

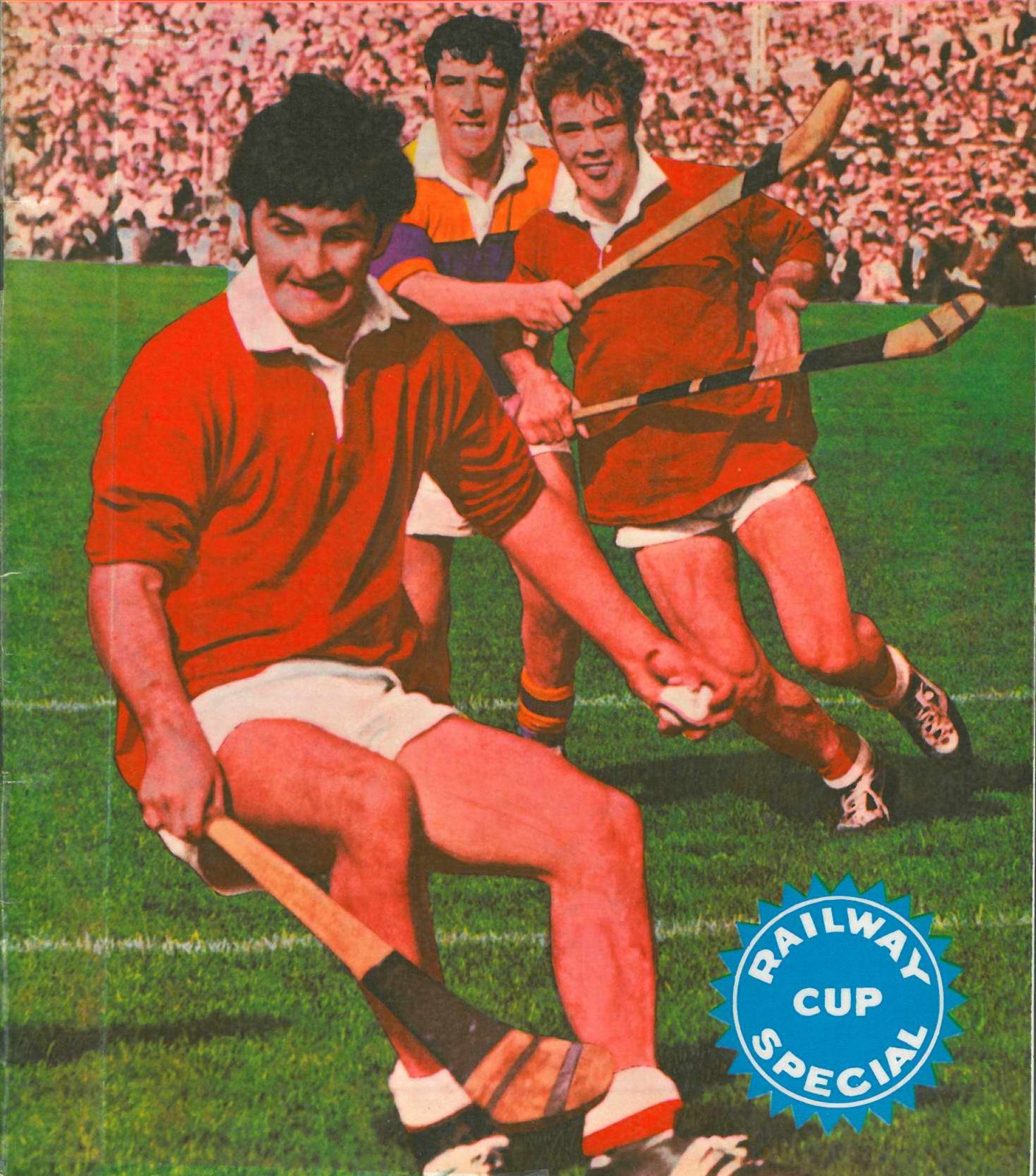
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Gaelic Sport

MARCH, 1971

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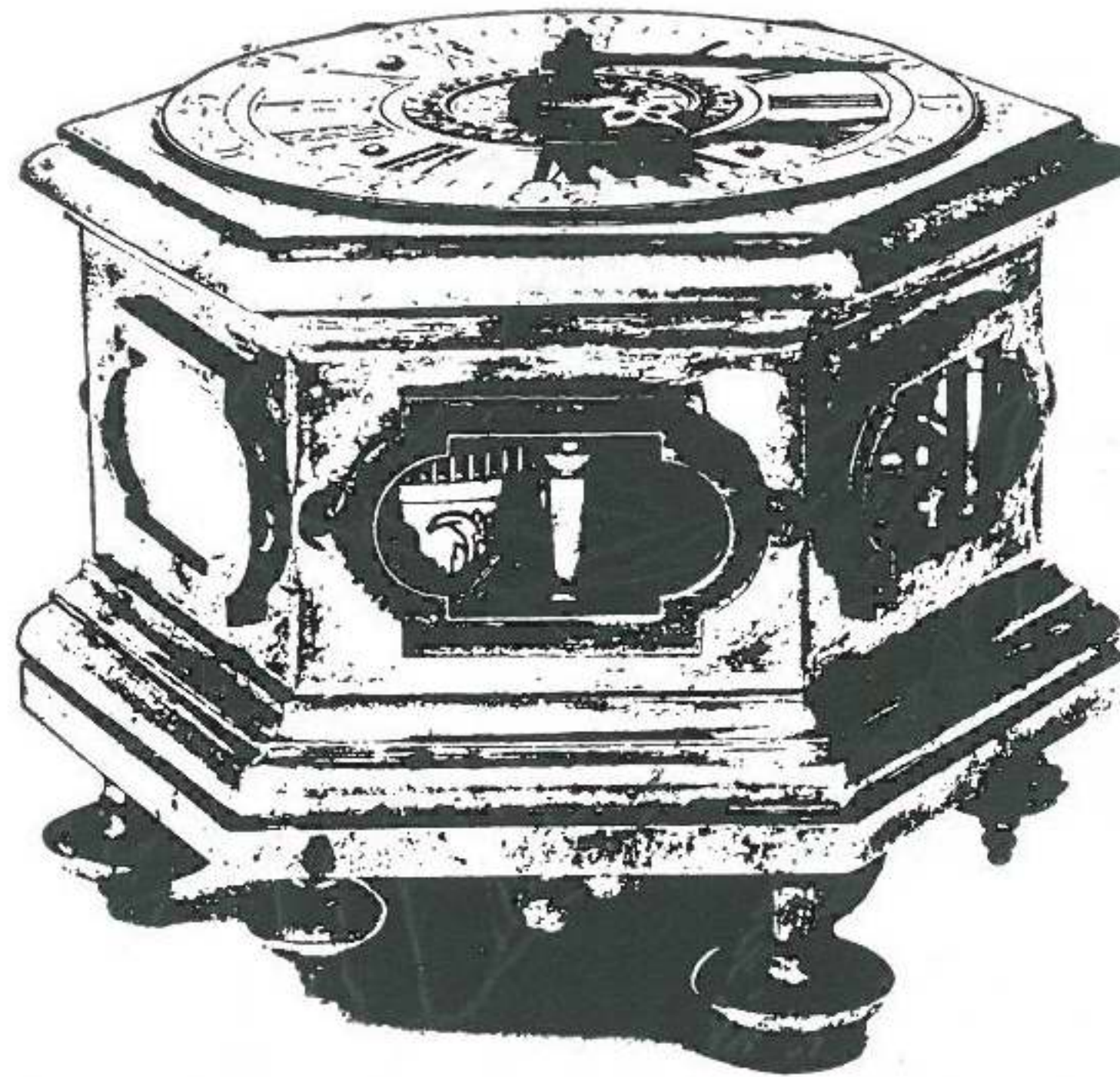
Tom Bradley, Sales Director, and Ray Kelly, Purchasing Director of Dara Distributors are names we are likely to hear more and more of in the future. To give golfers an even better service Donal Murphy has been appointed to look after this section. Not only golf clubs but a whole range of golf equipment from trolleys to golf balls are available from Dara Distributors agents throughout the country. For details of your local agent contact Dara Distributors Ltd., Greenhills Industrial Estate, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, or telephone 506932.



● Our picture shows (left to right): Dr. Gerry Owens, President, G.U.I., Christy O'Connor, John Letters, Managing Director, Craigton Golf Co. Ltd., and Donal Murphy, Dara Distributors, enjoying a lively conversation at the recent reception in the Intercontinental Hotel on the appointment of Dara Distributors as sole Irish agents for Craigton Golf Clubs.

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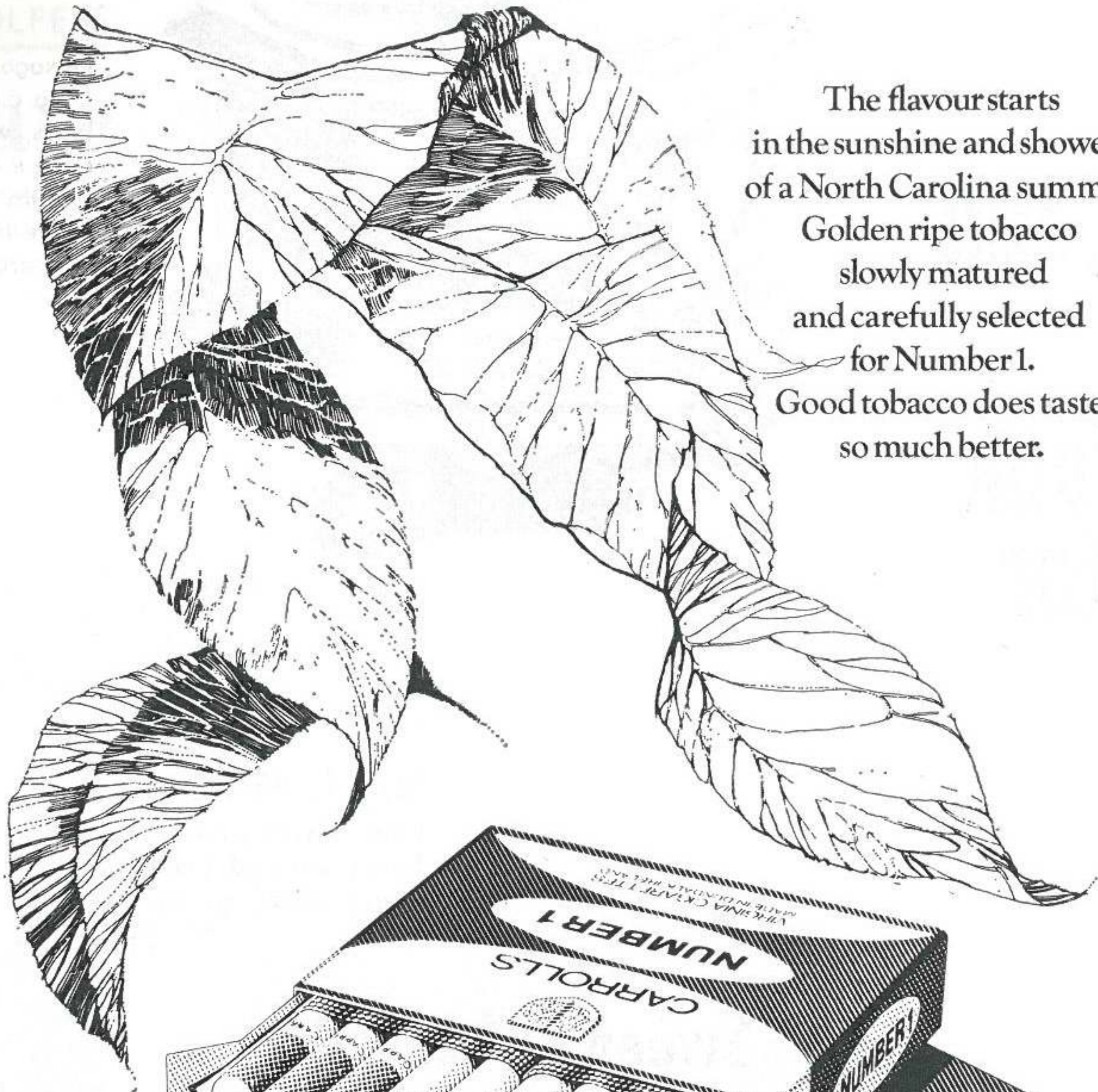
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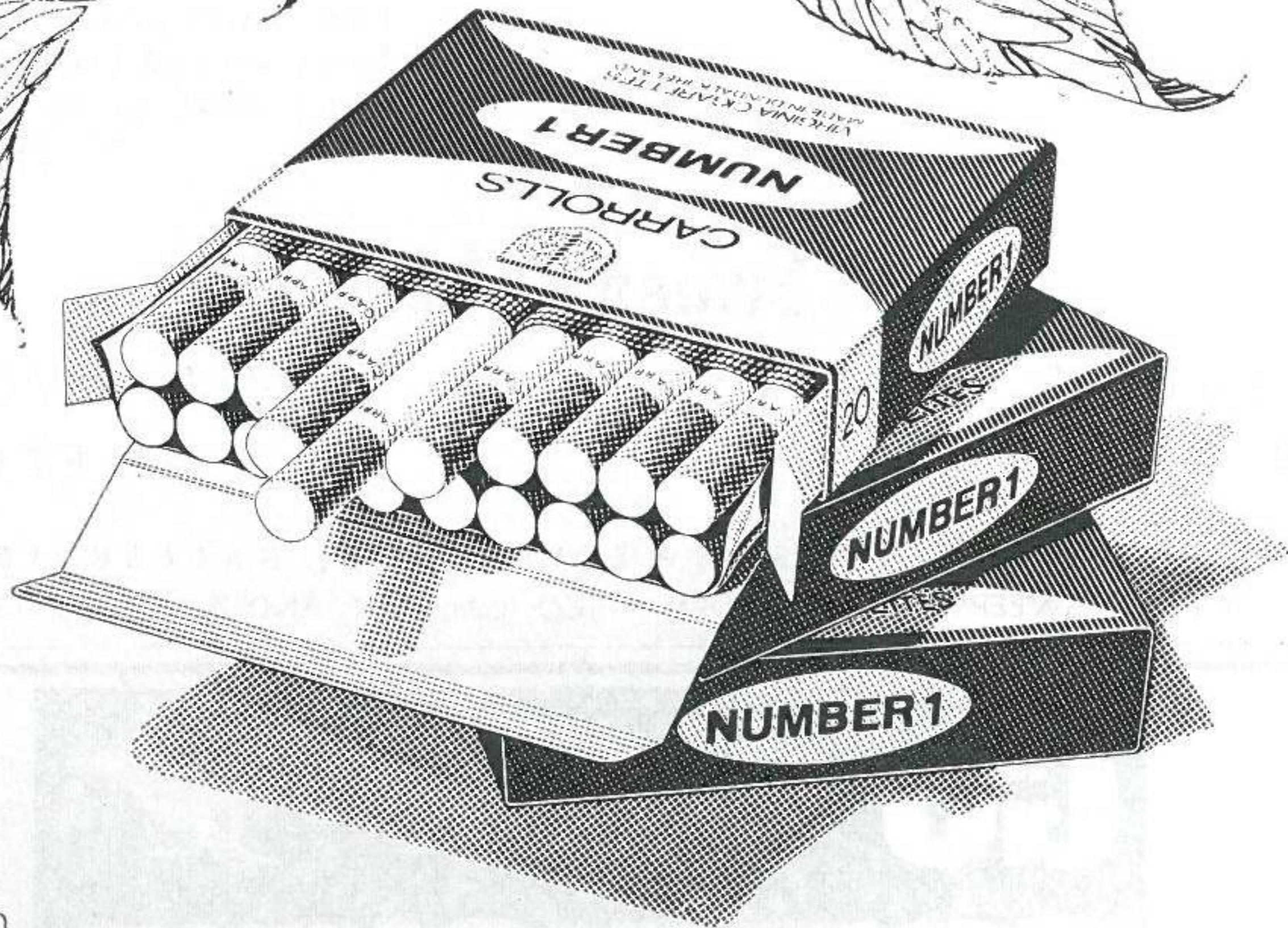
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 14. No. 3. March, 1971

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INDEX

	Page
<i>After the Ban: Too many games chasing too few players</i> —by Jay Drennan	7
<i>Acute Problem for Planners</i> —by Jim Bennett	10
<i>Association Must Forge Boldly Ahead</i> —by Eamonn Young	13
<i>Ulster Viewpoint</i> —by Dan McAreavy	16
<i>Why Nellie Has a Soft Spot for Down</i> —by Patrick Carver	21
<i>What a Thoughtless Mother, But . . .</i> —by Philip Roderick	23
<i>Crossword</i>	27
<i>The "Irregular" Stars of the Railway Cup</i> —by Owen McCann	28
<i>Cá seasann an Cumann Lúch-leas Gael</i> —le Seán Ó Dunagáin	31
<i>Moondharrig's Diary</i>	33
<i>The Great Pat Dunny</i> —by Owen McCann	35
<i>Junior Desk</i> —by Jack Mahon	39
<i>Mailbag</i>	41
<i>Camogie</i> —by Agnes Hourigan	44
<i>Handball</i> —by Alleyman	47
<i>Scoring Peaks</i> —by Owen McCann	48
<i>The Fabulous Forty-Niners</i> —by Noel Coogan	50
<i>Quiz</i>	52
<i>Handball in South Africa</i> —by Alleyman	54
<i>Club Development Scheme</i> ...	55
<i>Top Ten</i>	56

COVER PHOTO

OUR front cover this month features in the foreground that irrepressible Cork hurler, Charlie McCarthy. It seems just impossible to keep Charlie out of the limelight for very long, like his hurling he keeps popping up all over the place. The men in the background are Cork's Willie Walsh and Wexford's Martin Collins. The action is from last year's All-Ireland hurling final.

PRIORITIES

IT is assumed that the Ban debate will dominate the annual Congress of the G.A.A. in Belfast at Easter. That, we believe, is a wrong assumption. The county conventions have made their intentions known, by majority vote, and the democratic process will inevitably delete Rule 27.

It has been suggested that that process may not be carried through. To say that is to impute dishonesty to honourable men. No-one will attempt to fiddle with the concept of democracy.

But the President, Pat Fanning, has made it clear, in a number of statements since the conclusion of the county conventions on January 31, that he will regard it as a priority function of his office to re-affirm the national principles of the Association and make it clear to members that those principles are immutable, whether the Ban, which symbolised them for so long, eventually goes or stays.

We set out to say that the Ban debate will not be significant on Easter Sunday. The result of the voting is already known. It would be a waste of time to devote discussion to the inevitable. If the

principles are postulated for the new era, the Association can go on from there — and without any qualms.

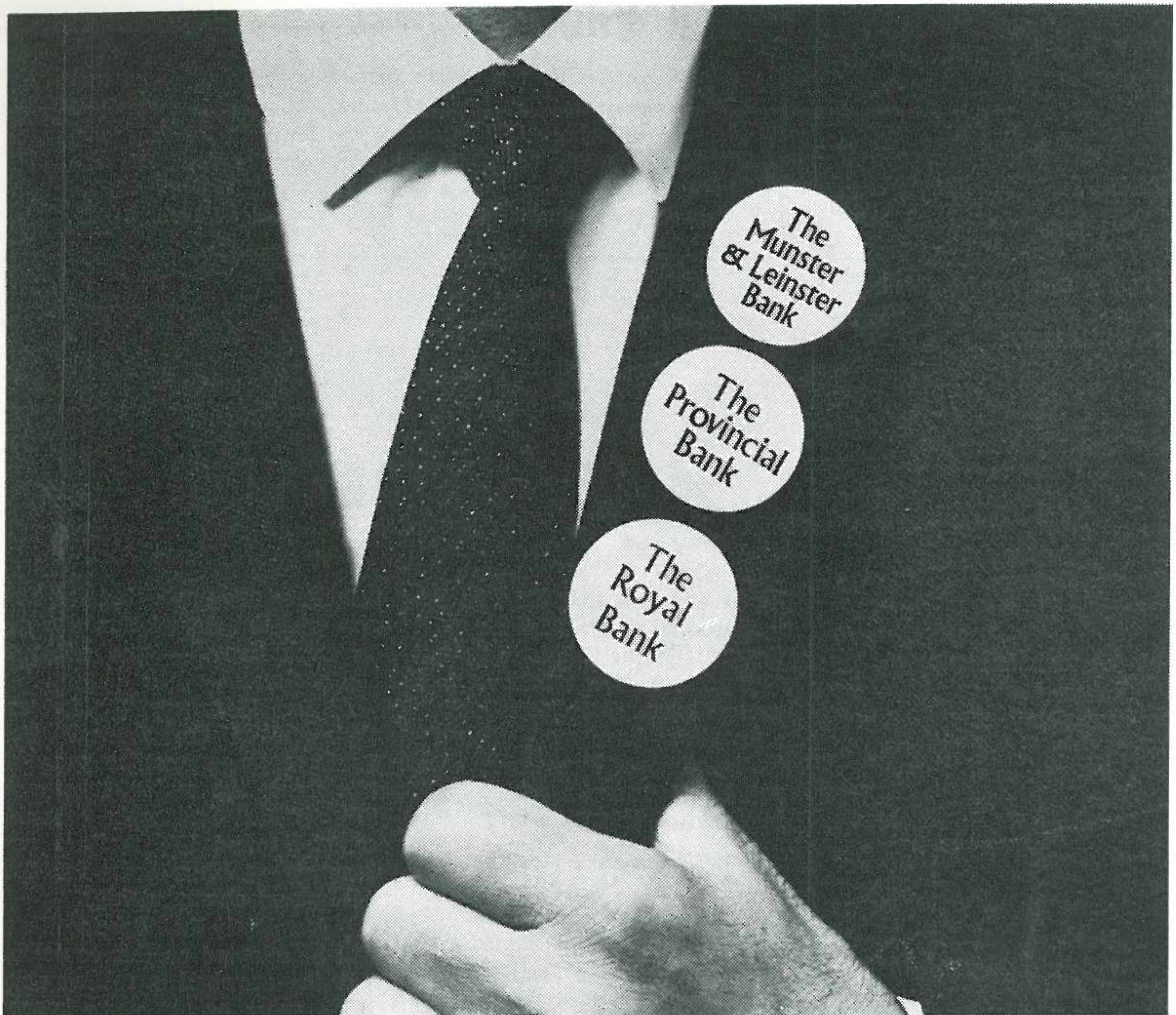
As Dan McAreavy, the former chairman of the Armagh Co. Board, says on another page of this issue, the major debate at the Belfast assembly should centre around the motions advocating an open draw for the All-Ireland championships.

It is unlikely that these motions will be adopted on this occasion. But the snowball is rolling and, three years or six years hence, the revolutionary change may well be made — at least for the football competition.

It is questionable whether an open draw would, in the long run, benefit hurling. Theory is fine, but what would the end product be if the great Munster championship were no more?

That is a question which must occupy the minds of the planners. Can the premier national pastime of hurling afford to lose the only competition outside of the All-Ireland (just one game) which — admittedly with occasional lapses — parades its real glories?

An open draw for football — yes. For hurling — NO.



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NATION WITH TOO MANY GAMES CHASING TOO FEW PLAYERS

ALF MURRAY, ex-president of the Association, put the whole Ban business in a nutshell when he said, the other Sunday, in a newspaper interview that his main reaction to the virtual certainty of the abolition of the Ban rules was one of enormous relief.

Relief it is—to both sides. Certainly, to those who were of goodwill on both sides—and the presumption must be that this means almost everybody, even if, as Murray also suggested, the massive walk-out of delegates at a number of conventions after the Ban vote would suggest that many had become almost obsessed with the abolition of the rules to the exclusion of all other business.

Well, now, how do things stand? Out will go the prohibition on playing those games; out will go the direct obstacles to supporting those games, and participating in functions run for their support; out will go the prohibition on dances. In fact, the curious thing that arises is

that from an Association with a very strict code of negatives, overnight we stand on the brink of becoming a wide open and very loosely-knit group.

There is the counsel of perfection of the recently recast Rule 1, which urges a general acceptance of the positive way of Association life; apart from the games, which another rule says shall be fostered, the language, customs, music, dance and ethos of the country's tradition shall be furthered. But, that is pretty vague. A kind of "love your neighbour" directive, while we can all be relatively acceptable members of the community and yet do precious little in actual practical love of neighbour.

So many things which should have been done have not been done to prepare the way for the demise of the Ban: that many people in the Association were not working with real urgency or conviction towards those things would suggest that either they were blind enough to think that the Ban would never go, or careless enough to the post-Ban fate of the G.A.A. to pay little attention to their fulfilment.

For a start: the membership. It is over a year now since the draft proposals for membership and the regulation of the membership of clubs was brought out by the Central Council, even though they watered the proposals down a little by going all out for only the first half of them — the remainder to be optional though desirable.

What is the position of these membership rules now? Where are they in force? What counties and areas have enforced them in their clubs? In fact, I know places where the rules have been given a total cold shoulder, and far fewer places where they have been taken seriously.

The Association has been easy-going about the membership question, and the main reason has been the bolstering status of the Ban rules. We will now find ourselves without the Ban and without a stringent and clearly universally understood membership qualification to give the Association a footing on which to stand.

With the fostering rules gone, I cannot see anything in the rules which would stop a club running a soccer or rugby team. The obligation to sponsor and promote Gaelic games is a positive one and, therefore, is not in any way infringed by adding other pro-

● TO PAGE 9



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● FROM PAGE 7

motional interests so long as the basic ones have been provided for.

Could this lead to conflicting interests in the use of grounds; and was this what the Committee on the Ban was getting at? Could this in turn, lead to a claim in rightful standing by other games interests in a club to their right in part ownership of the property and ground? Could this be the thin edge of a takeover wedge?

These are the more extreme fears that follow on the exit of the Ban. The more immediate, however, must concern playing strength. It is easily calculated that the numbers who have left the Association over the years to take part in the once-banned games has outnumbered by a huge degree those who came into the Association from those sports.

This would seem to suggest that the attraction to trying other games is stronger in the Gaelic games man than in the other sports. One must make some allowance for the possible effect of the barring effect of the Ban to those who were playing rugby or soccer, say. But, there is at least reasonable room for doubt that the desire existed with anything like equal proportion between the Gaelic and non-Gaelic games. If that is granted, the opening of the floodgates would be likely to produce a greater flow from Gaelic to non-Gaelic games.

That there will be flow is not in doubt, it seems certain, for we are a country which has too many games chasing too few players. A paradise for the dabbler. Yet, the dabbler is no good to either side or even to any specific game on either side. There are even those in the G.A.A. who would think hard on whether it is even a good thing to have footballing-hurlers.

The essential danger must surely be that there will be a

The Árd-Runaí of Cumann Lúth-Chleas Gael, Seán Ó Stocháin, who recently underwent a serious operation in a Dublin hospital. Along with Gaels everywhere, we wish him a speedy return to full health.



source of embarrassment to the individual club. That they will find that while for some time their players give them first call, on some occasion the time will come when a more attractive fixture in another sport will cause players to leave them in the lurch. That will be the crisis: a crisis for each club.

With the attraction of professionalism available some players will be attracted to have a go, especially now that no overtones of allegiance to other ideals is called in question by such experiment. Further, professional sport being what it is, there will be a pretty intensive combing out of talent by the professional interests—you cannot blame them for that, it is the nature of their business.

Finally, and by way of apology almost, for the suggestion that there are any ideals of a higher nature involved here is almost a

dirty word in modern society, one must say that with the Ban gone, there will be no tangible element whatever—pious platitudes apart—to suggest that such ideals are involved.

I am the first to admit that the Ban rules were inadequate statements of the present ideals of the Association; they had to be strained and re-interpreted in a way which the words of the rules would never have led you to believe. But, bad as they were, and faulty as it is for the members who have never rephrased or restated those ideals, at least they were some kind of indication of the deeper meaning of the world of the G.A.A.

How great is the danger and the threat that it will become a games administration group with only the viable and the practical? What about the things that never were? Will there be no one left to ask: "Why not"?

ACUTE PROBLEM FOR PLANNERS

By JIM BENNETT

HOW truthful are people? How open in their answers to a probing question? Indeed, how sincerely do they analyse their own thoughts and feelings so that their answers are the essential truth rather than a superficial reaction? I am not a philosopher nor a behavioural scientist to such an extent as to hazard a guess at those problems. But I should be surprised to find that the answers to them did enormous injustice to the probity of the ordinary individual.

What I am getting at is this: every time I have asked someone why he decided to leave the ranks of the G.A.A. and opt to play soccer or rugby regularly, the main part of the reason has been that he wanted to play regularly every week and that he had not such an opportunity in the ranks of the G.A.A.

I believe them. For it is true enough that most of those young men who are keen enough on games to be concerned about whether they play or not are motivated by an inside urge to exercise themselves physically, to gain an outlet for pent up energies and frustrations, to gain an outlet for their competitive sense, to enjoy the physical freedom which playing a game gives in a way which nothing else can do.

And the habit—like most habits—feeds on what it likes. It becomes a compulsive urge to get out and play every Sunday or week-end, and every mid-week half-day (if that opportunity also arises). Training is a substitute, and will be enjoyed and welcomed, in general, on a basis of one training session per one match. But, beyond that, training becomes an inadequate

thing for most footballers and hurlers. The game's the thing.

Down the years, the G.A.A. has failed to keep up with the desire of many members for the regular weekly game. I have particularly in mind the average player, never destined for greatness, but with a no less intense desire to play. And one hesitates in any way to blame the Association, for there has been an insuperable barrier to such fulfilment.

First the Association is so widespread; second, the emphasis has been thrown by the succession of historical events on the championships; third, the fact that there are two games to be catered for and with the same units competing, an overlap in playing strength; fourth, the tendency to centralisation in the fixing of games, so that clubs have taken little initiative in arranging their own fixtures and scheduling them on dates most convenient to themselves; they rather tend to sit around and wait for the relevant board to make their championship fixtures, and set out to prepare for them with tiresome training sessions often of little more significance than keeping the players

together; trial matches and friendlies are no more than half-competitive games with whatever opposition may be uncommitted on the particular day.

Rugby, for instance, has been notably lacking in a competitive sense: clubs have flourished in many parts of this country and other countries on the basis of a negotiated bunch of fixtures which they have arranged with other clubs: in many cases the spoils are no more than the honour of victory in that particular game, rather than any sudden-death element or even long-time league aspiration.

Either way—the rugby way of *laissez faire*, or the soccer way of planned fixture lists—Soccer and Rugby have been notably more successful in giving games to the players week in, week out. There has been a notable falling off in that certainty of weekly fixtures in many of the junior soccer leagues in the last few years: the explanation must be accepted as the same (more or less) which affected the G.A.A. in the increasingly complicated system of competitions, and demands on their times and grounds.

It has long been my contention that the G.A.A. would have to make some kind of reappraisal of the situation. Whether this should take the form of a more intense effort at centralisation of games and fixture responsibility, or whether it should mean the abolition of a whole lot of the non-essential championship grades with a greater degree of club initiative taking their place

is a moot point. But, now that the Ban has gone the way of all flesh, the necessity for filling the programmes of every playing unit in the Association becomes more urgent.

The temptation to try soccer or rugby or any other game in the gaps of waiting for the next fixture on the G.A.A. club calendar needs no longer to be glorified with the name "temptation". It is now an honourable tendency, and will be followed without stigma—even with encouragement. One of the reasons why some favoured the Ban must obviously have been the feeling that tasting the forbidden fruit might lead to total addiction. The same argument is true: the chances of tasting are now no longer bound by laws of abstinence; the conclusion must be that many more will taste; if so, and if the argument mentioned above is valid, will not many more be inclined to give their first loyalty to some other games.

There is an obligation now more clearly than ever before that the Association arranges or causes to be arranged a full schedule of playing opportunity for every club. Indeed, why else should a club exist unless they have a personnel willing to play, and desiring to play regularly? No reason other than that can be sufficient cause, though there will be ancillary causes.

And I cannot see that, given the complexity of the Association, the layer upon layer of grades, levels and age-groupings, and the overlap of necessities, the central boards can arrange such fixtures themselves. It seems to me, therefore, that far more initiative will have to rest with clubs, and it seems fair that this should be so, since they will have the duty resting on them from now on to attract the players and hold them. No longer will the Ban rules exist as an inbuilt cushion.

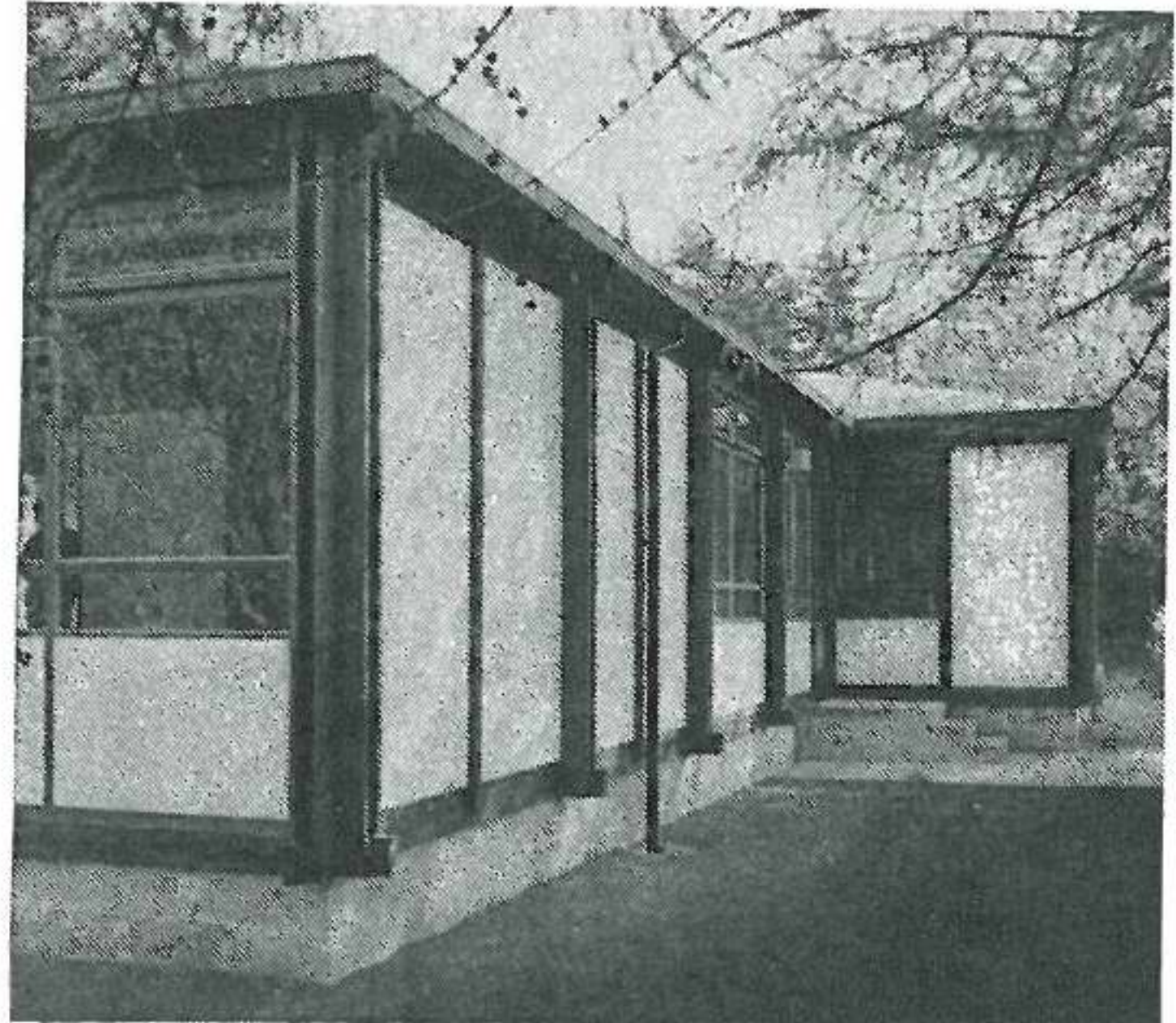


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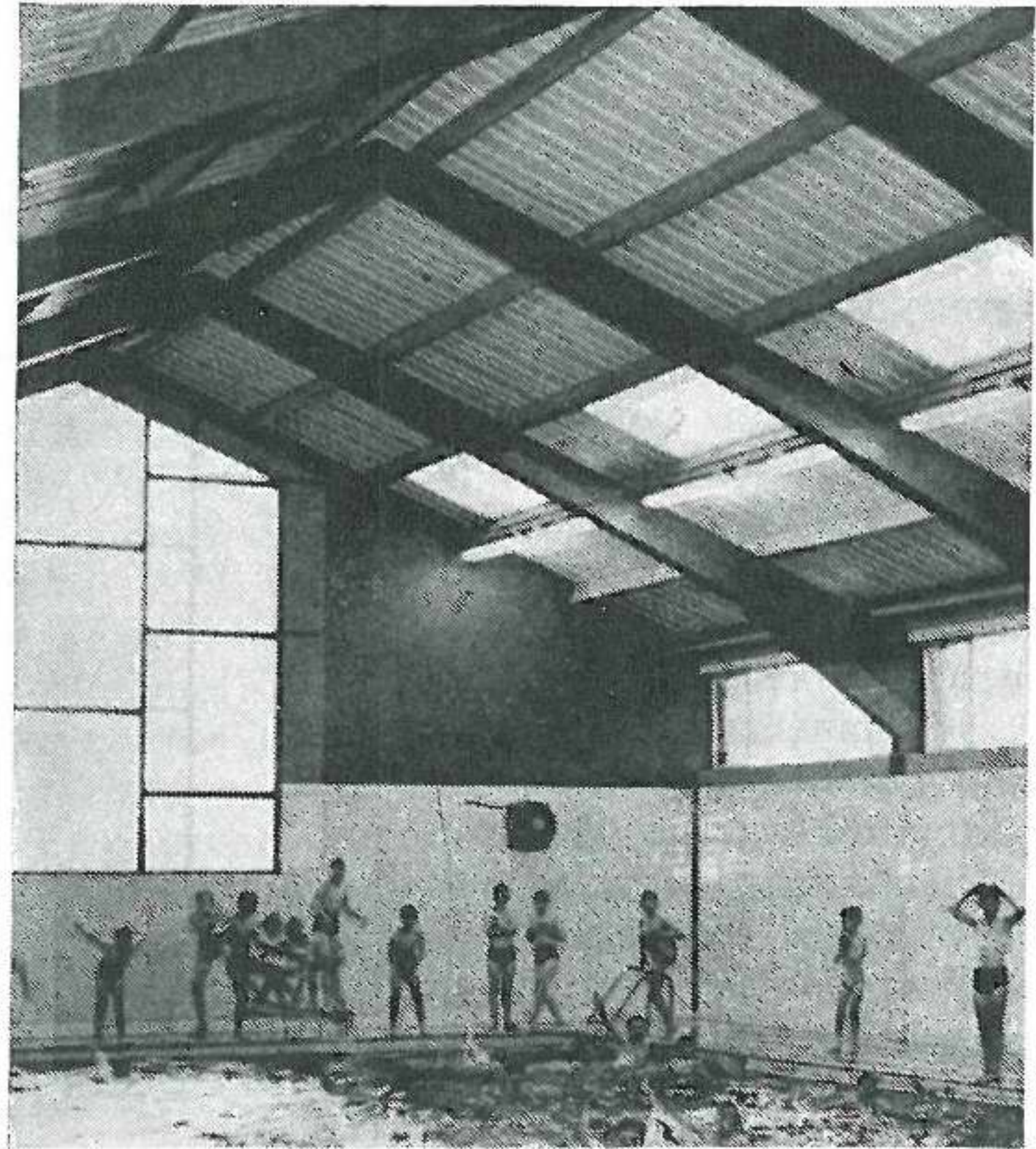


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A LARGE crowd of young people sat in a hall in Dublin. They were organising a new committee. It was completely new and the objectives in the minds of the members were great. At length the details were hammered out in perfect unanimity. The meeting drew to a harmonious close.

A burly young man stood up. Brendan Behan they called him. "Mr. Chairman," he said, "I propose a split."

The chair asked him what he was driving at, and most of the members wished he would sit down.

"Every Irish organisation," said Brendan without a pause, "must sooner or later have a split. So I propose we have one now at the start and get it over with."

The yarn reminds me of the talk on a split in the G.A.A., talk that is increasing somewhat in volume as I write. The reason is the possibility of the ban rules being modified or abolished.

The people who want to retain the ban have spoken of this possibility of a split. Indeed some fear it with genuine apprehension while others are happy to use it as a big stick to frighten the anti-ban people from voting for abolition.

Some anti-abolitionists are at one with their opponents in that they also fear a split and see a distinct possibility of losing sincere men whose views may be so strong as to make close association with what they would call a watered-down ideology impossible.

On the other hand there are abolitionists who welcome the possible departure of the most emphatic pro-ban supporters. In



President Pat Fanning who has stated that when the Ban goes, his first duty will be to re-affirm the national principles of the Association.

fact they have been for years hoping that the rule and its staunchest supporters will together be banished to the limbo of "old unhappy far-off things and battles long ago".

To me there is real common-sense in all those attitudes according to one's point of view.

The possibility of a split in the G.A.A. major or minor has existed before. There have been splits of minor dimension and as long as the people of this divided island hold nationalist views of varying intensity—and thank God there seems no real abatement of this—there is always a chance that strong-minded people will refuse to follow the leaders.

Two months ago important men resigned from their positions in the G.A.A. because the meeting they attended voted to abolish the ban. One was in a particularly sad position: his club wanted the ban to stay while he as an officer of the larger body would be instructed to vote against the rule.

● TO PAGE 15



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● FROM PAGE 13

In the near future the ban will go or stay. On the eleventh of April in Belfast the Association will take a step which will determine the road ahead . . . the old road or the new. There is no standing back; the Association must forge boldly ahead and time will tell which road is the correct one.

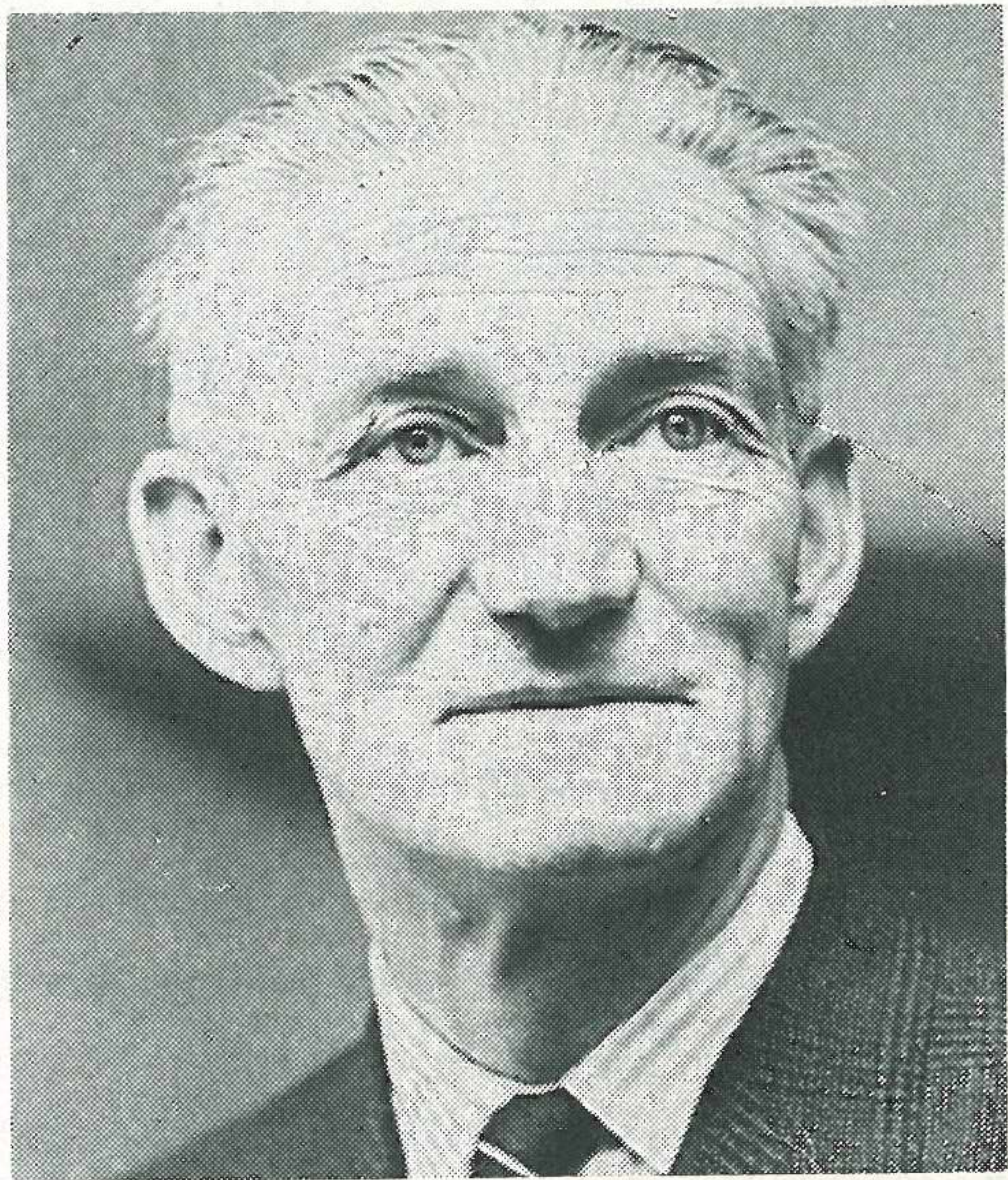
If the ban stays and this seems unlikely, most anti-ban people will simply carry on as they have been doing for many years, obeying the rule for which they have no love and which in their eyes does harm.

Other anti-ban people will of course continue in the lamentable way of ignoring the rule knowing that it will not be enforced. These people really don't care and they are not the stuff on which any worthwhile organisation is built.

If the ban goes will those who favour it go also? Will they found a new G.A.A. or will they be content to find self-expression in extreme positions.

One hopes that this will not be so but that they will accept the position in the same democratic way as have their opponents on this matter over the years. The departure of these men would be a sore loss for they are a coterie of hard-line thinkers which will ensure that the middle-of-the-road people who usually govern organisations do not swing too far to the other side. These pro-ban people usually have a strong view of Irish nationality and while all may not side with them one cannot but remember Voltaire's "I do not agree with one word you say, but I'll fight to the death to preserve your right to say it."

The ban rules have been for these men and women a shibboleth proclaiming a distinctive Ireland. Their opponents have felt that this standard, suitable in earlier struggles must now be



Alf Murray, former President, who has been one of the staunchest defenders of Rule 27 and the ideals it symbolised.

changed. Whether these new men are right or wrong they are entitled to their way provided they gain the support of democracy.

Why then should the sterner men fall away? Why should there be a split? Surely the Association and Ireland are bigger than our own little opinions which last for a day and "like snow upon the desert's dusty face" are gone tomorrow.

And don't forget that even if the ban goes—and it may not—it can be re-invoked in three years time. In fact if the motion submitted by Cork is entertained the re-introduction of Rule 27 could be considered in 1972 after a trial period of one year's deletion.

Also I feel a strong move will be made at Congress to delay the enforcement of Ban deletion on the grounds that the Association is not ready for the change.

The G.A.A. should be ready; this thing did not slink up behind us and spring suddenly but I do agree that we are not ready, because the thinkers of the Association allowed themselves to get out of touch.

"Après moi la deluge" the King once said. The flood may be on us now and we're not ready.

All the more reason for all members of the Association to stand together now and steer the boat through the rapids of change.

Let's forget about resignations—and splits.



Let us not do

violence

to common sense

ULSTER VIEWPOINT

I FEEL it would do violence to common sense to suggest that Rules 27, 28 and 29 should remain in the Official Guide after Easter Sunday next.

Ulster has gone 8-1 in favour of abolition; the country as a whole 30-2 in the same direction with this tally to be augmented by the unanimous votes of the English counties.

Indeed I am greatly intrigued by a suggestion mooted a few evenings ago by a well-known legislator — and a most sincere pro-ban advocate too — that the most diplomatic move that Congress could make in the interest of the Association would be to dispose of these rules by acclamation rather than by vote!

There are those who will argue that the democratic process would suffer greatly by such a move. But to me the country has spoken in unmistakable terms and a lengthy journey over well-trodden territory will at best be unproductive. If only we could remember that it is proposed to change rules and not principles the switch would maybe come easier.

Without a doubt the most statesmanlike speech on the ban over the last three months came from Mayo chairman, Fr. Leo

Morahan, who said there were many men in the Association of the older generation whose commitment to their country was practically summed up in Rule 27.

In his reported statement, Fr. Morahan went on: "That we disagree with their opinions of how to serve Ireland now should not blind us to the fact that many of them suffered for their beliefs in an Ireland in which Rule 27 was a valid expression of their ideals.

"I would not have a younger generation held to ridicule for looking for more effective instruments; but neither would I have a man of an older generation slighted for wishing to hold on to a symbol.

"And if we at this convention could sow the seed of understanding in both of them, the decision to be made by the Association at this stage of its history would not only be more pleasantly made, but we would be more Christian, more full of truth."

Fr. Morahan's words are well worth savouring.

Ideally I would like to see Congress dominated by the debate on the introduction of the championship open draw which I am convinced could do most to inject one of those new dimensions

so necessary for the Association in the post-ban era.

Many of us in Ulster have always felt that in common with Leinster we have had the thick end of the stick in the championship trail compared with the other two provinces.

The open draw proposal will, I believe, receive majority backing at Congress; not the two thirds necessary to upset the present arrangement but sufficient to indicate that a change is definitely in the pipe line. Congress could do worse than hinge the debate on this issue on the Down motion (put forward by the local Castlewellan club) which I believe is the most intelligent approach to the subject in years.

The motion reads:—

That the All-Ireland senior football championship of 1972 be an open draw as follows:—

(a) the first round to be played at the home venue of the first drawn county of each pairing. In the event of a draw the replay to be on the home ground of the county away in the first match.

(b) in the second round, which would be drawn, if two counties which were away in the first round are drawn then the first out to have a home venue. Similarly if two coun-

OPEN DRAW WOULD BE A NEW DIMENSION IN POST-BAN ERA

ties which were at home in the first round are paired then the first out to have the home venue.

If a county which was away in the first round is drawn against a county which was at home, then the away county shall have home venue regardless of which county is drawn first. In determining second round venues, replays shall not be taken into account. Venues for replays in the second round will be determined as in the first round.

(c) in the 1973 championships the first round will be the same as in 1972 with the venues reversed.

(d) the quarter finals to be drawn and played at neutral venues. Quarter finalists to receive trophies comparable to present provincial champions trophies.

(e) semi-finals to be drawn and played at neutral venues which would normally be Croke Park.

(f) the financial arrangement for rounds up to the semi-finals to be drawn up by the Executive for approval by the Central Council; present arrangements for semi-finals and finals to stand.

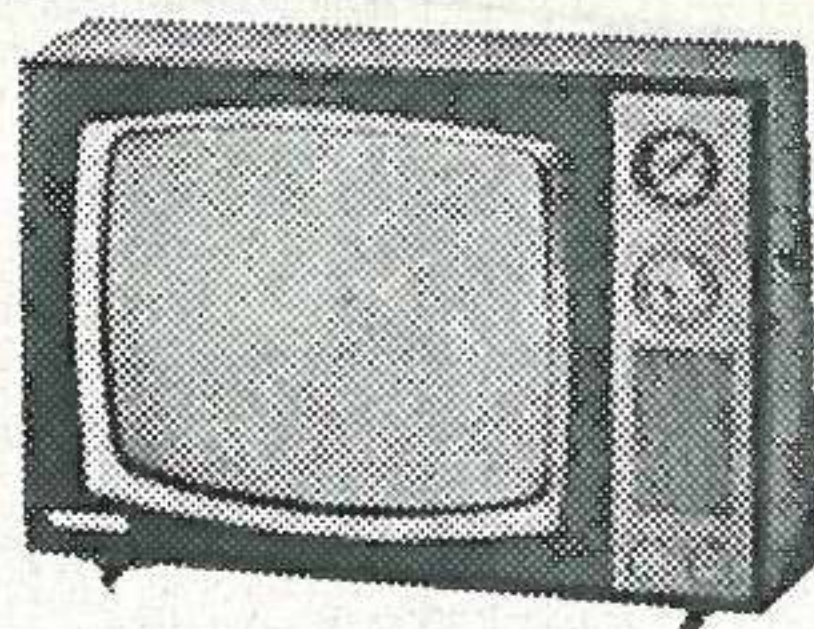
(g) dates for championship games to be fixed within general limits by the Central Council.

Space does not permit a full discussion of the motion. However do you not feel it contains the essence of real greatness for what is our premier competition? I will certainly return to it as I have so often in the past.

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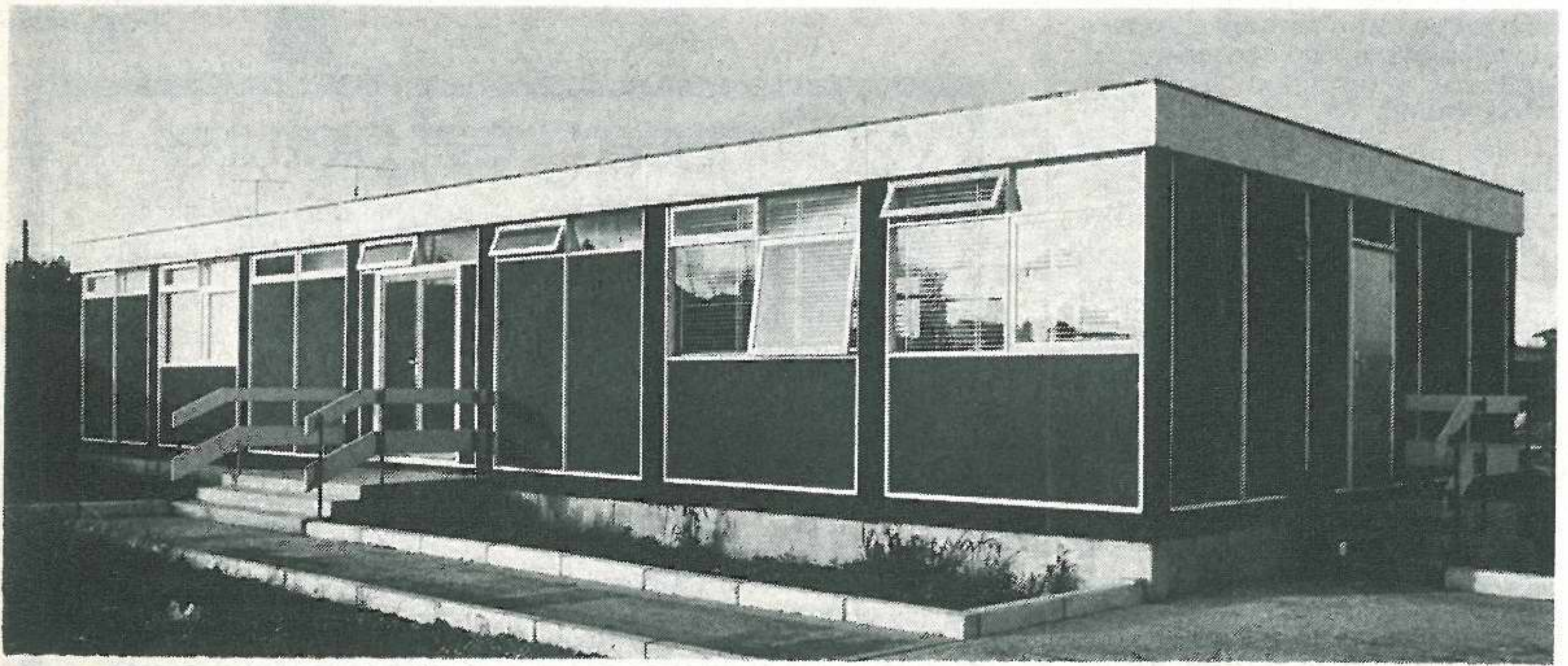
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- At a reception held recently in the Shelbourne Hotel, D. H. Hill, Marketing Director, Goulding Fertilisers Ltd., handed over to Pat Fanning, President of the G.A.A., a cheque for £3,000 for investment in the Association's Ground Development Scheme. Our picture, taken at the reception, shows (left to right): Donal O'Byrne, Goulding Fertilisers Ltd., Sean O Siochain, General Secretary, G.A.A., Kiernan Curtin, President, Macra na Feirme, and Sean Healy of the N.F.A.

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PWI/28a

Why Nellie has a soft spot for Down

NELLIE would never qualify for the Miss World contest. And for the sake of those who are interested in these contests—I'm always first up to the television when they're on—I'm glad that she can't or won't.

I'm quite sure that she wouldn't admit to 40 but the plain, unvarnished truth is that she looks 20 years older.

She would, I imagine, tip the scales comfortably at a trim 15 stones, which, if she were about

7' tall, would look damn good on her.

Unfortunately, even on her toes, I doubt that she would top 5' by much and, in the circumstances, her appearance smacks just a little of a female, sawed-off Two-Ton Tony Galenjo or perhaps a slightly flattened Panzer tank.

As for her face . . . well, what can you say about it. Not for her the obvious benefits of Max Factor or Revlon. Her face has never been touched or caressed by the gentle adornments of paint or powder. And that's probably how she likes it. It has all the evidence of brisk, regular scrubbing to a degree where it now resembles a piece of good, well-worn leather.

She is Dublin to the core—and let's you know it from time to time in piquant and picturesque language that has been well-honed in the environs of Dublin's dockland.

I'm not going to tell you how or where I met her. Suffice it to say that over the past few years we have become good but guarded friends in an association that has been occasionally nurtured with a few pints of the black stuff. Oh, yes, she can throw back pints with a most astonishing and commendable ease.

Last year, I stumbled across a somewhat unusual side of her life, which, at the outset, left me a little puzzled.

She poked her face around the door of my office and asked in that rich Dublinese, which I could not possibly reproduce here:

"Who's playing at Croke Park on Sunday?—and she asked it in a way that demanded a full and knowledgeable answer—immediately!

As it so happened it was Cork and Limerick in the National Hurling League final and I told her.

"Good"—she said and promptly disappeared.

And from that day on, usually when I had someone important in the office and could have well done without her, she made regular appearances—always with a query about Croke Park.

Then one day, I found out what it was all about. There was no knock on the door. It was shoved open, the face appeared and without greeting or preamble, she asked:

"Will Down be in the all-Ireland semi-finals?"

"No"—I told her—"they were beaten in Ulster. You'll have Derry this year."

"Ah, Janey" — and to be honest she didn't say that at all. It was much stronger—"That's terrible. Down are great. I love them. You can't beat them."

There was no one in the office. I drew her in. I had to find out what all this was about. And she told me.

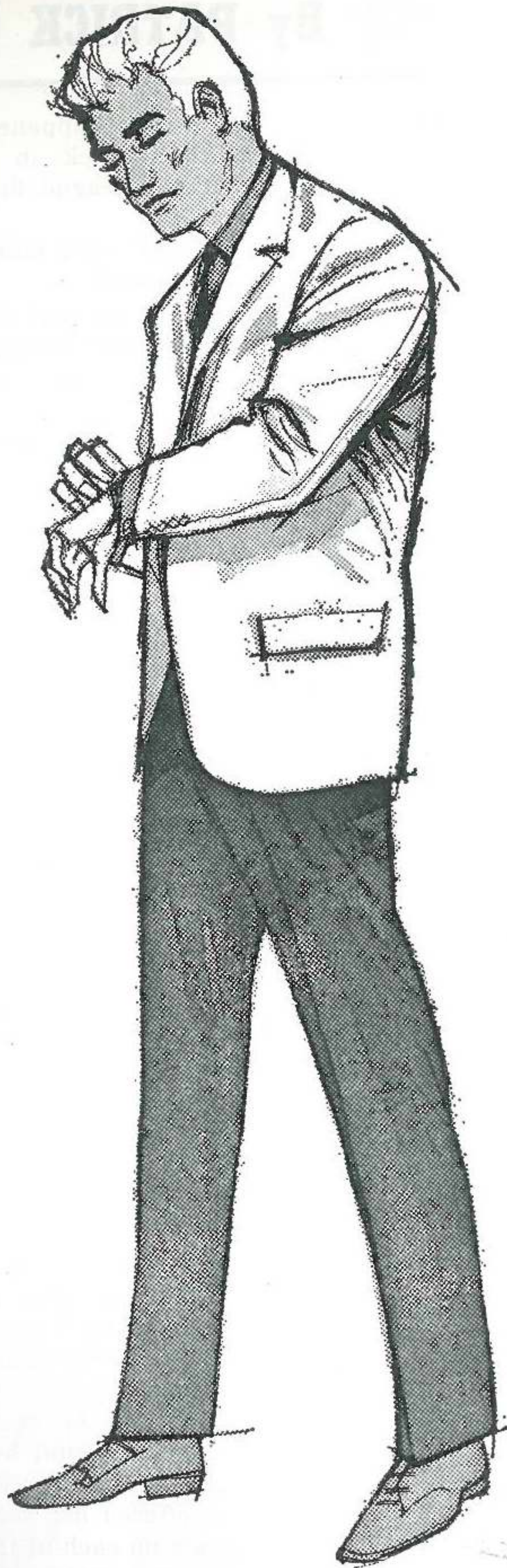
"I make the colours and me and the kids sell them at Croke Park" — she said — "Now that Down are gone, we'll have a famine in the house".

In her obvious anguish, there was nothing I could do but invite her to the next door hostelry to quaff a pint or two—or three.

And, in the matter of county colours, I found her most illuminating. Interspersed in the pints, she offered her very candid comments on each of the top counties—in the matter of buying favours.

Down: "The best in the world. They buy everything. They're out on their own".

● TO PAGE 22



look to **DUBTEX**
for the debonair look

● FROM PAGE 21

Kerry: "Not bad at all. I'd put them up near Down. And they have plenty of money".

Dublin: "No good at all. They make their own".

Kilkenny: "They're the meanest of the lot. They'd buy nothing".

Tipperary: "I think there must be a few people down there making the colours. They always seem to have them when they come to Croke Park".

Meath: "They're great for the hats. But you never know what colours they want. We did green and gold for them last time and they were wearing different jerseys in the final".

Cork: "They always have their colours when they arrive in Dublin. I think there must be a few of us in Cork".

Limerick: "We only had them once and they were a disaster".

Mayo: "Not bad. But we don't see enough of them".

Galway: "Only very fair".

Kildare: "They're all white and that's never any good. Anyway they're too near Dublin".

She went on and on . . . and it cost me more with every round.

Finally, in a towering burst of affection, she admitted to me that she loved Gaelic Games.

What with her selling colours, one of the kids doing the hats, another doing the apples, oranges and pears, another doing the "Carberry's" jockla', another flogging the occasional ticket, the husband doing a bit of car-parking . . . and I'm not going any farther.

She was doing nicely, thank you, out of Croke Park on the big match days.

Of course, she loved the Gaelic Games . . . but, I'm sad to say, she also told me that she has never yet seen a game at Croke Park. "I'm too bloody busy"—she said . . . and down went another pint.

HELPFUL NEIGHBOURS RIG OUT PLAIN JOHN FOR IRISH TEAM

By PHILIP RODERICK

YOU couldn't help feeling sorry for John. There he was, hunched over the end of the bar counter, wrapped in a shroud of depression, the very picture of abject misery.

By the woeful look of him, you'd think the whole world had died off on him. There was company all around him, but he couldn't see nor hear anyone. He was lost in a private hell of his own and worse still, the black pall of gloom that surrounded him, was beginning to reach out to touch us.

This had been going on for three days—and it just could not go on. Something had to be done, a summit meeting of the village was necessary and immediate.

And seeing that the major portion of the village's population was in the pub at that moment, there was no time like the present.

Yes, indeed, they were all there. G.A.A. clubs, both hurling and football, had a strong representation, I could see the secretary of the local soccer club over in one corner, trying to explain the intricacies of 4-2-4 to his men and down in the other corner, in their usual ribald fashion, the big men of the rugby club were making a half-hearted attempt to pick a team for the Cork county junior cup.

John, in fact, was the only

island in the pub and the sea of loneliness all around him, gave him all the isolation he wanted.

I called for order—no mean task in this pub on any night of the week. This was Friday and it took a little longer than usual.

Eventually I got it, having shipped a fair amount of abuse in the process.

"Gentlemen" — They didn't deserve the title, but in grave moments like this, one had to pretend—"we have a village problem and it must be discussed. So for a kick off, let's forget all about the Ban and things like that. This must be a united effort."

And I outlined the problem.

John, you see, was probably the most talented sportsman we had in the community. There were touches of Christy Ring about his hurling, and at times you could see a little of Mick O'Connell in him when he turned out for the football side. He had tried his hand at soccer, too, and there were rumours all the time that Cork Hibernians and Cork Celtic were more than just a little interested in him.

Just a year ago, he had tried his hand and strength with the local rugby club—and he had taken to the game like a duck to water. Within a month, he had been invited to join one of the clubs in Cork and from that it

had been just another step to the interprovincial side.

Now he had been selected for the Final trial and there was talk of another Jack Russell or John Christopher Daly in the making. There was the strong possibility he would make the Irish team . . . but there was a snag.

His poor, charming mother, a fine simple woman had only asked for one name when he was being baptised. He was John. Nothing more, nothing less. Just plain John.

But then everyone in the village knew that. I was only reminding them about it.

"So, gentlemen"—I went on—"we have our problem.

"You know as well as I do that while John has got only the one initial, he can never hope to get his place on an Irish rugby team. From what I know, he needs at least three initials."

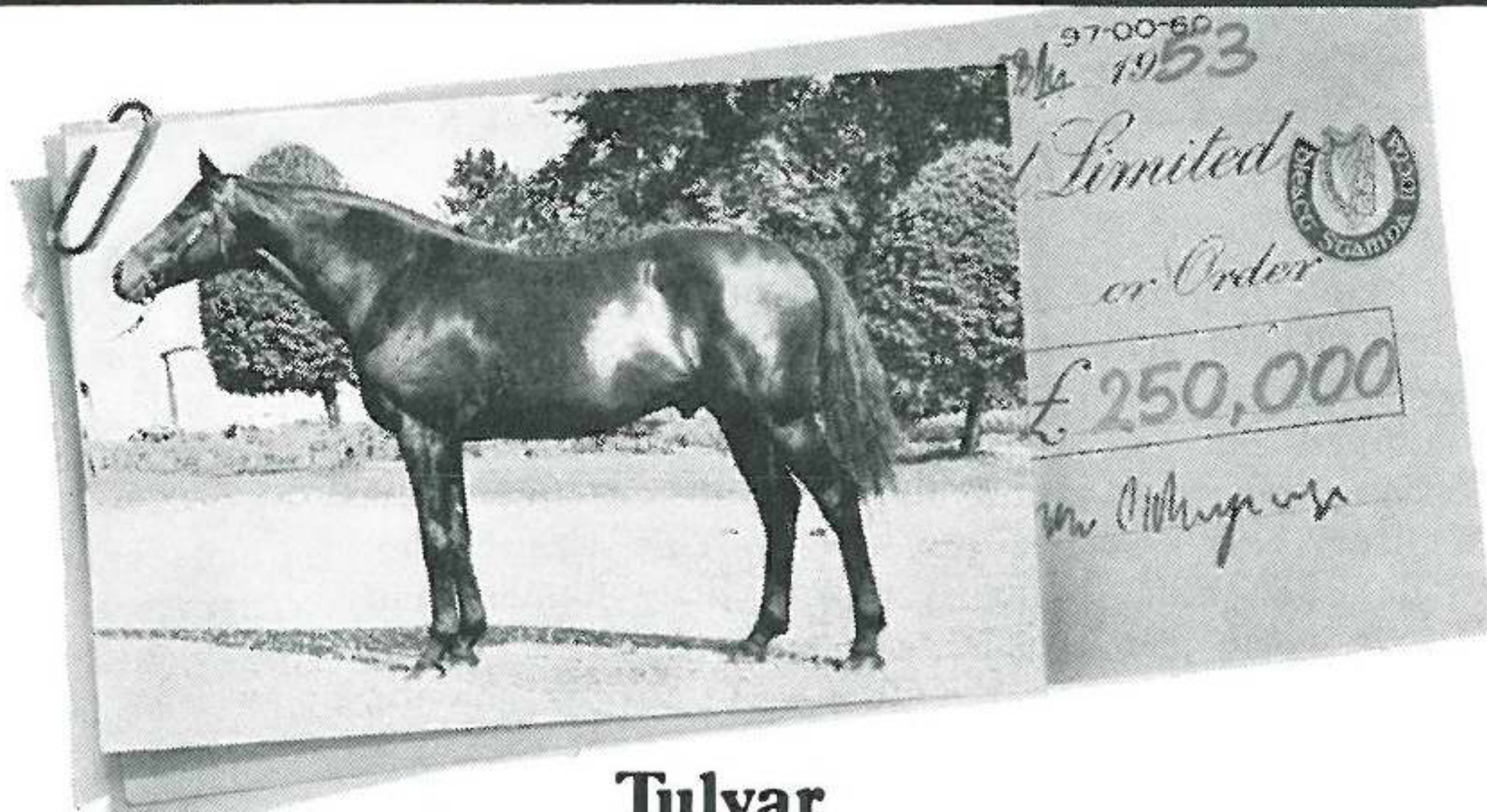
One of the rugby men had his hand up. I yielded the floor to him.

"I don't think you're right"—but then, he didn't sound so sure of it himself—"I buy all the daily papers and I see that one of the Dublin papers always uses only one initial when it deals with rugby. You know . . . B. McGann . . . T. Kiernan . . . A. O'Reilly . . . and others like that. And I notice that one or two of the

● TO PAGE 25

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Through shipwreck to victory

In 1904, the steeplechaser Moifaa was being transported from New Zealand to England when the ship foundered. All on board were lost except for Moifaa, who swam to a nearby island. His owners eventually found him—none the worse for his experience. He was brought to England where a few months later he won the Aintree Grand National at 25/1. In 1911, Lord Kitchener rode him in London at the Coronation procession of King George V.



Coronation procession of King George V.

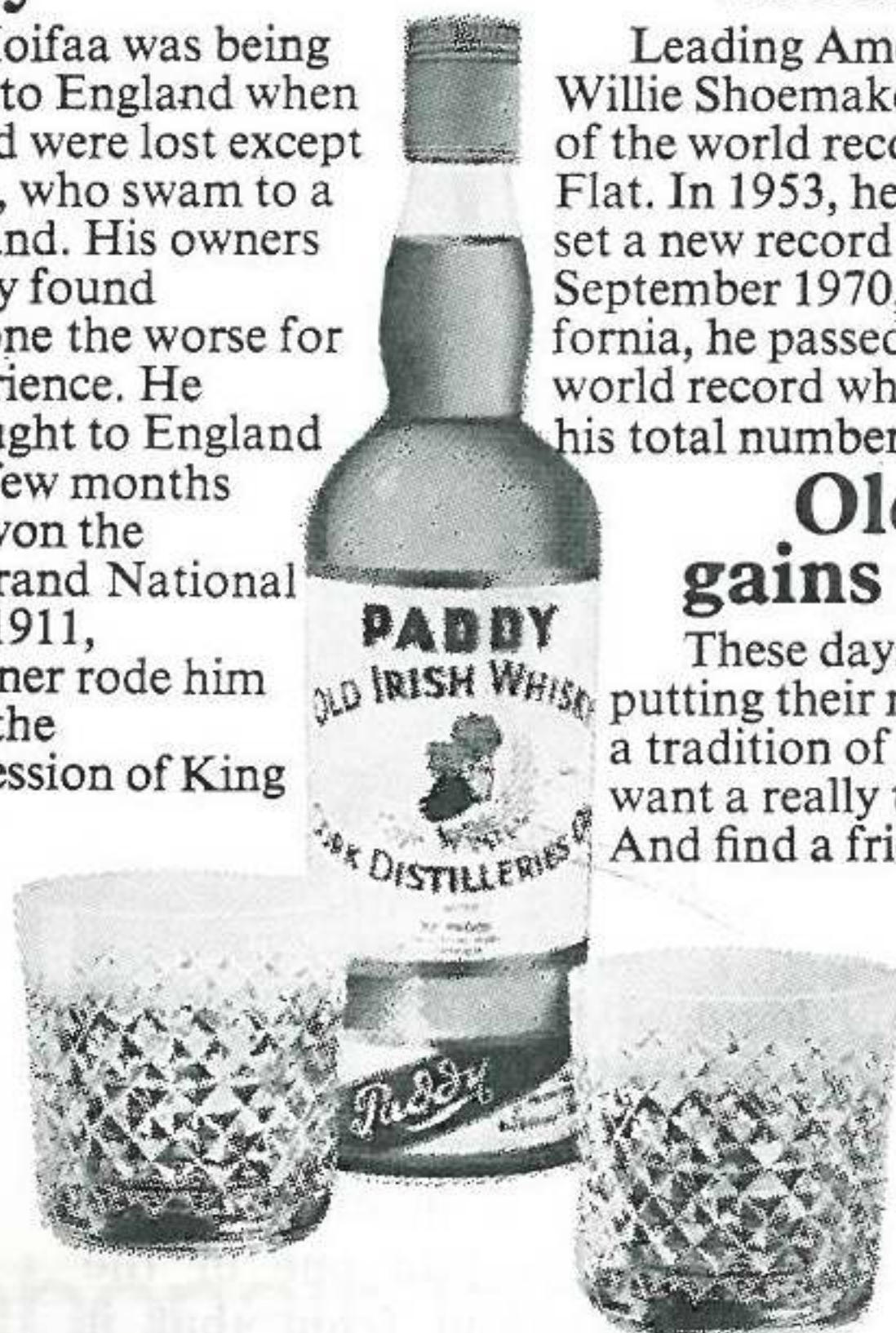
Shoemaker - record-breaker

Leading American jockey, Willie Shoemaker has broken most of the world records for riding on the Flat. In 1953, he rode 485 winners to set a new record for a single year. In September 1970, at Del Mar, California, he passed Johnny Longden's world record when he brought his total number of winners to 6,033.



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Paddy

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● FROM PAGE 23

English papers use only the one initial, too."

"A point"—I admitted—"but that's all very well for one or two newspapers when they're dealing with a match report. But it's a different matter when they announce the Irish team names. Different, too, when it comes to the names in the programme for the match."

"You couldn't get away with one plain "J" in the programme. How would it look in between all those other ones . . . M.F.C.'s . . . A.K.T.'s . . . and the R.Q.L.'s You'd never get away with it. I've been doing a fair amount of research on the matter. You might just get away with two initials but you'd be home and dried with three. If you had four, you'd probably make captain."

I won't bore you with too many of the details of the arguments that raged for the next hour or two in the pub.

The G.A.A. secretary made the fair suggestion that John should pack up rugby and go back to hurling and football where there would be no trouble whatsoever about initials.

The Chairman of the soccer club pointed out that John should go to them. "As you probably know"—he said—"we can't even get the initials of our players into the paper. We are always referred to just by our surnames. It's the ideal game for John."

And so it went. But we couldn't eliminate our problems just as easily as all that. The fact was that John had a chance of an Irish cap and had only the one initial. We had to do something for him.

It was almost closing time. Somewhere in the crash of the glasses, the last desperate drive for final drinks and the boom of the landlord's pleas for "Time", I heard the glimmer of a sugges-

tion from somewhere on the far side of the bar.

"Seeing that these are ecumenical times, why don't we take our problems to the Church. Maybe the parish priest and the rector can provide the answer."

And, even though I didn't believe then that it would be the answer, that, in fact, was how in the end, we solved the problem of John

By the following night, plain John Murphy had become J.C.A. St. Murphy . . . and everyone was happy.

And it didn't take a deed poll to do it. It was all perfectly legal and above board.

Overnight plain John Murphy

had become John, Called After a Saint Murphy . . . and who could possibly quibble about that. After all it was true.

John was happy . . . and if he ever makes the Irish team . . . well, his initials should make a few people stop and take notice.

The only snag down here in our little village is that the hurling and Gaelic football clubs have become a mite interested in initials and are thinking of insisting on them for next summer's games.

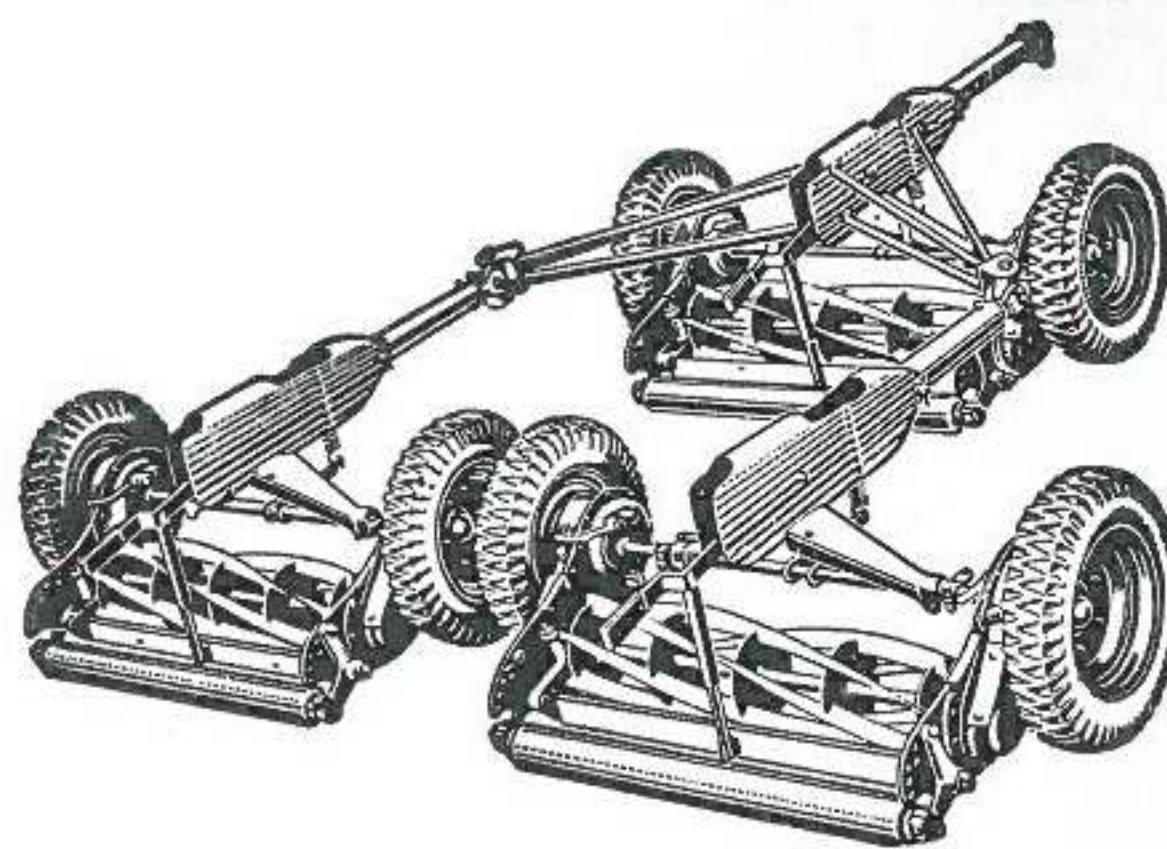
Maybe they'll go ahead with them.

Who knows but it might give a certain newspaper in this country a little food for thought?

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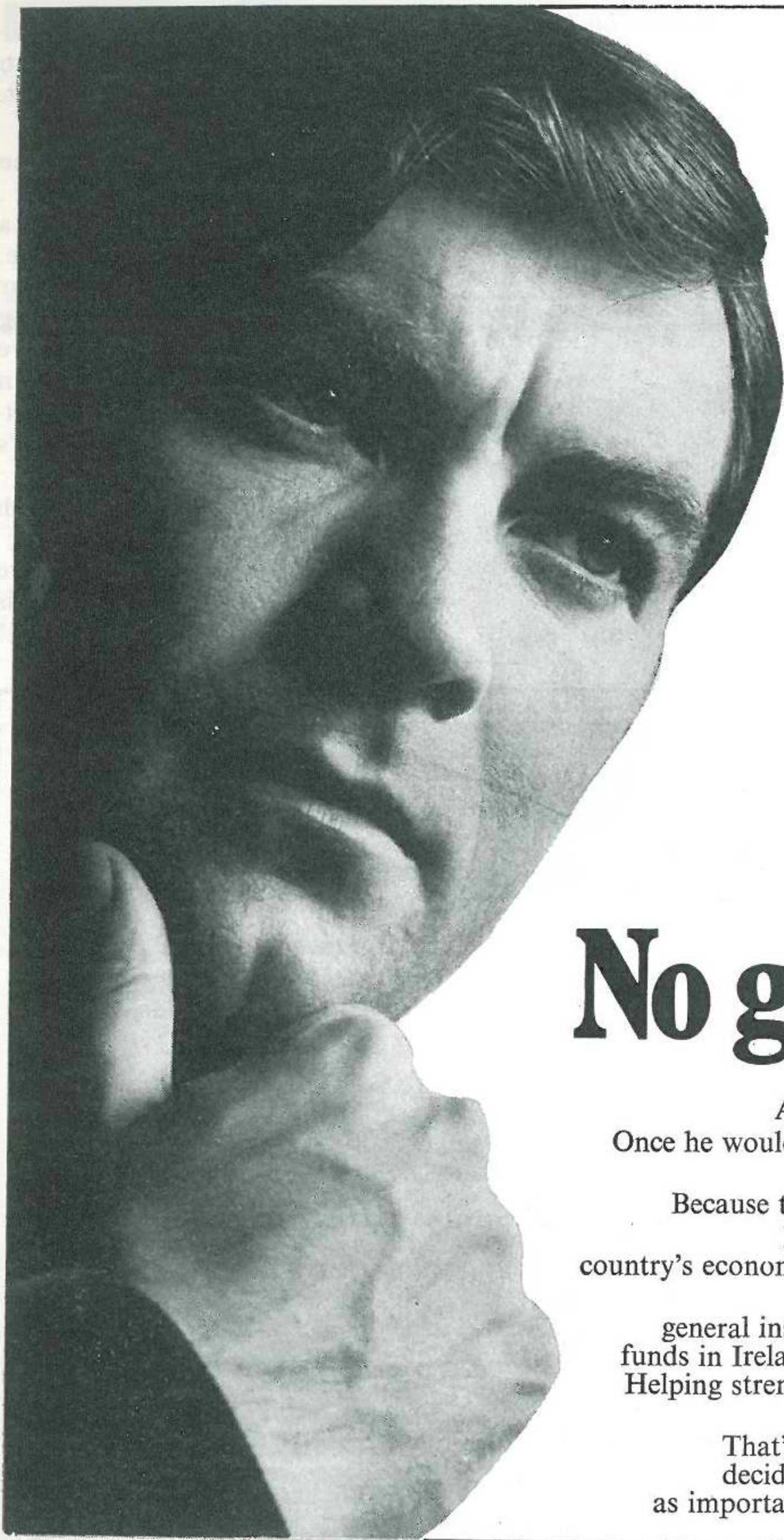
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CROSSWORD

No. 59

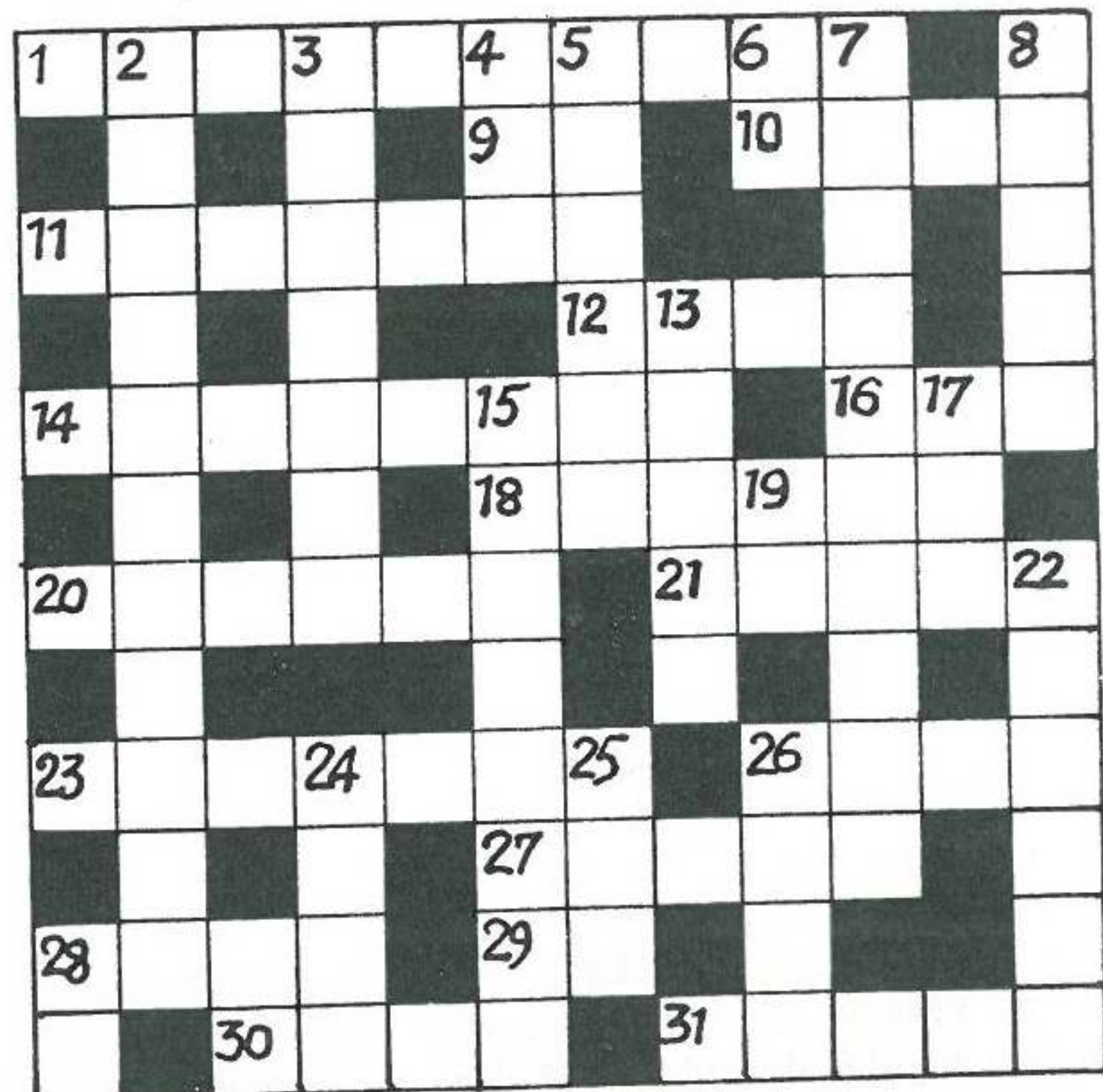
By PERMUTER

ACROSS :

1. A powerful player in the Westmeath team. (3, 7)
9. Tipperary veteran who is still turning in fine performances for his club, Marlfield. Initials. (1, 1)
10. Kick from hand which earns an Irish pound. (4)
11. Famous Galway hurler who was keen though ill inside. (7)
12. Though narrowly missing fetch, artist was still able to complete a picture. (4)
14. Gerty surrounds the mixed up hag, thus confusing a Connacht football goalkeeper. (8)
16. Only partially over line means no score. (3)
18. See pal who is somnolent and an inattentive player. (6)
20. Roscommon's goalkeeper when they won their first ever All-Ireland in senior ranks. (1, 5)
21. Wined with Carolan—Cavan's outstanding corner forward some twenty years ago. (5)
23. Sounds like John K. the Cork defender in football, but is, in fact, a drape. (7)
26. Soft ground likely due to weather conditions in rain. (4)
27. Louth wing-forward of the late forties and early fifties began with a cigarette, but ended the very opposite of a nag. (5)
28. Portion of leg vulnerable to injury unless guarded. (4)
29. Famous G.A.A. correspondent of the Kerryman, in reverse. Initials. (1, 1)
30. Lyre can be made into an instrument in which to trust and depend. (4)
31. Tipperary pin-up forward before the appearance of Jimmy Doyle. (5)

DOWN :

2. Experienced and top-class All-Ireland hurler who has helped Kildare enormously in the last few years. (6, 5)
3. Goalkeeper in Cork's famous four-in-a-row team. (7)
4. Network on which the All-Irelands are televised live. (3)
5. The number of junior All-Irelands which have been won by Kerry in football. (3)



6. Captain of Kerry minors in 1970 was son of famous hurling father. Initials. (1, 1)
7. The name of this Cavan player suggests he is a recent addition to the side. (4, 6)
8. Tales of how to commit scoring larceny. (5)
13. Father of Mick Mackey who also was a famous hurler in his day. (5)
15. Another father and son team—this pair for Longford and Leinster. (8)
17. Where the heart of griping lies. (3)
19. One of a pair of brothers who were outstanding in Tyrone's spell of prominence in the 50s. Initials. (1, 1)
22. The number of senior All-Irelands in each code which will have been decided after the 1977 finals. (6)
24. The note of the referee's whistle, perhaps. (4)
25. Turns pan round to select the favourites. (3)
26. Careless and immoderate fellow might collect the grass cuttings from the pitch. (4)
28. Captain of 1962 Kerry All-Ireland side. Initials. (1, 1)

SOLUTION : PAGE 56

THE 'IRREGULAR' STARS

By OWEN

THE Railway Cup history in both hurling and football is marked by outstanding contributions by players from the weaker counties. Only last month we spotlighted the parts played by such as Gerry O'Reilly and Jim Rogers, of Wicklow, in the Leinster golden football era of four titles in succession in 1952-'55. There have been others . . . footballers like George Comerford (Clare), who was the only non-Kerry player in the Munster title-winning side of 1931, and P. T. Treacy (Fermanagh), and hurler Paddy Molloy in the days when Offaly were not the force in the code that they are at present.

But the impact appears to be tapering off somewhat. No Wicklow footballer, for instance, has worn the green jersey of Leinster since 1965; Monaghan had to wait from an appearance by Joe Carroll as a substitute during the 1965 final until last month for an Ulster team spot, and no Fermanagh man has gained an actual Northern team place since Mick Brewster played in the 1967 decider.

In hurling, with its wide gaps in Leinster, let alone in Ulster and Connacht, we have to go back to 1965, when Paddy Molloy became Offaly's first Railway Cup medalist in the code, for the last year a new name was added to the list of counties represented in a final winning team.

Let's take a closer look at some of the last great hurrahs. The appearance by Joe Carroll in the 1965 decider was especially noteworthy. That day Ulster were chasing their first hat-trick of titles, and Monaghan had been

unrepresented in a final winning team for nine years — back to John Rice as centre-half in the side that beat Munster for the 1956 title.

Carroll won his first Ulster jersey as full-forward in the team that beat Munster in the 1965 semi-final, but he did not retain his place for the decider. However, early in that game he went in as a substitute for Donegal's Sean Ferriter, helped himself to a point, and became the sixth Monaghan player to collect a Railway Cup medal. V. Duffy, with two souvenirs, leads the county chart.

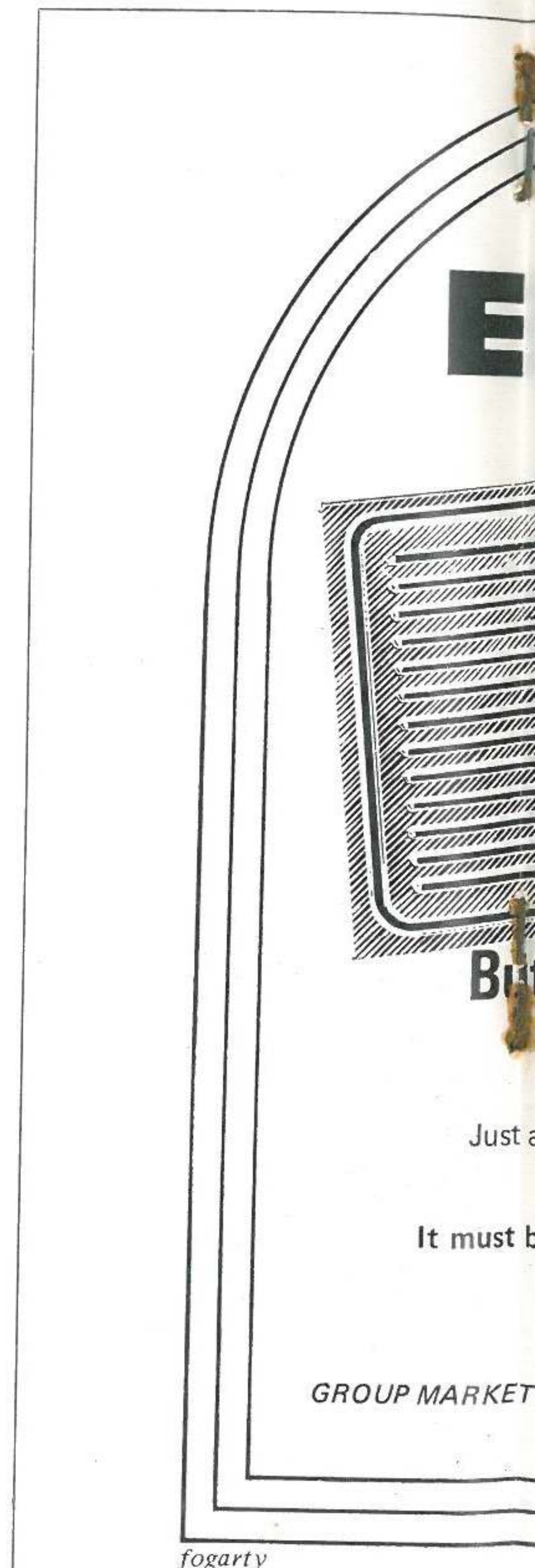
Andy Phillips (Wicklow) served Leinster superbly as goalkeeper. He had a splendid start to his interprovincial career in 1962, when Leinster beat Munster and Ulster. He made five further appearances with the East up to an unsuccessful semi-final outing against Connacht, and played in the finals of 1963 and 1964 without adding to his medals score.

Phillips was Wicklow's lone representative in each of those seven teams from 1962 to 1965. Since then no player from the county has figured in a Railway Cup tie. Top of their medals table is Jim Rogers, with four.

It is now virtually twelve years since Wexford last got among the football medals. Andy Doyle was at full-back in the team that beat Munster for the 1959 title. Two years later, Fintan Walsh brought the last award to Laois. And the last big hurrah for Carlow was back in 1955, when Andy Murphy wore the No. 5 jersey in the win against Connacht that completed Leinster's then unique run of four titles on the trot. That was

his third successive medal, and he is out in front in this regard for Carlow.

Munster's football record, of



OF THE RAILWAY CUPS

N McCANN

course, is the hardest of all to fathom. Six times champions from 1927, the year the first finals were played, up until 1949,

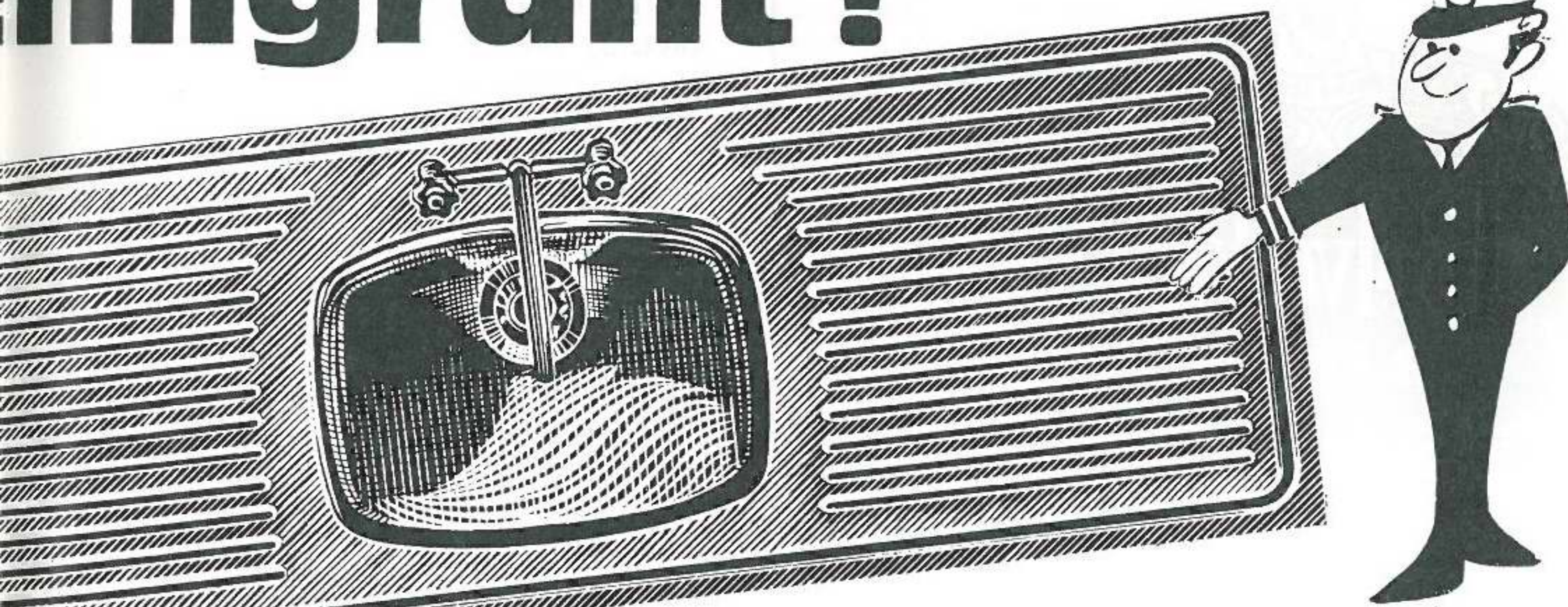
the province has lost no fewer than eleven finals in the past 20 years.

The last title was brought

South after a replay with Leinster, and the last selection was composed of six players from

● TO PAGE 30

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● FROM PAGE 29

Kerry, six from Cork, two from Tipperary, and one Clare man. Limerick and Waterford have still to gain representation in an actual Cup final winning XV in the code.

It's now virtually eight years since a new county name was inscribed on the football medal list. P. T. Treacy celebrated that occasion with a grand full-forward display for Ulster in their 1963 win over Leinster to become the first medalist from Fermanagh. He gained further awards in 1964, 1965 and 1966—the only representative of his county in those title winning combinations.

All five Connacht counties had cause for rejoicing when the trophy last crossed the Shannon in 1969. History was made, in fact, by the win over Munster, as Harry O'Carroll (Leitrim) and Jim Colleary (Sligo) became the first clerical students to play on a winning side.

Kilkenny is the only Leinster county without at least one player in an actual title-winning football side. Sean Brennan, a native of the county, did win Railway Cup medals in 1952 and 1953, but he was then playing with Kildare, and for this review we are concentrating on players honoured while actually playing with a particular county.

In hurling, Munster are unbeaten since losing by six points in 1967 to a Leinster squad drawn from Kilkenny, Wexford, Dublin and Offaly. Paddy Molloy, a defender in the appearance that earned him ranking as Offaly's first hurling medalist in 1965, was a forward in the 1967 win.

Christy O'Brien, who played in the 1958 and 1960 finals, and then highlighted eight appearances with Leinster from 1962 to 1965 by gaining medals in 1962, 1964 and 1965, is the last Laois hurler to play in a decider.

● TO PAGE 56



CÁ SEASANN AN CUMANN LÚCHLEAS GAEL

le SEAN O DUNAGAIN

BA dheachair ag duine, bliain ó shin, an cheist sin thuas a thuiscint. D'fhéadfaí go fóill a rá liom gur mithid dom na dallacháin a bhaint dem' shúile agus go mbeadh sé soiléir cá raibh seasamh An Chumainn Lúchleas Gael i dtaca leis an náisiún Éireannach.

N'fheadar mé. Feictear dom go bhfuil meath ag teacht ar chúrsaí nuair is féidir le comhdháil bhliantiúil chontaethe áirithe (agus na chontae dúchais ina measc, fairíor) rún a mholadh go scriosfaí an riail a chuireann cosc le saighdiurí na Breataine bheith ina mbaill. Agus ritheadh na rúin úda fhaid a bhí na saighdiurí céanna ag scaoileadh le muintir na hÉireann ar shráideanna Bhéal Feirste!

Má deirtear liom go seasann An Cumann Lúchleas Gael ar bhonnchloc an náisiúnachais, nach naithníonn na baill ach gur tír dhá-chontae triocad í seo, ní thuigim conas is féidir le moltaí mar a luadh thuas a rith i gcomhlúadar ball a bhfuil an creideamh sin acu—nó in ainm is a bheith.

Tá sé ar, agus thar am, don Ard-Chomhairle greim fháil ar an

eagras (greim scrogaill más gá) agus é sheoladh ar bhealach a leasa. Ní haon mhaith a thuilleadh bheith ag rá go bhfuil an Cumann Lúchleas Gael i bhfábhar seo nó i gcoinne siúd. Más eagras é, mar a éiltear, nach 'eagras spóirt' amháin é, cruthaithear amhlaidh don saol fódhlach.

Táthar ann adeir go bhfuil an tArd-Chomhairle ró-mhór agus go mbíonn an iomarca phlé ar siúl. Táid ann fosta a chreideann nach dtugtar aird ar threoracha ón Ard-Chomhairle mura naontaíonn na Coistí Cuigí na fiú Coiste Chontae leis an treoir. Cén feidhm atá ag an Ard-Chomhairle máisea?

Ní chreidim go bhfuil an scéal chomh hólc nach féidir é leigheas. Ach nuair adúirt fear óg óm' cheantar féin (Uibh Fáilí) liom taréis don Chlub vótaíocht a dhéanamh ar riail 27—"ní raibh éinne ann chun an scéal faoin riail a mhíniú dúinn"—thuigeas cuid den scéal. Is ogánach é seo, amhail furmhór na mball a thug a nguth faoin le déanaí, atá aibidh don teagasc ceart. An bhfuiltear chun é thabhairt nó an léigfear maidí, le sruth?

Tá níos mó i gceist anseo ná comhlíonadh 'fixtures'. Há táid oifigigh na gClub ró-ghnóthach ar ghnéithe eile ata tabhachtach iontu féin tá gá leis an gceist a bhreithniú ar bhonn an—bhunúsach ar fad. Más eagras náisiúnta é An Cumann Lúchleas Gael caithfear an bhéim a chur ar an bhfocal 'náisiúnta' agus an ciall a ghabann leis sin a mhíniú go beacht ó bhun go bárr. Má táimid dairire faoin chultúr Ghaelach ní mór rud éigin a dhéanamh faoi.

Tá 's agam go bhfuil agus go mbeidh ard-fheidhmeannaigh An Chumainn gafa le ghnéithe éagsúla a bhainfidh, amach anseo, le ballraíocht etc. ach ba mhian liom a mholadh, go humhal, dóibh gur fiú roinnt seiminéair a reachtáil ag a bpléfaí na cúrsaí seo uilig. Im' thuairim ní fiú tráithnín ballraíocht imeartha amháin sa chumann; ní mór do na baill bheith tógtha leis an gcultúr dúchais idir theanga, chluichí, cheol agus nósmaireacht agus is mar sin a chruthófar don saol mór gur eagras náisiúnta é an Cumann Lúchleas Gael.

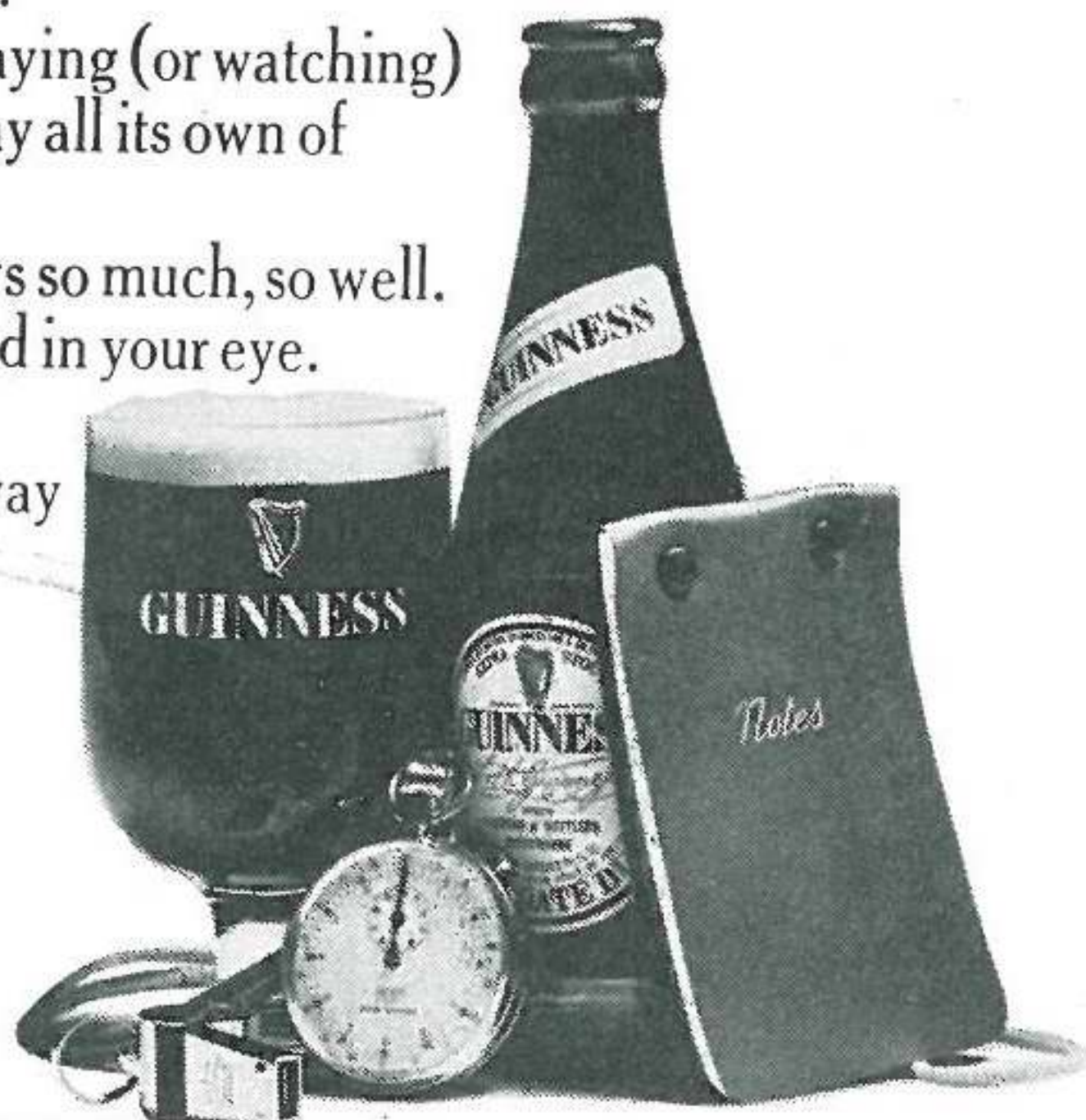


Home and awayness

Whether you're playing or watching, after the game get together over a Guinness.

And if you're playing (or watching) away then Guinness has a way all its own of making you feel at home.

For Guinness says so much, so well. Like welcome. Or, here's mud in your eye. Look forward to seeing you again. Now isn't that a nice way to cheer the winners. (Even better, isn't it a nice way to cheer the losers?)



There's more than goodness in Guinness

LET'S GO TO WORK!

NOW that the Ban Rules, which for more than sixty years have been used as a kind of Protective Wall around our games, look likely to be thrown down at Easter, where do we go from there?

In the first place, I do not foresee any kind of stampede either into or out of the Association. We are all too prone to forget that such games as golf, tennis, basketball and pitch and putt have been patronised by hundreds, perhaps thousands, of G.A.A. men for years past and that each G.A.A. man has chosen G.A.A. games as his own top priority without a ban of any kind.

I believe that position will still hold, even after the Ban goes on rugby, soccer, cricket and hockey. To be brutally factual, most G.A.A. players in recent years who felt like playing rugby and soccer have been playing these games anyway, and no questions were asked.

What is more, in recent years I do not think fear of the Ban rules kept anyone inside the Association, although it may have kept a few people out.

What is likely to happen, though is that, in future, the G.A.A. is going to be in competition with all other sports in an open market. We can no longer rely on traditional loyalties or protective rules to do the work we should have been doing ourselves.

The first sphere we will have to bestir ourselves in is to ensure that we provide the best possible value for the paying customers. And, for a beginning, we will

have to make an end of sloppiness at all levels. When we fix a match at half-past three, that match must start at half-past three.

It is all very well to say that we are an amateur organisation. No man is prouder of that fact than I am. But the amateur end of it finishes at the turnstiles. The customer who pays his good money at the gate does so in response to an advertisement which told him that the game he is paying to see starts at 3.30. If the match, as has all too often been the case in the past, starts at any old time up to four o'clock, the paying customer, if he feels mean-minded enough, is probably entitled to sue the organisers for breach of contract!

Furthermore, when we do go to the trouble of getting out a programme for the edification of the paying customers, we will have to ensure that these programmes are as accurate as is humanly possible. There is nothing more annoying than to buy a programme and then find half a dozen players on the field who do not figure on the programme at all, while others are not wearing the numbers originally allotted to them.

Where programme changes are unavoidable, some means of notifying the public of these changes must be used at all relatively big games. If no public address system is available, what is wrong with the old system of chalking the changes on a board and conscripting some willing helper to carry it round the

touchline before the start of the game?

But, if we are really going to keep the cash customers, we shall have to show them far greater consideration than we have hitherto been inclined to do. The fences already on the Cusack Stand, and already going up in front of the Hogan, are far from being the best way to win friends and influence people.

Far better to spend the same money on providing much more extensive canteen facilities at Croke Park, or providing some cover for the devoted spectators on the Canal terraces or Hill Sixteen.

So much for the customers. Now what about the players, and especially the young players? Again we must perfect our organisation and our administration so as to offer every possible incentive to players at all levels.

Again, punctuality is a vital consideration, and accommodation is every bit as important.

It is all very well to point out that Grandad toggged out at the sheltery side of a ditch. Grandad had probably walked five miles to play that match anyway, and the walk there and back, the match itself and even the toggging out and the toggging in provided most of the high-lights of his week.

That weekly match had to provide for Grandad much of the entertainment, and the topics of conversation that Grandson derives from the record-player, the radio and the television all combined.

● TO PAGE 34

Enjoy a 200 year old Irish tradition
have a glass of
HENNESSY
brandy



● FROM PAGE 33

To Grandson, if he comes from a city area, a ditch may well be something on which the best hurlers used to be found. If he had to travel five miles to the match, he probably came on the back of somebody's else's Honda, if he hasn't one of his own.

Except in training, it is doubtful if Grandson ever contemplated walking five miles in his life. Grandson, let's make no mistake about this, is just as good a man as his Grandad was, but can we seriously ask him to tog out in any less comfortable accommodation than his pal next door who plays for a rugby club up the road?

When the football or hurling match was the only event of the week, not to say of the Sunday, no one was in any great hurry either to get started or to get finished. Why should Grandad and his friends terminate the week's fun too soon?

But Grandson lives to a tight time schedule, even during his leisure hours. If his match does not start to time, and finish approximately to time, it's an even-money chance that he will not turn up next week; and when he goes, after the next Congress, he may well stay gone. As for the younger generation still, the juveniles, it is there the hardest work of all will have to be done.

Magnificent work has been done already, and is still being done, but even more will have to be added on. We have to convince the youngsters that our own games are as good, and possibly better, than any games anywhere, and have the added advantage of being peculiarly our own. And, if we go the right way about it, we will succeed.

But, to answer the question I asked in the first paragraph, 'where do we go from here.' I can supply a simple and conclusive answer. We must go to work.

THE GREAT PAT DUNNY



By OWEN McCANN

"ABOUT time, too," I murmured to myself when I learned that Pat Dunny had been honoured for the first time by Leinster in hurling as centre half for last month's Railway Cup semi-final. That well-deserved tribute to a skilled and colourful exponent of the ancient game, and to a county that has been making such commendable efforts to take its place in the hurling top-flight, was in my opinion, at least a year overdue.

After all, throughout 1969 the Kildare man was one of the most exciting and effective personalities on the hurling scene. He was a giant for Kildare in their march to the National League Division II title, and his positive, persistent and inspiring play also subsequently provided that touch of pace and subtlety that was a vital key in opening the way to the county's All-Ireland Intermediate title win.

There is, admittedly, a big difference between these grades and senior, but having watched Dunny regularly throughout 1969, I was still convinced that he had done enough to merit a place in the 1970 Leinster hurling line-out. However, better late than never.

Of this versatile 25-year-old Kildare performer it can surely be said he is a man born to star in sport. Select him in any position in football or hurling, and I have little doubt that he would deliver the goods in style. Then, it's not given to many players to

win All-Ireland medals in such a variety of contrasting roles as goalkeeper, centre half back, centre half forward, and in both football and hurling. Or to win interprovincial honours in both games.

And, for good measure, Dunny has also gained top honours at table tennis.

A wonderful success story, then, but I think that in the years ahead I will remember Pat Dunny best as a hurling centre-half. I recall with pleasure how greatly I was impressed by his football potential as centre half and captain in that great under-21 team's win over Cork in a classic for the All-Ireland championship of 1965. The creative wiles, score-getting acts and wholehearted play we have since seen consistently from the Kildare man as a senior deservedly now have him in a special class of his own in football.

But more and more these days I think of Dunny the hurler. In a way this is, perhaps, appropriate, for it was in this most distinctive of all games that he first really hit the headlines in a big way as a 17-year-old. That was back in 1962, when he guarded the last line of defence for the team that brought the first All-Ireland hurling title to Kildare by beating London in the junior grade in London.

Four years later, Dunny's growing maturity as a hurling centre-half was put into bold re-

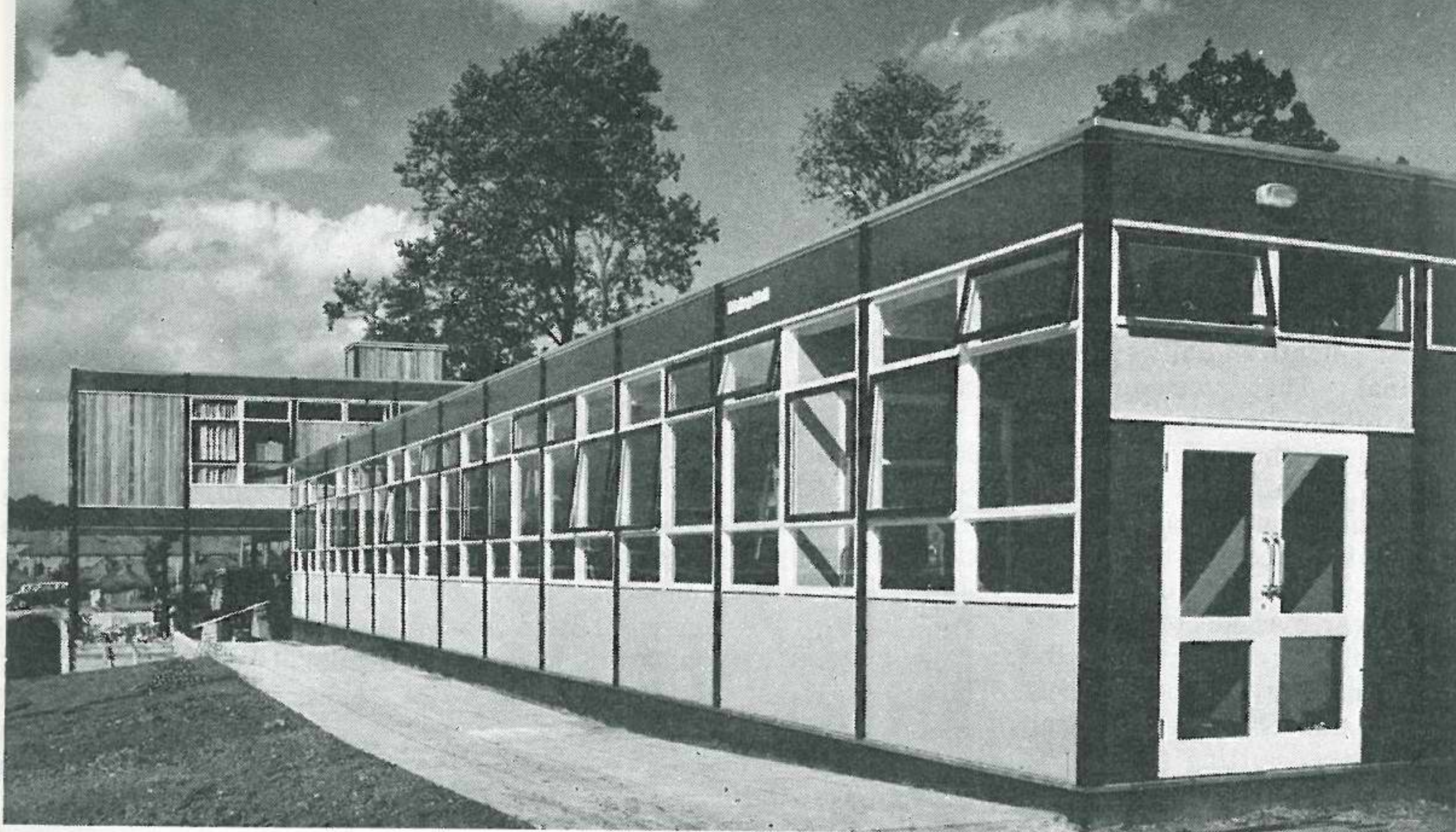
lief with a regal exhibition as the county's captain in a win over Warwickshire, at Birmingham, that regained for Kildare the All-Ireland junior crown.

I did not see that match, but reports of the final did create in me a new interest in Dunny the hurler. Then came the match that really established me as one of the Kildare all-rounder's greatest admirers as far as his hurling prowess is concerned. It was against Westmeath for the 1969 National League Division II title, and Dunny's centre-half performance that May day ranks as one of the greatest I have seen in any grade.

No one will now dispute the fact that Dunny, who is the first Kildare man to win a place in the Leinster hurling team, would be gladly handed a senior jersey in any county. This is a wonderful ranking he has carved out for himself, and one which should also give great encouragement to budding hurlers in the weaker counties. For it underlines that greatness in the premier national game is not exclusively for those born in the strongholds of the game.

Pat Dunny well merits all the fruits of success he has so far gathered. He has served both games superbly, and looks destined to remain for a long time to come one of those exciting "plus players," who can pack in the fans by their own dynamic play.

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Former Mayo star conquers new fields



● BILL SHANNON

PROMINENT Mayo, Sligo and Connaught footballer, Bill Shannon of Balla, Co. Mayo, continues to score further successes even though he has now "retired" from the football field.

At 36, Bill has been General Manager of G.W.I.'s System Building Division at Collooney, Co. Sligo, for the past few years. Under his guidance this division of Ireland's largest joinery firm is expanding rapidly and has been responsible for the erection of a number of schools, classrooms, offices, nurses homes and rural dwellings in many parts of the country.

It is because of the expansion of his company, business-wise, that Bill has been reluctantly forced to retire from the football field, but he still retains an active interest as he is trainer of the Sligo team.

Football fans will remember the popular Mayo man who played at centre field on his county's senior team from 1954 to 1959 and on Sligo's senior team from 1960 to 1966. He was also on the Connaught Provincial team in 1958 and 1965.

While playing for Mayo Bill actually lived in Dublin, so quite a lot of travelling was involved. On joining G.W.I. Ltd. in 1960 he was immediately snapped up by the Sligo team with which he played for 6 years.

A member of the Rules Revision Committee for some time, the Mayo man has always advocated that the social side of the Association should receive more attention and this has resulted in his company taking an interest in the club development scheme, as he says "for more than business reasons".

This personal interest of Bill Shannon's combined with the experience and specialised knowledge which his firm has gained over the years in providing all types of accommodation has left G.W.I. Ltd. ideally qualified to deal with all aspects of the accommodation requirements of clubs.

Free offer from Massey-Ferguson

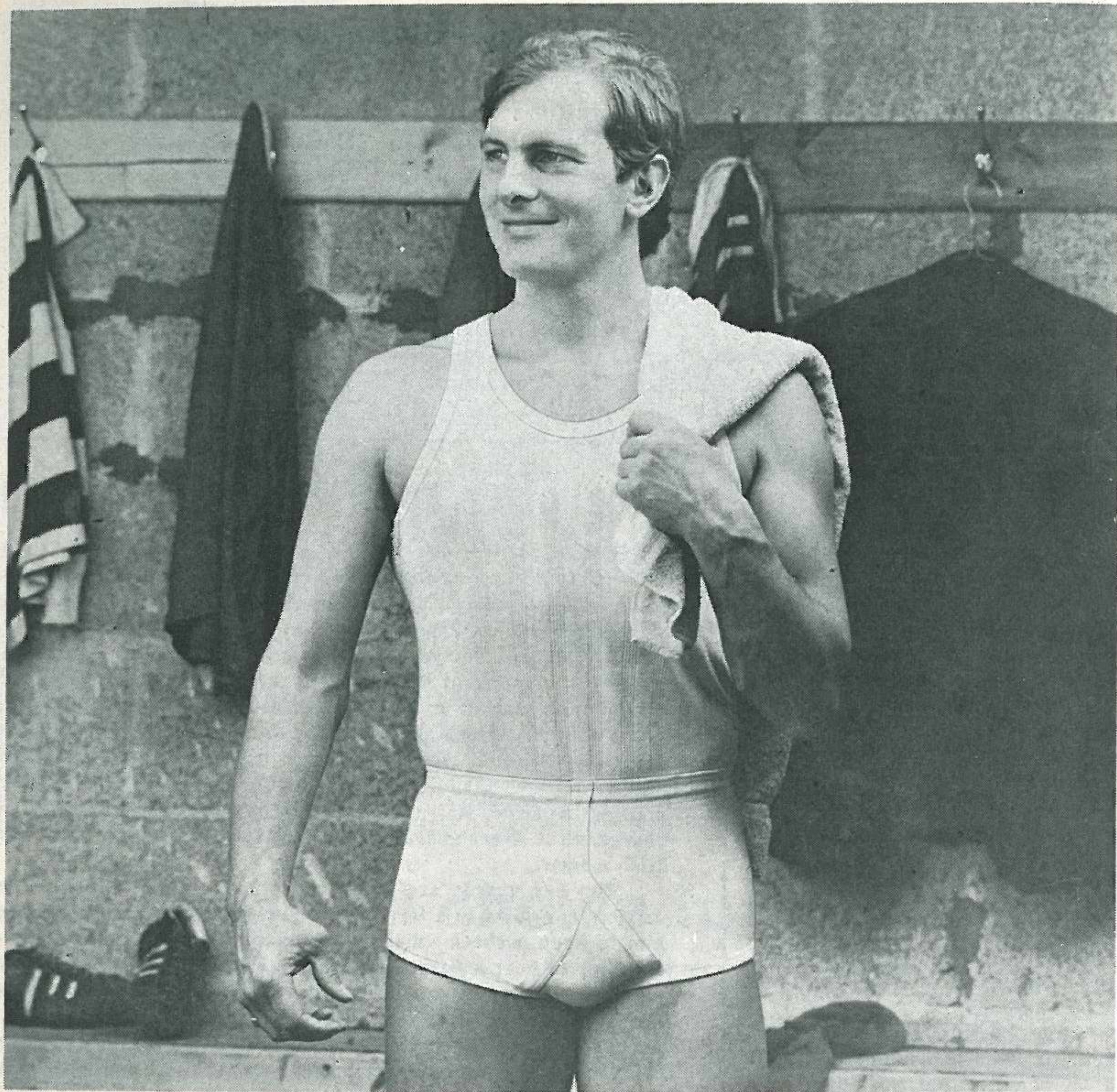
AN MF 165 tractor and MF safety cab fitted with rigid cladding was recently subjected to severe field tests and emerged with flying colours. The introduction of this cab, which will be available as an option in place of the flexible cab, was delayed for six months as a direct result of a strike last summer at the suppliers factory. It will be available on the Irish market at a time when cabs have been receiving a lot of publicity. Much work is being done to measure the effects of noise on the driver. The research has shown that drivers of any tractor who spend long hours at the wheel, risk having their hearing impaired. Massey-Ferguson is now providing, at no extra charge, a set of ear guards with each new MF tractor sold on the Irish market.

The ear guards are designed to keep noise entering the driver's ear down to a level which is safe, while still permitting him to keep a check on the performance of tractor and implement, or to hear a person calling him. This interim measure by one of the major tractor manufacturers shows how important is the subject of noise.

The danger of being exposed to excessive noise can be seen from the following table, remembering that the noise level in a tractor cab can range from 80 to 110 dBA.

No. of safe hours/day.	Sound level dBA.
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1½	102
1	105
½	110
¼	115

This clearly illustrates the need for some form of protection for the driver, and the importance of wearing ear guards or a similar device.



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JUNIOR DESK

A column for
the
young reader

DEvised AND WRITTEn

By JACK MAHON

THIS month, as usual, we introduce two more cut-outs. They are Pat Cronin, that wonderfully accurate forward from Newmarket-on-Fergus (we will have to include Jimmy Cullinan soon, too, for our many Clare fans) and Jimmy Keaveney, the Dublin football forward (this choice should please our ever increasing number of Dublin City readers).

It is so hard to make this choice every month. There are so many we still have to include like Tom Ryan of Galway, Gene Cusack of Cavan, Mickey Kearins (Sligo), Andy McCallin (Antrim), Brendan Lynch (Kerry), Andy Merrigan, Mick Roche. . . . But there are many months ahead. So let us wait.

So now to the results of the Halpins Tea sponsored competition which attracted so many entries from all over Ireland. The following were the prizewinners:

First: **Liam O'Farrell**, Kilmartin House, Mulhuddart, Co. Dublin (13 years) (New O'Neill's All-Ireland football). Second: **Joseph Woods**, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare (14 years)

(Hurley and sliothar). Third: **Seán Kelly**, Michaelschurch, Ballycallan, Co. Kilkenny (13 years) (New Kerry jersey). Fourth: **Mary O'Driscoll**, Derryclough, Drinagh, Dunmanway, Co. Cork (15 years) (New Cork jersey). Fifth: **Donal Clavin**, Derries, Rahan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly (10 years) (Our Games Annual). Sixth: **John Hahessy**, 51 Ard Mhuire, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary (12 years) (Our Games Annual). Seventh: **Gerald Whelan**, Ard na Gréine, Bellefield, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford (13 years) (Our Games Annual). Eighth: **Patrick J. Hughes (Jun.)**, 42 Oakman St., Belfast BT127B9 (16 years) (Our Games Annual).

A pretty good spread. In all, there were 16 fully-correct attempts. The correct answers were (a) The photograph section reading top (left to right): Donie O'Sullivan, John Horgan, Dave Bernie. Bottom (left to right): Greg Hughes, Denis Coughlan, Jack Quinn.

The correct answers to the Word Quiz were: (1) Jack Lynch won six All-Ireland senior

medals; (2) Jimmy Doyle plays club hurling with **Thurles Sarsfields**; (3) The names of the three stands in Croke Park are the **Hogan Stand**, the **Cusack Stand** and the **Nally Stand**; (4) The name of Kilkenny's G.A.A. Park is **Nowlan Park**; (5) John Keenan of Galway plays club football with **Dunmore MacHales**; (6) The Dublin footballer, Bill Casey, is famous in another sport—namely basketball.

The unlucky ones were: **Tim Dowling**, Coolard, Listowel (12 years); **Paul Dillon**, Shragh, Kilrush, Co. Clare (15 years); **Seamus O'Doherty**, 2 Corville Road, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary (12 years); Gerry Cullen, Acres, Belleek, Co. Fermanagh (9 years); **Tommy McDonagh**, Knock, Lettermullen, Co. Galway (15 years); **Peadar Mythen**, Ballytarsna, Oulart, Gorey; **Michael O'Donnell**, 9 Marian Terrace, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary (12 years); **Leo McGough**, Brownes Hill Road, Carlow (10 years).

Hard luck lads. Better luck next time. For the second time,

● TO PAGE 40

CUT-OUTS

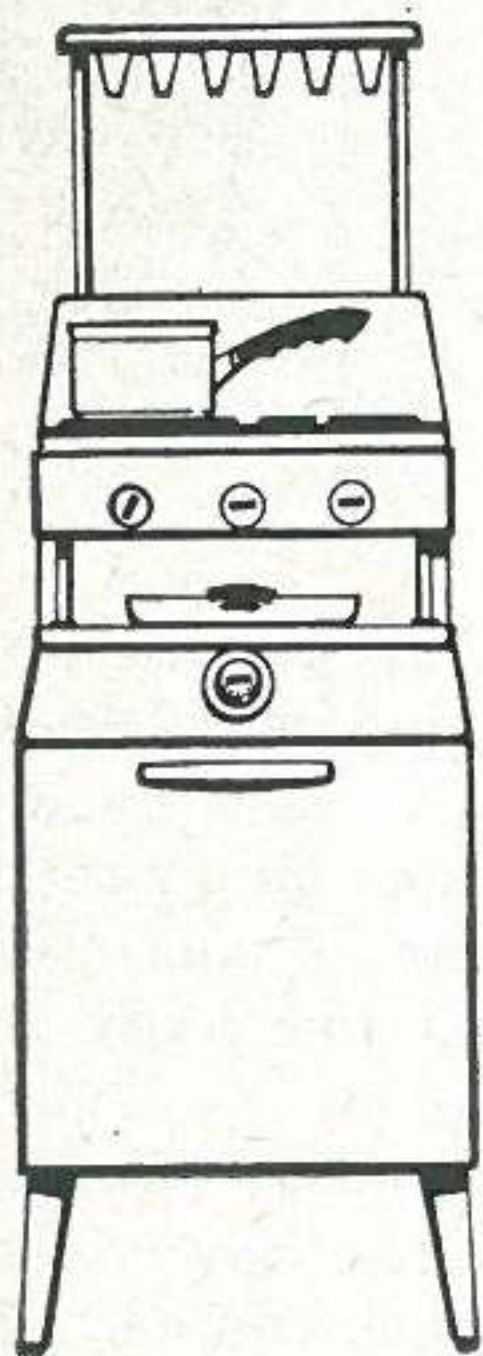


Pat Cronin



Jimmy Keaveney

cheaper because it's faster



The New World 32DU

A little big one, designed to make the best of both worlds. Compact enough to suit the smaller household. But big enough to cook a meal for four. That spacious oven takes a 10 lb turkey (and has a special low-low setting to keep food piping hot). That grill will cook six lamb chops at a time. Those burners are diagonally placed to give you extra elbow room. But see it for yourself. Ask your Kosangas dealer to demonstrate the stylish little big one from Radiation.

Kosangas

cuts cooking costs

WILSON HARTNELL

JUNIOR DESK

● FROM PAGE 39

Joseph Woods of Lahinch has won a prize with us. It is rather fitting that his photograph should appear in our "Mailbag" section.

TOP FOUR CUT-OUTS 1970

In our competition coupon, we included a section asking "Junior Desk" fans to nominate their Top Four Cut-outs of 1970. They are: Seán O'Neill, Mick O'Connell, Pat Griffin and Gerald McCarthy.



O'Neill



O'Connell



Griffin



McCarthy

In the months ahead we hope to include every nominee. So readers, you have given me plenty of scope.

We have such a heavy "Mailbag" this month that I have had to hold over letters from Dolores Houlihan, Middleton; Philip Finnegan, Cavan; a photograph of Ciaran Keohane; Noel Joy of Clontarf; Thomas and Kevin Galen, Lough Gill; Seamus Whitney, Enniscorthy; Anthony Clancy, Enistymon; Francis J. Costello, St. Mary's College, Galway, and Thomas O'Connor, Enniscorthy. We will include all next month, D.V.

Mailbag selection

OUR Mailbag is bigger than usual this month. What with the Charlie McCarthy interview (wasn't it great?) we had to hold over all letters. So now, we have a heap of letters and this is just the way I want it. When I started "Junior Desk" almost a year ago, I hoped there would be a response from you readers. Now we have the problem of selecting which letters should go in.

I'm disappointed with the response from some counties. Do the youngsters in the Six Counties read *Gaelic Sport* at all? If so, they are not as fond of writing as the G.A.A. youngsters of Clare, Cork and Kerry, to name three of our greatest supporting counties.

Am I fair in my choice of CUT-OUTS? Haven't chosen a Galway man yet. Are there not enough CUT-OUTS from Ulster? Should we have four CUT-OUTS every month instead of two? Do you want more interviews of the Mick O'Connell, Charlie McCarthy-type that we have provided specially for *Junior Desk* fans.

Next time, we are having an interview how about you readers asking the questions. So let us choose a footballer as our next interviewee. I will name the following stars: Jimmy Duggan (Galway), Ray Cummins (Cork), Pat Reynolds (Meath) and Colm McAlarney (Down), a man from each province.

Now I want you to send on the question you would like to ask any one of the footballers named and please name the player you would like to see interviewed. I will select the 20 best questions and will present the interview in the May issue of "Gaelic Sport".

All letters with questions should reach me before April 1.

Finally I hope you enjoyed the *Halpin's Tea* sponsored competition. Let us say we will have another such competition in the June or July issue. Any sponsors? Let us move on to the letters.

Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare (a former prizewinner) suggests among other things (1) a G.A.A. Quiz of about 25 questions for *Junior Desk* and (2) a poem about

some aspect of the G.A.A.

James Ronayne, 104, Brookwood Ave., Artane, Dublin, 5. "Junior Desk" is the most inter-



● **JOSEPH WOODS, Lahinch, Co. Clare, proud winner of a hurley and sliothar in our competition.**

esting column in *Gaelic Sport*. I am captain of the Clontarf junior team and I play for the under-13 and 14 teams also. We were beaten in the first division final. My favourite hurlers — Gerald and Charlie McCarthy, Jimmy Doyle and John Horgan. Favourite footballers — Tom Prendergast, Mick O'Connell, Pat Reynolds and Denis Coughlan".

● *Hope that you are a good Dublin supporter, James. Their footballers are certainly improving. It would be great to see the sky blue of Dublin back again. Memories of Heffo, Snitchy, Olly, Mossy, Jim Crowley, Johnny Boyle, Cathal O'Leary . . . Do you recognise those names? The great Olly Freaney was a regular opponent of mine and I had the pleasure of having lunch here in Galway with him recently (J.M.).*

Denis Ahern, Ballinphellic, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork :

"I buy *Gaelic Sport* regularly. It is very interesting, especially since *Junior Desk* came into it. I wouldn't miss *Gaelic Sport* for anything. My favourite hurlers are Martin Coleman, Thomas Ryan, Pat McDonnell, Mick Roche and John Connolly. I play with the Ballinhassig team".

● *Nice to see a young Cork reader admire a Galway hurler and one from Tipperary! (J.M.).*

Liam Jones, Derryoran, Mount-hannon, Co. Clare, is our most loyal correspondent. He has conducted a survey of readers' letters since we started and has found that the most popular players with readers were Mick O'Connell and Charlie McCarthy. My own reaction on reading Liam's letter was to clap myself on the back for selecting both Mick and Charlie as our first subjects for interview. Just what you wanted! (J.M.).

Tomás Mac Donncha, Cnoc, Leitirmealláin, Co. na Gaillimhe, another regular correspondent, sends on his following Ireland teams :

PEIL

J. Cullotty; S. Murphy, J. Quinn, Tom Quinn (Derry); T. Prendergast, J. Morley, P. Reynolds; W. Joyce (Galway), D. J. Crowley; L. Sammon, P. Griffin, J. Morgan (Down); M. Gleeson, C. Dunne, M. O'Dwyer.

IOMAINT

P. Barry; N. Colfer, P. MacDonnell, J. Horgan; D. Clifford, D. Quigley, M. Coogan; P. Moran, S. Looney; T. Ryan (Cork), T. Ryan (Galway), C. Cullinane; C. McCarthy, T. Doran, E. O'Brien. Tim O'Donovan, Camus, Castle-freak, Co. Cork :

"Please give us the following CUT-OUTS—Mick O'Connell, Pat Nolan, Sean O'Neill, Tom O'Hare, Ollie Shanley. Cork are my favourite hurlers and Meath my favourite footballers".

● *Both Mick O'Connell and Sean O'Neill have been in our CUT-OUT series already (J.M.).*

Joseph Doyle, Landsdowne Lodge, Kenmare, Co. Kerry :

"The interview with Mick O'Connell was very good. JUNIOR DESK is great. Could you provide a photo of Cathal O'Leary? He is a cousin of mine".

● *Over to you, editor. Please provide a photo of Cathal—the fastest player I ever encountered. I know all of Cathal's family—Mary, Sheila and Fr. Micheal and his father, God rest him, was one of the finest Irishmen I knew. (J.M.).*

James Moran, Clooneen, Cloone, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim :

"*Gaelic Sport* is a great book. *Junior Desk* is the best column

● **TO PAGE 43**



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● **JARLATH and AUSTIN MACKEN**, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.

in the book. My football stars are: Ollie Shanley, Mick O'Connell, Mick O'Dwyer, and my favourite Pat Griffin.

My hurling stars are: Donal Clifford, Len Gaynor, Martin Quigley and Con Roche. I liked Pat Griffin's CUT-OUT in a recent issue. The goal he scored in the Munster Final was one of the highlights of 1970".

● *Pat Griffin has a great fan in Leitrim (J.M.).*

Thomas Langtry, Drimbane, Curry, Co. Sligo:

"I enjoy *Junior Desk* very well. My favourite Gaelic player is Mick O'Connell. My favourite hurler is Mick Roche. I hope my name will be on *Junior Desk*, please."

● *Delighted to oblige, Thomas. (J.M.).*

Jarlath and Austin Macken, Coolroe, Claremorris, Co. Mayo:

"We like *Gaelic Sport*, especially *Junior Desk*. Give us some Mayo players in *Junior Desk* especially Des Griffiths, Eugene Rooney, Willie McGee and J. J. Cribben. We always cut out the front cover of *Gaelic Sport* for our scrapbook because they are colourful. Enclosed our photograph taken at school together".

● *Two loyal supporters of the green and red. How proud Fr. Morahan, that fine Mayo Co. Board Chairman, must be of your enthusiasm (J.M.).*

Sean Kelly, Michaelschurch, Ballycallan, Kilkenny (aged 13):

"I am the first from Kilkenny to write to *Junior Desk*. You had a mistake in your article in *Our Games Annual*. There is no club

in Kilkenny called Galway. It is GALMOY. I follow Graigue-Ballycallan hurling club. My brother, Michael, plays at left half-back and my brother-in-law, Tom Ryall, plays at corner forward. Joe Millea plays with our club."

● *Thanks, Sean, for tipping me off about Galmoy and welcome to Junior Desk. (J.M.).*

Gearoid Mac Amhlaoimh, Cork (address enclosed):

"Congrats on *Junior Desk* and especially on the competitions. I belong to St. Finbarr's Hurling and Football club as do Denis Murphy, Peter Doolan, Gerald McCarthy, Con Roche and many other famous players. My favourites are Gerald McCarthy, Mick Roche, Con Roche, Paschal O'Brien (hurling) and Mick O'Shea, Pat Griffin. Jack Quinn, Sean O'Neill and Kevin Jer O'Sullivan (football)".

● *Sorry I hadn't space to print your Ireland hurling and football teams, Gearoid. St. Finbarrs is a great club. But you never mentioned Charlie McCarthy. (J.M.).*

Gerard Murray, Main Street, Charlestown, Co. Mayo, another of our most loyal correspondents, writes:

"I enjoy *Junior Desk*. I play handball and Gaelic football. Brian Collieran from Charlestown played handball for Mayo this year (Junior softball singles) and won the Connacht title. I hope he will win the All-Ireland this year. Goodbye for now."

● *Great to see a young Charlestown lad from John Healy's own country following in the footsteps of such great Charlestown heroes as Danno Regan, the Swords brothers, and Mickey and Eamonn Walshe (J.M.).*

Tom O'Dea Crogane, Ennis, Co. Clare:

"The new league is great. It gives the weaker counties, including Clare, a great chance. Will Clare ever win another All-Ireland final? They had some great hurlers—Matt Nugent, Pat "Fowler" McInerney, Jimmy Smith and Mick Hayes.

This is my Ireland football team:
J. Culloty; G. Hughes, J. Quinn,

T. O'Hare; T. Prendergast, J. O'Keeffe, P. Reynolds; M. O'Connell, D. J. Crowley; N. Clavin, J. Keenan, T. Brennan; M. Niblock, S. O'Neill, M. O'Dwyer.

What is your opinion of the team?"

● *A good team, but badly placed. I think the new league is great too. (J.M.).*

Frank Murphy, 22, Dromhall Park, Killarney, Co. Kerry (11½ years):

"I have 16 issues of *Gaelic Sport*. There are too many ads in it. I have one medal and one trophy. My favourite footballers are Johnny Culloty, Brendan Lynch, Ray Prendergast, Jimmy Duggan, Colm McAlarney and Sean Evans. My favourite hurlers are: Charlie and Gerald McCarthy, Paddy Barry, Eddie O'Brien and Jimmy Doyle. I have one scrapbook. There should be more than two CUT-OUTS and more pictures and comic strips. Please print a picture of Johnny Culloty. Are the following players retired: John Keenan, Pat Donnellan and Greg Hughes?"

● *A very good letter, Frank. Unfortunately, the magazine needs ads to keep it going. I like your favourite footballers and hurlers. Did you like the Charlie McCarthy interview? Yes, we will keep pressure on the Editor to let us have more cut-outs!*

Please, editor, print a photograph of Johnny Culloty and Frank. John Keenan has retired. Greg Hughes was out for Offaly recently and I wouldn't be surprised to see Pat Donnellan in action for his county in 1971 (J.M.).

● **TO PAGE 44**



● **THOMAS COSTELLO**, St. Mary's College, Galway.

MAIL BAG

● FROM PAGE 43

Thomas Costello, St. Mary's College, Galway :

"I am writing to you during my Christmas vacation in New York. I am a brother of Francis. I am 14 years old and I am on the St. Mary's juvenile hurling team playing at left corner forward. My team-mates at first thought it strange that a lad born in America could play hurling. But I had hurled with Francis in New York since I was about 5 years old. Henry Condron, the New York hurling goalie, gave me his own hurley as a present when I left and I now use it in all games. We have a good team and our trainer is Fr. Michael Kelly. We beat Garbally by 7-2 to 2-0 in our first match. I am looking forward to playing in Pearse Stadium soon. I scored a goal against Gargally in Athenry last November. A brother of the great Galway hurler, John Connolly, named Joe plays for us. He is very stylish. I enjoy St. Mary's very much."

● Glad you are enjoying St. Mary's so much. Keep up your interest in hurling. Hope you achieve your ambition. So nice of Henry Condron to give you his hurley. (J.M.)

That is all for this month. If you have anything on your mind write to "Junior Desk",
c/o Gaelic Sport,
80 Upper Drumcondra Road,
Dublin 9.

Jack Mahon

Camogie: Big ban debate not on

By AGNES HOURIGAN

UNLIKE the G.A.A., the Camogie Association will have no big debate on the Ban rules at the annual Congress next month. The only two sports banned to players are football and hockey, and while nobody seems to have any desire to lift the hockey Ban, the football one is likely to lead to a lively discussion again this year.

The Ban against members of the Camogie Association playing football only came in a few years ago, and was introduced to deal with particular circumstances. At that time, there was quite a fashion of staging indoor ladies football games during Lent in local ballrooms in dioceses where dancing was frowned upon during that season.

Now, a lot of people within the Camogie Association felt that in these indoor competitions the girls participating were, to a certain extent, just being used to draw the crowds, and it was also felt there was a danger of the prizes offered getting out of hand, and that these competitions

could drift towards semi-professionalism.

But, since those games were not played under any particular code, the Ban had to be left as wide as possible, and so 'football' was banned to all playing members of the Camogie Association.

Unfortunately, as the rule stands, it needs to be very much clarified. Taken literally, any camogie player who thumps a football around the beach during holiday time is just as guilty of a breach of the rule as a camogie player who takes part in a well-organised football competition.

Moreover, through the past few years there have been occasions when G.A.A. clubs, whose knowledge both of their own Association and of camogie must surely be minimal, have organised Gaelic football competitions for the girls. And quite a number of camogie players have taken part in these competitions under the mistaken impression that, since these competitions were under at least semi-official G.A.A. auspices they were exempt from the 'ban-on-football' rule.



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Unfortunately, such is far from being the case, and the Ban on football applies equally to Gaelic, rugby, soccer and what-have-you. Personally, I do not think that football of any code is a suitable competitive game for women and girls.

In the first place, since football of any kind is far more of a contact sport than camogie can ever be, the danger of personal injury, particularly to knees, shins and ankles is far too great. In the second place, even though I may be branded as the squarest of squares, I think that football for girls easily tends to become unladylike, which is, I know, a horribly old-fashioned word, yet anyone who has ever watched a women's football match will have a pretty fair idea as to what I mean.

But I still think that, were I a Congress delegate, I would vote against the retention of the present football ban.

To my mind, it has served its immediate purpose, for we have been hearing less and less of the dance-hall football game tournaments, especially since the regulations against Lenten dancing are now largely forgotten. To my mind, it does seem as though the present rule no longer serves any useful purpose and could just as well be discarded.

As for the football tournaments run by G.A.A. clubs, these are usually rather isolated efforts and it should not be too difficult to persuade the same G.A.A. clubs to devote their energies to running camogie tournaments instead.

Meanwhile, the Congress delegates will have a very satisfactory year to review, one in which the Association built well for the future in staging the National Coaching Course at Gormanston and in spreading the Colleges competitions.

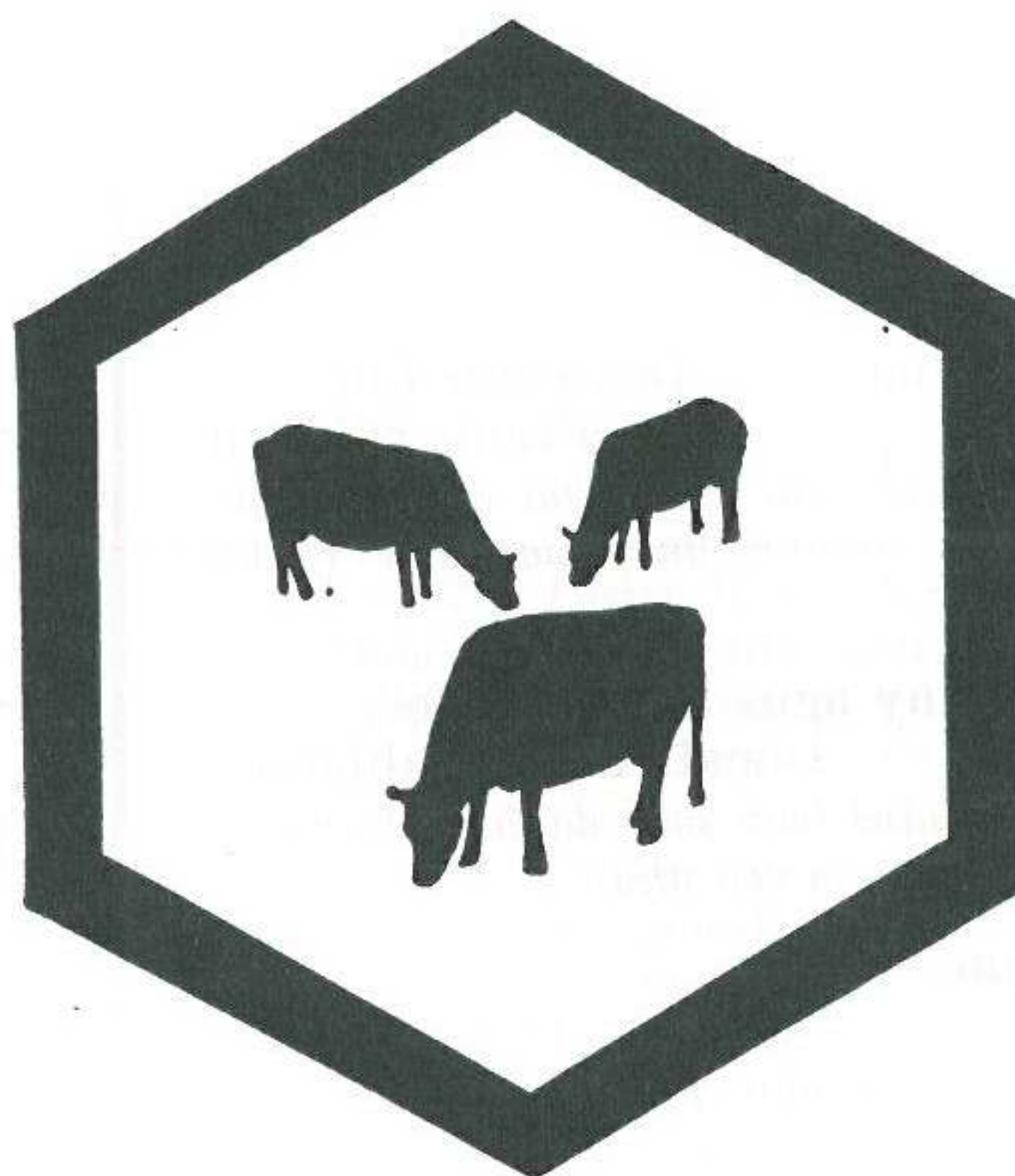
On the Colleges fields it was a

year of phenomenal progress, especially in the South and West, and, indeed, the only area that now remains to be reclaimed for the Association is the mid-Leinster sector of Longford, Offaly, Westmeath and Carlow.

Why those counties continue to remain outside the camogie pale remains a baffling problem, especially as all of them were thriving centres within the past decade.

It should be a new season's resolution, not alone for the Leinster Council but for the whole Association, to ensure that they all come back into the fold before 1971 is out.

And one other thing I hope for the season ahead, that the 100 people who turned up for last year's National Coaching Course will be more than doubled when course time comes round this year.



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—Frank O'Brien
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"Más suim leat saol daoine muinteartha dinn féin seo dhuit é".
5. "Ponc"
—Pádraig Ó Fiannachta
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IRELAND

PROBING OUR CLUB STRUCTURE

THE Central Handball Council, in an attempt to assess the real strength of the game at grass-roots level, has forwarded a detailed questionnaire to every club in the country.

The questions are intelligently constructed and, if the response is good, a clear picture of the game will emerge.

The questions, basically, concern club structure, its relationship with the G.A.A. in the district, the amenities it is providing or contemplating to provide and the different types of competitions provided for its playing members.

There is also an emphasis on the attention given to young players in each area.

The result of this exercise will be revealed in the annual report of Secretary Joe Lynch, though Council officers point out that only the general results of the questionnaire will be for publication—specific information will be used only with the consent of the club involved.

This year's Congress, which will be held in about a month's time, should provide many interesting topics for discussion.

Not the least of these should be a thorough analysis of the actual status of the old code of handball.

For the past twelve months there has been little evidence of a significant revival and the fact that it was not given any recog-

niton during World Championship week does not augur well for its future.

It appears that, unless a determined effort is made by the few recognised strongholds of the code to revive it, and that a uniform playing ball can be produced at an economical price, the days of handball are numbered.

Handballers will be interested to know that copies of "Handball", the comprehensive 88-page book on coaching and statistical aspects of the game, are still available.

Published by the Irish Handball Council and written by Ray Doherty, a former All-Ireland champion at minor and junior levels, its contents certainly belie its modest title.

It is the ideal guide for the uninitiated, the semi-skilled and the expert. Doherty, in a thorough yet novel way, gets the message across that handball is not just an exercise in "bash and batter" and "hope for the best". Complete records of the All-Ireland handball championships are also listed.

It is interesting to note the leading county, title-wise, is Kilkenny, with 69, followed by Tipperary (46), Kerry (44) and Dublin (42).

According to Doherty, the greatest player of all time was the late Fintan Confrey—though he also gives due recognition to the feats of such as John Joe

Gilmartin, Paddy Perry, John Ryan, Paddy Downey, Jimmy O'Brien and Joey Maher.

"Handball" may be purchased from the general secretary of the Irish Handball Council at 12 Goatstown Road, at 6/- per copy. Special discount is being allowed on orders of 10 copies.

Tom Walsh, chairman of the Ulster Handball Council, entered a new administrative sphere recently when he was elected as Chairman of the Donegal G.A.A. County Board.

This new position for the Gortahork schoolteacher is further cementation of his own theory that there should be no barriers between handball and the other games under the banner of the G.A.A.

He was one of the prime movers in the revitalisation of handball in the Falcarragh area which led to the construction of a magnificent covered court with club rooms attached.

He has recently suggested that about four other areas in Donegal are contemplating the construction of courts and now, in his new position, he should see these ambitions realised.

Mr. Walsh is also the handball representative on the G.A.A. Policy Committee.

Certainly, judging from the contribution he has made to handball, the delegates at the Donegal Convention chose an extremely capable administrator.

SCORING PEAKS

By

Owen McCann

ALTHOUGH the counties, generally, have been concentrating more and more on intensive training sessions, now involving players in virtually all the year round preparations, and opportunities have also greatly increased annually as the inter-county calendar has steadily advanced to the stage where it is now greatly overloaded, the score-getters of modern times are still walking very much in the shadows of former stars when it comes to finding the way through to goal in really spectacular fashion.

Presiding impressively over the fields as regards the individual "golden-hours," score-wise, that help to make up the colourful story of hurling and football are ace stars of the 'Fifties, Nick Rackard, big-hitting Wexford hurler, and the Tyrone sharp-shooter extraordinary, Frankie Donnelly.

It is now going on 17 years since Rackard smashed up a tremendous 7-7 for Wexford in their All-Ireland semi-final win

over Antrim at Croke Park in August, 1954. The nearest any man came to that 28 points tally was in 1956, when Frankie Donnelly helped himself to 5-8 (23 points) against Fermanagh on a September day at Pomeroy in the now suspended Dr. Lagan Cup, then a Division of the National League.

The 'Fifties also saw two other records put into the book. Tom Errity shot 7-0 for Offaly against Galway at Tullamore in June, 1957 for the best individual score in a hurling or football challenge, and Christy Ring, that legendary Cork artist, smashed home 6-4 against Wexford at Cork in November, 1959 for the high-point in the Hurling League.

The 'Sixties were dominated by Johnny Joyce (Dublin). He hit 5-3 against Longford in a Leinster championship outing at Mullingar in May, 1960, for the best score in the premier competition in the big ball game. Some eight years later the football tournament peak was scaled

by Jack Berry with a total of 3-9 for Wexford against Kilkenny at Gorey. In a hurling tournament, we have to go back to 1956 for the lead position held by Sean Clohosey with a score of 6-3 for Kilkenny in a Walsh Cup tie with Laois at Kilkenny.

Showing the way in the Railway Cup are Billy Dwyer (Kilkenny), who scored 6-1 in a semi-final with Leinster against Ulster at Cavan in 1962, and John Timmons (Dublin), with 1-10 in Leinster's football semi-final success the same year over Munster at Tullamore.

Here are the outstanding individual scoring achievements over the past 16 seasons, listing, in each instance, the scorer, the actual score, the team it was recorded against, the competition, venue and finally the date.

HURLING

- 28 pts.: N. Rackard (Wexford) — 7-7 v Antrim, Championship, Croke Park, August, 1954.
- 22 pts.: J. Smyth (Clare) — 6-4 v Limerick, Championship, Ennis, June 1954. C. Ring (Cork) — 6-4 v Wexford, League, Cork, November, 1959.
- 21 pts.: T. Errity (Offaly) — 7-0 v Galway, Challenge, Tullamore, June, 1957. S. Clohosey (Kilkenny) — 6-3 v Laois, Walsh Cup, Kilkenny, August, 1956.
- 19 pts.: N. Rackard (Wexford) — 5-4 v Galway, Championship, Croke Park, August, 1956. B. Dwyer (Kilkenny) — 6-1 v Ulster, Railway Cup, Cavan, February, 1962. P.

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Molloy (Offaly)—5-4 v Laois, Championship, Portlaoise, June, 1969.

18 pts.: D. Heaslip (Kilkenny)—6-0 v Offaly, League, Birr, March, 1962. M. Lynch (Kilkenny)—6-0 v Wexford, Challenge, Ferns, December, 1957. L. Moloney (Limerick)—6-0 v Cork, Challenge, Cork, April, 1959.

17 pts.: D. Kelly (Limerick)—5-2 v Dublin, Tournament, Limerick, April, 1961. L. Moloney (Limerick)—5-2 v Waterford, Challenge, Limerick, April, 1958. E. Keher (Kilkenny)—2-11 v Laois, League, Kilkenny, October, 1966. C. Ring (Cork)—4-5 v Connacht, Railway Cup final, Croke Park, June, 1959.

FOOTBALL

23 pts.: F. Donnelly (Tyrone)—5-8 v Fermanagh, Lagan Cup, Pomeroy, September 1956.

19 pts.: J. McCartan (Down)—5-4 v Antrim, Lagan Cup, Newcastle, September 1958.

18 pts.: J. Joyce (Dublin)—5-3 v Longford, Championship, Mullingar, May 1960. Jack Berry (Wexford)—3-9 v Kilkenny, O'Byrne Cup, Gorey, April 1968. E. Goulding (Cork)—6-0 v Carlow, League, Cork, February 1957.

17 pts.: M. O'Dwyer (Kerry)—2-11 v Tipperary, League, Kilkenny, December 1969.

16 pts.: B. Hayden (Carlow)—3-7 v Kilkenny, Championship, Kilkenny, April 1962. C. Gallagher (Cavan)—2-10 v Down, Wembley Tournament qualifying game, Carrickmacross, May 1966.

15 pts.: P. Nolan (Offaly)—4-3 v Carlow, Championship, Carlow, May 1958. S. O'Connell (Derry)—4-3 v Armagh, Lagan Cup, Dungannon, March 1967.

14 pts.: F. Donnelly (Tyrone)—0-14 v Monaghan, Challenge, Augher (Tyrone), May 1963. J. Joyce (Dublin)—4-2 v Combined Universities, Croke Park,

March 1960. S. Price (Antrim)—4-2 v Derry, Challenge, Magherafelt, May 1964. J. Henry (Sligo)—4-2 v Kildare, Chal-

lenge, Sligo, June 1968. M. O'Dwyer (Kerry)—2-8 v Offaly, Grounds' Tournament, Croke Park, November 1969.



The former Kilkenny hurler, Denis Heaslip, one of his county's most prolific scorers.

The Glory of Meath

THE FABULOUS FORTY-NINERS

By NOEL COOGAN

WHEN Meath brought the elusive Sam Maguire Cup home back in 1949 it was the first time that the men from the Royal County had ever annexed the All-Ireland senior football title. Since that proud day twenty-one years and a few months ago Meath have had many fine teams. Seven Leinster titles, two All-Ireland crowns plus four unsuccessful appearances in National

League deciders is fair enough proof that the wearers of the green and gold jerseys have not been resting on their oars in the 'fifties, the 'sixties and the early days of the 'seventies.

Still, nobody would convince me that a better side has ever represented Meath than that which brought them their initial national title. For a guide let's take a comparison between the 1949 team and the Royal County's most recent standard bearers in the big time, the combination which failed to Kerry in last year's final.

In goal for the forty-niners was Kevin Smyth, who also represented Leinster and Ireland during an illustrious career. Sean McCormack has no such representative honours to his credit but still I doubt if many Meath supporters would be anxious to swop the Kingscourt clubman for any other netminder in the country. At their best there is hardly a lot between Smyth and McCormack.

Which is the greater full-back, Paddy O'Brien or Jack Quinn? No doubt, many of you have heard that question asked on

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more than one occasion since the spectacular, high-fielding Kilbride man climbed the pedestal of greatness around the mid 'sixties. There have been few better wearers of the number three jersey in the history of Gaelic football than Paddy O'Brien and his general soundness and consistency places him ahead of Quinn in my book.

Meath's present right corner back, Mick White, is considered one of the best players ever to fill that position for his county. Into that category, too, comes Mick O'Brien, staunch right full of the late 'forties and early 'fifties. There is so little between these two fine footballers that it is difficult to know whether White would have got his place on the 1949 team or whether O'Brien would have been on the 1970 side.

In the other corner we have Kevin McConnell and Bertie Cunningham in contention with each other. At their best both were stalwart defenders but due to the fact that the latter displayed most of his talents at centre half-back my vote is in preference of McConnell.

One member of the present Royal County team who, in my opinion, would have found a place on the 'forty-nine side is the dynamic left half-back, Pat Reynolds. The lion-hearted Walterstown man is not only the most complete footballer on the



Mattie McDonnell, one of Meath's "Forty-niners."

Meath team at present but also one of the finest exponents of the game in the country.

Christo Hand was a fine attacking wing half and many facets of his play were similar to Reynolds. Still the tremendous determination and huge work rate of the latter gives him the edge in my ratings.

On the opposite wing in 1949 was Seamus Heery, another sound, hard tackling defender. While recently converted right half-back Ollie Shanley continues to improve with every game and promises to provide his fans with many more thrills it is doubtful if he has done enough to date to surpass Heery.

Similarly, Terry Kearns would hardly have displaced Paddy Dixon in the number six jersey

had he been around twenty-one years ago.

The midfield pairing of Jim Kearney and Paddy O'Connell also looks more formidable than that of Vincent Foley and Vincent Lynch. Still it is only fair to point out that the two Vincents have plenty of years left to rise to the same heights of the 'forty-nine men.

In 1949, Meath had six powerful attackers, Frankie Byrne, Brian Smyth, Paddy Meegan, Mattie McDonnell, Bill Halfpenny and Peter McDermott. The present-day forwards have too many shortcomings to be considered in the same class as the aforementioned sextet.

As I see things only right half forward Tony Brennan might have commanded a place on that initial title winning front line. Of course, both Ken Rennicks and Mick Fay have youth on their side but they have much progress to make before being considered in the same street as Mattie McDonnell and Peter McDermott.

That 1949 Meath team was a great side. Sound in defence, effective enough at centrefield and highly dangerous in attack. Eight members of that combination were still good enough to help their county to another All-Ireland title five years later.

One cannot help wondering if Meath will ever have a better football team than the fabulous forty-niners.

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SEE HOW YOU SCORE

TRY scoring some goals and points off these chances. Remember that you have to be sharp to avail of any opportunity, so watch the time limit.

POINTS :

1—How many hurling All-Irelands have Cork won ?

2—How many hurling All-Irelands have Wexford won ?

3—How often have the counties met in the All-Ireland final?

4—The last occasion they met in the final was 1956, when was the first such occasion?

5—Four Rackard brothers figured on the Wexford

championship side of 1951 which suffered defeat in the final at the hands of Tipperary. Billie, Bobby and Nick were legendary, but who was the fourth brother and what position did he fill?
(Time limit 7 seconds.)

6—Who was captain of Cork when they last won an All-Ireland in senior hurling ?

7—Who was the last All-Ireland winning captain of Wexford?

8—Which county, and when, brought the first All-Ireland hurling title to Ulster ?

9—Which county has most often won the Liam McCarthy Cup, the trophy for the All-Ireland senior hurling final ?

10—How many times did Christy Ring captain Cork All-Ireland winning teams ?

GOALS :

(Take care with these chances: they are more difficult to come by. Also you have to be quick to avail of a goal-scoring opportunity—so watch the time limits.)

11—For what competition is the Smyco Cup awarded ?

12—On All-Ireland hurling final day, the Croagh Patrick Cup will be played for. Where ? Who are the contestants ?
(3 seconds.)

13—In 1908, the All-Ireland hurling final was played at a Kildare venue. Which one ?

14—When last did a county win the senior hurling and senior football All-Ireland titles in the same year ?

15—Who was the Kilkennyman who won three All-Irelands with Wexford after captur-

the choice of champions

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ing his first with Kilkenny?
(5 seconds)

16—Who was the Waterford man who refereed an All-Ireland hurling final, and later won an All-Ireland himself?
(10 seconds.)

17—There are three counties who feature the colour black on their jerseys in some measure. Can you name them?
(9 seconds.)

18—When was the first All-Ireland minor hurling championship played, and who were the winners?
(10 seconds.)

19—Cork had three different goalkeepers in their famous four-in-a-row All-Ireland final victories 1941-44. Can you name them.
(10 seconds.)

20—Who was the Tipperary man who bridged a 15 year gap between his first All-Ireland medal in 1930 and his last in 1945?
(7 seconds.)



● *Guess who? It's not Jack Lynch, it's not Eamonn Young, it's not Christy Ring . . . but they all have something in common. (See answer to No. 6 below).*

ANSWERS

POINTS :

- 1—20.
- 2—5.
- 3—Three times: 1890, 1954 and 1956, though they met in the Home Final in 1901.
- 4—1890.
- 5—Jimmy in goal.
- 6—Gerald McCarthy (1966).
- 7—Dan Quigley (1968).
- 8.—Down; junior; 1964.

- 9—Cork. It was first played for in 1921, and they have won 13 times since then.
- 10—Three—1946, 1953, 1954.

GOALS :

- 11—Leinster Junior Camogie.
- 12—New York. Between Mayo and New York, who played the first leg in Castlebar on August 9th.

- 13—Athy.
- 14—1900—Tipperary.
- 15—Nick O'Donnell: sub with Kilkenny in 1947; won with Wexford 1955, 1956, 1960.
- 16—The late Vin Bastin.
- 17—Sligo, Down and Kilkenny.
- 18—1928: Cork.
- 19—Jim Butimer, Ned Porter, Tommy Mulcahy.
- 20—John Maher.

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HANDBALL IN SOUTH AFRICA

By ALLEYMAN

IT may come as a surprise to many readers that not only is handball played in South Africa but the South African Board is the only unit outside Ireland officially affiliated to the Association at home.

Naturally enough, the game was brought to the Dark Continent by Irishmen and it all stemmed from an abortive attempt to popularise hurling amongst the natives there.

In 1932, South Africa sent a hurling team to Ireland for the Tailteann Games.

The party included six South African natives, and while none of them was a fully-fledged hurler, the team organisers were hopeful that the inclusion of this sextet would be an incentive to other natives to take to hurling.

But so much for their high hopes and ambitions.

Lack of playing facilities, the inability of the African native to master the intricacies of hurling and the departure for Rhodesia of a few of the original administrators brought a premature end to South African hurling.

Still the Irish immigrant was unwilling to break his sporting ties with the homeland, and so, in Johannesburg in 1935, at the Village-Main Native Mission, a full-sized handball alley was built.

The Oblate Fathers, who co-operated in the construction of the alley, showed an intense

interest in the game and competed in the championships, the finals of which were always played on St. Patrick's Day.

From 1935 to 1950, the ballcourt at Village-Main was the a happy meeting place for Irish immigrants and was the scene of some terrific duels.

Unfortunately progress caught up with it, however, for the building and the alley had to go.

But, yet again, the dark cloud had a silver lining, the fairy godfather on this occasion being Rev. Brother Mulholland, the first Provincial of the Irish Christian Brothers' College at Boksburg Transvaal.

The alley, fully equipped with showers and dressing rooms, was opened on Easter Sunday of that year, by Rev. Father McGrath, who was quite an accomplished player himself.

The Christian Brothers, led by the Superior of the College, Brother Andrews, helped the new committee in every conceivable way.

In so doing, they were happy in the knowledge that not only were they maintaining a link with home but also providing the young South African boys with the opportunity for healthy exercise and competition.

President of that committee was Arthur J. Connolly; Advocate G. Mulligan was vice-president; the chairman was J.

Baskerville and R. Scott-Hayward was treasurer.

The committee consisted of Liam Burns; R. McInerney; M. J. Cunningham; B. Marshall; A. Tubridy, now in New York; V. Pala; P. McFall; B. Dolan; D. Sprong; and Brothers Price and Andrews of the Boksburg College.

With the South African Board firmly established, the next task on hands was to organise competitive games. Clubs were formed in Johannesburg, Germister, Boksburg Benono, Brakpar and Florida, and leagues and championships were soon flourishing.

Nowadays, the finals are played on Easter Sunday instead of St. Patrick's Day. While many have played important roles in the promotion of the game the real pioneers were the Muldoon family.

The late Brendan Muldoon, who was the recipient of a presentation from the Irish Handball Council when he visited this country back in 1964, did tremendous work for handball.

He was actually born in South Africa but was brought to Ireland at an early age and received his education at Knockbeg College, where he is reputed to have introduced hurling.

In the early twenties he joined C. J. Kickhams and won a Leinster junior championship with them in 1925.

SCHEME ENTERS SECOND YEAR

THE G.A.A. Club Development Scheme in which more than £200,000 has been invested to date is expected to take a fresh leap forward after a meeting of county representatives held in Croke

Park on Saturday, February 13. The meeting was held to evaluate the progress of the scheme to date and to discuss plans for the 1971 campaign.

Counties like Fermanagh, Armagh and Tipperary who exceeded their targets substantially in the first year, indicated that they would be trying hard to repeat that performance in 1971. The feeling of most county representatives present was that they should attain their target figures by the end of the year. This would mean that a total fund of more than £600,000 could be available from which clubs could borrow to build up social and sporting amenities in their area.

At Saturday's meeting Pat Fanning, G.A.A. President, said that apart from the effort made by clubs it was particularly encouraging to see the extent of the support given to the Scheme by individuals and business organisations.

"We knew that there existed a tremendous amount of goodwill towards the G.A.A. in the country and it is heartening to see the practical evidence of this in the way so many people from different walks of life have invested in the Club Development Scheme," Mr. Fanning said. "We are now sure of the unlimited potential for this Scheme and we will be making an all out effort this year to tap all sources of investment."



Séamus Ó Riain former President of the Association during whose term of office the historic scheme was launched.

Tipperary Year Book

A very welcome addition to the growing list of G.A.A. publications is the 1970 Year Book, produced officially by the Tipperary County Board and on reading through its very varied contents, this is a must for all fans who have an interest in the fortunes of the Premier County.

Congratulations, to Editor Gerry Slevin, to the many contributors and they include such notables as Séamus Ó Riain, Michael Maher and referee John Moloney, and to the "Guardian" printers of Nenagh, on turning out a first class production.

The price is a very modest one, 25p (5/-) and is on sale at all leading newsagents or direct from the Tipperary County Board.

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TOP TEN

HURLING has not been a prominent feature since the 1971 season opened — hence our selection of candidates was limited for Top Ten places. In fact, only two matches in the competitive inter-county senior grade were played since the beginning of the year and those have been screened for our rankings

The football scene was very different. There was a big programme of National League matches on February 14, and our stars have been chosen from the many fine performers of that day.

The fact that only ten players can be selected — in either game — must often be a source of disappointment for players and their supporters. However, we would ask all concerned to remember that the field is very extensive and, in many cases, only very

slight margins separate one player from another.

If an injustice may sometimes seem to have been done to a particular player, we do feel that, over the whole year, our system sorts itself out and, in the end, only the consistently great players come out at the top.

The following lists were compiled from the start of the season up until February 14, inclusive.

HURLING

- (8) **M. Roche** (Tipperary)
- (8) **J. Russell** (Wexford)
- (8) **E. Flynn** (Dublin)
- (8) **C. Roche** (Cork)
- (8) **J. McCarthy** (Cork)
- (8) **G. O'Driscoll** (Dublin)
- (7) **M. Lane** (Tipperary)
- (7) **C. Kelly** (Cork)
- (7) **P. Cunningham** (Dublin)
- (6) **W. Markey** (Dublin)

FOOTBALL

- (8) **E. O'Donoghue** (Kerry)
- (8) **D. Coughlan** (Cork)
- (8) **K. Kilmurray** (Offaly)
- (8) **P. Dunny** (Kildare)
- (8) **S. O'Connell** (Derry)
- (7) **D. Burke** (Tipperary)
- (7) **D. Hickey** (Dublin)
- (7) **L. Toal** (Louth)
- (7) **M. Kearins** (Sligo)
- (6) **A. McCallim** (Antrim)

'IRREGULAR' STARS OF THE RAILWAY CUPS

● FROM PAGE 30

The last year Westmeath had a direct interest in a hurling final was in 1956, when "Jobber" McGrath turned out at midfield. Leinster won that game.

Christy Ring heads the medals chart with 18 between 1942 and 1963. Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary) brought his score to eight last year. He won his first in 1958.

Sharing top place in football are Sean O'Neill, Kevin Heffernan and Jack Delaney with seven winning final outings each. The Down man was chosen for each of his "victory hours" between 1960 and 1970. Heffernan, of Dublin, was also chosen for all seven final winning teams—1952 to 1962. Delaney, of Laois, went in as substitute in the team that beat Ulster in the 1928 final. Following five outings between 1929 and 1935, each game for which he was included in the actual line-out, he won his seventh medal in 1939 when he went in as a substitute, again against Ulster.

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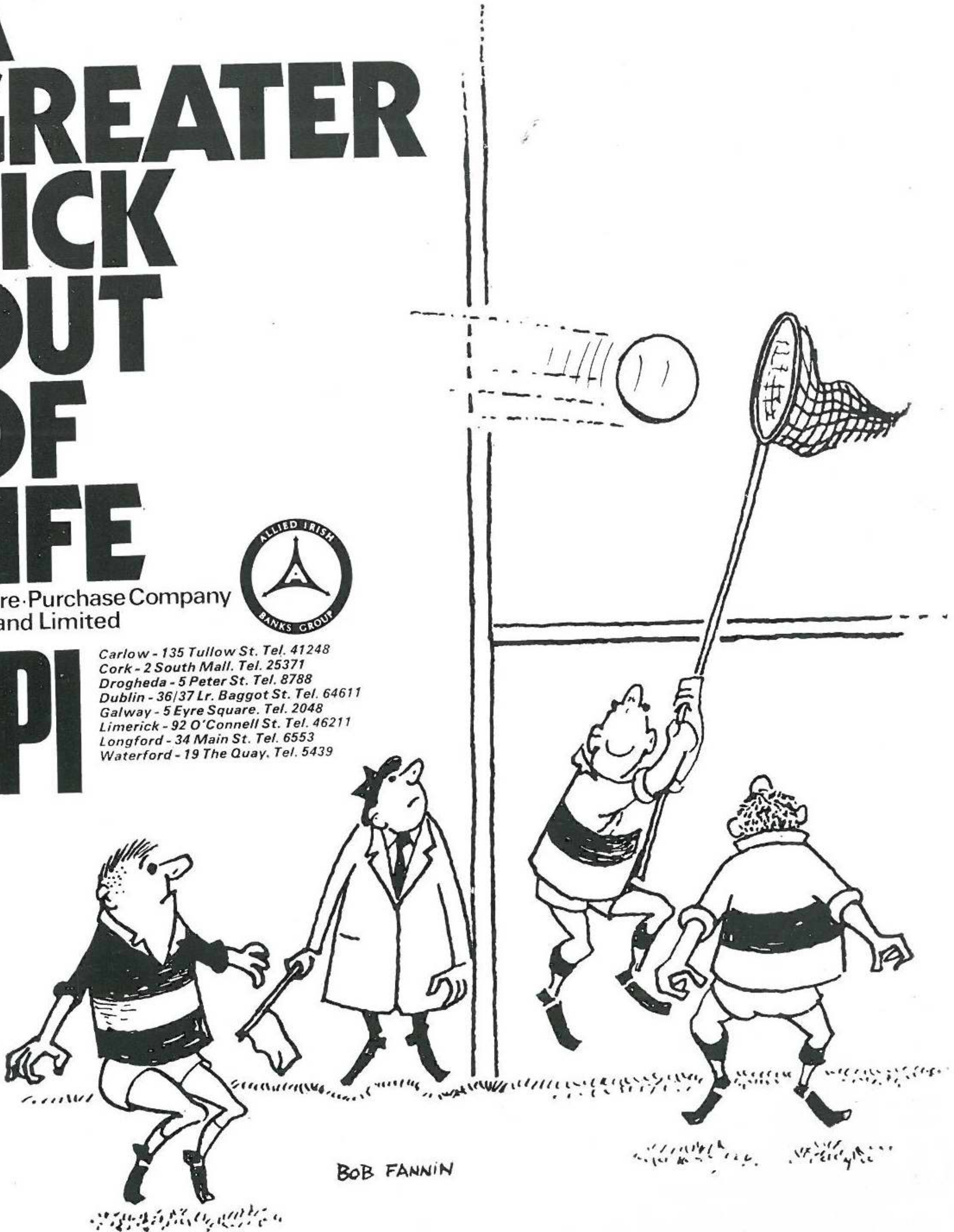
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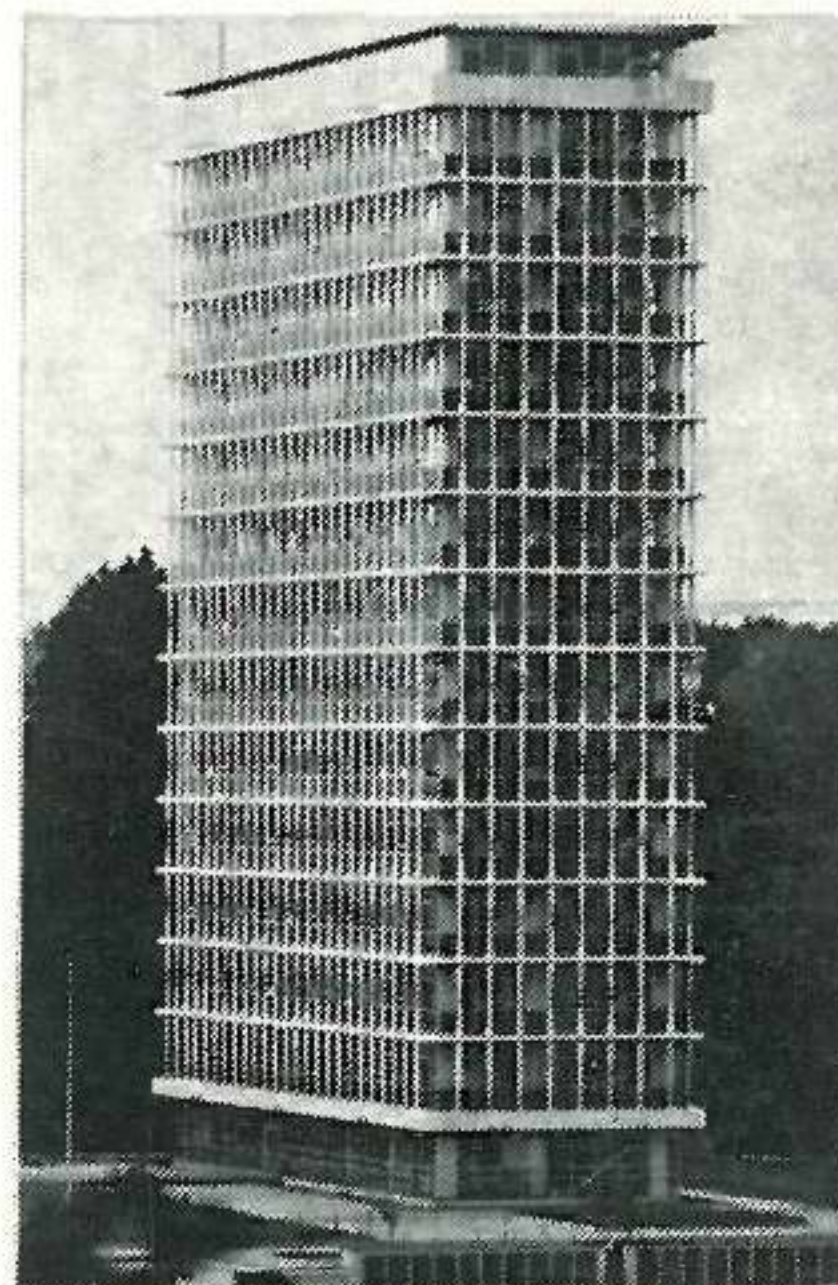
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