

86 GAA

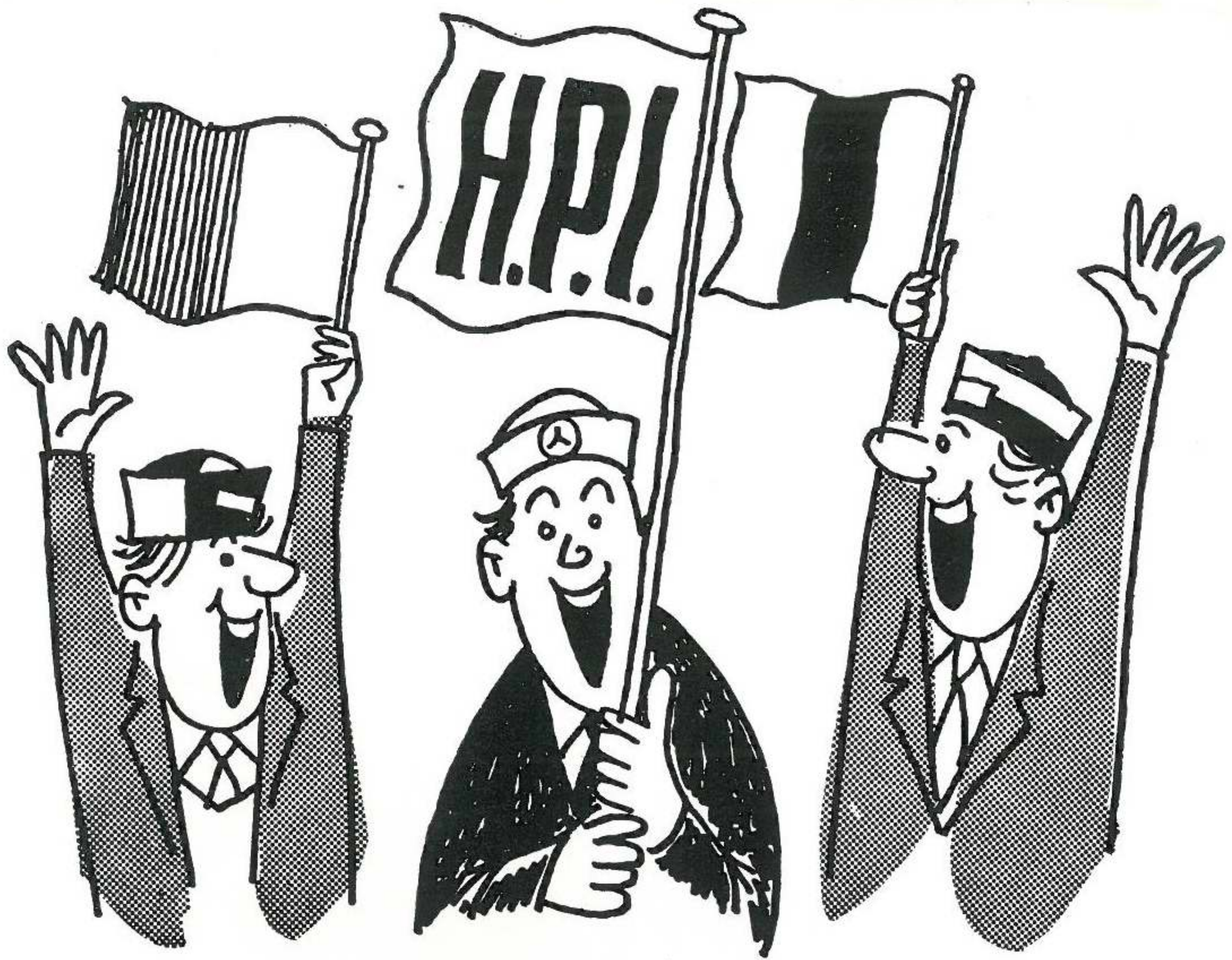
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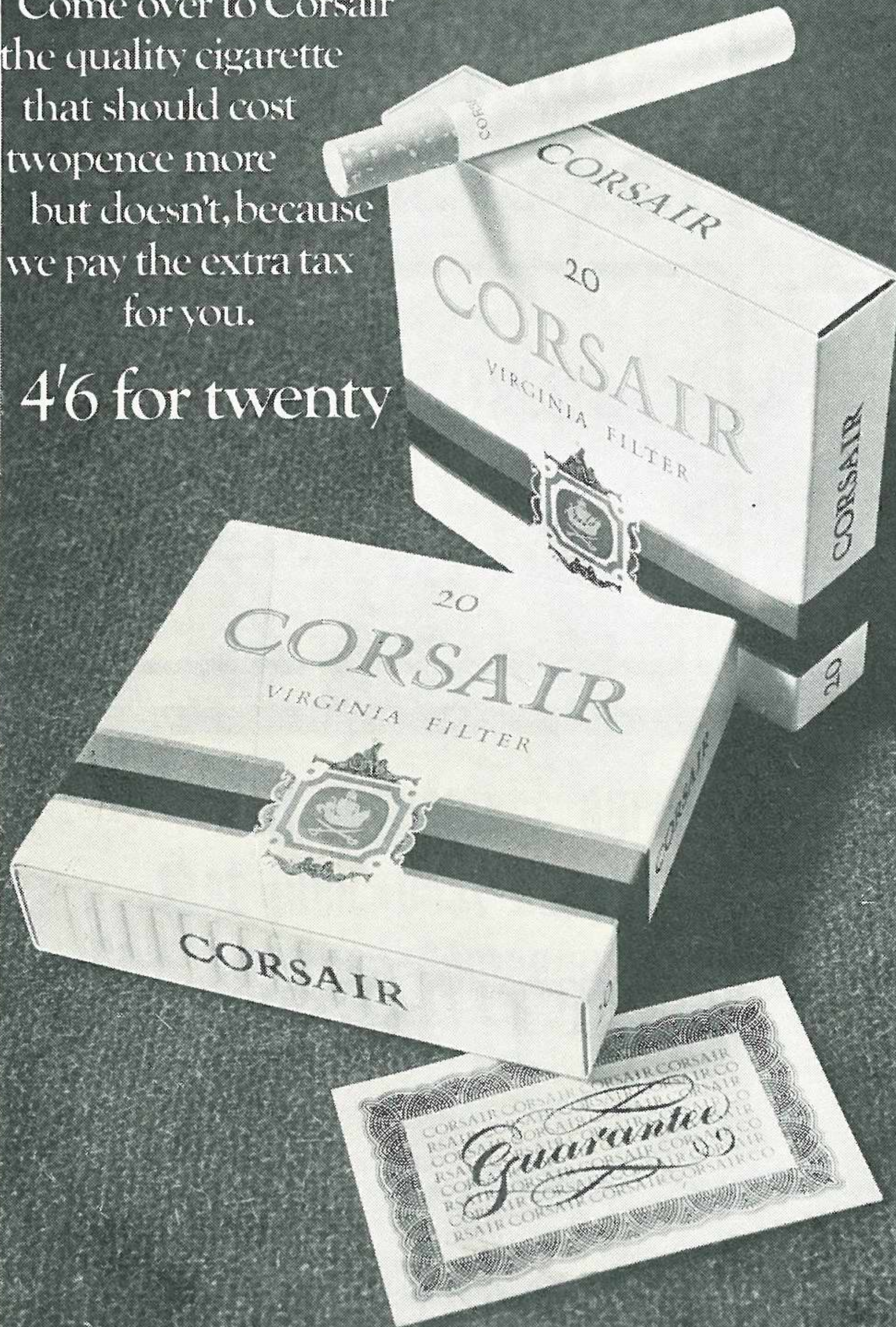
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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 12. No. 3. MARCH, 1969.

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## COVER PHOTO

Our front cover this month features Christy Kane of Dublin. For sheer consistency it would be hard to improve on Christy's playing record, he has been more or less a "fixture" on the Dublin football team for nearly a decade and was a member of the Metropolitan side that emerged victorious over Galway in the 1963 All-Ireland football final. (See page 5.)

## CROSSROADS

THE G.A.A. has reached the crossroads of history. This fact, obvious to the more discerning for sometime, is now recognised by everyone in the Association, from the grass-roots member to the officers of the Central Council.

Hindsight may tell us that the course should have been clearly mapped twenty years ago; that men of vision should have foreseen that a policy of *laissez faire* could not continue to bring success at all times and in any conditions.

Was it reasonable to expect that the wind would blow in our backs forever?

But lamentations will not solve huge problems. These problems—mainly the decline of clubs and the indifference of many members and supporters—have now been identified and isolated, however belatedly, and certain plans have been formulated to cope with them.

But sometimes there is a vast gulf between a plan and its implementation. Take the case of the regional officers. Whatever reservations one might hold about the exact functions of these proposed organisers, the concept was progressive to the point of revolution. And the

Association needs a revolution at this time.

What has happened to that plan? Despite the most forceful advocacy of the President, Central Council refused to accept it in principle; it was referred to the Provincial Councils for consideration.

And already the Leinster Council has rejected the plan; Munster has accepted it. Ulster has yet to show its hand; Connaught may be amenable.

We have seen the stifling hand of conservatism in action. Change is feared; new ideas are suspect.

It is very sad. Naturally, there should be searching discussion of such a plan; the detailed functions of the organisers had not yet been defined; debate, at county level, could devise a formula which would meet with general approval.

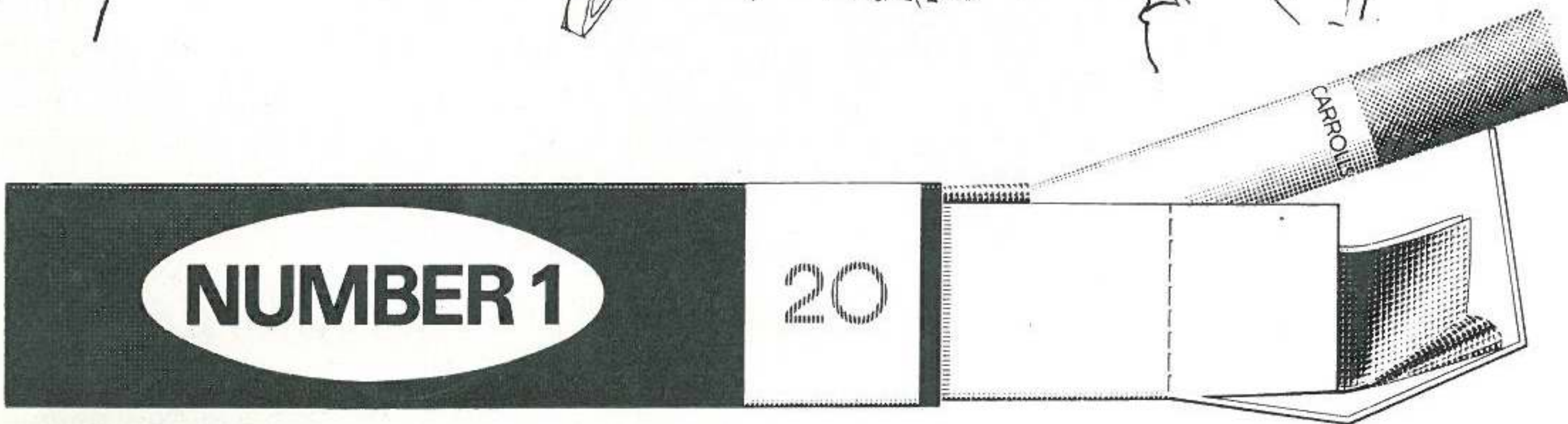
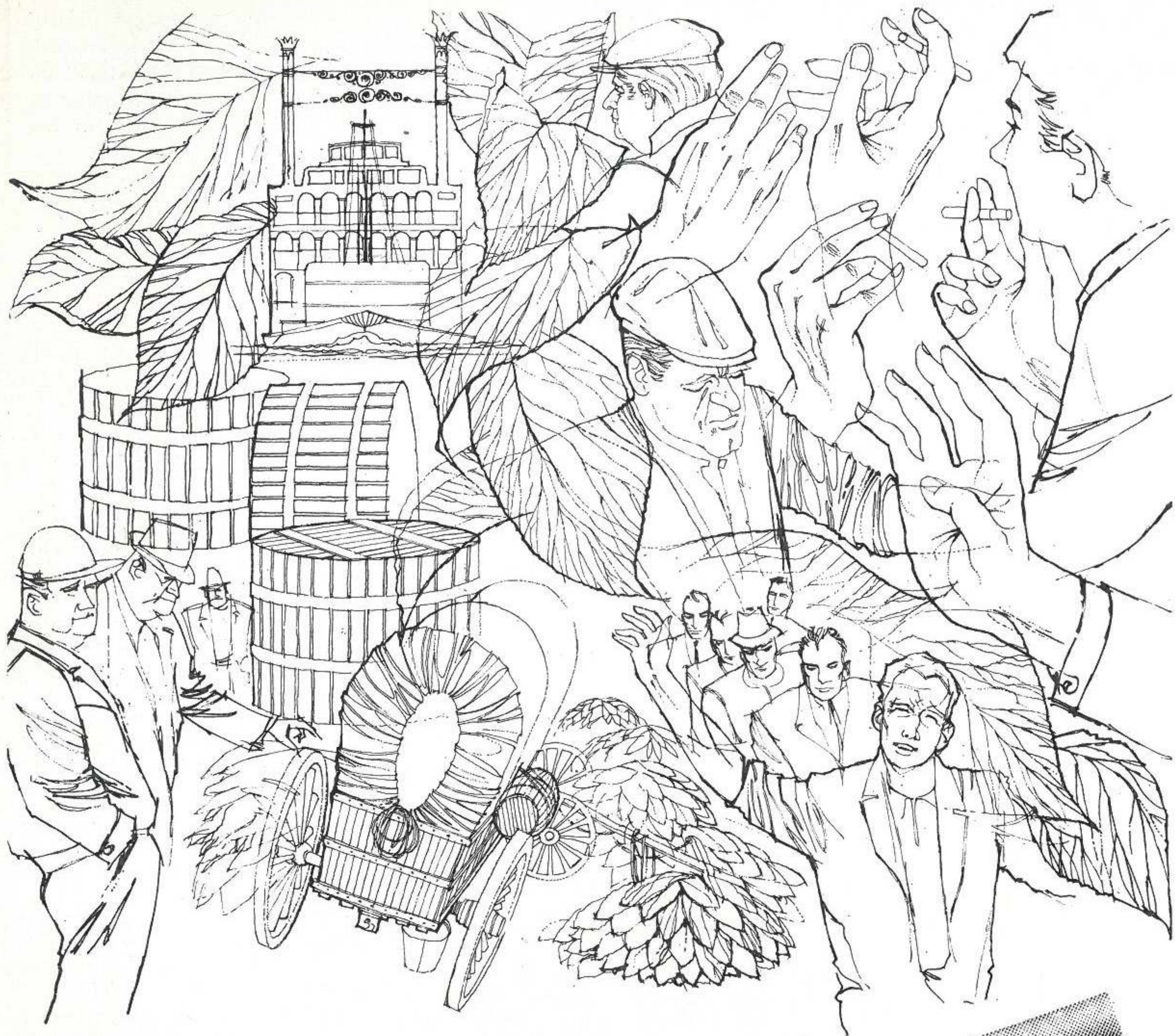
Instead of that there is intransigent opposition and disunity. This is only one item. But it reveals at the core a preference for the old policy of *laissez faire*.

Oh, it is so sad. More than sad—it is tragic. Because the future of our native games, the future of a great association and all its ideals is in the balance

## Decline and fall

WHAT is to blame for the decline of the Railway Cup competitions? Television is a handy scapegoat. Unthinking people say: "Oh, the goggle-box is a menace; it has killed these games; it should be banned." But whatever else may be laid at the door of the Montrose culture-factory, it certainly is not responsibility for the rapid decline of the inter-provincial games.

It is true that the live telecasts of the St. Patrick's Day finals have reduced attendances; but it should be remembered that the falling off had begun before ever the cameras appeared at Croke Park. The real reasons are manifold. They are discussed by two writers in this issue. The debate should now be carried on by all members of the Association. Thus might a malady be cured.



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

CHRISTY KANE has been one of the outstanding backs on Dublin football teams during the present decade. In fact, he has distinguished himself in every defensive position, except goal, over the years—though left full has been his most regular and happiest berth.

His greatest distinction, of course, is the All-Ireland medal won with the "Light Blues" in 1963.

Christy has been Bórd Fáilte manager in Scotland for the past few years and commutes for matches when called upon by county and club selectors.



# CHRISTY KANE

*talking to*

## THE EDITOR

**Editor—In what year did you first represent Dublin in Senior Football and who were your opponents?**

Kane—July 24, 1960, versus Fermanagh. It was the O'Dwyer Cup Final at Irvinestown. Previously I had played on various Dublin All-Star selections.

**Ed.—You have met some really great teams and outstanding individual players. How would you rate the first two in each category and why?**

K.—Galway, in the National League of 1964. Though beating us in the Divisional tie, described by one of the national paper journalists as "all the excitement of ten All-Ireland finals was

packed into the last few hectic minutes", we still managed to win the National League home title. The great Down team of the early 'sixties, particularly the one which stole victory from us in the National League final in 1962.

The late Paudie Sheehy, whose speed and accuracy with a moving ball was a defender's nightmare. Kevin Beahan, for his roving tactics and accuracy with a long ball.

**Ed.—How were you first attracted to football and had you any boyhood idol?**

K.—My love for football was fostered by the Christian Brothers at Westland Row, where I won league and colleges'

medals. Stephen White and Dermot O'Brien of Louth were my idols.

**Ed.—Outside of football, have you any sporting interests?**

K.—Hurling. Time does not permit me to participate in other sports. On retirement I look forward to playing golf and tennis.

**Ed.—How do you keep fit?**

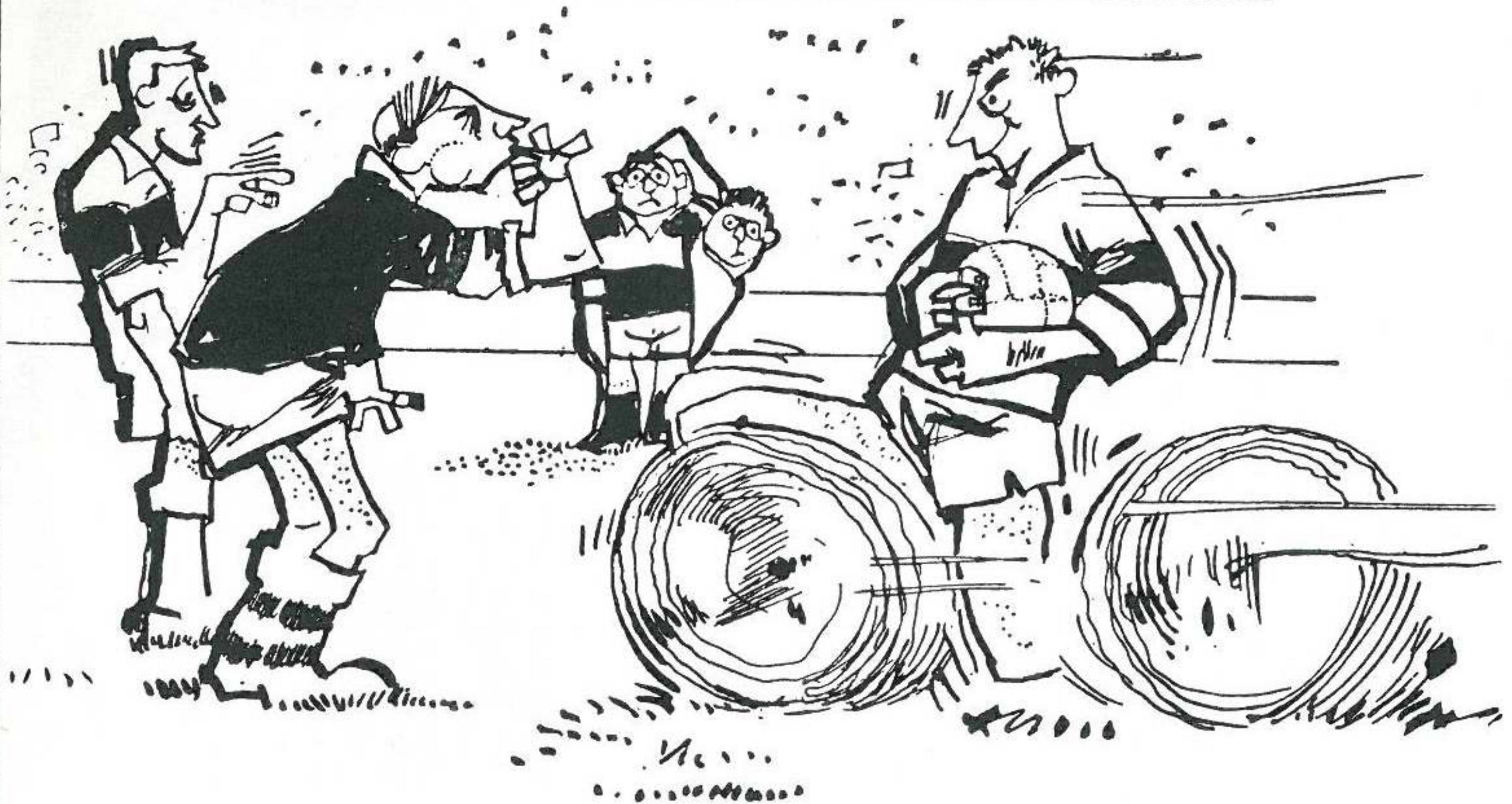
K.—In Dublin I had every opportunity to keep fit with the facilities (both indoor and outdoor) provided by the Dublin County Board and my club, Clanna Gael, but since coming to Scotland I have had to train alone.

**Ed.—Any comments on the standard of refereeing?**

K.—The standard of refereeing varies, I have experienced some excellent referees but also some bad ones. I suggest that there should be an increased number

● TO PAGE 7

# 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*** —





# CHRISTY KANE

## ● FROM PAGE 5

of coaching sessions for referees to ensure uniformity in the interpretation of rules. On the whole, referees do not receive enough recognition and gratitude for services. More young people should be encouraged to referee.

**Ed.—What has been the most memorable experience in your playing career?**

**K.—**Coming on as substitute in the 1963 Grounds Tournament semi-final against Kerry when, at half-time, we were being led by 2-6 to 0-3. With a great recovery in the second half we snatched victory by a last minute goal.

**Ed.—What are your ambitions for the future—G.A.A.-wise, that is?**

**K.—**To see Dublin recover its rightful place with the top teams and win another All-Ireland medal.

**Ed.—How do you view Rule 27?**

**K.—**As a member of the Association I comply with the rule, but feel that it is now out-of-date and should be amended.

**Ed.—When Dublin play away, would you say there is an unnatural amount of hostility towards them by the opposing team and followers?**

**K.—**When we were winning, particularly in the years 1961-1964, I would say that there was an unnatural amount of hostility towards us by provincial followers, but I always found away teams most sporting. At the present time, with the raising of football standards in the provincial counties, this hostility has almost vanished.

**Ed.—Has your record as a footballer been of any help to you in your business career?**

**K.—**In the field of tourism I am always meeting people from every sporting activity and my football background always forms

a meeting place of ideas.

**Ed.—How long do you hope to go on playing in county games?**

**K.—**Due to present business commitments I regret that I cannot always be as fit as I would like to be and feel that my inter-county days are almost over.

**Ed.—**Nowadays playing for Dublin means quite an amount of travelling for you. Could you tell us what sort of a week-end schedule you would have for an average game.

**K.—**Depending on the venue of the fixture; if it is a home venue I can leave Glasgow early on Sunday morning and return the same evening. If it is an away fixture, it may mean travelling on Saturday evening.

**Ed.—**During your present sojourn in Glasgow have your duties with Bord Fáilte left you any free time to take a look at, or participate in G.A.A. affairs in that city?

**K.—**On Sundays, when I am not in Ireland I visit Eastfield and have taken part in challenge games. On the administration side, this year I was proposed by three clubs for the position of County Chairman but due to my position with Dublin, similar to that of Simon Deignan of Cavan, I had to withdraw. However, I have taken the position of team manager of the Glasgow county team and hope to have a strong side in the British junior championship. Wherever my job with Bord Fáilte takes me, New York, Dublin, London or Melbourne, I will always participate in Gaelic games.

**Ed.—Is there any way by which the G.A.A. in Ireland could help promote our native games in Glasgow?**

**K.—**In many ways the G.A.A. in Ireland could help to promote native games overseas. I feel that more clubs and county

teams should make visits to Britain, similar to last year's visit of my own club, Clanna Gael, which was a great success. They intend to return at the end of this month. The officers of the G.A.A. should visit various County Boards at least once a year and have talks and discussions with members.

**Ed.—For the last two or three years, one notices a marked lack of enthusiasm, even apathy, in Dublin county teams. What say you?**

**K.—**Unfortunately, this seems to be true, but perhaps it is more a lack of available talent than a lack of spirit and will-to-win. For the past few years Dublin have not produced good minor or under-21 teams.

**Ed.—Is Dublin county too large an area to put just one team on the field. Would you say, for example, that if there were two Senior teams, Dublin North County and Dublin South County, would such an innovation help to generate more rivalry for team places and a better team spirit?**

**K.—**On the administrative side, I would agree that Dublin is a vast undertaking for one County Board, but regarding two county teams I should point out that the majority of Senior members playing football in Dublin, and particularly in Division I, are not native Dubliners and not eligible for the county team. However, I would agree that it would be a good idea to experiment, with two separate senior teams at minor and junior levels.

**Ed.—Speaking as a Dublin man, I must say it baffles me to see the number of club teams participating in the various leagues in Dublin and yet the pool of players representing Dublin week after week seems to vary not at all. Why is this?**

**K.—**The actual number of senior clubs in Dublin is high, but the standard of football produced by some of these teams is

● TO PAGE 9

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## Regional Officers?

# THEIR JOB — AS I SEE IT

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

THE suggestion by the Central Council that Regional Officers be appointed for each of the four provinces is good only if the work of those officers is directed towards the very urgent task of improving club organisation in the counties.

For that reason I would completely disagree with the portion of the plan which suggests that the Regional Officers would eventually succeed to the position of provincial secretary.

We have had full time Provincial Secretaries, in at least some of the provinces for very many years but they have rarely performed any function as far as the ordinary club is concerned—and cannot be expected to devote the time and the dedication to this very specialised and very urgent task of revitalising club life and building this basic unit of the Association into the living thing that it must become if the G.A.A. is to survive—not to mention progress.

The spotlight has moved more and more away from the clubs over the years — a process that has accelerated in recent times until the position has been reached that a reversal of the trend must be established if the whole structure of the Association is not to become top heavy, leading to collapse.

I think, first of all, that we have too many clubs—on paper at any rate. A tendency has grown whereby parishes affiliate two, three and often more clubs under the same management, where in the old days only one existed. This leads not to progress but to stagnation, especially when in many instances the main reason is increased representation on governing bodies or a bigger share-out of All-Ireland tickets.

Having trimmed our sails as far as the number of clubs is concerned, the next important problem is the drafting of a blueprint of what the ideal club should be. Clear guide lines should be set out on all the important points of membership, management and control. That well established, the various aspects of club development should be examined and a list of suggested activities set out. These should be as comprehensive as possible to embrace the recreational and cultural needs of the entire area served by the club.

## CHRISTY KANE

### ● FROM PAGE 7

very low and also the majority of players are not eligible for the county team.

**Ed.—Do selectors of Dublin teams really run the rule over all league players? Is the team chosen on merit or do club loyalties enter into it?**

K.—Yes. I know some selectors who spend their Sundays attending two or three games in every part of the county in an effort to find promising young players. A certain amount of preference and loyalty enters into the selection of all teams, and particularly when a team does well in a championship and league it is only natural to expect that players from that club will have preference over others because they are, of necessity,

keeping fit and by winning gain more experience from increased competition.

**Ed.—Are you optimistic about the future of the G.A.A. in the capital city, or where do you feel the Association is losing out?**

K.—Due to the size of the operation, a full-time organiser for Dublin is urgently required. There are too many senior clubs in the county, some with no facilities at all—merely a club in name and fielding only one team. Some of them should amalgamate to provide proper facilities for the members. Clubs should promote social activities for their non-playing members as well as their playing members. With the improvement of facilities the potential for the Association in Dublin could be really great.

● TO PAGE 11



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## ● FROM PAGE 9

The generation now passing must get the main credit for the great number of club fields now dotted throughout the land. Thirty years ago this movement was in its infancy and what has been accomplished in the interval is a clear example of what dedicated endeavour can produce.

A field of its own must be the big objective of every G.A.A. club for it is widely accepted now that a club cannot endure for long without this essential amenity.

That now must be regarded as the minimum, but far more is demanded of the club who wants to face the challenge of the 70's with real confidence.

In the past the G.A.A. club was often the only organised body in a parish, and it held a very special position in the affections of the people. Nowadays, we have many organisations in the parish, and allegiance is divided.

The G.A.A. must fight to win back its once proud place and it has the weapons to do so if only it is prepared to use them.

The parish pitch must be developed as a Community Centre. This would entail the erection of a hall of suitable size to act as a social centre, and which should include a bar. All types of indoor activities should be encouraged there.

The playing pitch should cater for hurling, Gaelic football and camogie, with definite times allocated to each. Adjacent land should be acquired to provide a Pitch and Putt Course, with space also included for such amenities as handball and tennis courts. A basket ball pitch and a swimming pool, dressing rooms with hot and cold showers would also be needed.

The Central Council should as

a matter of urgency engage on the task of examining the technique of the few forward looking clubs who have already provided community centres complete with most of the amenities mentioned. A study of their methods, and the manner in which they financed their projects would be of immense benefit to others embarking on such work. A survey too should be made of the availability of grants from Government or other sources in respect of community development of this nature.

The new look approach for our clubs must be carefully planned and fully investigated in order to avoid waste and ensure that the best use is made of existing resources. This is a task the Central Council cannot shirk any longer.

It should be the job of the new Regional Officers to assist the clubs by every means at their disposal in putting the plans into effect. They should be capable of advising on all aspects of club administration and development and should visit every club in their area at regular intervals.

The role of the club is a vital one in the G.A.A. of the future and unless it is put on solid foundations now the whole structure as we know it could be in jeopardy.

I know some will insist that what was good enough in the past and what served the Association well does not need change. We have already plenty of evidence of the danger of such thinking for we cannot blind ourselves to the fact that very considerable ground has been lost even over the past few years—and that inroads continue to be made, and at an alarming rate in some places. If we do not stop the rot now, to-morrow will be too late—that in plain language is the choice we have to make.

# TOP TEN

**POSTPONEMENTS** restricted the list of games (Feb. 2 to Feb. 16 inclusive) from which these ratings were compiled. As explained last month, the system has been changed. Ten players are as heretofore ranked in each game, but, while points may still be awarded from ten (for first place) to one (for last place), this will be the exception rather than the rule.

Ten points will be awarded only for really brilliant displays and more than one player may be given the same number of points. In fact, conceivably, all ten could receive the same rating. Points ratings appear before players' names.

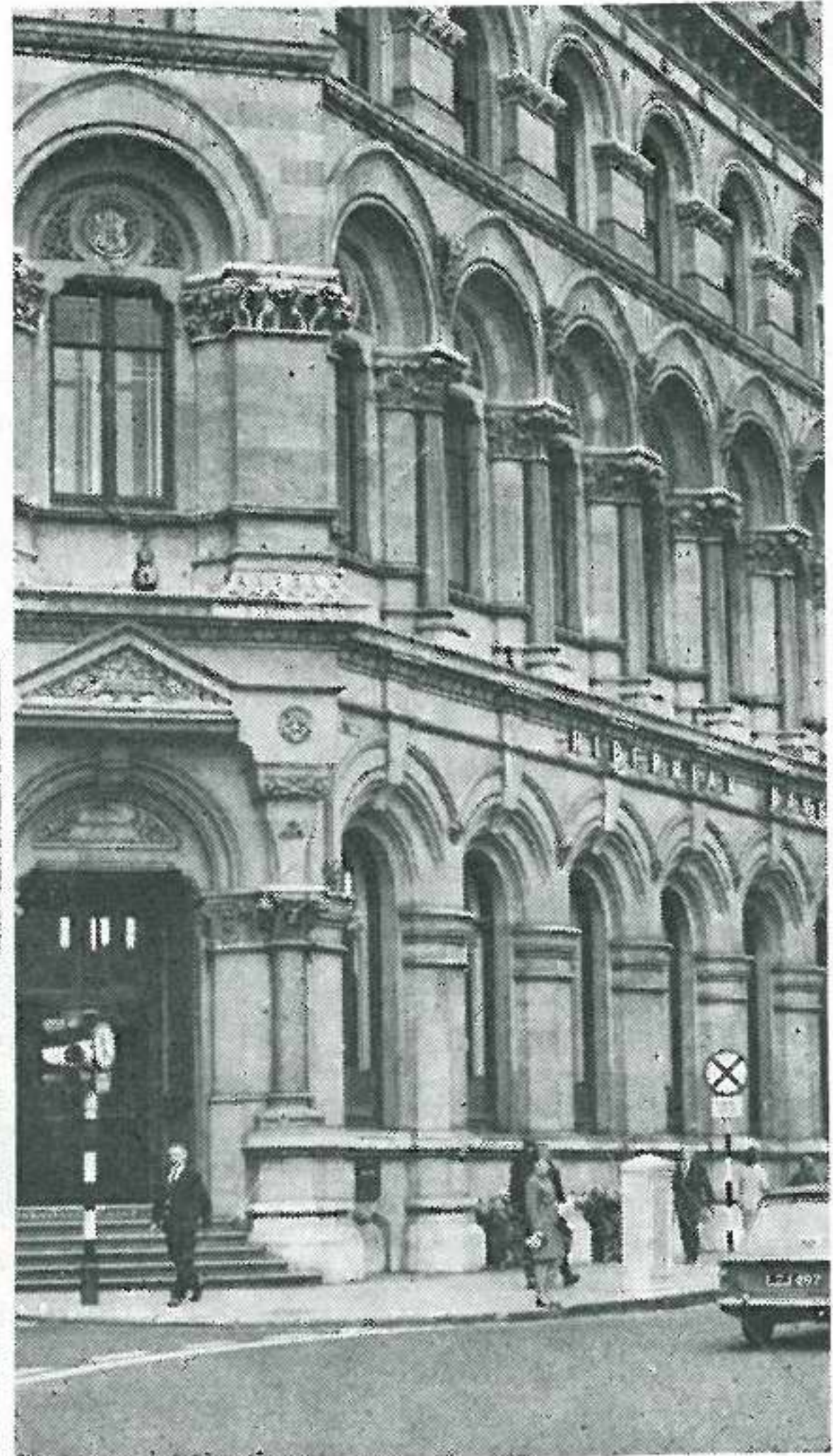
## HURLING

- (8) J. Treacy ..... (Kilkenny)
- (8) D. Murphy ..... (Cork)
- (8) P. Henderson ... (Kilkenny)
- (7) D. Foley ..... (Dublin)
- (7) P. Delaney ..... (Kilkenny)
- (7) P. Nolan ..... (Wexford)
- (7) P. Wilson ..... (Wexford)
- (6) C. Cullinane ..... (Cork)
- (6) A. O'Brien ..... (Limerick)
- (6) D. Bernie ..... (Wexford)

## FOOTBALL

- (9) J. Duggan ..... (Galway)
- (8) P. McAlinden ..... (Down)
- (8) M. White ..... (Meath)
- (7) M. O'Dwyer ..... (Kerry)
- (7) J. Murphy ..... (Down)
- (6) J. Quinn ..... (Meath)
- (6) K. Jordan ..... (Mayo)
- (6) B. Lynch ..... (Kerry)
- (5) P. Ward ..... (Meath)
- (5) P. Dawson ..... (Tipperary)

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# FIFTY YEARS OF THE RED AND WHITE

By  
**Tim Horgan**

**T**HIS year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption by Cork of the well-known Red and White colours, which are now almost as famous as the game of hurling itself. Generations of top-class hurlers (and footballers) have worn the familiar jerseys during the past five decades, but it was quite by chance that red and white became the Cork colours fifty years ago.

Early in 1913, when clubs represented their counties in the All-Ireland championship, Congress ruled that county teams must select distinctive and permanent colours. Up to then, the county champions wore their own club colours when they took part in the All-Ireland, but from 1913

on the county representatives were expected to wear the accepted county colours.

Like most other counties, Cork selected its permanent set of colours soon after the Congress ruling had been made. But the colours chosen by the County Board were not the famous Red and White.

No, indeed! Cork's first county colours were Royal Blue and Saffron and for five years Leaside teams sported these markings in the hurling and football championships.

In 1915, the Cork county champions, Redmonds', carried the new colours to Croke Park for the All-Ireland final, but the Laois representatives, Ballygeehan, won the game.

Then, late in 1918, the County Board offices in Cook Street were raided by Crown forces and among the goods taken was the set of blue and saffron jerseys. The board was unable to purchase a new set in time for the championship and the only alternative was to borrow a set from one of the clubs in the city.

However, as luck would have it, the southside club, called O'Learys, had just decided to amalgamate with St. Finbarrs and did not now require their own jerseys, which were red and white in colour. And so the County Board decided to borrow these jerseys and use them for the 1919 championship.

As Carrigwohill had won the county championship of the previous year, Jimmy "Major" Kennedy had the honour of captaining the Cork selection in 1919, the first year they appeared in Red and White. Several other well-known performers, such as Ned "Sailor" Grey, Dinny Barry-Murphy, Frank Kelliher, Sean Og Murphy, Danix Ring and Jack

Hassett, were members of the team.

Cork had not won the All-Ireland hurling title since 1903, when 'Major' Kennedy and his men arrived in Croke Park on September 21, 1919. They had been beaten in five finals in sixteen years and were expected to go under to Collegians of Dublin on this occasion also.

But, striking in their flaming red jerseys, the Cork men gave a fiery demonstration of hurling as they coasted on to win by four goals. And by so doing, they brought the All-Ireland cup back to Cork after sixteen years.

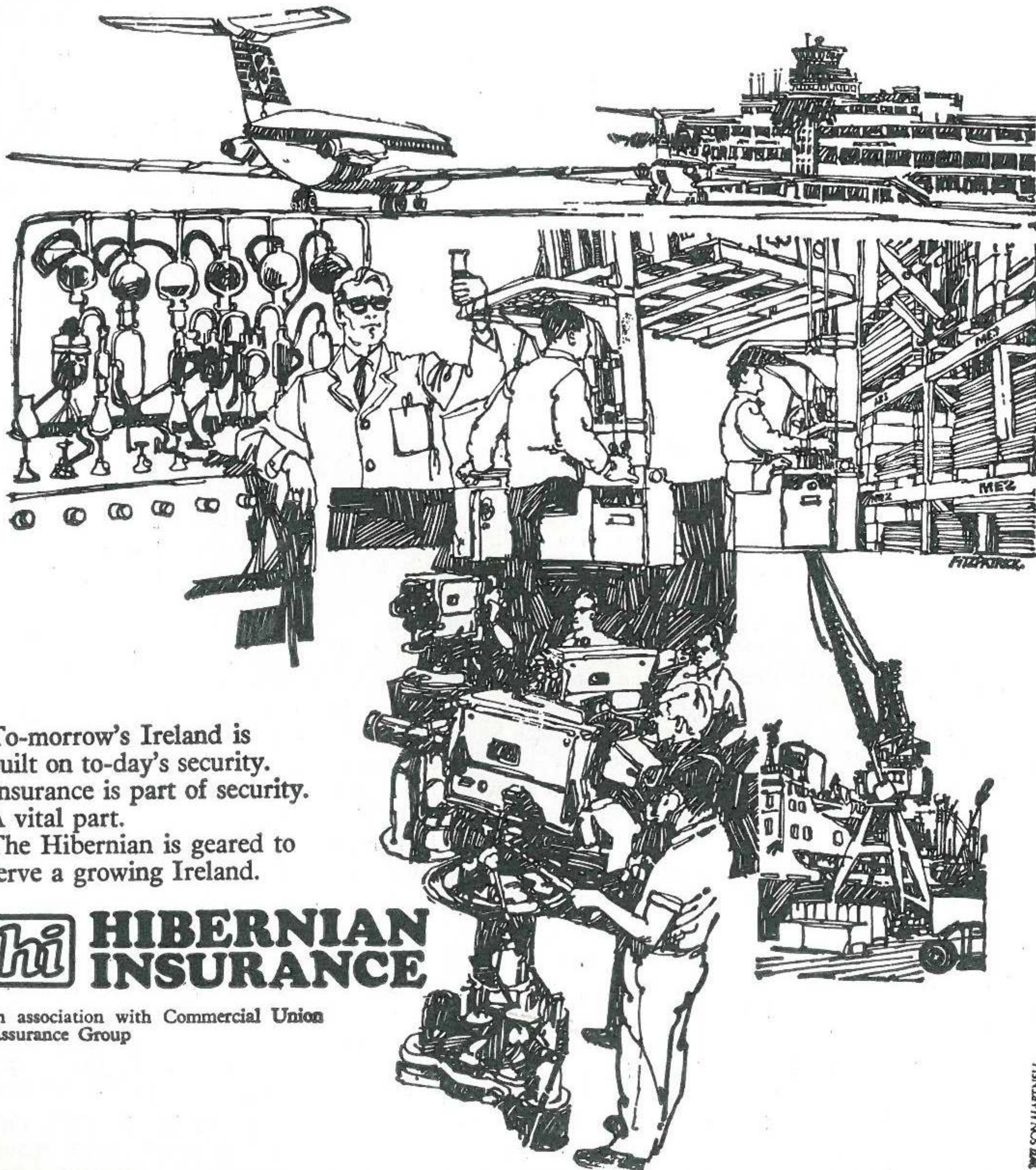
At a subsequent meeting of the County Board it was decided to retain the Red and White colours, which had proved so successful to Cork. And it was in this rather fortuitous manner that the now famous "blood and bandage" markings became part of Cork's hurling history.

During the past fifty years, countless top-class performers have been the proud wearers of the Red and White jerseys. Legendary figures like Jim Hurley, Eudie Coughlan and "Gah" Aherne in the 'twenties and 'thirties, Jack Lynch, Alan Lotty and Paddy O'Donovan in the 'forties and Christy Ring, whose illustrious career shone through three decades, are just a few of the great names which have become synonymous with the Red and White.

Fourteen All-Ireland hurling titles have been won by the red-jerseyed teams during the past half-century, and in 1945 Tadhgo Crowley and his men bore the Cork colours proudly through the All-Ireland football championship.

So all in all, Cork supporters and players have many good reasons for celebrating fifty years of the Red and White.

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WILSON HARTNELL



**A fiery**

**lady**

**says**

**'dirty**

**witch'!**

**T**ERESA TIMONEY was a fier. Small, square-shouldered, black as a crow's wing, strong chin, short nose and a flashing eye. She made me wish I was younger. Like a snipe she darted around the middle of the field, short skirt flying and black-stockinged legs, pumping like pistons as she drove opponents into the horrors. The game was nearly over but a blind man could see that everyone had had enough of this little whirlwind.

Teresa's side was down by a goal and here she was again tearing her way through, slapping the sliotar before her. She lost it, got it back, bumped into a strong young centre-back, bowled her over and kept going, though a little off balance herself.

It was then she cannoned right into the big blonde, Lucy Haloran. Lucy's shoulder sank right into Teresa's chest and down went the brunette ball of fire. Solid and sure, Lucy swung her stick, slapped the ball away and in doing so rapped poor Teresa a smart tap across the knees.

Back came the ball like a shot and Teresa was on her feet, in there swinging like a starling in a gale. Lucy turned her back just at the wrong time and got the full flat of the hurley full across the seat. Wow. She yelped with pain, turned around again and called Teresa a dirty witch.

That started it.

The ref. came running up and the friends came rushing in, but by this time Teresa was in full spate. She called Lucy a blind, dopey old woman, who didn't know her ear from her elbow, and for two pins she'd hit her another flake across the back that would take a lot more of the starch out of her skinny backside (though these weren't exactly the words).

The other girls were appalled. This wasn't usual. The ref. knew it was full time and on an impulse she blew. A second later she realised it wasn't a good idea for on the way to the pavilion the friendly chat continued in spite of placating, maidenly murmurs from all sides.

And said Teresa out loud: "It's about time to knock some of the

**T**HE other day I was speaking on the phone to Cork. Towards the end of the talk we discussed the recent incident where the camogie official ticked the girls off for using bad language. The following day I got this column in the post. I'm just a little confused for I'm certain the man said he hadn't been at the game at all. But with a bad line, a Cork accent and . . . ah . . . well.—THE EDITOR.

**A flight of fancy**

by

**EAMONN YOUNG**

airs and graces out of that old thing anyway. Last night at the dance she gave me a real pain in the neck.

"Easy Teresa, easy". But you might as well have talked to the wall. Lucey, who was expected to hear, was happy to have a go.

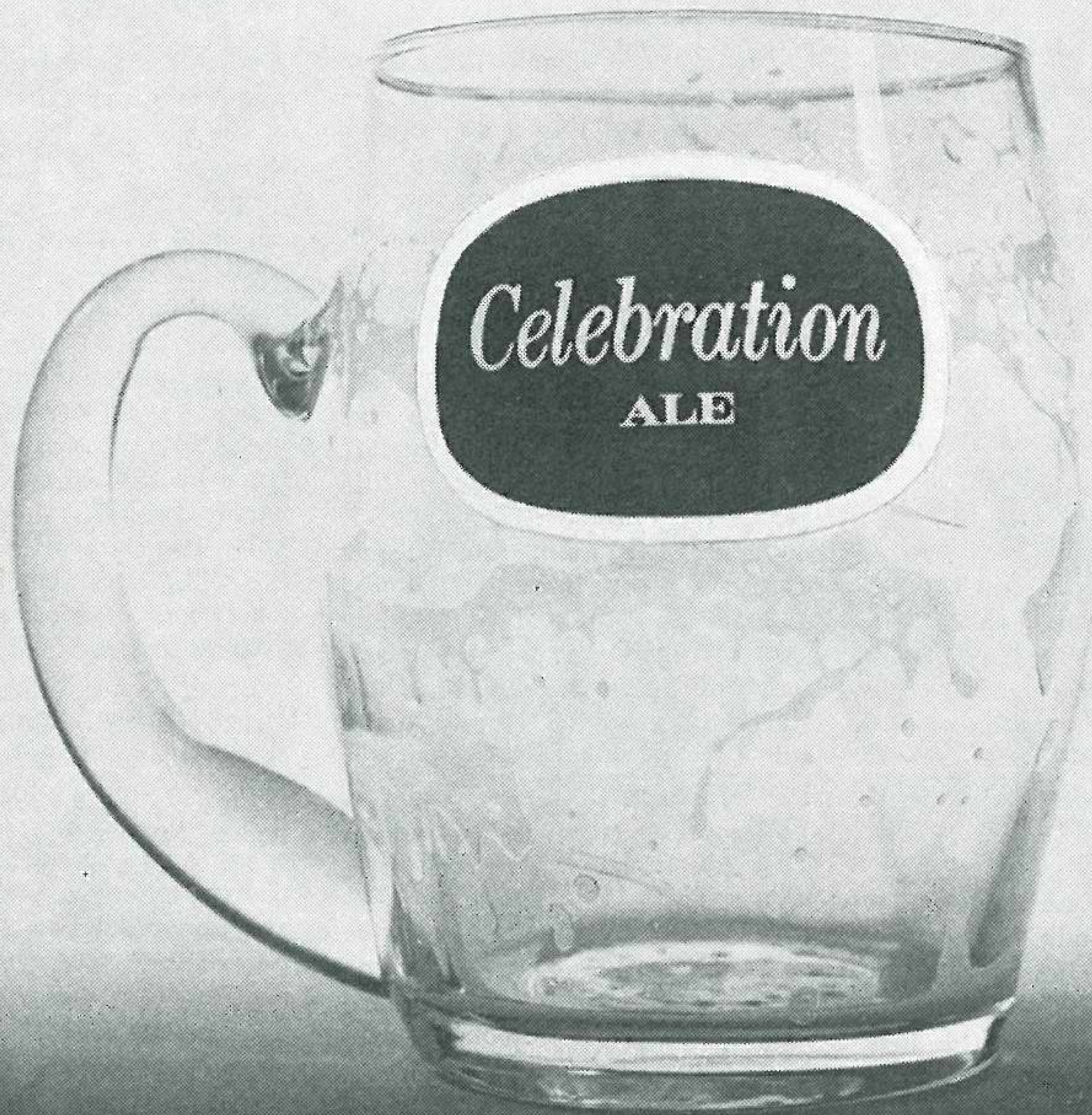
"The dance?" she snorted and turned back. "You mean the dance where you ran around all night in that stupid white minifrock up to your hips, and all the perforations to show your dirty hide. The only bit of material in the thing was at the sleeves. At least they covered your scrawny elbows anyhow".

Black eyes blazing, cheeks, already flushed, now scarlet, the small woman was furious as she faced up to the tall blonde. She threw down the hurley. With relief I saw she wasn't going to use it anyhow.

"No wonder you didn't like my new mini", she spat. "Anyone wearing that deep purple horror of yours for the third time would naturally be jealous. I suppose that's why you spent the night rolling your eyes at my old fool

● TO PAGE 17

**What do beer  
men say about  
the full-bodied  
flavour of  
Celebration?**



**"Same again, please"**

of a Jumbo, who never spoke to a girl in his life until I brought him out.

"My stomach turned to see you nosing up to him like a smutty little pishkin, rubbing yourself against him hoping he'd take notice. He did too . . . the old eejit".

It was then that the chairman of the club came over. She had a straight look on her mature, firm face.

It was time for me to get outa town.

The big bubble on the creamy top reflected the smile ten minutes later down in Joe's place, and Teresa's face brought back the memory of Tim Ryan from Coolmore who was flaking out long ones from centre-back in Gaelic Park, New York, twenty years ago. Mick Tuohy his best friend, was the ref. With a thunderous belt, Tim Ryan cleared another but quite accidentally struck his man as the stick followed through. Like our darling Lucy, the player yelped a bit and then started to call Tim all the names he could remember. The flow cascaded off his tongue with a limpid eloquence, and that boy had a good memory.

"My God did you hear that", says Tim Ryan to the ref. "What would you do with a man like that?"

"I'd do six months in jail for the chap who called me names like that," says the ref.

The next ball . . . Tim dropped the stick and clouted your man a smart tap on the noggin. He sank amid the howls of the populace.

Up ran the ref. and took Tim Ryan's name.

"And now", says he. "Get off the field".

And Tim got the six months—suspension.

# JOHN QUIGLEY

(A profile)



By OWEN McCANN

**D**OWN the years the minor championships have from time to time been illuminated by hurlers and footballers with that "something extra" . . . youths who snapped the nation-wide spotlight firmly on under-age competitions by capturing the imagination and delight of fans with high-quality and progressive, devastating play. John Quigley, of Wexford, is an outstanding graduate of this select band of personality-plus minors.

He had his golden days in the under-age competitions in 1966 and 1967. During those years in particular he majestically paraded to tremendous effect his dynamic talents in the minor, under-21 inter-county championships, and in Colleges' games in hurling, and, in fact, also carved out a unique distinction for himself at Portlaoise in April, 1967, by playing in his fourth drawn game in the final of an All-Ireland Championship. That match featured St. Peter's, Wexford, and Limerick C.B.S. in the national Colleges' decider.

The Rathnure hurler, whom we saw mainly as a defender in those years, but also at times as a forward, climaxed those stirring campaigns by winning two All-Ireland medals, the first at minor in October, 1966, after a replay, and the second in the replay with Limerick C.B.S. in 1967.

In addition, John Quigley also set fans all over Ireland discus-

sing eagerly his talents, his displays, and his future . . . discussions that were conducted with a fervour and an enthusiasm more generally reserved for players in the premier grade. For my own part, Quigley was the one player to make me break unhesitatingly with tradition in 1966.

In a year that was marked by some noteworthy individual performances at senior level in both football and hurling, I singled out one exhibition by John Quigley as my choice as the outstanding display of 1966 in any grade in either code. What I wrote in "Gaelic Sport" in December, 1966 about his defensive play in the All-Ireland minor final replay win over Cork, makes, I feel, even more interesting reading now.

"Here was a mature display of hurling's arts and crafts and cool, thoughtful play that belied the Rathnure hurler's youth. Alert, active, speedy off the mark, sure and accurate striking . . . one of the greatest performances in any national final in any grade".

High praise and the only time yet that I went outside the senior ranks when making this annual personal individual selection. But praise and an honour well deserved. More than that, for those who had followed Quigley's earlier career in under-age and

● TO PAGE 19

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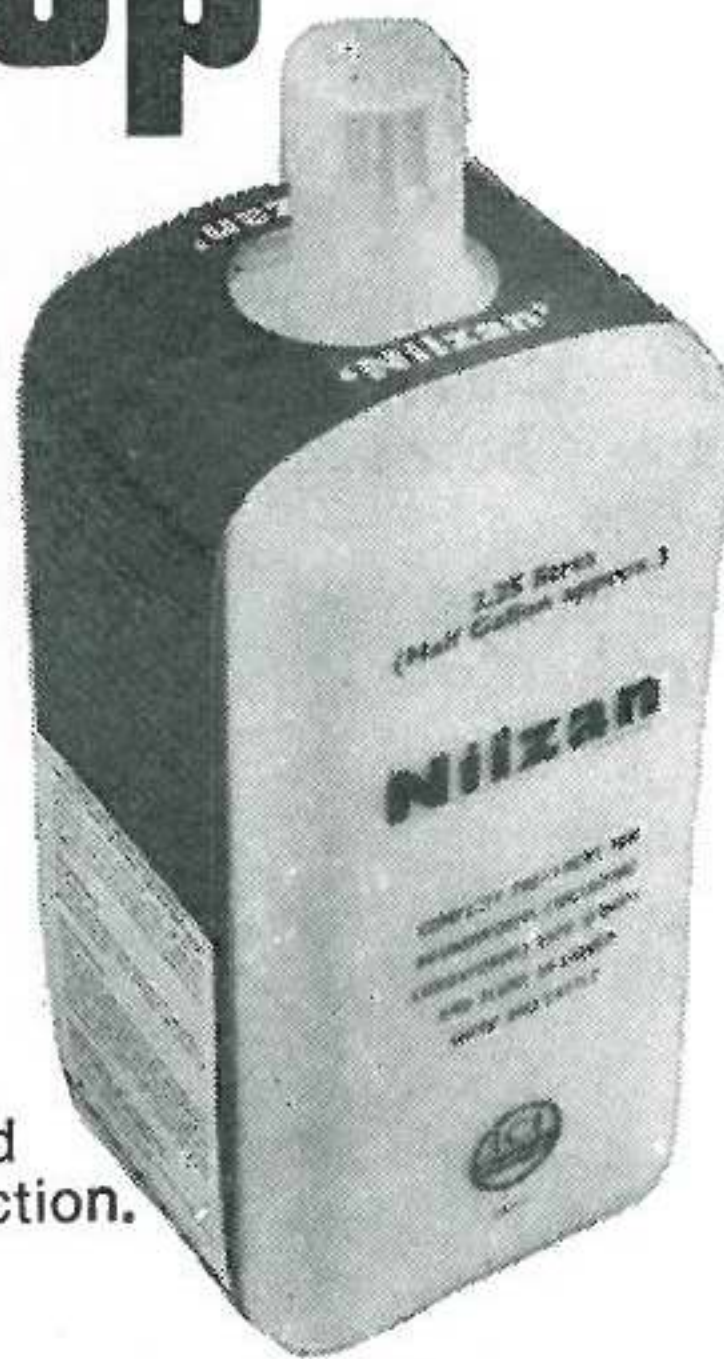
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● *The Quigley Clan—Dan (centre) with brothers Martin, John, Jimmy and Pat.*

● **FROM PAGE 17**

Colleges' hurling, that All-Ireland final replay tour-de-force put the final seal on marking out this young pulse-raiser from Wexford as a youth unquestionably with a great future.

The step from minor to a regular team place in senior intercounty competitive fare is invariably a testing one for the budding star to negotiate successfully—no matter how gifted. To-day, just about 2½ years after that super-show against Cork, there is plenty of evidence that John Quigley is measuring up superbly to the tough challenge.

We have only to recall the part he played in another All-Ireland final win, that never-to-be-forgotten senior tilt with Championship specialists Tipperary last September, to gain the best possible guide to this successful climb to the top by Quigley.

That match had a fairy-tale like ending about it for the young hurler from County Wexford. He had made a number of appearances in the Wexford senior attack in 1967, but it was not until March of last year that he really began to play regularly with the premier team.

He made seven appearances with the side, and, although he did not scale the heights in any game, he still showed up well in each, also scored in every outing, and won a Leinster senior medal

in July, and a Walsh Cup medal in the belated 1967 final, also in July.

For the final of 1968, however, John Quigley was only listed as a substitute. Fate, however, can be tantalisingly fickle, and she eventually dealt a trump card that September afternoon to ensure that John Quigley's name will always be prominently linked with what must rank as one of the greatest triumphs in Wexford hurling history.

To many it may have seemed like "sending a boy on a man's errand", when Wexford, trailing by eight points at the interval, sent John Quigley into the scoring division at the start of the second period. And, how he majestically faced up to the task on hand!

Bristling with enthusiasm, industry and inspiration, he coolly, efficiently, sparked sluggish Wexford first into top gear, then prodded and eased the team into the pace-making role, and finally had the side roaring away on all cylinders for that dramatic win.

No one appreciates better than I that a player, no matter how talented, does not make a team. Likewise, a switch on its own, while it may have a decisive influence on the outcome of the game, is not the only factor in paving the way to success. Other players, other feats all contribute to the over-all pattern that

goes to make up a winning performance.

Nevertheless, I remain convinced that but for that half-hour of supreme quality from John Quigley, Wexford would not be All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions today. It was a performance, too, that further emphasised that here, undoubtedly is one of the most exciting young players in hurling at the moment.

Not so much because of what he actually accomplished in that half-hour, but rather because of the circumstances. It is invariably a less exacting exercise to pull out all the stops when things are going well, to produce the "goods" in a front-running outfit, rather than to step into the firing line when the battle looks all but lost, and, with purposeful and inspiring play, to general a winning counter-offensive. That, as I saw it, is just what young John Quigley did on the first Sunday of last September . . . a 22-carat performance, and the real hallmark of a truly great hurler on the way to the top.

I now confidently look to John Quigley, who has continued to impress since winning that senior medal, to blossom into a senior in time on a par with the power, class, verve, colour and crowd-appeal of his older brother, Dan. And, no one could ask for better than that!



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grows**

# *How to put 'jizz' back into the Railway Cups*

**F**OR more than thirty years I always looked forward to the month of March, because it was the month of the Railway Cup finals. And time was when those same Railway Cup finals were worth going a long way to see. Then through the past decade or so the bottom fell out of the Railway Cup competitions and I have never been able to figure out why.

Perhaps Eamonn Young, a great Railway Cup competitor in his time would be able to proffer an opinion on the reason. A lot of people blame the television. But I am afraid it is all too easy to blame the television and the affluent society for everything.

I never heard that there was a law in this country, or any other, to prevent any man or woman from turning a little switch and reducing the same television to a grey piece of lifeless glass in the corner. We are all so much inclined to be hypnotised by it, that it is even hard to remember nowadays what we did before television ever came in vogue.

So, leaving the television out of it altogether, I think what fundamentally went wrong with the Railway Cups was that the players began to lose interest. Give the matter a bit of thought and I think you will quickly be forced to agree with me that the only people nowadays who show any real Railway Cup dedication are the Ulster footballers. And,

signs of it, they have dominated the football competition through the past decade.

And the public, who are not fools, were quick to realise that the players were losing interest, and they stayed away on Patrick's Day in ever larger numbers these past few years. That attitude of the public at present is quite logical. If the match is any good it is there on television. "If it isn't we can always switch off the ould television and go and do something else for the rest of the afternoon".

And there are a lot more ways of filling in St. Patrick's afternoon now than used be the case some years ago.

The fact is, however, that if the same public were sure of having two good matches to see in Croke Park they would not be worrying about the telly or anything else, they would be above at Jones's Road, roaring their heads off.

Before I go any further however, I must make one small addendum. Someone will also have to do something about the St. Patrick's Day weather. It has been far from co-operative in recent years, and, fair play to all concerned, last St. Patrick's Day must have been as depressing for the unfortunate players as it was for the spectators who were devoted enough to brave the cold and the misery, but then there were not that many of them.

The first thing, I think, that

will have to be done to get a bit of "gizz" back into these Railway Cup competitions as a whole is to give the players some greater incentive than they have at present, and it seems to me that the current trend of affairs provides just the opportunity and the incentive needed.

At the moment we are committed, however vaguely, to full international competition, presumably against America and Australia, though I will never rest easy myself until those hard-working but under-publicised folk, the Gaels of Britain, are in there at full international level too.

Anyway, we will eventually have to get round to the picking of international teams to represent Ireland, and we will have to figure out on what basis these teams will be chosen.

Well, surely, the Railway Cups games must provide the ideal testing grounds? Here you have a series that is based on the best hurlers and footballers of the four provinces. Let us name four or five selectors at the start of the season and let them pick their panel of players to represent Ireland in the internationals from the men on duty in the Railway Cup matches. That would make every prospective candidate in every province battle, in the first instance, for his place on the provincial side.

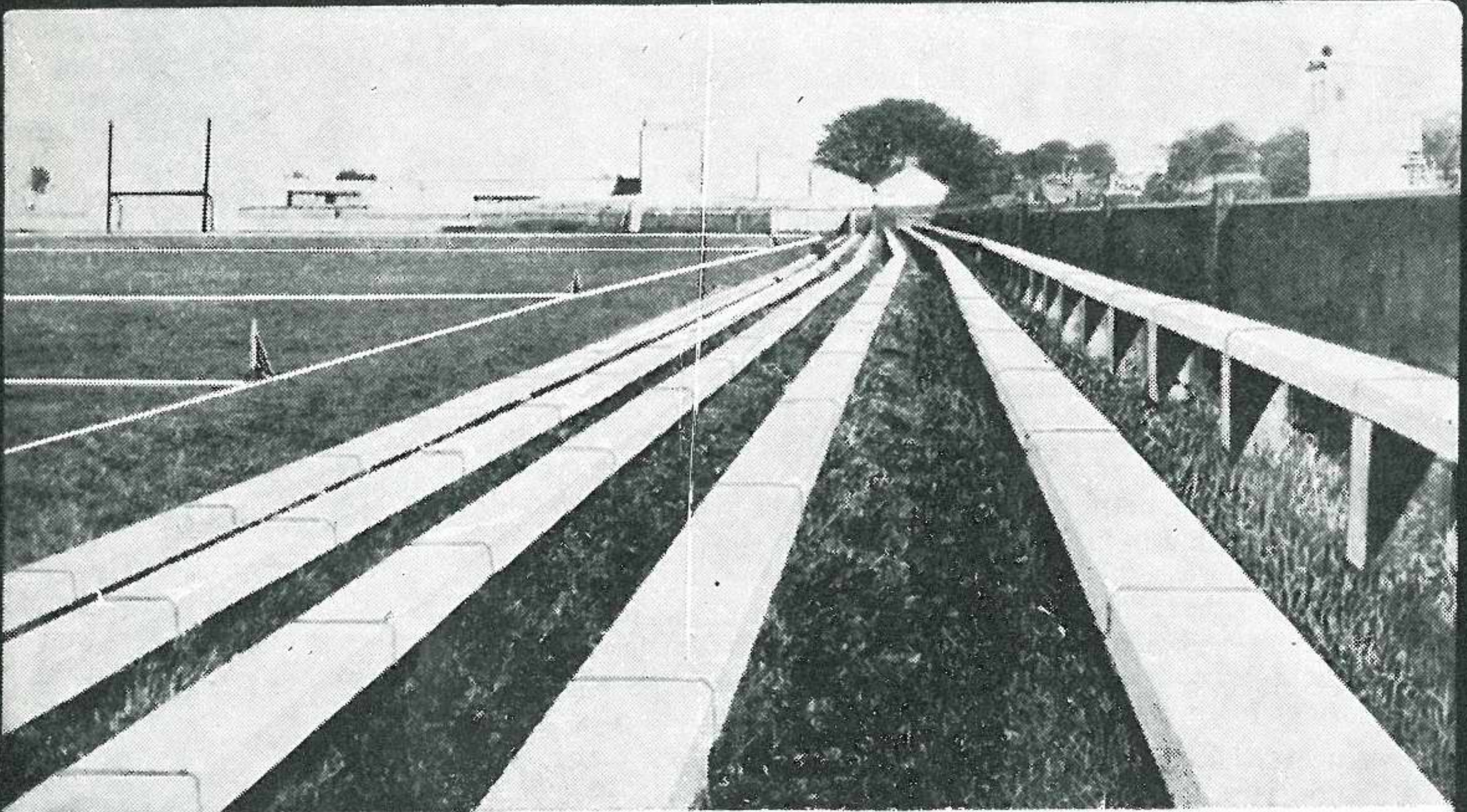
And it would make every player on every provincial side really give of his best in those Railway Cup matches. And I'll warrant you that, with a probable trip to Australia, or an outing to New York in the Irish jersey at stake, the St. Patrick's Day finals would again be well worth looking at and we would not hear so

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● FROM PAGE 21

much about people staying at home out of the cold to watch the game on the telly.

\* \* \*

Speaking of those proposed International competitions, I would like to see them played at more than one level. In several of the British County Boards there are already steadily improving minor competitions. I think it would be a great idea to give minor and Under-21 teams from Britain a chance of a little glory by playing against their Irish counterparts. It would be a great thing to keep the old games going among the sons of the Exiles. Even now it would be a good idea to play such a match as a curtain-raiser to the annual Wembley Games.

Whether it is too late now to do something similar in America remains to be seen. What has always amazed me about the games in America, and particularly in New York, is this. Although our games have been highly organised over there for more than fifty years, the American teams have always been almost exclusively composed of players who were already well-known on the hurling and football fields when they left home. Surely, through all the years, we should have had a team of American born players good enough to hold their own in any company?

I had hoped myself that the playing of the All-Ireland final in New York in 1947 would have had the effect of causing a great increase in the number of young Irish Americans playing our games. But in that I have been sadly disappointed. Why (off-hand, and without checking the records) I would say there were more native-born Americans on the side that sensationally beat Cavan in the League final of 1950 than on any New York team we have since seen.

## PROMOTION CAME QUICKLY FOR CUMMINS, KEHILLY

By TIM HORGAN

**T**WO new footballers from Cork arrived on the Munster team this year for the Railway Cup competition. Nothing strange in that, you might think, and yet the rise of these players to inter-provincial status was quite phenomenal.

They had spent less than a year in the Cork senior colours and had played only two championship games, but in that brief spell they had done enough to take their places alongside Seán O'Neill, Jack Quinn, Mick O'Connell, Paddy Doherty and John Keenan.

One of the new players was the tall U.C.C. student, Raymond Cummins, who was a prominent minor performer three years ago. He gained his place on the Munster team by virtue of three outstanding exhibitions of football on the Kerry full-back, Paud O'Donoghue. He made his debut in a league game at Tralee late in 1967, "retired" shortly afterwards to concentrate on studies and returned for the Munster final at Killarney.

He took part in another league game late last year, when Cork played Kerry at the Athletic Grounds, and once again he got the better of Paud O'Donoghue. It was after this match that the Munster football team was announced and Cummins was selected to take over Con O'Sullivan's position at full forward. (The popular Beara man had announced his retirement after eight consecutive seasons in the Munster colours).

In outplaying O'Donoghue on

three successive meetings Cummins not only ensured himself of a place on the Munster team but also paved the way for Cork's new full-back, Frank Kehilly of Newcestown.

Kehilly made his debut in the championship when he took the place of the indisposed Gerry Lucey, and his performance in the Munster final was creditable. He played reasonably well on Mick O'Connell in a subsequent league game too.

However, the fact that two men could gain their places on the Munster team in such a short spell must surely underline the dearth of top class performers in the southern province at the moment. It could well happen that Cummins and Kehilly will prove themselves worthy of the honour bestowed on them, but even so, one cannot imagine a similar situation arising in any of the other provinces.

Munster have failed to win the Railway Cup competition in the past nineteen years. When they last won the title in 1949 men like "Weeshie" Murphy, Paddy Bawn Brosnan, Donie Donovan, Neally Duggan and Mick Cahill were the proud wearers of the provincial jerseys.

In the past few years players like Eamonn Ryan, Tim F. Hayes, Mick O'Loughlin and Mick Burke have been honoured by the Munster selectors. Yet these have been unable to hold consistently their places on the Cork team!

The sad fact of the matter is that there is an appalling lack of

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*Martin O'Neill (second from left) retiring secretary of the Leinster Council, pictured with the Cuchulainn Award, which he received in 1967. Also in picture: Kevin Boland, Minister for Local Government; Alf Murray and Seán Ó Siocháin.*

## MARTIN O'NEILL

# Heir to a great tradition

By DOMINICK DAVIN

**M**ARTIN O'NEILL, no matter from what angle you care to look at it, was heir to a great tradition. His father before him had been active for the G.A.A. almost from its foundation. Himself, and most if not all of his brothers, played for Wexford. He himself was active in every branch of the Association, hurling, football, handball.

But, the added fact is that Martin had and has made his own traditions in the past forty years. Twice a Tailteann footballer, an All-Ireland medalist in handball and football (while a provincial Secretary), All-Ireland referee, one of the only two

men who has played football at international level in both junior and senior grade.

And, if I may coin a phrase, as Secretary of Leinster Council he is his own tradition, a living legend whose name will never be forgotten; a man who has made an indelible mark on the organisation and management of the native games in his native province.

As Leinster Secretary he was, of course, heir to a fine tradition too. There have only been three Leinster Secretaries. The first Wat Hanrahan, a Wexfordman like Martin O'Neill, was one of those who hauled the Association

up by its bootstrings from the morass into which it had fallen after the Parnell 'Split'.

Wat was Secretary of the first Leinster Council, and, by the time he laid down the reins of office some twenty years later, he had already made the Eastern province what it has always remained, the most go-ahead, and best managed unit of the Association.

He was succeeded by a man who had given great service to Dublin and the London-Irish, a man sentenced to death for his part in Easter Week, Jack Shuldice, who carried on the good

work until the latter part of the 'twenties, when he was succeeded by Martin O'Neill, and for forty years the same Martin has expanded and perfected the good groundwork of his predecessors.

What need is there to laud the good work he has done? The whole of Leinster knows it, and the whole of Leinster shows it. Looking back over his annual reports down the years one marvels that any man should and could show so much attention to and such mastery of so many details.

Even with the recent multiplicity of All-Ireland competitions at inter-county level, which made his work, I am certain something of a nightmare as far as the finding of dates for fixtures were concerned (because remember Leinster has twelve counties to be catered for) I never remember a single instance in which any All-Ireland championship was held up because Leinster was not ready.

Leinster was always ready, Martin O'Neill saw to that. And besides, there was never a good cause, inside or outside the Association, that Martin O'Neill was not ready to help. Always courteous, always approachable, I have never seen him angered except by some slur on the Association and the ideals he has always held so dear.

The pity of it is that the G.A.A. has no way of honouring by way of title a man who has done so much for the games and the ideals behind the games.

I know the motions to Congress have gone forward by now, but perhaps it is not too late to propose from the floor of the house next Easter Sunday that Martin O'Neill be made a vice-President for life.

It would be a small but fitting token of appreciation for a lifetime of devoted and selfless service.

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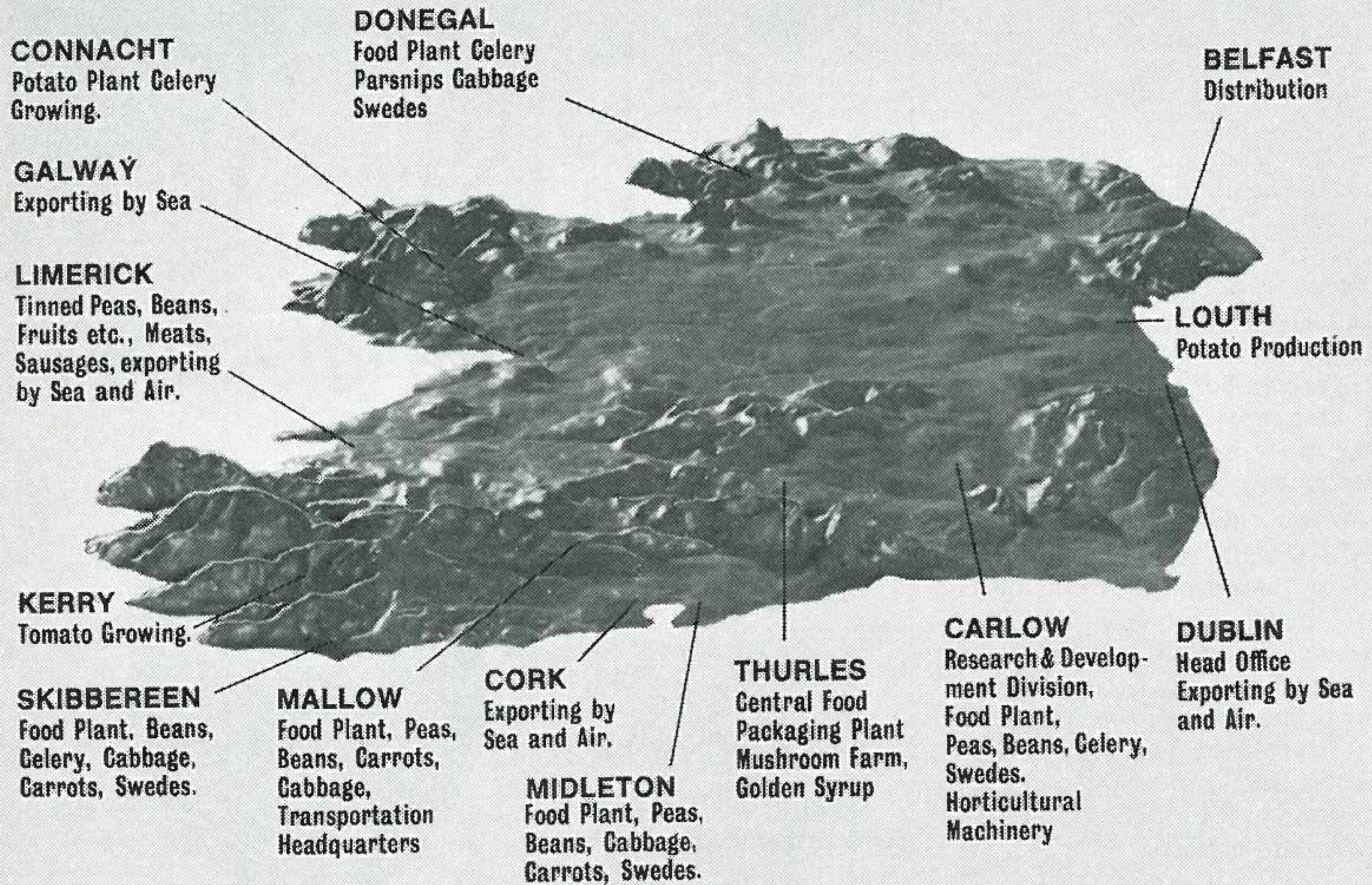
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## CATCHING THE YOUNG GIRLS!

THE Annual Congress of the Camogie Association to be held in Dublin this month will be one of the most vital the Association has yet been faced with, because it will be its task to turn to best effect the tremendous impetus the game received all over the country last season.

It is essential that the Congress should give a lead to players and officials everywhere to strengthen and consolidate the game's new-found strength, and ensure that 1969 will be a year of achievement equal to the unparalleled successes of 1968.

I am for one, eagerly looking forward to the recommendations of the Special Committee set up to consider the future progress and organisation of the game at all levels and sincerely hope that the forward-thinking expressed in the very setting up of such a committee will be augmented by the report itself.

The image of the whole Camogie Association has got an almost unbelievable boost in recent years. It is essential that we continue to march onward and particularly to win over to our ranks the young people. In fact, with the institution of the junior championships and the more recent setting up of the Colleges' All-Ireland, I have never before known such enthusiasm among the younger element than is the case at present.

Indeed, a well-known G.A.A. figure in a certain county said to me very recently that he could not understand how it was that

camogie could win the allegiance of the young girls at a time when the G.A.A., in his area, felt it was losing its grip on the allegiance of the young boys.

In any case, we are still advancing and now is the time to make that advance even more striking. It is up to Congress to arouse further enthusiasm by planning for the future and doing its best endeavours to ensure that before 1969 is out we have an active and energetic organisation in every one of the thirty-two counties.

A heartening sign of late has been the number of young people most of them players who have shown such a very active interest in the affairs and the future of the Association. I do hope that they will be encouraged, that they will in fact be given their head. They are, I know, likely to make mistakes. But people who never made mistakes never made anything and their fresh outlook is just what is needed to carry camogie forward to meet the challenge of the '70's.

\* \* \*

Meanwhile despite a bad weather hold-up through January, there should be an increasing trek back to the playing fields from now on. As I write this, the eagerly awaited All-Ireland schools championship is held up, temporarily only, I hope, by the enforced closure of the secondary schools. But assuming that the schools are back in action again after a reasonable time, we should see a couple of fine games

in this competition before the month of March is out.

One noted that when the Texaco Stars of the Year awards were given this year, camogie was not among the sports honoured. No reason was given, but I myself have a shrewd suspicion that the Sports Editors, an all-male body, have a feeling that one woman is quite enough to include in their ten awards, and having included a lady golfer they probably thought they had done their duty by the opposite sex.

But it was hard luck on Wexford's Margaret O'Leary, who would surely have been an almost automatic camogie choice.

The season has now come round when we are usually faced by a phenomenon which has caused such trouble to camogie in a few parts of the country—indoor football for girls. And a correspondent comes up with a solution that I am surprised I had not previously thought of myself. Why cannot certain G.A.A. clubs, who have sponsored such competitions in the past, sponsor indoor camogie competitions instead?

There seems to be no reason whatever why they should not.

Played five aside and with a rule against taking the ball into the hand (i.e., insistence on ground-play only) there is no reason why camogie cannot be successfully played indoors and prove a most entertaining game at that. And now that I come to think of it, such a game would provide really invaluable training for the players concerned.

# Railway Cup pe

**T**HE Railway Cup interprovincials started in November, 1926, when Munster beat Ulster and Connacht mastered Leinster in the football semi-finals, and Leinster outscored Connacht in a hurling semi-final. The first finals were both played on St. Patrick's Day, 1927.

The competitions have been marked by some noteworthy games, and outstanding individual and team achievements, feats which hold honoured places in the annals of football and hurling. So let's celebrate the 1969 Railway Cup finals this month by spotlighting some of the outstanding peaks.

**GREATEST RUN:** Munster, who have not lost a single semi-final in hurling, though the province has been forced to replays on two occasions (1945 and 1957) by, it is hard to credit nowadays, Connacht, are the pace-makers in all directions in hurling. The South took the Cup for the 30th time last year—a lead of no fewer than 18 titles over Leinster and Connacht combined.

Munster completed the greatest run of titles in succession in either code in 1953 by beating Leinster for a sixth final win in a row. Munster were not featured in any drawn matches in that run, and in 1954 they pushed their unbeaten record to 13 straight wins by mastering Connacht at headquarters. The glory era came to an end next time out in a match that was also unique in hurling until then. Leinster won 0-9 to 0-5, the first goal-less final in the Railway Cup in hurling, and also the only tie until that afternoon that failed to yield a goal.

**NEW LOOK:** The 1959 hurling final had a setting all its own. On the St. Patrick's Day, Connacht brought in their last win prior to 1969, by beating Leinster, and in football, the East beat Munster.

The hurling final was staged to mark the official opening of the magnificent new Hogan Stand on June 7. And, to Jimmy Doyle, of Tipperary, fell the distinction of landing the first score on that historic date. A few

minutes after the throw-in he shot Munster into the lead with a point, and on the way to a resounding 7-11 to 2-6 victory.

That game, too, was graced by a spectacular barrage by the doyen of interprovincial players, Christy Ring. The dynamic Cork man made 44 appearances in the Munster Blue between 1942 and

1963, and won a record 18 medals. In that 1959 final he had his highest score in one game in the competition—4-5. In his interprovincial career, Ring scored 42 goals and 105 points (231 points) for a match average of an impressive 5.25 points.

**FOOTBALL'S FIRST:** A four point win—1-14 to 1-10 over Connacht in 1955 left Leinster the first province to win four titles in succession in football. On the way to that first four-timer, Leinster beat Connacht four times, and Munster twice, and Ulster twice.

It was a double joy-day for Ollie Freaney (Dublin) and Stephen White (Louth). They were the only players to figure in all eight games in that record-making run, and neither had to retire at any stage in any game. Kevin Heffernan (Dublin), who played in all the games, except the 1955 semi-final, for which he was not chosen, was the top-scorer with 5-25 (40 points) an average of 5.71 points.

**CIRCLE COMPLETE:** Ulster

**BY OWEN McCANN**

were without a win in four Railway Cup football finals from 1928 to 1941 inclusive. In 1941 they lost after a replay to Munster. In 1942 it was Ulster, with a team drawn from six of the nine counties—Derry, Down and Fermanagh were the "odd counties out"—against an all-Kerry selection, except for Eamonn Young,

# aks

that Cork man now so well known to "Gaelic Sport" readers.

That final resulted in a team that included such as Alf Murray (Armagh), Kevin Armstrong (Antrim), Hughie Gallagher (Donegal) and Cavan's John Joe O'Reilly, the team captain, T. P. O'Reilly and Simon Deignan, made the football circle complete by forging a 1-10 to 1-5 win—the last of the provinces to get on the winners list in football.

**THE LONERS:** Connacht pipped Leinster by a point on March 9, 1947 at Croke Park for a place in the hurling final. It was the start of a unique chapter. On the St. Patrick's Day only the football final was played, and it was not until April 6 that Connacht, without a win in two finals, both against the South, faced mighty Munster again.

That day the "impossible" happened—Connacht won, and in the process, kept Munster to their lowest tally in any game in the competition so far — 1-1. Sean Duggan, generally accepted as one of the greatest hurling goalkeepers of all time, Josie Gallagher and M. J. Flaherty were some of the big names in that win, which is doubly historic. It is Connacht's only final win, and also ranks as the only one in hurling achieved by a one-county selection—Galway.

Two years earlier in Belfast, Ulster beat Leinster 3-1 to 2-3 for the province's only win in 24 semi-finals proper, excluding last month's qualifying game with Connacht. In the final, Munster won 6-8 to 2-0 to become the only province to score a final

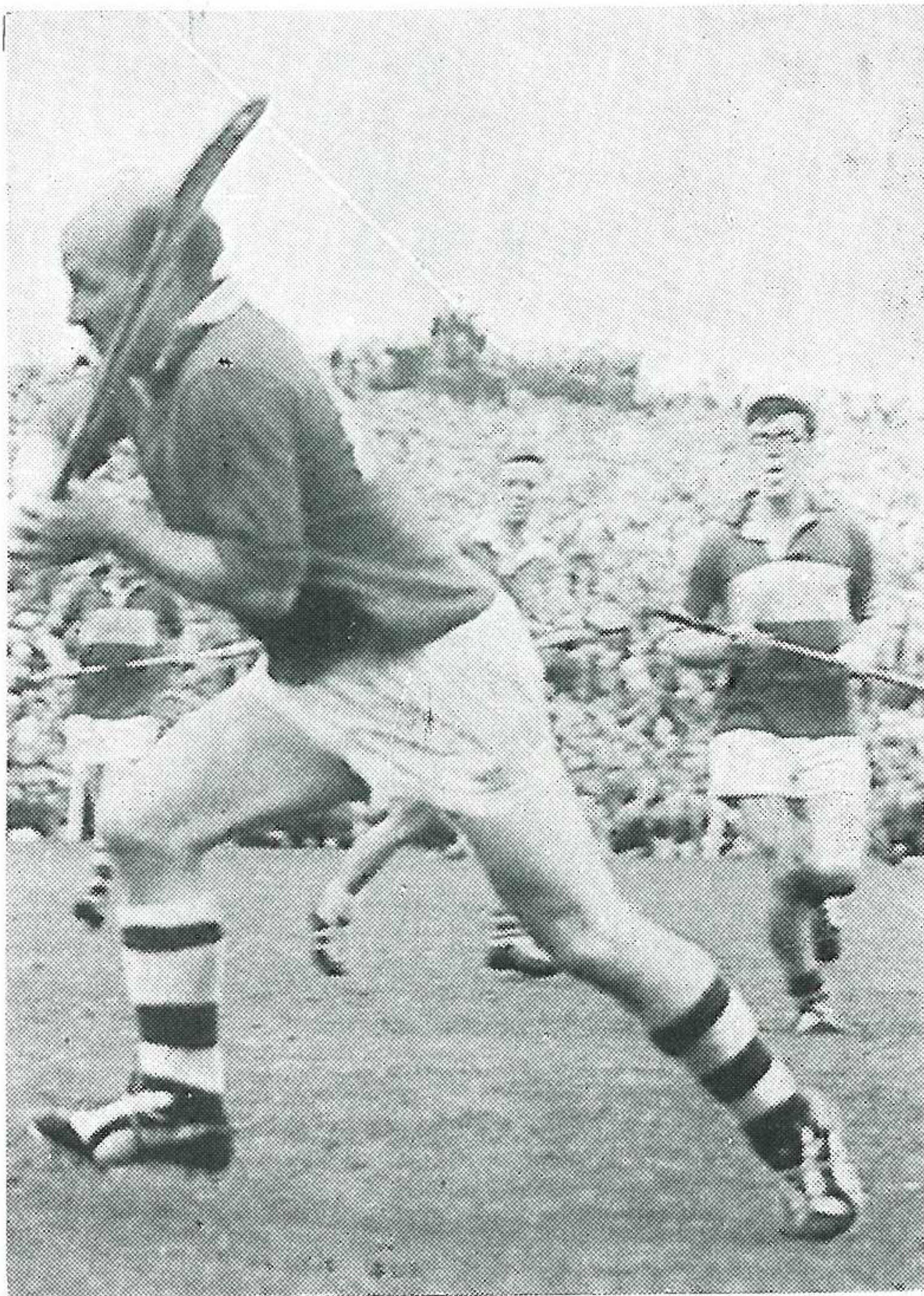
win against each of the other three provincial selections.

**ONE UP, ONE DOWN:** In 1966, Ulster equalled Leinster's record of four football titles in a row. Paddy Doherty (Down) was the only man to play in all eight games. He was not forced to go off in any one game. Doherty was also Ulster's chief

marksman in that run with 4-35 (47 points). This was seven points more than Heffernan scored in the Leinster run, and, although Doherty played one match more than the Dubliner, he still gained slightly the better average—5.87 points.

In the 1967 final, Connacht

● TO PAGE 30



*Christy Ring, who scored 42 goals and 105 points in his 44 matches with Munster hurling teams over a span of 22 years.*

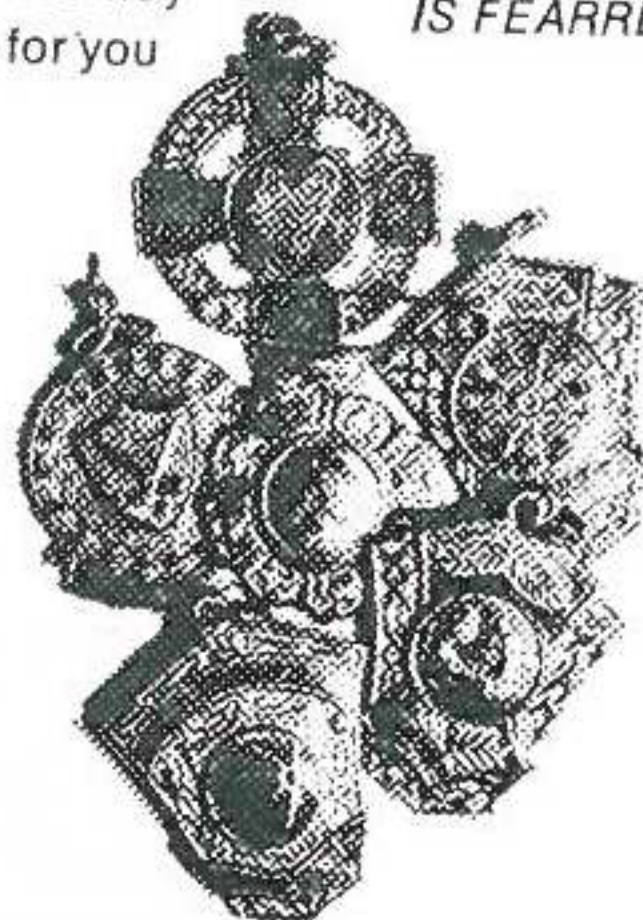
# win, lose or draw

Everybody wants to win... nobody wants to lose and a draw means that you have only a fifty-fifty chance of surviving next time out.

Life is exactly like that; everybody wants to win but remember the old saying "It's tough at the top." The only sure way of getting to the top for you

and your family is by starting a regular savings plan and sticking to it. So get into training now... put something aside week by week or month by month and no matter how the team fares you'll always be on the winning side.

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IS FEARRDE THÚ AN COIGILT*



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An Coiste Coigiltis Náisiúnta/National Savings Committee, 72-76 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

## ● FROM PAGE 29

foiled Ulster's bid for a unique five-timer. Another record still went into the book that day, though, through the appearance of Roscommon's Dermot Earley as a substitute for Joe Langan (Mayo).

In 1966 Earley figured in the minor, junior and Under-21, as well as the senior inter-county championships. He also played in the National League, and captured and All-Ireland Under-21 medal. In 1967 he played in the Connacht trial, but he did not win his place in the semi-final team, nor did he appear at any stage in the win over Munster at Galway. Then came that initial outing in the Railway Cup proper as a substitute—and a record for Earley. He thus became the first footballer to play in every possible grade of competitive play in the same season's campaign.

**FIRST DOUBLE:** Munster was the first province to win both titles on the same afternoon. The South beat Leinster 1-12 to 2-6 in hurling, and mastered the East 2-2 to 0-6 in football in 1931. A year later Leinster reversed the results by winning both finals with Munster. Leinster and Munster each boasts four doubles, with the East the last province to win both Cups in the one year—in 1962.

Des Foley (Dublin) figured at midfield in Leinster's wins in those 1962 games over Munster hurlers and Ulster footballers, the only player to win medals in both codes on the same day.

Finally, here is the Railway Cup Roll of Honour starting the current month's finals:

**FOOTBALL:** 17: Leinster (1928 to 1962); 11 Ulster (1942 to 1968); 8 Connacht (1934 to 1967); 6 Munster (1927 to 1949).

**HURLING:** 30 Munster (1928 to 1968); 11 Leinster (1927 to 1967); 1 Connacht (1947).



# LÁ MÓR GAODHALACH

## Seán Bán do scrí

**T**Á Lá Fhéile Phádraig ag teacht. Lá mór is ea é, ní h-amáin annso in Éirinn ach mar a gcéadna i mórán tíortha atá abfad abfad ó Éirinn. Lá mór Gaodhalach é pé áit 'na bfuil scata Gaodhal bailithe le chéile. Lá mór, mór ar fad é in Nua Eabhrach, mar tá níos mó de chlanna Gaodhal ag cur fútha sa chathair sin, ná mar atá in aon chathair eile ar fuaid an domhain. Níl aon teóra leis an mhéid dár gcine atá sa chathair mhóir sin. Ó aimsir an ghortha i leith, tá na mílte is na mílte dár ndaoine imthighthe go h-America blian ar bhlián. Chuir an gorta scannradh agus sceón orra, agus ar eagla go dtíochfadh gorta eile bhailigheadar leó, agus bí deimhin de, níor chuir Seánín Buí is a rialtas aon chosg leó. A mhalairt ar fad, is amhlaidh gur chabhruigheadar leó i ngach aon chuma. Chuadar an t-am san ó gach aon chonndae ach go mór mhór ós na conndaethe atá ar chósta iarthair na hÉireann, sé sin ó Chorcaigh, ó Chiarraí, ón gCláir, ó Gaillimh, ó Mhuigheo, ó Sligeach, ó Liathdruim, is ó Thír Conaill. Is ins na cathair-eacha móra a chuireadar fútha thall, i Nua Eabhrach, i mBoston, i Philadelphia agus i gcathair-eacha eile mar sin.

### MÓR-SHIÚL AGUS BRÓN

Bíonn mór shuíl iontach aca i Nua Eabhrach ar lá fhéile Pádraig gach aon bhlián. Cheapfa gur leis na Gaedhil ar fad an chathair an lá san. Bíonn fir, is mná, agus páistí, fiú amháin, páirteach ann. Bíonn brat na h-Éireann le feiscint mór-thimcheall ort, annso, annsúd, thuas agus thíos fan na sráideanna.

Bíonn bannaí ceoil aca agus portanna Gaodhalacha ghá seinnt aca, cinn a árdóchadh do chroidhe, ach mo léir bíonn daoine sa mhór shiúl úd agus ní h-áthas a chuireann an ceól orra, ach a mhalairt. Cuireann sé brón orra. Cuireann sé i gcuimhne dhóibh laethe a n-óige. Cuireann sé an seanna fhód i gcuimhne dhóibh, an t-athair cineálta maith, is an mháthair deas ghrádhmhar d'fhágadar 'na ndiaidh. Ní h-aon iona annsan é, go dtagann na deóra guirt isteach na suile agus deireann siad, ní go h-árd ós árd, ach go h-íseal chúcha féin, an nídh céadna is adubhairt deóraidhe bocht eile—Donnchadha Rua Mac Connamara, uair amháin:—

“B'fheárr liom ná duais dá uaisleacht é  
Bheith ar Bhán Chnuic Éireann Oigh.”

### COMÓRTAISÍ AN BHÓTHAIR IARAINN

Nuair a cuireadh tús leis na comórtaisí seo don tarna h-uair, ós cionn dathad blian ó shoin, ba mhór an spéis a cuireadh ionnta. Is cuimhin liom go maith an chéad chluiche den sreath, idir pheil agus iománíocht. Táim cinnte ná raibh a sárú againn ó shoin i leith. Mumha agus Connachta abhí páirteach sa chluiche peile. Sár chluiche amach is amach abhí ann. Ciarraighigh ar fad abhí i bfuireann na Mumhan ar an ócáid seo. Tv a bfuirmhór aca imthithe go dtí an saol eile ó shoin. Solus na bflaitheas dá n-anamacha, mar ní bheidh a leithéidí i gCiarraidhe go deó deó arís, is baoghal liom. Bhí fuireann iontach ag Connachta an lá

céadna. Bhí sár-fhear amháin orra go léir “Knacker” Breathnach as Gaillimh. Fuair sé siúd bás leis, blian nó dó ó shoin—beannacht Dé lena anam.

I Nua Eabhrach a fuair sé bás—abfad ó bhaile. D'imir sé ana chiucche an lá san. Ar an líne dathad slat abhí sé ag imirt. Bhí sé mór, bhí sé árd agus aichilí dá réir. Bhuidh na Muimhnigh an lá san, ach ní raibh le sparáil aca ach pointe nó dó.

### IOMÁINT IN EXCELSUS

Bhí an cluiche iománíochta ar aon dul leis an gcluiche peile. Rogha agus togha Cúige Mumhan i gcoinnibh rogha agus togha Cúige Laighean abhí páirteach sa chluiche iománíochta. Cé go raibh fuireann iontach ag na Muimhnigh an lá úd, bhí fuireann níos feárr fós ag na Laighnigh. Bhí roinnt mhaith gárdaí síothchána i bfuireann Laighean. Bhí Séamus Ó Muirthuile ó Chlanna Caoilte ag imirt i lár na páirce ag na Muimhnigh agus bhí Micheál Mac a'Ghuill as Gaillimh ar thaobh na Laighnigh, mar gárda i mBaile Átha Cliath abhí ann. Tá Séamus Ó Muirthuile imthighthe uainn leis—solus na bflaitheas dá anam uasal. Sár Ghaodhal, sár iománaidhe, agus sár fhear i ngach slí abhí ann. Bhíomar ana cháirdiúil riamh, is do scrímís chun a chéile go rialta. Tá Micheál Mac a'Ghuill beó fós—beannacht Dé air. Casadh orm é go minic ó shoin i leith. Bhí sé mar chaptaen ar fuireann Laighean an lá san, chó fhada agus is cuimhin liom, agus má bhí ba mhór an onóir é, mar bhuidh na Laighnigh an cluiche le cúlín nó dó.

Slán beó leis an sean-aimsir.

# TARGETS THAT WOULD IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF HANDBALL

By ALLEYMAN



**T**HOUGH the present year is two months old it is still not too late for me to express my main wishes for handball in the coming season.

These, basically, would come under the headings of a greater emphasis on the promotion of the game amongst the youth and the need of modern playing facilities.

Each of these captions can be subdivided into relative priorities, all of which have a big bearing on the future status of the game.

For instance, in the case of playing facilities, it is hardly necessary at this stage to state that a covered court is an absolute essential for the future.

The day is gone when four walls and a makeshift gallery will suffice—without the extra trimmings of a roof and proper dressing-room facilities there is no attraction.

Even from a productivity angle, the covered court scores heavily, for while it can be used throughout the entire twelve months, both night and day, the open court is really only suitable when the weather is dry and during daylight.

It is obvious then that the continuity of a season can be drastically impaired and this is one of the reasons I put down to the occasional demise of clubs.

On taking a look at the general position of covered alleys throughout the country it is found that, with the exception of Leinster, there is a lot of leeway to be made up in the other provinces.

Ballymacelligot and Horse and Jockey, with a question mark after the latter, are the only courts covered in Munster. Ballymote in Connacht and none at all in Ulster.

There are reports of covered courts in course of construction in these three provinces but, until such time as there is at least one for every county playing the game, the position cannot be deemed satisfactory.

An extension of this theme suggests that, in itself, a covered court as an entity is not enough, but that such basic needs as toilet facilities, showers and at least a small meeting room are essential.

Unfortunately these are not available at some of the present covered courts, so, if the clubs attached to these make this their target for the coming year, the image of the game would be greatly improved.

A desire to see a greater emphasis on the promotion of the game amongst youth probably finds its origin in the assertion that the life blood of any game is the young player.

No doubt, by comparison with a few years back, there is at present a better all-round effort being made towards under-age promotions—a factor that must definitely be attributed to the innovation of the Willwood Tailtean Games a couple of years back.

But it appears that the surface has only been scratched. If only the adult players in every county decided to do even a small bit of work in relation to juvenile promotions there would be an instant upsurge at this level and, in consequence, the long term results are obvious.

Or perhaps, the people who are really falling down on the job are the former stars, the vast majority of whom are reluctant to put anything back into the game.

In handball, as in any other

game, they could prove to be a wonderful inspiration for the young players who would appreciate nothing more than a few encouraging words from their established and renowned predecessors whose achievements they hope to emulate.

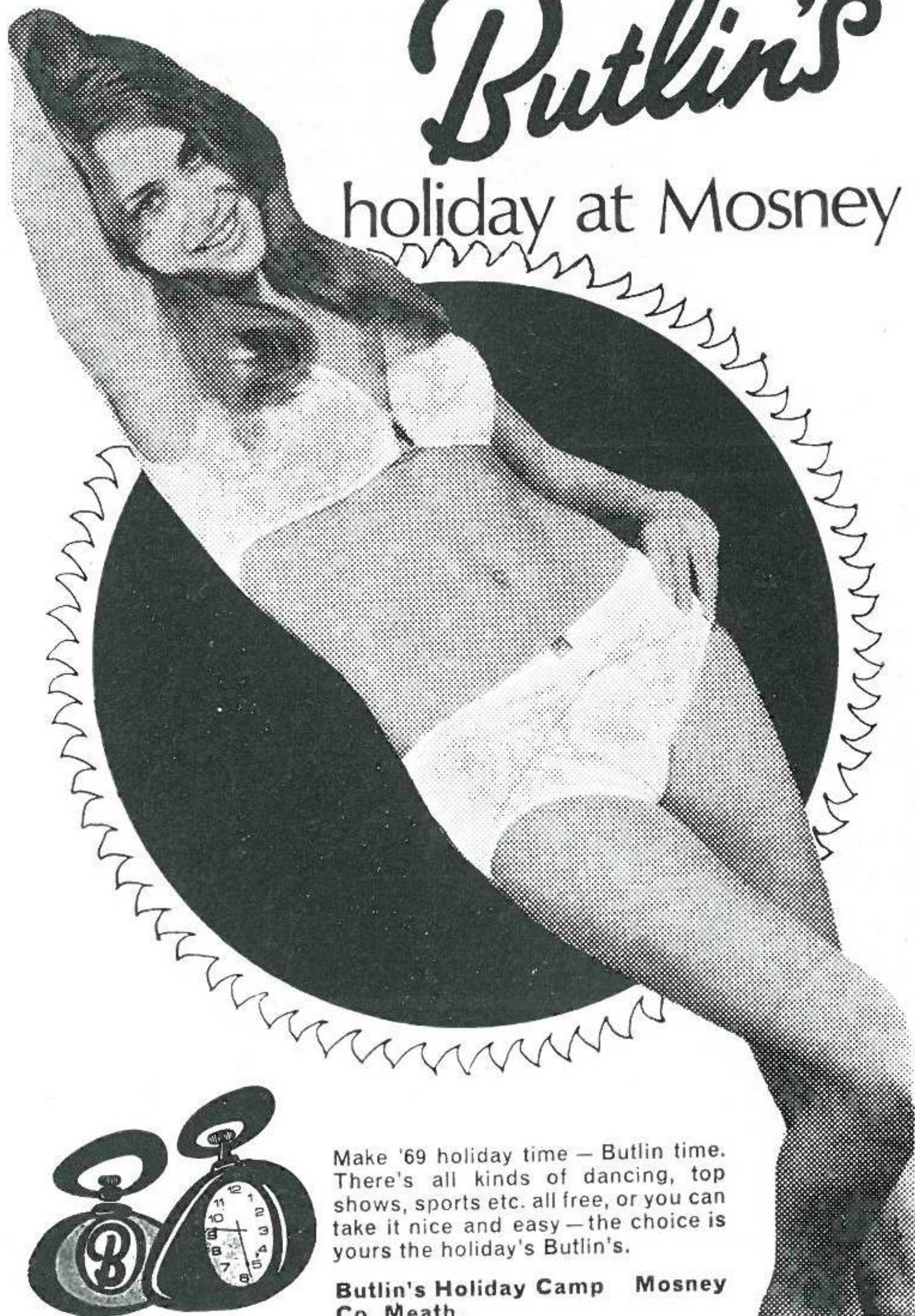
If youth handball is to acquire its correct status, it must be done under the aegis of a separate section at either club or county level.

This point has been conclu-

sively proved by the units who have decided to operate on this basis.

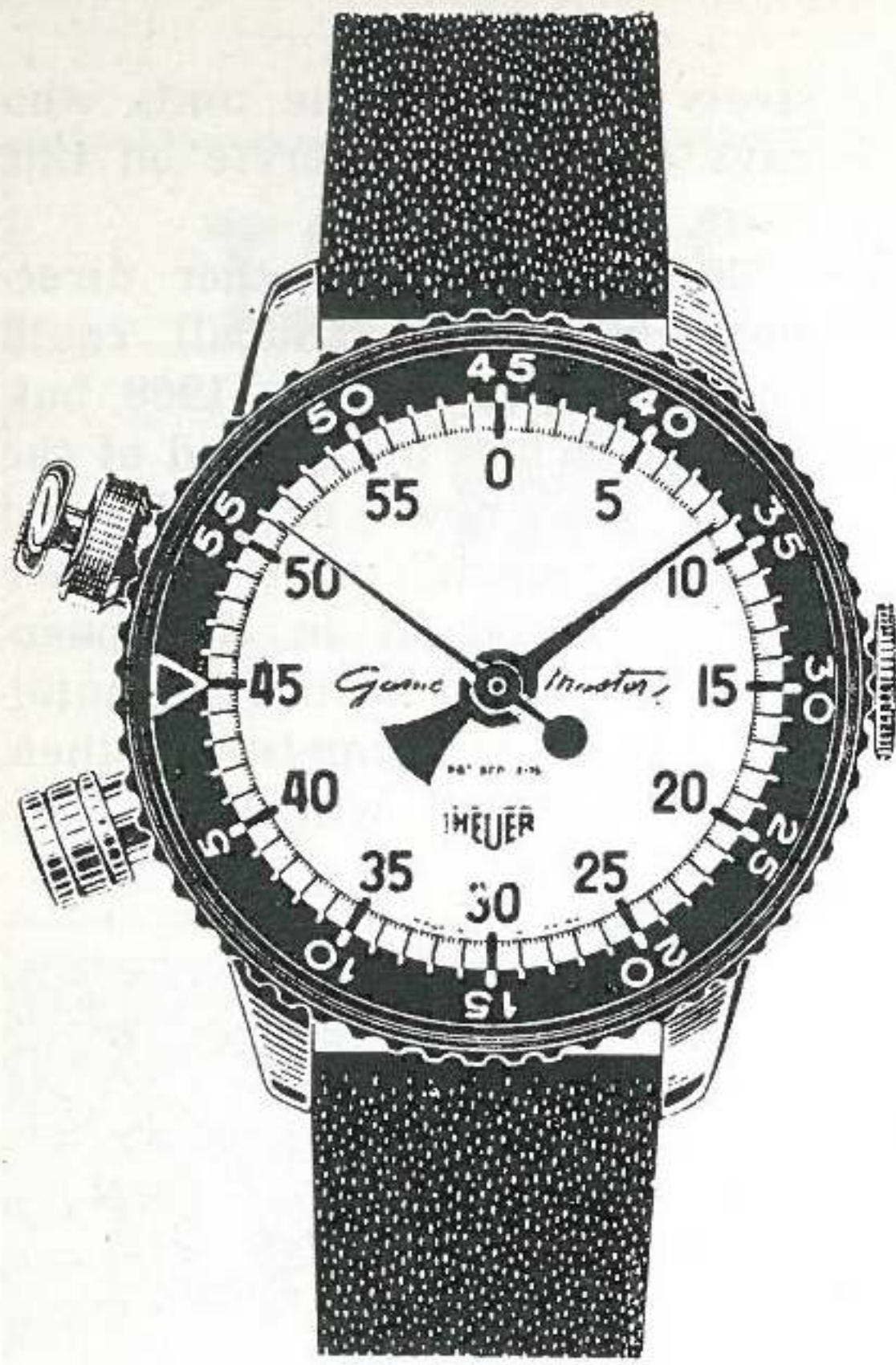
There are many other directions in which handball could make progress during 1969 but, for my part, if by the end of the year ten new covered and modern courts were to have appeared and, if in the meantime, there had been a big build-up of juvenile competitions, then, undoubtedly, it will have been a great year.

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# NEW QUIZ-TIME

By PERMUTER

## SHOOTING FOR POINTS

**Y**OU should be able to tap these over, though if you are a bit rusty for want of practice, some of those from awkward angles may "throw" you. Watch the close frees; they are to be taken in the time limit indicated. As with all close frees, you only get one chance.

1—Can you name the winners in Football and Hurling of the Texaco Award this year?

**Time limit: 5 seconds**

2—An ex-Kilkenny hurler has been named to play for Connacht; more curious still, he is a representative of Sligo on the Connacht team. Who is he?

3—For what county did Paddy Scanlon keep goal? (In hurling).

4—For which county did Des Cormican figure in an All-Ireland hurling final?

5—The first league game to be played after the Christmas break was that between Waterford and Wexford in football. Can you remember the winners, and the score?

**Time limit: 10 seconds**

6—The 1959 final was universally considered to be a

triumph for the style and class of Sean Murphy, the Kerry right half-back. But, can you remember the hapless opponent who was his direct opposite that day?

**Time limit: 10 seconds**

7—How far may a player run with the ball in his hands in football without incurring a free?

**Time limit: 5 seconds**

8—H. McKearney won a Railway Cup medal in 1950 with Ulster. Can you say which county he used to represent?

**Time limit: 7 seconds**

9—An unofficial All-Ireland club championship was completed in 1968; can you name the winners?

**Time limit: 5 seconds**

10—Name the current All-Ireland junior football champions.

**Time limit: 5 seconds**

## GO FOR A GOAL

And watch those time limits—you have to be quick to avail of a goal-scoring chance.

11—Rose Fletcher was a star in Camogie nearly a quarter of a century ago; with what county did she play?

12—Dublin were League cham-

pions in football in 1957-58? Who did they beat in the final?

**Time limit: 10 seconds**

13—A Wexford player who won a senior All-Ireland medal had once won a junior medal with London. Can you name him?

14—Mickey Walsh (Mount Sion) holds an interesting two-way distinction in hurling; can you say what it is and develop it fully.

15—What are the club colours of St. John's (Antrim)?

16—Which President of the G.A.A. became Secretary after his Presidency?

17—Did Cavan ever play in the Leinster senior football championship?

18—The first handball champion of the world was a Co. Laois man—can you name him?

19—Mick Higgins (Cavan) and Jim Crowley (Dublin) both won All-Ireland, but they have another factor in common as well. What is it?

20—For which county did W. Durkin figure in a football All-Ireland?

**Time limit: 5 seconds**

**Answers: Page 36**



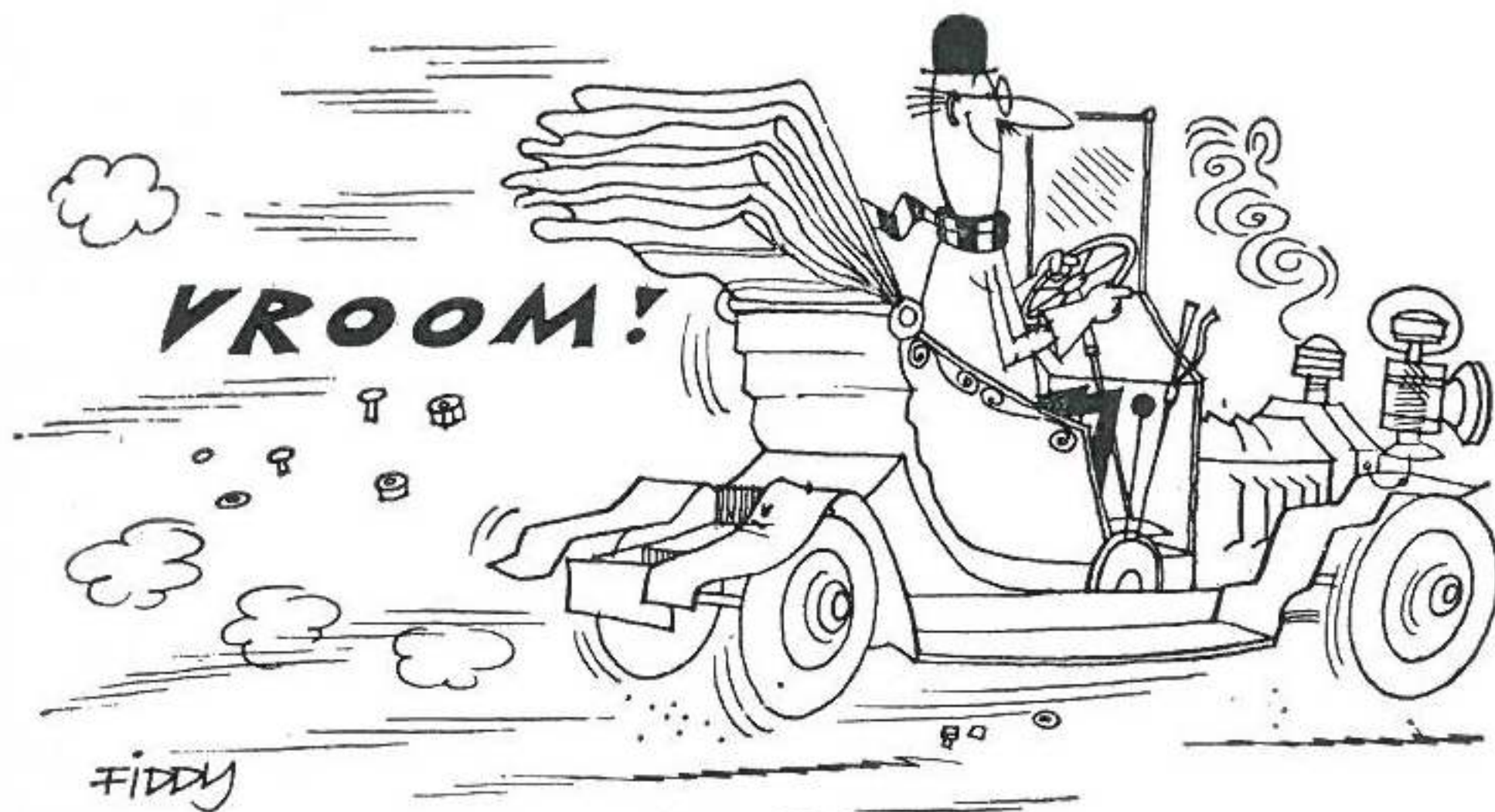
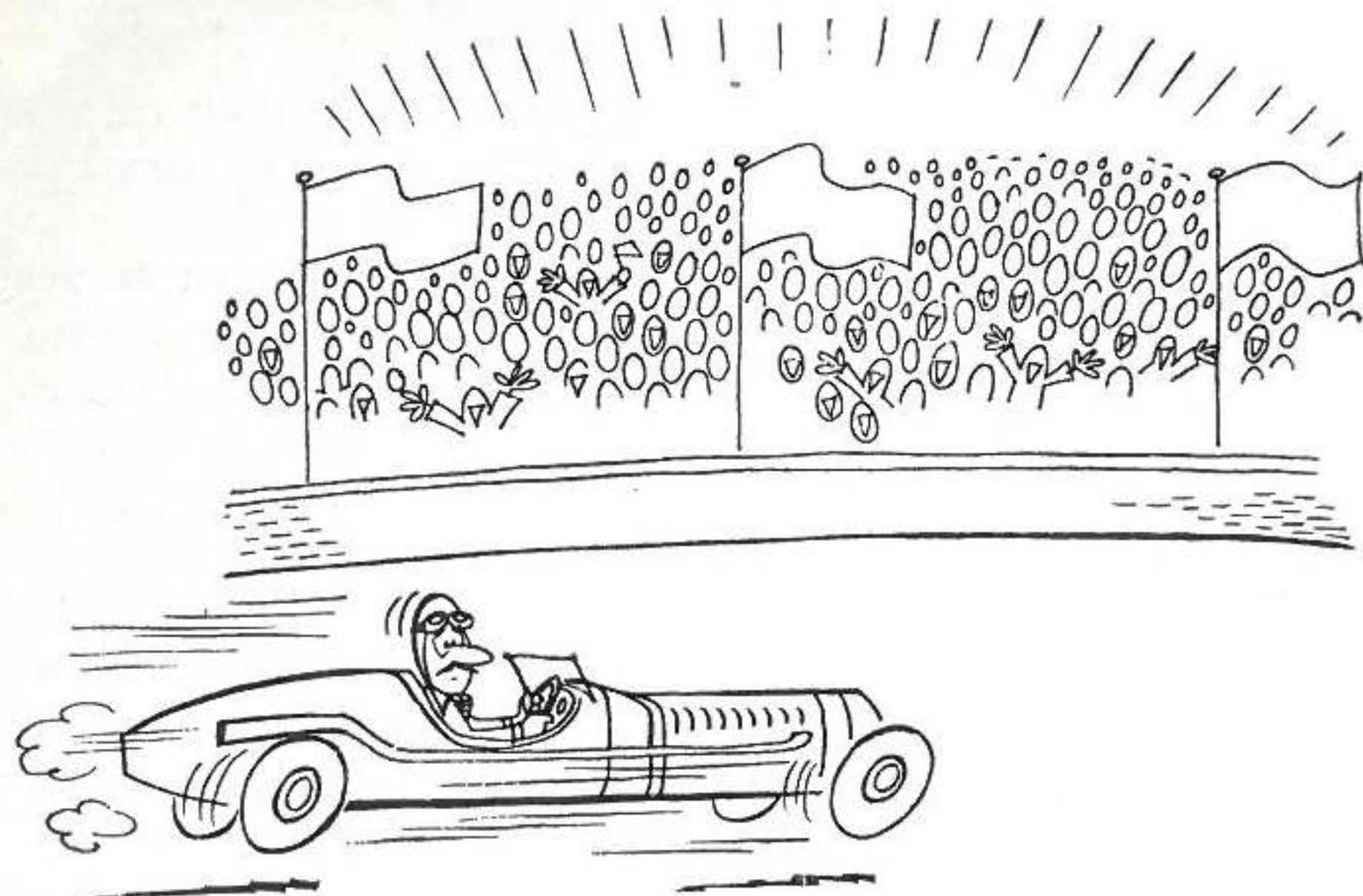
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## QUIZ ANSWERS

● FROM PAGE 35

### POINTS

- 1—Sean O'Neill (football) and Dan Quigley (hurling).
- 2—W. Murphy (Sligo).
- 3—Limerick.
- 4—Antrim (1943).
- 5—Waterford 2-6, Wexford 1-5.
- 6—Ml. ('Hauleen') McDonagh (Galway).
- 7—Not more than four steps (according to rule).
- 8—Monaghan.
- 9—St. Joseph's (Donegal).
- 10—Tyrone.

### GOALS

- 11—Dublin.
- 12—Kildare.
- 13—Phil Wilson.
- 14—He has played inter-county with both Kilkenny and Waterford. More remarkably still he played with Kilkenny in 1957 and 1959 All-Ireland finals against Waterford, and later in the 1963 final for Waterford against Kilkenny (as a substitute in the second half).
- 15—Blue with a white band.
- 16—F. B. Dineen.
- 17—Yes. In 1895, Cavan played Louth in the first round and were beaten.
- 18—Phil Casey who built Casey's Ballcourt in Brooklyn, New York.
- 19—Both were born in the U.S.
- 20—Mayo (in goal).

● FROM PAGE 23

top-class footballers in Munster at the moment. As a result, it is quite easy for mediocre players to gain promotion to the provincial team. Cummins and Kehilly may be able to refute any suggestion of mediocrity on their part, but their instant rise to Railway Cup games serves to illustrate the poor state of Munster football. Oh, how different matters are in Ulster!

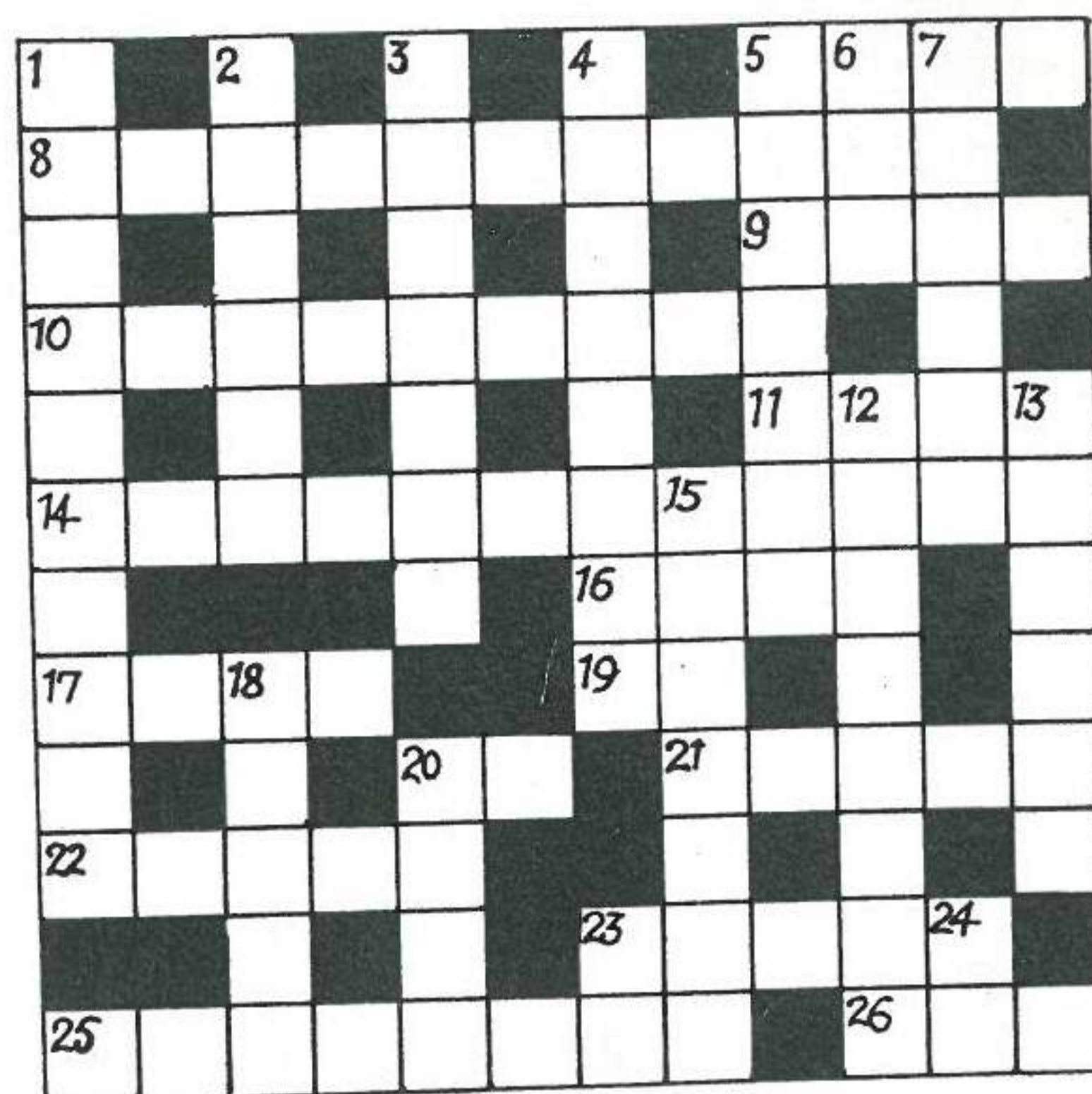
Caps

## ACROSS

5. Dramatis Personae of a play or a match. (4)
8. Eminent G.A.A. writer whose Diary may be read each month by GAELIC SPORT readers. (11)
9. This measure of ground would not suffice for a hurling field. (4)
10. When Paddy Doherty faces up to a close free, a point is almost —, as though scored by a machine. (9)
11. A solidly consistent Dublin football defender is Christy. (4)
14. The organisation and plans that go into any big G.A.A. occasion; getting things prepared. (12)
16. Rear turns out quite scarce and hard to get. (4)
17. The eldest Rackard, now closely connected with the Wexford inter-county teams. (4)
19. Right-half forward on Louth 1957 All-Ireland winners. Initials. (1, 1)
20. The top-grade in the big-ball game. (1, 1)
21. Munster under-21 champions, 1968. (5)
22. Type of competition on which welfare of clubs must eventually depend. (5)
23. Cork hurling full back in the early 'fifties. (5)
25. Efforts at scores; unless tried there can be none. (8)
26. Signalled by the long whistle. (3)

## DOWN

1. Centre-field young star with Down. (1, 9)
2. Doorkeeper who was quite difficult to pass when between the Cork posts in the early '40s. (6)



3. Strongly worded request, requiring action. (1, 6)
4. Two who co-operate with one another to form midfield pairing. (8)
5. A hard ball in handball is usually called an "alley —". (7)
6. Irish Countrywomen's Association in some confusion. (3)
7. Waterford Divisional Secretary who seems to be the man to approach for money hand-outs. (1, 5).
12. A narrow escape. (1, 4, 3)
13. Attempts which sound like school compositions. (6)
15. Renowned hurling family from Ahane. (7)
16. Place for legal confrontations, to which G.A.A. players have occasionally found themselves summoned. (5)
20. Downey—a Kilkenny star. (4)
23. Lieutenant, briefly. (2)
24. Take the heart out of sin. (2)

SOLUTION : PAGE 56



*Ollie Walsh in full control of his territory.*

## **WILL OLLIE COME BACK?**

**ASKS JAY DRENNAN**

**T**HE period of suspension is over and John Flanagan, the young Tipperary man, has already been getting the feel of competitive hurling; but the Kilkenny goalkeeper, Ollie Walsh, finds it difficult, at this stage, to say whether he will play again. If he were not to return to the game at inter-county level, it would be a sad disappointment to a great many of us who admired his unique skills, his courage, and his loyalty to club and county.

But, in essence, this question is a personal one, in the decision of which public opinion can only

claim a peripheral influence. It is Ollie who must decide, and it is his own thoughts on the matter which can alone have importance.

More so because he was such a wonderful performer; he owes it to himself and his supporters that he should be sure that the old skill is still facile, that the eye and the reactions are as quick as ever. Not even those who are most vocal in seeking his immediate return to the county team would thank him if it turned out that the edge of brilliance had dulled.

So Ollie Walsh is faced with a

complex problem and a serious decision. There is no comparison at all between Flanagan and himself, for the Tipperary man is barely twenty-two, in the flower of manhood, and his best days are still in the rosy future. But Ollie has a couple of years past the thirty to grapple with, and, more important, he was a goalkeeper.

While it is true that men played in goal at much more mature years—Jim Ware was over 40 when he kept an immaculate goal for Waterford and even participated in his county's first All-Ireland win.



But, I do not think a parallel can be drawn. For Ollie Walsh never was an orthodox goalkeeper depending on lining himself up in good position and on correctness of basic skills. His performance was instinctive, his skill stemming from delicious coordination of mind and eye, his brilliance a personal quality superimposed on mere bread-and-butter goalkeeping arts.

Thirty, said Ollie, after the 1967 All-Ireland victory, might be getting on a bit for a goalie such as himself. Commerce and domesticity make heavier inroads on what was once sacred to training time. Just when one needs more practice to remain at peak, circumstances seem to conspire to afford less.

That Walsh was a symbol to

Kilkenny hurlers and supporters needs no more emphasis than to point to the disarray and low spirits of players and camp followers since the disastrous League final. Even if they made a great bid (which many still hold might well have been successful) to beat Wexford in the Leinster final, it was largely for Ollie, even if his place was in the stand rather than between the posts.

If he comes back now he must bear this burden afresh. And it is highly doubtful whether the material is available now to absorb his inspiration so effectively.

So much for the external consequences of his decision and the problems they pose. But what of the man himself? Perhaps, inside, he no longer has the same

feeling for the game and the same anticipation of standing between the posts. He realises, perhaps, the drudgery of getting back into physical condition, and his whole body cries out against it.

Doubtless, he is disenchanted with hurling which, he feels, has treated him so roughly. But, there is also the consideration that he has the reputation of being one of the all-time great goalkeepers, and, if he wishes, he has the right to preserve that name. Suppose he came back and played a few terrible games—who will be willing to forget them? Will he, himself, be able to forget? He has a right to his untarnished reign of brilliance. And, yet, I long to see him play again. And therein lies the conflict.

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# A LOOK AT THE IRISH MENSWEAR SCENE — AND SOME USEFUL TIPS ON HOW TO . . . GET SMART

SINCE so many of you will be togging out fresh for St. Patrick's Day with a new suit or outfit of sports jacket—and—flannels, we thought we'd investigate what's new in menswear and pass on the results: and our whirlwind investigation into the world of men's fashions has left us slightly dizzy. As far as fashion is concerned, this is where It's All Happening and overnight, without anybody being aware of it, a revolution has occurred. Men nowadays are actually enjoying a jaunt to the shop to buy a shirt or a suit. They bring the wife or girlfriend along and she helps with advice, but the final decision is made by the male himself. Nobody is quite sure how this satisfactory state of affairs has come about but we feel the credit must go to the Irish manufacturers, who have put such a good range of clothing at the disposal of our menfolk, and also to the enterprising retailers who have been quick off the mark to present these goods in the most attractive way. There's also the factor that nowadays men, especi-

By  
PAT  
DUNN



ally the younger ones, have more money and they like spending a modest share of it on their apparel.

Leading the field among Dublin retailers are Best's who have premises at O'Connell Street and Westmoreland Street and we dropped in on a busy afternoon to see some of the Spring stock. The shop was packed—with more women than men present, which bears out the point made in the

first paragraph. The customers were about equally divided between city and countrymen and we were told that Best's have a large and loyal set of country customers who always fit in a visit to the shop on a trip to Dublin. They are encouraged to make use of the firm's budget account service which enables a man to pay for what he purchases over a period of months,

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

● FROM PAGE 41

adding only a very little to the total cost of what he buys.

The Best look, if you invest in it, will ensure that you appear fairly long and lean, even if you're not built that way. Their suits for this Spring are cut on neat, spare lines, with the jackets slightly fitted to give you a nice outline, and vented at the back for added smartness. Details like shoulder padding are very unobtrusive: it's there but you'd hardly notice it. Trousers mostly are without turn-ups, and cut quite narrow. We were told that a young generation has now grown up who have never had

turn-ups since their first pair of "longers". These lads feel it's daringly new fangled to order trousers with turn-ups but for the majority they're still made without.

To be really in the fashion this spring, buy a mohair suit. The fabric is ultra light in weight and has a slight sheen to it. Otherwise you could have a worsted, a sports jacket in checked cavalry twill (very up to the minute) teamed with plain twill slacks, or a pair of pants in fawn stretch fabric topped off with a casual jacket featuring suede fronts and knitted back and sleeves. For extra variety,

some of these have knitted collars which can be attached at will.

The colour of the year is brown and you won't go wrong if you buy it in any shade. It could be anything from a lambs-wool sweater in golden tan to a suit in a subdued shade of bronze. Only don't spoil the effect then by getting a pair of black shoes.

At Best's the customers are mostly young and smart but one can recognise the self-confident older men who have been patronising the shop now for over a decade and whose taste has been educated by shopping

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here consistently. They too know how to pick what suits them. And if they're in any doubt, there's a cheerful staff to help out. The atmosphere is so informal and friendly that it's difficult to tell the bosses from the assistants. Incidentally this is an all-Irish firm and those spectacular window displays which I have heard discussed by two German buyers travelling to Paris, are all dreamed up right here at home. Best's can take some of the credit for convincing to-day's Irishman that it's not bad form to be well dressed.

We followed up this trip with an inspection of the almost bewilderingly large range of shirts at the showrooms of the Dublin Shirt and Collar Company. At last, and isn't it great, the men aren't afraid of coloured shirts any more. If you hesitate a minute before treating yourself to a new one in pale lilac or sea-foam green, take courage by

remembering that our national heroes from Hugh O'Neill to Henry Grattan were peacock dressers in their time—and it didn't make them any the less good at their jobs. The main thing to understand is that a coloured shirt needn't be what you consider a gaudy shirt.

No one will force you to buy that bright orange or vivid yellow (though what's wrong with shades like that for wearing at home over the week-end?—but you can get quite a lift from one of the new pastels. Peter Mooney, of this firm, told us more and more shirts are being bought as presents and the general buying level is going up, though we don't approach anything like American consumption. There it's normal to buy half a dozen shirts at a time. However, if the men can get their hands on ranges like the new Tricopress shirts introduced by the Dublin Shirt & Collar Co. by arrange-

ment with I.C.I., heaven knows what will happen. These are made of a super nylon which is so good that it behaves and looks exactly like a natural fibre. Except of course that you can rinse it out overnight and wear it the following morning without an iron going near it.

Everybody wants to know about shirt collars and how they've changed and actually the nicest of the new ones seems to be the bluff style collar which has no stitching at all visible on it. The roll-necked collar is making some inroads on the market especially among the younger set and it's felt that this is a trend that's only getting into its stride now. If you fall for one of these, do buy it in a good colour, not white. It looks terrific in blue or the various shades of tan. In white it can look just a little bit clerical.

Even that old classic, the

● TO PAGE 45

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# GET SMART

## ● FROM PAGE 43

pyjama top, has changed its shape at the Dublin Shirt & Collar Co. They made a new style pull-on pyjama which has a closed front. You simply slip it over your head like a sweater. No buttons to be lost, to open, to close, or to break off in the washing machine. Definitely we'll hear more of these.

As shirts get brighter, pyjamas get darker. The deep shades like burgundy are much to the fore, and plain pyjamas with a contrast piping look more up to date than stripes, though there are some new, broad stripes which are a far cry from the old style multi-colours.

Also doing a booming export business are the makers of those famous Danus suits: it's every schoolboy's dream nowadays to

get a good job and buy himself a Danus. In fact they're so popular in Dublin that they're rather elusive. No sooner have they gone into a shop than the customers have spirited them away. Situated in Limerick, the Danus factory employs three hundred and fifty people and last year sold goods worth more than £600,000. This season they are featuring the three-button jacket, fully flared, with twelve-inch vent.

Some of their cloths weigh only ten ounces a yard: this is the sort of lightweight suit much sought after by hard-working executives who must exist in centrally heated offices. The main emphasis with Danus is on quality and perhaps the grasp of a simple truth—that people want quality—is what is responsible for the success story of the Irish menswear industry in general.

So much for what's new this St. Patrick's Day. If you can bear to wait a few weeks longer, make a note to look out for suits made in Crimplene, the latest and many say the best of the miracle fabrics produced by I.C.I., the people who put the Terylene into your everlasting gray slacks. They're launching a major promotion of this new material which they feel has a great future in menswear.

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# PASCAL O'BRIEN



INTERVIEWED BY SEAN MURPHY

**T**HE great tradition of Clare's hurling goalkeepers, from the legendary Dr. Tommy Daly is carried on to-day by Pascal O'Brien from the Eire Og club, Ennis, who in recent years has turned in some magnificent displays between the posts for the Banner County.

Pascal who is a clerk with Roadstone, began his hurling career at the early age of 11 years. During his school days at Ennis C.B.S. they

reached the Harty Cup final but failed to Farranferris. With his club he has won the following Clare hurling championship medals—2 Juvenile, 3 Under-21, 1 Senior, while last year he won a Junior football championship medal with Ennis Faughs at the first attempt.

O'Brien, who had his initial outing in the Saffron and Blue jersey of Clare in the National League tie against Kilkenny in 1964, actually

played senior for his county before figuring in this grade with his club. He speaks with authority on many G.A.A. matters as I discovered when I had the pleasure of the following interview recently:—

*Murphy—Many people think a goalkeeper's job is a hazardous task? What is your opinion?*

O'Brien—On the contrary, I think it is the easiest position on the field. With good protection from your backs you have only to concentrate on watching the ball.

*M.—Do you do any special training?*

O'B.—I train every night throughout the year, running about 6 miles in the winter when the nights are dark. I feel this essential to keep fit.

*M.—What game stands out in your memory?*

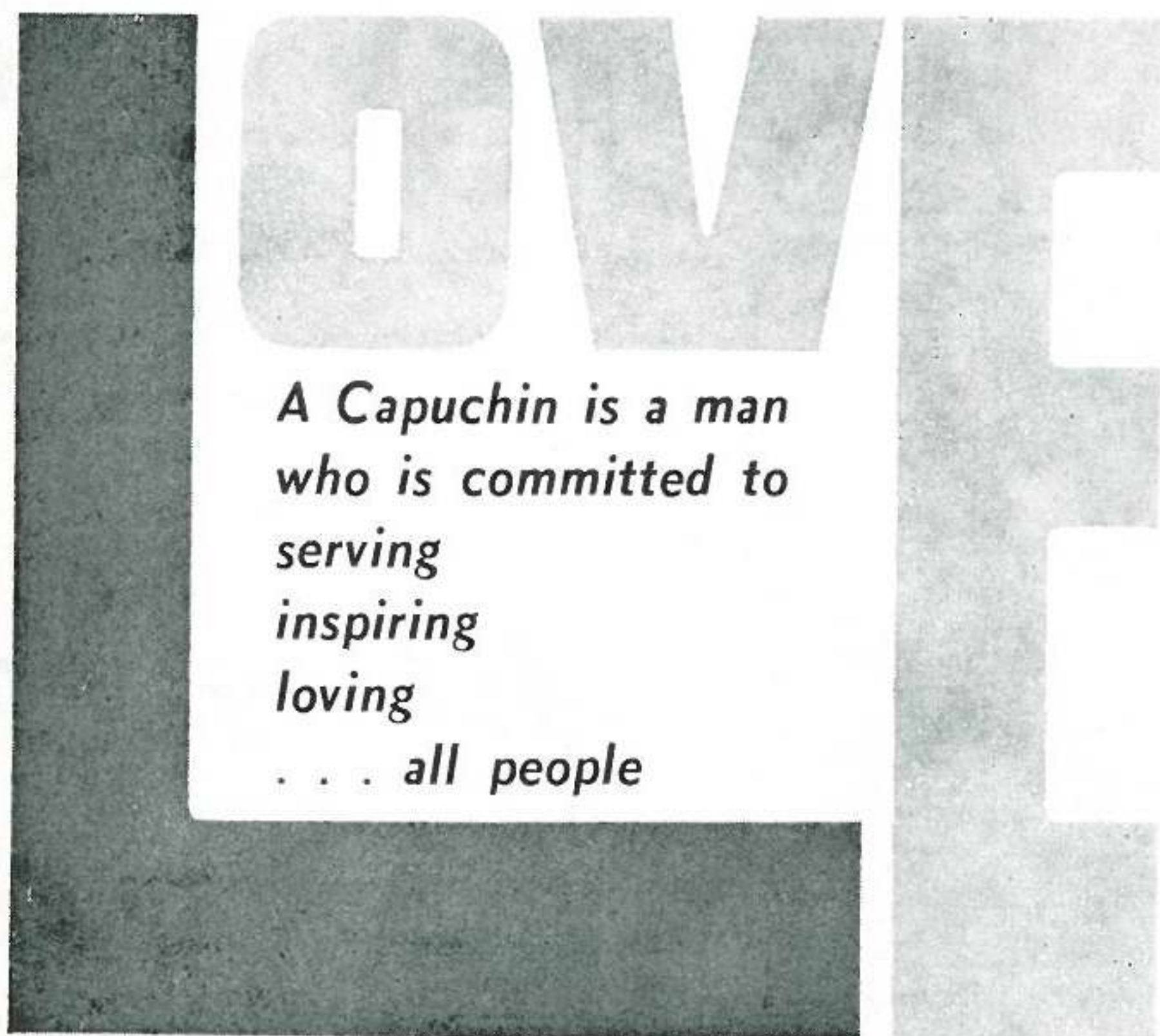
O'B.—My first championship game against Tipperary. It was my first real trial and I convinced the critics who thought the selectors were taking a risk, that the "Big Five" were right.

*M.—Who is the most dangerous forward you have encountered?*

O'B.—Well I cannot single out one because I have three in mind namely Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary), who is very elusive; Eddie Keher (Kilkenny) very fast to snap up a score, and Sean McLoughlin (Tipperary) who is very dangerous around the square.

*M.—What is your opinion of the present Clare team?*

O'B.—They are the best team in the country but they sadly lack leadership from the selectors. Many matches have been lost because the selectors had conflicting ideas and consequently were too slow making



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a vital switch. I think Fr. Tim Tuohy should be appointed team manager with complete charge of the team on the playing pitch.

*M.—How is the standard of club hurling in Clare?*

O'B.—Well with the exception of Newmarket-on-Fergus the standard is only fair. There is a complete lack of enthusiasm and no interest whatsoever in training. Here in Ennis I feel that if Eire Og went all out and regained the Clare senior championship there would be a re-awakening of interest in the town where the G.A.A. always had first preference though of late there seems to be a drift to other codes.

*M.—To what do you attribute this lack of interest?*

O'B.—There seems to be a complete lack of facilities in the G.A.A. for players. Social activities are virtually non-existent while in most cases there are no dressingrooms or showers. The latter are no longer luxuries in this modern age.

*M.—What are your feelings about the Ban?*

O'B.—I feel Rule 27 should be deleted from the Official Guide and a close season extending from November to March introduced in the G.A.A. calendar. In this way, G.A.A. players could play Rugby and Soccer in the winter and consequently would be fighting fit when their own season would begin. And vice-versa, players from the other codes would swell our ranks in the summer, thus providing greater competition. I think the ban has outlived its original purpose.

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

O'B.—One matter I would like to air is that it is a disgrace to see unfit referees going out handling games. I feel referees should be right up with play. I have often seen referees blow for frees in our square when they were in fact nearer the opposite end of the field. How could a referee give a fair decision in circumstances such as

this? I also think that referees seem to favour the "big names" at all times. They are slow to put a prominent player to the line and the underdogs are always blamed.

*M.—Are you looking forward to the proposed American trip for the Clare hurlers?*

O'B.—I am certainly eager but will it ever materialise? I think the Central Council are using too much "red tape" in regard to Clare's trip. If they have a row with New York, Clare should not be made scapegoats, as this trip is not costing the Council any money. I think the panel should be increased to 20 players as I feel the reserves are an essential part of any team.

*M.—Any rule you would like to see changed?*

O'B.—Not a rule, but I would like to see Clare having a bigger say in the selection of provincial teams. I think these panels are

dominated by the big forces of Cork and Tipperary.

*M.—Have you any other sporting interests?*

O'B.—I do quite a lot of swimming.

*M.—Pascal, I have often noticed you carry two hurlies to your goal position in every match. What is your idea?*

O'B.—First of all I get my hurleys made to my own design, all with a big boss. I use one for saving shots and the other for pucking out the ball.

*M.—What do you think of your chances in this year's Munster championships?*

O'B.—Cork will be tough in the first round but if we survive we will be a match for the best.

*M.—What are your ambitions?*

O'B.—To win an All-Ireland senior hurling medal with Clare, if only for our loyal supporters who must be the best in Ireland.



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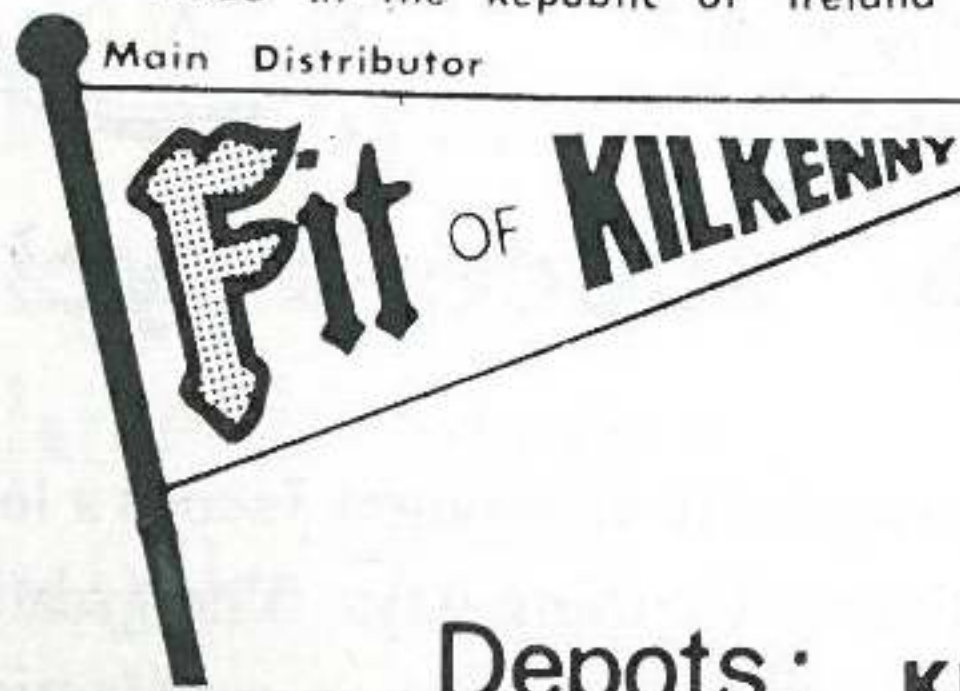
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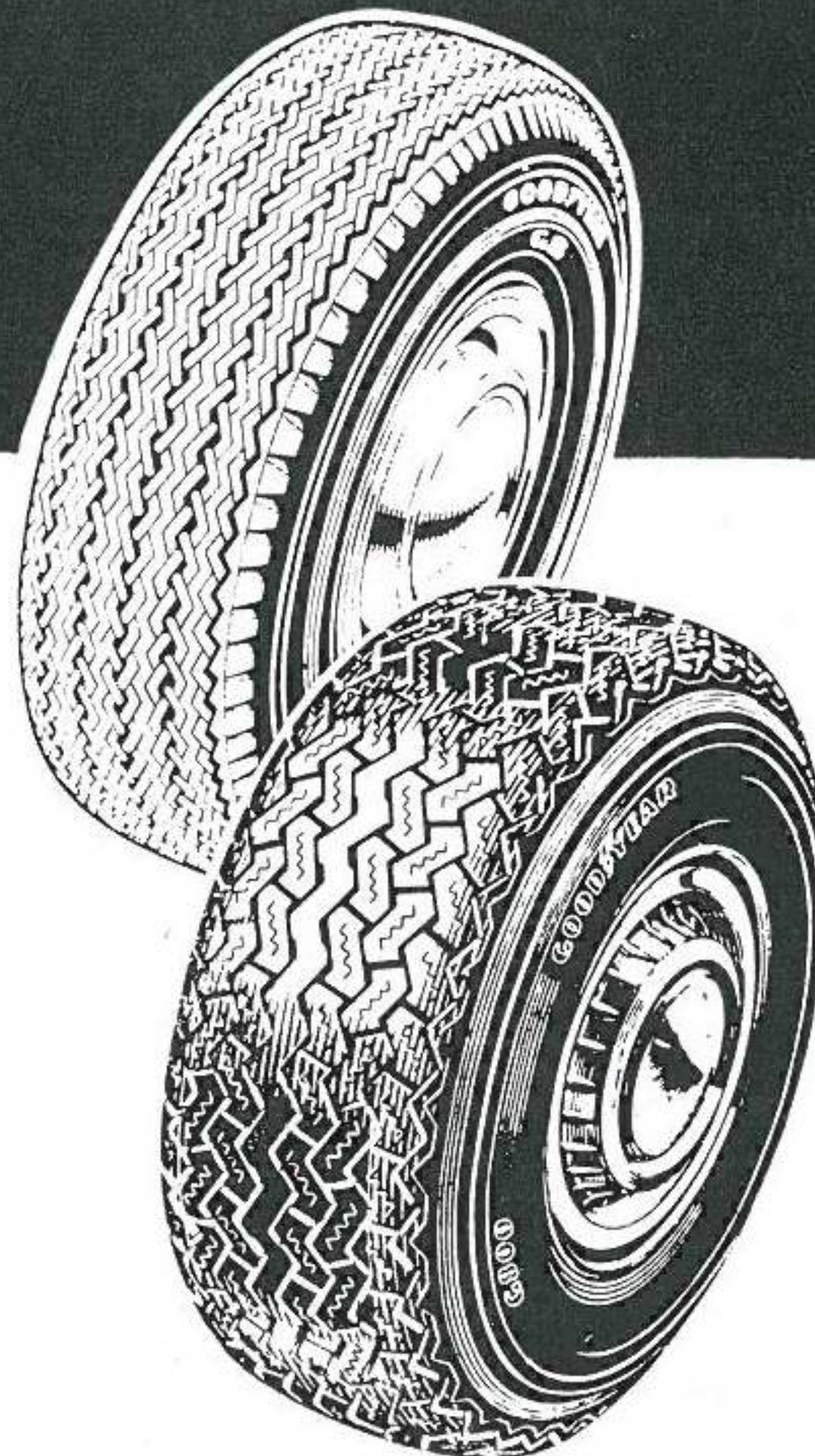
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# **INTERNATIONALS IN THE OFFING**

**T**HE idea of internationalism seems to have become a working one with the acceptance by the Central Council of the principle involved and the setting up of a committee to finalise matters. There will be some points of controversy, of course, before the idea is reduced to actual practice on the field of play. But the basic concept of an international series of some kind is accepted; so is the important factor that this will be played, on the Irish side, by a selected team of the best players in the country, thus eliminating some of the squabbles and all of the doubts which county representation present. From now on it will be a question of Ireland, in fact rather than by proxy.

There are several problems remaining: one, of course, is to what extent this international competition, or series, will be representative of the whole field of Gaelic activity throughout the strongly populated Irish parts of the world, as well as Australia. New York and Australia seems assured of inclusion in the new scheme; what of Britain, and the remainder of the United States, areas in which there is considerable Gaelic activity and no little talent? Certainly, it will be a sad disappointment to British players if they are excluded from the series, since they have proved their standards—at hurling anyway—and hold impressive credentials in football from their games against Australia and New York.

The next problem which will surround the international series must be the arrangement of time and place, and with that the decision about how often or how completely the series is to be

played. Is it to be an annual tournament? Is it to be played competitively at all? Is each contestant to get a full league complement of games, or is it to be a knock-out?

Allowing that Australia and New York and Britain are included surely it will be necessary to inject some element of competition into the series of games. This could be by League plan with each team playing the other three, or knock-out with a semi-final and a final, while the losing semi-finalists played off for third place, so to speak.

Whether the jamboree is to be held each year or every few years, like an Olympics, I am sure that the games should all be played at one centre: in other words, instead of a multiplicity of tours, that each contestant should act host, in turn. Some argument could be made for Britain and Ireland being counted as one centre, for this purpose, because of their proximity, and

# **WHAT ARE THE PLANS?**

**ASKS  
JAY  
DRENNAN**

especially so if the Wembley Whitsun tournament is to continue.

On the domestic front, it will present us with the setting up of a mechanism by which the national team is selected. With the enormous number of players and the strong challenge which several players will be making for the same positions, it is not anything like such an easy job as that which faces the selectors in those sports which are already internationally concerned. It will be a big job to find the blend which pleases everybody; impossible, I suppose, but, at least, the right group of selectors will have to be found in whom the great majority have confidence.

A panel of top ex-players, I think, who have had close connection as trainers or coaches with county teams in the immediate years up to selection time. They should have some of the most important qualities: experience; up-to-date with modern methods and ideas; in close touch with the players and in a position to appreciate the virtues of the opposition countries; ability to judge a player dispassionately.

I am torn between this method and another which would give the proper honour to the country's champions for the time being. I refer to the possibility of giving the selection of the Irish team to the All-Ireland champions, so that they could invite their most feared opponents to join them in forming an Irish team. Here you would preserve some chance of teamwork, and I cannot see any county so blind to the merits of its opponents as to "hog" the selection completely.

# Eamonn Young's guide to— **HOME-COOKED FOOTBALL**



"**H**OW do you run a Gaelic Football Coaching Course?" asks a man from Clare.

My first reaction is to tell him to see Martin Queally or Mick Haugh, both of whom performed excellently in Gormanston last August on the course run by Joe Lennon, Jim McKeever and Frankie Byrne, under Mick Ryan's guidance.

The next reaction (and the correct one perhaps) is to write down a simple plan of a course and, while reminding the enthusiast that this, compared to a true course, is like comparing a hurried week-day lunch at home to the wife's Christmas dinner. Still, it can be very useful.

The plan is to discuss Gaelic football in the local hall or club house for two hours on each night of six. The Mondays, Tues-

days and Wednesdays of successive weeks are chosen.

The bigger the room available the better, and the instructors would be at least two men who know their stuff. As we all know, the boys in the country town will listen far more readily to the stranger but then they're also well accustomed to listening to the local teacher, and his instructional capacity has been highly developed over the years. Perhaps the teacher from the next town, then.

On each night there would be a period on the individual skills of Gaelic football, which will combine detailed instruction, demonstration and some practice.

The start would be made at eight o'clock (which means quarter past in the language of the Celt) and finish some little

time after ten, when it will be time for Mick to see Eleanor or Tom to have his pint, or Jack the dull boy (who always puts up the best performance on the field) to go home to bed.

A number of footballs are needed, say one to every two students and the plastic balls are suitable enough.

So, with a well-lighted hall (of any size), plenty of footballs, two genuine instructors, a dozen or so students, a fire, those excellent books by Dr. O'Sullivan and Joe Lennon (as well as Dick Fitzgerald's, if you can lay hands on it), as well as some enthusiasm and understanding, you're on the way.

On each night I would put on an individual skill, such as the kick, and finish the night with a period on functional play, which is simply a detail of the job each player has to do on the field—how to play his position.

So, as I see it (and without getting too formal about the thing) the programme would be something like this:

**Monday night—8.15 p.m.:** The kick from the hand (including the long kick, the goal-scoring kick, the screw kick, the kick over the head, the drop kick. Each kick will first be demonstrated (with some limitations, for it is indoors) by the instructor. He will then, in detail, repeat the demonstration, empha-

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sising the various points to note. The class will practice the skill under supervision and after that each man will work with his partner.

The size of the hall is of obvious importance here. In summertime, the outdoors playing field is far more suitable. Faults must be corrected and here the instructor must remember to be kind, though he has the great advantage of training chaps who are in love with the instruction.

Demonstration, practice, correction of faults and discussion will take at least forty-five minutes and if there are little stories to highlight any point so much the better.

At nine o'clock the class should sit down around a fire. A cloth diagram of the pitch with the lines in thin, white ribbon on the green field all done to scale (a simple job) is useful for discussion on functional play. Thirty small pieces of chalk, fifteen of them soaked in ink, the others white are the only other aids you want.

Start with a discussion of the goalie . . . or the corner forward if you like, have the points already thought out and away you go. The whole class which was divided up for the more active period might be together for this and each instructor might play his part by having one man discuss goalkeeping

from the custodian's point of view while the other looked at it with the eye of the scoring forward.

This is another forty-five minute period with some time for questions.

There will always be a lad looking for advice as well as the chap who wants us all to know how well he understands the thing without any instruction. Treat both types kindly. It's a free world—or should be. The skills are, catching, kicking, lifting, passing (with the fist), blocking, tackling, dribbling, soloing, swerving. One could add another one or two.

The functional play could be divided into six periods, one to each line. There should be a period taken by the local doctor on injuries and, perhaps, training.

If this goes any longer it will give the air of the big deal, which is just what I want to avoid. The object of the column is to give a simple answer to a straight question on how to do a very easy job which we all like.

Anyone with imagination can fill in the gaps. Good luck, Clareman.

## READER'S VIEWPOINT

Sir,—I have long been an admirer of Eamon Young (as a footballer, a sportsman and journalist, but I am in complete disagreement when he advocates the inauguration of 13 a-side football. Eamonn's case is that "there will be less close play and less physical punishment" etc. etc. Yet, how can one reconcile this with his self-avowed pride in the dash and legitimate vigour of Cork football in 1957 when he wrote "fair play, they (Galway) couldn't hit and they couldn't take it like our lads." Inconsistent? I should say so.

No, let well enough alone. Leave us the Noel Tierneys, Jack Quinns, Lar Foleys and Sean O'Neills. God knows, the game is poor enough even with those fine exponents — don't tell me they would be effective or as colourful elsewhere (O'Neill might).

If there is an amount of pulling and dragging which passes undetected in goalmouth melees, it is up to the ref. to penalise the "buck-rooters" and "stoppers" and make them play the game.

I'd hate to see the day when Gaelic football becomes a "run and pass" affair, riddled with scores.

Thirteen a-side? Why not have 7 a-side altogether and make a right "hames" of it.

**Traditionalist.**

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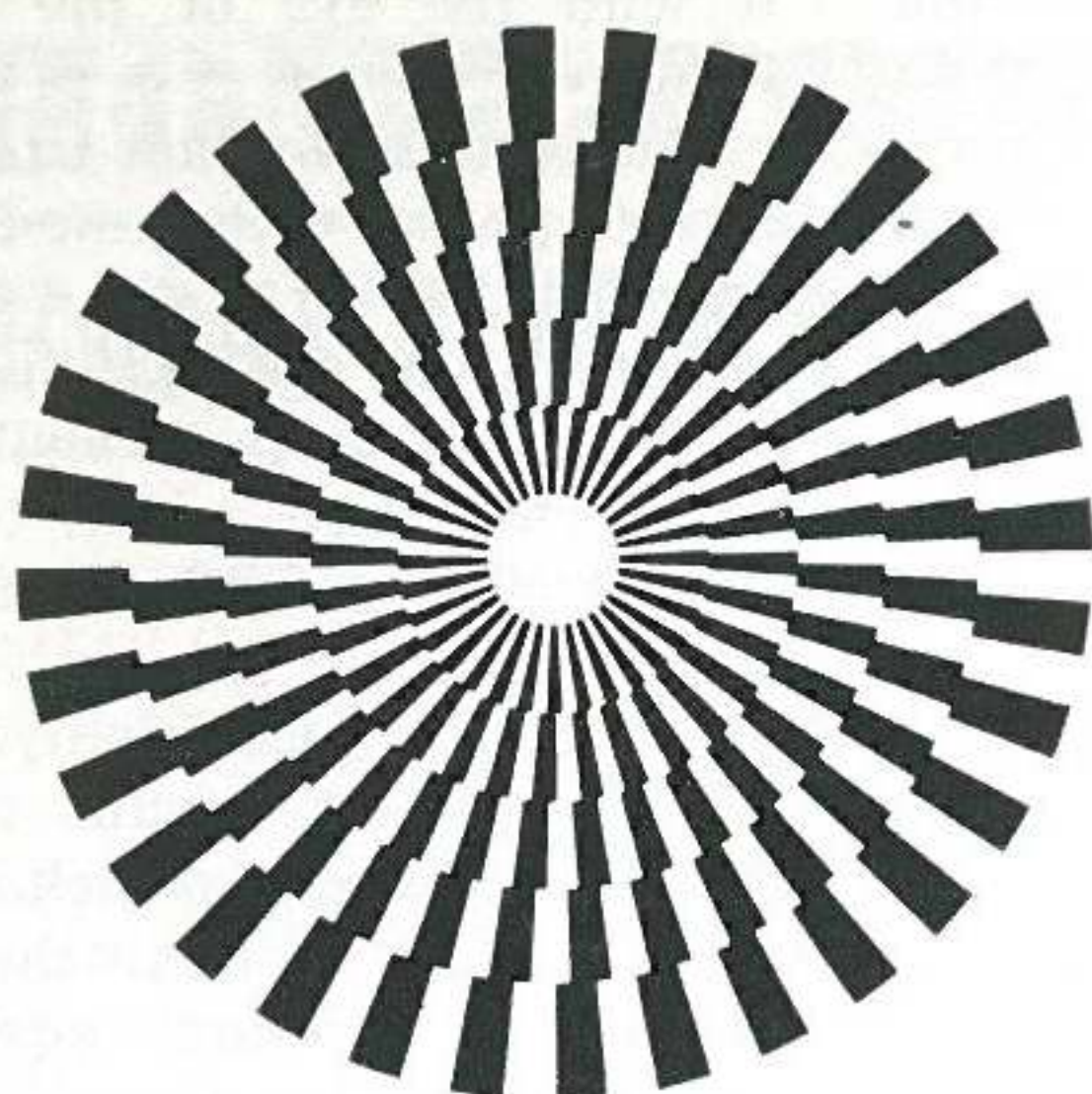
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### 1969 CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES:

**Senior Hurling** — Tiobraid Árann v. Port Láirge, Waterford, May 25; Corcaigh v. Chláir, Thurles, May 11 or 18; if either County not in National Hurling League final or if Chláir going to U.S.A. on May 15, the match to be on May 11, otherwise May 18. Semi-final—June 22: Luimneach v. winners of Tiobraid Árann v. Port Láirge. Semi-final—June 29: Gaillimh v. winners of Corcaigh v. Chláir.

**Minor Hurling** — Tiobraid Árann v. Port Láirge, Waterford, May 25, with Senior Hurling; Corcaigh v. Chláir, Thurles, May 11 or 18, with Senior Hurling. Semi-final—May 29: Luimneach v. winners of Tiobraid Árann v. Port Láirge. Semi-final—May 29: Gaillimh v. winners of Corcaigh v. Chláir. Finals—July 20, Senior and Minor Hurling.

**Senior Football** — Luimneach v. Chláir, Limerick (toss with a Clare venue), May 4 (for the moment); Port Láirge v. Tiobraid Árann, Clonmel, May 11 or 18; if Luimneach v. Corcaigh, Killarney, May 25; if Chláir v. Corcaigh, Cork, May 25; if Port Láirge v. Ciarraí, Dungarvan, June 1; if Tiobraid Árann v. Ciarraí, Killarney, June 1. Final—July 13.

**Minor Football** — Luimneach v. Chláir, Limerick, May 4, with Senior Football; Port Láirge v. Tiobraid Árann, Clonmel, May 11 or 18, with Senior Football. Semi-final—May 25: if Luimneach v. Corcaigh, Killarney. Semi-final—June 1: if Port Láirge v. Ciarraí, Waterford. Final—July 13.

**Intermediate Hurling**—Port Láirge v. Luimneach, Limerick, April 20 or 27 (watch out for National Hurling League Semi-final on April 20); Tiobraid Árann v. Chláir, Ennis, April 20 or 27 (watch out for National Hurling League Semi-final on April 20); Ciarraí v. Corcaigh, Kerry venue (Counties to consider and let Rúnaí know), April 20 or 27 (watch out for National Hurling League Semi-final on April 20).

**Under 21 Hurling** — Port Láirge v. Corcaigh, Dungarvan, not later than April 13 (Counties to see if a week evening may suit); Chláir v. Luimneach, Ennis, April 13; Luimneach v. Tiobraid Árann, Limerick venue (decided on a toss), not later than April 13 (Counties to see if a week evening may suit).

**Under 21 Football** — Port Láirge v. Chláir, Clare venue, March 30, or Curtain-raiser for National Hurling League Semi-final—Referee: Seán O'Connor; Luimneach v. Corcaigh, Kilmallock (venue decided on a toss, with a Tipperary venue next time), March 30, or Curtain-raiser for National Hurling League Semi-final, or on a week evening near March 30.

# WHITHER LEITRIM?

By Sean Rice

WHAT does the future hold for Leitrim football? Is it destined to continue struggling at the bottom of Connacht competition? Is there, in fact, any hope of a breakthrough for this impoverished county?

The signs are not too bright. But then they never have been bright for emigration-hit Leitrim. How could they when the county is unable to provide a decent standard of living for most of its people—when the youth are forced to leave and when most of the 30,000 who remain are left with nothing but dreams.

And if the achievements of the men who run G.A.A. affairs in the county have fallen short of their aims it has not been their fault. They have tried, still are trying. But how do you cope with shifting youth? How do you hope to win when most of your footballers are living in other parts of the country. You can't. You simply hope for the best, knowing that the best you can provide will not be good enough.

That is Leitrim's problem. When they met Mayo two years ago in the Connacht final, something like thirteen of the team were living outside the county. It is over forty years since they won their only Connacht senior championship. That was in 1927. They met the might of Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final. And, needless to remark, they lost. Ever since they have been plodding along, never without hope but never with any great air of optimism either.



*Cathal Flynn, one of the great footballers produced by Leitrim.*

And yet the signs in the past few months have been more heartening than ever. Already they have beaten Sligo in the National League. And they were unfortunate in failing to Donegal in the same competition after having a goal disallowed in the dying minutes of the game.

Another sign, too, is that young Harry O'Carroll has been chosen on the Connacht team. He is one of the best prospects to emerge from the county since the great Packie McGarty first wore the Leitrim jersey in 1949 at the age of 17, and who still finds time to assist the county.

Soon other young players may join O'Carroll on the team. For the County Board officials have embarked on a programme of trying to place emphasis on those

young people lucky enough to be living in the county still. They don't want to return to 1967 when nearly all the senior players resided outside the county.

Said County Board Secretary Mr. Tommy O'Riordan: "Recently we held a 'Youth Sunday' in Drumshanbo. We had 350 boys from 14 to 17 years old who were lectured by members of the Down team and who were later instructed in the arts of the game with the aid of slides.

"We are doing our best to concentrate on youth and I think if the team continues to improve at the same rate as it has done in the last few months we would be a force in Connacht in the very near future".

How does he feel about meeting Mayo in the first round of the championship?

"We rate our chances good", he said. "Leitrim has always done well in first rounds and have surprised quite a few good teams in the past in the early rounds".

One can hardly share that view. For although the game will be played at Carrick-on-Shannon it is doubtful if Leitrim, with their youngsters and even with the great McGarty, will upset Mayo.

Too much of an economic burden has fallen on this little county and too few remain at home to share it. Their hopes have sagged and a lot of it has brushed onto people in organisations such as the G.A.A.

What is the cure?

# LET'S FACE HARD FACTS

SAYS JACK MAHON

THERE was a time not so long ago when the selection of Railway Cup teams were as much looked forward to as the inter-provincial games themselves. Nowadays, such a news item receives scant attention. The Railway Cup semi-finals, too, used to be the big events in the provinces to usher in the new G.A.A. year. Now they are much less eagerly anticipated than the major league games of the same period. Railway Cup final day was a day one went to Croke Park by special train more than likely to celebrate the national holiday. But nowadays, whether or not it is the live transmission of the games on RTE, one prefers to stay at home. What has gone wrong?

Provincial loyalty never went too far. It is practically non-existent to-day. Fortunately for the G.A.A. county loyalty runs very deep and it is the sound foundation on which the G.A.A. is so firmly based. Unlike the Railway Cups and provincial loyalty which was never more than a passing thing but yet was treated fairly seriously in the past, county loyalty is very live. One is a Galwayman, a Kerryman, a Downman . . . and this is it.

It is this inbred pride of county which helps so many to share in a success or cry in sorrow. In fact, at times I think it can be taken too seriously, but that's a fault in the right direc-

tion, if anything. If only the Railway Cups could be similarly faulted, then there would be no need for this article.

In last month's *Gaelic Sport* I suggested that the Railway Cups should be disbanded and replaced on St. Patrick's Day each year by the inter-club All-Irelands in both hurling and football. If they do go, this is what I want staged instead of them. But should they go? Is this lack of interest which is now apparent but a passing thing? Will we have a return to the palmy days of Alf Murray, Eamonn Young, Seán Purcell, Gerry O'Reilly, Christy Ring, Frankie Walsh, Packy McGarty, Jim McKeever, Paddy Bawn Brosnan . . . ?

I'd hate in one sense to see them go. For over the past twenty years they've given me and countless others great enjoyment. They helped to make friends of great county rivals; they healed many over-keen county rivalries and they produced their own type of star—the star of the weaker counties who really made this their competition. It was this competition more than any other that displayed the undoubted greatness of men like Jim McCullagh, Eddie Boyle, Nace O'Dowd, "Jobber" McGrath, Packy McGarty, Cathal Flynn, Mickey Kearins and Kevin Armstrong among others.

St. Patrick's Day should be an occasion when Croke Park, our national G.A.A. stadium, should be filled to capacity almost. If the competitions we stage are the reasons for the empty terraces, then we should replace them with something that will fill these same terraces.

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# RAILWAY CUP CONSOLATIONS

WITHOUT doubt, one of the big ambitions of every inter-county player is to win an All-Ireland medal. But for hurlers and footballers from weak counties this usually remains only a dream. However, since the Railway Cup competition was inaugurated in 1927, many players from unfashionable counties have gained valuable experience and great thrills from playing with the "big names" at Croke Park on our national holiday. This competition has afforded the opportunity to many fine players, unlucky not to gain All-Ireland honours, to gain Railway Cup medals as consolation prizes.

A list of good footballers who have not won All-Ireland senior medals would fill "Gaelic Sport", but I do not intend to bore the readers with a long list of names.

Sticking to football and going back over the past fifteen years or so, I confine my "list" to the following excellent performers who have found consolation in Railway Cup medals.

Seeing that only two of Ulster's nine counties have annexed national senior titles, it is not surprising that the northern province should have most contenders for places on the "list". Jim McKeever (Derry)

was without question one of the greatest midfielders the game has ever known and a strong contender for the title of "the greatest player never to win an All-Ireland medal". He also has the honour of being the only player to be chosen as "Footballer of the Year" who did not figure on the All-Ireland winning team. That was in 1958 when gallant Derry went under to Dublin in the final. Compensation for that defeat in the shape of Railway Cup medals came in 1956 and '60.

Also on that losing Derry team was their brilliant forward, Sean O'Connell, who eleven years later is still a regular for his county. Sean has helped his province to their last three successes, in 1965, '66 and '68.

Another man who shared in those three victories—and also the 1964 success—is Donegal's star goalkeeper, Seamus Hoare. Bernard Brady, that stalwart defender from the O'Donnell county also played his part during Ulster's greatest years and lined out at left full back in 1964 and at full-back in '65 and '68.

Before Seamus Hoare took over in goal, Thady Turbitt (Tyrone) was the regular 'keeper and in 1960 and '63 he got some compensation for his county's disappointments in the mid-fifties. The O'Neill county star midfielder-cum-forward Jody O'Neill has a proud Railway Cup record and in sharing in five of the six Ulster successes in the sixties, he only missed last year's triumph.

Ulster never seem to be short of brilliant forwards and into this category come Armagh's Jimmy Whan, who had three inter-provincial successes and Fermanagh's P. T. Treacy, who went one better with four medals to his credit. It is seldom Fer-

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managh appear at headquarters and it must have been a great source of satisfaction to Erne county supporters to see one of its sons make the big-time. Cavan is usually considered as one of the stronger counties, but in recent years they have been having a lean time of it. Still, four of their stalwarts gained compensation in Railway Cup honours. Heading the quartet with five victories is that sound defender of a few years back, Garda Tom Maguire, while one behind come the trio of Jim McDonnell, Ray Carolan and Charlie Gallagher. Of the trio I will single out the latter for special mention as he rates as one of the most prolific score-getters of recent years.

During the last decade and a half, the Railway Cup has gone to Connacht on three occasions, 1957, '58 and '67. While on the subject of prolific score-getters who better to talk about than the Sligo sharpshooter, Michael Kearins? One of the deadliest forwards in the game to-day, and a regular on the Connacht team for the last few seasons, including 1967, Michael was the

nation's top scorer last year with a grand total of two goals and 135 points which is a new national record.

For the second Yeats county man on the "list" we go back to the fifties and find that Nace O'Dowd, excelling himself at full-back contributed in no small manner to the 1957 and '58 successes. Also on those two sides were Mayomen Willie Casey and John Nallen. The blonde corner-back Willie Casey was one of the best men in his position that I have seen and it was unfortunate that his county was having a thin time of it when he was at his best. Perhaps I am wrong in labelling John Nallen a "Mayomen" as "a man of many counties" would be a better title for this much travelled forward. Very unlucky not to win an All-Ireland medal, he always seemed to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

He arrived too late to share in Mayo's two-in-a-row in the early fifties, he was with Meath when Galway were winning their three-in-a-row and when Meath did gain the title in '67 he was past his best and had gone to Cavan.

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12/6

**GRIAN NA gCNOC**

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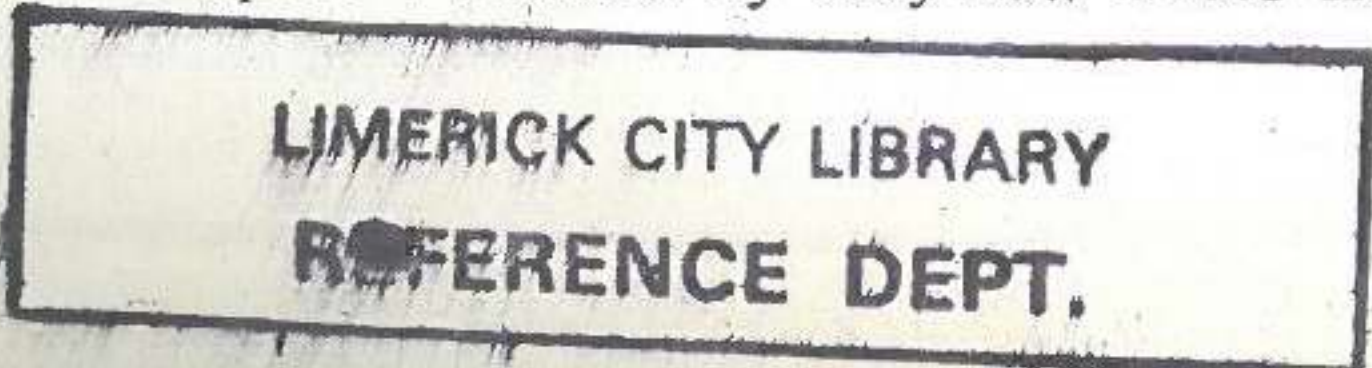
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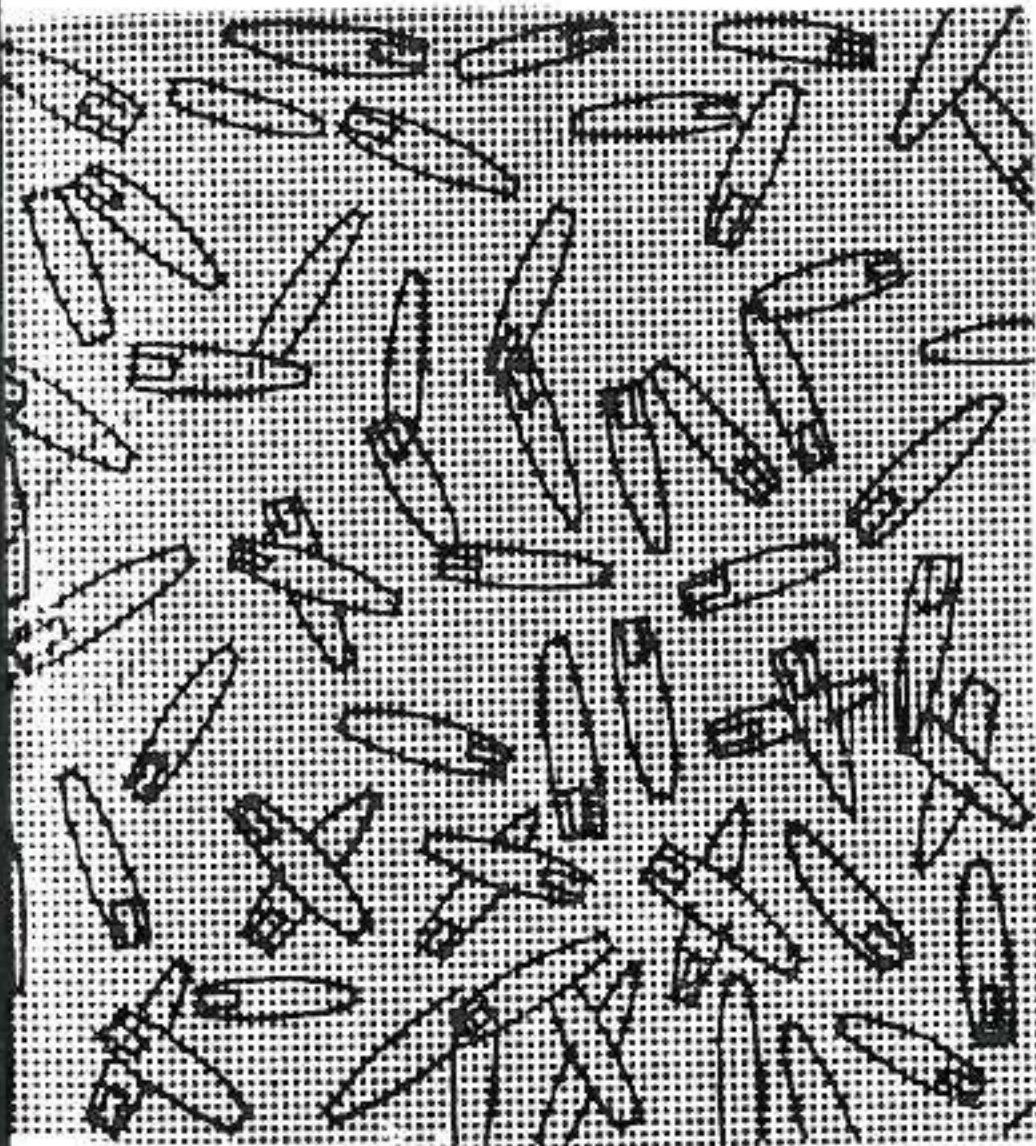
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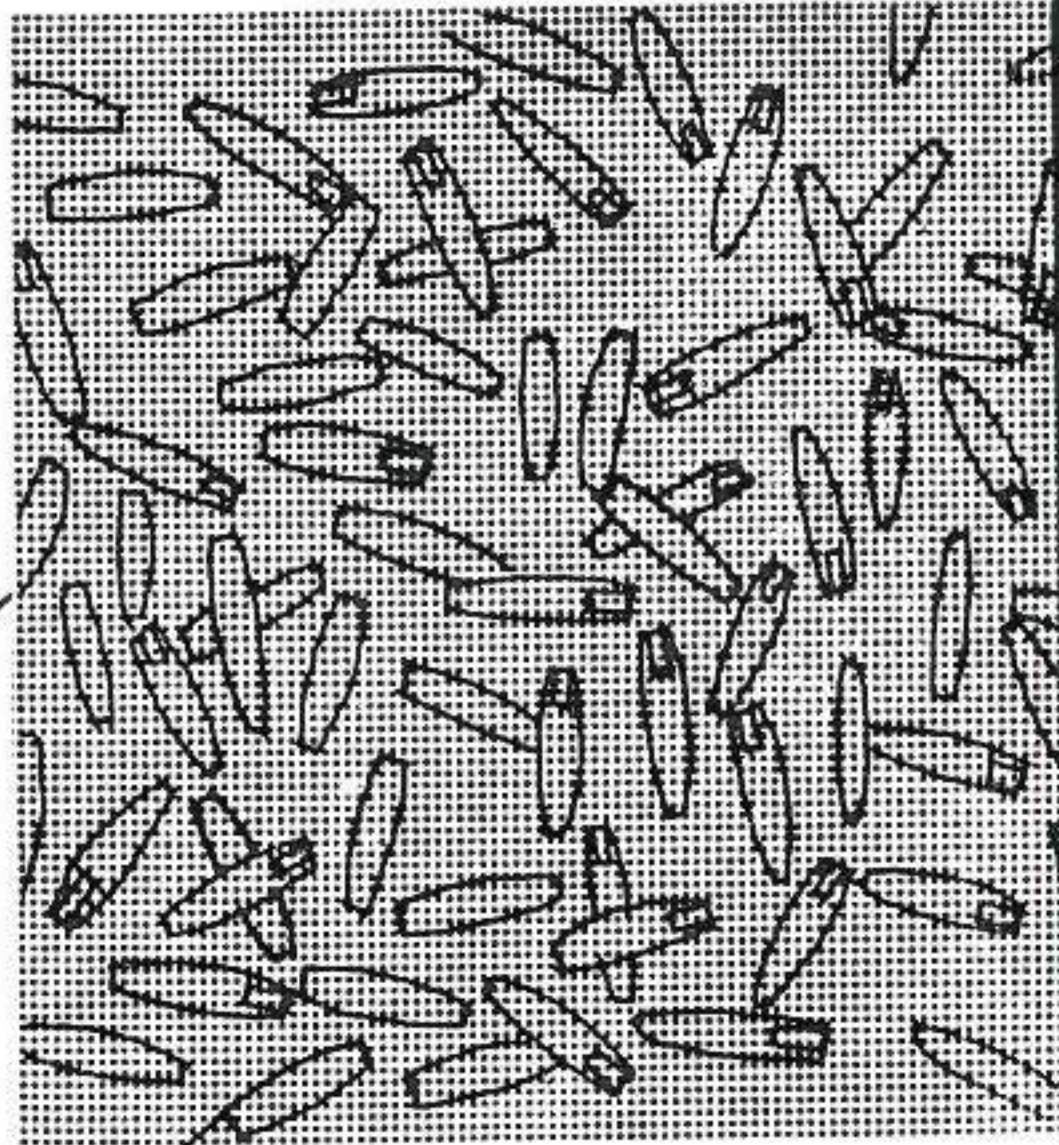


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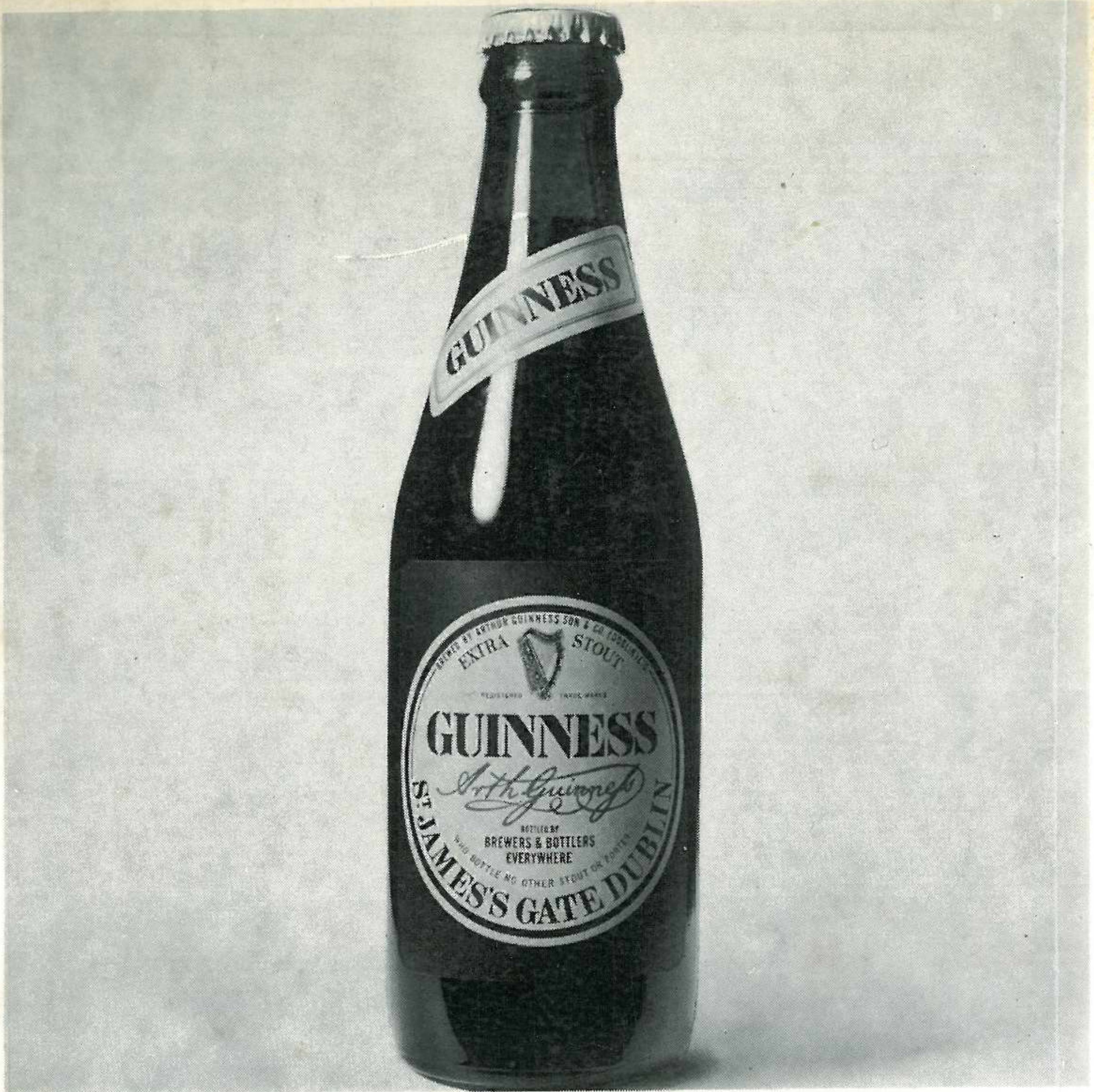
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