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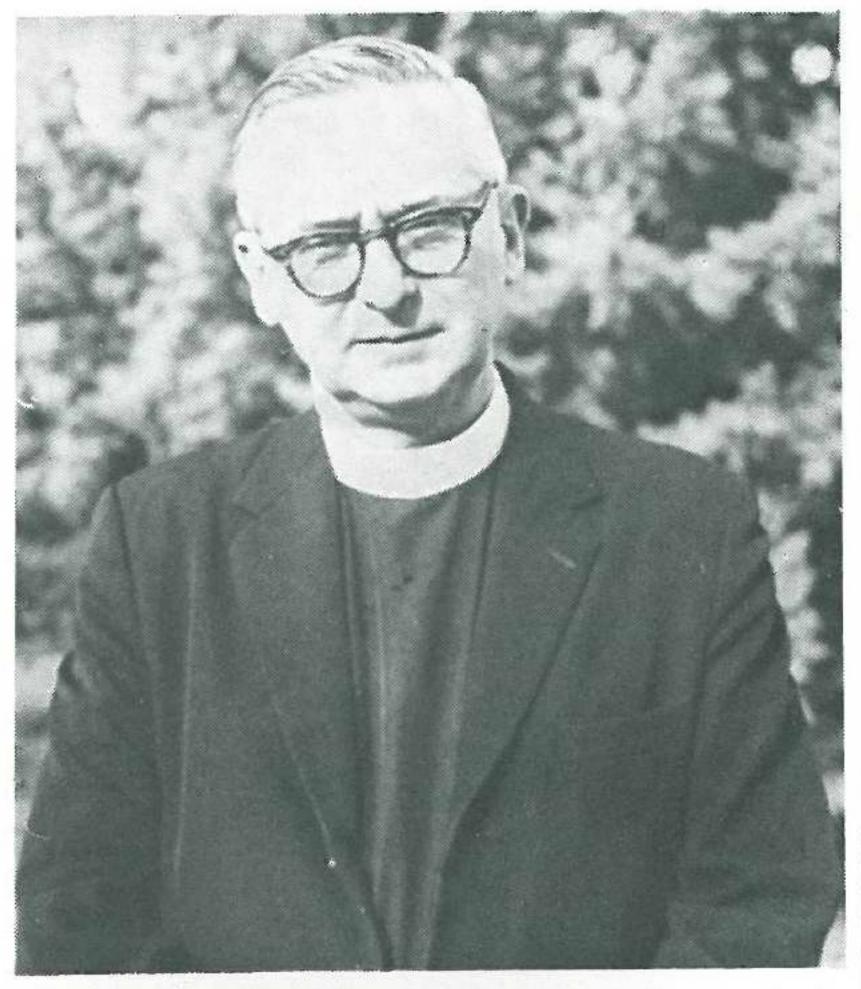




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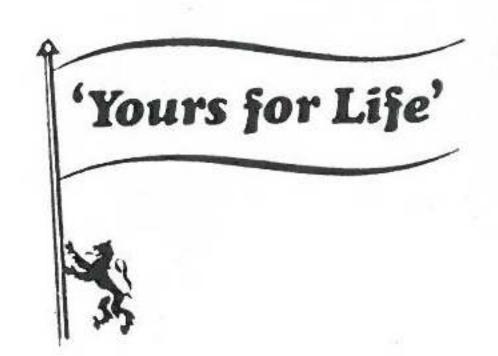
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COVER PHOTO

OUR front cover this month features the All-Ireland Hurling finalists, Tipperary and Kilkenny.

TIPPERARY—Standing (from left): Noel Lane, Noel O'Dwyer, Mick Roche, Seamus Hogan, John Kelly, Michael Keating, John Gleeson. Front (from left): Peter O'Sullivan, Len Gaynor, P. J. Ryan, Tadhg O'Connor (capt.), Jimmy Doyle, John Flanagan, Dinny Ryan, Francis Loughnane.

KILKENNY—Standing (from left): Pa Dillon, Willy Murphy, Mossy Murphy, Martin Coogan, Frank Cummins, Eddie Keher, Ollie Walsh, Ned Byrne. Front (from left): Mick Lalor, Mick Brennan, Pat Delaney, Kieran Purcell, Jim Treacy, Pat Lalor, Fran Larkin.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

WHEN it was announced recently that a group of sports journalists in co-operation with P. J. Carroll and Company Limited had planned to select Ireland teams in hurling and football (to whom Carrolls will present All-Star awards), the President of the G.A.A., Pat Fanning, welcoming the project on behalf of the Central Council, said he hoped that sportsmanship would be a foremost consideration in the assessment of a player's merits for selection.

We endorse the President's plea. Sportsmanship is a precious part of any sport and, it may be added, infringements of the code are not confined to physical misconduct on the field of play.

Rigid discipline is required to maintain the desired standards, for the line between legitimate aggression and misconduct is narrow and fragile. Keen rivalry is an essential part of competition; the will (one of the most important components of success) is a potent mixture of ambition and aggressiveness. First, it is a mental condition that is translated into legitimate force on the field of play. Which means, briefly, "play it hard but play it fair".

It is an edifying sight when players who battle fiercely but fairly during a match display friendship for each other when the action ceases. There was an unforgettable example of this after the recent Galway-Down All-Ireland football semi-final when the great Down forward, Sean O'Neill, who had been well beaten by Jack Cosgrove, put his arms warmly around the Galway full back's shoulders. This was no phoney gesture, like the perfunctory handshake that we see

so often between players who have hacked each other mercilessly during the game. This was the genuine article and its importance cannot be over-emphasised because O'Neill is now a prominent leader of youth in the G.A.A.

There is an insidious brand of bad sportsmanship which the multitudes never witness. It is a creeping disease which travels verbally among players and supporters when games are over. It is a rotten mixture of calumny and recrimination and its main purveyors are players who cannot accept a beating by better men. That sentence manufactures caps which will fit many.

We have one instance in mind. It concerns one of the recent provincial football finals. A player of the losing team was very quick to spread derogatory allegations about the conduct of certain members of the winning team—and he spread them among players and supporters of the county who were to play that team in the All-Ireland semi-final, thereby sowing dangerous suspicion and implanting an explosive element in what was likely to be a tense game in any case.

Bad sportsmanship of that type is worst than physical outbursts on the field. It is usually the sign of the bad loser, the player who thinks that he and his teammates have some kind of providential right to be always the top dogs.

To these persons we would quote Christ's words: "Let him who is without sin amongst you cast the first stone."

Finally, a wish for a fine, sporting All-Ireland hurling final between Kilkenny and Tipperary.

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THESE TEAMS LOOK WELL MATCHED

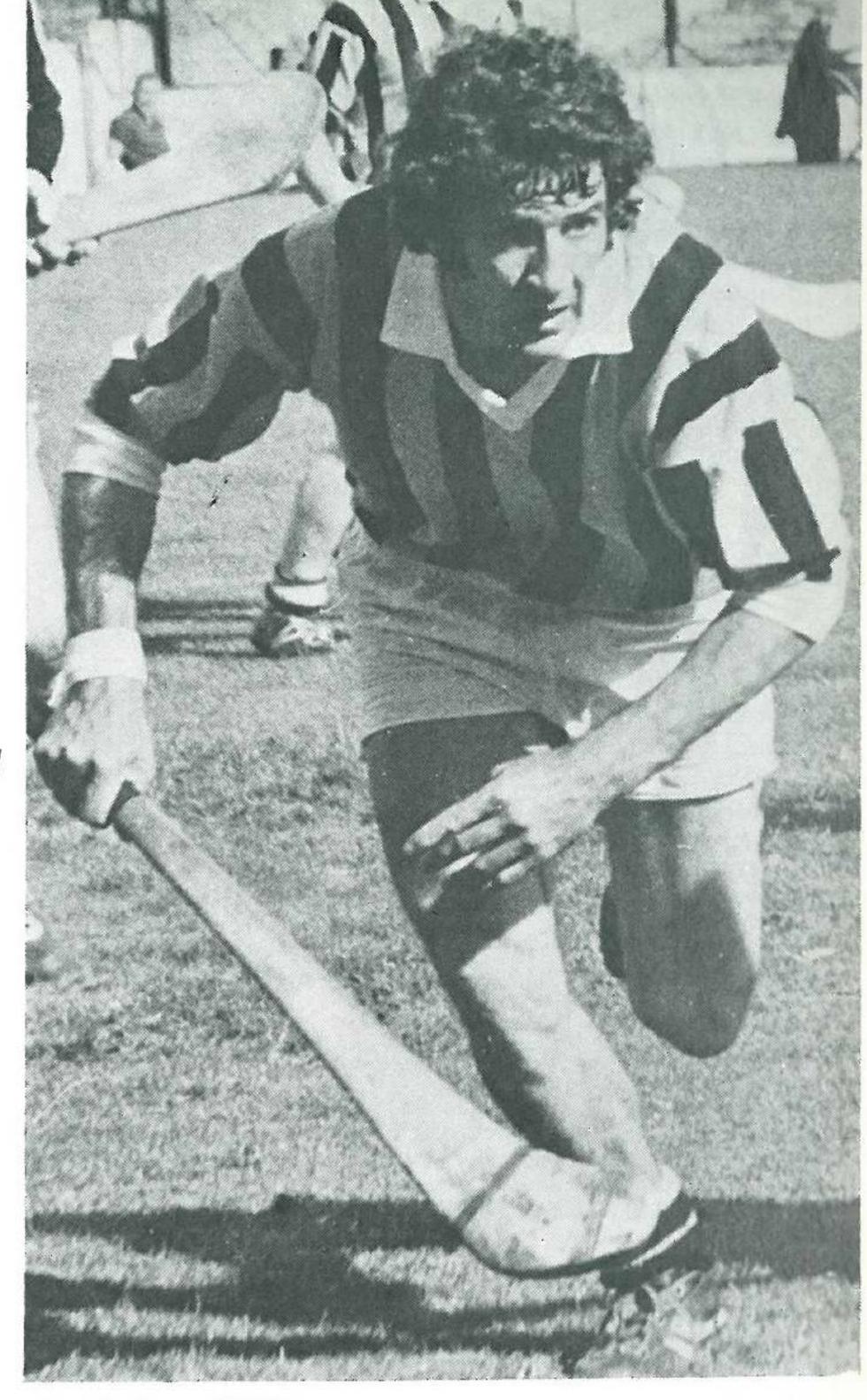
I heard a Kilkennyman say before the Leinster final that it
was Kilkenny's turn this year. He
said it more like a man who believed implicitly in the thing
called the law of averages rather
than any particular gifts or
talents possessed by the representatives of his county.

He was, I suppose, as much in the dark at the time as most people were about what kind of team Kilkenny were about to muster for the only group of games that really matter in the hurling year, when all's said and done. The League is a prestigious competition now, of course, with possible side stakes to add to its attraction. But, the All-Ireland is the thing.

Kilkenny have lived a life of anonymity in the hurling sense during the last two years — since they took the All-Ireland of 1969 so much to Cork's surprise. Last year Wexford went on to represent Leinster — and not too impressively at that. The result was a kind of turning completely to Munster for the best hurling could offer.

Wexford were obviously in a different class from Cork, on the form of the All-Ireland final; and Kilkenny seemed dormant at least. When it came to the League of this year it was a truly uninspiring occasion at Thurles on a soggy pitch when Tipperary

By JAY DRENNAN



Pat Lalor of Kilkenny.

and Kilkenny met. Just then it would have been a man of remarkable insight — possibly second sight — who would have foretold that these were the counties who would meet in Croke Park on the first Sunday of September.

Yet, that is the way of things. In spite of failing to qualify at all for the concluding stages of the League (though they will point to very hard luck in that Wexford match at Waterford) Kilkenny were showing a bit more interest in things by the conclusion of the winter competition. As happened before, the return of Ollie Walsh had a psychological effect of great but incalculable proportions. Even

● TO PAGE 8



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• FROM PAGE 7

though Ollie knows very well himself that the eye is slowing just a fraction in picking up the ball, the reactions a little more sluggish in attuning to the message of eye and mind, the whole man a little tensed where before he was just excited, he knows what his presence means. There is a belief in Ollie Walsh by Kilkenny folk that may make unreasonable demands but which is, nevertheless, infectious both in supporters and players.

So the Leinster final win over Wexford was convincing and complete. But, like Tipperary, Kilkenny have seen better days. There are men on this team and they are good men - who would not command a place among the teams of the past. It is a moderate enough side, but, like Tipperary, it has that elusive touch of class in certain roles. Keher, the super opportunist, has it; Ollie Walsh, of course; Frank Cummins is rapidly developing it; Pa Dillon has always had it; and Martin Coogan the most thoughtful of all.

What lends interest to this All-Ireland final is that the sides look remarkably well matched. Neither is at the peak of its powers; they both may be much better given a little more time. They both are teams some notches below the great sides of these great hurling counties. They both have a large number of players who could be classified as adequate or sound inter-county men rather than outstanding. And they both have a sprinkling of players with that elusive quality of class. Which makes the better blend?

There is an interesting question too of approach to this game. Kilkenny were consistently beaten on the big occasion by Tipperary for nearly fifty years until that memorable All-Ireland final of 1967. All those years, even when they turned out teams with all the Kilkenny qualities of





Noel O'Dwyer

Francis Loughnane

skill and ball command, of sweet striking and exquisite timing, they were unable to assert any advantage against the direct, physically powerful drive of the Tipperary men. The two styles seemed incompatible and it was the Kilkenny one which failed all the time. There had been humiliating examples of it already in the 60s: the final of 1964; the League finals of 1964-5 and 1965-6; the Oireachtas finals of 1964 and 1965.

All the time Kilkenny had been trying to make their skills tell. It was in 1967 finally that they trained mind and body to an unyielding physical confrontation letting the clashes to determine themselves through the single-mindedness of the dedication. It was thus, by eschewing something of their own natural tendencies that they eventually broke the hoodoo.

There has been no significant meeting since then though when they have met the emancipation of Kilkenny has been clear enough. But, now, the question of the style for this final arises: are Kilkenny to battle every ball and forget all efforts to assert the superior quality of their ball play — if that can still be said of the present generation? Should they try to win this final in the manner of 1967?

If they try, I do not honestly think they will succeed. It is a case of horses for courses; and, if Tipperary are to be overcome now, it will be by too many Kilkenny men showing that they possess the touch of class. Oh, yes, of course, the others must put every ounce into every fight

for the ball, but it will swing on the ability of a few to establish their skillful superiority over just sound opponents.

The question of Henderson's availability, and his fitness — for absolute fitness plays a large part in his ability to show his great talent — is something that causes worry. As it is the full-line in defence is nicely tight: good and down to earth skilful defensive work by Larkin and Treacy in the corners, and the great full-back Pa Dillon who must try to dominate from that zone to stamp his class on the game.

Coogan, for whom you wouldn't give tuppence in an unimportant club game, is the shrewdest, most thoughtful and most thoroughly successful, All-Ireland hurler I can recall. I have accepted as a hurling education the different approaches and concepts of play which he applies according to the nature of the problems his own opponent and the opposing forwards in general pose.

Frank Cummins, now well furnished with proof of his own ability, can be a devastating influence in midfield. If he can do that and gets adequate support, the pressures on Tipperary to switch their team will be crucial.

It is unfortunate that Kilkenny depend so much on Eddie Keher in attack. Pat Delaney gets inspiration from facing Tipp, and he will need to for his form has not been comforting. Young Brennan is dashing and has the ball skill at speed that might just be the recipe to create an advantage. But, the attack, in general, is unbalanced; so is Tipperary's but, maybe not quite so much — in other words Keating could expect to get more help even at the worst of times than Keher. But, as against that, Keher himself is by far the more consistent.

So, Tipperary might have an edge in attack; Kilkenny will need to have an edge in defence and midfield. That is, I think, not unreasonable to expect, especially with the dangerous weakness under the dropping ball which the Tipperary full-back line has.





Pat Delaney

M. Brennan

THE TOP TEN

RARELY does a player gain the maximum 10 points in these ratings. This month the honour falls on Tipperary's Michael Keating for his wonderful scoring feats in the Munster final against Limerick and the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway.

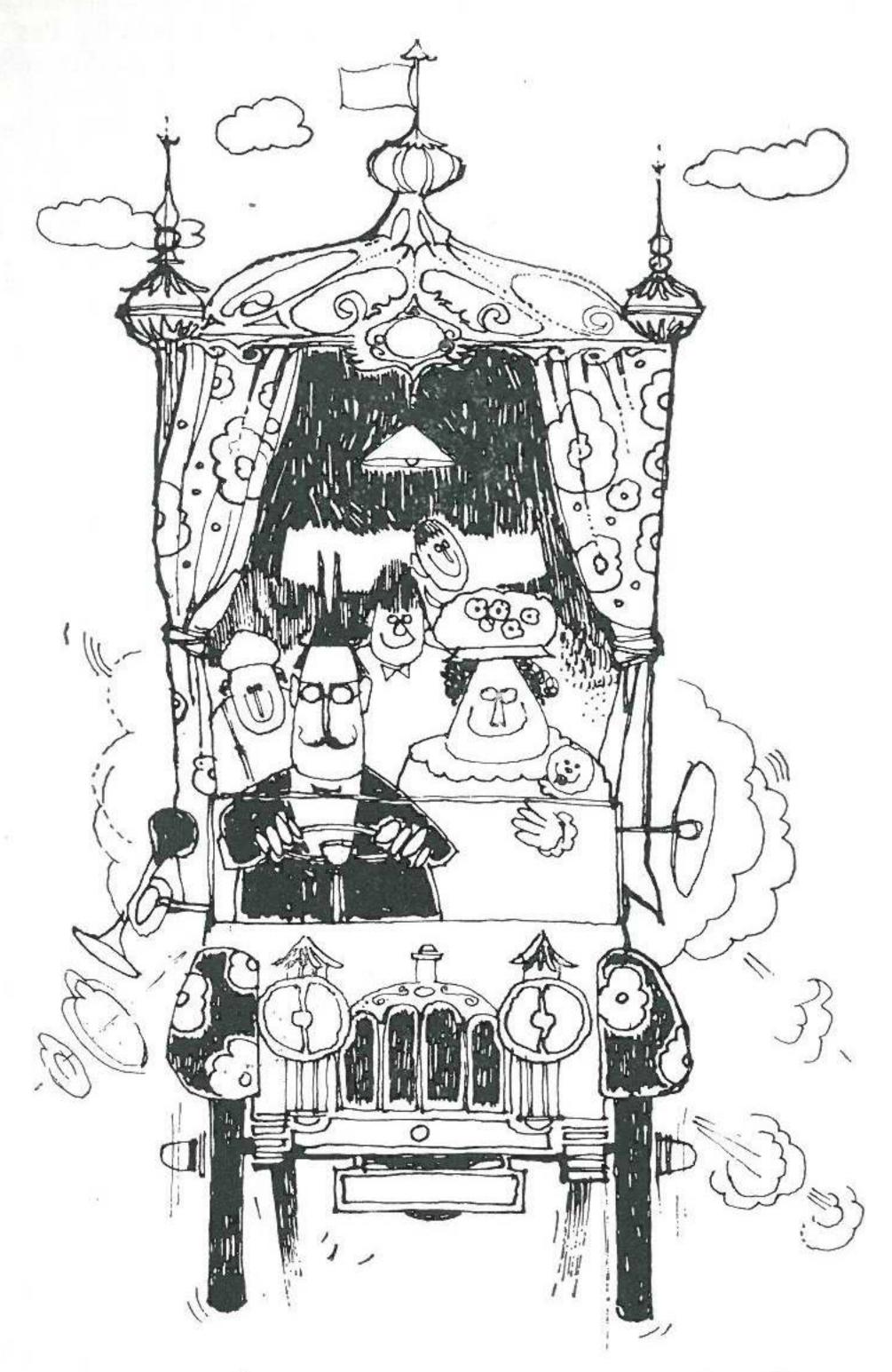
HURLING

- (10) M. Keating ... Tipperary
- (9) J. Connolly Galway
- (9) J. Flanagan ... Tipperary(9) T. O'Connor ... Tipperary
- (9) M. Butler London (8) M. Joyce Galway &

- (8) E. Keher Kilkenny
- (8) M. Roche Tipperary
- (8) M. Coogan... Kilkenny
- (8) S. Kelly Galway
- (7) S. Foley Limerick

FOOTBALL

- (9) R. Cummins Cork(9) J. Cosgrove Galway
- (9) T. J. Gilmore ... Galway
- (9) P. McCormack ... Offaly
- (9) A. McTague Offaly
- (9) K. J. O'Sullivan ... Cork
- (8) N. Clavin Offaly
- (8) S. Leydon Galway
- (8) G. Mitchell Sligo
- (8) M. Joyce Galway



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Jim Treacy

DON'T SELL JIM TREACY SHORT

HURLING has never been a game which gave all that opportunity for defence men to show their wares. Being the sort of game it is, speedy, with a little ball that flies at great speed struck sweetly, and with the flow and movement of the play so much more rapid than the movement of any single player, all the emphasis is likely to be placed on the attackers. They have the glories to earn, the spectacular things to do; they can use the field more freely, choose their shooting position.

But the back can often be conspicuous by looking a fool, and only the few can look great by controlling the play and the shifts of the game in their own half of the field. There are few of the advantages to which football defenders are accustomed; no advantage under the dropping ball of being able to make the spectacular catch and the thrilling dash out with the ball.

Very seldom do they get the chance of the intercept; more often they stand the chance of being caught between places when the finishing stroke is made. For these reasons I have a secret admiration for all those backs who seem to make so light of their problems that they can

dominate the situation for long periods. It can only be done by real defensive skill and long-learnt experience with a generous helping of thoughtful meditation over the problems of back play.

It is funny, too, that Kilkenny, a county famed for so long for the daintiness of her forward play, the skill and ball-play of her attacking, should have prodused regularly a store of the best backs in the game in the last decade. It is especially uncharacteristic that the lists of fine backs should so heavily outnumber those of first-class forwards.

Eddie Keher and Tommy Walsh apart Kilkenny have not produced any outstanding forwards in a decade. But, in that time she has had many fine defenders and it was they, really, who brought whatever honours the county has won.

The full-backs of the present side are a good example of all that I have been saying. Pa Dillon is a magnificent player with all the skills of the position and a tremendous amount of really fine hurling all-round ability in his make-up, something not always noted in a full-back. And, in the corners are two of the kind of players which have

become the hallmark of Kilkenny teams lately — close, neat, tidy, expert at second-guessing the opponent, quick to read the pull and the break, always poised to chip in and dispossess.

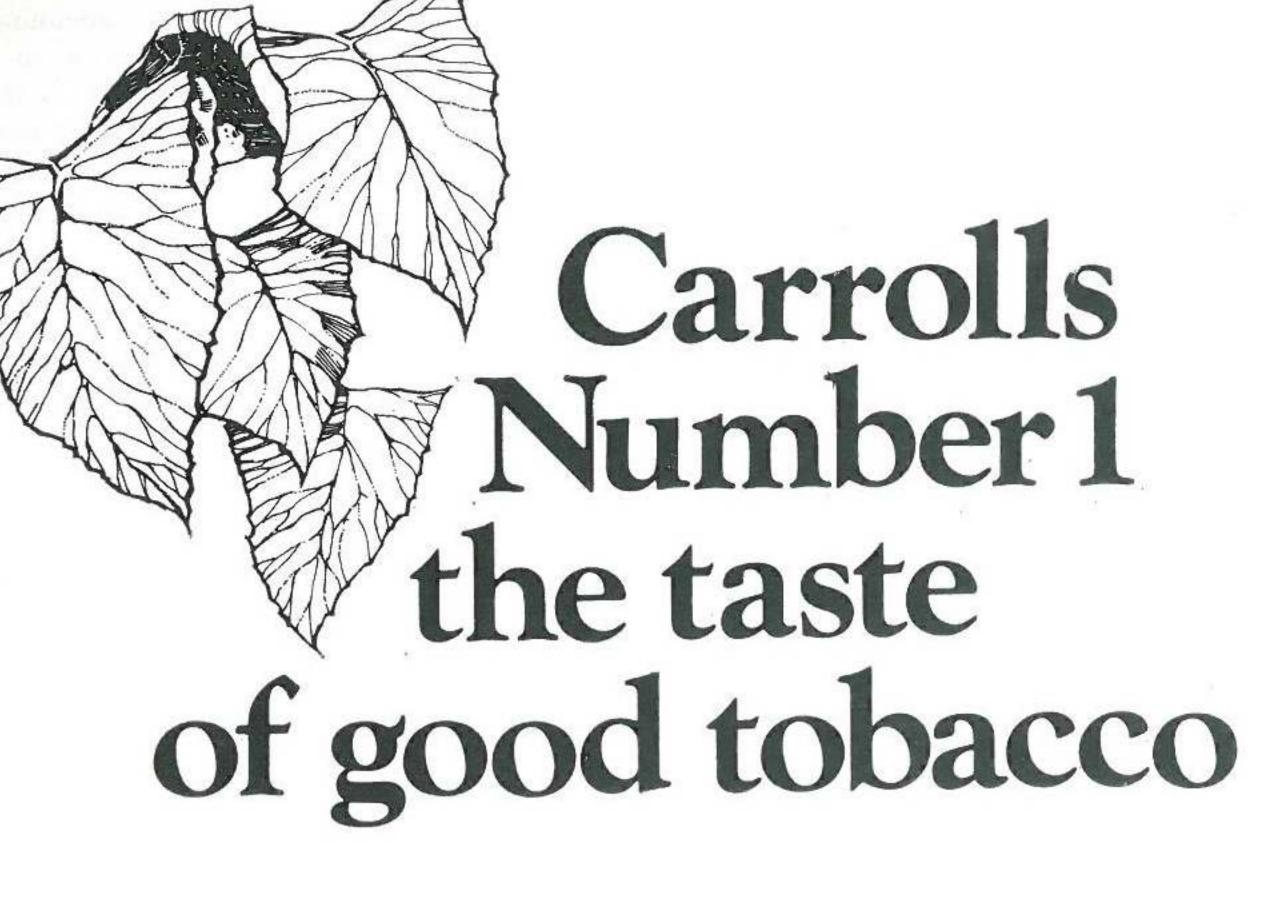
Jim Treacy, snort and chubby, grey as a badger, quite slow to look at, is just the sort of player you could sell short if you didn't know him. Many a corner man with youth and speed on his side has fancied his chances of giving him the run-around and never been able to explain why he didn't.

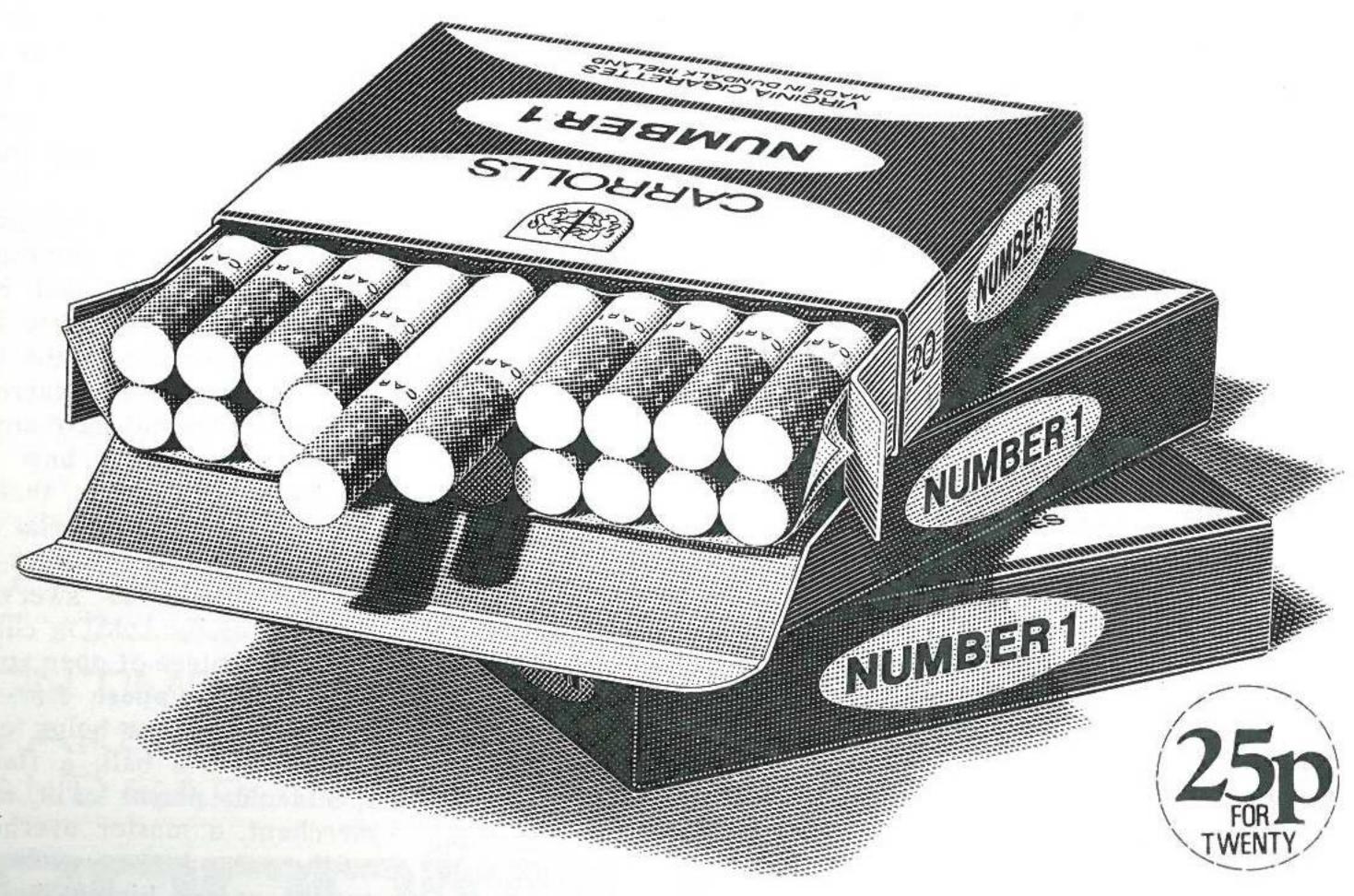
It was, of course, hard for them to notice the specialist technique which has been applied to the left-corner position by the sound little man. Watch him operate. Note how he moves quickly in to the tackle at the crucial moment; how he watches the development of a movement for several stages back, shifts position a bit to cover the danger as it changes and drives at different angles. Note how he gets across to cover every time the full-back is drawn out from his place.

In particular, note the speed of his lift in a tight situation and the near certainty that he will get his puck away once he has gained possession of the ball. It is not his speed that carries him clear; he does not have any great speed. But, note how nicely balanced he is, so that even though he may look flat on his vamps, he can make a quick duck this way or swerve that way to get him past a challenge and into a piece of open space.

I do not suppose Jim Treacy would qualify as being a great striker of the ball, a flashy or spectacular player of it, a speed merchant, a master overhead or on the ground. Nor, surely, would anyone accuse him of being the

● TO PAGE 68







Mick Roche

THE BURDEN ON ROCHE AND KEATING

O compare the present Tipperary team with those great — perhaps unsurpassed teams of the early sixties would not be quite fair. Now that they have emerged from Munster, and in a thrilling final at that, they will be expected to measure up to the status of the teams which had John O'Donoghue at his best; John Doyle, Michael Maher and Kieran Carey; Mick Burns, Tony Wall, Matt O'Gara, Matt Hassett or Len Gaynor; Theo English and Mick Roche; Liam Devaney, John McKenna, Jimmy Doyle, Donie Nealon, Sean McLoughlin, Michael Keating . . . What teams they were!

It is difficult to know how any champions ever could have been so richly endowed as those of Tipperary in that period, and, in particular, when all those stars showed their individual and corporate powers together. For their teamwork was always something more than the sum of their abilities—great as that was in itself.

It is, I say, not fair to compare this team with them, but it will be done. Many, both neutrals who have little experience of Tipperary's form in the few years that they have been in something of an eclipse, and their own followers blinded to mundane reality by the glorious image of the past.

To set the present team in context is my reason for referring at all of the past glories of the Tipperary hurlers. Those teams of the sixties conditioned Tipperary people to expect nothing less than greatness. They got it so often that they have become lulled into a sense of further expectation, as though of right—birthright almost.

But, no county can keep producing all at the same time such players, and any county should be thankful to have even three or four of calibre worthy of matching with their's. That is reality as far as the present side is concerned. They are quite a good team as hurling teams go, but they are no more than that. They have room for improvement, of course, and it is very likely that the winning of the Munster championship in such testing circumstances will be a vital stage in their growing up to full hurling flower.

But, to be honest about it, there are only a few players in the present line-out who would make their places secure in the great Tipperary teams of the early sixties. Roche, of course, and Keating unless he fell into one of his lapses of form. Who else? Tadhg O'Connor might give it a good try for right-half back if Mick Burns were not in top form; Len Gaynor would challenge for left-half though he was probably a more fluid and spectacular player when he was making his presence felt in the last years of the Tony Wall half-line.

That is the total of it. The team is good, but nothing like invincible. After all, it was significant that they were beaten in the League final by Limerick, and you could not say that it was because they were surprised or over-confident, since Limerick had given them ample and repeated warning in the weeks before.

Then, in the Munster final, they were in the direct sort of difficulties for a lot of the first half; for the rest of it they were only fighting a survival battle. In the early part of the second half the surge came and the scores were got which would not come (or they were unable to score) in the League final at the same time.

In the saddle now, with all the Tipperary tradition behind them, they ought to have capitalised on that situation of Limerick's doubt and desperation. They tried honestly enough, goodness knows, but they simply were not able to pile in winning scores that would have made the thrilling tight finish an impossibility. That could never have been the case with the Doyle- Devaney-Nealon-McLough lin-McKenna outfit. They would have trampled all over the struggling opposition.

OVERLEAF



look to DUBTEX for the debonair look

• FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

They would have given an impression of almost superhuman strength, scope and power (and they were not such massive men) as they piled in again and again. And the game would have been won then and there.

But, if I paint such a picture, how is it that Tipperary won at all? Well, as I said, they are a good enough sort of team; they have even enough ability in most places, good triers and moderately skilful. Physically, they are nothing to write home about, but they will not be pushed out of it by anyone either. But, then Limerick had all these things, and they had a bigger team, indeed, and one which had reached a peak of fitness and tremendous determination together with the knowledge that they were well able for Tipperary, as the evidence of multiple League victories showed.

What swung the balance? Well, it is simple really, yet inexplicable. Something we know when we see it, yet cannot for the life of us define it or tell its make-up. It is the same thing that allowed Down eviscerate the massive and well-prepared Derrymen on the very same day. It is that touch of CLASS.

Tipperary would be a team of "scrubbers" but for that touch of class. It exists in two of the very few hurlers now playing who have that quality. You know—Christy Ring had it in abundance; Mick Mackey had it; the Rackards had; Eddie Keher has it . . . and Mick Roche and "Babs" Keating have it.

Keating is enigmatic; he looks quite ordinary for several games; then he plays a game of scope and concentration which only one of the true greats could imagine. Roche, is another case entirely;

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TADHG O'CONNOR: A HURLER OF NEW STATURE

THE story of the rise of Tadhg O'Connor to the status of Tipperary hurler was forced on the selectors and the followers by the rise of Roscrea to be a power in the land. Tadhg O'Connor was one of the stars of the rise, as were Francis Tadhg Murphy, Loughnane, Patsy Roland, Donie Moloney, Joe Tynan, Jack Hannon and, of long-established the course, Kieran Carey.

It took a while for the establishment in Tipperary to accept the new power shift; it always does, I suppose, in a county so gripped in the ascendancy of clubs from a particular area. In Tipperary power had resided so long in the mid-Division that it was a tremendous wrench to accept that Carrick Davins were the best in the county for a time. But, in 1969 and 1970 to witness the overwhelming defeats of Davins by Roscrea, with Thurles Sarsfields and the rest well down the list by that reckoning, was a difficult thing to adjust to.

There was a slowness, perhaps, in reacting, followed by over-reaction. It is argued fairly freely that had Francis Loughnane been brought on to the Tipperary team at half-time or soon after in 1968 that Wexford would never have won. I believe that it is true. But, it is also irrelevant now.

In the aftermath of that disaster and the subsequent retiral of many of the remaining great players of the era then closing, the selectors turned urgently to Roscrea. O'Connor was thrust into the side, as were Loughnane and Roland and Hannon. It was certainly a case of being thrown in at the deep end. A new side being rebuilt, yet the thought of the old one governed what Tipperary expected. Instant success.

Loughnane had the confidence of being close to the side for a time and his successful few minutes in the heel of the hunt in the All-Ireland final was sufficient to show him that he had the ability. But, Tadhg O'Connor had a tough time. Not immediately able to capture the club form for which he has been notable, either at midfield or in the half-backs, he struggled and tried, but failed to please.

Prolonged and reasonable trial was unavailing and the lad was now dogged with a sense of inferiority in inter-county play. A break—he was dropped. Later he came back and was still struggling. Then, quite suddenly, he had the success he needed. And when better than in the Munster final? Things began to go right for him at the beginning of last year's final, and when he found them going right he had the gumption to take the tide at the flood. He tried other things that

By JAY DRENNAN

had always gone wrong and now bullied them into going right.

The man who plays his streak of luck to the utmost is to be admired; O'Connor did and he is a hurler of new stature since. A period of injury and loss of form this year has only partially restrained him, and by the end of this year's Munster final he was again in the saddle and nearing his best. The Croke Park game should suit him, for he plays the ball on its merits. Further, if he marks Eddie Keher, he will have a weighty responsibility, but his closeness is of the combative kind and should see him as successful as anyone can be against Keher, who knows better than anyone how to play the percentages and make them pay.

Like most wing-backs, Tadhg O'Connor is tidy and neat and balanced, quick on his feet and full of energy. You cannot afford to be the statuesque type of wing-half. His urgency carries him forward rather than committing him to a destructive and negative role. So when the break comes, he is usually the one pursuing the ball out from the ruck. If he lacks the edgy speed of the real champions he overcomes that well at wing-half which suits him well. And with Roche to improvise and encourage with insolence, O'Connor seems to play all the better.

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THE DAY TIPP BOUNCED BACK

It is funny, somehow, with all the exciting possibilities of new faces that we have had over the last few months that it should be back again to the old familiar Kilkenny-Tipp pairing for the final. On the surface, that is. For we should have bargained for the fact that much of the expectancy about newcomers and their potentialities had only to go fractionally astray and we were stuck with the old timers.

I think there is a bit of a feeling of let down around the country about this final, rather unfairly let it be said, for the sense of anticipation had been a little unreasonably raised with a thrill of novelty. Mostly, thousands will be mourning Limerick; some will be regretting Offaly's or Galway's absence; many others thought Wexford were bringing some order into the chaos which

has surrounded their development of overflowing talents.

But, in the aftermath, why blame Tipperary (the main whipping boys because of their defeat of Limerick) and Kilkenny who are here in the final strictly on merit and by applying the best of their ability when it was most needed.

Somehow, nearly as much has been said in the past weeks about why Limerick did not come out of Munster as why Tipperary did. It was, of course, a tragedy for the Limerick players and their hungry supporters. But, it was a joy to Tipperary the depth of which has not been properly appreciated because of the apparent ever-presence of the blue-and-gold on big occasions.

Tipperary were, in fact, rather in the position of Kerry. They had begun to wonder at their

own ability; begun to doubt that something might have gone wrong in the genes of the later generations. The constant tradition of Tipperary's facility in breeding champion hurlers had taken a severe rap or two in the last few years. It is hard to realise that the last time they won the All-Ireland was in 1965 (and, incidentally, hard also to appreciate that 1967 was the last time we had a Tipp-Kilkenny final). They took a drubbing from Limerick in the very first round in 1966; Kilkenny broke a lifetime bogey in 1967; they won Munster but had a humiliating experience which seemed to cast doubt on their morale and virility in the 1968 final against Wexford.

The next year was one they would like to forget, for there was utter despair in the broad acres of the county after the poor effort against Cork. Last year, at least, there was a revival of pride in the understanding that by running Cork to a whisker they had shown that better times might be round the corner.

The Oireachtas win was balm to hurt feelings; it restored some of the spring into footsteps that had been heavy and laborious. What if the League game was lost to Cork — it was a close run thing, and there were combative days ahead in the championship against the ould enemy.

But, then Limerick beat them in their ordinary League round; caught on hop, obviously. Then Limerick beat them in the playoff — heavens, was it possible they hadn't the stuff in them after all. And Limerick beat them in the League final after the false glories of the Cork semifinal, so all was in the melting pot again. Tipperary people, I tell you, had a lot at stake in that

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Eddie Keher

KEHER SCALES NEW PEAK

By OWEN McCANN

EDDIE KEHER is proving very target conscious in the current Championship. Indeed, he has already scaled one new peak in that his score of 2-18 (24 points) in two matches, which earns him ranking as the top scorer in the Leinster campaign, is a personal best for the Eastern series. This is three points more than his previous top score for Leinster of 3-12 in two games in 1967.

The latest achievement by the ever-vigilant Rower-Inistioge score-getter supreme raises the possibility of the All-Ireland senior final being marked by a noteworthy individual scoring barrage. The extra twenty minutes playing time should, in theory, increase the prospects of a spectacular "hit", but in fact, the first 80 minutes decider last year failed by a margin of three points to produce a new record in this regard.

Charlie McCarthy finished the top scorer in that clash of Cork and Wexford with 1-9. His score just pipped a tally put up as far back as 1957 for second place in the chart of individual scoring returns in finals during the period 1955 to 1970 inclusive.

Leading the way is Eddie Keher with a classic display of skill and dexterity that yielded a magnificent total of 0-14, ten points from frees, in the win over Waterford in 1963, the year he won the first of his three All-Ireland senior medals. Under-

INDIVIDUAL SCORING CHART

Here are the leading individual scoring returns in All-Ireland Senior Hurling finals since 1955.

14	0-14	E. KEHER (Kilkenny) v Waterford		 1963
12	1-9	C. McCARTHY (Cork) v Wexford		 1970
11	2.5	M. KENNY (Kilkenny) v Waterford		 1957
10	0-10	J. DOYLE (Tipperary) v Kilkenny		 1964
10	3-1	E. O'BRIEN (Cork) v Wexford		 1970
9	1-6	C. McCARTHY (Cork) v Kilkenny		 1969
9	3-0	S. POWER (Waterford) v Kilkenny		 1963
9	0-9	J. DOYLE (Tipperary) v Dublin		 1961
9	0-9	PADGE KEHOE (Wexford) v Tipperary		 1960
9	3-0	*T. O'CONNELL (Kilkenny) v Waterford		 1959
	1-6	P. GRIMES (Waterford) v Kilkenny		 1957
9	1-0	*Drawn Final	9	-



Charlie McCarthy

standably, the fluent-striking Kilkenny hurler finished top scorer for All-Ireland in the championship series that season with 2-25 (31 points) in three engagements, the only year so far in which he filled that role.

With so many great scores to his credit, totals like 2-7 against Dublin in this year's Leinster semi-final at Carlow, and 1-9

League play-off at Waterford last May, it is surprising that the Kilkenny ace commands only one place in the chart of the top eleven scores in finals in the period under review. His best since the 1963 record was put up in 1969 at a modest enough 0-8 in the win over Cork. He had his lowest score in 1964, when he shot 0-2 against Tipperary.

Charlie McCarthy's jump to second place last year also earned for the Cork man a share with Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary) in a record. These are the only hurlers to figure twice in the chart.

McCarthy first made the scene

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Michael Keating

KEATING'S TALENT BLOOMS AGAIN

By OWEN McCANN

THE All-Ireland final could well set the most fitting seal of all on 1971 as the year of Michael "Babs" Keating. All season he has been walking tall, lacing his skills and wholehearted endeavour on the football and hurling fields with a consistent standard of high-level performance that has hardly been equalled, and certainly not bettered, by any athlete in the land.

And his considerable talents have had so much to do with Tipperary's achievement in already clinching an outstanding titles double. This is the National Football League Division II title, carrying with it the bonus of a place among the football elite in the 1971-72 competition, and the Munster Senior Hurling Championship.

Keating's return to the hurling team after concentrating for some months on inter-county football was one of the best things that happened to Tipperary in the ancient code this year. He had only a few comeback games to his credit when he sent Tipperary fans home delighted and greatly impressed from the National League semi-final in Limerick in May with a power-packed performance that well

and truly knocked Cork off their throne.

Many argue, in fact, that the burly Grange-Ballybacon man turned on in that game an individual show unsurpassed in hurling in modern times. Certainly, one thing is beyond dispute-the pace, power and class he exhibited in such exciting measure against Cork had all the hallmarks of an artist supremely in command of his role, and must have given Tipperary hurling a tremendous uplift at the right psychological moment. Prior to that win, Tipperary were twice beaten, of course, by Limerick in the League.

Limerick made it a unique treble over the competition specialists in the League final, but Michael Keating saw to it that his county took ample revenge in that exhilarating Munster decider at Killarney. Praise, and rightly so, the sheer magic of Mick Roche's hurling, the power of Len Gaynor, the progressive work of John Flanagan, who also hit that dramatic winning point, but it was still the persistence and shooting power of their 27-year-old dualstar that really turned the key to a first title since 1968 for Tipperary.

Two great goals from his

hurley early on in the second half, and a third about 15 minutes from the final whistle were invaluable stimulants in powering Tipperary along the victory trail.

This current wonderful form, allied to all his class and great experience, marks out Michael Keating as a threat that Kilkenny cannot afford to overlook for a second. But then the Leinster title-holders probably appreciate this better than most, for it was only at the dawn of his senior inter-county career that this Tipperary ace left high Kilkenny hopes in tatters in the 1964 All-Ireland final.

As a minor he had the somewhat surprising lack of fortune for a Tipperary hurler of appearing in no fewer than three All-Ireland finals (1960, 1961 and 1962) without winning a single medal. However, he had a full measure of compensation for those earlier disappointments on his debut in a senior decider in that 1964 clash with Kilkenny, who were defending champions.

Keating injured his right wrist in an accident on the day before the final, but that still did not stop him from producing the goods in the No. 12 jersey in sparkling fashion, and with an exactness that paid rich divi-

'Tipperary have gone from strength to strength since his comeback'

dends for his team, and marked him out as the outstanding figure of that game.

Understandably enough, Keating was honoured by Munster in the 1965 Railway Cup hurling series, won by Leinster, but subsequently, he lost his form and his place in the Tipperary team. He did not play in the winning All-Ireland final side of 1965, but later that month figured in the 1965 League final win over New York. He was in the Tipperary teams that lost the 1967 and 1968 All-Ireland finals, and collected another League medal in 1968, again against New York.

The versatile Tipperary man won interprovincial hurling medals in 1968 and 1970, and he has also, of course, been honoured many times by the South in the football series. Munster however, have not won that title since back in 1949.

This year Michael Keating's talents look to have burst into full flower. Tipperary have gone from strength to strength since his comeback to their side in the spring, and gifted as he is with his team-spirit, confidence, that thundering shot, and a flair also at present for consistently getting among the scores, he could well tilt the balance for the Munster Champions.



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● FROM PAGE 19

in 1969 with 1-6 in that clash with Kilkenny. He was the ace marksman in the decider that year, and so ranks as the only player to earn that position in deciders on successive years.

Jimmy Doyle had his most productive hour in the scoring line against Kilkenny in 1964 with a collection of ten points from frees. Just ten years ago, the Tipperary sharpshooter landed 0-9 against Dublin.

Mick Kenny held down the No. 2 spot until last year as a result of his fine score of 2-5 for Kilkenny in their 1957 win over Waterford. That was somewhat a vintage year scorewise, as Phil Grimes led the way for the Southerners with 1-6.

Eddie O'Brien's feat in finding the way to the net three times last year (the Cork man also hit a point for good measure) was not all that unusual. In that record-making 1963 final Seamus Power took some of the scoring light from Keher with three goals, and in 1959, Terry O'Connell notched 3-0 for Kilkenny in a draw with Waterford.

O'Connell is the third Kilkenny hurler in the panel—a record for any county. Cork also boast three entries, but, of course, Charlie McCarhy commands two of those places.

Galway's only appearances in the concluding round in the period were against Wexford in 1955, and Tipperary in 1958. In that 1955 match Paddy Egan registered the best Western score at 2-1.

The 1955 decider featured two of the greatest score-takers of them all, Nick Rackard, of Wexford and Christy Ring, of Cork. They shared the top mark for the tie with amazingly enough exactly the same score of 1-5. Wexford won the tie.

PERSONAL MEMORIES OF OLDEN HEROES

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

DAN Stapleton, who captained Kilkenny to the county's second All-Ireland success, away back in 1905, was a close friend of my family in the Marble City away back in the glorious years of the fight for national independence.

It was from him I learned much about the traditions of hurling, and he was undoubtedly my boyhood sporting hero, and when he visited our house I was fascinated by his stories of the rise of Kilkenny to national fame with the Caman.

Many years have passed since those happy carefree days but I still remember much of what he told me about a remarkable spell in the story of hurling by the Nore.

His pride in his native Kilkenny suffered its first set-back when as a student at Rockwell in 1898, a Clare lad, Tim Collison, said to him just before the All-Ireland final that "poor Kilkenny hadn't got a chance against Tubberadora." And so it turned out. Kilkenny had in six years appeared in the final four times and were beaten on each occasion.

Dan vowed that one day Kilkenny would just have that chance—and it came earlier than he expected. Tullaroan, captained by Jer Doheny, had won the Championship. Leinster 1903 Meantime, a young team, Erin's Own, had sprung up in the city, which Dan joined on leaving

Rockwell, and they created a great surprise by winning the county title. As a result, Biddy Lanigan, Tom Kenny and Dan were drafted on to the county side. This fresh blood infused a new life into Kilkenny and helped in shaping the side that in the next ten years won the All-Ireland title on seven occasions, and the inter-provincial Railway Shield outright from the pick of Munster.

Hurling enthusiasm knew no bounds in those days and people flocked from all sides simply to see the brilliant caman wielding of the stars.

Dan spoke feelingly of some of them-Matty Gargan, with his piston-like grab and low, lefthanded drive of unerring accuracy towards the posts. Jack Anthony of Piltown, whose wristcontrolled shot has not been surpassed, and only equalled by Matty Power. John Power of Piltown, whose puck-outs from goal have yet to be excelled-on several occasions at Jones' Road, from the Canal end, John put the ball over the goal line at the Railway end. Then there were Dan Kennedy, Erin's Own; Tom Murphy, Three Castles and Tom Semple, Thurles, all stars of the seventy yards. The two former on one occasion, tied in the rise and strike of the hurling at Kilkenny sports with a distance of 129 yards—Dan winning the puck-off with 131 yards.

Then there was Jack Rochfort • TO PAGE 45



FORD LEADS THE WAY

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Waterford Glass invest £5,000

MR. PAT FANNING, President, accepted on behalf of the G.A.A., a presentation of a £5,000, long-term interest-free loan from Waterford Glass Ltd., at a recent function in the Ardree Hotel, Waterford. Mr. Patrick McGrath, Chairman, made the presentation on behalf of Waterford Glass Ltd.

Accepting the presentation, Mr. Fanning said: "The G.A.A. Club Development Scheme was introduced over a year ago. Its purpose was the creation of a fund from which clubs would borrow to finance approved plans of social for developments centres, the better to serve and meet the cultural and social, as well as the athletic needs of G.A.A. members, their families and, indeed, the needs of the community, the parish, the district in which the club is rooted. Moneys borrowed would be repaid at a low rate of interest over a maximum period of five years, thus ensuring a constant renewal of the fund and a continuing service to the clubs.

"Simple in concept and design, it was, nonetheless, a bold and imaginative idea, a new departure in G.A.A. thinking and planning, an act of faith in the future of the Association and, above all, an outstanding exercise in self-help. It was an idea that deserved to succeed through the enthusiasm of our membership and the wonderful co-operation of people generally, it has

commanded that success. Already close on £250,000 has been invested in the scheme, a figure that far outstrips the target set for the first year of operation. Clubs in each of our thirty-two counties have taken units. Individuals, many of them non-members of the Association, have invested.

"But perhaps the most encouraging, and the most significant feature of this success story has been the readiness with which major industrial concerns in the country have identified with, and made considerable investments in, the Development Scheme.

"Here was reflected and emphasised the quite natural, essential connection there is, and should be, between a national organisation, dedicated to the preservation of our Irish way of life, and Irish industry.

"It is particularly significant that Waterford Glass Ltd., whose product required, first of all, the restoration of an old tradition, a lost skill, and whose growth is one of the great success stories of modern Ireland, should now identify, in a generous and practical way, with the G.A.A. plan to brighten the Irish scene through the G.A.A. club.

Mr. Patrick W. McGrath, Chairman, Waterford Glass Ltd., said: "Waterford Glass has played a significant part in the industrial development of our country, and it is particularly fitting that we should be asso-

ciated in advancing the aims of the G.A.A. which, for so long, has played such a vital part in the revival and advancement of our national games.

"Waterford Glass has been involved in sponsoring various organisations in all the different fields of sport and, naturally, as a sportsman and one keenly intrested in all aspects of Irish sport, it is with great pleasure that I present this cheque to the President of the G.A.A. I hope it will go a long way to helping the G.A.A. in its plans to develop clubs throughout the country, and I am sure the Association will be all the more widely supported now that it has broadened its base."

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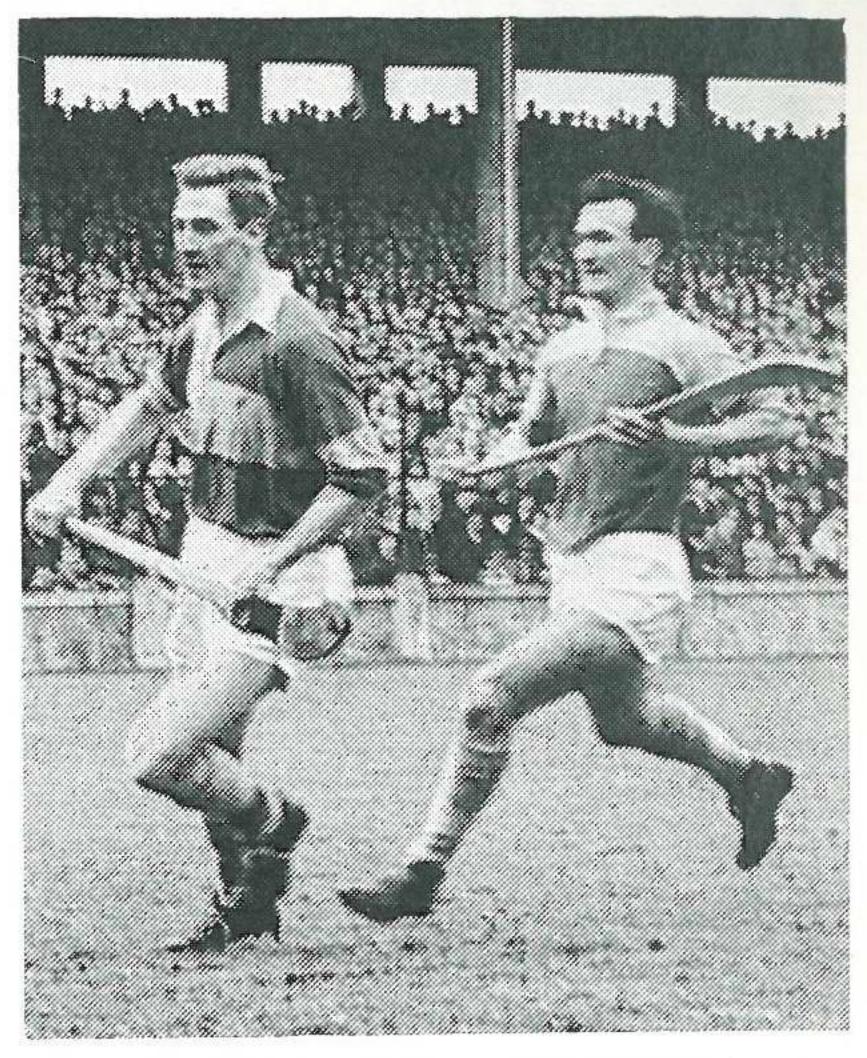
That day in Killarney when the Reeks sobbed down on the lot of us and the rivulets ran down my spine, was one of these contests that live in memory and paint perhaps a picture for to-day . . . again if we can see it.

Before the game, although I give place to none in respect for Tipperary, I thought it was Limerick by a shade. Cork were bad and they had beaten us by only two points but on the day it should have been more. Still Cork were short five of last year's selection and were playing a few crocked men. Limerick were obviously no world-beaters but more than one ordinary team has won the blue riband.

It was Limerick's fitness that won me. They had the dash and the fire; the ability to sustain these would be compensation enough for any lack of hurling ability. The All-Ireland was another thing and I fancied Kilkenny then, but surely they would scrape home in the Munster championship.

I don't say that the full Limerick team were mediocre

By Eamonn Young



Donie Nealon (left) . . . now Tipperary's shrewd team manager.

hurlers. Some of them are in the star class but there were not enough stars and there were too many honest run-of-the-mill hurlers whose potential was fully exploited by good training and fighting hearts.

That's why they didn't destroy Cork and that's why they ran around Tipp. in the first half in Killarney. They were yards faster at times and I saw Donie Flynn dash to a ball, get it, fall in possession and get up again to strike before anyone got near him. I said then to my friend, "There will be only one team in this with twenty minutes to go and it won't be Tipp."

That first half showed Limerick plainly superior but that dominance was not proved in figures and so they had to start all over again in the second half. It reminded me of the Munster

football final seven days earlier when at the interval, the Kingdom had only four points over Cork after forty minutes of reasonable superiority. Limerick had only six points clear with the grimmest part of the journey still to come.

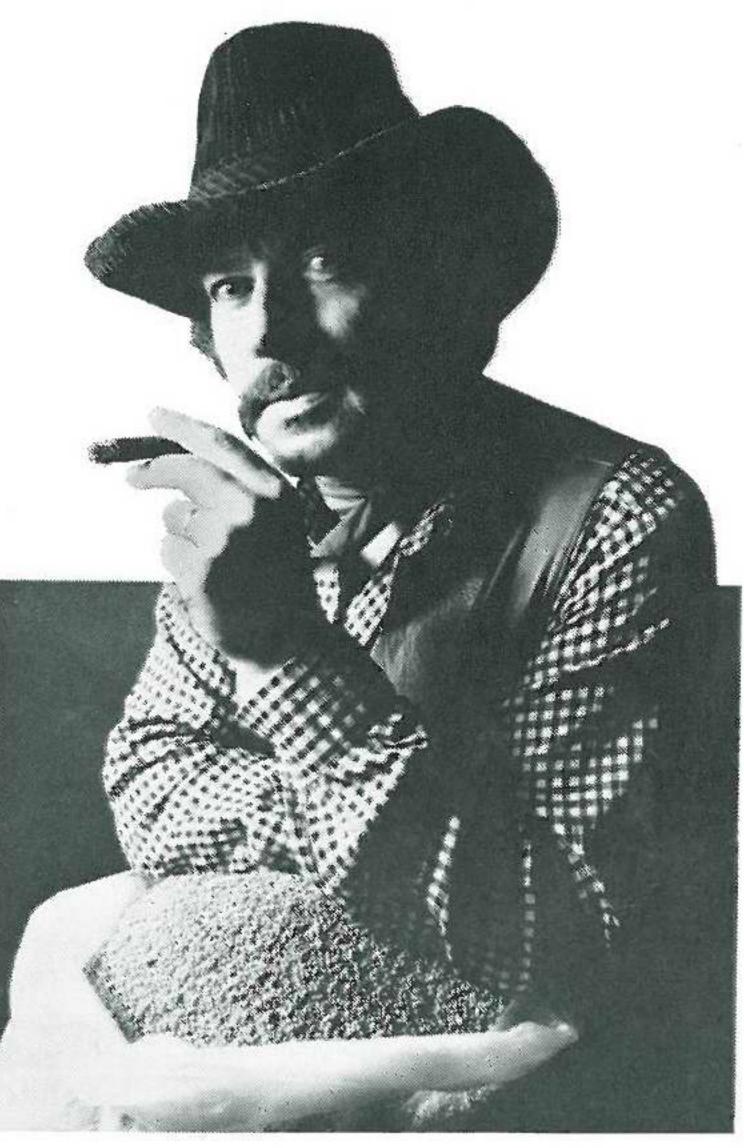
It is true to say that we saw the real Tipp. only in the second half. Men like Mick Roche. Francis Loughnane, John Flanagan and Mick Keating were quiet enough in the first half; after the interval they went to town and those boys can travel. Tadhg O'Connor, Len Gaynor, Noel O'Dwyer and Dinny Ryan had been playing steadily throughout and these complemented the efforts of the awakened men.

Apart from releasing Mick Keating to the freedom of the corner after forty minutes of Pat

● TO PAGE 29

Goulding strikes oil!

Revolutionary new fertiliser discovery by Goulding sold to a Texas oil company



One of the most important announcements made recently by the Goulding Group concerned the sale by Goulding of the patents for a newly developed process for manufacturing highly concentrated fertiliser to Pennzoil United Inc., the multi-million-dollar Texas oil and mining corporation, who also produce fertiliser raw materials.

This new development in fertilisers, Marina Salt, has been discovered by Goulding in Ireland after years of intensive research. A development of considerable signifi-

cance for world crops, it gives the highest concentration of phosphates and potash ever achieved in any fertiliser. In addition, it provides a fertiliser which is chlorine free and particularly suitable for use as a liquid fertiliser.

This is the kind of endeavour that the Goulding Group are able to bring about by constant application in the fields of research and development. It points the way Goulding are going in Irish industry. Other companies in the Group are showing in their diverse fields a steady confident progress. These are the youthful, progressive Group members, who have made their presence felt in recent years, bringing about something of a transformation in the Group which is still going on. Keep watching...

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FROM PAGE 27

Hartigan, the arrival of very strong, heavy Roger Ryan saw the sliotar staying more around the square. All forwards like to see the ball broken around the square for the advantage then lies with the scorers. The back has little chance to slap it away any great distance while the forward has only to drive it ten vards past a goalie often unsighted. Bustling men of strength are thus useful in the square and just now I see Roger Ryan as a suitable opponent for Pa Dillon, with a lot of lively boys cutting in for the broken ball.

Limerick had a spot of rough luck in that at least two of the important men were off form. A full fifteen will never play really well and one can only hope that the few who are below form won't be very bad or very vital. Unfortunately for Limerick, a couple of these were, and that too must be remembered when we assess Tipp.

So the Munster champions of '71 beat a team which at its best is not, in my opinion, a real champion side, by which I mean a selection which is capable of winning a couple of All-Irelands on the trot or two out of three. Also, that side was, on the day, below its best and still it nearly won.

Tipp., on the other hand, have a real steady side with about seven who, on their day, are above average inter-county ability. A couple of them are capable of winning games on their own. Add to this the men behind the team, Ossie Bennett, Jerry Doyle, Donie Nealon, Theo English and the rest. Not all selectors and trainers are good and quite a number of them become subject to a steadilyrising brain-storm an hour before the game—and come up with delightful solutions after it's over. But Tipp. back-room boys



From a battle of the Sixties — Denis Heaslip of Kilkenny and Michael Maher of Tipperary.

seem to be with it. I didn't approve either of Donie Nealon's ball-juggling in Killarney, but his presence of mind does invite respect. The good selector is the man who does the right thing for his team—within or without the rules—ON THE SPOT and not over a drink three hours later.

Tipp. have a lot to recommend them for this final. I thought that Kilkenny would be beating Limerick to-day, but instead of pups on the boreen we'll be seeing a lot of old dogs, plus a few hungry young ones, on the hard roads from Nore and Suir. The side which gets its leader on to the stand after the game will probably be that which feels most the truth in "Die dog or eat the hatchet."

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HURLING NEEDS LIMERICK



Richie Bennis

By SEAN RICE

HURLING has been so tightly gripped by about four teams in recent years that neutrals will look upon Limerick's defeat in the Munster final with disappointment.

For hurling needs Limerick. So much was promised by their National League win and subsequent championship success over All-Ireland champions Cork that not alone was their emergence seen as a fillip to young hurlers in their own county but an incentive to hurlers in Galway and Offaly who must have despaired of ever making a breakthrough.

To be sure Limerick have set the seeds for future success. But they will need care. For newness can also be the seed of unpredictability. And in a province that has produced the greatset hurling and hurlers of our time there can be little room for inconsistency.

It is no reflection on Kilkenny to say that if Limerick had emerged they would have stood more than an outside chance of taking the All-Ireland title. In my opinion only the puck of a ball stood between them and that possibility.

As it is they have done remark-

ably well. Their displays in the championship confirmed that their League success was no fluke. And indeed it may well be that, satisfying as that victory was, it also contributed to their downfall in the championship.

They had beaten Tipperary three times in the League. And Tipperary are too long on the road, too tempered by the rigours of championship hurling not to have learned from those experiences.

They knew where Limerick's strength and weaknesses lay, and if they did not fully plug their own weaknesses they had men like Mick Roche and Michael Keating who did more than two men's share to offset these deficiencies.

Cork had no such experience, and paid the price. It may also be true to say that Galway and Kilkenny would also have fallen; and of the two the match with Galway would have been the tougher. For Galway would have seen Limerick as something nearer their own style and experience, and would have drawn on the southerners' success to reinforce their own confidence.

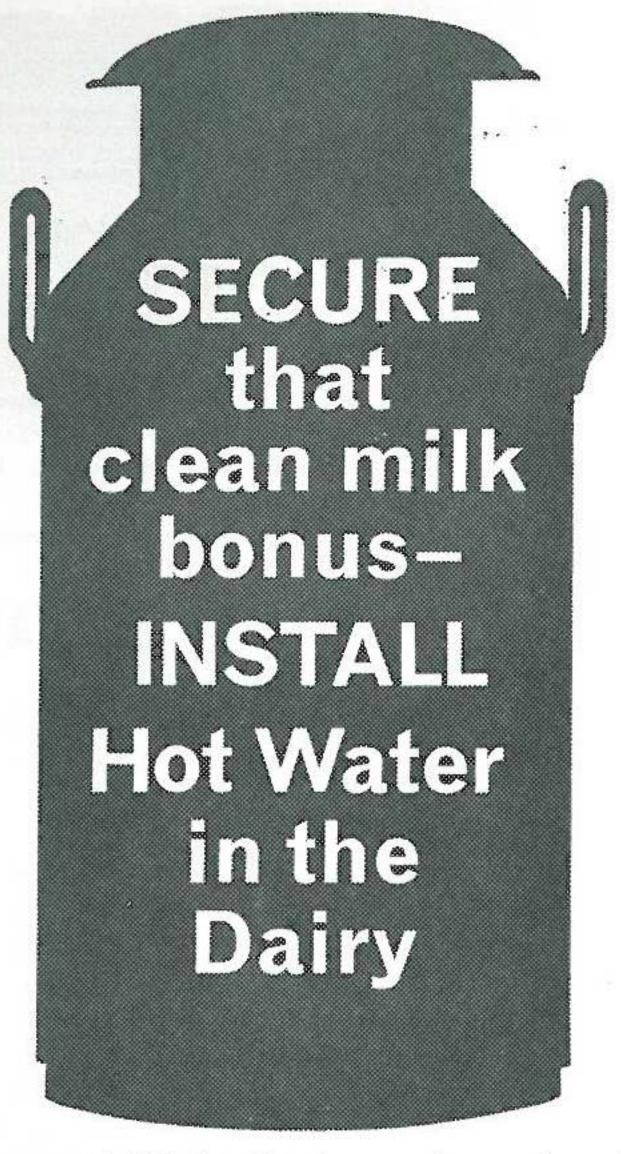
But, you know, the arguments that followed the Munster final about Tipperary's switching of the ball for vital frees is typical of what can be culled by hardened mentors.

It may be unfair, and Limerick people have a right to feel that they were outwitted by the Tipperary mentors rather than outplayed by their hurlers. But it is an indication of the depth of thought of the men behind the Tipp team. In football, Down and Galway have shown this flair on more than one occasion.

The trouble is that all this must surely have an adverse effect on immature teams like Galway and Limerick who have not the hurling tradition of Cork and Tipp.

as football the weaker teams would have a better chance of succeeding. Limerick have shown that they are not very far behind the best teams, but it remains to be seen if they can retain the same fire and enthusiasm that was so much part of their league success.

It would be a pity if hurling were to lose Limerick again. The greatest field game in the world needs Limerick and Galway. Strange, that great as it is, hurling is not the most popular even in its own home.

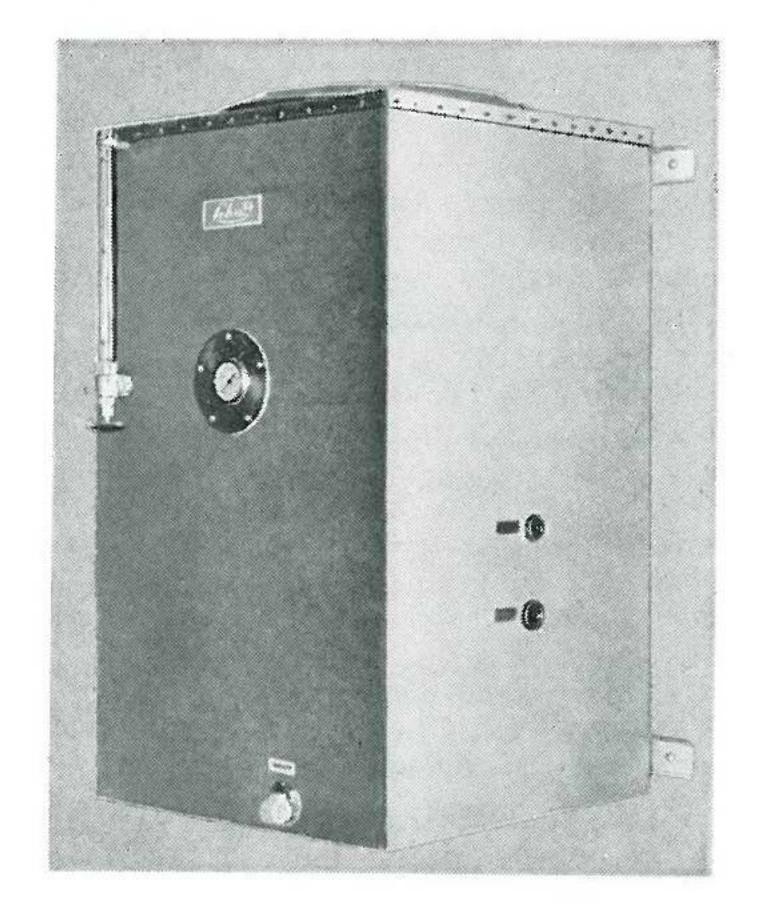


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Yes, a half is a long time in some games

By
PHILIP RODERICK

REFERENCE DEPT.

THERE was something about them that caught the eye and I suppose because I had little else to occupy my mind on that fine summer's afternoon as I walked along Jones's Road to Croke Park, I found myself watching them—and enjoying it.

They had the proud countryman's walk, that confident step you used to get years ago on a country road before the world got drunk on petrol and went mad with motor cars.

For as long as they were on it that Sunday afternoon, Jones's Road belonged to them. Even the Lord himself wouldn't have shifted them from the middle of it.

They tramped along there, stepping it out lively with a beat that was as satisfyingly regular as the tick of a grandfather clock and with a poise that would have brought a happy smile to a disgruntled sergeantmajor, if there had been one around.

The conversation appeared to be intense. They were oceans deep in chat and I daresay it had to be the weather . . . or the hay . . . or the crops.

I caught up with them and passed them just as they got to the turnstiles. After a little hesitation they followed me to the "tickets only" stile. I had my press pass and I was about to warn them that no money would

be taken at this particular stile when I noticed that they had their tickets.

With tickets for a Kildare v Meath Leinster football semifinal, they had to be men of G.A.A. substance somewhere in either Kildare or Meath. Or could it be that they were old hurling men from either Wexford or Offaly?

No indeed, they were football men. That was clear from the conversation going on behind me in the queue.

"There's a fair share of Meath men here today."

"Begor there is, but there's a few from Kildare, too."

"Ah sure, it's a day out for all of us."

"Too true. I hope now we'll get a good game. I suppose Meath have the winning of it."

"I don't know now at all. I don't think they're as good as they were last year and God knows they weren't too good then either."

"But sure, what do you make of Kildare? They're up one minute and down the next. You never know when you have them."

"Still, they might win and that wouldn't be a bad thing at all."

"True, but let's all hope now that we'll get a good game."

"I'm glad it's the first game.

We'll be out of here by 4 o'clock and on our way home."

"You're in a fierce hurry.

Aren't you going to stay for the hurling game?"

"Lord no, I have no interest at all in it. Anyway Wexford will win it handy enough and there will be no bite in it."

"God knows now, we've come far enough for today and I think we could stop on for the hurling."

"You know yourself, you're not very interested in it. The football will be plenty for us."

"Well, let's stay for a bit of it, anyway."

"Not long now mind you. A few minutes of it will be enough. Maybe a quarter of an hour."

"Ah now, we could stay for half of it. It might be a great game. Offaly might be a bit of a surprise."

"A half is a long time."

"Come on out of that now. We'll stay for one half and then we'll go."

"Well, maybe we will. Alright, we'll stay for just the one half —nothing more."

"Good begor. That's grand.

And which half will we stay for

the first or the second?"

There was a long pause after that and then it was time to pass through the turnstiles and I'm afraid I lost them at that stage.

And Lord love us, I'll never know now which half they did stay for.

Trumps in Kilken

By

MUNSTER teams have dominated the hurling headlines to such a great extent in recent months that it seems very hard to credit now that Leinster are, in fact, holders of the Railway Cup. However, the Eastern province well-deserved a five points win last St. Patrick's Day for a first final victory since 1967.

That last major success by Leinster over Munster opposition takes on a new interest in the context of the All-Ireland senior final, for the game underlined yet again the way in which Kilkenny can consistently produce the type of hurler who can take a grip on a match, stamp it with his own individual qualities, and affect the course of the outcome.

In the St. Patrick's Day decider Frank Cummins maintained in a special way the Kilkenny reputation for a man for the occasion. The 23-year-old Knocktopher man linked up with Dave Bernie (Wexford) in a midfield partnership that proved the engine room of the Leinster success, and for good measure, Cummins embellished his contribution with a couple of valuable points.

But the tall, burly Garda, who is stationed in Cork, where he now plays with the Blackrock club had demonstrated his worth as a vital match-winner long before the afternoon he collected his first Railway Cup medal. Indeed, one of his best contributions graced an All-Ireland senior

final, and that at the time when he was just again advertising his claims for a regular midfield berth in the Kilkenny team.

Cummins had been out of the Kilkenny side for a spell when the Noresiders faced up to London in the 1969 All-Ireland semi-final, but during that winning effort he was sent in as a substitute, and retained his place for the Liam McCarthy Cup clash with Cork.

In an area in which many expected the Munster champions to have an important advantage because of sparkling form earlier by Denis Coughlan, Frank Cummins, with his persistent and progressive hurling in a very effective partnership, with Michael Lawlor, played an outstanding



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OWEN McCANN

part at midfield in bringing the title to Kilkenny for the 17th time.

Cummins won hurling medals in Colleges' competitions, but strangely enough for a Kilkenny native, he first caught my eye as a footballer with the Belcamp, Dublin, side beaten by St. Columb's, Derry, in the 1965 All-Ireland Colleges' senior final. Only a little over a year later he made his debut with the Kilkenny senior hurling team against Wexford in the Oireachtas Cup.

He enters this latest final outing with the confidence, the classic touches, work-rate and all-round ability to express himself fully by ensuring that it will take vigilance and plenty of effort on

the part of the opposition to clip his wings. In short, this 6ft. midfielder must loom as a hurler capable of magical moments that could prove match-winning factors on their own.

But this could also be said of so many in this Kilkenny side. In nearly every department there is a name linked with some of the brightest moments of Kilkenny hurling . . . moments like the 1965-66 National League "Home" final, in which Kilkenny broke a 44-year bogey by beating Tipperary.

Martin Coogan had his reputation made, a near five-year inter-county senior career behind him, and one All-Ireland senior medal (1963) to his credit when he boosted the old Noreside with



Frank Cummins

a gilt-edge performance in the No. 7 jersey that fashioned in a spectacular manner that first Kilkenny win in over four decades over Tipperary in a major national final.

The Castlecomer man was truly superb. With a showing that bristled with enthusiasm, industry and inspiration, he proved an inflexible barrier for Kilkenny, a brilliant master on the left flank, who also found the time and energy to efficiently cut out attacking movements away from his own sector.

It is over five years since that high-point in Coogan's career, and he is also now in the winter of his inter-county career at 31. However, anyone who saw his

● TO PAGE 36

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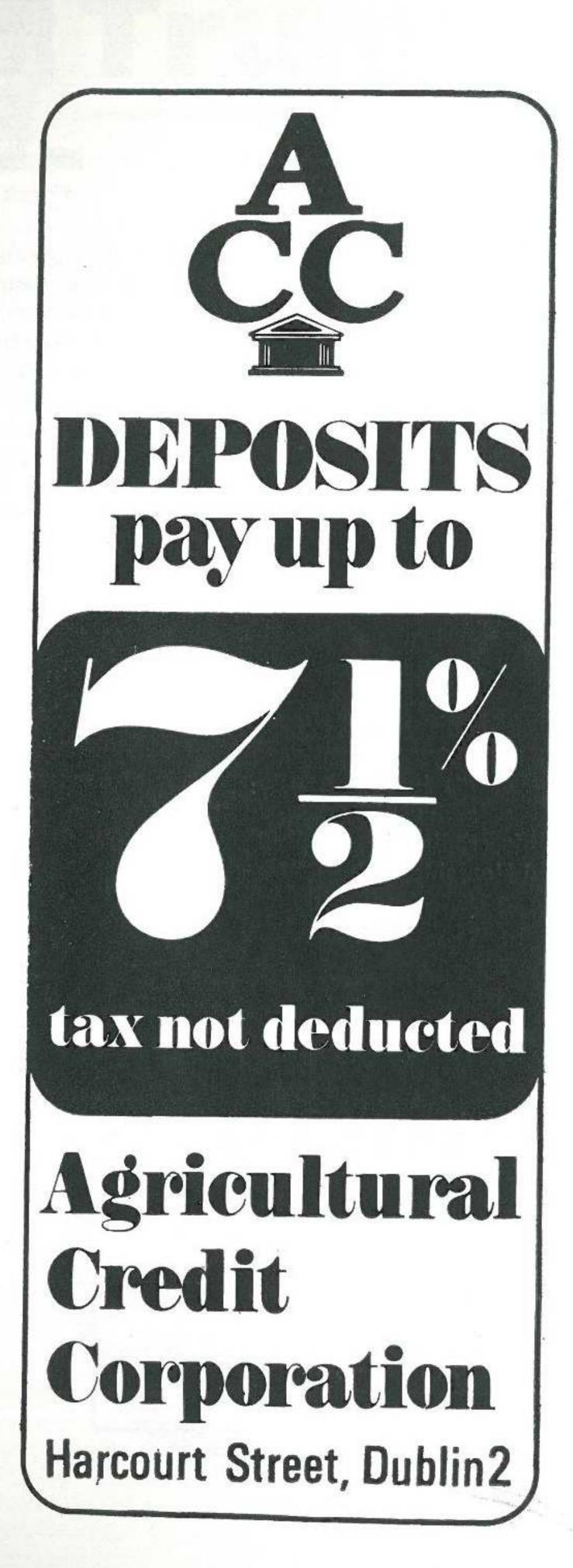
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● FROM PAGE 35

showing of cool, intelligent and solid hurling, and his lengthy striking in play and from frees, in the Kilkenny win over Wexford in the Leinster final, the team's most serious test so far in the series, will need no convincing that Martin Coogan remains an outstanding man to have in any team.

Coogan made his competitive senior debut in the 1961 Leinster Championship, and he was also in Kilkenny's All-Ireland winning teams of 1967 and 1969.

The last Kilkenny-Tipperary All-Ireland senior final in 1967 resulted in the Leinster county scoring their first win over the Munster county in a Champion-ship final since the 1922 decider. There were some grand displays in that game, but few to equal Ollie Walsh in goal.

Coolness, vigilance, dynamic saving, lengthy striking . . . that was the formula for a display of sheer class and brilliance from Walsh. Upwards to as many as half-a-dozen saves in the first half, particularly, just had to be seen to be believed.

Now he is back after a layoff. And the 34-year-old Thomastown man, with the vital bonus
that is the great experience of
having already played in no
fewer than seven All-Ireland
finals since 1957, when Kilkenny
beat Waterford, must obviously
rank as yet another hurler who
could spark off a victory effort
yet again.

Then, there is Eddie Keher, who will always be remembered for a classic scoring exhibition in the 1963 All-Ireland final win over Waterford. He pointed no fewer than fourteen times that day.

One could go on and on. What is now pretty obvious, however, is that whatever fate awaits Kilkenny in this latest title bid. this quartet won't let them down.



The Cork Minor Hurlers—champions of 1970

THE MINOR FINAL monumentum monumentum By NEIL McCAVANA

CORK CAN ACHIEVE HAT-TRICK

A FEATURE of the provincial championships that greatly irked me—and I also heard many complaints on the same score from other enthusiasts—was the policy of having a 1 p.m. starting time for some minor and junior matches this year.

Now, it is completely unrealistic to expect supporters to get to any ground in time for a start as early as 1 p.m., and when such a game also acts as a curtain-raiser on a three-match programme, as was the case on a number of Sundays this summer, its appeal is hit even more. After all, it takes real enthusiasm and effort to view three ties on the same afternoon on a hurried lunch, particularly now in the era of the 80 minutes finals.

Provincial deciders in any grades are among the top matches of the year, and the type

of fixtures needed to boost football and hurling among the youth. The status of minor and junior finals are not helped by playing them when none but the most rabid supporter can reasonably be expected to attend.

Nor are early starts flattering to the players concerned. This is to be regretted at any time, but especially so at this juncture as far as the minors are concerned in view of the emphasis on youth and on ways and means to make the games and the Association more appealing to young people. There is a need now, more than ever to underline the importance and attractiveness of the minor fixtures.

I know dates are at a premium. But for the life of me I cannot understand why some of the minor and junior finals can't be played on Saturdays. They would

draw bigger gates than at Sunday lunch-time, and the rating of the competitions would also be enhanced.

What, now, of this Cork-Kilkenny battle for the minor title? I have high hopes that this will prove one of the best under-age games of the year, for both teams are liberally sprinkled with very accomplished young hurlers.

Kilkenny moved well, particularly in the second half, in a resounding 25 points win over Wexford to regain the Leinster title after a two year interval.

Their attack is especially sharp. Pat Kearney, one of four links in the side with the St. Kieran's team that won the All-Ireland Colleges' Championship against St. Finbarr's, Farranferris (Cork) in the spring, Pat

• TO PAGE 39

1965 and the first 20 tons are bound for McElligott & Sons, Castleisland. Thanks to Paddy McElligott there was a little more grass in Kerry that year. Today NET Nitrate is the most popular and widely used nitrogenous fertilizer on Irish farms. Sales of this product alone have increased in the past five years from less than 30,000 tons to over 120,000 tons per year. In the sophisticated production methods of Complete Concentrated Fertilizer too, Nítrigin Eireann Teo, leads the way in both domestic and export markets.

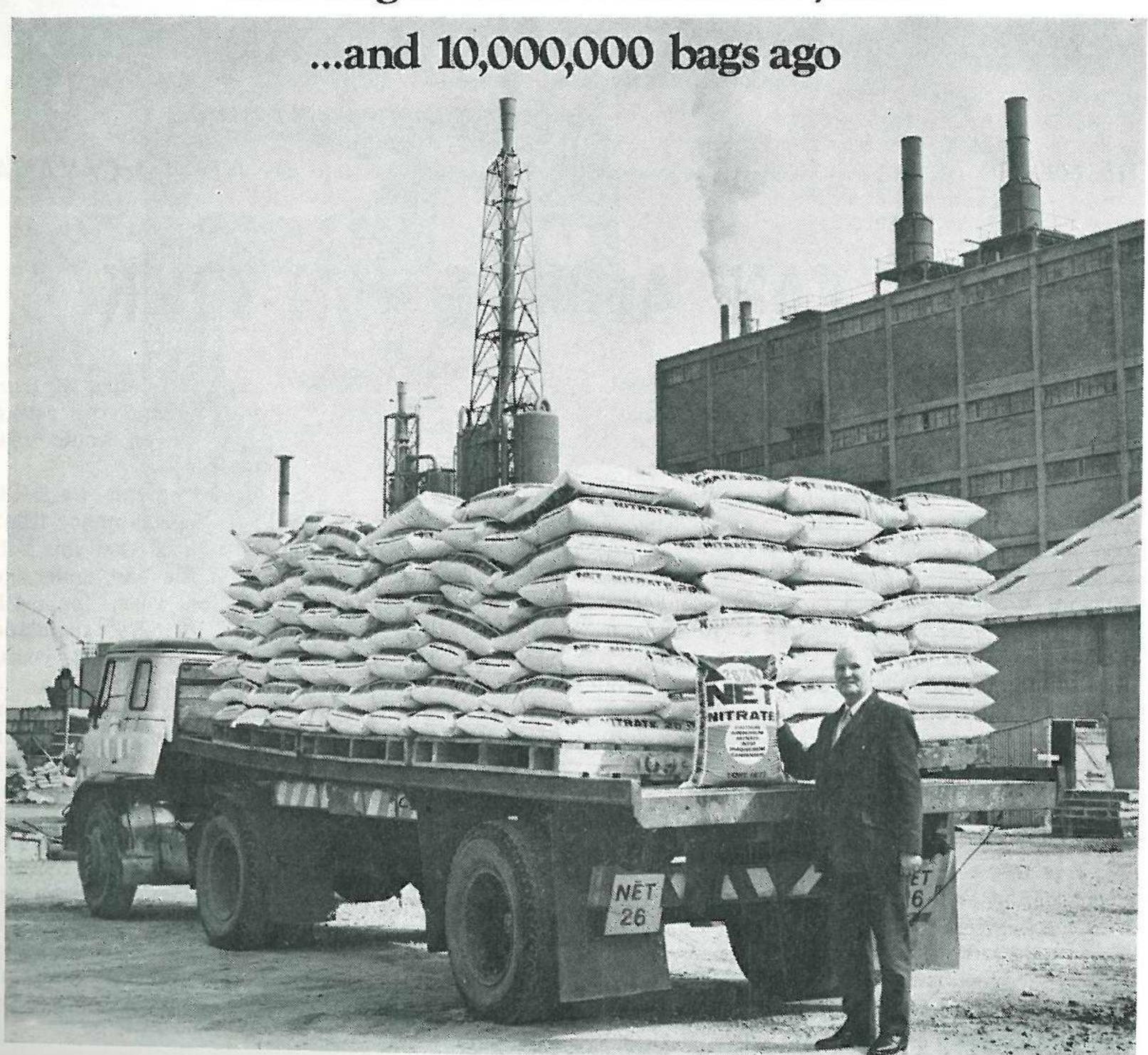


Last year, Company sales passed the £6 million mark and sales of by-products such as carbon dioxide for the mineral water trade, dry ice for the meat export trade, and exports of nitric acid and sulphuric acid continue to increase.

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● FROM PAGE 37

Mulcahy, son of the late Jack Mulcahy, and Eddie Holohan have the finishing technique to ensure a thorough examination for the Cork rearguard.

The defence, with Tony Teehan, Nickey Brennan and Brian Cody, the other All-Ireland Colleges' medal winners of this year, in the side, marshalling matters in splendid fashion, could draw the sting from a potentially score-laden Cork attack, while Tom Barry is a hard worker around midfield.

So, Kilkenny, Leinster Champions for the 23rd time, have the material to go one better than in 1969, when they lost at this stage to Cork, and thus bring in the county's first win since 1962, when Tipperary were beaten for a seventh crown.

Cork, of course, are the modern-day specialists of minor hurling. This year they have equalled a 1930-35 record held by Tipperary of six Munster titles in succession, and the county has contested every national decider since 1966.

If they win their 11th title, Cork will become the first county to take three championships in succession since Kilkenny achieved this feat in 1962. Cork have already won three titles on the trot—1937 to 1939 inclusive.

The Munster champions attack also has plenty of competitive spirit and penetration, and free-scoring Pat Buckley, Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Brian Cotter are a trio who are sure to ruffle the Leinster backs.

Tom Canavan is a gifted performer, who provides a strong midfield link between attack and defence, and there is solidarity at the back, where John Buckley and Dermot Coakley, who can turn defence quickly into attack, are commanding figures.

Who is going to win, then? It looks a pretty open game to me, but I do think that Cork are somewhat the better balanced outfit all round, and for this reason I will take my stand with another title for the boys from the banks of the Lee.

Kilkenny won the minor and senior titles in the same year for the only time in 1935. Indeed,

that ranked as the only Leinster double until Wexford took both crowns in 1968.

Tipperary are out in front in the chart with 12 titles. Cork and Kilkenny take second and third places, and then come Dublin with four crowns. Wexford have three titles. Limerick and Waterford complete the short list with two championships each.

Boxing champ has hurling ties

Emmont By NOEL COOGAN www.mm

"EVERY child in Kilkenny is born with a hurley in his hand and I don't think I was an exception." Those words were spoken by one of Kilkenny's most famous sportsmen, who, strange to relate, did not achieve his sporting fame in the black and amber hurling jersey of his county but in the green boxing singlet of his country.

It was shortly after his most recent success on the international front, a bronze medal at the European Championships in Madrid, that I had the pleasure of meeting Mick Dowling. While most of our conversation centred on boxing, the Castlecomer born, Dublin based bantamweight bombshell revealed that he takes no small interest in hurling.

In fact, Mick played with his local school team back in Castle-comer up to the age of sixteen, during which time he managed to gain two county medals. Two of his team-mates then were Martin Coogan and Martin Brennan, both of whom went on to great things in the famed black and amber jersey.

Mick Dowling is still keenly interested in hurling and attends

games as often as possible. "Last year while in New York for a training campaign, I saw a very good, tough game, the National League final between Cork and New York at Gaelic Park," he told me.

Who are Dowling's favourite caman weavers? Naturally he was not slow to mention his own townsmen, "Martin Brennan is a very slick hurler but he was injured in New York last year and hasn't played since. Martin Coogan is a tremendous allrounder. I admire both of them. I also admire Ollie Walsh and Eddie Keher, both masters at their game," replied Mick.

Although Mick Dowling has only seen this year's Kilkenny team on television he was nevertheless impressed by their display against Wexford. "They looked quite good and I think the present side compares favourably with other Kilkenny teams that I have seen in recent years," he commented.

And Mick's final comment was "I'll be cheering for them on the first Sunday of September, if I can get a ticket!"

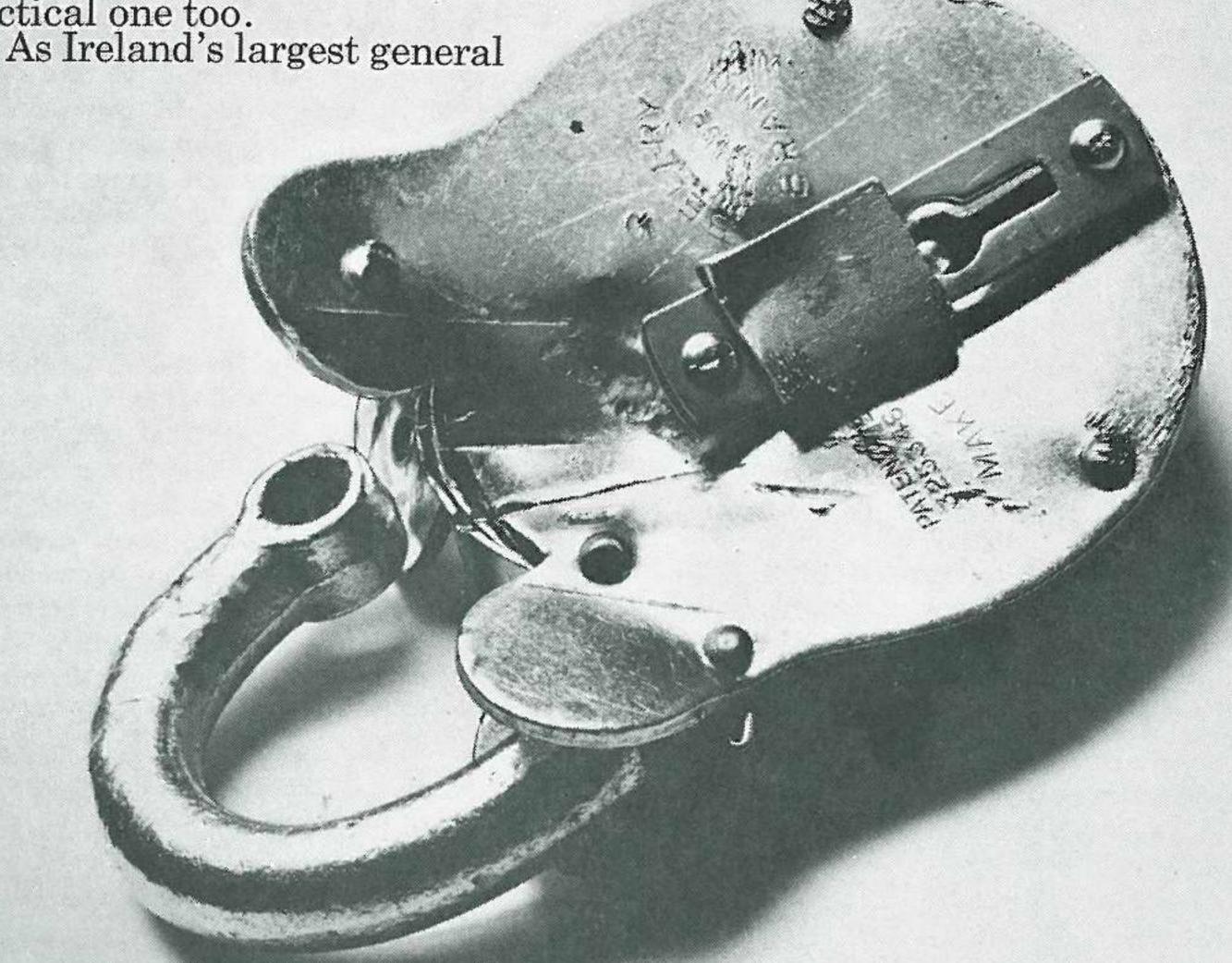
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I remember one occasion when I decided to send a tape recording out to Japan to an old friend of mine—and I made all my arrangements accordingly.

First of all I checked every room in the house to make sure that everyone was out. Then I bolted the front and back doors, made for the sitting room and promptly locked the door there, too.

In front of me on the table was a little tape recorder—an innocent-looking contraption. All I had to do was trip the switch and we were off.

But for about five minutes, I was terrified to move anything. I sat there, just like a bloody fool, wondering how I was going to start, and mortally frightened to touch that switch.

I found the courage eventually. Down went the switch and for the next half hour, in my most beautiful, soft, elegant and so precise upper-class Irish accent, I put all my words on tape.

Then I played it back. I waited for those cool, modulated tones to emerge from the speaker.

Mother of God, what was this? Me? Oh, no no, no . . . NO.

This grog-like croak, this stammering and stuttering, this humming and hawing . . . and that dreadful CORK ACCENT.

I wiped it all out. Nobody

would ever hear that tape. No sirree.

But the poison had got to me. That tape recorder had me where it wanted me. Checking again to make sure that the house was empty, I tried again.

This time I used the English accent . . . a little broken English. I sang songs, I introduced myself . . . I told jokes . . . I did commentaries on sports events . . . I read poetry . . . I even read the news from the newspapers.

The telephone rang and I went to answer it. It was the office ... and the conversation dragged on for almost half an hour.

Then I remembered I had an appointment and I was out the door like a shot.

What mistakes we make in our lives?

I came home that night to find my family—a cruel, mean, sadistic bunch—all lying around on the floor, laughing their fool heads off. And they had even brought in some of the neighbours to hear my half hour on the tape.

And why am I telling you all this? . . .

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And, if anything, he make a bigger bloody fool of himself than I, at my best on a tape recorder, have ever managed to achieve.

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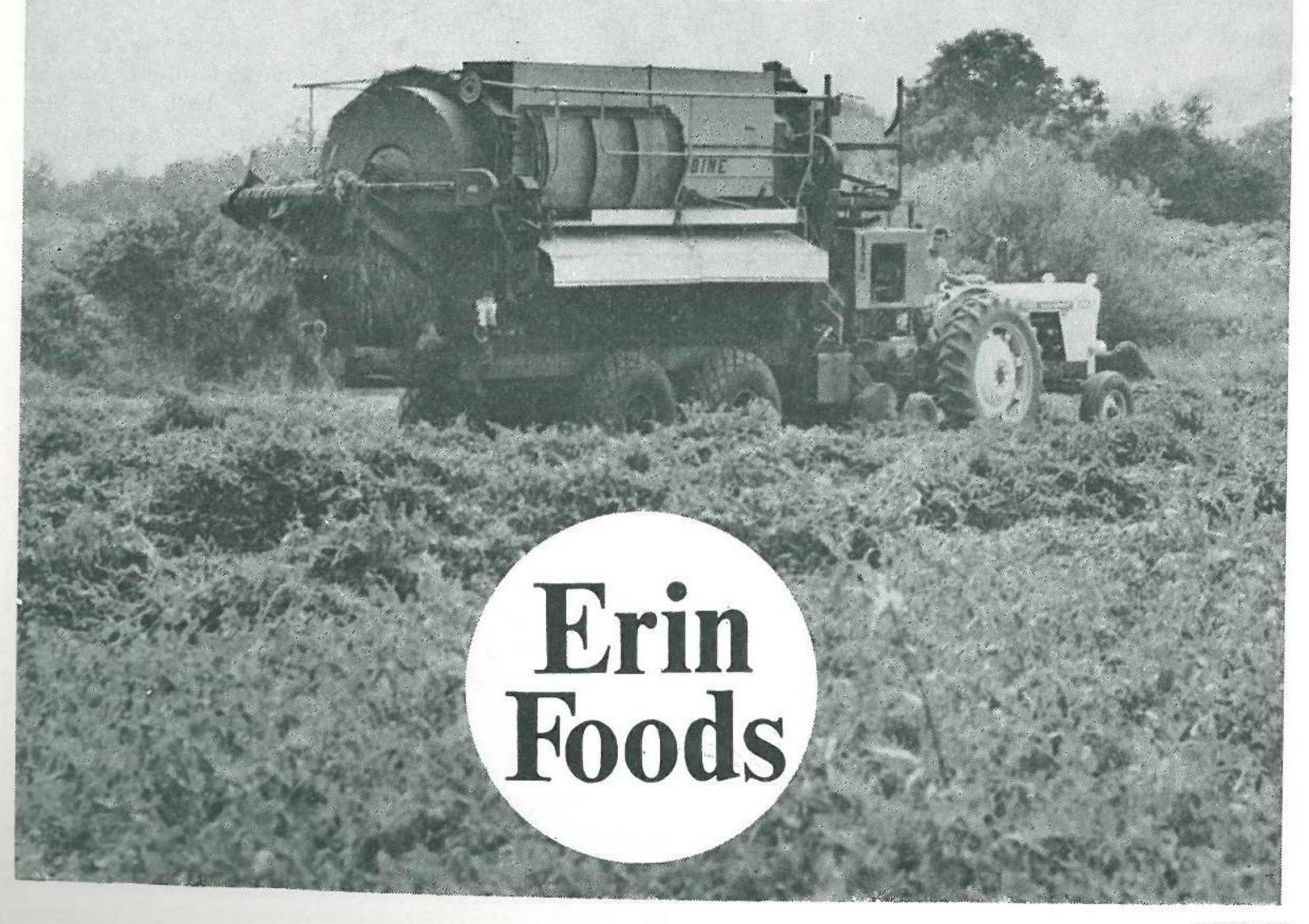
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Munich prepares for 20th Olympic Games

By Special Correspondent

THE 20th Olympic Games open in Munich on Saturday, August 26, 1972 and close on September 10. Already one-and-aquarter million tickets are on sale outside Germany and it is expected that all of them will be taken up.

It will cost £200 million to mount the Games in the Bavarian capital and, of this vast sum, the German taxpayer will pay just over half—about £104 million. Special fund-raising activity plus the organising committee's receipts will bring in a further £93 million and the operation of a lottery entitled 'the Lucky Spiral' is expected to balance the budget.

How much will it cost to go to Munich for the Games? Well, before going into detail on that, it's nice to hear what was written in the official journal of the German Hoteliers' Association: Profit-taking is not only un-Olympic; it would also be the exact opposite of the undertakings given by the men who secured the award of the Games to Munich.

Under the terms of a contract made between the Organising Committee and the Bavarian Catering Association, prices for accommodation will be based on a fair assessment of costs as at June, 1971, but developments between, then and July, 1972, may justify increases of 15%.

The Organising Committee hopes that the sale of tickets abroad will be linked with the provision of accommodation. On this basis, the British Olympic Tours Consortium has already published some package deal information. It is possible to travel from London, by air, stay in Munich for the full duration of the Games, in a Guesthouse for £81, in a private house for £70, or in a top-class hotel for £140. With overland travel the corresponding figures are £58, to £130.

The main location for the Games in Munich is at the Oberwiesenfeld. This was an old aerodrome, only two-and-a-half miles from the city centre which had served as a dumping ground for the rubble which resulted from the heavy bombing of World War II. This location has now been landscaped and the rubble used to create a hill which commands views of the Olympic area and of the city of Munich. It also contains the main stadium, two multi-purpose stadia, the swimming stadium, the indoor volleyball stadium, the cycle track, the male and female Olympic villages, the press and TV centres, two railway stations, a road complex which leads to 10,000 car parking places and, of course, restaurants, cafes and beer tents.

Much of the development on this site will be used after the Games, some for sport, but some also for social development. For instance, the Olympic villages will become housing estates and some of the other buildings will be used as schools.

Fifteen hundred hostesses are being hired to provide information and assistance to the visitors. Already, 1,000 have been selected and another 500 will be chosen this month. Each one must speak at least two languages as well as German, and together they can cope with all of the 34 registered official languages of the Games. This autumn they all commence a correspondence course on their duties and on the overall structure of the Games and from July 15, 1972, they commence a rigourous, on-the-spot training course which will be conducted by the senior hostesses who are already appointed.

One billion readers and viewers throughout the world will read about and watch the progress of the Games. Already the four satellites which will relay the telecasts all over the world are orbiting the Earth, launched a few months ago by NASA rockets.

The people of Munich are determined that this will be a Games with a difference. At the same time as the Games, they are mounting a massive cultural programme which will include opera, theatre, art exhibitions and other activity so that those who go there are certain to find that all tastes are catered for.

In a year from now, the crowds will converge on Munich. There will be the drama and the excitement as the greatest athletes in the world meet to contest their skills. Old records will be surpassed, new sports idols will be hailed. The people of Munich have provided the setting — let's hope that the participants will prove worthy of the care which they have lavished on the preparations.

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● FROM PAGE 23

of Three Castles, the most brilliant full back Kilkenny ever produced. Jack, when all seemed lost, had an uncanny method of nipping in with his hurley and turning the ball—sometimes only a matter of a foot or so—but to such effect that it either made his opponent miss or make it impossible for him to carry out his original plan of attack. The spectacular clearances which Jack executed in this way are still remembered and spoken of by the old timers.

Jack was of slight build, but was very fast and wiry, and could take an amount of punishment without flinching. Dan Stapleton usually played in front of him, at centre half back, and always his instructions before a match were "Protect Jack at any cost." This Dan did to the best of his ability and avoirdupois, and sure enough he often had the pleasure of watching Jack juggle with the ball to the utter bewilderment of his opponents.

Then there was Tim Gleeson, the schoolmaster hurler from Drombane, whose ground drives were some of the most spectacular things which Dan witnessed on the hurling field. Tim found no difficulty in cutting the ball off the ground—often the full length of the pitch, and frequently scored points in this manner from his own half-back position.

Dan had particularly pleasant memories of some famous goalmen—"Fox" Maher and Ned Teehan of Tullaroan; Andy Fitzgerald of Cork; "Hawk" O'Brien of Tipperary and John Power of Piltown. Other brilliant and spectacular hurlers he often recalled included Bob O'Keeffe of Laois: Mick Cummins, Wexford; Jim Kelleher, J. Hennessy and Billy Mackessy, Cork; Mick Feely and "Tyler" Mackey, Limerick; Jack Grace, Dave Kelleher and D. McCormack, Dublin; Paddy

Brolan, Hugh Skelly and Andy Carew, Tipperary. He told how Billy Mackessy, in an All-Ireland final at Dungarvan, accidentally displaced three of his teeth when pulling on a ball near the Kilkenny goal. "I never blamed Billy," he said, "as it was entirely my own fault."

Dan emphasised that the above were some of the impressions which these players as individuals made upon him. He femembered them so vividly because he so often played in close proximity to them, and so was enabled to recognise the partiticular brilliancy which was a characteristic separately developed in these men. It was weird too, as he often said, the regularity with which they were able to demonstrate these talents, and on occasions when great games were being played, they were still stars among stars.

Dan had particularly lasting memories of one thrilling All-Ireland final between Cork and Kilkenny at Dungarvan. It was subsequently immortalised in prose and verse by another great friend—Father James Dollard, "Slievenamon"—the poet priest of Gaeldom. In that match the teams were level nine times in the last quarter hour. One can best imagine the alternating anxiety and frantic jubilation of the followers on both sides.

Two minutes from the end Cork had scored a point to level matters. John Power's puck crossed the mid-field and the Cork defenders and their Kilkenny counterparts were straining with their hurleys to reach the clouds in their efforts to intercept the ball, but there was one player whose reach seemed to extend for yards beyond all others—Tom Kenny of Erin's Own.

The ball glanced off his hurley out to Jack Anthony, who was standing just a few yards away. Jack curled the steel-like wrists of his without apparent effort and with perfect timing met the ball in a drop tip, and sent it sailing over the Cork posts for the winning point. The whistle went immediately afterwards for full time. The resultant scene was indescribable. The winners were carried from the field amidst a deafening uproar from the followers.

Kilkenny's most dramatic vicwas undoubtedly, in Dan's opinion, the 1922 All-Ireland final win against Tipperary. The Premier County boys looked all out winners that exciting day but the Noresiders mouned a last great action packed offensive that earned for them an unforgettable triumph.

Dan recalled how during his time he witnessed the transition from seventeen to fifteen a side, and from the double points and gaol posts to the present arrangements. When the changes were made it was thought that there would be less scoring and more games would end in draws. Such did not prove to be the case—the new conditions were quickly mastered. In fact, a new technique was introduced into the forwards' game, and Dan felt we were treated to more real hurling, with faster and better games.

The shape and weight of the hurley also changed about that time; it was made lighter with a shorter bos. The back of the hurley was also reduced in thickness—a feat which hindered effective ground striking and developed a tendency to frequently pick and strike the ball in the air. Dan agreed with me however that the ground striking is the more effective and telling.

The years have passed and so have all too many of the famed hurling figures of other days, including Dan Stapleton. But their memory lives on.

THE CAMOGIE SCENE

By AGNES HOURIGAN

As I write the provincial camogie championships are over, and the All-Ireland semifinals will have taken place by the time this column appears in print. There has been only one

change in the provincial representation at senior level. Wexford replacing Kilkenny as Leinster standard bearers.

It was a good Leinster series. Kilkenny and Wexford were well matched at Kilkenny and though Wexford were good winners the 1970 champions might have finished closer but for the fact that their interprovincial goal-keeper Jo Golden had to retire after receiving a blow of the ball in the face.

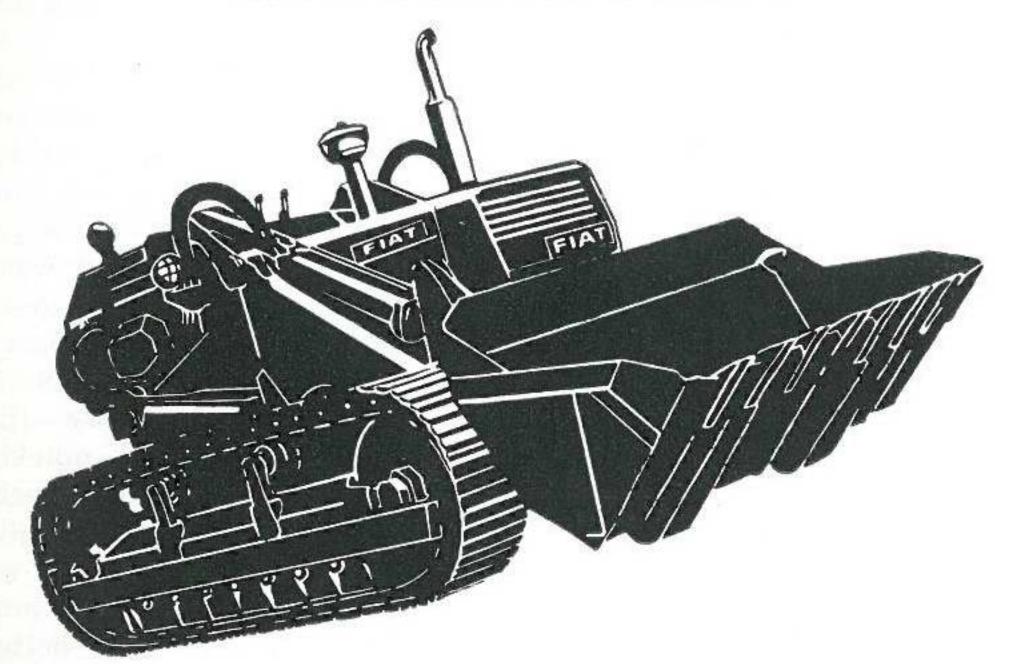
However, on that showing, Wexford looked to have recovered much of the power they had shown when winning the All-Ireland titles of 1968 and 1969. Margaret O'Leary completely dominated mid-field in that game against Kilkenny and Wexford were favourites when they met Dublin at Croke Park in the Leinster final.

Dublin, however, had beaten Wexford in last year's semi-final and had high hopes of doing so again. However, after fifteen minutes it was obvious that Dublin just had not the all-round ability to match Wexford's power, and they were struggling before the interval, and playing second fiddle all the time after the restart.

Margaret O'Leary was not quite so dominant at mid-field this time, as Anne Sheehy made a valiant effort to keep her in check, but Wexford were now dominant on the wings where young Elsie Walsh, the Enniscorthy Convent of Mercy star was particularly effective, and on this showing Wexford who oppose Ulster champions, Antrim, in the All-Ireland semi-final at a Wexford venue on August 15 are going to be very hard to beat.

Down South the title rested between old rivals Cork and Tipperary. Cork won but only with a single point to spare, and they will need to show improvement

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if they are to retain their All-Ireland title. However, they were under strength for this provincial final, and hope to have a couple more of their regulars back on duty for the second All-Ireland semi-final against Galway on August 15. As Galway have not been in action for so long it is very hard to assess their chances. The Western county though unopposed in Connacht last season in senior ranks, did not field against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final, so they are again unopposed in the senior grade across the Shannon this year, they are now without senior competition for two seasons. It would take a truly wonderful side to come out and win an All-Ireland under those circumstances.

Antrim could, of course, once again prove the surprise team of the senior series.

They were a trifle unlucky to lose to Cork at Cork a year ago, and they showed much of their old power when readily accounting for all and any opposition in the North.

After watching a number of games through the summer, both at club and inter-county level, there is one request I would wish to make. For heaven's sake will the male mentors of some teams leave the girls to play their match themselves.

I have no objection to men helping with training or coaching, but once the girls are on the field, I wish these male mentors would let the girls play their own game their own way.

Camogie is not hurling. Unfortunately some of those male coaches never saw a camogie rule book in their lives, and seemingly cannot understand that shoulder-charging, body-charging and indeed deliberate body-contact of any kind is specifically forbidden.

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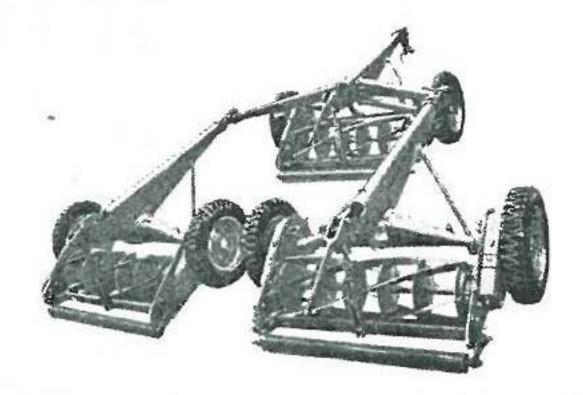
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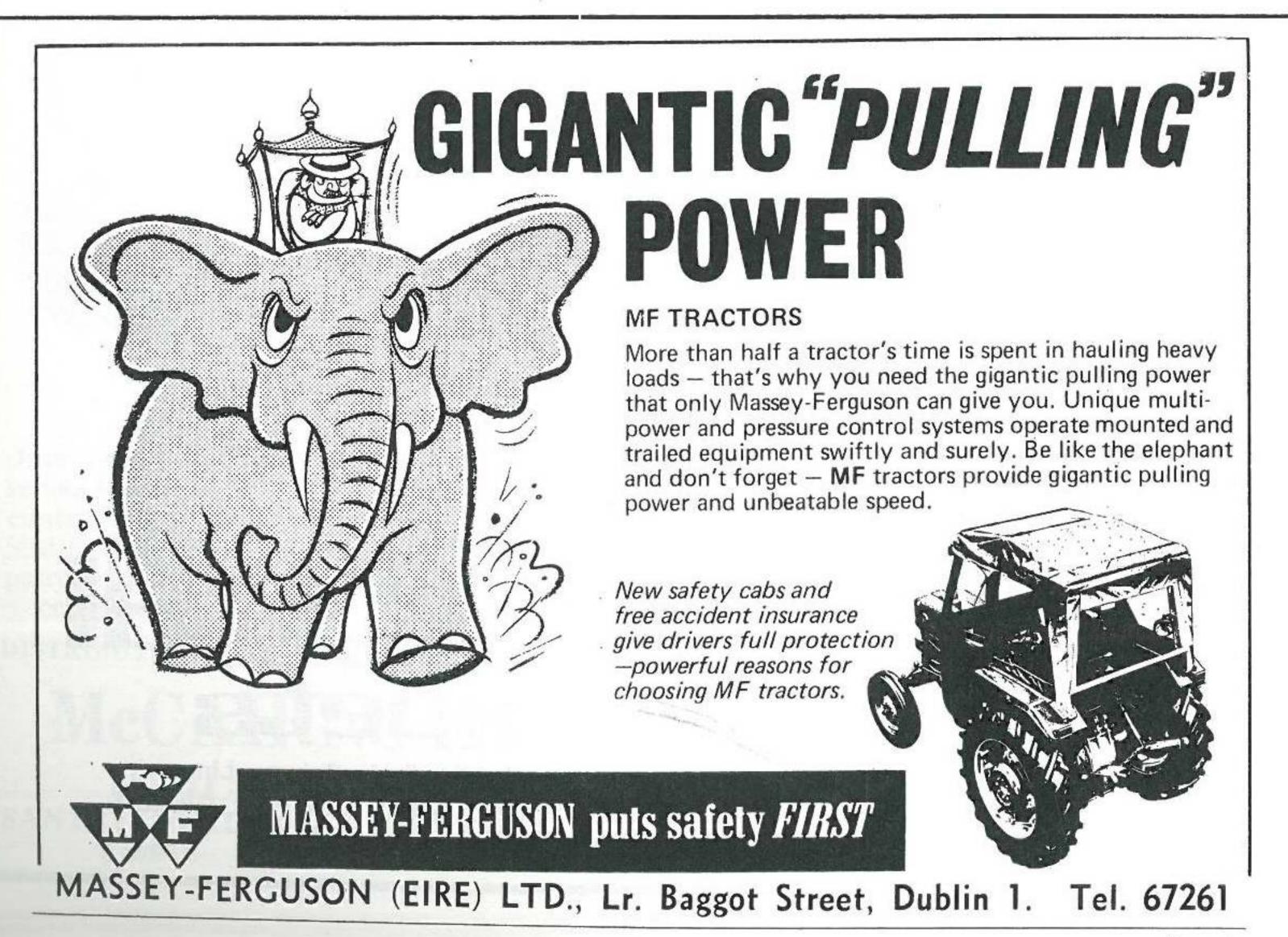
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G.A.A. clubs must strike a blow for handball

THE image of the G.A.A. is quickly changing.

Gone are the days when the only incentive a particular unit of it had was to have a playing pitch.

Instead, we find the emphasis on proper amenities for players and spectators—dressing rooms, showers, club-rooms and recreational facilities.

Progress might appear to be rather slow at present, but then we must realise that a head-start had already been given to other organisations. There can be no doubt that within the next few years many clubs will have reached a position of real stability.

When it is reached on a general basis it is to be hoped that handball will be part of it. It is wonderful to envisage that every club with its own grounds would also provide a handball court. What a change that would be from the position that obtains at present where only relatively

few G.A.A. clubs cater for hand-ball.

This is a pity, for handball can do a great deal to complement football and hurling.

For the hurler and footballer there is no better way to get fit than in the handball court.

Handball, in effect, provides the maximum in physical and mental exercise.

The game requires quick starts, sudden stops, backward, forward and sideways bending as well as stretching, which is a by-product of the overhand shot.

Then there is the mental cohesion, so necessary in top-grade field games.

The handball court can also prove a haven for players who have retired from field games.

Age counts for little in handball, hence, they can continue playing up to middle age and, away beyond it.

With an alley, a club has the facility to cater not alone for its former players, but also through

this activity keep these players in touch with the club itself, so that their services are never lost.

How should a club go about building a ballcourt? Here is one idea which may not come to mind and it applies to those clubs who may be already considering building a premises.

Simply, it is that the main hall could be constructed in such a way that it would also serve as an indoor handball court.

The dimensions of the standard court are sixty feet by thirty feet, with the front wall thirty feet high and the back wall nine feet high.

If the proposed premises does not allow for this size of construction, then why not embrace the American-type court which is twenty feet wide, thirty feet high, forty feet long and the back wall twelve feet high.

However, should a club not be considering a premises, there is no reason why it should not go about building the ordinary type court—the four walled box with concrete floor.

Expenditure on such a structure is not very great and it is well within the reach of any ordinary club.

It is estimated that £2,000 to £3,000 would go a long way towards the cost of materials.

A glass back-wall can also eliminate expenditure in so far as it will not be then necessary to build an overhead gallery.

Indeed, the glass back-wall has another advantage in that the spectators can see all aspects of play.

The time was never more opportune for units of the G.A.A. to strike a blow for handball.

All future plans should make provision for handball facilities.

An alley will always be a faithful ally.

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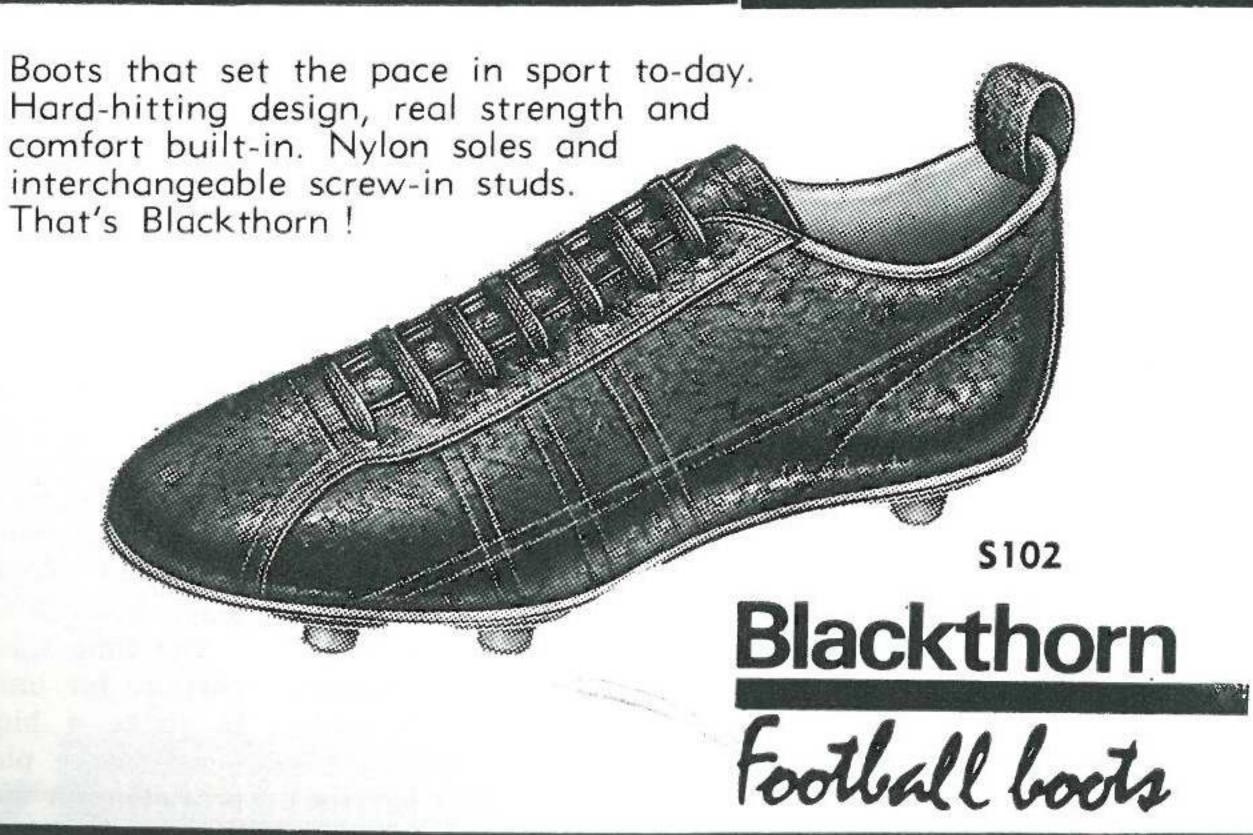
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A forum for the young reader DEVISED AND WRITTEN

By JACK MAHON

crowds were back again in all respect. their glory at the major G.A.A. games. This is the All-Ireland hurling final issue. There is nothing in Irish sport to compare with an All-Ireland senior final. It has an atmosphere all its own. The minor final beforehand always whets the appetite for the big game afterwards. It is always interesting to watch the stars of tomorrow display their wares.

I remember Eddie Keher, Jimmy Doyle, Charlie McCarthy, the two Tom Ryans, Johnny Culloty, Tony McTague, Willie Bryan, Donal Hunt, Ray Cummins, Eamonn Cregan, Eamonn Grimes, John Connolly, Mick Kilgallen, Kevin Kilmurray . . . (I could go on all day) . . . star in minor competition.

I like to see the spectators arrive in time for the minor final on All-Ireland day. Our Taoiseach Jack Lynch, always pays the minors this honour. He was a minor himself once. He knows.

T'S been a great summer. The But we are improving in this

This summer will be remembered for the initiation of the Youth Conventions at club, county and All-Ireland level. For the first time ever we invited the youth of every county to have their say.

that It was a great pity Séamus Duke, the great Roscommon Gael, was not there to see it through. It was his brainchild and did the man credit. It will also be remembered for the great hurling festival held in Thurles in July. I was very sorry to miss this great occasion and will be there next year, D.V. If any of you Junior Desk readers had the honour to play there, please tell us about it.

Our Junior Desk Wall Poster subject this month is Kilkenny's darling goalkeeper, the one and only Ollie Walsh. Was there ever a greater goalkeeper-Sean Duggan, Tony Reddin, Paddy Barry, Pat Nolan, Dave Creedon?

Ollie has the style to outshine

all others. Great to have him back playing again. This photo will adorn the bedroom wall of many a young Irish boy and girl.

Before we get on with the Mailbag I would like to pay a special tribute to Kerry's footballers for their wonderful run of victories in the past few years. During this period they endeared themselves to friend and "foe" and their sportsmanship was on a level with their football expertise. It is possible we may not see such as Mick O'Connell, Mick O'Dwyer, Séamus Murphy and Johnny Culloty don the green and gold ever again in serious competition.

If this be so, we take this opportunity of saluting four of the most modest and gifted Gaelic footballers we have ever seen. The football scene will not be the same without them.

Last month I promised to include a story of the G.A.A. activities in Carraig na bhFear in Cork. If every school took a leaf out of this story book things would be a lot better.

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From the Mailbag

John Murphy, Moyadda, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo — "I go to school in Carraig na bhFear in Cork. We play a lot of football and hurling. This year I won a prize for Junior Footballer of the Year in the College. I play for Tubbercurry under 16 in hurling and football. I have five brothers and we all hope to don the Black and White of Sligo one day. My Daddy, T. J. Mur-

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phy, played in goal for Sligo and played against you, Jack. My grandfather, J. P. Brennan, was chairman of the Connacht Council once. He is still hale and hearty and never misses a game his grandsons are playing in. I hope we will meet some day."

What a nice letter. Yes, I remember your father well. He used wear a polo-necked jersey when playing. Ask him. When all those brothers and yourself grow up ye will be taking over from Mickey Kearins, Jim Colleary, Jim Kilgallen and Peter Brennan. (J.M.).

Jerry Smyth, Whiterock, Midleton, Co. Cork. "I am 10 years old and in fifth class. I go to lots of matches. My favourite players are Con Roche and Ray Cummins, Ollie Walsh, Eddie Keher, Peter O'Sullivan, Billy Morgan, Johnny Culloty. Mick O'Dwyer, Sean O'Neill, Michael Keating. I live in the country and do lots of jobs on the farm. I go to Midleton C.B.S."

■ Keep up the work on the land. Goalkeepers seem to have a fascination for you. (J.M.)

Gerard Traynor, 893 Francis St., Edenderry, Co. Offaly. "I like the idea of a colour spread. Please tell me the colours of Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal and Clare."

● The colours of Sligo are black and white; Leitrim and Donegal are green and gold; Clare, saffron and blue. (J.M.)

Fantastic!

JUNIOR DESK readers will be pleased to know that the return of entries for our "Great Savers" competition, so generously sponsored by the National Savings Committee, has exceeded all expectations. And would you believe it, every single entry gave the correct solution. The winners' names will be announced in our next issue, so make sure to order your copy from your local newsagent, NOW.

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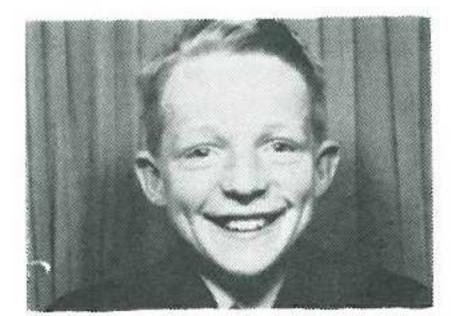
Michael O'Donnell, 9 Marian Tce., Clonmel — "My favourites are Michael Keating, Dinny Burke, Ray Carolan, Mick Roche, Noel O'Dwyer, Peter O'Sullivan. Give us a centre-spread in colour."

Anne Brogan, Ballyknock, Bofeenaun, Ballina, Co. Mayo — "The large pin-ups are great. I wouldn't like to see the four cutouts go, though. Give us pin-ups of Joe Earley, Tom Fitzgerald, J. J. Cribben and John Gibbons. Give us more competitions."

We will do our best, Anne. (J.M.)

John Hahessy, 51 Ard Mhuire, Carrick-on-Suir—"The Wall Poster is a wonderful idea. Give us one of John Quigley."

Kevin Murphy, Ballyblood, Tulla, Co. Clare—"I play for Tulla under 14 and under 15



John Murphy, Tubbercurry.

hurling teams. My favourites are Johnny Culloty, Senan Downes, Brendan Lynch, Mick O'Dwyer, Peter O'Sullivan, John Horgan, Gerald McCarthy, Mick Roche, Charlie McCarthy, Jackie O'Gorman."

Vincent Sutton, Balinakill, Moyvalley, Co. Kildare — "My favourites are Ollie Crinnigan, Joe Doyle, Pat Kelly, Mick Carolan, Pat Mangan, Pat Dunny, Jack Donnelly, Tommy Carew, Sean O'Neill, Colm McAlarney, Pat Reynolds, Willie Bryan, Mick O'Dwyer, Ray Carolan, Michael Keating, Johnny Walsh, Andy Walsh and Jimmy Doyle."

A great collection of stars.
(J.M.)

Kevin Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Co. Sligo — "I lived in Donegal for seven years. I am going to Summerhill in September and hope to play competitive football there. My father encourages my four brothers and myself to play. He used to play club football. I enclose a photo of my-

self with the Sam Maguire Cup taken when Tom Prendergast brought it to Sligo."

Nice photo too, Kevin. (J.M.) So that's it for this month. No Father Cleary interview yet. I met him lately and he hasn't forgotten. But he is so busy. Still if he doesn't reply soon we will drop him from our team!

Write and tell me anything

you enjoyed this summer. You must have seen some great games. If anyone wants a copy of the Connacht final special souvenir programme send on a 7½p stamp and I'll send it on to you. Write about anything to:

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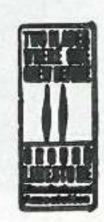


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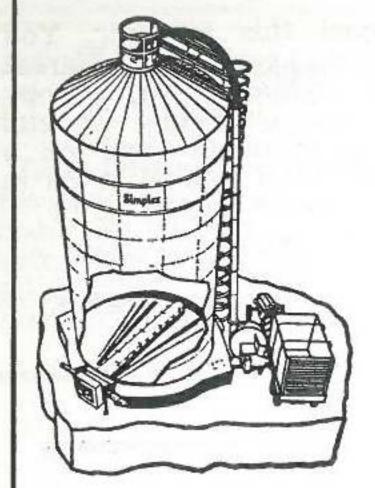
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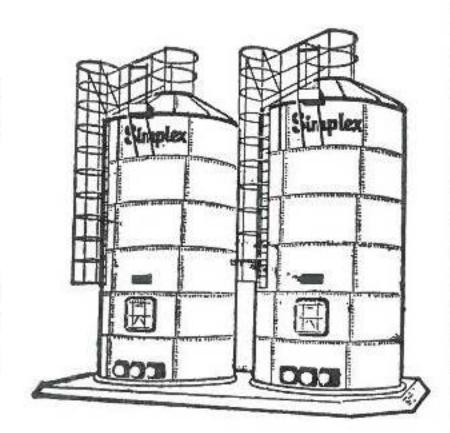


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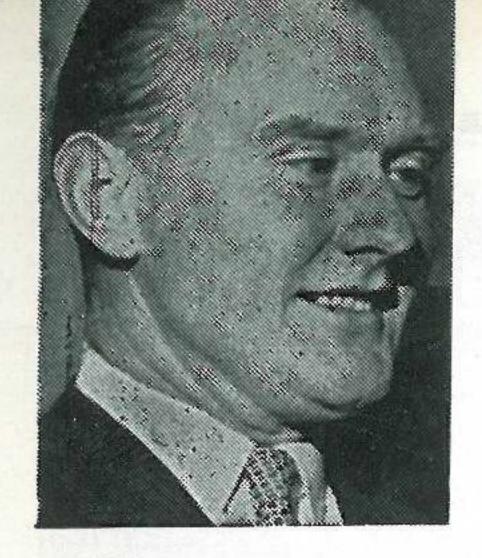
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Ag SEAN O DUNAGAIN

GO nuige seo, ó thaobh na gcluichí móra a mbíonn aird an phobail orthu, le chun leasa An Chumainn Lúchleas Gael an riail úd a bheith scriosta. Is é sin ó thaobh na n-imreoirí cliúteacha de chuid sacair agus rugbaí atá ag imirt le fóirne peile na gcontae le linn na gcomórtas i mbliana.

Ach fanaimís go dtí go dtosnaíonn na comórtais móra sacair i gceann tamaill. Chomh maith, tá imreoirí na gcluichí Gaelacha ag cabhrú le clubanna rugbaí sna comórtais acu siúd, go háraithe i nGaillimh.

An cuimhin le héinne "réaltóg" mhor sacair, a bhí ag an am ar fhoireann na hÉireann (FAI), agus a d'imir i gcraobh-chluiche mór i bPáirc an Chrócaigh sa bhliain 1944? An gceapann tú nach bhféadfadh sé tárlú ag an am? Thárla agus bhí a fhios san ag an saol mór. Peadar Ó Maolmhaidh (Peter Molloy) as Baile Átha Luain a bhí ann. Duine de na peileadóirí (idir sacair srl.) is fearr len a linn ab ea é agus d'imir sé le Ceannasaíocht an Iarthair, áit a raibh sé ina shaighdiúr le linn an chogaigh, i gcraobh-chluiche an uile-arm i 1944. Tugadh cead speisialta don

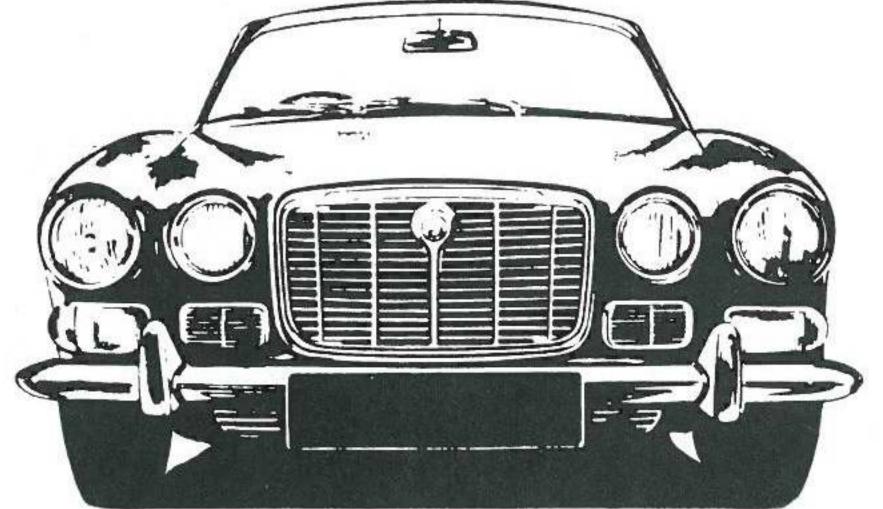
airm sa bhliain úd an dá chraobhchluiche, peil agus iomáint, a imirt i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

Má bhíonn tú ag taisteal siar nó aniar rachaidh tú thar tábhairne Pheadair i bpríomh-shráid Atha Luain agus d'fhéadfá an scéal in iomlán a chlos fhaid is a bhí sos á ghlacadh agat.

Le déanaí tá cur-síos gairid á dhéanamh ar "Ulster Television" Chúige don lá dar gcionn. Chomh maith tugtar ar toradh tráthnóna Domhnaigh.

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Beidh mé, ar nós an "Skibbereen Eagle" i dtaca leis an Rúis, ag coinneáil súil ghéar ar chúrsaí náisiúnta ins na coláistí móra úda nár thug aird ar bith orthu go dtí seo de dheasca na rialach úd (!) mar adeiridís.

Bhí áthas orm a léamh le déanaí go raibh cluiche peile ag St. Andrew's College a raibh cliú air mar choláiste rugbaí i gcónaí. Tá súil agam go bhfeicfear i gceann de na comórtas do Choláist Laighean sa scoilbhliain úr aid.

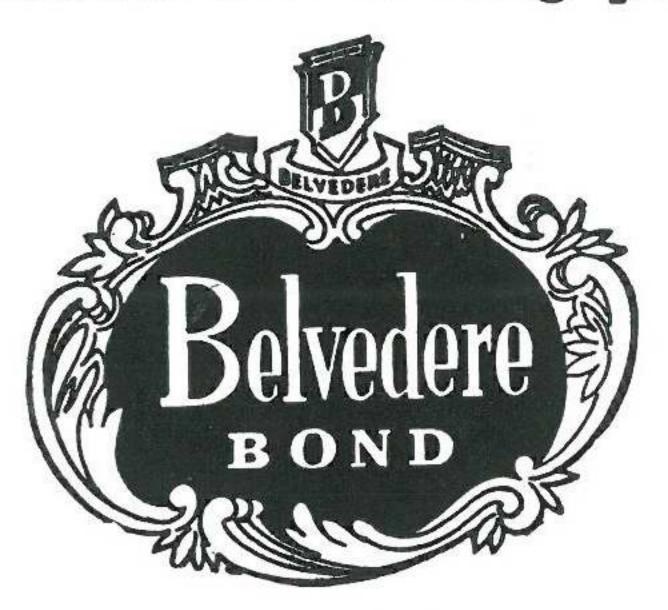
Beifear ag súil, ar ndóigh, go gcuirfear an cluiche camógaíochta ar eolas do na cailíní sna clochair "ghalánta." Ní bheidh foighid ar bith ionam don leathscéal (nó an "sean-chnó-chapall" má's áil leat é!) nach bhfuil 'aon éileamh ó thuistí dá leithéid. Nach iontach an smacht atá ag tuistí i dtaca le rudaí mar seo nuair nach bhfuil puinn acu maidir le cúrsaí eile?

Ní raibh sé d'uain agam go fóill an chairt nua atá curtha amach ag An gCumann Lúchleas Gael a léamh. Chun an fhírinne a rá ní bhfuair mé cóip agus mar sin níl d'eolas agam faoi ach an mhéid a léigh mé ar na nuachtáin.

Tagraim dó anseo mar go gceapaim go bhfuil deis mhaith ag An gCumann a theagasc i leith na teanga Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm trí theacht i gcabhair

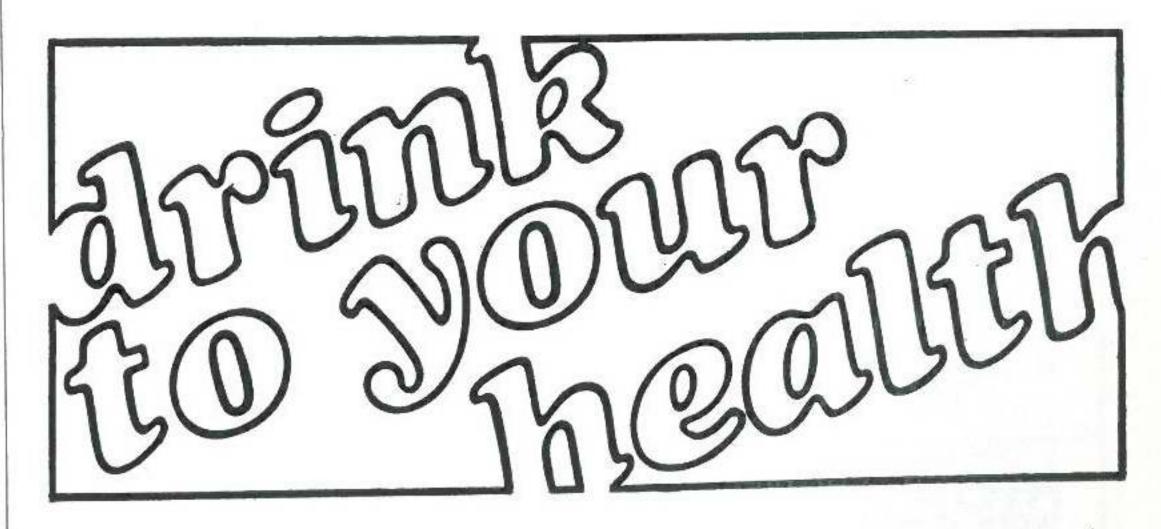
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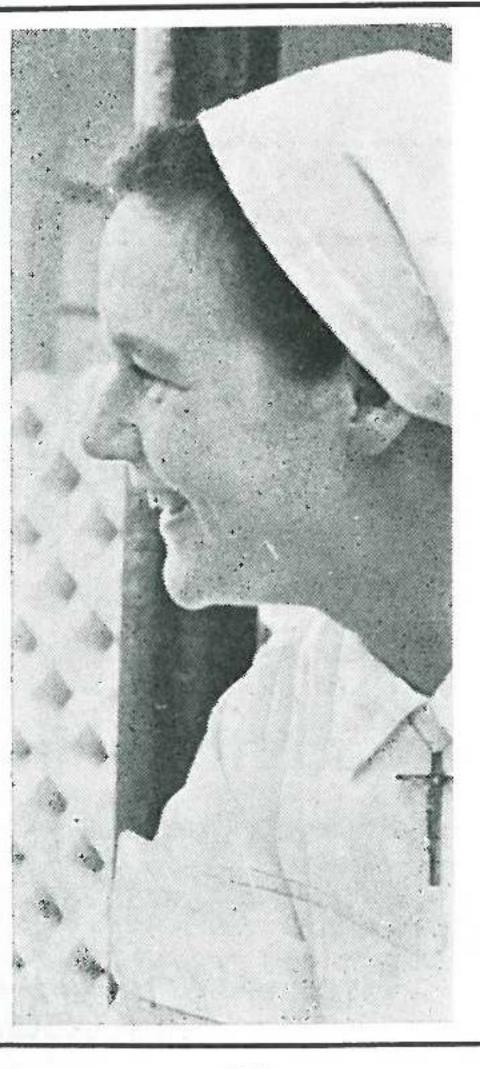
For all born between Aquarius and Capricorn. A day for taking stock on what you are doing with your life.

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● Ó LEATH. 57

ar Thuismitheoirí Bhaile Munna chun bunscoil lán-Ghaelach a bhunú ann.

Má smaointear ar an líon daoine (15,000) atá sna harasáin arda sa bhaile nua seo, nach bhfuil ach trí mhíle ó Pháirc an Chrócaigh, agus an deis iontach a bheadh ag C.L.G. chun é féin a chur in aithne dóibh, trí gníomhaocht mar atá luaite thuas, chífear gur fiú go maith é.

Níl traidisiún ar bith ann, óir is baile nua-bunaithe é. Tá scata beag daoine (nach bhfuil ag a bhfurmhór ach cúpla abairt Ghaeilge) ag iarraigh tradisiún náisiúnta a bhunú ann. Tá deacrachtaí acu áfach. Tá an teilifís ón iasacht (BBC agus ITV) de shíor ag brú an "cultúr" Sasanach orthu; samhlaítear dóibh go bhfuil an chléir agus an Stáit glan ina gcoinne maidir le soláthar scolaíochta Ghaeilge dá gclann.

Ní thógfainn orthu é dá ngeillfidís don bhfreasúra. Dúirt urlabhraí dá gcuid, ar chlár teilifíse, go raibh siad ag súil le tacaíocht ón Chumann Lúchleas Gael.

Ba mhaith liom go dtógfadh an Club is giorra dhóibh ("Na Fianna") an cheist idir lámha. Lasmuigh den scolaíocht tá na mílte earcaigh óga don Chumann nach cheart á leigint le sruth.

Sar ar buaileadh cic amháin sna craobh-chomórtais Chúigí i mbliana dúirt an scríbhneoir seo go mbeadh na curaí seo leanas againn: Cúige Laighean—Uíbh Failí; Cúige Mumhan—Corcaigh; Cúige Uladh—Doire agus Cúige Chonnacht—Sligeach.

Dúirt sé ag an am go mbainfeadh Uíbh Failí Craobh na hÉireann i mbliana.

Cad deireann sé anois? An rud céanna!

*"Réaltóg"—duine cliúteach, sár-imreoir (Béarla—"star").

MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

La is my proud boast that I have been present at 45 All-Ireland senior hurling finals, though I must admit that two of them I did not see although I was there. Or if I did see them, they meant little or nothing to me, because I should have been left at home since I was too small to really know what was going on.

The first final that was ever honoured with my presence was the clash between Limerick and Dublin in the All-Ireland final of 1921, which was not played until sometime around Easter, 1923. I know that Limerick won, but all I can remember is running in and out through the legs of the people at the back of the crowd on a big earthen bank which, it seems to me, stood somewhere around the junction of the present Nally and Hogan stands.

Later that year I was present again at the Kilkenny-Tipperary hurling final of 1922. Again I never remember seeing anything of the game and all I really recall is being in mortal dread all through of being trampled to death by the over-flow crowd.

The first final I can really visualise was that of 1926 in which Cork beat Kilkenny very easily indeed. I remember very little about the game except that

the Kilkenny goalman, Dick Cantwell, whom I still meet occasionally around Dublin, prevented his side from being utterly routed. What lingers in my memory even more than the actual match is that quite a number of the spectators refused to stand for the Soldiers' Song, which was then considered a Free State anthem by true-blue republicans.

However, I vividly remember moments from most of the finals since. In 1931 we had those three great games between Cork and Kilkenny. As memory serves me now, I thought the hurling in the first game was the most brilliant I ever saw, and I can still call up the vision of Eudie Coughlan, a strip of plaster across his nose, sending over the balancing point shortly before the end, though down on one knee at the time.

The second game was one of tremendous tension, and the roar I remember particularly was just before the end when Eddie Doyle of Mooncoin took a long-distance free for Kilkenny.

All the people at one side of the ground thought it was the winning point, but the umpires signalled wide. The third game lost a lot of its glamour because of the absence of Lory Meagher, but Cork were good winners at the end. However, that was a real red-letter day for me, because I met one of my College professors and he insisted on taking me to lunch and a meal after the match in the Gresham. What greater thrill could there have been for a school-boy?

In 1932 Lory was back, to the joy of all Kilkenny followers, although they got one horrible shock just before the close, when Tull Considine tore through, and was foiled just in time by burly Podge Byrne, who was popularly known in Kilkenny as 'the Dublinman' although it was his brother Eddie who did most of his hurling in Dublin.

In 1933 we saw Mick Mackey in an All-Ireland final at Croke Park for the first time and I recall two whiplash points of his in quick succession shortly before half-time. However, a soldier called Martin Power, too often forgotten on Kilkenny's Roll of Honour, whipped over two like scores in reply before Johnny Dunne finished the argument with an amazing goal.

In 1934 the Mackeys were back for their first Celtic Cross medals, and yet my chief memory of that game is of the vain but valiant efforts of Dublin's Charlie Mc-

● TO PAGE 61



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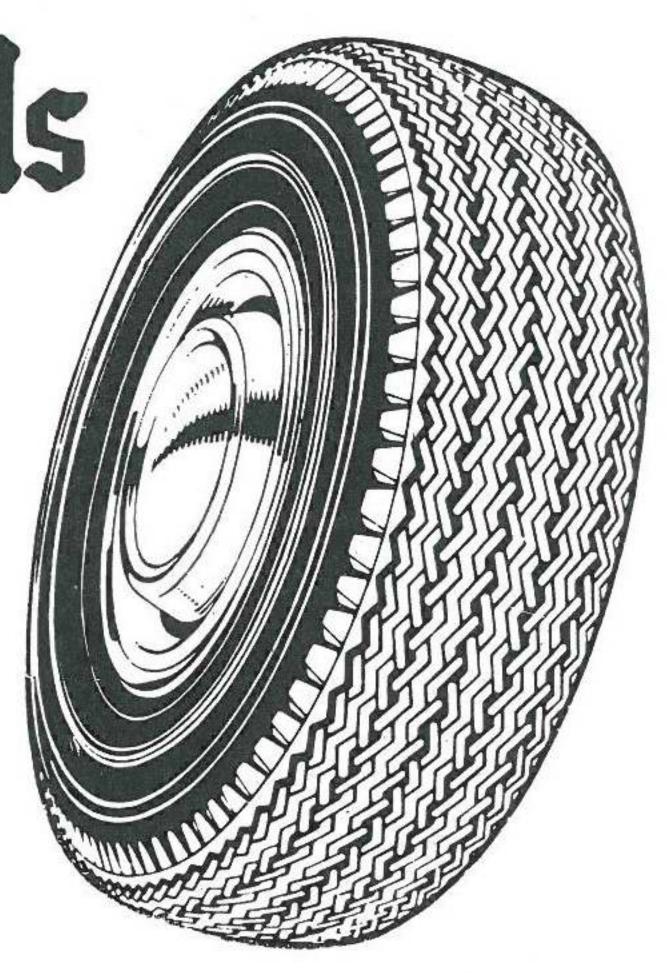
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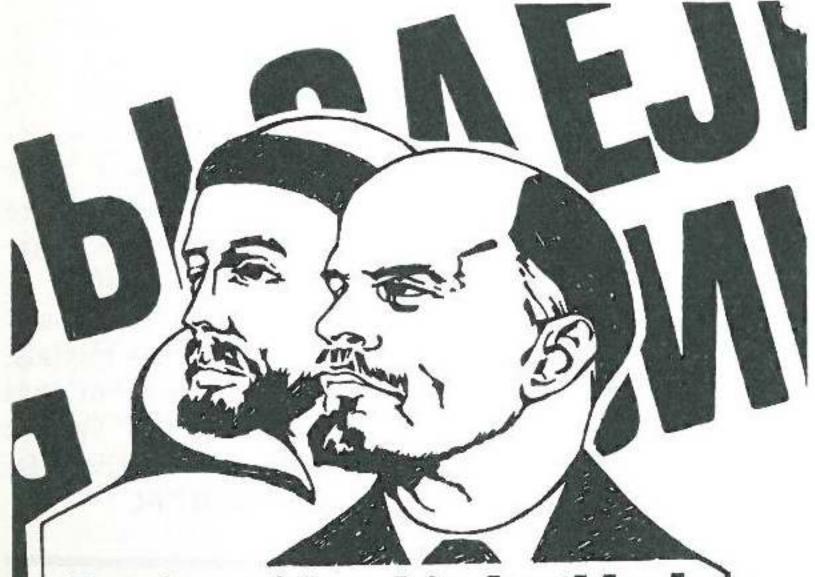
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• FROM PAGE 59

Mahon to hurl with one hand, when called in as a reserve in the closing stages. He had broken a finger in the drawn game.

Of course nobody who was at the 1935 final between Kilkenny and Limerick will ever forget it. That was the 'wet day' final, a great classic of the game, an hour which saw both Lory Meagher and Mick Mackey at their best, and which Mackey all but won off his own stick in the closing minutes.

But I can still recall a shower of raindrops knocked from the Limerick net as Martin White cracked home a vital Kilkenny second-half goal.

Finals did not reach such a height again for several years. Limerick and Mackey took ample revenge on Kilkenny in 1936, while the Tipperary-Kilkenny final at Killarney in 1937 was an utter fiasco, at least to those of us who travelled down by train from Dublin.

The train took far longer than expected to get to Killarney, it was as hard to get anything to eat in the town as it was on the train, and on the way back the bar ran out of drink, the toilets ran out of water, and we got into Kingsbridge at nine o'clock on the Monday morning.

An unheralded Dublin team beat Waterford in the 1938 final, but I remember that day best, for the fact that it was the first time I ever saw Christy Ring, a youngster with crew-cut hair playing in the half-back line for the victorious Cork minors.

In 1939, of course, we had the thunder and lightning final between Cork and Kilkenny. The thunder and lightning were in the heavens, not on the field, and I particularly remember Jack Lynch shooting for a goal, and seeing the ball fly straight up off his hurley and high over the Kilkenny cross-bar. Kilkenny won by a point.

1940 saw Limerick's last bow, they beat Kilkenny fairly comfortably, and then came Cork's four in a row, but particularly none of these was a memorable final except for the goal-keeping of Jim Donegan for Dublin in 1942.

A high wind ruined the Tipperary v. Kilkenny final as a spectacle, though it gave us a fair share of good hurling just the same, while 1946 was the year that Christy Ring really made his name with a brilliant ten-minute spell late in the first half that shattered Kilkenny.

But the wheel came full circle, as it nearly always does, and Kilkenny again pipped Cork in the 1947 final, the greatest since 1935, thanks to the uncanny accuracy of Terry Leahy and one mighty clearance by Paddy Grace that brought the winning point.

Waterford collected their first title in 1948, the man I particularly remember as demoralising Dublin that day was full forward Ned Daly, who was playing his club hurling with U.C.D. while Tipperary then came back into the reckoning with a three-in-arow run that culminated with victory over Wexford in 1950.

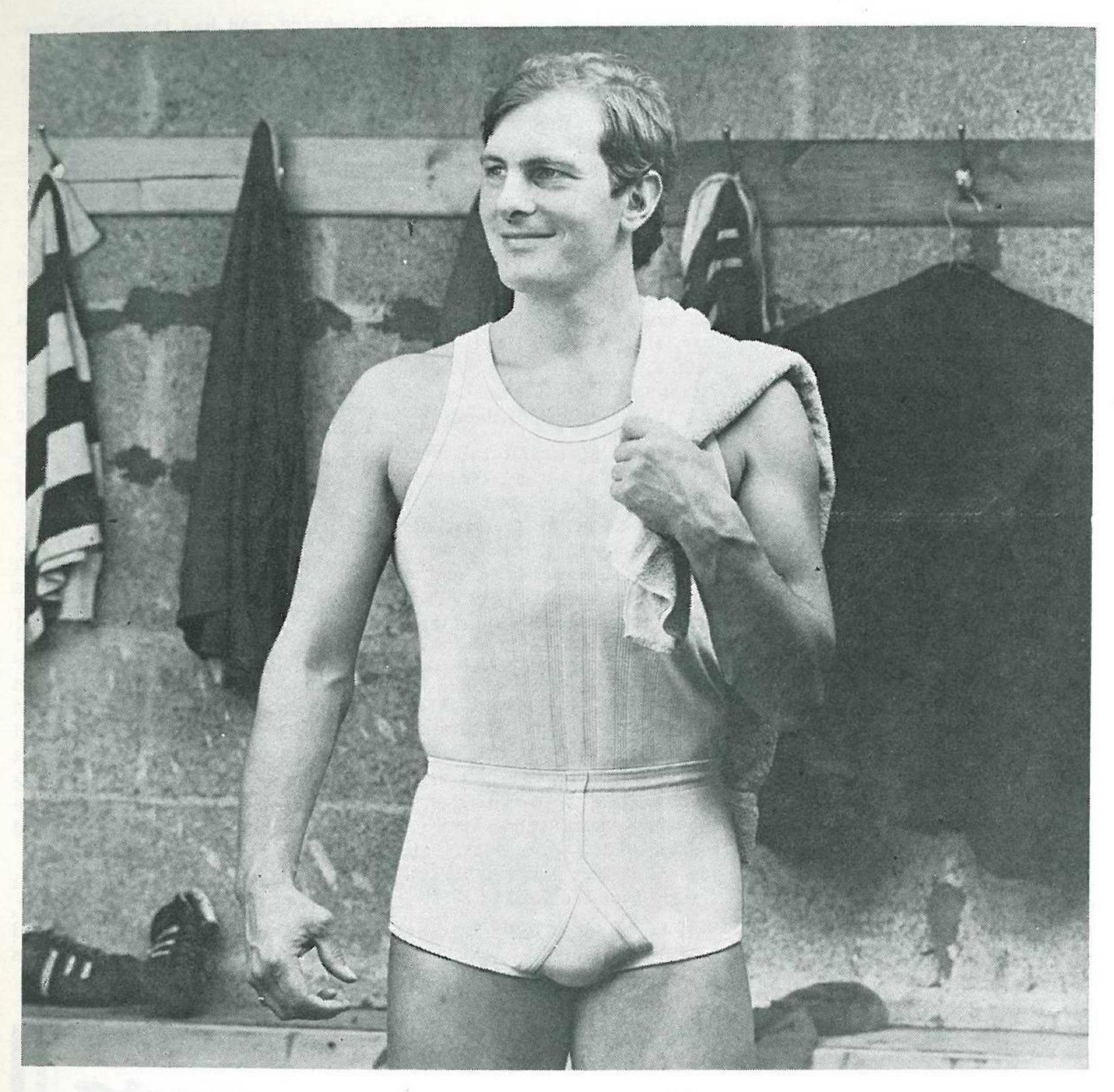
The rise of Wexford brought a new era in hurling, even though it was Cork who now took up the running, and had three in a row in their turn. Again, the last of these was against Wexford, and the Corkmen were lucky to win.

I still believe that, had not their great full-back, Nick O'Donnell retired with a broken collarbone early in the second half, Wexford must have won that day. However, their days of glory were not long delayed. The Rackards, O'Donnell, Tim Flood, the Kehoes and Co. turned in a great second-half to conquer Galway in 1955, and then crowned their endeavours by defeating Cork in that memorable decider of 1956, when goalman Foley's great save from Christy Ring deprived the great Cloyne man of his ninth All-Ireland medal.

Kilkenny, after a long absence, returned to the winning list with a late run to beat neighbours Waterford in 1957, Tipperary beat Galway in a rather dull final in 1958, while in 1959 Waterford had their revenge on Kilkenny for the 1957 defeat but only in a replay, after they had been foiled at the first attempt by some wonderful goal-keeping by Ollie Walsh, the best I have ever seen in any All-Ireland final.

1960 saw Wexford, the team that couldn't win, beat Tipperary, the team that couldn't lose, and the finals of the past ten years are, after all, modern history.





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DON'T RULE OUT KILKENNY

SAYS NOEL COOGAN

THE vast majority of the thrills and excitement recorded in this year's senior hurling championship campaign to date has been confined to the southern province.

Indeed, to be precise, apart from Limerick, Cork and Tipperary, the remaining counties gave supporters of the small ball game very little to shout about.

Over the last few years there has been much mooting for the cause of an open draw in the All-Ireland title race. While such an idea probably has some good points the obvious case against it lies in the fact that the Munster Championship possesses a charm and a tradition seldom equalled in the world of sport and to destroy something so wonderful would be nothing short of a tragedy.

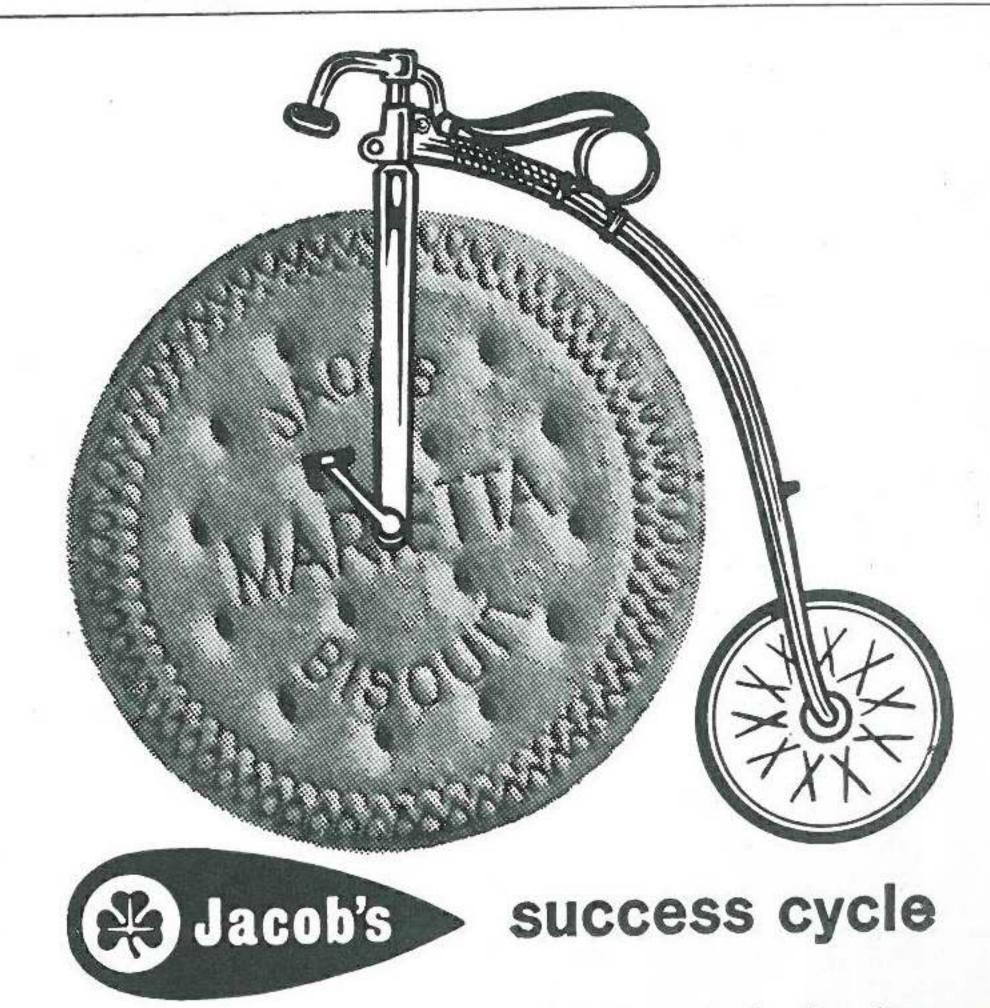
Many major Munster matches in recent seasons turned out as little more than anti-climax affairs, but this year such was hardly the case as the standard reached the proportions of the good old days. And just think, without the Munster Championship we would have been deprived of games like, Limerick and Cork in the semi-final and Limerick and Tipperary in the final!

One would hardly be too far from the mark in stating that a team which will not be appearing at Croke Park on the first Sunday of September really made the battle for the McCarthy Cup the most exciting in years. That team is, of course, Limerick.

Most neutral supporters are, no doubt, a trifle disappointed that the Shannonsiders will not be displaying their talents on hurling's biggest day this year. While Cork, Tipperary, Wexford

and Kilkenny have all proved worthy standard bearers in recent times there can be little questioning the fact that new champions would do the game a world of good. Still, we will look ahead with eager anticipation to more satisfying hours from this up and coming Limerick side in the coming months

• TO PAGE 64



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FROM PAGE 63

and who knows, they may succeed in 1972 where they so bravely and narrowly failed in 1971.

All credit to Tipperary for the magnificent manner in which they regained the Southern crown. They helped to make the Munster final a match that those of us fortunate enough to witness will not readily forget. But then, the men from the Premier county have been dishing out exciting stuff right from the start of the hurling season. From last December, one could say, when the wearers of the immortal Blue and Gold jerseys gave us a taste of things to expect when overcoming the reigning All-Ireland champions, Cork, in a memorable if not belated Oireachtas final. Tipperary have been exciting in both victory and defeat. They had little to be ashamed of when suffering three agonising defeats at the hands of Limerick in the National League, while there was much to be proud of in two victories over Cork, one in the League semi-final and the other in the Wembley tournament game, a match which showed exiles and aliens alike what a truly superlative spectacle hurling can be, and the one which mattered most, that sweet success against Limerick at Killarney. Tipperary are now poised for their first All-Ireland title since 1965 and I, for one, am not prepared to say that this is not their year.

While Tipperary have been most impressive in their march to the final, their opponents Kilkenny have crept in virtually unnoticed. As in so many previous years we were left with a Wexford-Kilkenny pairing when Leinster Final day arrived. Underdogs like Kildare, Offaly and Dublin departed tamely from the race and supporters from either counties found little to cheer about. Similarly, the provincial decider fell far short of its usual high standard and even though the Noresiders pulled through comfortably enough in the end their fans hadn't all that much to shout about. As far as thrills are concerned this game was not a patch on its Southern counterpart.

Still, this does not mean that Tipperary are going to have it easy on final day. Far from it. Kilkenny are the team for the big occasion. They seldom disappoint when the chips are down. They will be underdogs this year and they love it that way. Remember 1967 against Tipperary? Also 1969 against Cork. What about 1971 against Tipperary? Who knows what may happen. Kilkenny may not have shared in many of the thrilling moments so far this year. But, I, for one, will not be at all surprised if they make up for it on September 5.

give you guaranteed quality

• FROM PAGE 14

he is typical of the player of class in one of its manifestations. Not the Ring kind who showed his talent on each and every occasion-from the least important challenge to the most vital championship game. To Roche, there is the need for a stimulus; he can play such uninspired stuff for his club and in his county's lesser games; but when the time comes for the big games, the adrenalin runs and Roche displays a talent such as few players have ever been gifted with-instinctive, delightful, complex. He looks like a small boy playing with imaginary opponents in his back garden, so little do the rest of the players seem to influence his play.

Tipperary rest heavily on this charismatic thing from Roche and Keating, for it lifts them from a hard-struggling side to a winning one. It enhances the gritty work of lesser mortals by adding to it the touch of glamour and makes them feel all the better themselves.

Peter O'Sullivan is a lovable, enthusiastic goalkeeper, who releases his pent-up waiting excitement when he finds the ball within reach: by a ripping dash out through a ruck or a suicidal plunge from his line to check a shot before it is made. The fullback line is heavily suspect and will, no doubt, contain Liam

King to give it a bit of brawny skirmishing ability.

Roche can make up for any defects if he is in the mood, and All-Irelands bring the best out of him; Gaynor is slower and stiffer, but has consciously compensated with a cooler and more sober judgement; O'Connor I have always thought a most gifted player. Seamus Hogan was a heaven-sent gift from Galway for he was able to pick up a midfield place which was inadequately manned or else would demand Roche's presence; but P. J. Ryan is never likely to be more than a sound journeyman.

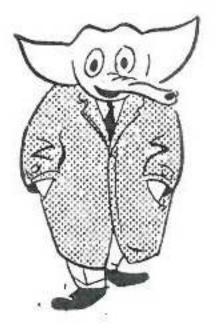
Noel O'Dwyer is gifted but nervous, and often finds it hard to get settled; Francis Loughnane is a great and gritty fighter, hard to subdue, hard to counter; John Flanagan looks as if he may be about to realise a little of the potential that seemed lost for years; Roger Ryan has a nuisance value, at least, and his awkwardness conceals more hurling than he has ever shown at inter-county level; and Dinny Ryan is a tough little terrier who knows no fear and has never heard of defeat. But, they would be all just runners-up now if it weren't for the touch of class, Roche and Keating. They bear a heavy burden. The most the rest will be doing is lightening that burden; they are not good enough to remove it.

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TRIUMPH FOR THE OLD ONES

By PHILIP RODERICK

THE young Wexford men behind me in the Hogan Stand were full with just about everything—confidence, a great arrogance, a ribald but reasonably good-natured rudeness, a sarcasm that was perhaps louder than it was biting . . . and, of course, a fair shipment of beer.

I can vouch for the lot, particularly the last, seeing that one of them had perched himself forward and uncomfortably close to my left ear and a strong, hop-endowed breath left me with the strong feeling that all of them had done the traditional rounds of the Dublin pubs before setting off to Croke Park for the Leinster hurling final.

They had no respect at all for the Kilkenny team and they proceeded to let all and sundry know that from the very moment that the first glimpse of the black and amber jersey could be seen under the Cusack Stand.

"They're a bunch of old men" —said one of them.

"Would you look at old Eddie Keher"—said another—"He's getting fat around the bottom."

"And he's getting thin at the other end"—that was my next door neighbour with the brewery breath.

By this time they were almost off their seats with all the fun they were having. "Wouldn't you think Ollie Walsh would have stayed in retirement?" "He should be drawing the old age pension."

"Take a look at Dillon, would you?"—that was my friend again —"no wonder they call him Pa. They should be calling him Grand-Pa."

And they didn't spare old

Martin Coogan, either. According to them, he belonged to the Stone Age, or as one of them said —"He was playing before Nicky Rackard was born."

They kept it up right through the first half, right through the first five or six minutes of the second half when Wexford were still there with a chance.

Then old Martin Coogan belted in a shot from over 80 yards out on the left wing . . . and, what's this, it's dropped over everyone's head and into the net.

And that ancient man Eddie Keher began knocking the ball over the bar.

And old "Pa" Dillon had a grip on Tony Doran . . . and the Wexford full-forward was in trouble up to his hocks.

And Ollie Walsh, despite all that age and infirmity, was able to drag his tired bones across the goalmouth to bring off yet another superlative save.

By midway through the second half, there was a silence behind me that made our local cemetery seem like a vaudeville show. There wasn't a peep to be heard, not even the hint of a peep.

The Wexford lads had folded their little tents and were already stealing silently away to fortify their lungs for 1972 or perhaps 1973. For 1971 was gone forever for them—and there was no hope.

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The Carrolls G.A.A. All-Stars sponsorship will be carried out in two stages. Initially players for each of the fifteen positions on the hurling and football teams will be nominated by the Nomination Panel which will consist of 27 full time journalists from Dublin, Belfast and Cork who regularly cover Gaelic games. The final selection of the Carrolls All-Star teams will be made from these nominations by the Selection Committee which will be composed of 11 journalists representing the Dublin newspapers, Radio Telefis Eireann and a representative from Cork and Belfast. The President and General Secretary of the G.A.A. will sit on the Selection Committee as observers and a representative of P. J. Carroll & Co. will act as a non-voting Chairman.

Nominations for the Carrolls G.A.A. All-Star hurling team will close on Saturday, September 11th and the team will be announced in October. The nominations for Carrolls All-Star football team will close on Saturday, 2nd October and the team will be announced in November. Both teams will be presented with awards at a Banquet in Dublin in December.

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The day Tipp bounced back

• FROM PAGE 17

Munster final. Native pride had taken a bit of a beating and it was crying out for a boost. They must have reason to believe in themselves; Tipperary people are a proud and independent race; the thought of another blow to their morale in Killarney did not bear thinking about.

That is why they were so overjoyed after the victory. They
have seen better games; they have
played better games in the past;
certainly, they have had better
teams. But, no matter, victory
now and self-respect was everything. To be able to raise the
head and shout "Up Tipp" again
without the hollow feeling of
men of straw.

That's how Tipperary have come to Croke Park. It was not

weather and tension were heavily against brilliance. But, there has seldom been so dramatic a Munster final — and that is saying something in an occasion annually famous for its drama. A Shakespeare could not have bettered it for exploiting the gamut of emotions: tingling anticipation, hope, pride, fear, joy, rapture, sinking apprehension, and finally unconfined ecstacy and black en-

veloping despair. It was physically possible to appreciate the delight of the Tipperary people while wiping away an unbidden tear for the anguish of the Limerick folk.

Indeed, I cannot remember feeling such disturbed emotions after a game: you simply were caught up in the joy of the winners and yet unable to escape from the tangible horror of the losers.

JIM TREACY

• FROM PAGE 11

bruiser type who simply bashes his way to a degree of fear if not respect. What he does have is a little of everything, and plenty of shortcomings in them all. But one over-riding gift which more than compensates for all — a bright alertness, so that he is always a fraction before his opponent in working out the implications of a situation.

Watch the number of times he

"steals" possession from an apparently secure attacker by a quick little dash across or a more daring sally outfield. Alertness and clear-headed defensive thinking. And because of that he makes his decision and acts on it: no hesitation, not caught between minds or between two places. Go or stay — a simple rule, you think? But mightily hard to employ in the heat and speed of a hurling match.



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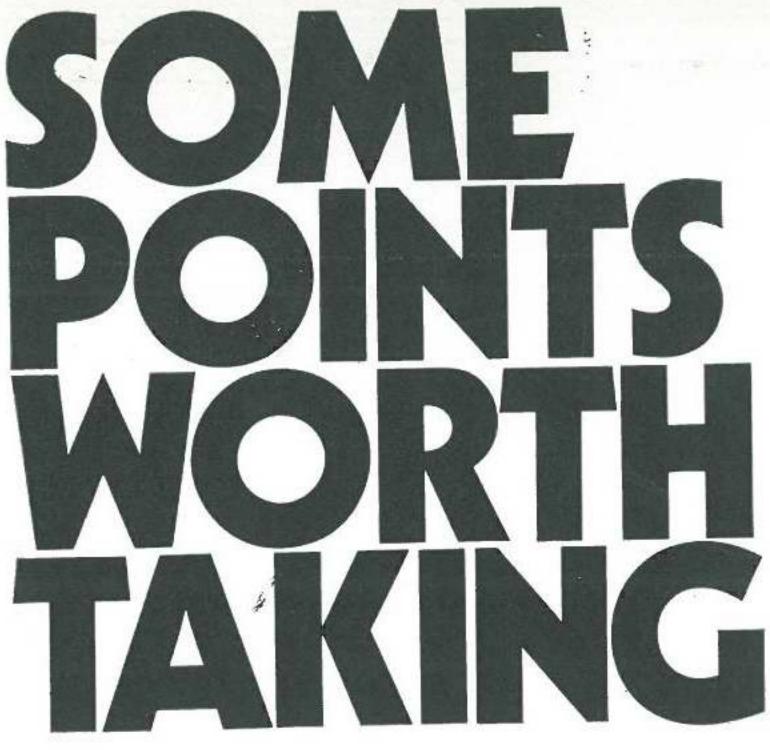
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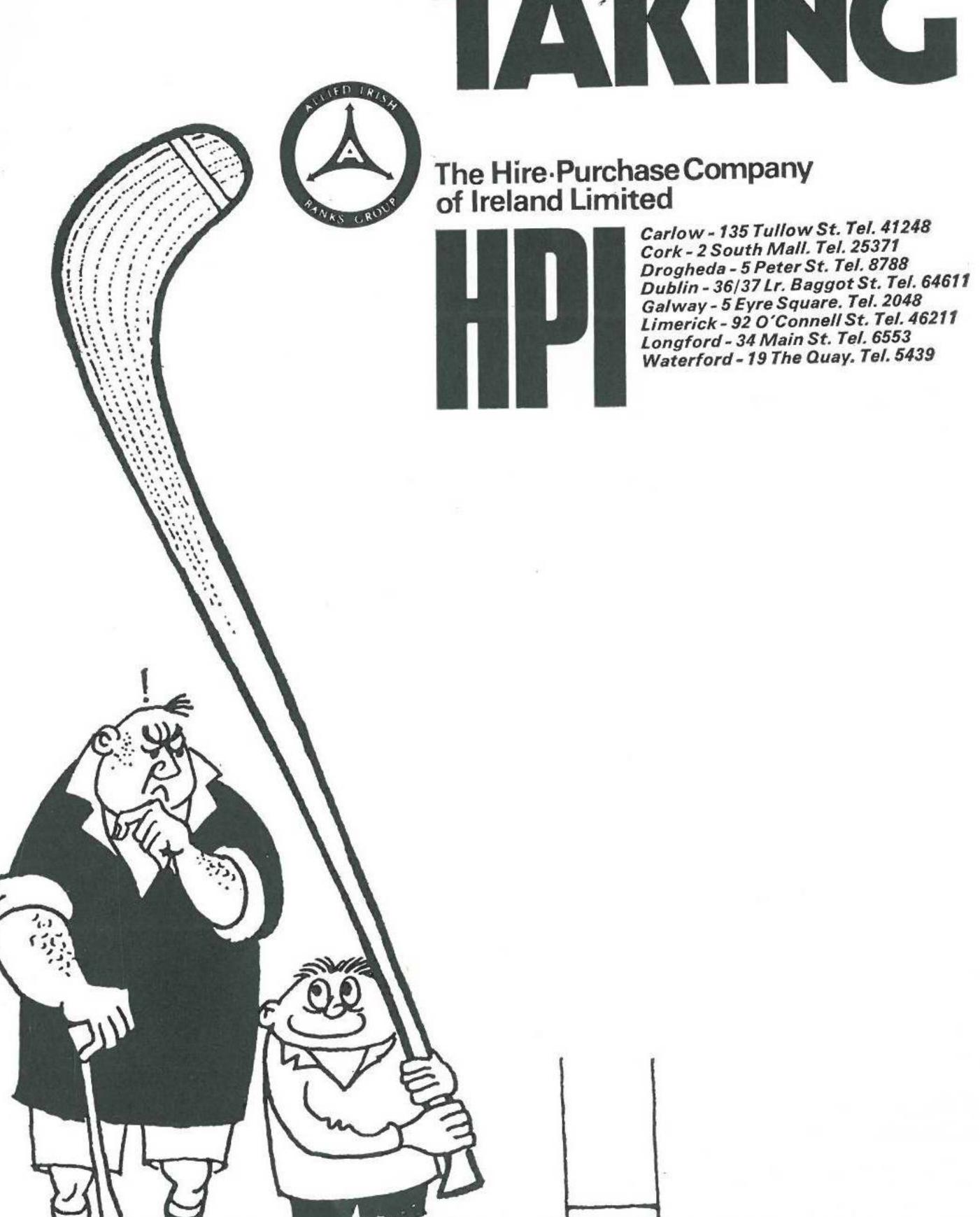
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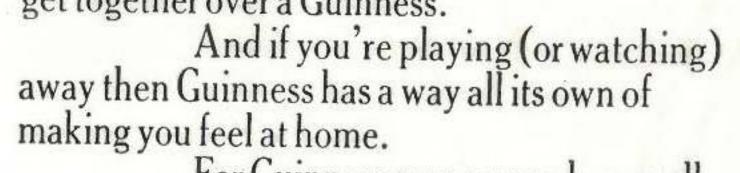


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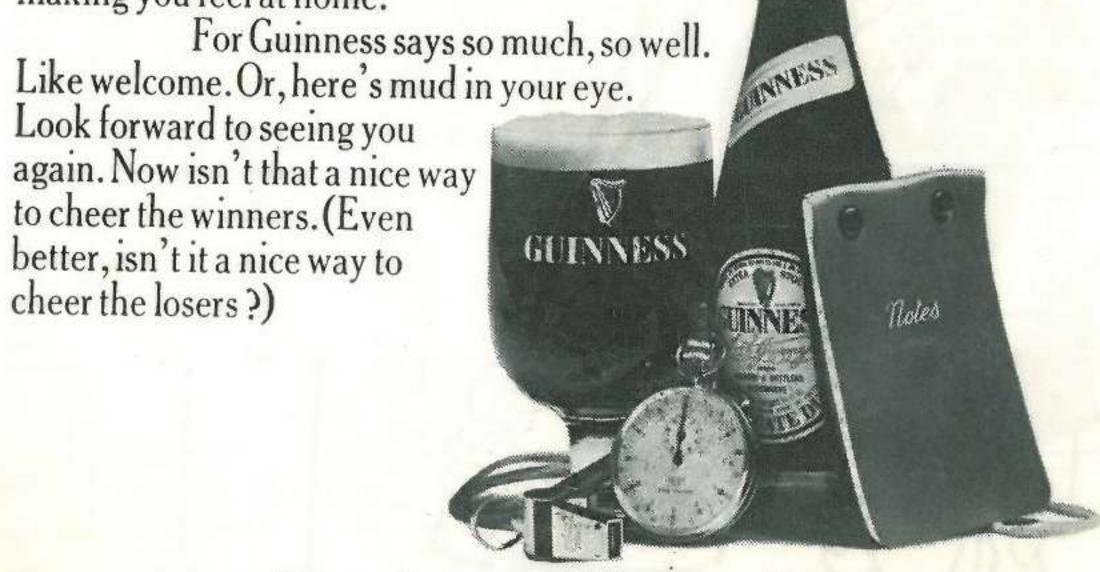


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better, isn't it a nice way to cheer the losers?)



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