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AUGUST, 1972

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6 AUGUST, 1972 — ALL-IRELAND HURLING SEMI-FINALS

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INDEX

| | Page |
|---|------|
| Flexible Cork are Favourites —By Jay Drennan | 5 |
| Top Ten | 8 |
| Ennis Victory Sets Clare Hurling Aflame —By Jim Bennett | 9 |
| Too Few Top Class Teams —Says Owen McCann | 13 |
| Handball by Alleyman ... | 15 |
| Moondharrig's Diary | 17 |
| Scoresheet by Owen McCann Men at Work —By Dan McAreavy | 23 |
| What now for Derry? —By Owen McCann | 24 |
| Camogie by Agnes Hourigan | 27 |
| John Gibbons of Mayo —By Sean Rice | 29 |
| Home Truths Corner —By Noel Coogan | 31 |
| Save for Ireland's Future —By Muiris de Prionnbhiol | 33 |
| Scrapbook by Tony Reid ... | 39 |
| Birth of the G.A.A.—4 —By Seamus O Ceallaigh | 41 |
| Crossword by Permuter ... | 43 |
| Junior Desk by Jack Mahon | 45 |
| Cut-Out | 46 |
| Crossword Solution | 48 |

COVER PHOTO

OUR front cover star this month is Derry's Malachy McAfee. Derry's shock exit from this year's Ulster Senior Football Championship is yet another thread in the web of frustration that the Derrymen have woven in recent years. On pages 24 and 25 Owen McCann tries to unravel the great enigma of this very talented team and poses the question—"What now for Derry?"

NEW FACES

TYRONE'S great victory over strongly-fancied Derry in the Ulster football championship once again highlighted the glorious uncertainty of sport. Whatever happens in the provincial final, they are now firmly back amongst the elite of the game, as are Clare, who also scored a memorable win over the hot favourites, Limerick, in the Munster hurling championship.

From the neutral point of view, it was regrettable that their victims had to be who they were; for both Derry and Limerick deserved provincial and All-Ireland titles. They must now wait for 1973, and hope that their enthusiasm will not wane in the wake of those recent defeats.

New names are needed on the honours list. Change is good for the games all round.

Press pleased

NEWSPAPER reporters have been making happy noises of late regarding the provision of accommodation for their work at a number of venues.

That is a pleasant change. For far too long these men have been badly (in some cases, scandalously) treated by officialdom, whose indifference to the demand of the sports writers' job indicated what little *meas* they had on the sources of publicity—without which the association and the games would run into very serious difficulties, indeed.

First-class accommodation has been erected at some grounds. Regrettably, there are still many important venues including the Cork Athletic Grounds and Austin Stack Park, Tralee, where proper facilities for the press do not exist. The minimum requirements are an unimpeded view of the pitch and cover to protect notebooks in wet weather.

This may be an appropriate time to point out that press boxes now going up in some places are too small. They are built to seat only five or six people, when, in fact, at least double that number of working journalists from the daily and local press and radio require accommodation for important championship and League matches.

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Seamus Looney



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Paddy Barry

FLEXIBLE CORK ARE FAVOURITES

CLARE surprised Limerick, yet they deserved their victory thoroughly; if they were a little rickety near the end when conceding a couple of goals, there is no reason at all why this might not be explained by tiring in a tense game and in one which was their first intense championship effort for years.

Cork, lucky not to be annihilated by Tipperary on their first meeting, only came into that game through the lucky chance of Tipperary's unexpected inability to press home their overwhelming superiority. In the replay they were always looking as though they had learnt their lesson well and were deservedly winners in a match in which Tipperary were shown to be fallible and not nearly such a fearsome test as might have been thought in the light of their All-Ireland victory of last year.

The replayed semi-final was a much more satisfying game than the earlier draw. Yet, it would be false to say that it was a great game, or a game between great teams. In fact, had these teams been great, it would have been a great game, since everything else was right: atmosphere, tone, intense keyed up feelings of the players. But, sadly, there

were very few great players on the park, and even when the trend of the game was so close most of the way, no one of real star quality could raise himself from the maelstrom and take the game by the neck and shake it into the top quality.

Cork and Tipperary, both, appeared to have the ability to fight fierce and determined rear-guard actions, staving off defeat with desperation. But, both also seemed unable to raise their game that notch which would have enabled them to win it unequivocally. You see, it was such a tortuous, though inevitable, drag through most of the second half before Cork could actually win: had they the winning flair, it appears that they should have sewn it up immediately after a lovely thoughtful movement only a few minutes into the second half.

They did not, but while they chiselled away with slow points, Tipperary were fighting grimly to stem the tide and allowed to do so — even to the extent that they were able to keep the ball up in attack for periods. In a nutshell, if Tipperary had a great player in their attack, he alone would have been able to take this reprieve by the throat

and force Cork to sorrowful contemplation of a chance let slip.

They had not, of course, and that had been shown fairly clearly in the first-half: if they had, by the most inexplicable piece of bad selection, they had withdrawn him to midfield to fill the vacancy created when P. J. Ryan cried off. I refer to Loughnane: a great little worker and enthusiast (one of the few in this Tipperary team who are in the mould of the '50s and '60s men) but one who was spending his time working his back off for a crew of non-responsive forwards. It is a shame to waste a forward of talent, bravery, and determination by pulling him out to midfield where he is too far away to affect the scoring.

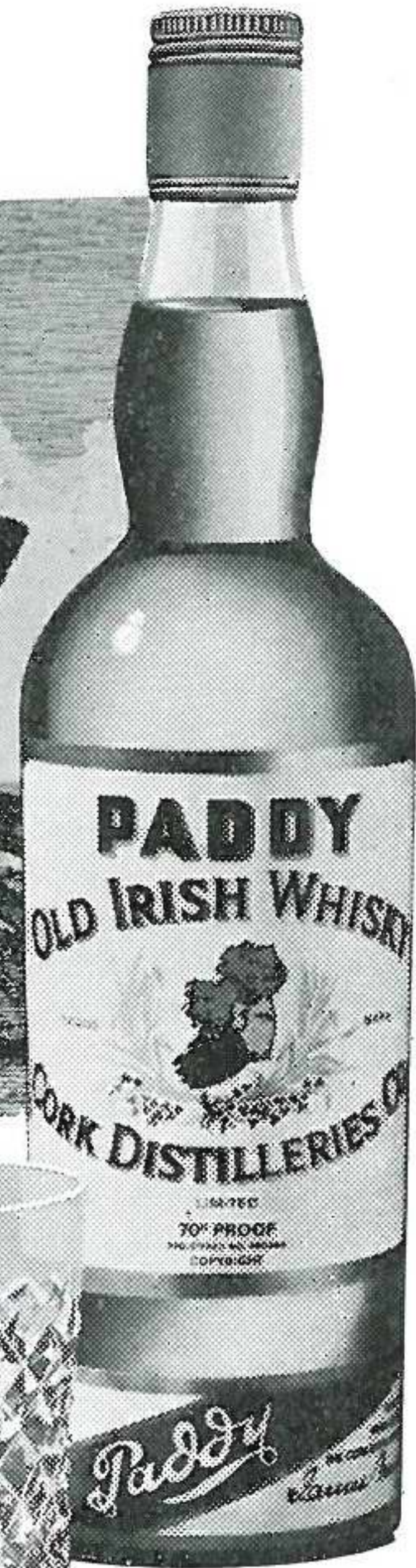
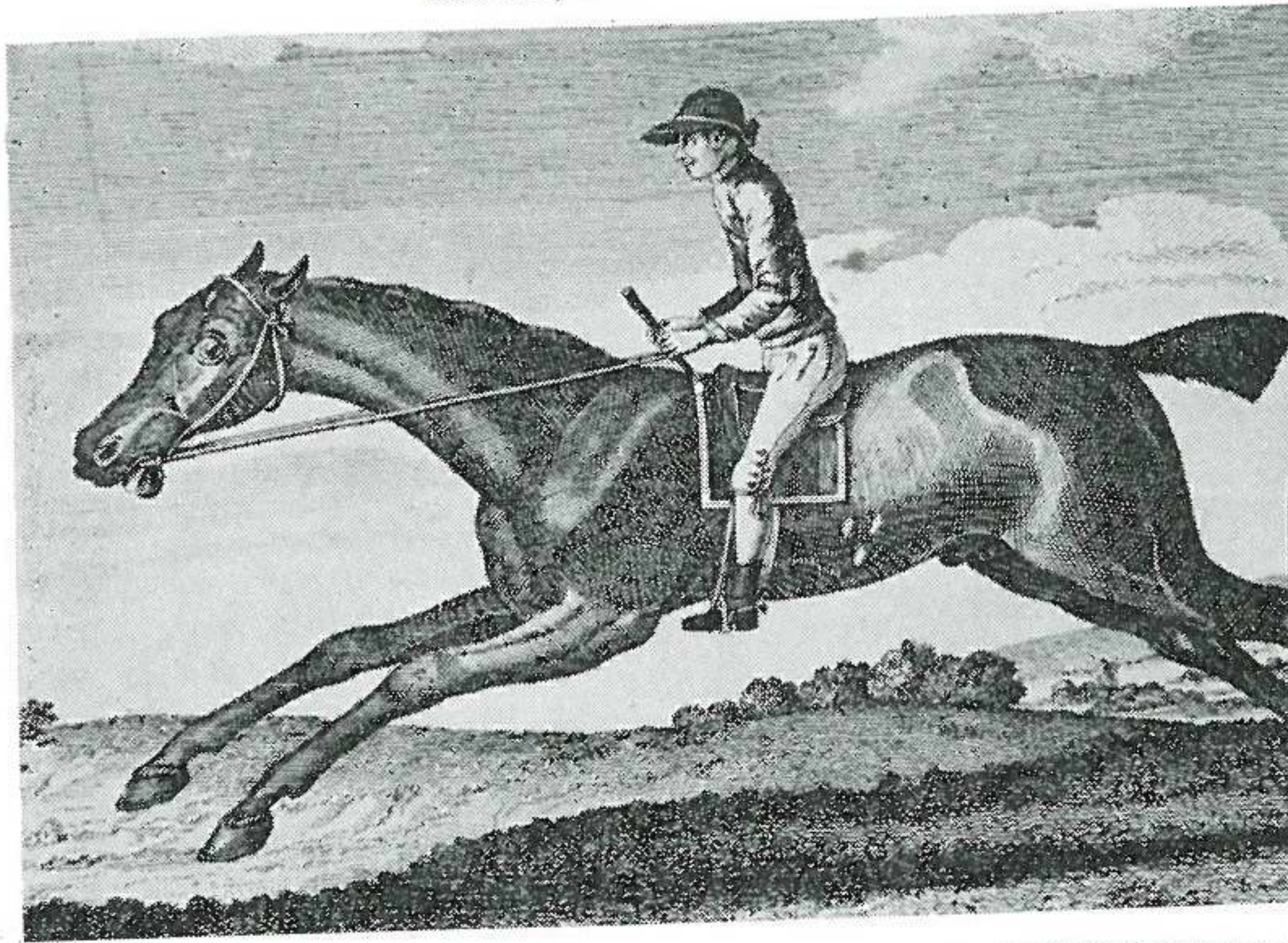
Even frees were wasted because of this, and, in particular, one vital 45 yarder while the situation was still (theoretically) undecided twenty minutes through the second half. Keating made a mess of it; it would have surprised me if Loughnane would not have scored it, even into the very strong wind.

Speaking of Keating: he was a total failure through both games and the saddest thing was that he did not create the impression that it bothered him too much. For the rest, O'Gorman played fairly well, but is not much of a scoring man anyway; Flanagan tried very well and did good things within a capacity which is far below what it once seemed likely to be; and Coen tried also. So, I suppose, did Roger Ryan, in so far as he expended plentiful energies wrestling and tumbling about on the edge of the square.

So many questions arise from Tipperary's performance one must pose them in some attempt

● TO PAGE 7

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Paddy

The Thoroughbred

FLEXIBLE CORK ARE FAVOURITES

● FROM PAGE 5

to evaluate Cork who because of their constant chopping and changing give no clear team structure with which to come to grips.

In God's name, what possessed Tipperary to select Keating a second time against Tony Maher—a physically powerful, forthcoming, uncompromising hurler who has a record of constantly subduing Babs? Next door was Pat McDonnell, a hurler who would hurl with him, and who would lose hurling against Keating, while the mountainous pair of Ryan and Maher could have the physical contest to end all physical contests to themselves. But, Tipperary did not think of that one.

Next, why on earth play Loughnane centre-field? If they would not take Roche from centre-back (which was surely bad selection, also, on the second day when he had been found too slow and too loose on Malone after half-time in the drawn game) why not play Flanagan mid-field in the position he most impressed as an under-21, especially as he looked strong and fit; if not, why not O'Gorman? But, especially, why not Roche?

But, who then centre-half? The fact of the matter is that Roche was not able to maintain a grip against the breeze when pressure was on and he could not use his outguessing technique to make his man look a fool. So, why not O'Gorman? Why not King — he suffered sadly through one moderate game in the position once, even though he had many good ones, and his closeness might have mattered?

A final point was the ill-advised physical approach by King to O'Leary early on; he got quick cause to remember that the "Boss" playing outside O'Leary and who comes from the same club, takes a paternalistic view of his team and makes sure that none of them is ill-treated.

And, so, illogically, but in the only way possible, to Cork last of all. They are unsettled, but there is a great flexibility about the squad which makes them dangerous in second and third waves. You may have mastered their first line-out of players; you may even have continued to master their second arrangement; and their third; but, you may still catch a tartar in their fourth dispersal. That must be Clare's big danger, after they have overcome — if they are able — the first crisis of the early minutes.

There is reason for hope among Clare people that they will have power and quality in some vital places; that they will have eagerness and never-say-die in others; that, in the circumstances, there should not be too many places where they will be overplayed. Thus, adding up the two sides of the account, they may feel that there is good reason to expect a balance in their favour.

Closeness in the full-back line will be vital all the time: Gerald McCarthy showed clearly how forgetfulness could be a fatal error. Solid, hardly the fastest in the world, but sound, knowing, hard, a great deal must depend on Gus Lohan: if he can avoid being outpaced by the dashing Malone or out-thought by the cunning Cummins, Cork could be in poor shape.

It is hard to find cause to think that Clare's other defenders are inferior to Tipperary's, especially if they drill hard in the training sessions at covering and watching hard how

the Cork forwards are moving about. But, if every man can stick absolutely to his man even better still.

Who will Cork play with Denis Coughlan at mid-field? (Ironic, isn't it, that at the end of all, Cork are reduced to thinking who they can play with Coughlan, after the cavalier fashion they have treated him over the years.) Will they have the courage to play Teddy O'Brien, who showed how cleverness, tidiness and thought can overcome a right-below-left grip and an inability overhead? Or, will it be horses for courses (remember 1966) and Justin McCarthy again? Or will they dare spare Gerald from the attack now he has got back his inter-county touch and become used to the pace of the play?

Anyway, Michael Moroney, if thoroughly fit, could outhurl any of them: Clare were right when they said it was a scandal he didn't play for Munster last year. And Pat O'Leary is a good enough goer to ensure no catastrophe on the other side.

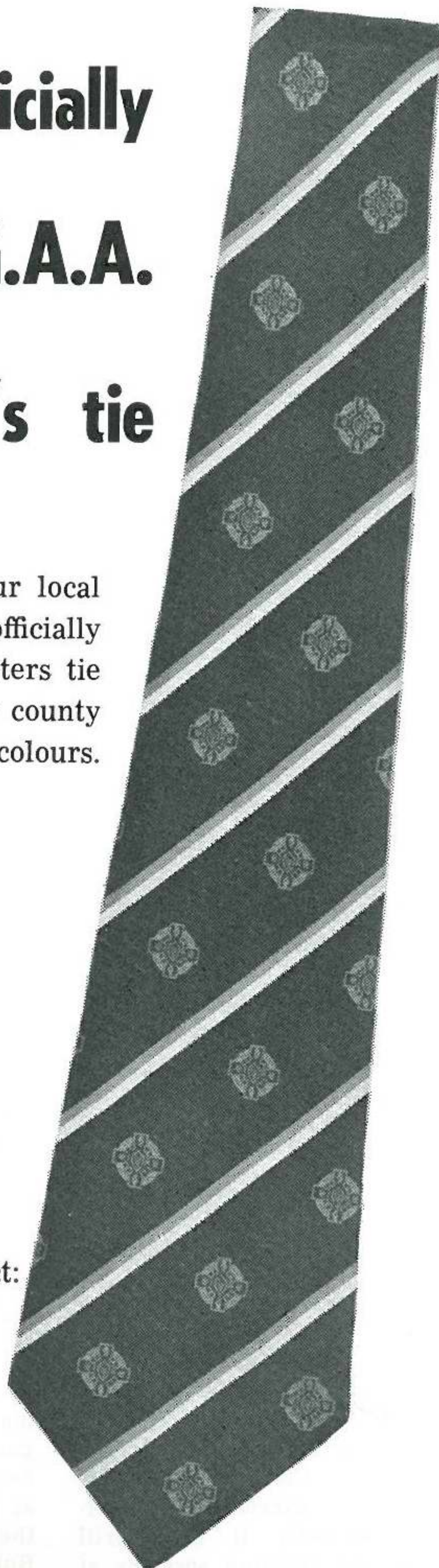
In attack, Noel Casey, with his heavy-hitting style, has the ability to cause the devil's own bother in the middle of the attack, especially in keeping the ball moving — unless, of course, Cork play Hegarty here. Jimmy Cullinane and Timmy Ryan have a lot of skill, of course, but one must hope they do not both play deep. I suppose maximum effort will be adequate from the inside three; hoping for the odd break to sweeten the brew.

No, Clare are not without hope — on the contrary; but, of course, it is a big day, a new experience, a big step up for too many of the team, and Cork are good, if not great, and as I said, flexible, so that they could come at you at any time. Cork must, therefore, remain favourites. But, come on Clare: and "Pull ye divils."

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TOP TEN

THE past few weeks produced a host of stars on Gaelic fields as the championships in hurling and football reduced the fields in each province.

Inevitably, the hurlers of Clare and the footballers of Tyrone and Roscommon are represented in this month's rankings. We welcome their inclusion in lists which were compiled from June 11 to July 9.

HURLING

- (9) G. Lohan (Clare)
- (9) J. O'Gorman (Clare)
- (9) S. Durack (Clare)
- (9) P. Barry (Cork)
- (9) J. Treacy (Kilkenny)
- (9) C. Doran (Wexford)
- (9) A. Maher (Cork)
- (8) J. O'Donnell (Limerick)
- (8) F. Loughnane (Tipperary)
- (8) R. Cummins (Cork)

FOOTBALL

- (9) N. Clavin (Offaly)
- (9) F. McGuigan (Tyrone)
- (9) G. Teggart (Tyrone)
- (9) G. Beirne (Roscommon)
- (8) M. Sweeney (Donegal)
- (8) J. J. Costello (Mayo)
- (8) M. Flanagan (Roscommon)
- (8) J. Doyle (Kildare)
- (8) J. Winston (Donegal)
- (8) K. Kilmurray (Offaly)

Ennis victory sets Clare hurling aflame

WELL, did it surprise you that Clare put one over on Limerick in the Munster semi-final? Anyone who glances at the few words I wrote in the July issue of this magazine previewing the Cork and Tipperary semi-final will note that Clare were not even mentioned among the other pretenders to the title of possible champions. Limerick were.

Frankly, I do not know why—one of those moments of abstraction, I suppose. Or, maybe it was that my whole attitude to the situation changed, because in the days before the match I found myself increasingly bold in tipping Clare when the conversation was brought round to such topics.

This is not any kind of cover-up or defence of myself. Indeed, why defend oneself? Just about everybody was tipping Limerick anyway, so one would be in good company. But, just to show how impressions did change as time wore on towards that Clare-Limerick match, with Limerick putting very little in the way of anything extra into their preparation, but with Clare not only trying to get the best fifteen in the best possible condition, but also moving heaven and earth to have Cusack Park ready for the game.

You really should have smelt

a rat—so should I—in the early part of the year, when Clare kicked up one helluva row when it was thought—quite logically—proper that the game between the counties should go on in Thurles. It has become almost an accepted thing that Cusack Park has become just a run-of-the-mill club ground without a serious ambition to be considered in the same group of first-quality grounds to which it belonged in the forties and before the overbearing rise of Limerick as a venue.

If it really did not matter so much to Clare, why go to the bother of all that work and refurbishment at Cusack Park; and all that feverish effort at Munster Council to keep the decision on the venue open until they could prove that they were able to put the game on.

Of course, the Cusack Park effort was a symbolic thing to the county and the team, as well as being an indication which we were too long in seeing that Clare really had a chance this time.

All right, then, did they deserve it? Can they be classed as anything better than “no-hopers” for the Munster final? Of course, they deserved it: they were, in general, the better team, and even where they were lacking in the finer points of inter-

county skill in hurling, they were always far and away ahead in sheer effort and enthusiasm.

Limerick were obviously unprepared mentally for the tidal wave that hit them: and one must conclude that this was careless of them, for they are surely close enough neighbours to know better how the climate of things was developing in Clare. Indeed, one must be willing to admit that they were not unaware of that enthusiasm which awaited them in Ennis, and that, indeed, they had prepared themselves as best they could. But, even then they were overcome by Clare's appetite for success.

Of course, this is an appetite which will be even more voracious for the final as those prizes which have been kept from them almost a lifetime swim tantalisingly into reach. But, it will not be quite the same, for now they have the burden of expectation to bear: supporters and others who previously were only too glad to accept whatever crumbs came their way will now begin, perversely, to demand certain standards.

The main trouble as far as Clare are concerned is that change of attitude which will overwhelm the county. The very people who would have dismissed them with something bordering on contempt before the Limerick game will be the most noisy in forecasting what they will do in the final. But, one swallow does not make a summer—nor does one game make All-Ireland (or even Munster) champions. If the team and their supporters could again come to the final with exactly the same frame of mind as they did to the Limerick game they would have a really fine chance.

● TO PAGE 11



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● FROM PAGE 9

But, in truth, it is not possible. Everything will have changed; instead of the quiet and fiercely determined resolution in their own hearts that they would give Limerick something to think about, the players will have the build up of expectation, fear, hope, and resolution for the final and it will all be out in public. Press, radio and television will watch as they try to gather themselves to reproduce the Limerick form again—this time without the element of surprise.

Worst of all, it will be against opponents long used to the public stare; opponents who will realise that the major challenge they face will be the opening period when they will have to dig in and hold on, knowing that if they can cool off the initial fervour of the rush of Clare's challenge, they will be more than half-way to winning in their own time and at their own pace.

This is always the case of the underdog. If it could be different, there would often be different champions, both in Munster and elsewhere. Far from the elation and excitement telling in favour of Clare, it is more likely to tell against them. Should they win, it will again tell heavily against them in the All-Ireland series, but not so badly because it will have been counterbalanced by the fact of two notable victories, which will have been enough to prove to the players that they have no reason to fear anyone, that they have what it takes. But, it is the second match which matters.

The same thing has happened to Clare more than once in recent times; and to illustrate from another county's similar experience, there was that shattering defeat of Cork's All-Ireland title-holders in 1967 at

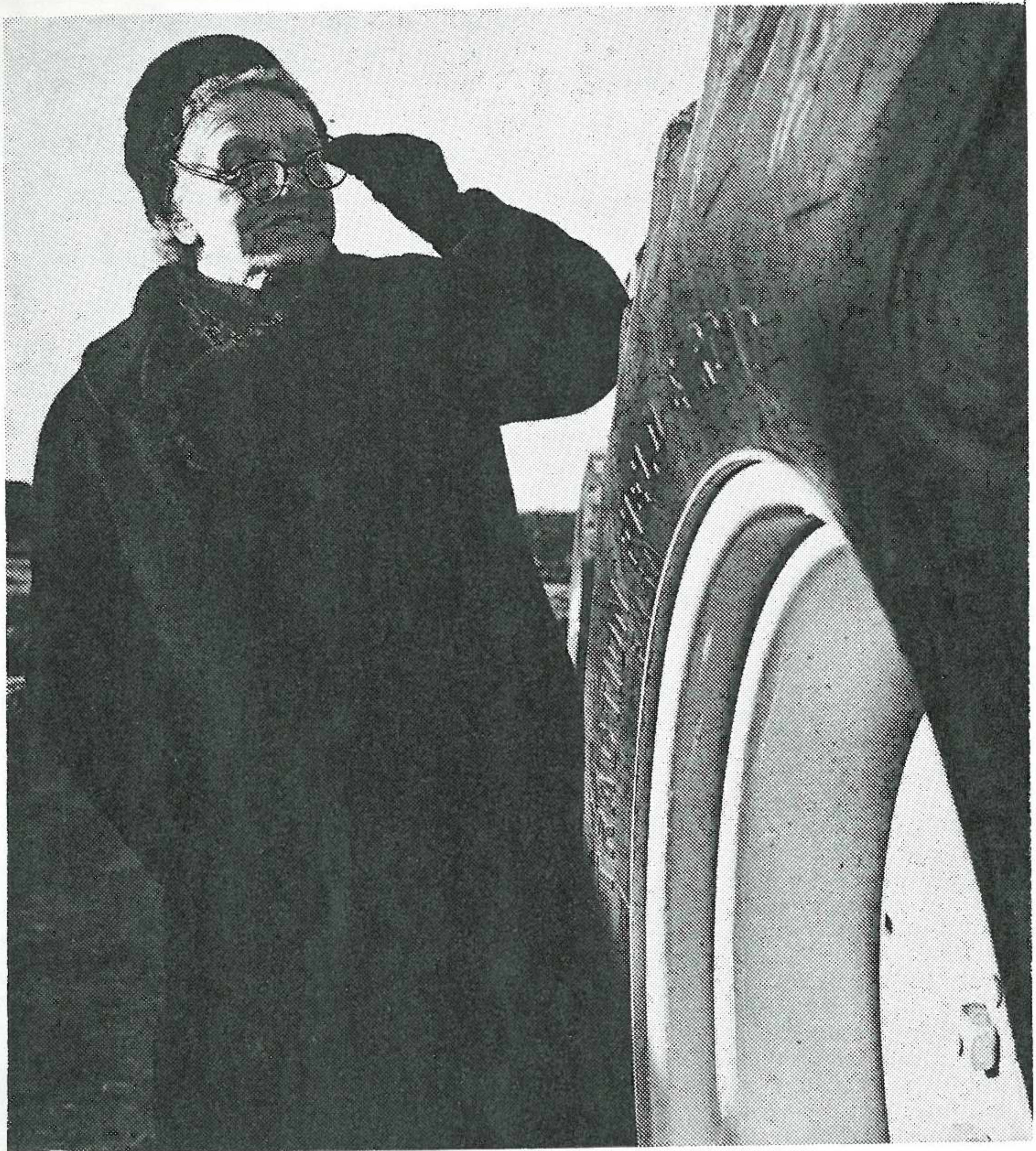


● JIM O'BRIEN, (Limerick)

Walsh Park by Waterford, with exactly the same things telling for them as told for Clare against Limerick. In the next round, Tipperary found all Waterford's shortcomings and beat them very convincingly—to such an extent that one wondered how on earth Waterford

could have overcome Cork.

The parallel is not complete; Clare are a better team in relation to Munster standards as they are now than were Waterford in 1967. They have a very fair chance. If only they could tip-toe up to the game unobserved, as they did to the Limerick clash.



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TOO FEW TOP CLASS TEAMS

By
Owen McCann

A DISAPPOINTING feature of the just concluded Provincial Senior Championships was the fact that there was much indifference among the general public concerning many of the games in the earlier rounds. I got the impression that most enthusiasts regarded a big number of ties in the earlier stages as completely irrelevant; tedious, if necessary, exercises to be carried out in order to weed out the wheat from the chaff to clear the way for a handful of worth-while matches in the concluding stages.

As usual, the fans who generally are the best judges of all of what to expect from a particular tie, were right. Too many counties in football and hurling are not nearly up to senior scratch. It is as simple as that!

What is even more worrying is that some of the long-established strongholds of the games have been steadily slipping back down the years.

Many maintain that the open-draw would help to improve the position. Frankly, I have my doubts. Certainly, the open-draw would bring much-needed variety to the championships, and thereby create new nation-wide interest. No one can deny that this would undoubtedly prove a

splendid thing for the games in general.

But there is one incredible fact from which we just cannot escape — incredible because of the playing support football and hurling have consistently enjoyed throughout the country.

It is the failure of so many of the "Cinderella" counties to produce even once in a while a company of from fifteen to twenty skilled players at the same time to blend into a combination to shake up the big boys.

A few have made it from time to time. One immediately thinks of Longford, who won their only National Football League title in 1964-65, and took the Leinster senior championship for the only time in 1968. But Longford's feats have not been matched by many of the lesser lights.

Why is this so? Emigration has hit some counties, but this has hardly held as a valid excuse for the majority. The playing numbers, as I have already stressed, have been there in most counties — whatever about the quality.

Have officials and players in the weaker counties, then, been really dedicated and enthusiastic enough in their efforts to improve the standards in their own

areas? Or have they, in fact, been content to plough on, year in, year out, in the same old vein, playing club matches merely for the sake of playing games, and in the hope of the odd boost of a county title win—and to hell with improving standards, or winning a step-up in status at inter-county level?

Personally, I think that there is a need for a change of attitudes in many counties—and not just the weaker ones. Change is not necessarily progress, but it seems to me that we are erring on the side of conservatism, and a little too prone to invariably take the easy way out.

Take, for example, the clamour we have had for the abolition of the toe pick-up in football. This is one of the game's basic skills, and should be as natural to every senior player as breathing. As we all know only too well, unfortunately, this is not the case.

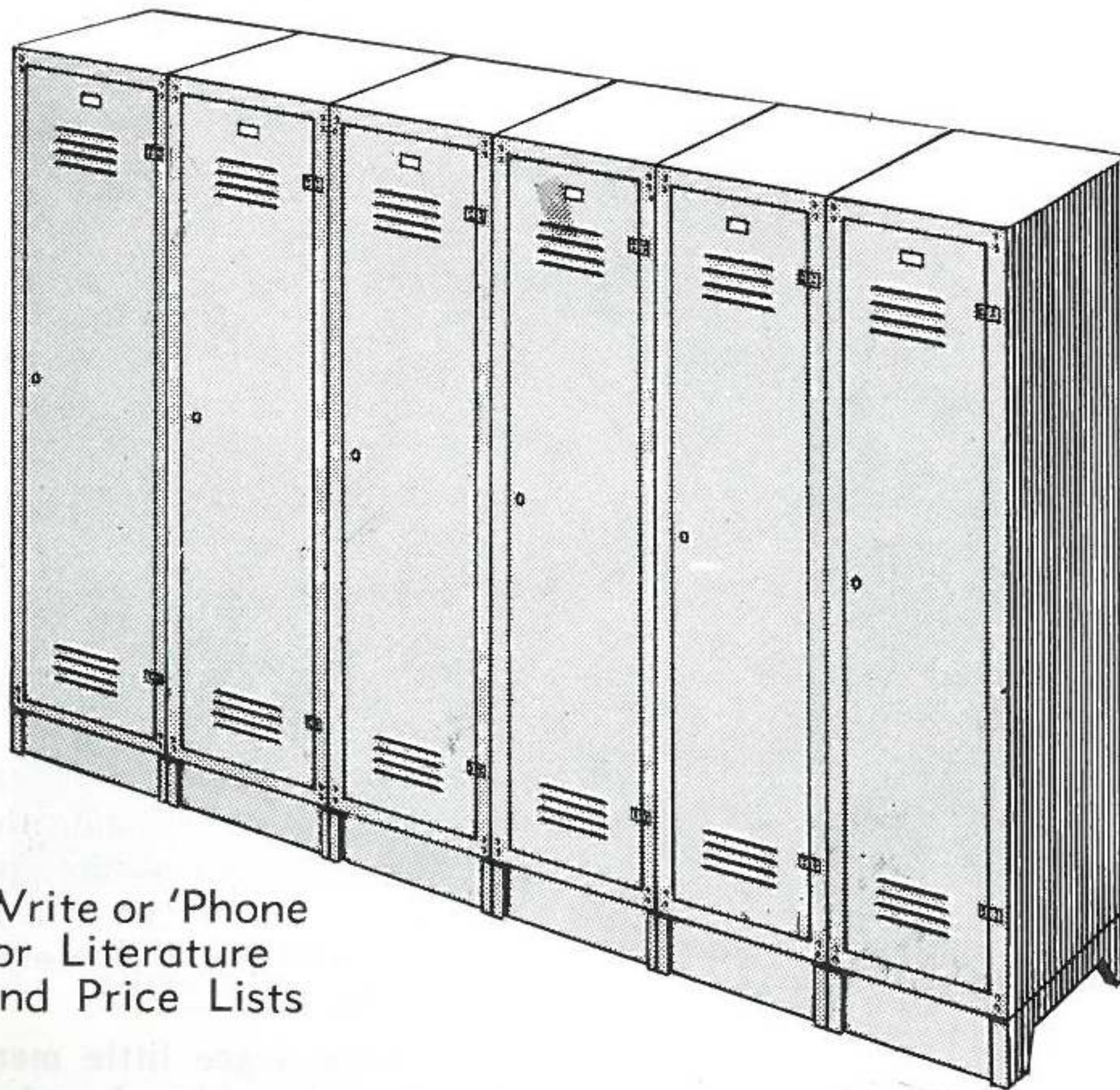
However, I see little merit in solving any problem by adopting the lowest possible denominator. That's why, instead of these calls to water down football by removing a basic feature, the need is to hammer home more and more that the onus is on the foot-

● TO PAGE 14

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● FROM PAGE 13

ballers themselves to get up to the standard required through practice, rather than on robbing the game of a skill simply to ease the going for the players.

There is a need, too, for a change of attitudes with regard to fouling. Many say the rules are at fault, especially in football, but is this not approaching the problem from the wrong end?

Time and again we have all seen promising movements broken up because a player conceded a needless free. If the stupidity of such an act was brought home strongly at the end of the game to the player concerned, and to his teammates by those in charge, we would have less frees.

In short, let's have more thought and effort from players and officials into producing progressive football, rather than looking to the rules as scapegoats for sloppy play and low standards.

There are other fields where many counties might perhaps show more enterprise . . . such as proper and vigorous promotion of the games among the juveniles, greater attention to coaching at club level and to discipline, programmes of activities involving training and challenges for the senior inter-county teams. One could go on and on.

One way or another, it's time for more determined and well-thought out action in many of the counties. And also for positive leadership from the Central Council, backed up by financial support and help in coaching schemes.

After all, it is also in the Central Council's best interests to have as many counties as possible in the race for each All-Ireland title with an equal chance of success.

COURTS ARE GOING UP IN MANY PLACES

DURING the recent past various communications have been received about new courts, renovations and plans for development, all of which indicate a bright future.

In Dublin the game has really caught on and the opening of Na Fianna's new court will be a big boost.

There are indications, too, that a new court will shortly be built in Walkinstown which will be incorporated as part of the Greenhills Community Centre and the mainstay of the idea is Pat O'Grady from the well-known Donegal handballing area of Falcarragh.

The North County Dublin area is also making a big impact and, besides the court at Oldtown, it is quite on the cards, that in the immediate future, facilities will be provided at Lusk and Rush.

Davit O'Connor, the secretary of the Garristown club, has also announced major renovation plans for the existing court in the club grounds.

At the moment it is a three-walled structure, but will be altered to a 40' x 20' roofed court.

Ardcath is quickly developing into a most progressive club. The foundations are ready and blocks available for work to start.

Secretary Tommy Adams is of the opinion that the club will have a new court before the end of the summer.

The Dunshaughlin club has converted their three-walled court into a four-walled structure and future plans make provision for a roof. Handball is also the "in" game in Maynooth.

Secretary Paul Hand indicates

that besides the adjustments made on the old court it is also contemplated to erect another one.

This will be of the 40' x 20' dimension and will be part of the community complex in the town.

With news coming to hand that alleys may shortly be built in Kildare Town and Prosperous, it appears that the famed Ballymore-Eustace club may shortly have some stiff competition.

The news from Wicklow is that the Tinahely court has been rebuilt and will be roofed this year, the work in Bray is continuing unimpeded and, shortly, handballers in Baltinglass will have a roof over their heads.

It is disappointing that the new American-type court at Callan is not being fully utilised by the Kilkenny County Board.

However, this phase may be only short-lived for it has now been well established that there is a definite future for this type of court.

Players who are interested in the old code of handball will be happy to learn that Kildareman Matt Purcell from Ballymore-Eustace has started a campaign for its revival.

Over the last decade, there has been a significant slump in this code, and there are many who believe that its early demise is inevitable.

However, one must admire the enthusiasm with which Purcell has undertaken his new task and gauging from the efforts he had put into other handball ventures in the past, he will not give up easily.

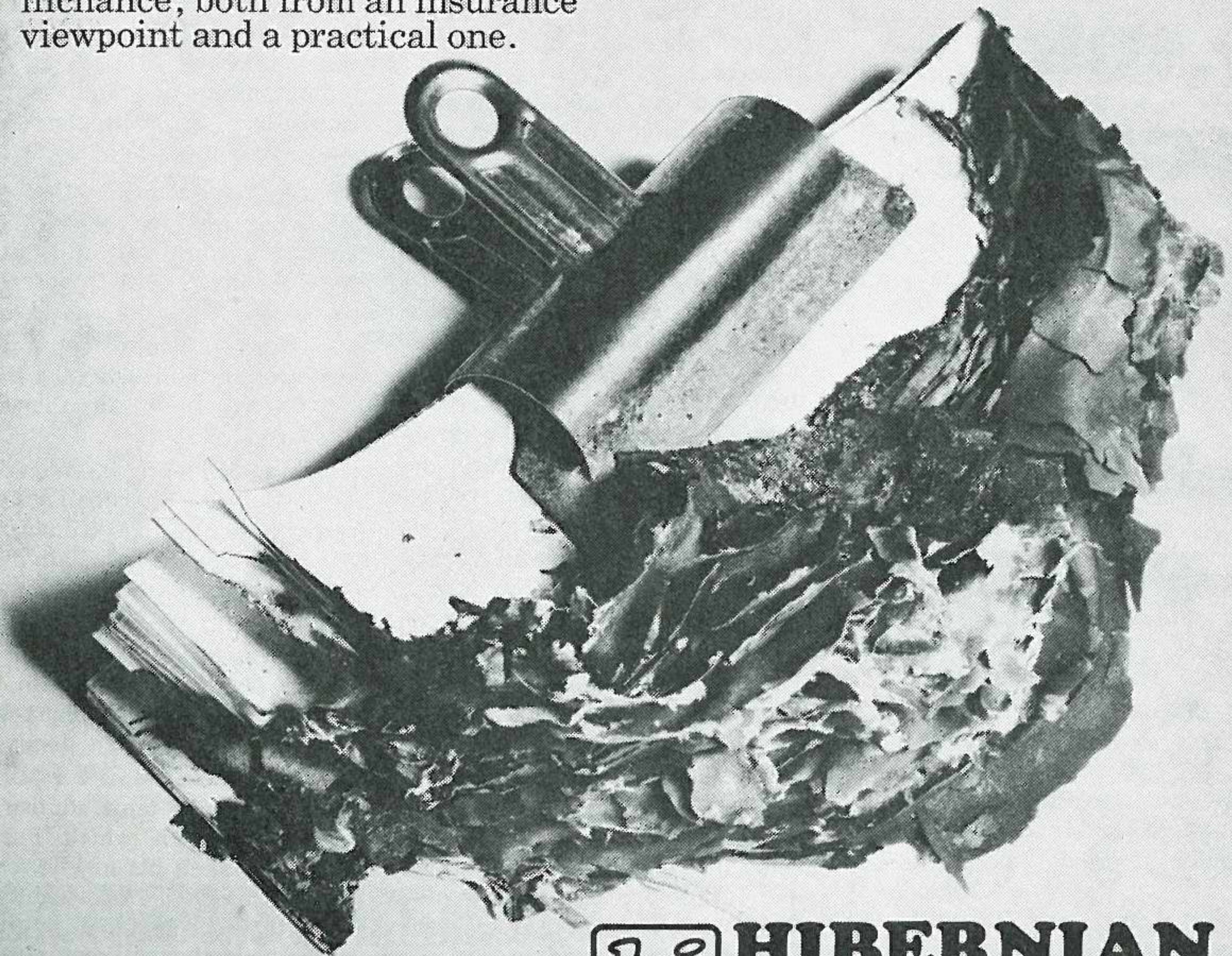
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JACK LYNCH

Tales from the Deep South

THE first time I went to see Cork and Tipperary play in a hurling match they didn't play at all, if you see what I mean. Tipperary, the All-Ireland champions had been on that never forgotten tour of America which brought them from New York to San Francisco and back again. On their return, they had been excused from the Munster championship until the final, in which they faced Cork in the Athletic Grounds.

Maybe it was the tremendous interest that had been engendered by the reports of Tipperary's progress across America

and back; maybe it was the feeling in Cork that their time was coming after a lean spell, whatever the reason it seemed that every hurling fan in Munster and South Leinster tried to crush in to the Cork grounds that day. And crush is the only word that describes the situation as far as I was concerned. I was only a small boy at the time, and it took the best efforts of my father and two young priests who had accompanied us to the game, to keep me from being swept away before ever the hurlers managed to make their way onto the field.

Perhaps I should have said, onto what was left of the field, because from what I could hear from my elders—I could see nothing myself—the crowd was well over the touch-lines before ever the game began. As it was, according to those in positions of advantage, play actually went on for twenty minutes, and then the pressure from behind had driven the front ranks of the spectators in so far that there was no further point in trying to go ahead with the game.

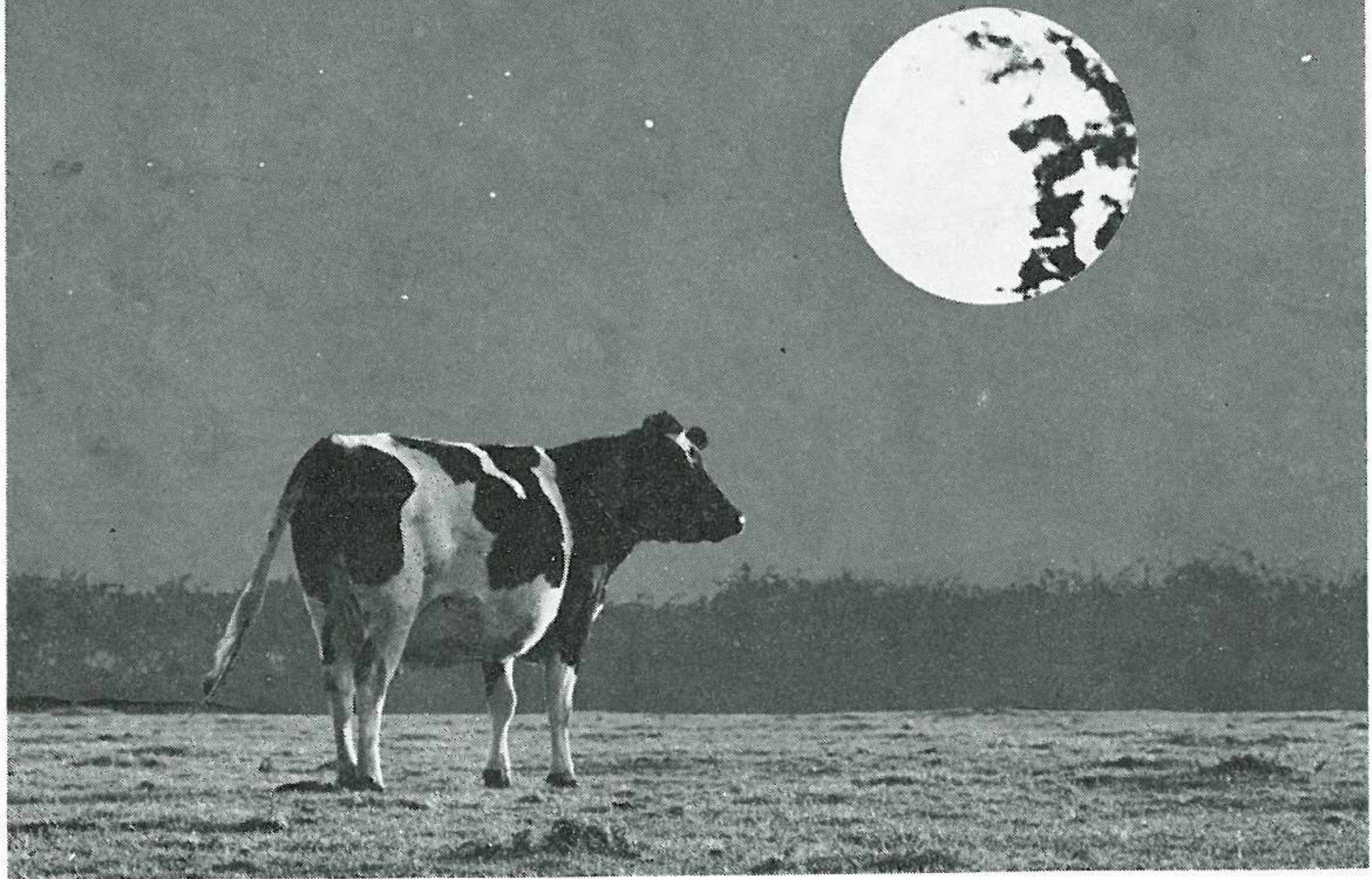
It was subsequently replayed at Thurles, and finished in a draw, and Cork had a good win on the third occasion, but whether they would have done so if an over-impetuous Tipperary player had not himself sidelined early on is still very much a matter of opinion.

The next time that the crowds really came out in overwhelming force for a Cork versus Tipperary game was for the replay of their semi-final drawn game at Limerick in 1949. There was a good crowd at the drawn game, but the world and his wife came along to see the replay. Crowded though the grounds were on that scorching hot day, they held their positions fairly well until the teams finished level at the end of the hour.

Then, needless to say, hundreds upon hundreds of enthusiastic spectators swarmed in to congratulate their respective heroes, and no matter how hard the stewards laboured, they just couldn't get them all back when the extra time began. It was not that they invaded the pitch, but that they swarmed nearer and nearer to the touchline, and eventually all the people on the

● TO PAGE 19

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MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

● FROM PAGE 17

sideline had either to join those on the touchline or stand on their seats.

The press benches, which were on ground level, were almost engulfed and, as a matter of fact, in the closing minutes I spent my time running in to the front of the crowd, and dashing back to tell my colleagues what was happening. Fortunately, nothing vital happened during the couple of minutes that the reporters' bench was entirely cut off.

Tipperary won in that extra time period, mainly, I feel, sure, because of a remarkable piece of foresight by a couple of their supporters who brought several barrels of water with them into the ground. It was an overpoweringly warm day, and the players had been near to exhaustion at the finish of the game itself, and the improvised showers provided from the barrels may have made all the difference.

Two years later Cork and Tipperary met in the Munster final again, this time at Killarney. It was a day I have never forgotten, mainly because of my adventures on my way to the press box with a couple of colleagues over the Asylum wall.

We could, I suppose, have spared ourselves the trouble, because first one front gate and then a gate to the side-line were swept down by sheer weight of the crowds who came charging joyously in to an already overcrowded situation.

To refresh my memory I go back to what I wrote at the time.

"Even before the big game began the crowd were, in places, out to the lines that marked the

limits of the playing pitch and when the teams paraded they did so under escort of a further team of umbrella-men, flag-wavers and a rag-tag and-bobtail of assorted supporters that certainly added to the colour but detracted from the dignity of the occasion.

"... The second quarter saw Tipperary produce their best hurling of the hour. Sweeping through the Cork half-back line at will, Tommy Ryan, Mick Ryan, Jimmy Kennedy and Paddy Kenny had five sailing points in the next nine minutes. Cork stormed back for a goal which Tuohy finished, but the Tipperary attack was rampant now and, with Kennedy landing frees from all angles, had five points in the last five minutes of the half to lead by 1-13 to 1-6 at the short whistle.

"But, while the hurlers had been striving on the field, a section of the crowd had won a complete and overwhelming and permanent victory over the stewarding arrangements, and had invaded the pitch at ane corner. Despite appeal after appeal over the public address system, the crowd would not get back, perhaps they could not, and the only result was that hitherto law-abiding citizens crowded further in towards the touch-lines. It took 20 minutes of endeavour before play could be restarted, and even then portion of the pitch was still engulfed by a mass of humanity when the game began again.

"Ring quickly sent over a high point for Cork but Paddy Kenny replied with one equally good, while a gentleman in a lemon-coloured pull-over would keep

on appearing in the middle of the field, and being removed by policemen, only to reappear again, undaunted, minutes later.

"Thousands on the touch-lines, and along the lower steps of the embankments were now completely cut off from the play and hundreds were already leaving the ground in despair before the second half was five minutes old. Christy Ring revived ebbing Cork hopes when he jinked through for a goal but again it was Paddy Kenny who nailed the coffin-lid on Leaside ambitions when he countered with a fine goal for Tipperary."

Tipperary were eight points ahead with ten minutes to play, "Hereabouts Mossy O'Riordan went down injured, the crowd surged in irresistibly, and, long after he was fit to resume, there seemed no hope at all of getting the latest wave of intruders to move back again. But for the personal appeals of two Cork players, Jack Lynch and Christy Ring, the game could never be resumed at all. Even when it did, there was no longer any room for the Cork left full-forward and the Tipperary right full-back to operate at all... Jack Lynch had a late Cork goal, Ring and Daly drove over points to leave only a goal between the sides.

"There was now scarcely any room at all in front of the Tipperary goal, and when Tony Reddan, in saving and clearing, found himself out among the spectators, an umpire, all but lost in the crowd, signalled a '70'.

"The referee, however, failed to notice the official's signal and blew the long whistle shortly afterwards with the umpire's hand still vainly poised aloft. And so we had an unsatisfactory ending to a game which Tipperary nevertheless deservedly won."

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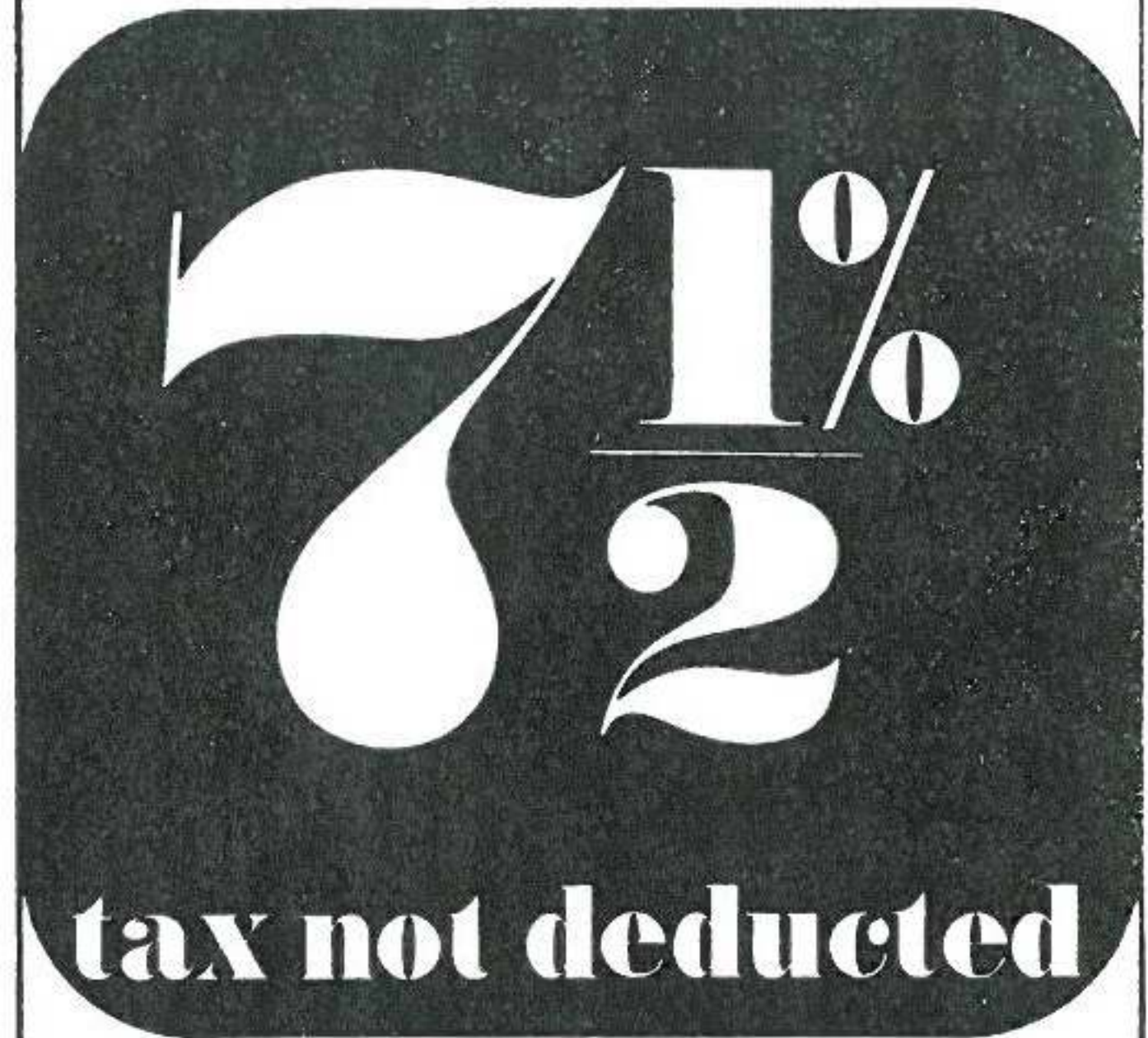
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SCORESHEET



Denis Coughlan

WHAT price a new name crashing into the SCORESHEET spotlight this month with a high-powered scoring exhibition in the coming All-Ireland senior championship semi-finals, or to earn ranking as, surprisingly enough, the first footballer to crash home a goal direct from a penalty kick in almost four years?

The hurling semi-finals were revived in 1969 after some eleven seasons without such a fixture, and these matches have been marked by some spectacular finishing achievements. In 1969, for instance, it was Kilkenny against London in the only semi-final of that year, and Eddie Keher helped himself to 0-12, while another sharpshooter for the Noresiders was Fr. Tommy Murphy, who bagged 3-1.

In 1970 we had Cork against London, and Wexford against Galway. The latter tie was marked by impressive shooting from one-time Tipperary and Clare hurler Tom Ryan, who accounted for 3-5 of the Galway total in an unsuccessful outing at Athlone.

Last year Eddie Keher was back again in the headlines, and he was joined in tremendous fashion by Michael Keating. The Tipperary dual-player, in fact, turned on a real tour-de-force by banging home a whopping 2-12 against Galway at Birr. That's four points more than Keher's 0-14 against London at Croke Park, and ranks now as the high point for a hurling semi-final in recent times.

By **Owen McCann**

In football, three players share the lead position on the ten points mark in semi-finals since 1960. In the second game of the decade, an historic clash of Down and Offaly, Paddy Doherty helped himself to 1-7 in a game that was drawn.

Six years later Cyril Dunne equalled the Mourne county player's feat by scoring exactly the same tally in Galway's win over Cork. Then, in another drawn match featuring Offaly, that so accurate and consistent Tony McTague put up 0-10 against Cavan.

The best score by a Munster footballer in the period is 0-9 by, understandably enough, Kerry's scorer-in-chief Mick O'Dwyer, who finished the 1970 victory over Derry with 0-9 after his name.

The last player to score direct from a penalty kick was Jackie Devine. Eight minutes from the end of the first semi-final of 1968 he goaled to give Longford a point lead in their first All-Ireland outing, but when the final whistle sounded it was honours-laden Kerry who were in front.

In the Down-Galway game later that year a goal also resulted from a penalty kick. In the 37th minute John Keenan took a penalty for Galway, but his shot was parried by Danny

Kelly. However, Cyril Dunne was in smartly to finish the ball to the net.

Three penalty kicks have been awarded so far in the present decade alone—and all to Ulster teams. Derry got two of those awards in their 1970 clash with Kerry, and failed to get even a single point from the kicks.

The first was in the 21st minute when Sean O'Connell's shot was saved by Johnny Culloty, and Seamus Lagan blazed the second wide eight minutes into the second half.

Last year it was James Morgan (Down) and P. J. Smith (Galway) in opposition in this classic situation. The match was 34 minutes old, and the Ulster man put the ball wide.

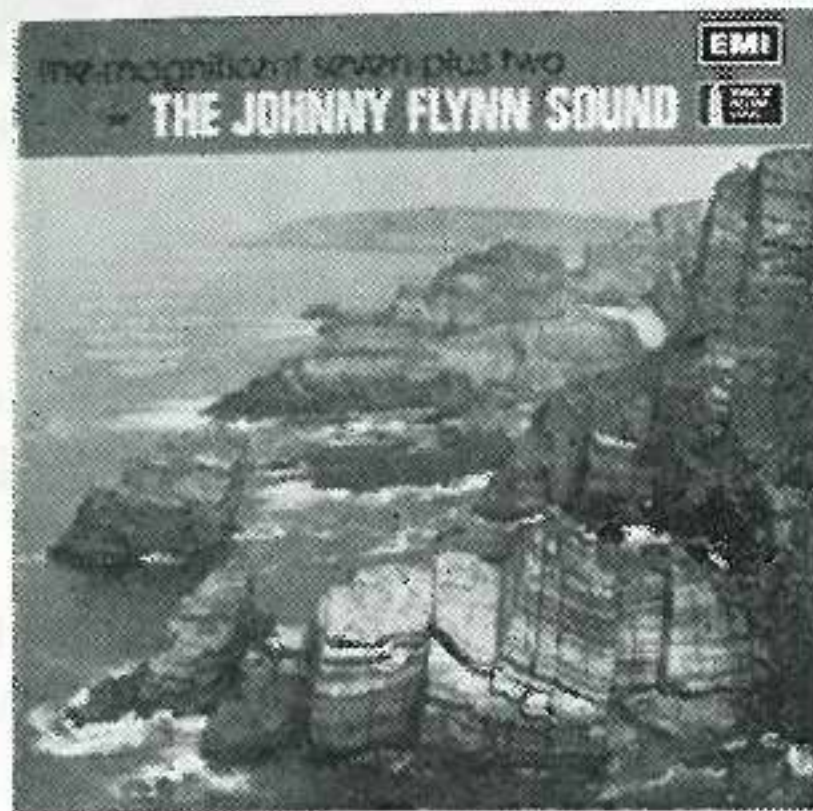
So we must now go right back to a penalty goal by Paddy Doherty eight minutes from the end of the drawn Down-Offaly 1960 tie for the last Ulster score from the spot.

A goal by Denis Coughlan nine minutes from time for Cork in their 1967 win over Cavan stands as Munster's last success, and there has been not a single penalty award to a Leinster team since John Timmons pointed one in a 1963 win by Dublin over Down.

In all, ten spot kicks have been signalled since 1960, up to and including last August. Four resulted in goals, one in that point by Timmons, two were saved, another was pushed round for a "50", which did not yield a score, and two were sent wide.

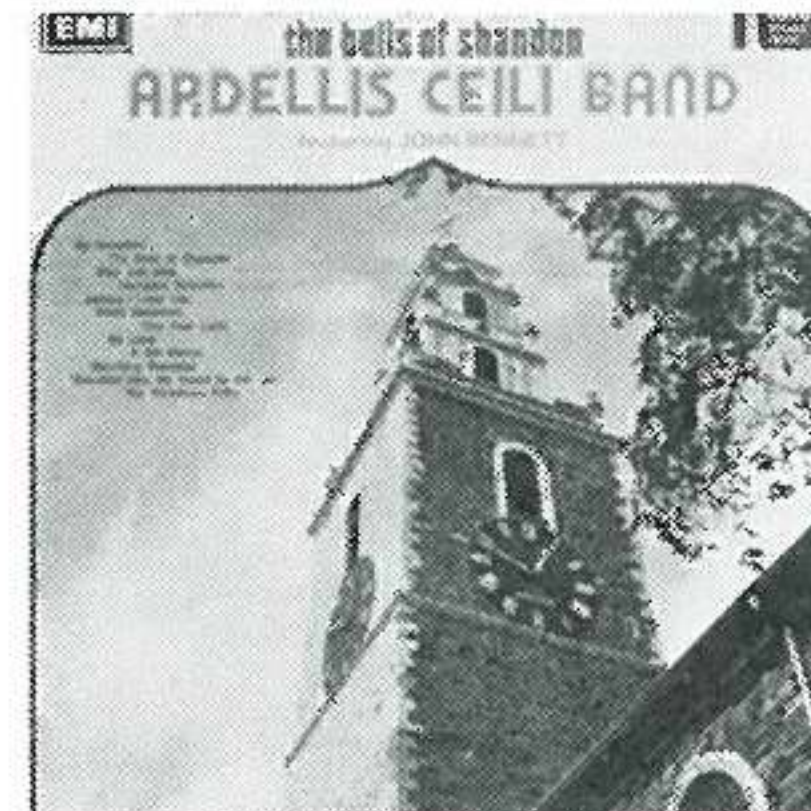


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Men at work



CHARGED with investigating the playing rules, the special committee set up by the Central Council — following the successful passage of the Derry motion at the Cork Congress—has just about the toughest sporting assignment possible at this time.

I am pleased to learn that the committee has had its first round of meetings, thus setting in motion what can be the most beneficial exercise ever undertaken by the Association.

Donal Keenan (Roscommon), Patsy Devlin (Tyrone), John Maloney (Tipperary) and Dubliners Paul Kelly and Des Ferguson are to be congratulated on their appointment; more importantly they merit the wholehearted co-operation of all sections of the Association in carrying out their most difficult brief.

They are not, of course, pioneers in this particular area. Numerous attempts have been made to bring clarity and uniformity onto the playing field but, for a variety of reasons, the best-laid schemes in the past have sadly gone awry, producing precisely nothing towards the radical reforms which are so clearly needed.

Now the Association is to be given another chance which, in a way, is hardly deserved, especially when one considers the very shabby treatment meted out at 1970 Congress in Galway, to those enlightened proposals by the previous rules revision committee.

In wishing the present body

well I am heartened with its wide terms of reference. Not only must it suggest rule changes but it will also make alterations to clarify the existing rules and, if necessary, propose alternatives.

Nor must the committee stop with its own ideas. The views of clubs, officials, players and referees will be sought and this will obviously involve clubs and referees' boards in holding special conventions to discover members' views.

Understandably, Derry official John McGlinchey, who piloted the "rules" motion through the Castledawson and county conventions as well as Congress, is watching developments with the keenest interest. "I would hope that the committee will lose no time in getting down to the very tough task confronting it," he told me. "Few will dispute that our games can be made a great deal more attractive if the confusion which exists over so many of the playing rules is eliminated. I hope the committee acts speedily so that its report will be available as scheduled by December 1973."

But what rules would you like to see scrapped or revised and what amendments would you suggest? It is worth thinking about for it seems to me that everyone with an interest in the development of the game has a duty to make his views known. Space does not permit a look at all the playing rules but, personally I believe particular attention must be given to rules 135 ("Entering the Parallelogram") and 136 ("Foul and rough play").

With regard to the parallelogram it has been my experience—both on the field and at meetings up and down the country—that it is virtually impossible to gain anything approaching unanimity when this question is raised. It would, I suppose, be a bit drastic to make the "square" a no-go area for the attacking side but I have no doubt that referees, players and spectators would welcome a more stream-lined set of regulations than exist at the moment.

However, it is with Rule 136 that I have the greatest quarrel. This rule states: "The following shall be fouls—(1) Pushing, tripping, kicking, catching, holding or jumping at, a player; (2) Obstructing a player by hand or arm even though he be not actually held; (3) Reaching from behind a player who is in possession of the ball; (4) Charging or interfering with a player unless he is moving to play the ball or is in the act of playing it."

Now just read this rule over again and then honestly say if you have even seen it fully implemented at any match you have ever attended. If not why not? This is the question which must surely exercise the mind of everyone who wishes to lift the game from the mediocrity into which it has fallen. No wonder concern is being expressed about falling attendances.

The plain truth is that the playing field is the Association's shop window and the customer is not being enamoured at what is being displayed there.



Seán O'Connell (Derry)

WHAT

DERRY'S now well-known dismal record in the major senior football games that matter, a record that has so many very cynical about their prospects of ever making that long-promised break-through nationally, is out of character with the county's earlier achievements in important appearances at Croke Park.

In fact, many of the players who have shared in the frustrations of three successive National League semi-final defeats since 1970, and in the tantalising loss to Kerry in the 1970 All-Ireland senior semi-final, a match in which Derry failed to score from two penalties, figured earlier in their careers in some stirring successes by the county in national competitions.

Now veteran forward Sean O'Connell, then a sprightly teenager, was the man who shot a capital goal that ensured for Derry the best possible start to their senior championship era at Croke Park in 1958 — an All-Ireland semi-final win over Kerry. Other senior stars of recent seasons were prominent in a squad that gave classy displays when beating Roscommon and Kerry for the 1965 All-Ireland minor title.

Then, anyone who saw the county's under-21 outfit of 1968 beat Offaly in that year's All-Ireland final at Croke Park (a team that included a big sprink-

NOW FOR DERRY?

ling from the 1965 minor outfit) would have been prepared to bet on that evidence that Derry would get their name on the Sam Maguire Cup before the Midlanders.

Why, then, have Derry failed to realise at senior level in recent seasons their obvious great potential? What's the reason for the

However, I believe that the basic reason for their failures lies deeper than this. A team with talent and skills will get to the top, not chiefly because the players produce anything particularly clever, or different, but essentially because they do the simple things quickly, competitively and well, not just in

Derry's play has been a little too methodical and studied in its all-round approach. Too great an emphasis, in fact, on the smooth, correct and nice approach in movement build-up and in scoring efforts.

Co-ordinated play is important, of course. But in Derry's case I think there is a need now for the players, while keeping collective effort in mind, to still exploit and express more fully than before their own natural individual and instinctive football talents. They need to be faster to the ball, as well, and to move with more drive when in possession. The approach to free-taking and sideline kicks must be sharpened up, and the forwards must learn to take points under pressure.

Some will argue that as Derry have been in the national spotlight for what seems a long time now, time has all but run out for the present company of footballers to find the key to a national title win. But what many are inclined to overlook is that there has been a good turn-over of players in the side in recent seasons. For instance, no fewer than six of the squad that figured in last year's unsuccessful Ulster final with Down are no longer first-team regulars.

So, it is not a case of "the same old Derry team as before that has

By

OWEN McCANN

situation that now leaves Derry in danger of emerging from an era richer in talent than any other to rank merely as pretenders to greatness rather than to a place on the All-Ireland titles chart?

Many theories can be advanced. One obviously is poor markmanship. Derry can certainly be faulted badly on this score. Those two penalty misses in the 1970 clash with Kerry in the Championship do not by any means rank as the only examples of the Ulster county's inability to accept gilt-edged chances since they first began knocking on the premier door to greatness a few seasons back. In most of their major appearances at headquarters they had enough of the play to have at least a couple of the top titles to their credit by now.

flashes, but ceaselessly throughout every match.

It seems to me that this has consistently been the biggest weakness in the make-up of the Derry side. Time and again the tremendous potential that has been there has come over in striking fashion in brilliant flashes of sunshine football . . . power-packed play that if maintained at full stretch throughout each match would not only have brought Derry to the top but also established them as one of the outstanding combinations of this, or any other era.

But too often the brilliance has been punctuated by casual spells—moments when players seemed to relax, or lose the momentum for urgency and drive.

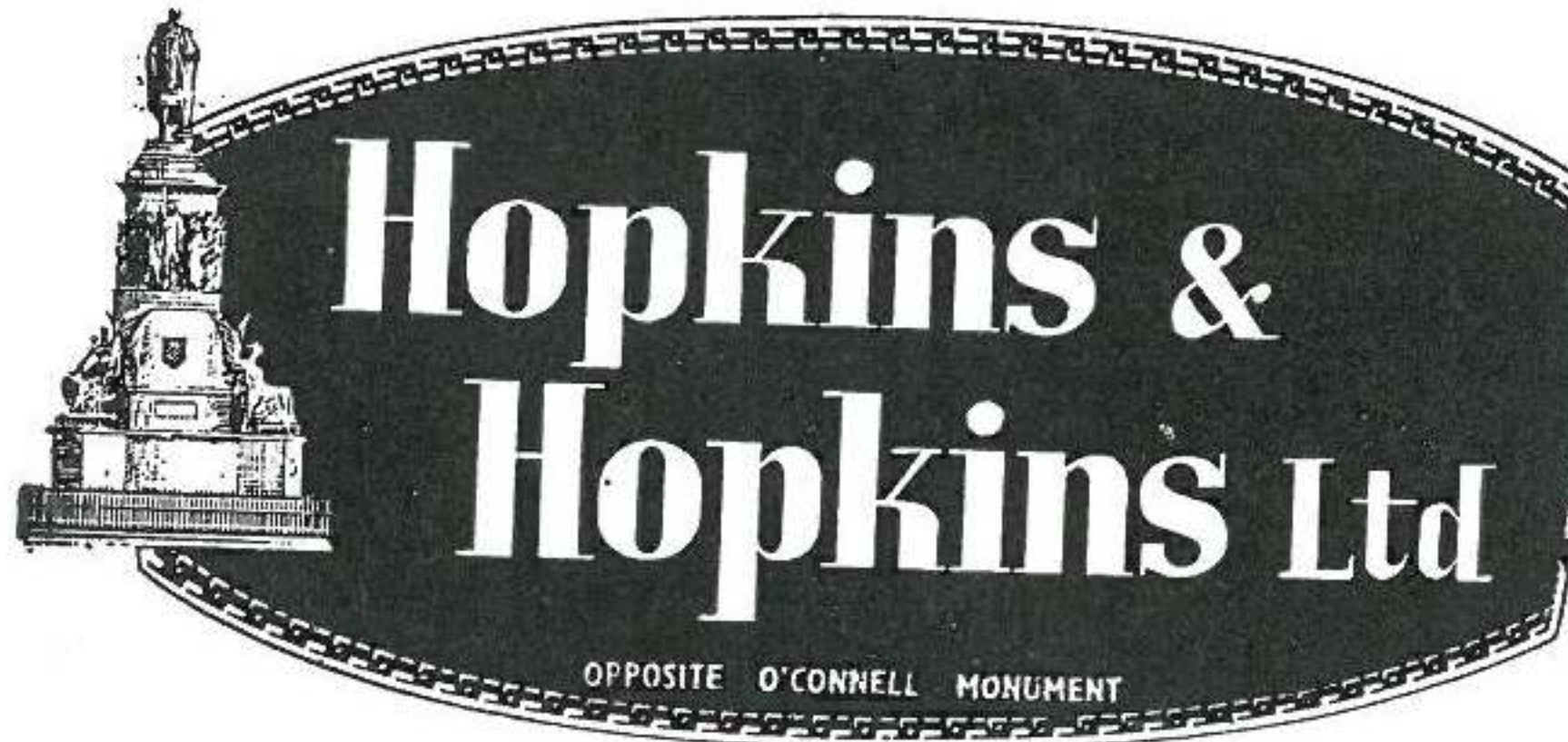
It seems to me, too, that

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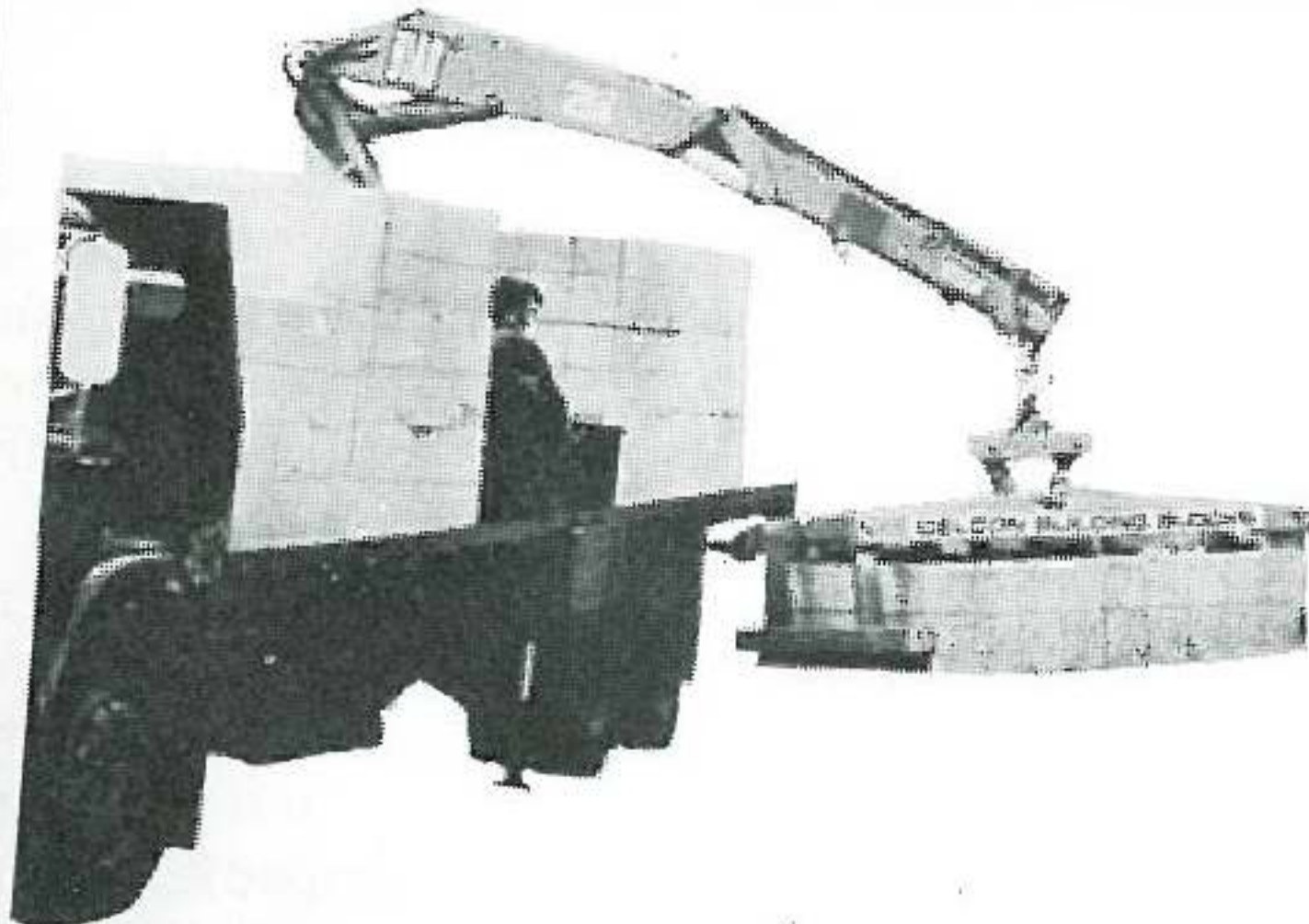
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JULY is the month of the camogie finals, and it is also the month of the National Camogie Course, which was held this year at St. Joseph's College, Garbally Park, Ballinasloe, in accordance with the decision to bring this most important event

to each of the provinces in turn. Next month, perhaps I will be able to deal with this in detail, but writing beforehand, all I know of a certainty is that the number of applicants has been even greater than ever, and that the results are again likely to be

of widespread benefit to the entire Association.

In fact it may well be that the camogie historian of the future will trace back the general leveling up of standards to the founding of the coaching courses which began under the auspices of the Ulster Council, the Antrim Board and, let us not forget, the Belfast Educational Committee and even the Northern Ireland Milk Board which gave some help.

Through the best part of 20 years before that, Dublin had been absolutely supreme on the camogie fields, sustaining only one defeat by Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1956.

The results of the new approach were very soon apparent. Antrim who had benefitted greatly from what Dublin trainer Nell McCarthy had to teach drew with Dublin, and then defeated the champions in the replay of the 1967 final, and ever since the balance of camogie power has swayed as though on a see-saw.

Kilkenny was the first Leinster county outside Dublin to send players to the Orangefield course, and also took a coaching course from Nell McCarthy and then came out to beat Dublin in the Leinster championship, the first defeat Dublin had sustained in senior ranks within their own province since away back in the middle '30s. Then just to show how quickly everything was leveling up, Wexford defeated Kilkenny in the Leinster final and went on to take not one but two All-Irelands in succession with Cork and Antrim as their final victims.

Meanwhile Orangefield still continued for a while but was largely outshone by the National Coaching Course which was first staged at Gormanston in 1970.

● OVERLEAF

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● FROM PAGE 27

One feels that Cork, than whom nobody sent more enthusiastic or eager students must have benefited greatly from the lessons learned because they have responded by winning the senior All-Ireland titles of 1970 and 1971, beating Kilkenny and Wexford respectively for the honours.

But it is remarkable, too, how the counties that have sent the most dedicated people to these coaching courses have reaped great rewards. Roscommon and Armagh, two counties that have done extremely well in junior ranks since were among the keenest of Gormanston students, while the girls who came up from Clare in 1971 brought back with them a spirit of burning enthusiasm that has been reflected ever since by a tremendous increase in the proficiency of the teams in the Banner County.

In Ballinasloe this year an attempt is being made to extend the entire scheme a little further by including two sections, for advanced pupils who want to do coaching training and organisation themselves, while the basic skills of the game will of course again be taught to beginners.

In addition, this time there will be talks on how to run a club, and how to organise.

Certainly, if the participating counties benefit as much from this course as others have done from the previous courses, the standard of the game must be further improved and that means even keener competition particularly in the junior grade at inter-county level.

But where I feel these coaching courses, not alone the National Course but the others that have been held at lower levels, have done the best work has been among the Colleges. A number of nuns have attended the Gormanston sessions, and have brought back with them to their

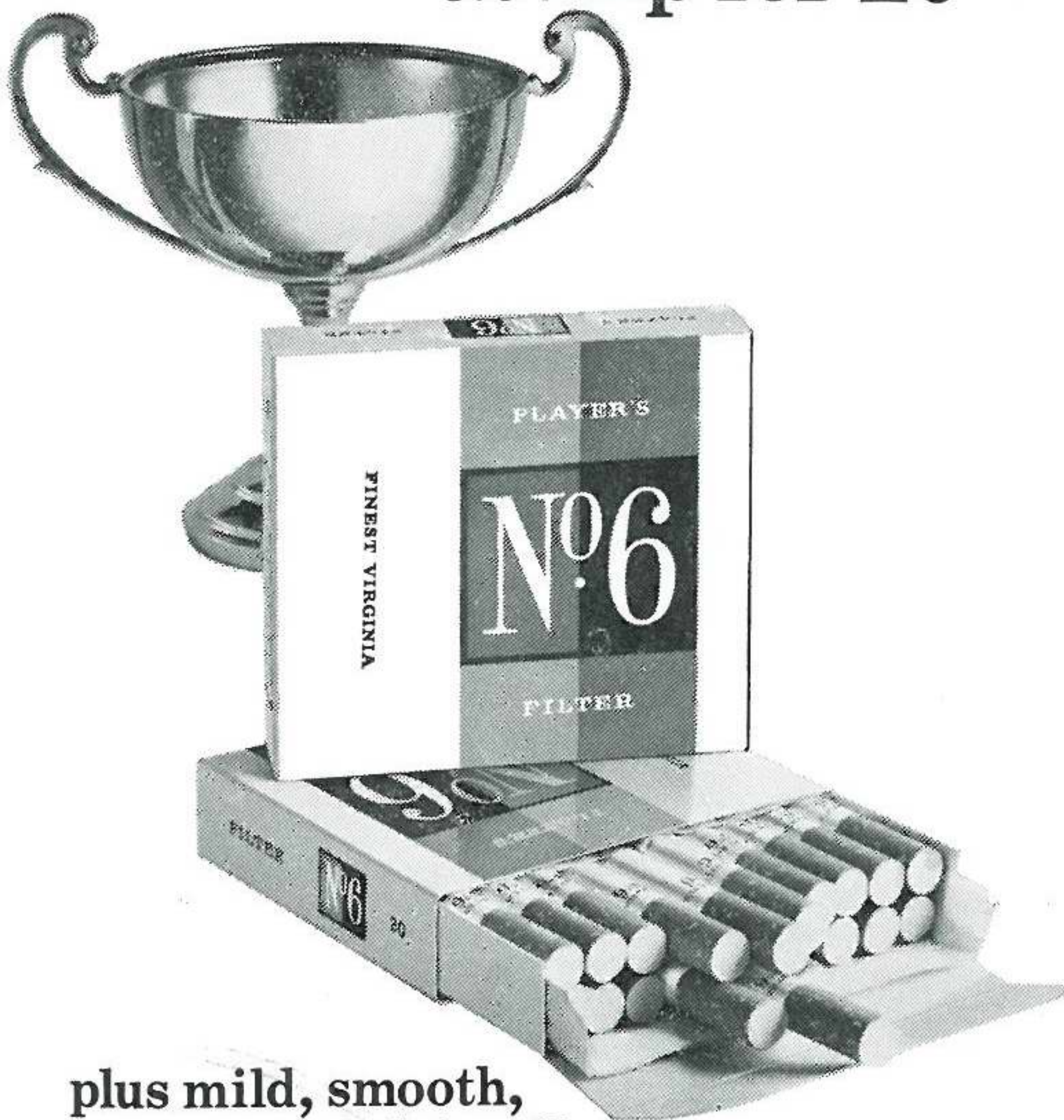
schools not alone greatly increased enthusiasm but an expertise that has been quickly reflected on the playing fields. The standard of Colleges camogie has through the past couple of

seasons improved out of all knowledge, not so much among the renowned camogie schools, they were always good, but among schools who had no great tradition of camogie behind them.

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IT is seven years since John Gibbons made his debut on the Mayo senior football team. He was a frail youngster of 18, but they saw in him the plank that would some day lever Mayo from their football impasse of the early sixties.

Mayo were beaten that day by Sligo, and if they have not since achieved their one mighty purpose John Gibbons has contributed a hefty share to the upsurge of enthusiasm within the county.

The Dublin based school-teacher had played minor football three years running when his potential was discovered. Now at 25, he is one of the nuggets of the forward line and among the longest serving members of the senior team.

But it has been a long and painstaking haul, punctuated more by promise than achievements and gilded only by one memorable success . . . a National League title in 1970.

"That successful run in the League brought out Mayo's best performances in many years. We hit a level at which we had been aiming for a long time. Everyone thought then, as I did myself, that we had at last made the important breakthrough which the Wembley games seemed to confirm a few weeks later. But we fell flat in the first round of the championship against Roscommon and we have been trying to pick ourselves up since," he told me.

There have been other smaller comforts apart from the League win: four successive years in under 21 football, the last of which brought him an All-Ireland medal, and a couple of Connacht senior football championship medals.

Most of the Mayo man's play-

John Gibbons of Mayo

ing career has been centred round attack. Yet, strangely, his first game . . . as a juvenile . . . was in goal. He had been a pupil at St. Mary's College in Galway and being none too successful between the sticks, was shifted as far away as possible from the goal . . . to full forward.

"Indeed I was not too successful in that position either. And it was Father Leo Morahan who was then teaching at the College (and is now Mayo G.A.A. Board chairman) who saw the possibilities in me as a defender. I was switched to centre-half back and for the first time I felt at ease on a football pitch.

"Even now as a forward I find considerable difficulty in having to turn and head for goal after gaining possession. Running forward is the way I like to play and that is why I feel more at home around the centre of the field."

Mayo might learn something from this argument. For I think John Gibbons proved this point

in his display in May against Kerry in the National League final. He had been switched from centre-half forward with Sean Kilbride and consequently was mainly responsible for Mayo's fight-back which pared away Kerry's big lead in the second half.

But the former U.C.D. and Civil Service player who now lines out with his native club Louisburgh, admits freely that something is missing from Mayo's performances on which no one has yet put a finger.

"Mayo has more all round ability than any other team in Ireland . . . and yet have failed to prove it conclusively. No team trains as hard as they for important games. I have seen Kerry players, whom I know well, completely unconcerned about their training. Yet when they take the field they look as if they had been preparing rigidly for months.

"Maybe one or two tough players in our forward line

● TO PAGE 42

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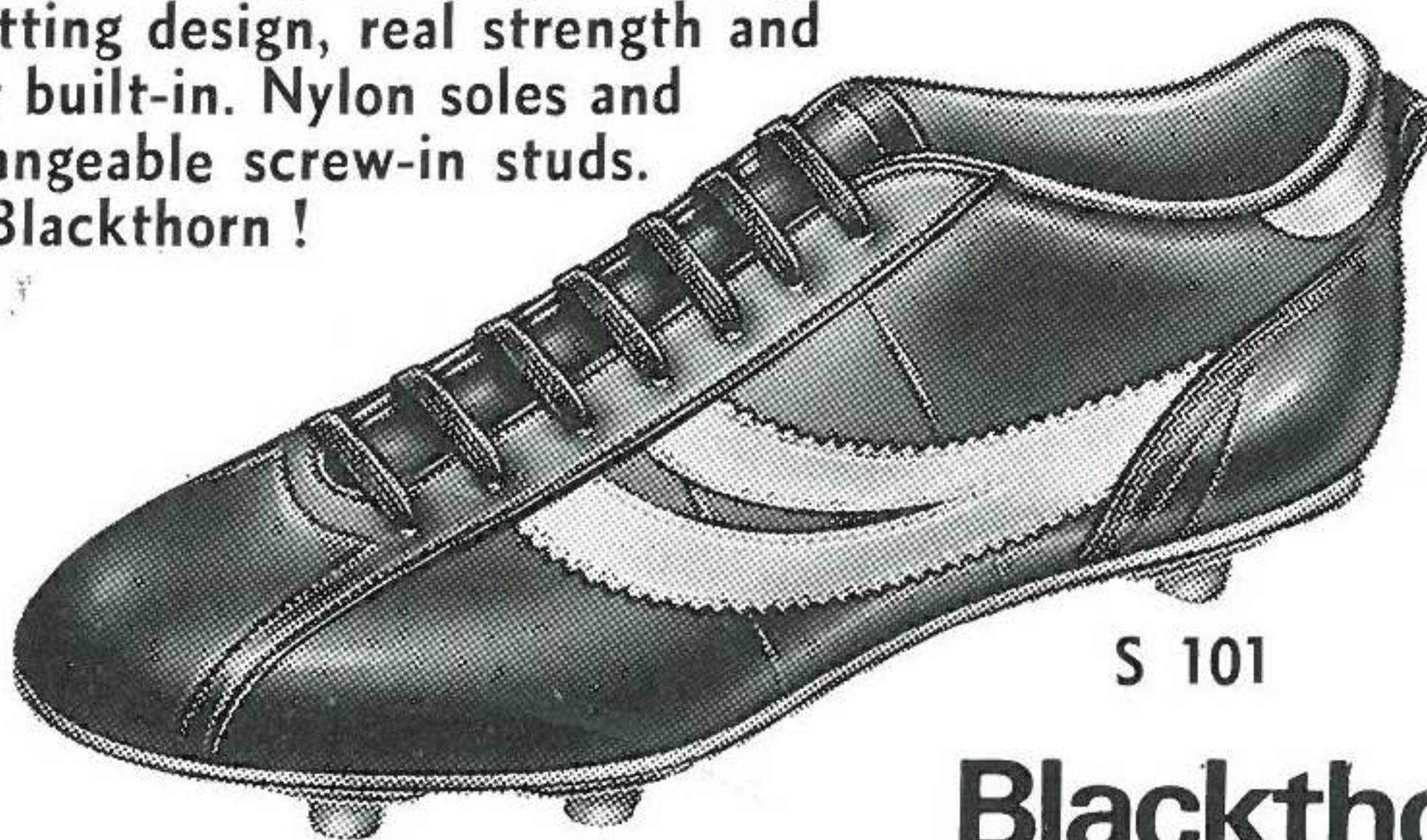
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HOME TRUTHS CORNER

By NOEL COOGAN

AT the time of writing, I have been a spectator at some thirty games of Gaelic football so far this year. Most of these failed to live up to the standard expected in this so-called modern day and age. Indeed many of the ties witnessed proved nothing more than an exercise in boredom. While the standard in most sports appears to be on the upgrade with the passing of time, one can't help feeling that the case is the opposite as far as Gaelic football is concerned.

There was a time when Gaels could go to a game of football confident in the belief that exciting fare would be served up. But nowadays, it would take a super optimist to pass through the turnstiles in such a frame of mind. We have now arrived at a situation where long passages of good, open play have been replaced by continuous pulling, dragging and general fouling. I remember reading some time ago an article by colleague Jack Mahon in which he referred to a Galway v. Kerry match back in the 'fifties which was highlighted by a spell of play lasting 19 minutes without a single foul.

At present spectators are lucky if occasionally they are treated to as much as three minutes of play uninterrupted by the referee's whistle. And if the officials in charge decided to blow for every offence, then the game would become a complete farce. It is worth noting that there were 66 free kicks awarded in last year's All-Ireland senior

football final compared with 48 in 1970 and 38 the previous year.

There was a time when supporters going to a big senior match would make a point of travelling early so as not to miss the supporting minor game. Those were the days when the under 18 grade was comprised of nothing but the purest of football. Unfortunately, such is not the case any longer and, like its senior brother, has also been reduced to a succession of pulls and drags. Ample evidence of such a statement lies in the fact that last year's All-Ireland minor final had 53 frees, a total which amounts to an even higher average over 60 minutes than the 66 fouls over 80 minutes in the senior final.

So the question to be asked is, "What can be done to improve on an obviously grave position?" While changing some of the standing playing rules would probably help, there is also a crying need for a better coaching system within the Association. It is pathetic to watch the efforts of many of our present-day players to master the simplest basic arts of Gaelic football.

Such shortcomings are not exclusively confined to the club scene. Take, for instance, the art of toeing the ball from the ground. This is an art exclusive to Gaelic football. But, at the same time, how often, or how seldom, does one see it properly executed? Recently while watching Jimmy Magee's All Stars XV in action I could not help being

impressed by the manner in which former Meath star forward Frankie Byrne, could scoop the ball up without even bending down.

And if a man of fifty-plus can do it surely young fellows should cope. Some time during all training sessions should be devoted to perfecting this unique art and if it can't be perfected then it would be better to drop it altogether.

Another art which seems to be slowly but surely disappearing is the shoulder charge. This is so much more manly than tripping, jersey pulling or holding, but still hardly used enough. Reverting back to the aforementioned training sessions one wonders if many of these amount to nothing more than a waste of time. Yes, I put the question—how many clubs conduct their training sessions in a beneficial manner? Recently while watching a certain club training in my own county I noticed the regular goalkeeper playing full forward and an established back playing in the forwards.

There is so much that can be done and that must be done. A situation in which every club in each county has its own qualified coach should be aimed at. All counties could run coaching courses to which all clubs could send one would-be coach. If nothing is done soon our foremost national game will continue to suffer. So will the public. They deserve better than what they are getting.



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IRELAND'S FUTURE

By MUIRIS DE PRIONNBHIOL
Secretary, National Savings Committee

IN terms of industrial development Ireland began play several goals down. By the time we took the field, 50 years ago, others had developed a substantial lead. Our task was formidable; coming from behind is never easy but if we were to survive as a nation, it was crucial that we draw level.

Well, we did it, and now, on even terms again we have decided to take on a bigger and more sophisticated team—the European Economic Community.

This will be our most demanding contest to date. We have the capacity to win, but we can only do so if we properly prepare ourselves. In this match, as in all others, training will be the determining factor. We must prepare now by forging ahead with national development, industrial and agricultural advancement and an all-round strengthening of our economy.

However, it would be wrong to view economic growth as the be all and end all. There are other yardsticks. Taken alone, increased prosperity is of little worth unless it promotes a corresponding increase in the quality of Irish life. Having a little more money has its attractions but are we any the better off if we fail to develop as a community?

Industrial progress permits social progress and must be paralleled by advances in education, health and housing. Each individual must get some share of the play. This means honouring our responsibilities for the underprivileged, the poor and the handicapped. And then we must preserve our national heritage, encourage the arts and maintain the environment.

COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

Industrial development and a comprehensive social programme require capital. The Third Programme for Economic and Social Development saw the greater part of this capital coming from domestic sources. And this is where we come in. By providing development capital we are, in effect, investing in Ireland's future. But we can't expect to provide this capital unless we are prepared to save.

Over the past ten years there has been a sustained increase in the three main categories of savings—private, corporate and public. The most important of these classifications is the first since it provides most of the nation's pool of investment capital. This is why each and every one of us is in a position to influence dramatically the future direction of our personal savings, and we can also do so by taking full advantage of any influence we might have in persuading others to save.

DEVELOPMENT OR RECESSION

Every member of the community has a role to play in providing the capital necessary for industrial and social development. Ultimately, every member of the community has the opportunity to choose between development or recession, progress or stagnation.

It should be borne in mind that those in least favourable circumstances are the ones most affected by economic setback. The unemployed and lower-paid workers are less able to benefit from their own effort. Widows, orphans, the old and sick must



● Miss Savings '72 — 22-year-old Tracy Byrne from Dublin—who, as the first woman to participate in the Ras Tailteann, led the cyclists as far as Parnell Square.

also be taken into account and their lives and circumstances made as comfortable as possible.

It is not only necessary that Ireland become a nation of the economic strength of her future E.E.C. colleagues. We must also provide the resources for a continuous programme of social growth. In so doing we look to our own personal future and that of our children and dependants.

SAVINGS MEDIA

There are several national savings media through which we can increase the nation's pool of personal saving. These include—The Post Office Savings Bank, Savings Certificates, Investment Bonds, National Instalment Saving, the Trustee Savings Banks, Prize Bonds, National Loans, the Agricultural Credit Corporation and the Industrial Credit Company. Full information of these media is included in a booklet "Savings for Everyone," published by the National Savings Committee and available free from the Committee at 72/76 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.



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MILK

—an Irish success story

By **JOSEPH C. McGOUGH**, Managing Director, An Bord Bainne

WHEN An Bord Bainne was established on May 17, 1961, its main function was the export of butter throughout the world and the maintaining of the support programme for other dairy products. Within a very short time, this role expanded to the export of all dairy products and finally, in May of this year, the Board was permitted to launch Kerrygold Irish Creamery butter on the home market.

The years between have been marked by tremendous increases in milk production generally. These were reflected in the intake of milk at creameries—which rose from 250 million gallons in 1959/60 to 540 million gallons in 1971/72. Much more significant, perhaps, in the eyes of the Irish people is the value of the exports during those years. These rose from £7.5 million in 1959/60 to £53 million in 1971/72. This it will be readily agreed is a remarkable achievement.

However, neither An Bord Bainne—nor indeed any other company or body in Ireland—can afford to rest on past achievements. The challenge of the Common Market is upon us, and we must realistically approach it.

For our part, the past year has been spent in the accumulation of vital research information on the proposed members of the enlarged Community; here it should be remembered that the markets of the six founder nations have been closed to us for exports of dairy products for a number of years. Thus we are ensuring that, when the opportunity presents itself at the be-

ginning of 1973, that we shall be ready to avail of it fully.

Naturally, our main interest will continue to centre on the British market. The forecast of milk intake to creameries is over 1,000 million gallons by 1978; of this, we would hope that 200 million gallons will continue to be used in the form of butter, cheese and other dairy products on the home market and that, of the balance of 800 million gallons, approximately 500 million gallons would be exported to the United Kingdom.

Of the remaining quantities, we would hope that approximately half, or 150 million gallons, would be exported to the other members of the enlarged

Community and the remaining 150 million gallons to Third Countries. Thus the investment by the Board over the years in its brand name "**Kerrygold**" for quality Irish dairy products in over 50 countries throughout the world will stand us in good stead when the challenge of finding markets for such vast quantities of milk has to be met.

We are confident that with the continued support of the producers, processors and quality controllers of Ireland, the expertise built up over the last eleven years by An Bord Bainne will ensure the continued central orderly marketing of Irish dairy products inside and outside the Common Market.

BIG CHEQUE FOR TRALEE SPORTS COMPLEX

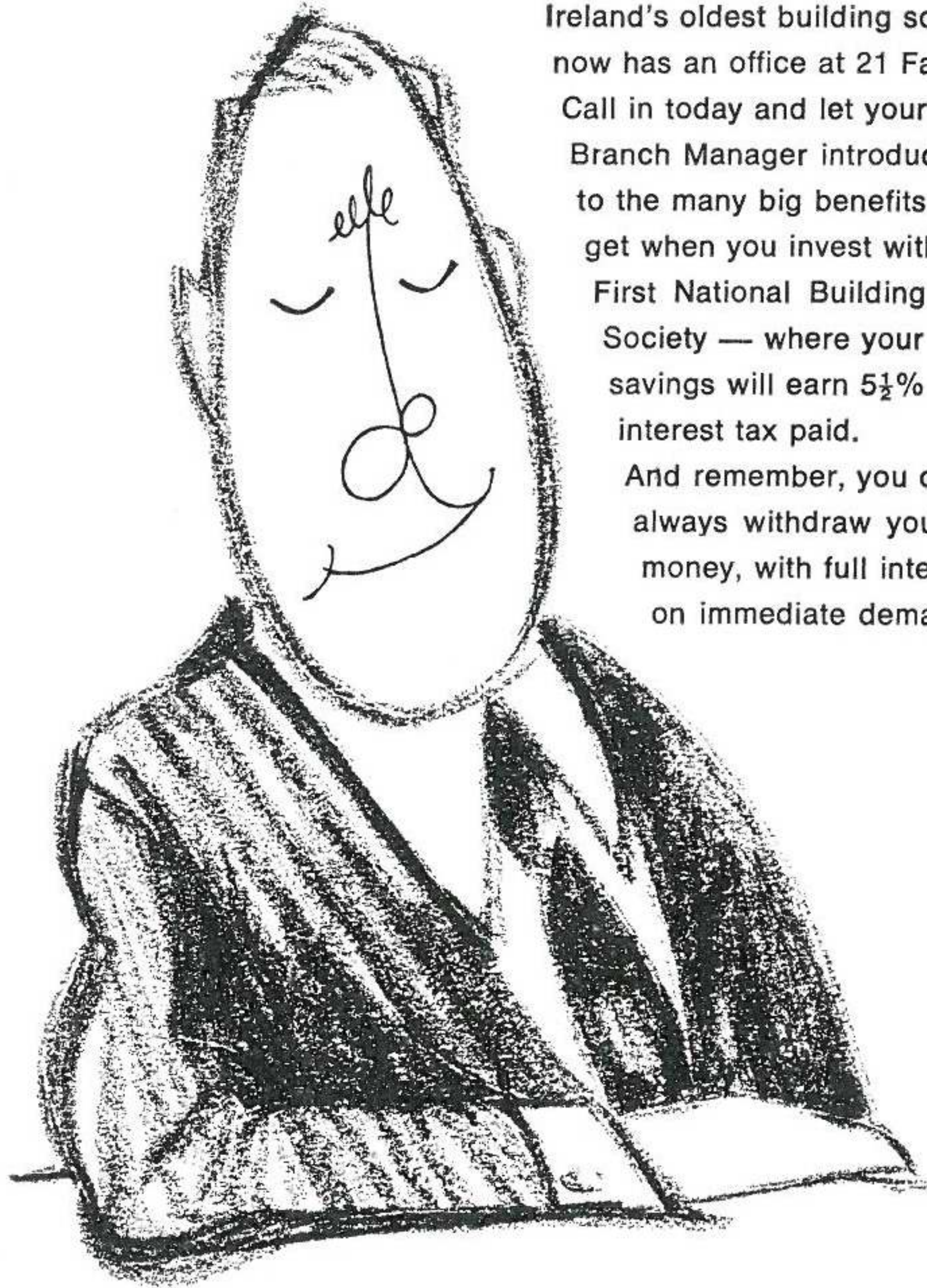
THE Ulster Bank has doubled the largest contribution by a firm to date in the bid to collect £15,000 as a local contribution towards the proposed Tralee Sports Complex which will cost an estimated £150,000.

A cheque for £500 was handed over recently by John Nallen, the former Mayo inter-county footballer, who is Manager of the Tralee branch of the Ulster Bank. The cheque was accepted by Mr. Bobby Buckley a member of Cosac and Mr. Michael Latchford a member of the finance committee of the sports complex.

Mr. Buckley said that the Ulster Bank showed by their gesture that they were extremely interested in community work and community involvement. Many Tralee firms had given nothing to the sports complex which needs another £5,000 to get started. He said John Nallen had a wide interest in sports down the years and must be mainly responsible for the bank's contribution.

Mr. Nallen said that the directors of the bank fully realised the importance of recreational facilities especially for the youth and were happy to be associated with this important project.

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INVESTMENT FOR TOMORROW

By TONY KEEGAN

SOMETIMES one wonders whether Ireland has a future at all. You will find people able, nay anxious, to speak of the past with eloquence and authority. Many regularly speak of the present time in Ireland and compare it with 'this point in time' elsewhere, but it is a rare man who will admit to peering in his private crystal ball and give his version of how he sees Ireland in ten, twenty or more years.

For all the apparent lack of interest in the future of our country it is clear from the present level of investment in Irish industry and agriculture that very many people are prepared to bet that Ireland has a future. And they are backing this up with their money.

Clondalkin Paper Mills is a case in point. The factory is situated on the Camac river covering an area of fifty acres and employs seven hundred people. With production in the fifty to fifty-five thousand tons per annum bracket Clondalkin are one of the top Irish companies. Already exporting 40% of their production they would seem to be poised to take advantage of E.E.C. membership to the full. Research and development has always been an important factor at Clondalkin and there are currently twenty-two employed in this department.

An allied industry, in so far as the raw material, wood, is used also in paper making, is the

Chipboard industry. Munster Chipboard, established in 1962 outside Waterford City has made impressive strides since then. An extension to the plant opened in 1969 has enabled the company to meet the ever growing demand for its product. Munster Chipboard have exclusive rights here and in Britain to manufacture exceptionally high quality Chipboard using the Novopan process named after the Swiss engineer who developed it. A large proportion of production is exported. A good omen for the future. With an investment of over £1½ million Munster Chipboard using almost 100% Irish raw materials has faith in the future.

The question of course is where is the money going to come from for this investment. Well, if you need money for industrial or agricultural expansion why not contact your nearest Lombard and Ulster Banking office. They want to put their money to work where both you and they can gain benefits. Equipment leasing, home improvement loans and special aids to the agricultural community are among the very many aspects of finance that Lombard and Ulster are equipped to deal with. Whether it's big or small Lombard and Ulster are geared to the needs of the builders of to-morrow's Ireland.

When young people think of the future in personal terms

they usually visualise it either consciously or subconsciously centred on a home of their own. A company that has been in the business of helping people to attain this object since 1861 is the First National Building Society, whose head offices are in Grafton Street, Dublin. John Skehan, Managing Director of this company which has shown phenomenal growth since 1959 when its assets were £¼m., spoke to me about the future plans of this progressive company.

With assets well in excess of £8m. he was rightly proud of the expansion in the last decade. As well as continuing and expanding its loans to people anxious to buy their own homes in urban areas, he also considers the need outside these urban areas to be important in the future. With a branch network spread throughout the country the First National Building Society is very well placed to serve rural areas, in this regard. With rates of 5½% tax free on savings there is every reason why members of the farming community should invest in this, one of Ireland's biggest Building Societies.

All of these companies and many more not mentioned have one thing in common, their aim is to provide for the future, the future of Ireland. By doing so, they are not alone working towards a better Ireland economically, but for a better Ireland for future generations.

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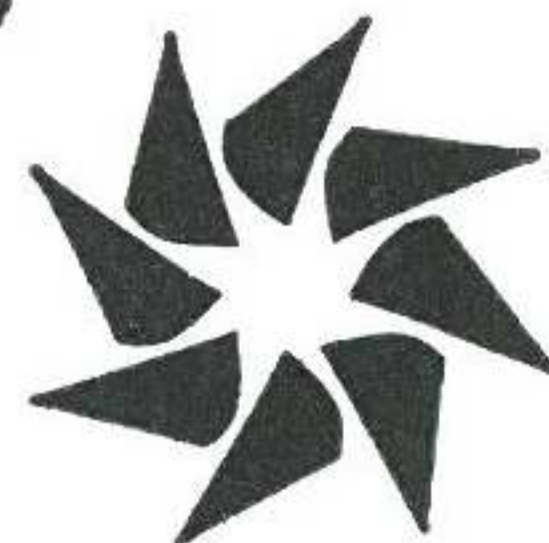
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SCRAPBOOK

BY
TONY REID

AT exactly 11 p.m. on May 8, 1945 the terrible war that had ravaged Europe for five years and eight months came to an end. The ominous threat of sudden death that had hung over each and every home during those awful years and months had ended. Slowly whole nations began to pick up the pieces and count their dead as well as solving a desperate refugee problem.

Fortunately we in Ireland were to be spared the suffering that was inflicted on almost all the other European countries, but many gallant Irishmen gave their lives to ensure that their fellow Irishmen and European comrades would no longer have to dread the cancer of Naziism and its attendant evils.

Transport difficulties brought about by the Emergency did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the true Gaelic supporter and many fine crowds turned out to watch the various championship tussles. It was a year of thrills and spills and not a few surprises.

Leinster, always full of keen competition, got the ball rolling in the championship race and good wins were recorded by Wexford and Offaly over Kildare, a surprise this, and Longford. The football in both games was very good indeed and Dublin and Meath clashed in Drogheda to provide another fine match. It ended in a draw and the replay at Croke Park went to extra time before Meath emerged deserved winners. The first game ended in a welter of excitement with Dublin equalising near the end after Meath had at one time enjoyed a nine points lead. The

result in the replay was: Meath 2-16, Dublin 1-10.

It was already apparent that whoever would win out in Leinster would indeed earn the crown the hard way. In the next round a huge surprise was forthcoming when Offaly shocked the crowd at Mullingar by soundly beating Meath, 1-8 to 0-5 and thereby qualifying for the Leinster final. In the meantime Laois, who had beaten Wicklow, faced Wexford who were inspired by Willie Goodison and the "yellow bellies" advanced to meet Offaly in the final.

Portlaoise was the venue for the football final and the fans found their way there by jaunting car, bicycle and even on foot. While the match was never a classic, it did not disappoint the attendance and one of the highlights of the struggle was the great duel between Nick Rackard, at full-forward for Wexford, and Jimmy Kelly of Offaly. Few then could visualise the impact that Nicky would make many years later, not as a footballer, but as one of the all-time greats of hurling. Although the final score was Wexford 1-8, Offaly 1-4, the match was never that close due mainly to a brilliant display by Offaly goalkeeper, Dick O'Gorman.

In Munster, the football scene turned out pretty much as expected, but Limerick enjoyed a brief half hour of glory when they led Kerry footballers, 1-6 to 1-0 at half-time. Kerry went on to win easily, 5-8 to 2-7, and Cork had a rare fright from Tipperary before winning by a point in a poor game of football.

Munster hurling was to enjoy

● TO PAGE 40

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● FROM PAGE 39

new title holders for the first time in five years. Tipperary came flashing onto the scene to thrill many thousands of people with their power hurling and they opened the trail to top honours with a simple win over Waterford in the first round by 3-6 to 0-3. Cork were the next victims of the Tipperary onslaught. The Corkmen had reigned for four years as All-Ireland champions but they lost their crown at Thurles thanks to a truly inspired display by that fine Tipperary man, Tommy Doyle.

Antrim met little or no opposition in Ulster and Galway, as usual, represented Connacht in the All-Ireland series.

Although beaten, 5-9 to 1-6, Antrim put up a fine show against Tipp. in the semi-final and it was only because of over anxiety that the Ulstermen failed to register more scores. The Kilkenny v. Galway semi-final provided the spectators with some of the best hurling of the year despite hard tackling and close marking. The result was a one point win for Kilkenny but they came mighty close to defeat at the hands of a splendid Galway fifteen.

The football semi-finals were contrasting. The Cork-Galway clash furnished fine football and a fair quota of thrills with the verdict in the balance until the end of the match.

The 33,000 spectators went home satisfied after witnessing Cork win by 2-12 to 2-8 with Young and O'Donovan the stars for the Rebel County.

The following week's meeting between Cavan and Wexford was played before a new attendance record for a semi-final which totalled 44,526 but what a let-down the game turned out to be. Razor keen tackling and close

attention to the man ruled out any chance of good football and at the final whistle Cavan had two points to spare over their Leinster opponents.

The stage was now set for the football and hurling deciders and every type of conveyance possible was brought into action to get the eager partisans to Croke Park.

The hurling match provided the usual share of thrills that one expects from any Tipperary-Kilkenny confrontation and the issue was never at any stage exactly clear cut. Kilkenny started off in splendid fashion and were two points ahead after only three minutes' play. Then, two quick goals by Gleeson and Coffey put Tipp. in front and Jim Maher put up the shutters in the Tipperary goal.

Tom Walton, Mickey Kelly and Jack Mulcahy tried their utmost but it was not to be their day. Apart from Jim Maher, Mutt Ryan, John Maher, Eddie Gleeson and Tommy Doyle were other heroes for the Premier County that day and at full time the scoreline read, Tipp. 5-6, Kilkenny 3-6. A great win in a very good final.

A grand football final resulted in a popular Cork victory and Jack Lynch added an All-Ireland football winning medal to his hurling collection. So too did Derry Beckett in this great southern triumph. Joe Stafford, Simon Deignan, Tony Tighe and T. P. O'Reilly tried all the tricks in the trade to pull the match Cavan's way but they met stonewall resistance from men like "Weeshie" Murphy, Dave Magnier and Caleb Crone. This Cork full-back line is still said to this day to have been the finest ever to stand in Croke Park. Cavan went down fighting, 2-5 to 0-7, and were first to congratulate the winners.



T. J. Maher is President of the 150,000-strong Irish Farmers Association.

Mr. Maher heads an organisation that includes many famous hurlers and footballers and is fully conscious of the close links between rural Ireland and the strength of the G.A.A. John Doyle, Tipperary (holder of eight All Ireland senior hurling medals); Bob Stack, Kerry (holder of six senior football medals); Mattie McDonnell, Meath; Pat Reynolds, Meath; Michael Kerins, Kerry; Tom Cheasty, Waterford; Jim Roche, Limerick and Gerry Colleran, Galway (brother of Enda Colleran), Sean Foran and Sean Evans, Offaly, are just some of the names to be found amongst the I.F.A. membership. Mr. Maher himself is a frequent attender at G.A.A. fixtures.

HISTORIC CONVENTION

By **SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH**

THE all too rapid growth of the G.A.A. brought difficulties in its train. Some clubs were loosely constructed and badly organised, discipline was lax, rules not very explicit, and when the Central Executive tried to remedy the situation they encountered plenty of trouble.

J. K. Bracken presided at a meeting of the Executive at Wynne's Hotel, Dublin, on 27th February, 1887, which decided that no tournament of any kind be permitted without prior sanction, and that members of the R.I.C. be not eligible for membership of any affiliated club "because of their attitude towards the people on almost every occasion they had come in contact with them." The meeting emphasised the fact that the G.A.A. was non-political but decided that individual members of it were permitted and entitled to perfect freedom of action in political matters.

Draws for the first All-Ireland hurling and football championships were made. These were on a national basis, as Provincial councils did not exist then, and they resulted: Wicklow v Clare; Wexford v Galway; Dublin v Tipperary; Cork v Kilkenny; Waterford v Louth; Limerick v Meath.

At the next Executive Meeting, held at Cruises Hotel, Limerick, on 11th April, the President, Maurice Davin, objected to the resolution passed at the previous meeting regarding tournaments, holding that Annual Congress

only had authority in this regard.

The Executive refused to re-open the matter and the President left the meeting. He resigned the office of President a short time later, but the Executive did not accept this but asked him to re-consider his decision.

That the Executive were a body of strong willed men was demonstrated at almost every meeting. They were resolute in their efforts to enforce discipline and in doing so joined issue with many powerful units of the organisation. Some of these they suspended, others were expelled, and a tempest or irritation rose against the governing body.

Another highly important factor that must be taken into consideration was the big struggle in progress behind the scenes between the constitutional and "physical force" parties for control of the Association.

All this build up had its culmination in violent scenes at the historic Convention of 9th November, 1887, which rent the G.A.A. asunder, and threatened to undo all the great work and sacrifices of its founders.

With the clash of ideals and personalities feeling naturally ran high and there were many manifestations of the tension with which the proceedings were awaited as sixteen hundred delegates—the greatest by far ever recorded at a G.A.A. Convention—tried to force themselves into the densely packed Courthouse at Thurles, which was ill-fitted to

accommodate the huge gathering.

In an interview with a member of the then Executive, which I had many years ago, I took this eye-witness account which he related to me of the scenes of that memorable day.

"We had no Chairman, as Maurice Davin had resigned the Presidency during the year, and had ignored our appeals to him to reconsider his decision. As a result a bitter fight developed over the appointment of a chairman.

"The Executive favoured P. N. Fitzgerald of Cork, a well-known figure in national circles and closely associated with the "physical force" party. He was formally proposed and seconded for the post.

"When Rev. J. Scanlon, C.C., Nenagh, put forward the name of Major J. O'Kelly of Moycarkey there was an uproar, as the Executive had some months earlier expelled him from the Association.

"Heated scenes followed as several delegates tried to speak together. The crowd swayed backwards and forwards, a wordy battle was fought amidst very great confusion and repeated cheers and counter cheers.

"Actual blows were exchanged between a number of delegates in the body of the hall; and when some members from the platform joined in very real disorder developed. Most of the seats and other fittings in the hall were badly damaged by the swaying crowds in a scene that threatened every minute to develop into a riot.

"Eventually Father Scanlon appealed to those supporting him to leave the hall and hold a meeting elsewhere to consider the situation which had arisen. A

● **OVERLEAF**

BIRTH OF THE G.A.A.

● FROM PAGE 41

number of clergymen and more than a hundred delegates then departed, and when the rival meeting assembled, J. K. Bracken, one of the founder members, was in attendance. This gathering discussed the feasibility of a rival organisation and decided to invite Maurice Davin to become its President.

"Meanwhile we carried on as best we could. Following the breaking of a number of windows several unauthorised members got into the hall and it took us two further hours of argument before a President was elected. By the time the vote was taken many delegates were on their homeward journey. The successful candidate was E. H. Bennett of Newmarket on Fergus, who got 316 votes against 210 cast for Maurice Davin.

"At this stage darkness was

setting in and as most of the lamps had been broken during the disturbance the closing hour of the Convention was conducted in almost total darkness, except for the light provided by a few candles hastily procured and which made a sombre sight perched jauntily on what remained of the Court Clerk's desk.

"The Executive were vindicated in a very fine statement read by the Secretary, which reported very considerable progress in the matter of organisation and in the number of clubs affiliated. A committee of twenty were appointed to revive the playing rules and the Convention concluded with an instruction to clubs not to participate as a body in any public political meeting or demonstration."

The differences at the Convention were widely reported in the national press and a very serious split appeared inevitable. However, Most Rev. Dr. Croke step-

ped into the breach at this vital juncture and, not for the first time, rescued the Association when all seemed lost.

He contacted Michael Davitt and asked him to use his good offices with P. N. Fitzgerald of Cork towards smoothing the way to reconciliation.

A lengthy meeting between the Archbishop, Michael Davitt and Maurice Davin took place at Thurles on 22nd November, the outcome of which was a decision to call a special Convention for Thurles on 4th January, 1888, to reorganise the Association.

A very important recommendation was that the basis of representation at this Congress was to be one delegate for every ten clubs in a county, which remains the arrangement to the present day.

The Executive agreed to these suggestions and instructed that County Conventions be held all over the country on 27th December to select delegates.

● FROM PAGE 29

would be the answer to our problems. But then the rhythm of the others might be disturbed and we were back to where we started."

Hurling has also featured in the Mayo man's career. He played it while attending school in Galway and among his trophies are five Connacht Colleges senior hurling championship medals. Indeed in 1965 the versatile star played minor, junior and under 21 hurling as well as minor, under 21 and senior football, all for his county.

Naturally, the call on his services was great, and no human resources could supply all those demands. So he dropped hurling to concentrate on football. At 25, he has come a long way. Maybe soon fate will reward him and others like him for their indomitable persistence.



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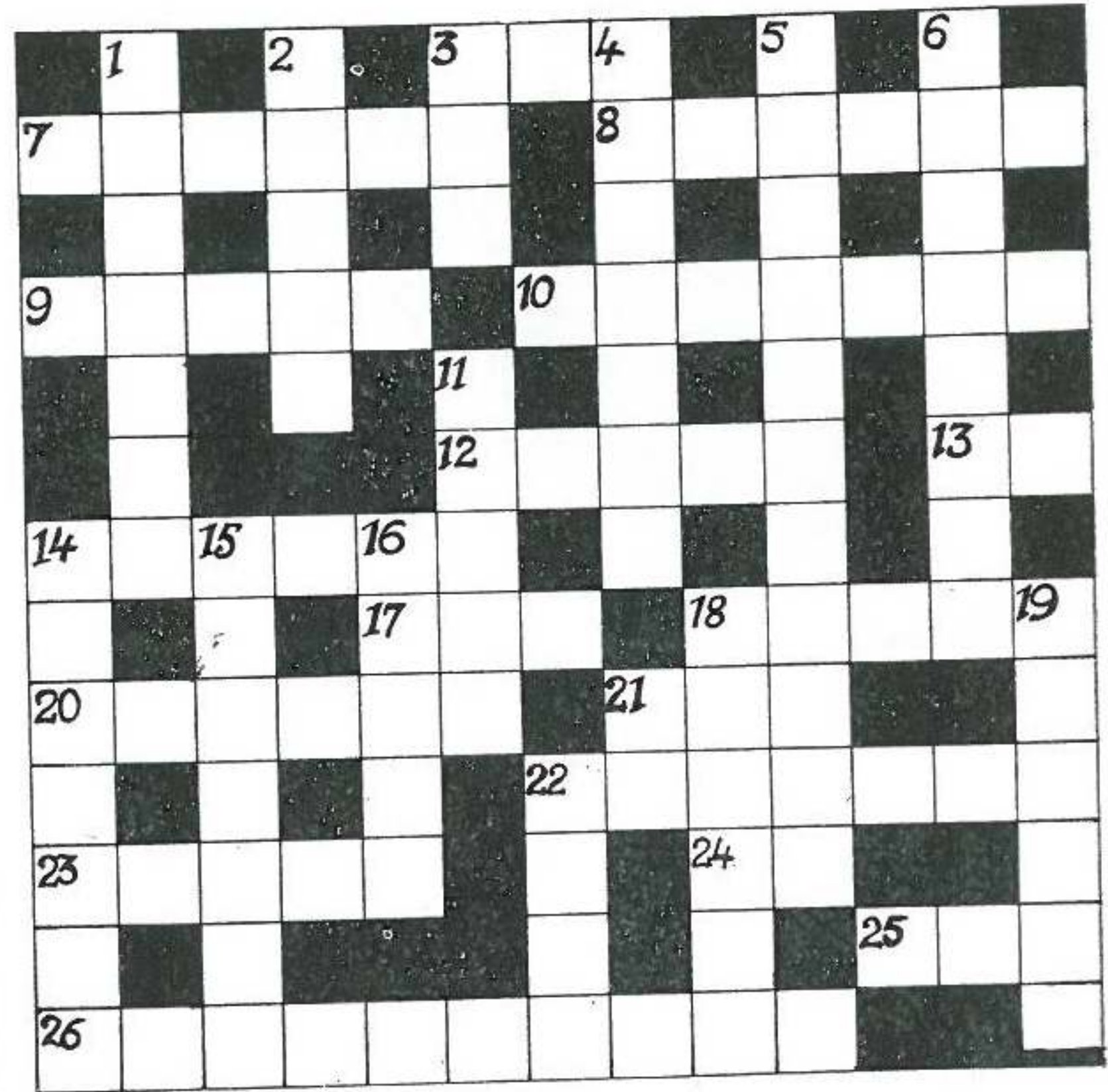
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ACROSS :

- 3—An opponent at games, but an enemy at war. (3)
- 7—Galway minor All-Irelander 1970; Cork senior All-Irelander 1967; Galway hurling half-back of the early fifties. (1, 5)
- 8—Might be Limerick or Wexford hurling midfielder, at different ends. (6)
- 9—Tipperary football forward who sounds as though he runs long distances. (5)
- 10—Is it by doing this that a President keeps cool. (7)
- 12—Give nothing to bees—they are already far too much overweight for games. (5)
- 14—Kilkenny footballer-referee. (6)
- 17—A singular player holds a master card. (3)
- 18—Laois full-forward who needs to have gin inside him. (1, 4)
- 20—Once in a lifetime performance can be seen in queue which just fails to end. (6)
- 21—Lagan at heart, though confused, stands for the whole Association, (1, 1, 1)
- 22—Shape M.C. into a prominent Donegal forward. (1, 6)
- 23—Relit in order to see the Decimal measure of liquid. (5)
- 24—Prominent Tyrone forward who seems to have lost part of his kit. Initials. (1, 1)
- 25—Eat some interval refreshment, or, perhaps, an after-match meal. (3)
- 26—Veer astern to find unusual occurrences. (4, 6)

DOWN :

- 1—An apparently joyous Tipperary wing-forward in football. (1, 6)
- 2—Last of Kerry's original All-Ireland winners of 1903 to pass away. (5)
- 3—Amount payable by those who enter. (3)
- 4—Roscommon full-back seems to be saying his Rosary. (1, 6)
- 5—Pint-sized half-back for Kerry. (11)



- 6—Westmeath defender in football. (8)
- 11—Galway midfielder sounds as though he takes pleasure in his work. (5)
- 14—Wexford forward and free specialist. (1, 6)
- 15—Hurler's relative who may play camogie. (1, 6)
- 16—Rangers who were Kerry's first challengers for the All-Ireland football crown. (5)
- 18—Outer garment unsuitable for playing in. (6)
- 19—Ah Marg you might have been a Limerick hurling forward. (6)
- 21—Roscommon captain in 1970. Initials. (1, 1)
- 22—Penny is just too much for stylish Clare wing-forward or mid-fielder. (4)

● SOLUTION PAGE 48

GO




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● FROM PAGE 25

disappointed so often". The side has been changing and evolving with the passage of time.

However, a real danger to the future of Derry football, as I see it, is the possibility of a psychological barrier arising; a barrier that could inhibit progress, and eventually set the county's Sam Maguire Cup hopes back years. Unless they can soon lay what is now becoming something of a Croke Park bogey on big match days the county's footballers may well develop a "we haven't got a chance" complex that would undermine their confidence, enthusiasm and approach and result in a loss of standard at inter-county level of performance.

The psychological angle, I have always maintained, had much to do in helping Cavan enjoy for so long such dominance in the Ulster Championship. Counties with talented teams were hampered in their efforts to lower the Breffni colours because the teams did not really believe in themselves in the face of the great Cavan tradition. That position has changed greatly over the past decade or so because of the number of counties that have pulled off wins in the Ulster series against the former dominant power.

Nevertheless, the point helps to illustrate my argument that Derry badly need a win soon at headquarters in a big game. If it came it would bring a new flood of confidence that could result in the type of self-assured football that can pay such handsome dividends.

However, will Derry's many obvious good qualities, including height, weight, experience and skill, pay off shortly in the county's hitting the jackpot at Croke Park? What do you think? At this juncture I must admit that I prefer to wait and see.

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JUNIOR DESK



A section for
the
young reader

PRESENTED BY JACK MAHON

JULY is with us as I write. We haven't seen so much sun but boy haven't we seen some great G.A.A. games. It is the year of draws and replays. Isn't it great to see the crowds surging back to the G.A.A. games again. Raymond Smith's book *The Clash of the Ash*, has just been released. I'll review it next month. Clare hurling fans must be really thrilled with their fantastic win over Limerick. I pitied poor Limerick though, for they have been so near but yet so far from success. The same with Sligo footballers. If there is a better footballer in Ireland than Mickey Kearins I haven't see him this year. They have a wonderful centre half back in Barnes Murphy.

This month I am spending a holiday in West Cork (Drimoleague to be exact) and I will be at the Munster final (football) in Killarney—my first. Next month I'm spending a week in Glen-

columbcille (Fr. McDyer's Country), then a week on a badminton course, of all things, and then back to school. But there are the All-Irelands after that.

COMPETITIONS

We have no competition this month. The following are the winners of the G.A.A. Tie competitions so kindly sponsored by C.T.C., Ltd., 23 Drury Street, Dublin 2, in the June issue of GAELIC SPORT.

SECTION ONE

(Under Twelves)

- (1) Thomas Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Co. Sligo. (Age 11—Dunally N.S.)
- (2) Martin Crowley, 26 Ferndale Road, Finglas, Dublin 11. (Age 10—De La Salle N.S., Finglas).

The correct answers to the "Know the Counties" Quiz were: (1) Mick Roche (Tipperary); (2) Sean Kilbride (Mayo); (3) Kieran Purcell (Kilkenny); (4) Frankie McFeely (Donegal); (5) Tony Hanahoe (Dublin).

SECTION TWO

(Thirteens to Seventeens)

- (1) Michael Moran, Muckres-aune, The Neale, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.
- (2) Pat Deady, Gortmolire, Lombardstown, Co. Cork.

Correct answer to word game—LYNCH (the name made so famous in Kerry's modern football story by Brendan and Paudie).

The prize of another G.A.A. Tie to the reader who supplied the correct number of medals won by Kerry's Mick O'Connell went to:

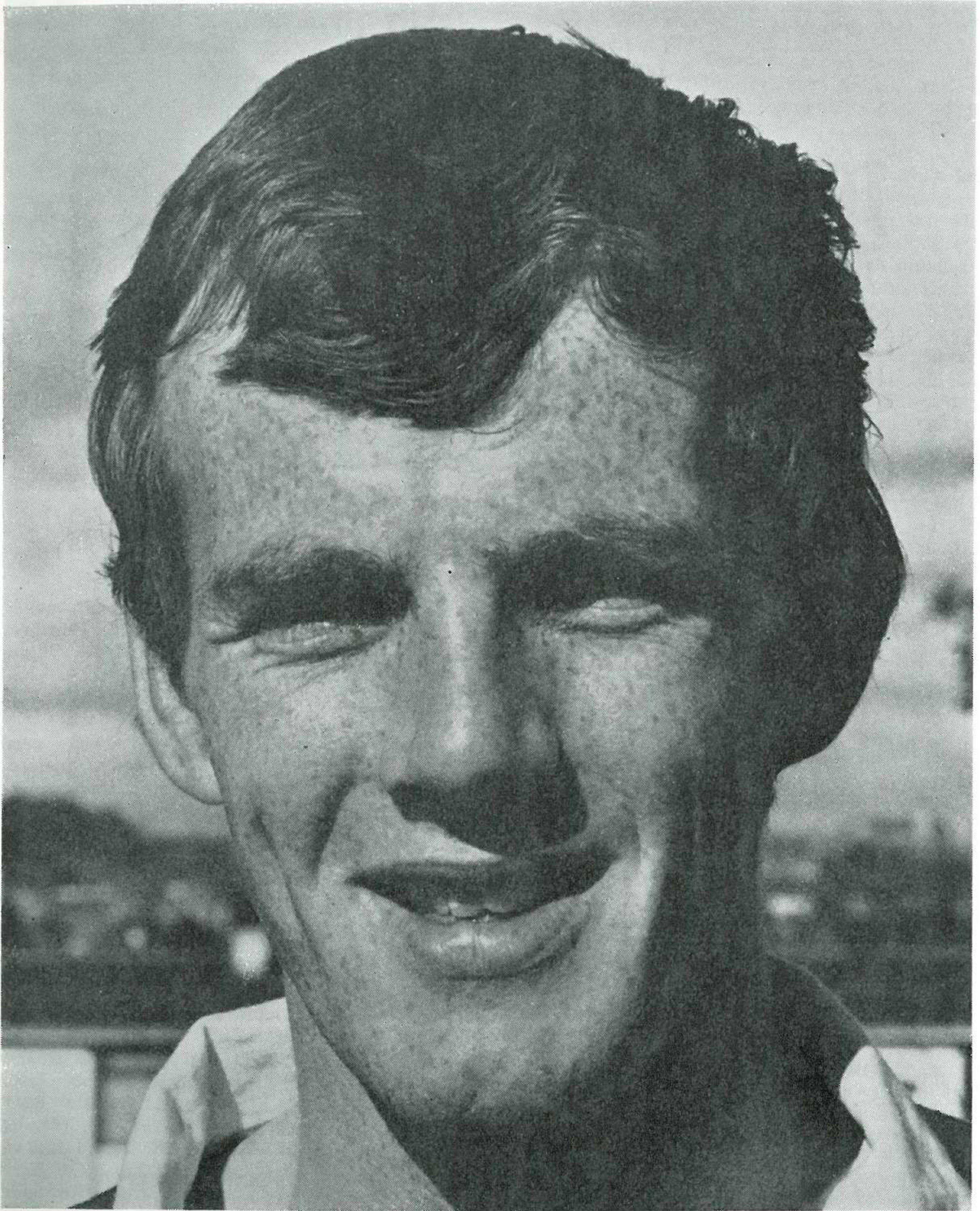
Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare.

Joseph supplied the following data:

"Mick O'Connell has won: 4 All-Ireland S.F. medals (1959, '62, '69, '70); 11 Munster S.F.C. medals (1958, '59, '60, '61, '62, '63, '64, '65, '68, '70); 1 Railway Cup medal (1972); 3 Co. Kerry S.F.C. medals with with South

● TO PAGE 47

CUT-OUT



RAY CUMMINS, CORK

● FROM PAGE 45

Kerry; 5 or 6 N.F.L. medals (1959, '61, '63, '69, '72 and '71?).

As Mick did not play in the N.F.L. final in 1971, Joseph attached a question mark to the 1971 N.F.L. medal.

What a fabulous collection of medals. Quite a number of readers attempted the competition but no reader had followed the Valentia man's football career like Joseph Woods. In a future issue I intend to interview Mick O'Connell once again for Junior Desk.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-out this month is Ray Cummins of Blackrock and Cork.

The greatest dual performer in the G.A.A. One of the greatest ever. He was an All Star in both codes in 1971. How does he manage to keep fit mentally and physically for both games? It must be a great strain at times. A great sportsman, too, we have pleasure in including him here and we wish him every success in his—SPORTS CENTRE, 36 Princes St., Cork. We have an interview coming up with Ray soon, too.

Finally there is a new photograph of someone you know at the top of the column. It's more recent and not the laughing pose of the other. Keep writing to me and you name the subject—just anything.

"I was very pleased with the interviews of Ml. O'Hehir, Eamonn Cregan and Nicholas Clavin. The competitions are great. It is delightful to see Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer continuing to play outstanding football. Age is no problem to them. Wouldn't it be great to meet these two players, to have them come around to schools and coach the school teams. The Peles of Gaelic football. Ray Cummins is another great player. How about a Ray Cummins and a Mick O'Connell Cut-Out. Why not interview these three greats?"

● Interview with Ray Cummins coming up soon. His Cut-Out this month will satisfy you. Clare's win over Limerick must have thrilled you (J.M.).

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Auhrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.—"Keep up the interviews. I'd like you to interview Tony Doran or have a Cut-Out of him. Great to see Ray Cummins writing to Junior Desk."

● I'd like more of the stars to write in too but they are very shy! (J.M.).

Liam Griffin, 38 Pearse Qrts., Currage Camp, Co. Kildare.—"Andy my brother says he will play with Wexford. I will play with Kildare."

● No fighting now! (J.M.).

Willie Fenton, Cloughnadromin, Ballysimon, Limerick. —"Where can I get a Limerick and a Kerry jersey?"

● The old story. Why haven't the shops got these jerseys. Plenty of English soccer jerseys but no Irish county jerseys. Makes me mad (J.M.).

Clare reader (name supplied). —"Mick Moroney and Noel Casey are the best Clare hurlers."

● OVERLEAF

From the Mailbag

Andy Griffin, 38 Pearse Qrts., Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare.—"My greatest ambition in life is to win All-Ireland hurling and football medals with my native Wexford. How about cut-outs of the Rackard brothers and Willie Goodison?"

● We have a great photo of the famous Rackard family. (J.M.)

John Hahessy, 51 Ard Mhuire, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary—"Gaelic Sport arrives very late sometimes to our newsagent. So I miss some of your competitions. I have holidays now and I'm hoping the weather will start to be good soon."

● I've told our Circulation Manager about your problem and he is going to contact our wholesalers, who take delivery of Gaelic Sport six days prior to the 1st of the month. (J.M.)

Gerald Trainor, 893 Francis Street, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.—"It would be a good idea if

Gaelic Sport would select a team of the month and have it as a centrespread."

● Good idea Gerald but printing deadlines would have to backdate it a month. (J.M.)

Liam McLellan (11 years), 13 Heffernan's Tce., Castlemartyr, Co. Cork.—"I play hurling and football with Castlemartyr School Shield teams."

● Keep it up. See how successful Ray Cummins is at both games. (J.M.)

Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare, is one of our most avid readers. He, as already written, won the G.A.A. tie for the correct number of medals won by Mick O'Connell. Joseph has a complete in depth knowledge of the Kerry maestro's football career and even surprised the great Micko himself with his wonderful G.A.A. knowledge. This is a section from the rest of Joseph's most readable letter.

● FROM PAGE 47

Dermot Petty (aged 10), Chelsea Manor, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare.—“My top hurlers are Babs Keating, Francis Loughnane, Noel Casey, Mick Moroney and N. McInerney.”

John Rynne, Lickaun, Kilnamona, Ennis, Co. Clare.—“The Clare full forward Michael Keane is from my parish Kilnamona. My grand uncle Mike McTigue was light heavyweight champion of the world in 1923.”

● *Something to be really proud of John (J.M.).*

Gerard Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford. — “Recently Waterford played Cork in a schools game. I was a sub but got a game and won a medal.”

● *Comhgairdeachas (J.M.).*

Ciarán Ó Murchú, Glen Lodge, Church Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.—“I have a pile of Gaelic Sports now—15 in all. Delighted to find Sean O’Brien, a Wicklow man in the Top Ten at last.”

Tomás MacDonncha, Cnoc, Leitirmealláin, Co. na Gaillimhe.—“Is ag Gaillimh a bheas an bua i mbliana sa bpeil i gCraobh na h-Éireann agus ag Cill Choinnigh san iomáint.”

● *B’fhéidir i 1973 a Thomáis. (J.M.)*

Kevin Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Sligo.—“Junior Desk gets better and better all the time. The Stars in Focus series is great. Congrats on your work. You are doing a great job for the G.A.A. youth of this country.”

● *I’m blushing! (J.M.).*

Michael McGrath, Oxpark, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary. “I am attending Borrisokane Vocational School where Mr. John Kelly teaches us science. It is great to have G.A.A. kit-bags and G.A.A. ties. The interviews were great. Please interview Fr. Michael Cleary after Paddy Downey.”

Finally I include a letter from **Mr. Brendan MacMenamin, Director C.T.C., 22 Drury St., Dublin,** the G.A.A. tie manufacturers.

“Further to our correspondence in connection with the G.A.A. Supporters’ Tie. We would like to inform you that this is really beginning to ‘run’ now. Daily we are getting enquiries from various parts of the country for this Tie in various County colours, and is resulting in some very nice business for us. We are doing our utmost to have built a reserve stock for each County, but find that this is rather difficult, as we are inclined to run out of one or other County, due to the demand. However, time will cure this.

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● *Thanks very much Brendan. It’s a pleasure for me to boost the G.A.A. tie and the G.A.A. kit-bag—the G.A.A. anything (J.M.).*

CONNACHT FINAL PROGRAMME

Any reader who wants a copy of the Connacht S.F.C. final programme will get one if he/she send on 12p (3 x 4p stamps will do). As I said earlier on keep writing to me on any G.A.A. topic. Write to:

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

● FROM PAGE 43

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