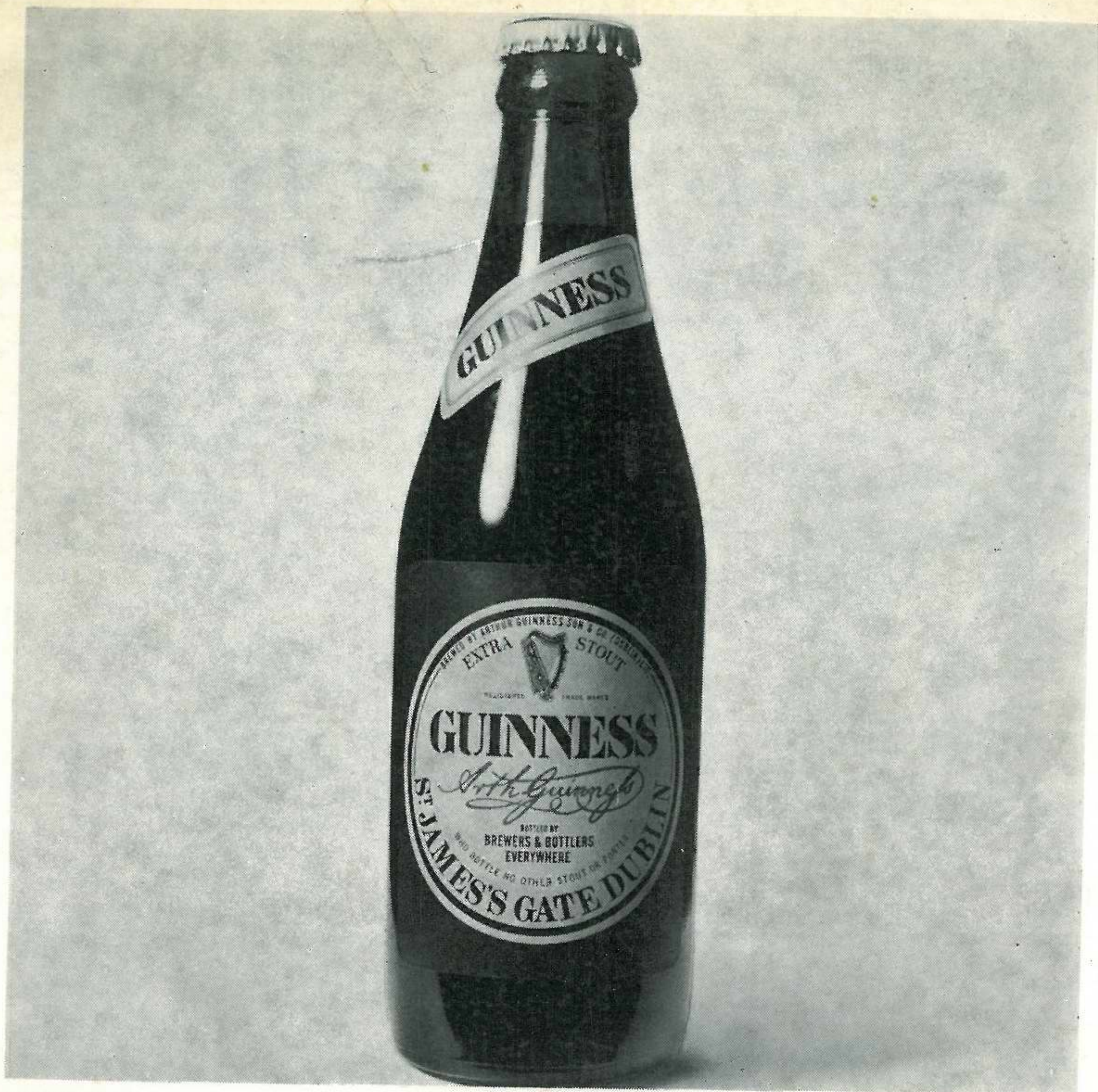
CARLOW: 135 Tullow St. Phone 41248

IRISH STAFFED

Information can also be obtained from any branch of the Munster & Leinster Bank

Member of the Allied Irish Banks Group





“... for the Guinness that’s in it”

For the good familiar drink in its old familiar place. For the taste of good times. And for all that it stands for, and has done for so long.

GUINNESS naturally