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# Gaelic Sport

FEBRUARY 1972

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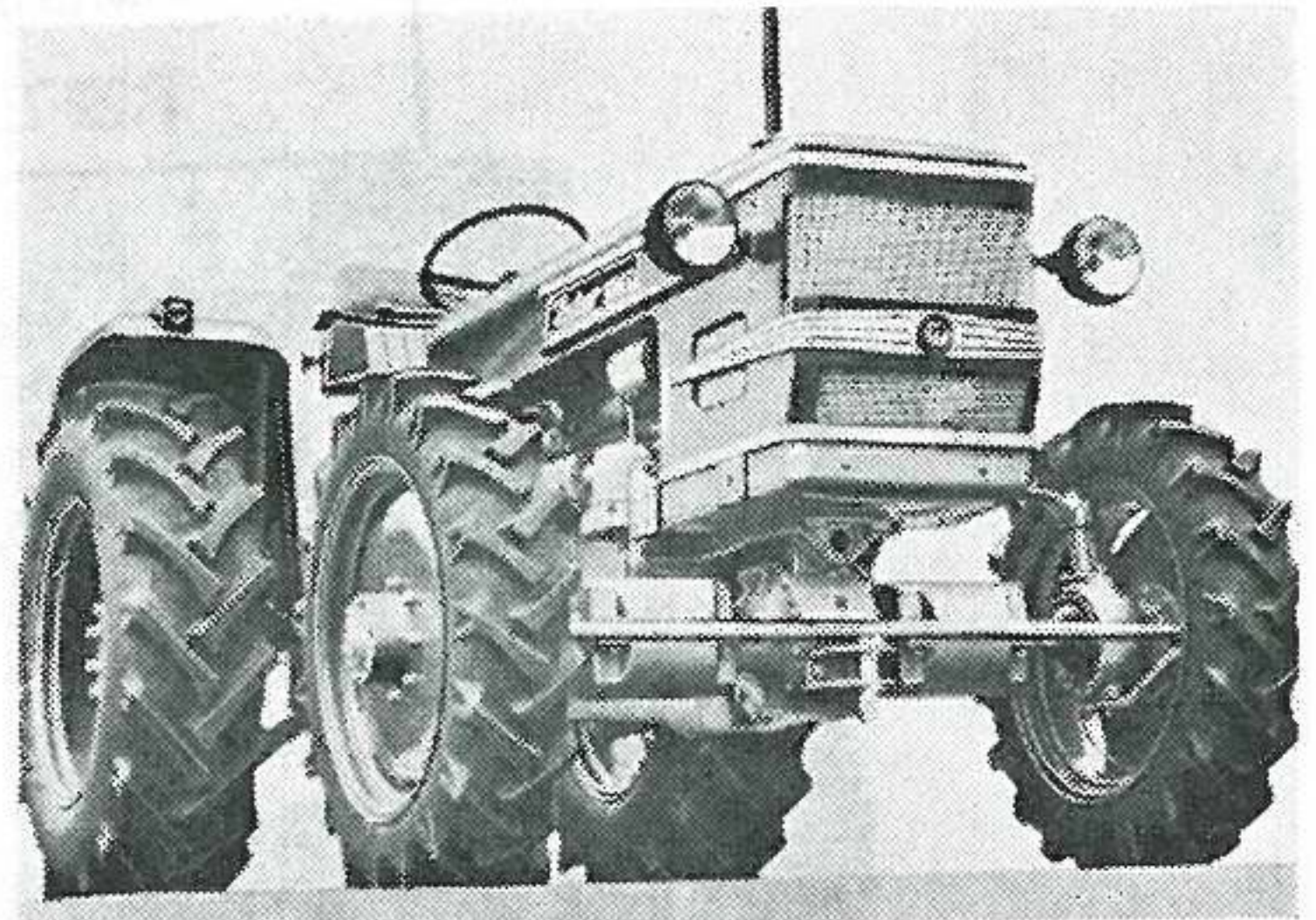
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# PROFITABLE FARMING

By TONY MOLLOY



● One of the tractors in the Zetor range which now occupies No. 1 position in the Irish sales charts.

LIVER Fluke disease is a cause of serious economic loss to the Agricultural Industry in Ireland. These losses have been estimated as high as £10 million per annum. Losses greatly increase during "flukey years" and many farmers will remember the situation which existed in 1958 and again in 1966, when whole flocks were wiped out by a massive invasion of immature fluke. To understand problems involved in Liver Fluke control we must look at the factors which favour the development of this parasite.

Because of its climate, Ireland is a particularly suitable country for sheep farming, but many parts of Ireland, particularly the Western half of the country, are ideal for the development and spread of liver fluke infestations.

## CONTROL MEASURES

Drainage is the only permanent measure against liver fluke and if this is not practicable, wet or known danger areas may be fenced off to prevent animals picking up the metacercariae while grazing.

In recent years, effective snail killers (Molluscicides) have been made available and are used to prevent infection and break the life cycle of the liver fluke by killing the mud snail. This system is strongly recommended and will undoubtedly be more widely practised in the future.

The use of flukicides has been common practice on Irish farms for many years, but the drugs available have until recently been limited in their effect against the more damaging immature stages of the liver fluke. The ideal flukicide should be effective against all stages of the parasite's development and safe in use. This is particularly necessary in the control of acute fluke disease in sheep and the recent development of "Coriban" is a major breakthrough in fluke control.

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## ZETOR - No. 1 in sales chart

WHEN they were first introduced into the Irish market few people would have believed that Zetor tractors were to reach

the top of the sales chart in 1971. The fact that they came from Continental Europe meant that they were labelled with the same badge as most of the other European tractors marketed here—a badge which meant bad service and doubtful availability of spare parts. On top of this was the big problem of the British tractors which for so long dominated the market, virtually unrivalled. The British were producing good machines and had adequate spare part facilities and after sales service. Such was the position faced by O'Shea's when they decided to bring in Zetor.

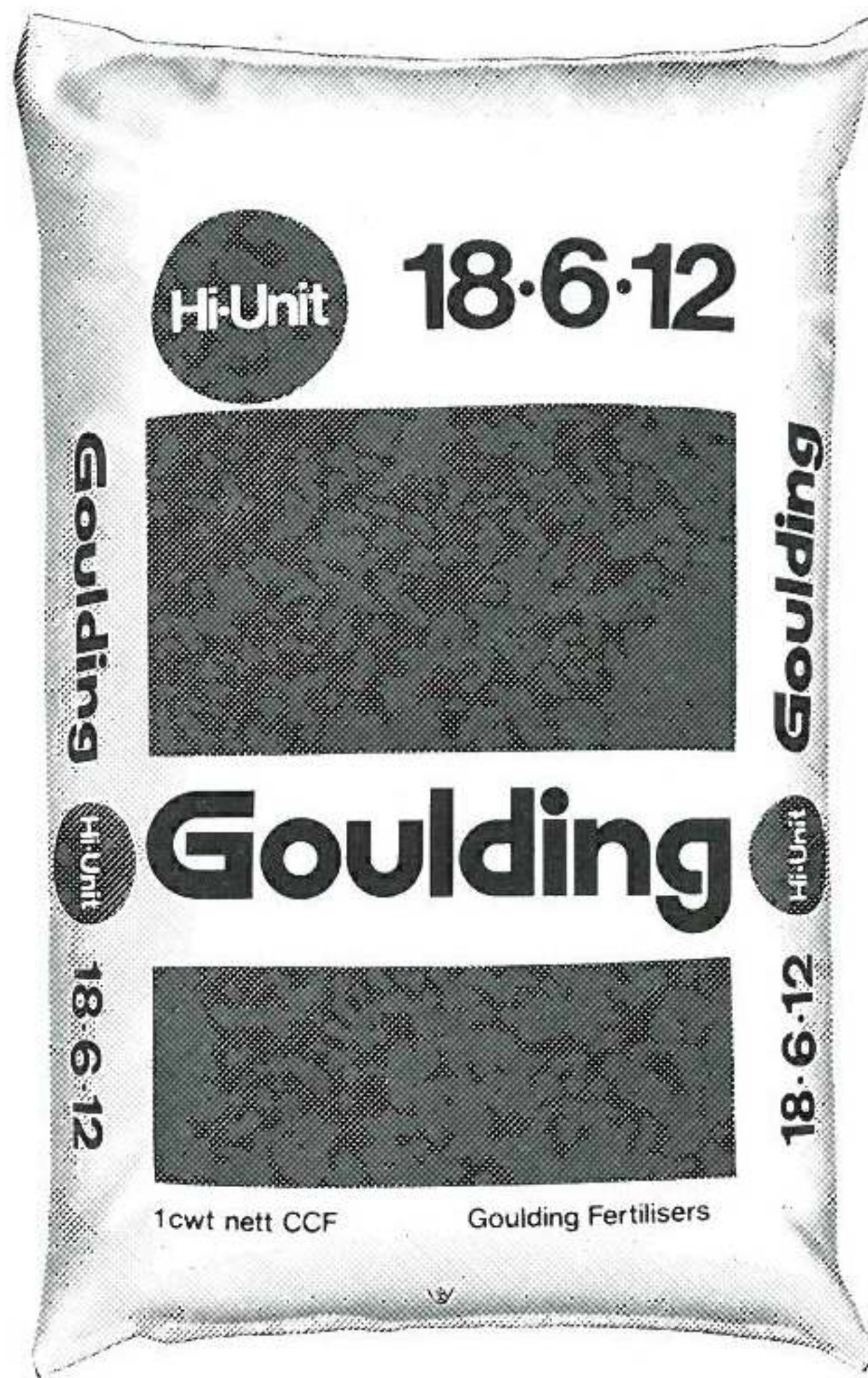
The fact that Zetor succeeded is a gross understatement; for the latest registration figures available at the time of writing show Zetor in the No. 1 position.

But why has the Irish farmer decided on Zetor and why did he take so long to make up his mind?

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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 15. No. 2. February, 1972.

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## MORE ACTION, LESS TALK

DAN McAREAVY of Armagh called it "The Propaganda War" in an article in the 1972 edition of "Our Games". It is mounting every day. It is not, as the simple-minded may think, a war deliberately waged to woo the young people of Ireland away from Gaelic games; it is simply the development of soccer as a major form of show-business in Britain and the overflow of its trappings is flooding this country. As a result, our native pastimes could suffer grievously in Dublin and along the east coast, in particular, and throughout the whole country to a lesser degree.

Jack Mahon, that extraordinarily-dedicated man of ideas—and action—from Galway was the first to draw serious attention to the publications side of the propaganda war in an article in this magazine a couple of years ago. Soccer magazines, lavishly produced, are on sale on every book-stall, practically on every counter. The only opposition Gaelic games have to offer is this magazine, struggling against the tide. Fine words are spoken and fine plans mooted, but nothing comes of them.

Now, in this very issue, Jack Mahon again puts his finger on another aspect of the big-business propaganda of soccer. When he tried to buy a boy's playing outfit in the Offaly colours in a Galway store he was told that they weren't stocked (are they made?); but he could have outfits representing any of a dozen English soccer clubs.

This is not the fault of the store, nor of the soccer clubs, but of ourselves, the G.A.A., who have failed to anticipate the trend and take steps to counter it.

Then there are the sports bags carrying the names of Arsenal, Manchester United, Leeds and, probably, dozens of other soccer clubs; there are coloured pictures of soccer players and albums to paste them in; there are badges and emblems, all available for

the young boys who are only too eager to buy and wear them.

And so it goes on, but we have nothing to counter the offensive. If the boys had Offaly, Galway or Kerry outfits available they would want to wear them; if coloured pictures of our top hurlers and footballers were to be had, the boys would buy them. But they are nowhere to be found.

The Association cannot produce these things themselves; that is not their business. But, surely, it is possible to persuade manufacturers that there is a market for such gear in Ireland. Involvement with commercialism is now acceptable and ideas should not be too hard to sell.

There are probably many people in the Association who abhor the suggestion that the games be used to promote commercial interests. As for ourselves, we do not dance with joy as we argue that Gaelic pastimes should dabble with the more respectable fringes of "show business" in the propaganda war with soccer. The question is: have we any choice? Moreover, the benefits are mutual.

When GAELIC SPORT was launched, almost 14 years ago, and for a long time afterwards, the magazine was regarded with hostility in the higher levels of the Association. Allegedly, we were "cashing in". It took a long time before realisation came that we were providing an essential service and simultaneously promoting the games. But we are not sure whether the "dog-in-the-manger" attitude is yet finally dead.

In conclusion, we want to say that we are not anti-soccer. We are not resurrecting old Rule 27 antipathies. We are just plain pro-Gaelic games. They must not only survive but flourish. That is our creed as well as our business. And that is why we call for more action and less talk.

We plead that undivided attention be paid to the advice and warnings and ideas of Jack Mahon. Better still, is he not the kind of man the Association is looking for to fill their top public relations post?



# **THE OPEN DRAW:**

*Two seasons of it  
would send us  
scurrying back to  
the old system*

**By JAY DRENNAN**

A TOPIC that gets such regular airing as the Open Draw must have come under the scrutiny of the Commission on the G.A.A. and, sure enough, they have a sizeable number of observations to make on the subject and recommendations, too. The recommendations first: the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship to be run on a "two-year open draw" for an experimental period of two years; the

provincial championships to be done away with; the All-Ireland Hurling Championship to be run on a "seeded open draw"; the provincial hurling championships to be discontinued; a Senior B Hurling Championship to be organised.

In the body of the report it is observed that the Commission noted certain defects in the running of the championships at present and think the system

should be changed. They do not specify the defects, though they later go into the advantages which they see arising from the Open Draw.

The two best teams would meet in the All-Ireland final, most likely. That, of course, is the presumption on which the notion of the Open Draw is based; but God help the open draw, or any other draw for that matter, if it were all so predictable, and if every game went so rigorously according to the book. As things stand (taking the same set of presumptions for granted and no more) the best in Munster and the best in Leinster meet in the hurling final, unless Galway or London can prove themselves better than either—a fact which is always unlikely because they meet the Munster or Leinster representatives when these are nearing their peak.

The present system provides for four top attractions, at least, before the All-Ireland final—the provincial finals. They are a focus of expectation as well as everything else. Where does this focus come in the Open Draw?

Then supposing your best teams chanced to meet one another at early stages. You could lose three of the four best teams in two rounds that way. Besides, the paths along the way will be no easier than they are now for the weak unless by the horrid chance that all the weak kept meeting and all the strong in the other section. By ugly coincidence a poor side could sneak into the finals.

But, of course, it is against the probabilities; and certainly all



would have the same number of rounds to test them on the way.

The Commission feels that the new pairings would create more interest and comment. Scarcely more than any round of the Munster hurling championship, I think; or any of the provincial semi-finals or finals in football. But, I have always felt that these novelty pairings which seem so desirable are just what the League is for, and that is exactly what the football league, at any rate, has been doing these last two years. Successfully too, and I would hate to see the interest and novelty value which has caused the new League to flourish dissipated in the championship—and without commensurate return, I'll be bound.

Helping promotion of the game? In the championship? I wonder, and beg leave to doubt.

Rationalisation of fixtures? Yes, we are in a bad way with fixtures, but we are also in a bad way with rationalisation. Everything is being rationalised, and not all with success.

New pairings in the All-Ireland finals. Yes, of course, you could have had Tipperary and Limerick last year, for instance in hurling. But, we had that and Tipperary and Kilkenny, too. Or it could have been Offaly-Galway early on in football, etc. Certainly in football each round should throw up some interesting clashes. And to be fair to the Commission, they never suggest the same kind of open Open Draw for hurling.

It would create better awareness of the Association as an All-

Ireland Association. Probably this is quite a good point. Indeed, whether you put it that way, or some other way, the one argument which I see in favour of the Open Draw is that the present system tends towards a kind of insulation. Many counties have never played against maybe nine or ten of the other counties in any kind of competition.

By the way, the two-year system referred to in the recom-

## COVER PHOTO

**O**UR front cover this month features the Texaco Award Winners in Hurling, Football and Hall of Fame and they are respectively: Michael Keating (Tipperary), Eugene Mulligan (Offaly) and the immortal Mr. Hurling, Christy Ring. The men appearing in the background with Christy are Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary) and Pat Nolan (Wexford).

mendations means that the draw would remain the same for two years so that each county had a shot at the other on its own ground. Hardly a very promising second year for a county hammered at home in the first year.

On the hurling scene, the Commission envisages 10 senior counties; 8 senior B; the rest junior. The championships would run mainly in June and July. Unfortunately, the very situation in hurling makes the Open Draw go haywire. For you begin by seeding four counties: at the

beginning, to get started, the four finalists in the provincial finals last year, say—Kilkenny, Wexford, Limerick and Tipperary. Afterwards, if the two year trial were successful, the four would be the semi-finalists of the previous year.

Then the remaining six would offer themselves for selection as sacrificial lambs for these four. Two would be eliminated by a system of two byes and two matches. Then the four would be apportioned out to test the flaccid muscles of the idle giants. The result makes a semi-final: then a final. How long, I wonder, would we have Tipperary-Kilkenny finals that way; I use it as an instance, to say that the complaint of the same finalists would be even more likely to remain true.

And, by the way, does the argument about spreading the gospel among the weak not hold water at all when hurling comes in question, though it was one of the supposed advantages of the Open Draw.

One thing, however, I like about the proposal: it would be a two year trial. Maybe I am altogether wrong and would willingly agree to that period of trial. But, more likely, I think, that the two years would send us scurrying back to the old scheme. I suppose you could say that what Galway were entering in Munster was a kind of Open Draw. Indeed, maybe the fact that we would have to scurry back is the reason why the unemployed provincial councils soldier on.

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Sunday (p.m.), 20th February, 1972



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# THE LAUGH'S ON CORK!

By  
**PATRICK CARVER**

**P**ROVIDED your man is driving the ideal way to return to Dublin from Clonmel is to head off for Cashel, take a few easy hours in that decent hotel in Urlingford, stoke up the dying fires with another stop-over in Portlaoise . . . and then sleep the rest of the way to Dublin.

And that's what we were doing, or at least I was hoping to do on the Sunday night — or maybe it was then the Monday morning — before Christmas.

Earlier, on a bleak, freezing day that kept every sensible man in Clonmel beside his own fire we had watched Offaly get the fright of their new all-Ireland life from a Tipperary team . . . and, mind you, the only two men we knew with any certainty on that Tipperary team were Michael Keating and John O'Donoghue.

We had left Portlaoise behind, your man had his pipe going at last and I was about to settle down to sleep the 40 miles back to Dublin and home.

"They must be laughing their heads off in Tipperary at the moment," he said.

I didn't feel inclined to answer. I was half asleep at that moment, and it escaped me why Tipperary people should be laughing their heads off at being beaten by Offaly.

"I suppose you're right," I told him and closed my eyes.

We were close to Monaster-evan when he opened up again.

"They must think it's the greatest joke of all time," he said. "No wonder they're laughing."

I had to humour him. "Who's laughing?"

"Everyone in Tipperary." He seemed to be surprised that I should have to ask him.

"All right." I knew he wasn't going to stop. "Why are they laughing?"

"Wouldn't you laugh if you were a Tipperary man?" he said.

I had the uneasy feeling that the whole conversation was drifting away from me—and that my chances of forty winks for the rest of the way were disappearing fast.

"Now," and I was firm, "let's start right from the beginning again. Everyone in Tipperary is laughing. That we know. Now just answer the two questions—who is laughing and why are they laughing?"

"Everyone in Tipperary is laughing and they're all laughing at Cork and what's going on down there at the moment."

At last we were getting somewhere. Tipperary and Offaly had

nothing at all to do with this conversation.

"Now what's going on in Cork?" At that stage of the proceedings, I don't think I was really interested.

"Look at all the trouble they have had in the last few months," he told me. "St. Finbarr's are fighting with the county board, Gerald McCarthy says he may never play for Cork again and there's all sorts of arguments and fighting going on down there."

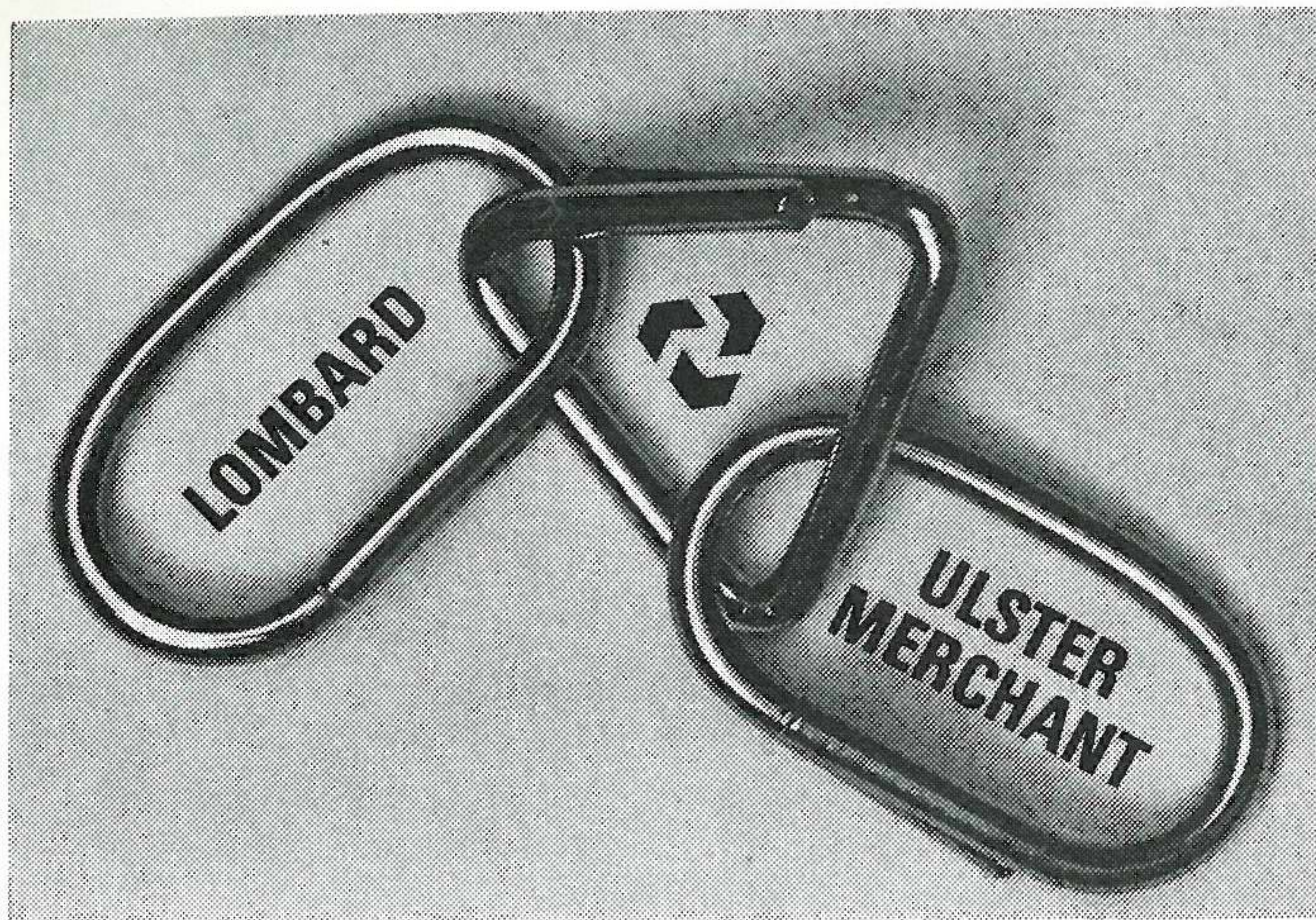
"Trouble is nothing new in Cork," I told him. "They're always fighting. A few years ago it was Glen Rovers fighting the County Board, now it's St. Finbarr's . . . and next year it could be Blackrock. It wouldn't be Cork if they weren't fighting."

"I know," he answered, "but this latest row could ruin the present Cork hurling team. You can see that already with this beating at the Athletic Grounds by Dublin. It'll take a long time to live that down."

"If they don't make peace in Cork soon, there won't be a hurling team next year in the county. No wonder they're laughing their heads off in Tipperary. Now all they'll have to worry about is Limerick. With all the

● TO PAGE 52





# **A great link-up in financial circles**

Two of the foremost names in finance have merged to become one of the greatest names in Ireland. The Ulster Merchant Group and the Lombard Group have got together under the wing of the Ulster Bank to form Lombard & Ulster Banking. The combined resources of both groups have been welded together to provide substantial capital for financing industrial expansion throughout all Ireland.



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Pat Reynolds.

## PAT REYNOLDS

### *Man of all the talents*

**PAT REYNOLDS**, the durable Meath left half-back is, without doubt, one of the finest defenders playing Gaelic football presently. Recently he received a "Carrolls All-Star Award" for the great intentiveness of his play and the enthusiasm he continued to show in adversity as in triumph". A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of interviewing Pat. Our conversation went on these lines:

**Noel Coogan—What was your most satisfying hour on a football pitch?**

Pat Reynolds—It was actually my first 80 minutes game which proved to be my most satisfying "hour". That was the 1970 Leinster final against Offaly, in which we came from ten points behind at half time to win. I didn't think we could win at the interval, but I knew we could do better than we were doing as we were five points up before Offaly scored after ten minutes.

**N.C.—Which do you consider as your most brilliant game in the Meath jersey?**

P.R.—I think I played as well as I have ever played in that same game against Offaly.

**N.C.—Can you name your three most difficult opponents in your career to date?**

P.R.—Eamonn Coleman (Derry), Brendan Lynch (Kerry) and Liam Sammon (Galway).

**N.C.—As a schoolboy who was your idol?**

P.R.—Kevin Beahan (Louth). That was before I started playing football. Beahan was my idol because my father was born in Louth and we were all behind them when they won the All-Ireland in 1957.

**N.C.—Can you single out any person or persons whom you particularly admire on the G.A.A. scene presently?**

P.R.—Sean O'Neill, the most dedicated player in the country, is the one I admire most.

**N.C.—Are there any sportsmen whom you admire outside of the G.A.A.?**

P.R.—Just Mike Gibson, the Irish rugby international.

**N.C.—Which person in the world would you most like to meet?**

P.R.—Muhammad Ali.

**N.C.—Have you noticed any significant changes in the Asso-**

ciation since the removal of the Ban?

P.R.—No, not really. There are no big changes as most players are still playing the same games as before. Neither are there all that many new members from other organisations coming into the G.A.A. since the removal of the Ban.

**N.C.—You will be going to San Francisco in March. Speaking as one who was there last year, do you consider such trips worthwhile? Also, your views on the future of Gaelic Football as an international sport?**

P.R.—The trips to San Francisco are the best thing that have happened for quite a while. They are much better than the trips to New York, as they give players from weaker counties a great incentive to play for during the year. I can't see Gaelic Football becoming an international game as there aren't enough players in other countries to provide worthy opposition to the Irish. At one stage, it looked as if the Australians would provide the opposition, but this appears to have fallen through.

**N.C.—Do you foresee the game ever becoming professional?**

P.R.—I don't think so. I think we will be all dead and gone before that happens. There isn't enough money to make it completely professional. But, I would like to see the provincial champions getting about £20 per man and the All-Ireland finalists about £50 per man. Players from teams who get this far in the championships lose a lot of money by having to train regularly and deserve some kind of compensation.

**N.C.—Can you name, in order of preference, the three best G.A.A. grounds you have ever played on?**

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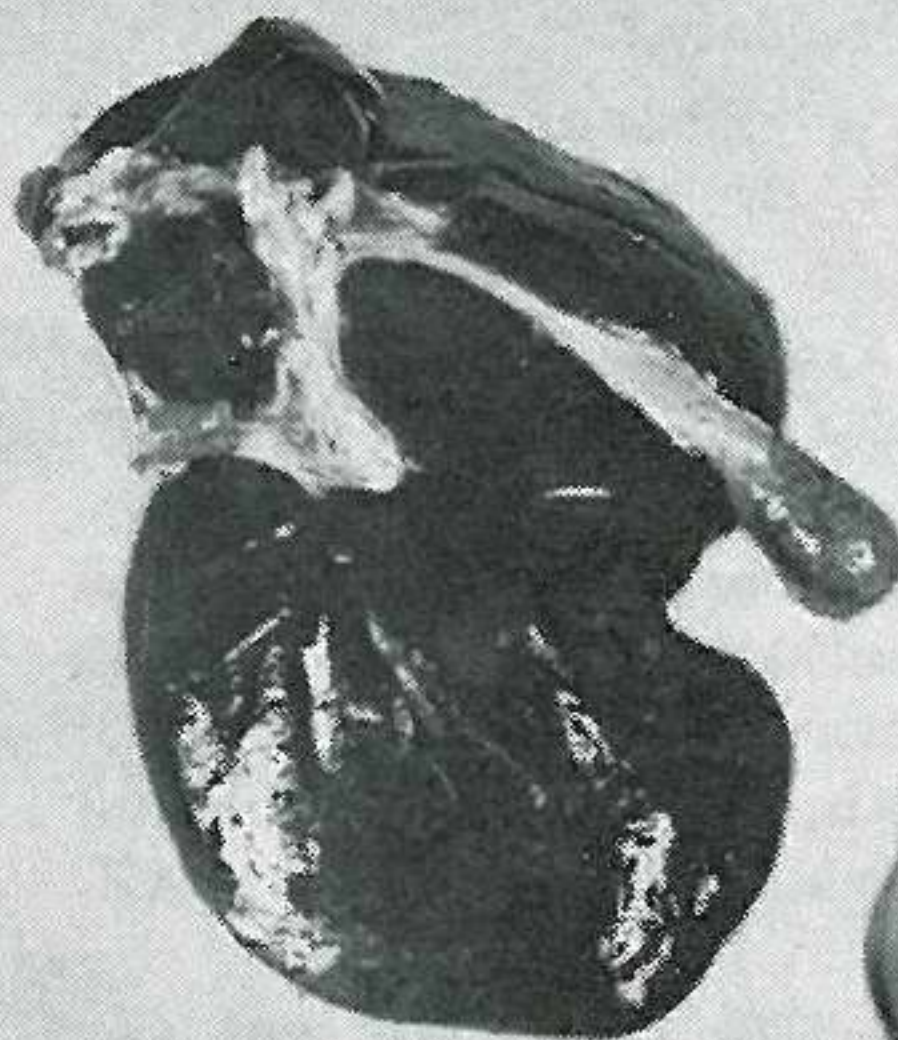
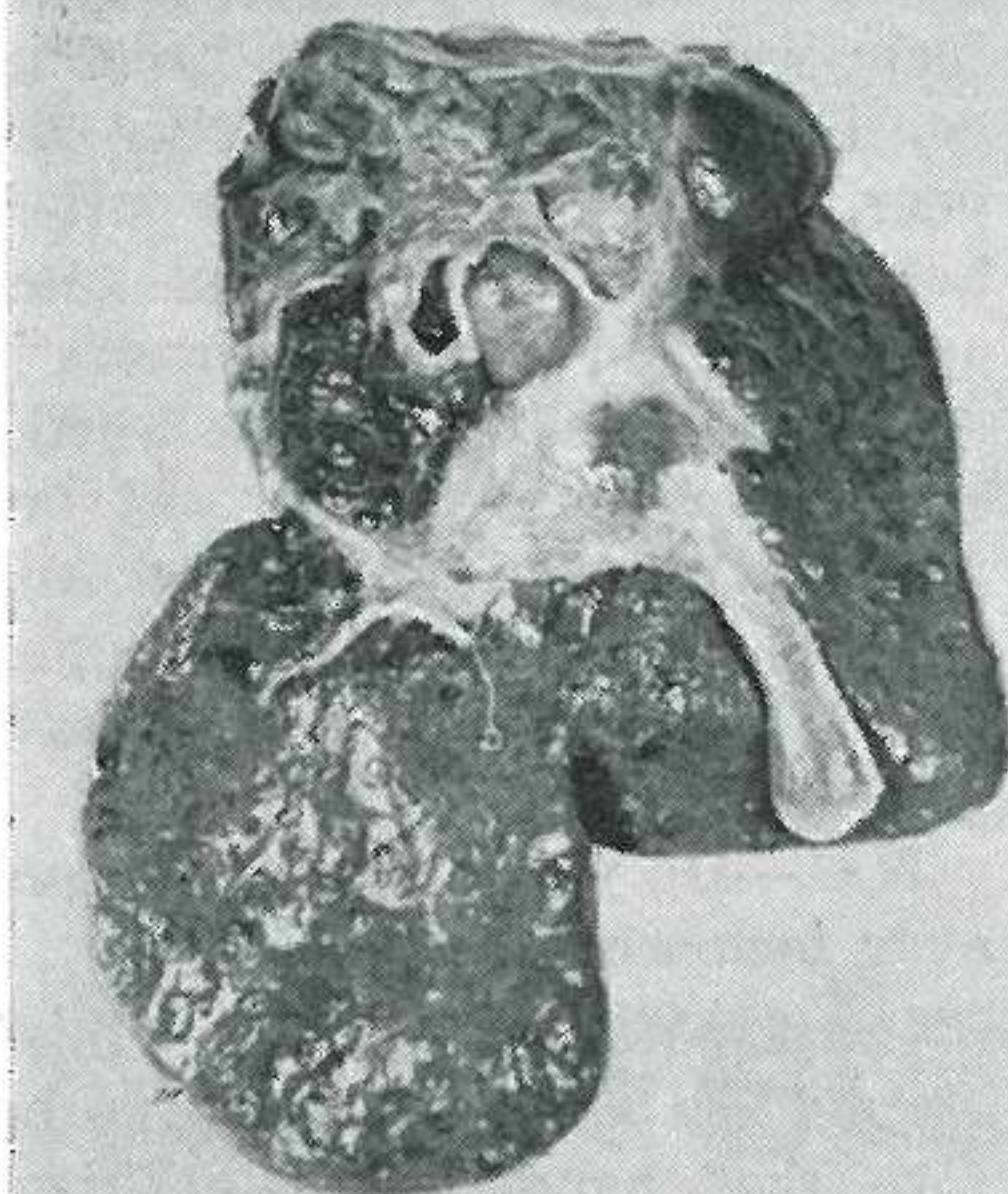


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● FROM PAGE 11

P.R.—(1) Croke Park; (2) Pairc Tailteann, Navan; (3) Casement Park, Belfast.

N.C.—Are you satisfied with the coverage being given to Gaelic Games by the press and television?

P.R.—No, especially as far as the press is concerned. I buy two or three newspapers on Mondays and you get as much on English soccer as on G.A.A. games. Television coverage isn't much better. I would like to see a complete match shown some night during the week, something like "Match of the Day" on B.B.C.

N.C.—Who is your favourite G.A.A. correspondent?

P.R.—Paddy Downey of "The Irish Times" for his honest writing on all games. As for most of the other writers, you'd think they weren't at the game at all. Some writers are inclined to single out one player too much.

N.C.—What are your favourite television programmes?

P.R.—"Match of the Day" and "24 Hours" on BBC TV and "The Riordans" on RTE.

N.C.—Who are your favourite singers?

P.R.—Cilla Black and Elvis Presley.

N.C.—What is your favourite hobby outside of football?

P.R.—I like going to race meetings.

N.C.—How do you see Meath doing on the football fields dur-



*Paddy Doherty of Down . . . . . regarded by Pat Reynolds as the greatest player he has seen.*

ing the coming months?

P.R.—We should stay up in the first division of the League. Anyway, we never do very well in the League and we should go well in the championship, as Meath have a good young team coming up. It should be between ourselves and Offaly for the Leinster title.

N.C.—Are you satisfied with the League system in operation at present?

P.R.—I am satisfied with the system, but I would like to see the League run off at the same time as the championship. When a team is knocked out of the championship in the first round, they are months without a game. Running the League in the sum-

mer wouldn't interfere with the running of club championships either and gates would increase. There are less than 100 at some games in the winter.

N.C.—If there was a transfer market in operation in Gaelic football like soccer and Meath wanted to sell you, is there any other county which you might like to play for?

P.R.—I wouldn't mind playing for either Down or Galway, as I like their style of play.

N.C.—Who do you consider as the greatest footballer you ever saw play?

P.R.—Paddy Doherty of Down, I think he was even greater than Sean O'Neill.

N.C.—Can you point the finger on any particular issue which the G.A.A. is falling down on and needs to be remedied?

P.R.—Players must be better looked after, especially the ordinary club players. There should be more social life in the Association. Players seldom meet their opponents after games.

N.C.—Have you played any other games besides Gaelic football?

P.R.—I played rugby and handball. I also did some swimming.

N.C.—In conclusion, Pat, what are your ambitions for the future?

P.R.—I would like to win another All-Ireland medal and I'd like to go to Australia again.

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# BERNIE'S BROTHER



Pat Hartigan.

By JAY DRENNAN

**R**EMEMBER John Mackey? Too young perhaps to recall the beautiful mane of waving fair hair, the power of sinewy frame, the dash and vigour of his drives for goal. There was hardly a more daunting sight for defences than John Mackey in possession. Yet, he never was, and never will be other than Mick's brother, for all his elegant looks and considerable hurling ability: brother of the swarthy, spike-haired, round-head, a little barrel of a man — but what a man.

For in Mick there was a heart two or three sizes too big for one man. Physiologists or biochemists would explain it in sordid terms—some correlation of genes, some over-activity of a gland, some chance transmission of hereditary characteristics. But, to the poet and the ordinary hurling lover (in whom there is something of the poet) it was qualities of the heart which endeared.

In some ways, one is put in mind of the pair when one thinks of the Hartigans of today's Limerick side. Not in the contrasting looks, of course, for both the Hartigans are magnificently built Grecian-statue men, powerful in limb, slim in waist and speedy in movement. But, perhaps, because the Hartigans have some similarity in style — give or take a degree or two here and there — they seem to revive the Mackey memories.

It would be false and very misleading to suggest that they have made, or even are likely to

make an impact in hurling anything like so striking as the Mackeys. But, there is, all the same a point or two of resemblance. Take the temperament and approach to the game of the pair. Bernie's whole approach has for long been governed by his everlasting superb fitness: his attention to athletics has something to do with this; therefore, his play has been from his beginnings in the Limerick county side patterned to that speed and stamina.

The careering up and down field and the long undaunted solo runs marked him as a considerable hurler right from his senior beginnings. But, his danger has been that he would become a compulsive runner, backing up all over the place and taking care of everybody's business as well as his own.

At one time, it looked as though Bernie Hartigan would turn into an unbeatable midfield stronghold for Limerick. From time to time he has shone; many times, the bubbling enthusiasm, great-hearted running and instinctive ball-play almost overran oppositions. But, then, equally surprisingly he would go into his shell, lose his grip on the game which he had been lording, and fall right out of the picture.

Pat Hartigan is also a different type of player from his brother confining himself and his activities to a more specialised and more disciplined role. Indeed, so successful has he been in the full-back position that it is hard

to suggest anyone so good playing the game just now. It was, probably, a wrench for him to discipline himself to the demands of the position. With his strength and speed off the mark, his trained reflexes and powerful hitting he makes a barrier of truly formidable proportions in front of the veteran but cagey Hogan.

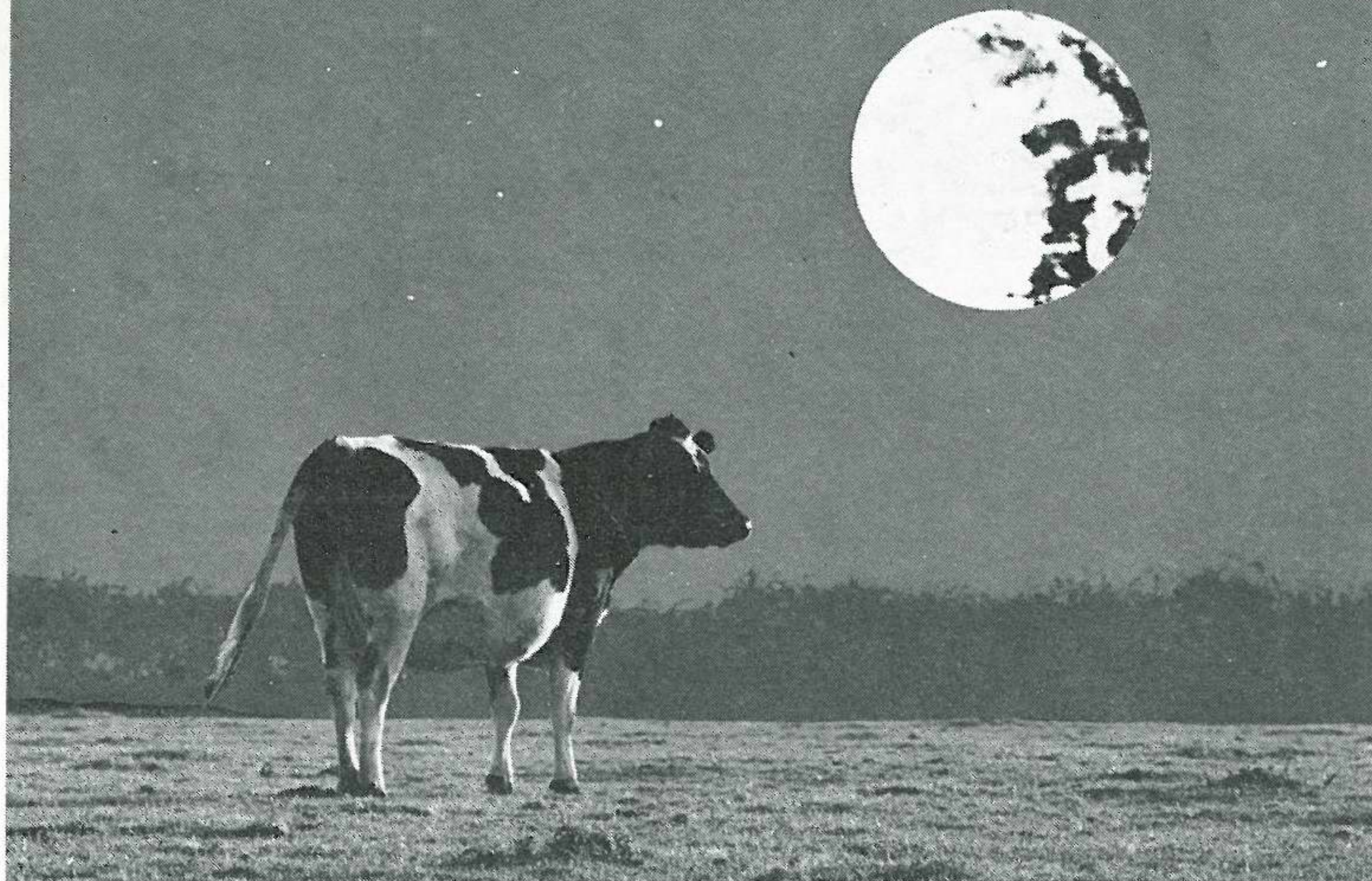
It is no small matter that Hogan has been so consistent; yet, how could one consider the longest serving goalie now playing at inter-county to retain his form, his nerve and solidity except behind an iron screen such as Pat Hartigan has been able to erect for him.

There is a constant temptation, no doubt, to try using the physical advantages of Hartigan further afield and there is no reason to suspect that he would not be successful; more successful than his brother, I should think, for the very cause of his brother's lack of real proof of himself has been mainly in his lack of discipline of the "joie de vivre" that seizes him.

So it is something of a John Mackey — Mick Mackey thing after all: Mick the undisciplined follower of the Muse and the pleasure of physical ebullience; John the more specialised, the more concentrated on a particular type of task. Of course, Mick Mackey did not need to worry about cutting his cloth to the measure of the game: he was often so contradictorily great that he made games change themselves to suit him.



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# GAELIC

# SCRAPBOOK

By  
**Tony Reid**

**T**HERE are a number of reasons why I decided to open my scrapbook at the year 1933. It was, if you like, a year of beginnings and endings in the hurling and football sphere. It was particularly notable for two major happenings. First, it saw the end of a wonderful era in the history of Kerry football and, secondly, it witnessed the emergence of a new power in the football world in the shape of Cavan, who were destined to become the first side to bring a senior All-Ireland title to Ulster.

On the hurling front a new, young combination were on the march in Munster — Limerick, who were about to open up a glorious chapter in the story of the hurling art.

It was, too, a year of shocks and surprises and wonderful enthusiasm for our native games. Large crowds turned out at many venues.

The competitive year really started off in rather predictable fashion when Leinster, who were favourites in both events, achieved a notable "double" over Connacht (0-12 to 2-5) in football and over Munster (4-6 to 3-6) in hurling, on Friday, March 17th.

That was to be one of the last times in 1933 that the experts' predictions were to come true.

Two days later at Navan, Meath inflicted a shock defeat on Kerry in the National Football League. For four years, the Kingdom men had been invincible and the result of that game was described by one newspaper as "the sensation of the century."

At this time, Limerick were fast gaining a reputation for themselves in the white hot cauldron of Munster hurling. Building up a young side, the product of Schools and Colleges hurling, they were a big, fast side and they reached the League final which was played at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, on Saturday, April 9th. Kilkenny were the opposition, and though Limerick

shaped up well in the match the incomparable Lory Meagher gave one of his matchless performances to swing the game his team's way, on the score of Kilkenny 3-8, Limerick 1-3.

Among Meagher's many contributions in this game was a point which he scored from a free taken fully 90 yards out on the far touchline. No wonder the catch phrase in Kilkenny those days was, "It's over the bar says Lory Meagher."

The record 16,000 crowd present cheered Kilkenny off at the end but the more discerning among the crowd could perceive a hurling power in its embryonic stage in the young Limerick team.

Many saw the advent of the provincial championships, and the start of the shocks and upheavals . . . In Leinster, Wexford footballers started with an easy win over Offaly, but what a strange scoreline to present-day followers was returned when Meath beat Wexford by 3-5 to 1-4 in hurling. Offaly's hurlers pulled off a right shock by disposing of Laois by 4-3 to 1-9 and Waterford raised a few eyebrows by holding Tipperary to a draw. In the replay they exceeded even their fondest hopes by eliminating Tipperary by 5-5 to 5-2. Limerick met no difficulty in putting Clare out by a margin of 22 points.

In Connacht, Galway footballers scored a remarkable win over Roscommon by 2-10 to nil, and if it had not been for a brilliant display by Shevlin in defence, the losers would have suffered even more indignity. In Leinster, Kildare and Laois footballers met twice before the Lilywhites emerged victors, and up north, Antrim and Tyrone met three times before Tyrone finally won through, and this after they refused to play extra time in the second drawn match.

Cavan footballers easily disposed of the Armagh challenge, and then went on to crush

Tyrone in one of the most one-sided Ulster finals ever played, the score being 6-13 to 1-2.

The Leinster hurling final was keenly contested and at the finish Kilkenny were winners by two clear goals over Dublin. Dublin's footballers gained compensation by taking the Leinster crown against Wexford in a game of spoiling tactics.

One of the major surprises of the championship campaign came from Connacht, where Galway footballers upset all the calculations by beating strongly fancied Mayo in the final by 1-7 to 1-5. Kerry came through as usual in Munster.

Another sensation, although of a more unpleasant nature, was forthcoming from Munster when Limerick and Waterford met in the final. The referee tried for fully fifteen minutes to clear the pitch after a section of the crowd got out of hand, but all to no avail. He awarded the match to Limerick who were leading by 3-7 to 1-2 when the incursion occurred shortly before the call of time. Mick Mackey of Limerick was sent off ten minutes from the end of this tempestuous affair.

Kilkenny's team of classic hurlers brushed Galway out of their path and the stage was set for what proved to be a mighty confrontation between them and Limerick at Croke Park on Sunday, September 3rd, 1933. A really fine game developed and seldom has Croke Park witnessed a more tense game.

A hot sun blazed down, taking its toll of both player and fan. The match was five minutes old before the first score of the game, and it was a Limerick point. Half time arrived and the sides were level, four points each. The Powers, Lory Meagher, Dunne, O'Reilly and Larkin were hurling like trojans for the Black and Amber, while the Mackeys, Ryans, Howard, Cross and Cre-

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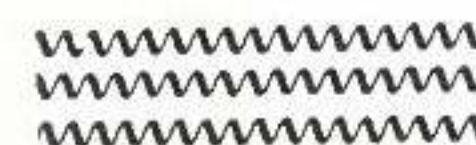
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# ON CAMOGIE FIELDS



By AGNES HOURIGAN

FEBRUARY has always been the month of the Ashbourne Cup series, usually the first and always the most exhilarating event of the camogie year. But this year's Ashbourne will be far and away the most important and most historic, as this time all the Universities of Ireland will be competing at one level or another.

Dublin University, the New University of Ulster at Coleraine, and St. Patrick's College, Mavnooth were all admitted to the competition at a meeting in Mullingar last November, and will by now have taken part in the preliminary stages of the competition.

However, since the teams that lose in the preliminary rounds will be competing for the Ashbourne Shield, all the Universities will be in action in the Ashbourne series itself which should make the Galway gatherings at the end of this month one of the greatest ever festivals of camogie.

Last season, University College Dublin won title and trophy for the third successive year.

But they have since lost through graduation some of their greatest stars, including Ann Carroll, who has been the inspiration of so many U.C.D. Ashbourne sides through the past half-dozen seasons. So Dublin will be rather the outsiders of the party this time, with the favourites likely to be University College Cork who were so narrowly defeated by Dublin in that epic final at the Mardyke a year ago. Fielding two star for-

wards of Cork's All-Ireland champion side, Liz Garvan and Rosie Hennessy, the Cork girls are entitled to start favourites, but Galway have always proved very, very hard to beat on Galway ground, and this year should not prove any exception. After all, it was only in extra time that Dublin succeeded in beating Galway in last year's semi-final.

On the other hand, if there is a surprise packet that team might well prove to be Queen's, who, despite meeting with every kind of misfortune over the week-end were very unlucky to lose to Galway in the final of last year's Shield, a game that also went to extra time.

This spread of the game among the Universities is very welcome indeed, after all it is nearly forty years since there had been any newcomers to the Ashbourne Competition. Nor is the development of the game among the post-primary and post-secondary schools likely to end there. A couple of weeks ago all the other Institutes of Higher Education were invited to a meeting in Dublin, sponsored by Central Council, to see if a country-wide competition at this level could be instituted.

Last year Carysfort, Cathal Brugha Street and Sion Hill took part in such a local competition in Dublin together with a junior side from U.C.D. and though this did not seem to arouse any great enthusiasm it was at least a beginning.

It is essential that camogie gets a footing in the teachers' Training Colleges, both primary

and for physical education if it is going to make continued progress at all levels among the younger generation, and the sooner a competition for these Higher Education Establishments is inaugurated the better.

Meanwhile the game continues to make wonderful progress in the Secondary Schools.

The Annual Convention of the All-Ireland Colleges Council proved very successful, and it was decided to examine the feasibility of adding an All-Ireland junior championship to the existing senior championship. As fully organised junior championships now exist in all provinces this step should not present any great difficulty and it should be possible to play off the junior semi-finals and final along with the senior series. True, this might mean an extra bit of hard organisational work, as in most provinces there are more schools playing in the junior than in the senior grade, but still the difficulties should not be insuperable, and the benefits to be gained would be very great.

We are now approaching Convention time, and by the end of this month we should have a pretty clear view of what the big topics of discussion at the Annual Congress will be.

Now that the G.A.A. has entirely abolished its Ban rules, it will be interesting to see if the Camogie Association, which led the G.A.A. in its approach to the dancing rule, will be willing to end the present ban on its members playing hockey and football, Gaelic or otherwise.



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# AIF





# 'OLD CROCKS' OF PURE GOLD

By NOEL COOGAN

ON the professional soccer scene players are entitled to a benefit game after a certain number of years service to a particular club. Were such a system in operation in G.A.A. circles, then quite a few players would presently be in the running for such benefits. Yes, there are quite a few men playing Gaelic Football to-day who have given their respective counties splendid service over a long number of seasons.

I have selected a team of veterans, which would surely give many a younger combination a hard enough hour, if they could be lined out in the same jerseys. The full back position would go to Offaly's Paddy McCormack, who has been wearing the tricoloured jersey with such heart and distinction for the best part of thirteen years. It was only justice being done when the rugged Rhodeman, at long last, gained that so elusive All-Ireland medal last September, for no Gael deserved such recognition more.

Strange to relate, the two biggest individual crowd pullers in Gaelic Football circles are in their thirties, Mick O'Connell and Sean O'Neill. I can write little about these pair of greats that has not been already written, except that they are automatic

★  
JOHNNY  
CULLOTY of  
Kerry . . . Noel  
Coogan's  
choice for the  
goalkeeping  
position.

★

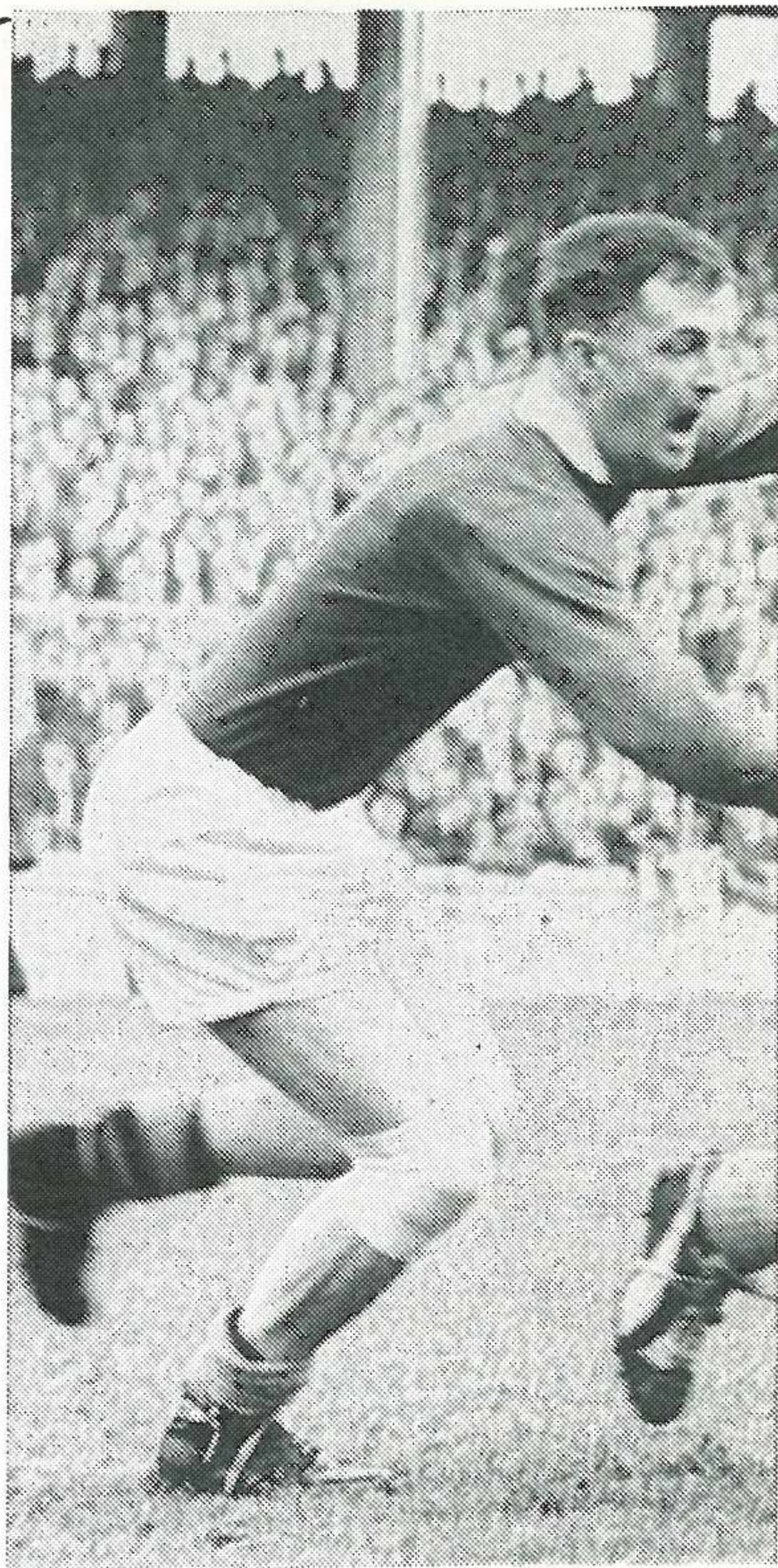
choices on my selection. So, too, is O'Connell's long time team mate and close friend, Mick O'Dwyer. The Waterville veteran, who has starred for the Kingdom in both defence and attack, possesses a service record equalled by few Kerry heroes, past or present.

Another Kerryman who has shown great loyalty to the green and gold jersey is Donie O'Sullivan. The versatile Donie, who

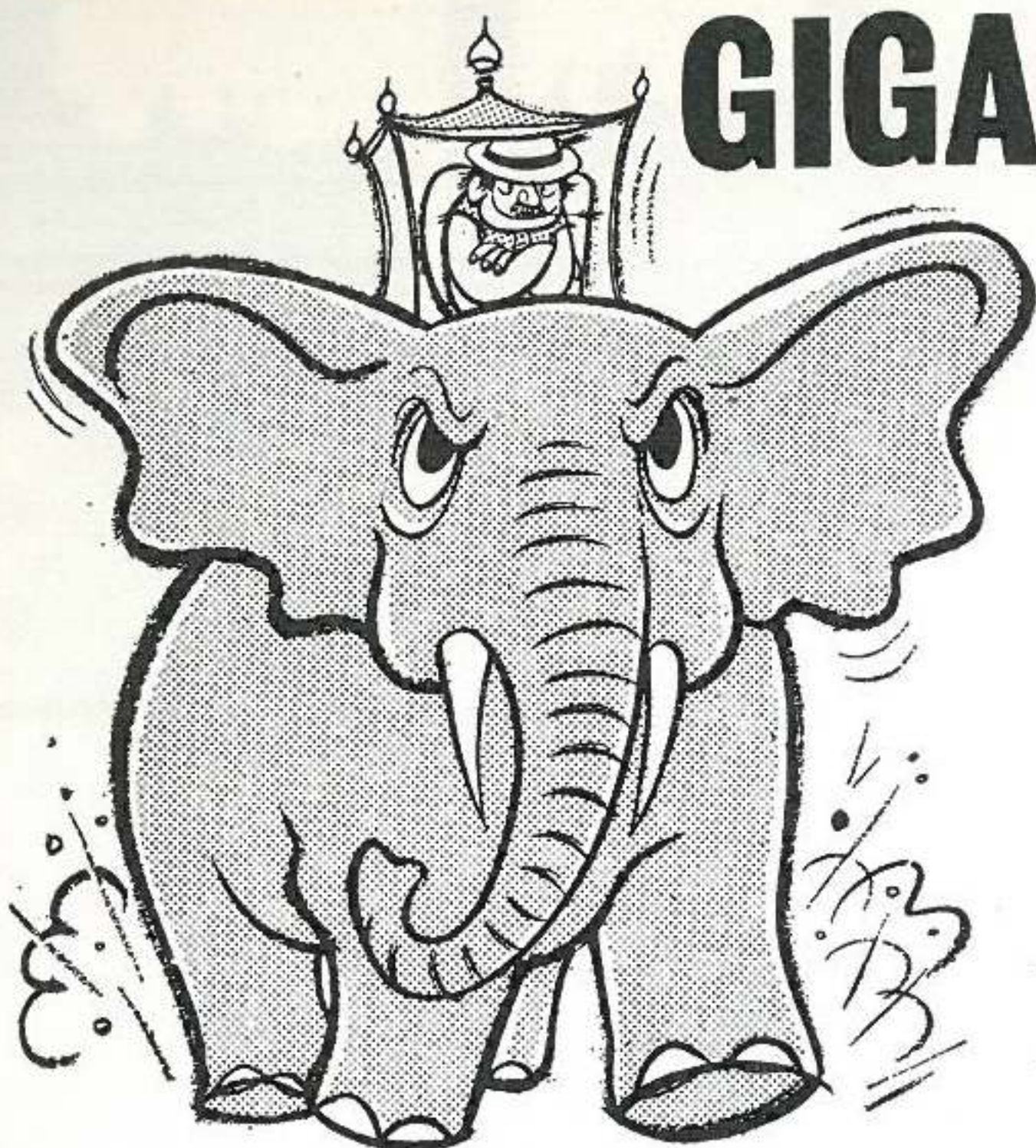
has starred in so many different positions for his native county is chosen at right half back, so as to facilitate other less adaptable performers on the team.

Sean O'Neill's long serving team mate and, like O'Neill, winner of three All-Ireland medals, Dan McCartan, must also go in. Since Paddy McCormack already been selected in Dan's present position, the mighty

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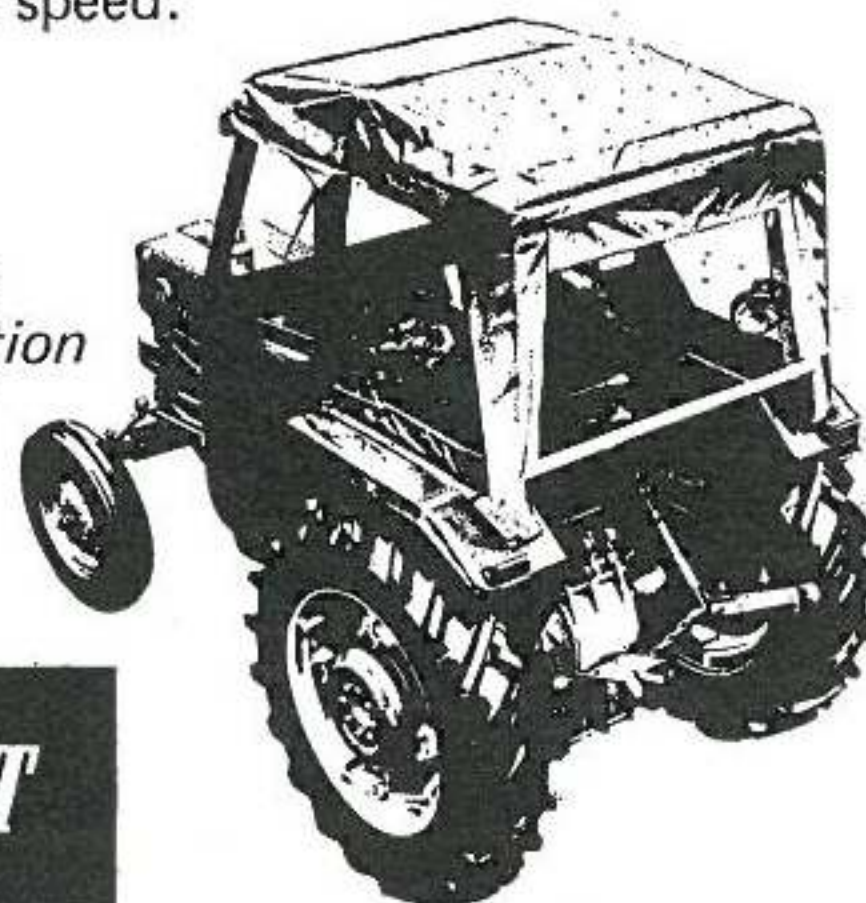


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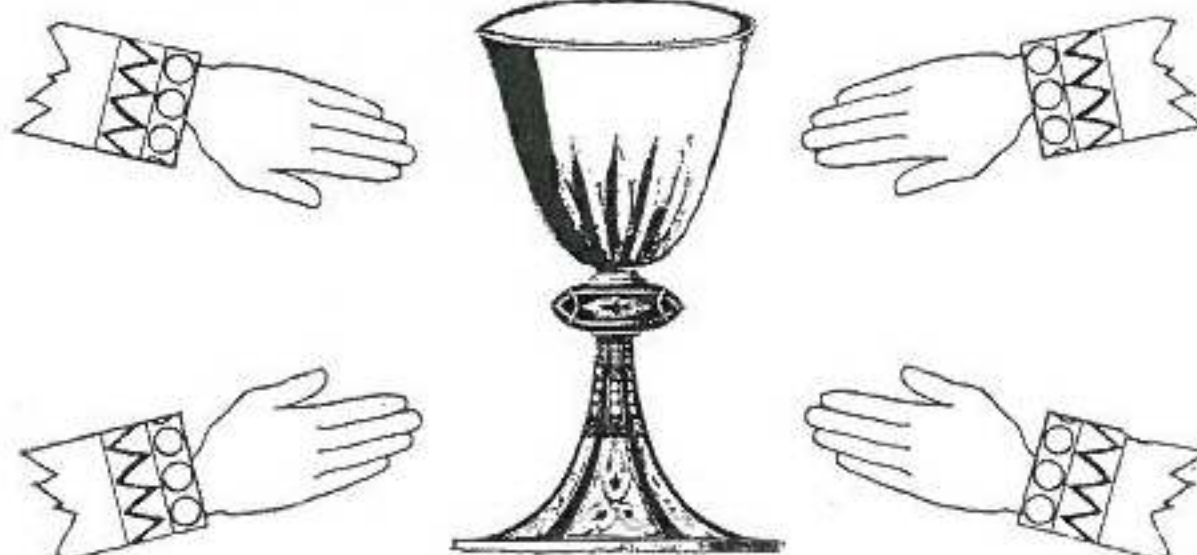


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● **BILL CASEY** of Dublin . . . an automatic choice for a place on the team of 'veterans'.

● **FROM PAGE 21**

Mourneman is given the number six slot, in which he also gave sterling service to the Northerners.

Two Ulstermen were considered as likely midfield partner to Mick O'Connell. These are Tony McAtamney from Antrim and Cavan's Ray Carolan. Both have been starring for their respective counties for the past decade or so. I would have each of them on my team, the former at centrefield and the 40 yards spot to the latter.

Another Northerner who is an automatic selection is the great Derry forward, Sean O'Connell. The unselfish service given by O'Connell to the Foyle footballers can be gauged by the fact that he assisted Derry in the 1958 All-Ireland final and is still

freely making and taking scores for the wearers of the white and red. He goes in to my team at top of the right.

Although, still on the right side of thirty, Seamus Leydon has been displaying his undoubted football skills for so long now that most supporters of the game would place him in the veteran category. The Galway great is awarded the number twelve berth, while the right wing position goes to a man who was playing inter-county football before some of today's younger stars were even born, Leitrim's Packy McGarty.

The wily Westerner, who must be nearer forty than the thirty mark, looks like going on for ever! I select the consistent Dubliner, Bill Casey, for the left half back berth. The return of

the Na Fianna star to the Metropolitans' colours has surely enhanced their prospects for the future. That leaves us with two corner backs and a goalkeeper to find. Two long-serving Leinster veterans are chosen for the corner back slots. Meath's Mick White and Kildare's Mick Carolan are given the numbers two and four jerseys respectively.

While quite a few goalkeepers presently playing have given loyal service to their respective counties I cannot find a veteran netminder still on the inter-county scene. Still, Johnny Culloty, who appears to have bowed out of the inter-county scene, would hardly have many misgivings about returning to line out on such a star-studded team.

So my team of long-serving stars is: J. Culloty (Kerry); M. White (Meath), P. McCormack (Offaly), M. Carolan (Kildare); D. O'Sullivan (Kerry), D. McCartan (Down), W. Casey (Dublin); M. O'Connell (Kerry), A. McAtamney (Antrim); P. McGar-

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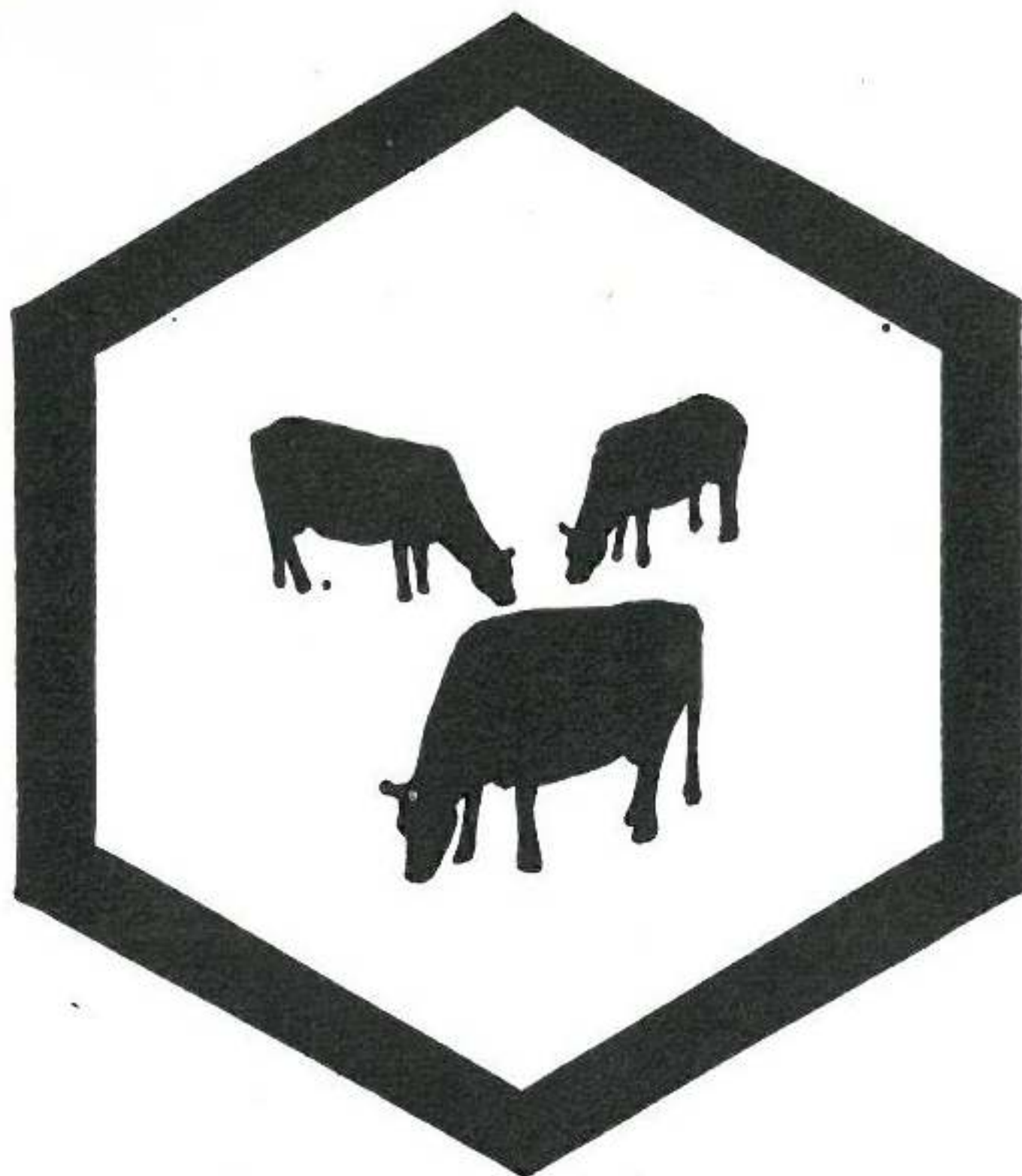
● FROM PAGE 23

ty (Leitrim), R. Carolan (Cavan), S. Leydon (Galway); S. O'Connell (Derry), S. O'Neill (Down), M. O'Dwyer (Kerry).

As already mentioned, this combination of veterans would give many young teams a good run for their money. Perhaps some enterprising organiser could arrange such a match on some available date during the coming months. It could prove an ideal method for providing

for some worthwhile charity.

The strength of the long-serving selection could be supplemented by including on the panel such as Mick Carley (Westmeath), Sean Donnelly (Longford), Leslie Toal (Louth), Brendan Hayden (Carlow), Senan Downes (Clare), P. T. Treacy (Fermanagh) and Frankie McFeeley (Donegal). Any of these would be a worthy stand-in. Who said that football is a young man's game



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## HANDBALL UNDER SCRUTINY

**T**HE report of the Commission on the G.A.A. has specified certain adjustments for handball, that, on the surface at least, appear praiseworthy.

Alley construction, for instance, is given a thorough airing, with fair debate on the advantages of the large Irish Court, as against the American type of smaller court.

This question has been a matter of contention for the past eight years when there was a real revival of international competition.

Then, we found our players trying to overcome the intricacies of the smaller court when they travelled to America and Canada.

However, the Commission, of which former President of the Irish Handball Council, Br. B. C. O Murchú, was a member, did not consider the question of court acclimatisation as vital when recommending that we should opt for the smaller court as the standard unit.

The arguments in its favour are mostly economical in that it is much cheaper to build the smaller court.

By the same token, two smaller courts built for the price of one traditional Irish court mean a greater involvement of players and the Commission gives this as the main plan for their decision.

If it is accepted by the Irish Handball Council, it should pro-



# COMMISSION REPORT

BY ALLEYMAN

vide a definite policy for alley construction of the future.

On the question of courts also, the Commission would like to see provision being made for the construction of courts in the Gaeltacht areas.

Local authorities are also urged to provide enclosed covered courts instead of the open three-walled courts, as is the usual practice. The provision of courts in newly built-up areas in cities is considered of paramount importance.

The report on competitions is equally interesting, particularly the nine word sentence, which recommends that all handball competitions should be phased out.

I have no doubt but some clubs through the country, who consider themselves particularly affiliated to this old traditional brand of the game, would have desired more elaboration.

The Commission has, during its comprehensive report issued some interesting statistics on handball—for example, there are a total of 163 affiliated clubs in the country, excluding juvenile clubs.

They are located as follows: Dublin 19, Tipperary 16, Mayo 12, Sligo 11, Wexford 11, Cork and Offaly 10, Kilkenny 9, Cavan, Roscommon and Wicklow 6, Carlow, Galway and Limerick 5, Clare, Meath, Tyrone and Westmeath 4, Kildare and Kerry 3, Antrim, Armagh, Donegal and

Waterford 2, Down and Monaghan 1.

The number of clubs, province by province is: Leinster 71, Munster 40, Connacht 34, Ulster 18.

A survey carried out by the Handball Council in Spring, 1970, covered 85 clubs and indicated that membership of the clubs surveyed was over 5,000, of which 1,600 were adults. Almost half the surveyed clubs had been established in the past ten years, while ladies handball is played in approximately six clubs.

The Commission indicates that there is insufficient information available on the total number of ball-courts in the country, many of which are publicly owned or attached to Garda stations.

The report also expresses regret that the main body of the G.A.A. has, for a long time, neglected handball. This statement is substantiated by the fact that the list of affiliated handball clubs includes only six G.A.A. clubs.

On the administration of the game the Commission is of the opinion that Provincial Councils should be abolished and regional councils initiated in their stead.

This trend is in keeping with a Tipperary motion presented at Congress two years ago. While the Commission cannot justify the appointment of a full-time officer for handball, it does suggest that office facilities and clerical assistance should be made available at Central Office

to the Hon. Secretary of the Handball Council.

In general, the report of the Commission is conclusive and should give much food for thought to handball officials in the coming months.

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# RING

## A living legend

**S**LIOTAR resting on the twenty-one and the whistle gone; a half dozen blue Dublin jerseys on the goal-line and silence. The dying minutes of an All-Ireland. Up trotted a slight crew-cutted hurler from left half back, lifted the leather, swung muscled fore-arms in a quick whip and the ball leaped like a silver fish in the black net. Cork slipped Dublin in a minor final. That was thirty-four years ago.

Almost half-time it was and the Cork backs were under heavy pressure from Terry Leahy, Jim Langton and Sean O'Brien, Billy Murphy, Paddy O'Donovan and Alan Lotty shouldered and whipped with the skill and craft of hard experience. Con Cottrill swept away a ground shot at centre-field. On the seventy the fair-haired Cork captain fastened on it, raised it on the stick and went off like a scalded cat, chased by the fine Kilkenny back, Jack Mulcahy. Captain hunting captain. Mulcahy would get him. But no, after ten yards the Corkman held his own and then unbelievably drew away. A shot from fifty yards for another point? But the man in red kept going, body bent, sliotar barely moving, striped stockings flashing. Ring had passed through the halfback line but the men inside were rocks and Ring wasn't going to get through whatever about the fellows they were marking. So leaving dangerous Mossie and Jerry Riordan, out came Willie Walsh and Mick Butler to take the flying Corkman ball and all.

All they met was a change of feet and the smell of fresh air as Christy wriggled past and from five yards faced Jim Donegan in the goal. A nod of the head one way, a quick tap the other and the crowd went mad. As Ringey trotted back to the centre of the field Croke Park stood up and roared. That was twenty-six years ago. Cork seven five, Kilkenny three eight.

Limerick and Tipp. flying, Three All-Irelands under the

ably run over the line. At the final split second Ring leaned to give and take the charge, then suddenly eased away, tapped the sliotar back between his own legs, rose it and swung a silver shot that shaved the posts for the point that mattered. Out on the field I saw Paddy Donovan and John Quirke in clothes running over to players as if they too could fight to hold that four-on-a-row record. The final whistle and hysteria, a blocky balding

**By EAMONN YOUNG**

Tipp. belt and the fourth in a row would equal the celestial record of Cork. That red-jerseyed side wasn't a whole lot anyway and if Tipp. won the Munster nobody . . . just nobody was going to stop them in the All-Ireland. Yet in the last quarter Cork were still in it. On the line we were beginning to go off the ground hanging in a personal suspense that hissed amid the uproar. The teams were level and Cork could do it. Tipp. were getting frantic and Ringey was everywhere. Willie John Daly, Joe Hartnett, Liam Dowling, Matt Fouhy, Tony Shaughnessy, Dave Creedon the Cinderella goalie who dropped in at the last moment . . . Yes, Cork still had a chance. Over on the wing Ringey and stalwart Jimmy Finn dashed for the sliotar with no advantage to either man. It would be a shoulder and the sliotar would prob-

man in a red jersey a broad white bandage around his skull crimsoned with blood that made the jersey pale, a strong forearm flung aloft a clenched fist and in the hour of manly triumph there wasn't a sigh except for victory. That wasn't a Munster final; it was three All-Irelands. Twenty years ago!

Wexford were going strong and the last quarter had arrived. Still Cork could do it and one never knew in a hurling game. The loose ball was bound to come . . . here it was and away with Ringey from the left wing, the ball on the stick and the feet twinkling as he swept to the Canal goal. Right out in the middle he was and for the moment Jim English, Bobby Rackard and those other great hurlers were out of the path the flying forward was carving. Twenty five yards to go and Art Foley crouched intently relaxed



in the goal. Without a pause in pace or a change of feet the Corkman swung and in she came like a bullet. Well, I could never see a bullet in motion. Then to my dismay the sliotar was deadened on the ground in front of Art Foley. He had blocked it. And it was sailing down the field fifty yards. I knew we were beaten then. So did Ringey I think when he carried on his headlong way to shake a goalie's hand. Sixteen years ago that was.

Fourteen stone two stripped, was Ringey; short of pace and breath but warmed as ever by the fire that had made him great. Cork had won no final since fifty-four, twelve years earlier and mad we were with frustration. Then Eamonn Cregan closed a chapter in hurling's history when he drove three nails and four staples in the Tipp. coffin in Cork Park, and now Leaside had a chance. Outside the Cork County Board rooms I said for all to hear that if I were a Cork selector I would be over now knocking on Christy Ring's door working for a ninth All-Ireland not for Ringey alone but for Cork. Remember how well Paddy Leahy did it for Tipp and fair play for John Doyle he nearly won that dazzling ninth. Weeks slipped along and then to our delight Ringey, only a shadow of the man he was, stood in the sub list. John D. Hickey, another good Tipperary man who had no desire to see a Cork ninth, wrote that he couldn't see a player of Ring's status accepting a sub's

●

*CHRISTY RING, the old maestro himself, whose story, Eamonn Young says, is not yet finished. The great Cork hurler's latest distinction is entry to the Texaco Hall of Fame.*

●



medal. My interpretation was that John wanted Ringey to drop out. Then the old women here started talking.

Sure Ring was finished. Why put off a good young fella? And what would the people say when we lost an All-Ireland over an old man? The talk drove me mad. Cork beat Limerick luckily in the Munster final and only Kilkenny could stop them, but this team was a small bit mad . . . mad like I was over the frustration of years. Tony Connolly, Gerald McCarthy, Paddy Barry, Colm Sheehan, Charlie McCarthy, Charlie Cullinane . . . all young, good players and mad for victory. Ring after a month's training would be fine. But there it stayed. Too much talk, a sensitive nature, and a legitimate worry that he would not live up to what the crowd which saw him in youth

still wanted. It was a sporting incident. I'll always regret having missed . . . Ringey walking on to Croke Park for a ninth that certainly would have come. That was six years ago.

Down in the squash-court with flying Tom Homan, the teacher I watched Ringey flicking balls around the place with a dexterity and accuracy of a Robin Hood. Game as paint, shining in artistry and deadly serious in his desire to win there he was, still flying and at thirteen stone an awful lot fitter than he was ten years ago. That was yesterday. That man could be hurling well at sixty. But there you are. Greedy as I am for Cork's glory and also for one of the men who made it I regard the story as unfinished. I'd put him out for Cork in the morning if he'd go . . .



# ÉACHT AN CHONTAE DÍLIS

Le Seán O Dúnagáin

Ní hé amháin gurb é mo chontae dúchais é, Uíbh Fáilí, go raibh gliondar an domhain orm an lá ar bhuaigh sí Corn Sam Maguire don chéad uair. Bhí mé mórálach as na fir a rinne an éacht, cinnte, cheapas gur íontach an tardú meanmain agus uchtaigh a thabharfadh sé do na contaethe eile nár bhuaigh an corn go fóill go háirithe na cinn bheaga mar, ó thaobh daonraidh dhe, is é Uíbh Fáilí an contae is lú (50,000 duine) dar bhuaigh an chraobh ariamh.

Is cuimhin liom nach raibh sa chontae sna dachaidí ach seacht bhfóirne sinsearacha peile, ionann is 150 peileadoirí den ghrád sin ar fad. Ag an am sin ba dheacair taisteal agus ní raibh an oiread sin cluichí idir-chontae ach bhí scoth pheileadóirí sa chontae mar sin féin. Is cuimin liam craobhchlúiche an "Railway Cup" i 1939 agus an taispéantas íontach a thug Tom McEvoy mar lántaca an lá úd. Ní dóigh liom go raibh sárú ar Bill Mulhall mar leath-lán taca ag aon chontae ariamh ach bh'fhéidir Jack Higgins as Cill Dara.

Bhí eisiomplár na ndaoine sin ag na daoine óga sa Chontae agus is mar sin a d'fhás an tradisiún go dtí gur bhain na mion;ir craobh Laighean amach; ón lá sin i 1947 bhítheas cinnte go raibh peileadoirí chomh maith sa chontae is a bhí in aon áit eile.

Níorbh aon mhaith, áfach, na peileadóirí óga a bheith ann mar ach go raibh daoine díograiseacha ann len iad a mhunlú, iad a eagrú, comórtais loganta a chur ar fáil agus aire a thabhairt dóibh. Bain-eann an bua i 1971 leis na daoine seo chomh maith leis na peileadóirí féin.

Ba bhreá liom roinnt de na daoine seo a raibh aithne agam féin orthu a lua anseo mar go minic deintear dearmad ar na hoibritheoiri seo.

Nuair a bhíos im' ogánach is cuimhin liom gur bunaíodh "Erin's Rovers" foireann a fuair cead teorainn na bparóistí Baile na hAbhann agus An Féar Bán a thrasnú mar bhí an dúthaigh chomh scartha sin ó na sráid-bhailte máguaird. Smaoineofar go deo ann ar Tim Duffy agus Tom Bracken a chaith dúthracht a saol le himeachtaí an chlub sin — dá thoradh bhí Johnny Cooney ar fhoireann 1971.

Ní dhéanfar dearmad ar an sár-obair a rinne Jimmy Dolan le hogánaigh An Fhéir Bhán as a dtáinig Seán Grogan, captaon no fóirne mion;ir i 1964 nuair a bhuaigh siad an chéad chraobh peile ariamh don chontae; chomh maith, bhí an laoch Tony McTague ar an bhfoireann sin agus ar fhoireann sinsearach na bliana seo—tá sé anois ina chaptaon ar fhoireann Uíbh Fáilí.

Ní féidir ar ndóigh dearmad a dhéanamh orthu siúd atá ag stiúrú cúrsaí an Chumainn sa chontae le roinnt blianta agus a chruthaigh an éacht i ndeire báire. An sagart urramach de bhunadh Chontae An Chláir, An tAthair Edmund Vaughan a bhí ina Chathaoirleach ar an gCoiste Contae ar feadh 18 bliana agus atá anois (agus beidh le linn a bheatha) ina Uachtarán ar Chumann Lúthchleas Gael sa chontae—is len a linn a leagadh bunchloch na bua sa pheil cé gurb é a chéad grá an iománaíocht.

Tá "stróinseár" eile mar Chathaoirleach ar an gCoiste Contae i lathair na huaire, agus bhí ó

1968 i leith, is é sin An tAthair John McWey atá ina shagairt cúnta in Éadon Doire. Is eisean an fear ciúin taobh thiar den iar-racht agus a dheineann cion beirte nuair is gá sin.

Mar Rúnaí Chontae tá John Dowling a bhfuil cliú air mar réiteoir; is eisean an taon duine ariamh i Stair an Chumainn a rinne moltóireacht ar an dá chluiche ceannais sa bhliain chéanna. Is féidir a rá nach mbéadh éacht déanta ag foireann Uíbh Fáilí i 1971 marach an Rúnaí éifeachtach atá ann.

Ní féidir liom gan mo bhuíochas pearsanta a chur in iúl do Jimmy Flaherty, An Tulach Mhór, a bhí ina Chathaoirleach ar an gCoiste Contae fado agus a bhí ina mholtóir peile agus iom-aíochta den chéad grád; Ned Mealiffe múinteoir Gaeilge i Scoil na mBráthar, An Tulach Mhór agus díograiseoir i leith na gcluichí náisiúnta agus Jimmy Clarke a bhí ina fhear mór sa chumann ar an dTulach Mhór, trodaí le linn an ghábhtair, go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam uasal.

Tá buíochas gach éinne tuillte ag leithéidí Michéal Ó Cléirigh, Donnchadh Mac Suibhne, Dónall Ó Cearúill, An Br. Denis (Biorra) agus An Br. Sylvester (Clárach) as an cion atá déanta acu ins na scoileanna.

Éacht, adúirt mé, a deineadh ar an 26ú lá Mheán Fómhair 1971 agus is fíor sin; ach is éacht, chomh maith, atá déanta ag gach éinne sna scoileanna sna club-anna agus ar na coistí eagsúla chun go raibh sé ar chumas chúigear déag den scoth an chraobh a thabhairt leo ar ais don Chontae Dílis.



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To most people the term 'Punchboard', or 'Break-open ticket' means nothing, so let us explain a little about them.

A 'Beat the Seven' punchboard is made from cardboard and measures 10" x 10" x  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. The bottom part of the board is punched with 1,200 holes, each hole containing a slip of paper which has a playing card printed on it and each hole is sealed. The top part of the board is brightly printed with various playing cards and different prizes are offered for cards above 7. The player punches one of the 1,200 holes with a special key provided and this action pushes one of the printed slips of paper out through the back of the board. If the slip of paper bears a winning card symbol, then the player is paid the appropriate prize.

A 'Poker' break-open card is a card with 5 sealed panels on it and when the five panels are opened, it reveals a 'Poker' hand. Various prizes are offered for a Royal Flush, Full House, etc., and keeping in mind that a lot of people do not play poker, a showcard is supplied showing

what the various winning hands look like.

These are only two of many, many types of fund raising items available. Space does not allow us describe them all in detail. All we say is, if your need is funds, contact "Club Cash".

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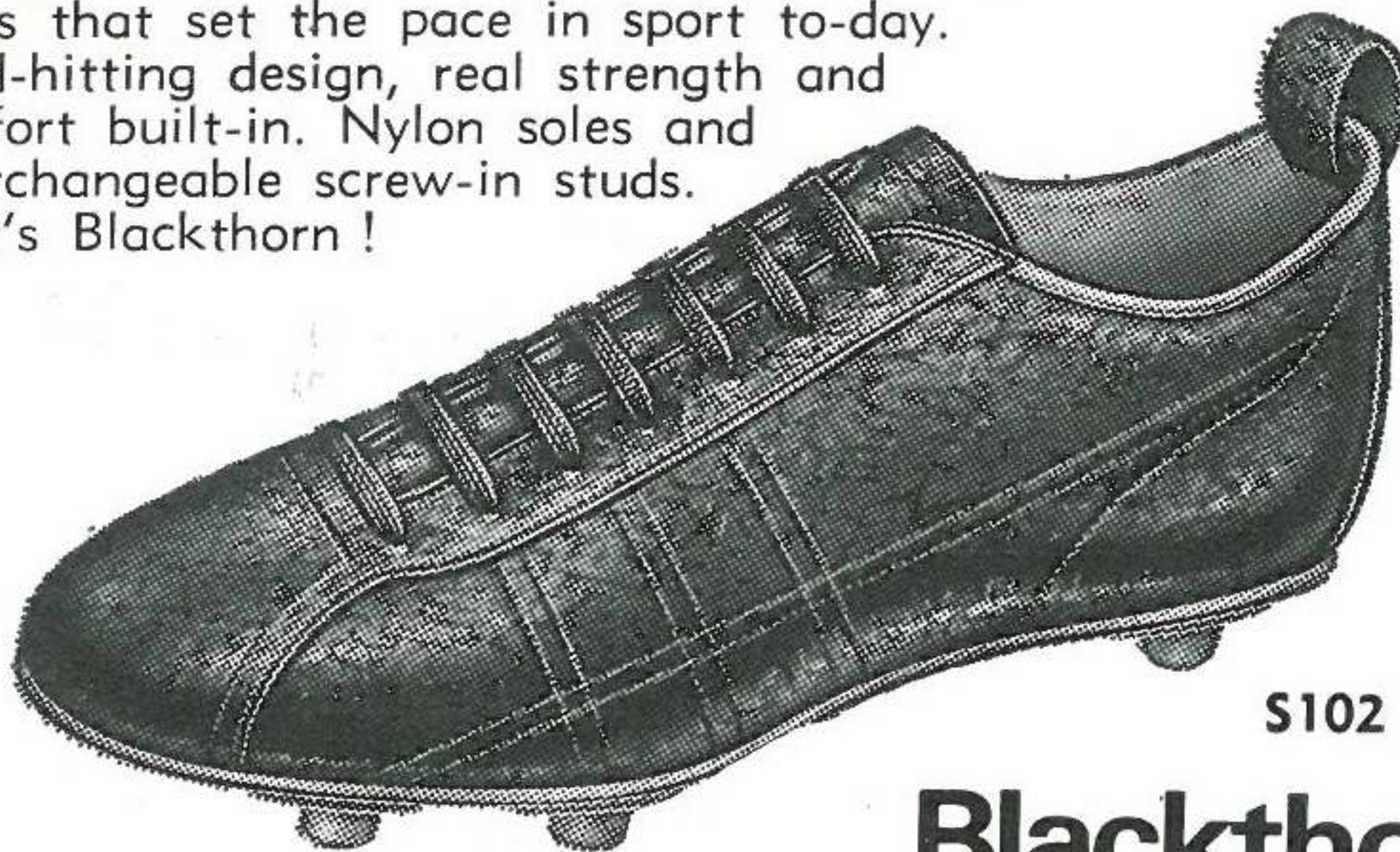
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# EUGENE MULLIGAN

A PROFILE : BY OWEN McCANN



IT is a long time since the start of a competitive inter-county senior campaign found the football scene matching the exciting promise of the season now coming up. Offaly, buoyant and confident after their greatest year ever, Derry, with supporters' hopes rising high again after a great unbeaten run in the pre-Christmas National League games, Kerry, Dublin, who are showing encouraging signs again, Galway and Mayo are among the counties with well-founded hopes for the programme ahead.

Yes, everything points to a year of stirring and memorable games. I have my own ideas about the team likely to emerge as the kingpins of 1972 in football, but at the same time I would not be prepared to take any wagers at all in this regard. However, I would have no qualms whatever in betting that, on the individual front, one young man who will be more regularly in the spotlight than most is Eugene Mulligan (Offaly).

It could be argued, of course, that anything that comes after the glory that was the year 1971 for the talented Rhode club man will be something of an anticlimax.

After all, it is not given to many to embellish a county's first All-Ireland Senior Championship final win with such a super show of skills and power football as that turned on by Mulligan in the match with Galway. Or to earn the unique honour that came his way when he was nominated as the only

player for right half back in the Carrolls All Stars football team. Not one of the other Carrolls All Stars in football or hurling gained that distinction.

And, as if all this were not enough to make the past year the most memorable in his young life, the Offaly stalwart had further cause for celebration as a result of his selection for the coveted Texaco award in football. You can't do much better than that in any year!

Nevertheless, at only 24 years of age Eugene Mulligan has still much to look forward to in sport. The coming season probably presents Offaly football with the greatest challenge yet . . . the opportunity for the history-makers to take their place among the truly great teams of any era by franking last September's Sam Maguire Cup win with further title honours.

Mulligan is a man well equipped to play a leading role in the Offaly bid to measure up to this latest demanding challenge. Experience gained in the white-heat of the games that matter, natural ability, inexhaustible energy and ceaseless concentration are the matchless qualities that will have the right wing back proving a tremendous stumbling block to opposing forward divisions. Another strong point in his make-up is that he rarely has a poor game.

Eugene Mulligan's potential was evident in his minor days with Offaly. He showed much of the class that has made him such a great defender when, as the No. 5, he starred in the team that

won Offaly's first-ever All-Ireland football title in any grade in 1964—at minor. He was in the minor grade for two further years, and won his senior spurs with the county at only 19, late in 1967—but at right full back.

Since then, Eugene has been in there pulling his weight non-stop and wholeheartedly for the county, and perfecting and polishing his own individual skills.

In addition to right half and right full back he has figured with the county outfit at centre-half. However, it is from his sterling performances in the No. 5 jersey that Offaly have gained a great deal of polish and purpose. Quick as light, and as positive in his play as anyone who has ever worn the county jersey, he rarely gives his supporters a moment's worry, and he has also been a shining example to his team-mates.

The talented Offaly back has also the satisfaction of inter-provincial appearances dulled by defeats. Leinster lost the two games in which he has played so far—the semi-finals of 1970 and 1971. But, here time is still very much on his side.

Eugene Mulligan, then, has come a long way in a short time, and now has a lot going for him. With his expert knowledge in sealing off the gaps to goal, his safe hands and long valuable kicking, the right half back from Rhode, who is 5ft. 9½ins. and weighs 12 stone. can provide some of the most exciting talking points of 1972.





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.

## ULSTER VIEWPOINT

By DAN McAREAVY

ALTHOUGH it was formally interred — the typewriter nearly wrote “interned”—at last year’s Congress, the Ban remains a very live topic especially during the present convention season; more so perhaps than even in the liveliest days of this most controversial piece of legislation.

While it is obviously too early yet to pass judgement on the effects of the removal of Rule 27 and its near neighbours, on the life of the Association there can be no doubt that a “banless” G.A.A. faces new challenges which it will shirk at its peril. As one leading legislator rather pithily puts it: “We buried the body but now we must lay the ghost.”

And it is in “the laying of the ghost” that the organisation faces perhaps the most critical test in its history. By hanging the burden of their reports on the aftermath of the historical decision enacted unanimously in Belfast last Easter divisional board and county secretaries are clearly anxious to have the new position clearly appreciated by the overall membership.

Armagh’s Gerry Fagan reflected the opinion of his secretarial colleagues throughout the province when he wrote: “It is too early to say definitely what the ultimate result will be but there are many pointers to the way things may be in the future and there are many indications of the action which needs to be taken now if the Association is to continue to grow and thrive in the future.

“In spite of many assurances given by the ‘anti-Banners’ there

has been no great influx of players of other codes to the Association. There has, however, been a great outflow from the Association to other games.”

And the Armagh chief added: “A lot of this outflow can be attributed to the temptation to our players to taste the previously ‘forbidden fruit’. The question, of course, arises whether these players, having tasted it, will be lost to the Association or not? The answer to this, I think, rests mainly with our clubs. Where a club is successful and well organised it seems that very few players will opt out.

“On the other hand, the less successful clubs and, more especially, those clubs whose organisation, efficiency and facilities are sub-standard are beginning to feel the pinch having already lost the services of many young and promising players.”

The crux of the matter lies, I am convinced, in that last paragraph and not in the temptations of the so-called forbidden fruit.

Let us be honest and realise that the G.A.A. is now in a sporting common market which in no way reduces its national commitment but which leaves the players of today—and more importantly of tomorrow—an absolutely free choice as to the code to which they will give their talent. Obviously the same logic must apply to the spectators. I have not the slightest doubt that Gaelic football and hurling can match anything other codes can offer but their marketing must be attractive enough to bring in the customers and participants.

Are not far too many of our



clubs merely masquerading as legitimate units of the Association? Is there not a great deal of sense in the call by Tyrone secretary Paddy O'Neill for a general reduction in the number of clubs? But then what county board will have the courage to let the axe fall?

I have specially preserved the June edition of "Reality" because of an article "After the Ban—what?", written by Fr. Leo Morahan.

The Mayo county chairman had this to say: "To my mind one all important quality that the Association must display is efficiency. The original linking of sport and patriotism was highly successful: and in continuing this pairing now the Association can nourish a true patriotism by the efficient running of our games even as games. Sport is attaining daily higher status in human activity and our patriotism will wax or wane according to how the Association measures up in the 'common market of sport'."

Turning to the improvement necessary in the presentation of our games Fr. Morahan laid particular emphasis on punctuality. "The Association must seriously and untiringly try to arrest our national apathy about the use of time. Spectators must be able to come confidently to a venue, having confidently promised to be home at teatime.

And he concluded: "The other aspect is the improvement of the games themselves—especially by introducing measures to deal with spoiling tactics in the games and the standard of refereeing which would have not only the invested authority but the more basic and commanding authority of being good. Even in the face of a tradition, I would regard the introduction of professionalism on this level as desirable. The spectators are customers, and no explanation by an ineffi-

cient shopkeeper will entice customers from the supermarket if that supermarket wins on the score of efficiency and worth."

To me this remains the perfect summary of our present position. I will retain it until I read a better submission.

Best buy on the bookshelves at the moment must surely be the "Connacht Gaelic Games Annual 1972" and I am certainly very grateful to editor Jack Mahon for forwarding me a copy.

Running to some 80 pages with an admirable three-way split between editorial, pictorial and advertising matter this first effort to give the West a "Gaelic" annual is frankly the best

magazine I have read.

Not only is there something special for each of the five counties covered but the general picture emerging of the Association's activities in the province makes pleasant reading indeed. As to be expected, Jack pays particular attention to the younger readers while the quiz fanatics are specially well catered for.

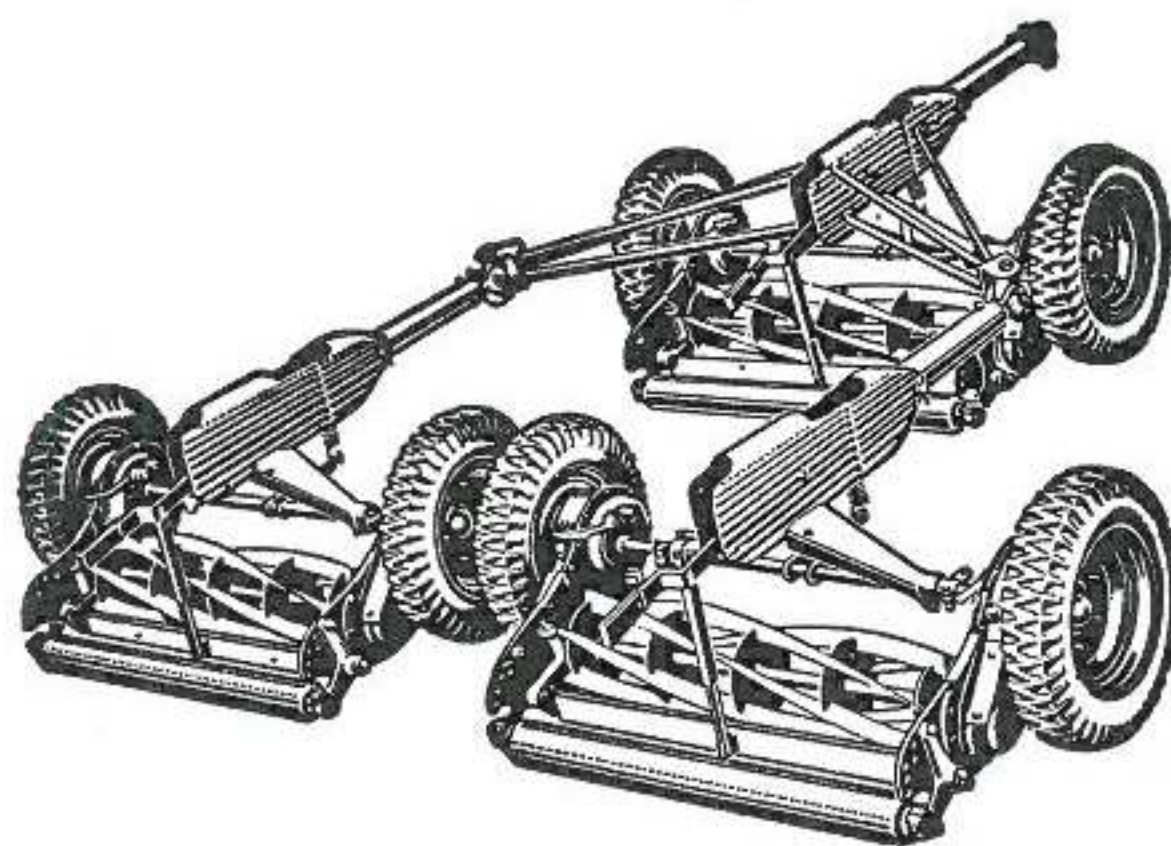
Priced at 30p it is obvious that inflation has not yet hit the West; certainly not as far as the "Connacht Games Annual 1972" is concerned.

Congratulations Jack and may the other provinces follow your example.

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## ●FROM PAGE 17

gan tried all they knew to capture the Blue Riband of hurling.

It was touch and go until Johnny Dunne forever carved his name in Kilkenny hurling lore when he smashed a great goal into the Limerick net to clinch the title for his side.

It was a tragedy for Limerick for during the course of the hour they shot no fewer than 17 wides.

In football, Galway continued to surprise everyone and they triumphed by a point over Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final which was played at Cusack Park, Mullingar. The Galway defence took all the honours in this match

Meanwhile, Kerry footballers travelled north to Breffni Park for a meeting with Cavan in the other semi-final. Holders of the All-Ireland title for four successive years Kerry were quietly confident of adding to this great record. The game was marked more by the vigorous nature of the football than by any great deal of scientific stuff, and Cavan's superior teamwork won them their ticket to the final, 1-5 to 0-5.

Over 45,000 people packed Croke Park for the novel pairing of Cavan versus Galway. It was a fine game of pure Gaelic football, fast and keenly contested. Cavan led at the break, 2-3 to 0-2, but a wonderful second half by Galway almost turned the tide in their favour. At the sound of the full time whistle, the score stood, Cavan 2-5, Galway 1-4.

Thousands of delirious Cavan fans invaded the pitch to cheer off their fifteen heroes who had at last brought a senior title to Ulster after the many years of heartbreak and frustration. The date, Sunday, September 24th, 1933, will live forever in the memories of every Cavan man and the following was the fifteen men and two subs who were the cause of all the celebrations 38 years ago :

W. Young, J. Smith (Capt.), M. Denny, P. Phair, T. O'Reilly, P. Lynch, Hughie O'Reilly, W. Connolly, T. Coyle, L. Blessing, P. Devlin, D. Morgan, J. Smallhorn, V. McGovern, M. J. Magee. Subs : T. Crowe and P. W. Connolly.

A wonderfully successful year for the G.A.A. thus came to an historic end.



## BACK TO THE PLAYING FIELDS

BY now the County Conventions should all be over, and we will all have a far better idea as to what the rank and file think of the Report of the Special Commission, and how much of it is likely to be approved of and put into effect after the Easter Congress.

So now it is back to the playing fields, and heaven knows but that with the present position in the National Leagues so very intriguing, we should have plenty to talk about through the months ahead.

To take football first, it does look as though all-Ireland champions, Offaly, must be odds on favourites to go through to the semi-finals from Division I A. With full points from their five matches played, they can be overhauled but not headed. Their two remaining matches are against Kildare at Newbridge and against All-Ireland finalists Galway at Tullamore. Now, despite the hammering that Kildare took from the Offaly men in the Leinster final, these unpredictable Lily-Whites could well shock the champions on home ground, after all they have won both their home matches to date by convincing margins.

But Offaly have had the Indian sign on them of late and should have their measure again, even if Pat Dunny and Jack Donnelly are both back in action as is possible. So Offaly who should also have the measure of Galway at Tullamore look all but certain of a semi-final place, and despite those two set-backs on successive Sundays just before Christmas I expect Kerry to accompany them.

The holders will have Galway down in Tralee and should collect both points there and even though they still have to visit Kildare they still look good enough to come through to the knock-out stages. Their chief rivals may prove to be unpredictable Dublin, who, if they could take both points from disappointing Cork at the Mardyke, look certain to defeat Waterford at Croke Park in their first League outing.

The two sides promoted at the end of last season, Tipperary and Waterford, look to be in gravest danger of relegation from Division I A. They have yet to meet, and the losers of this Clonmel game will assuredly be doomed. The winners will still have a slim chance of survival, but it is very slim indeed.

Like Offaly in Division I A, Derry with full points already from five matches must be firm favourites to reach the semi-final from the B group. Mayo seem most likely to accompany them, though Laois, promoted last season, may still have an outside chance.

Here Down, who escaped relegation last season thanks to a last second point from a Sean O'Neill free in the deciding play-off, need a miracle to save them this time, a miracle that is unlikely to be forthcoming. Who will go down with them remains something of a problem, but it may well be Fermanagh, who must win their last two matches to ensure safety.

As for promotion, the two teams demoted last year, Longford and Roscommon, look most

likely to come up from II A, with Carlow still in with very much of an outsider's chance. From the other section, Cavan, despite one recent slip-up, must be favourites to come back, with Westmeath and Monaghan battling for the second place, the revival of both counties having proved one of the most satisfying features of this League to date. Louth are still there with an outside chance, but the break of luck would certainly need to favour these Wee County footballers if they are to regain top status.

On the hurling front, holders Limerick have thus far not put a foot wrong and are very worthily sitting on top of Division I A, the only team with full points in the entire competition. But though they seem already assured of a semi-final place, their toughest tasks lie ahead of them.

Their first game on the resumption of activities is at home to Cork, an assignment that on the face of it should not be unduly arduous as the Leesiders have only managed to collect three points from their five games to date and are, almost unbelievably, in some danger of relegation. But things ran very badly for Cork through the Autumn between internal dissension and a whole series of injuries to key players.

It may well be that through the recess both the quarrels and the wounds will have healed and that Cork in the Spring will be a very different proposition to what they were in November and December.

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# CHALLENGE FOR THE G.A.A.

By Barry Coogan

**T**HE Senior G.A.A. men among you will be familiar with the once famous, then ailing country club that joined up with the stronger local town club.

What happened such small clubs? They lost their "identity"! Whoever heard of Corras, Carrantryla, Croghan.

But if they hadn't joined up, they would have died a slow, painful death anyway. The G.A.A., its followers and the people would have been much worse off.

The analogy comes to mind when you think of Ireland joining the Common Market. What is going to happen our National Identity; Culture, Traditions and Games?

Are we and they going to be swamped and forgotten in an amorphous, impersonal society of the Common Market?

The answer is NO. The analogy of the death of the small country club does not hold. Or at least it hasn't in France (Brittany), Belgium (The Flemings and Waloons) and Holland (Friesland).

Let me tell you about Friesland in Holland which I visited with a friend from the Department of Agriculture last year.

Holland has been a member of the Common Market from the start. Friesland is a region in Holland, a little bigger than Co. Cavan. It is much more densely populated though — over half a million people live there. They are prosperous, industrious and they're very proud of Friesland. They don't speak the National language; they use their own dialect — Friesian. They have their own National Anthem which

they play regularly, and they have their own Flag and Coat of Arms. They also have their own customs and games and they intend to keep them. The only thing they haven't got is their own Regional Parliament.

An independent people which has clung tenaciously to its own Culture and Traditions. They can make their voice heard in the National Parliament in The Hague; And in the Common Market Parliament in Brussels.

It will be too bad if we don't imitate them.

The G.A.A. has a big part to play in this form of conservation and development.

## AGRICULTURE IN THE E.E.C.

**S**O we see that those of us in rural communities can keep our identity if we have sufficient will. The G.A.A., Ireland's premier sporting organisation, extends into every parish in rural Ireland. There is a greater awareness in the Association in recent years of the need for involvement of all the community under the umbrella of the G.A.A. A striking example of this kind of co-operation is to be found at Glenalbyn in the parish of Kilmacud, a suburb of Dublin. This, although it is an urban centre, has shown the way to many other areas in rural Ireland. The G.A.A., however, cannot be the cohesive force it ought to be if there are no people left in rural areas to join together.

The E.E.C.'s agricultural policy

allied to a policy of regional development would be even together insufficient to arrest the decline in the rural population if there is not the will at local level to succeed. In many areas the constant drain on the population between the ages of 16 and 60 has resulted in an erosion of confidence.

The E.E.C. agricultural policy is not the panacea to all ills as some would have it believed. Rather it is an honest attempt to enable agriculture to restructure itself and to provide an acceptable standard of living for those engaged in it. A guaranteed price and a high one at that in many sectors may seem at first sight too good to be true. But you must first produce economically. Increased prices for feeding material and fertilisers will cut into the expanded profit. But here we score over our European neighbours in that the comparatively mild Irish winters mean a substantial differential in winter feeding and sheltering costs. Prospects for beef, milk and lambs are excellent while increased efficiency will be necessary if we are to benefit from the other areas of agricultural production. Overall 63% of the total present agricultural output should benefit.

It has been estimated that an increase of 30% to 40% in agricultural production is possible over the next ten years. Taking this together with the increase in price levels it can readily be seen that people engaged in agriculture would have greatly increased spending power which would in turn be reflected in the local economy.



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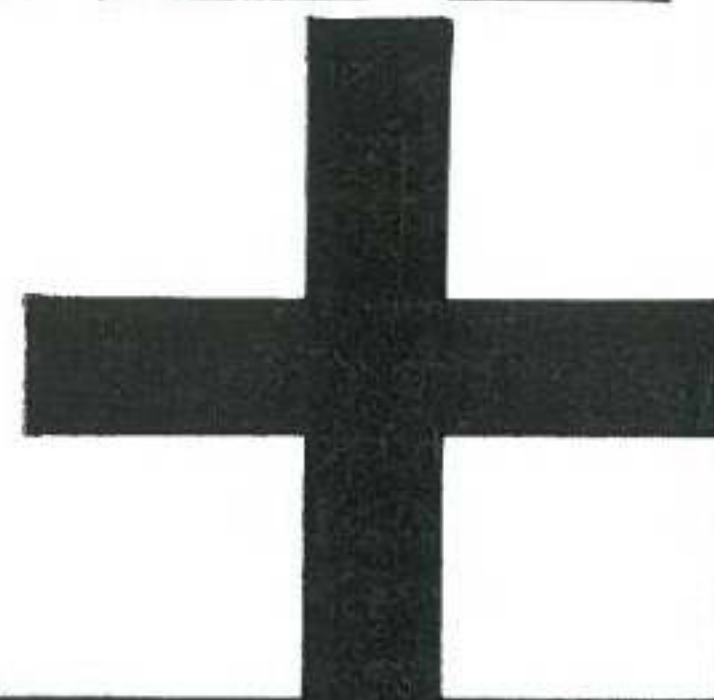
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# MONEY IN THE LAND

By Brendan Considine

IT is true to say that the emphasis which the G.A.A. is now rightly putting on social amenities for its players and members reflects the changes in social life and outlook in Ireland itself, but particularly in rural Ireland where the Association and its great traditions are so firmly rooted. Young people to-day demand social facilities to complement their activities on the field of play. Irish men and women in rural areas aspire to a standard of living comparable to that of those engaged in the manufacturing and service industries.

In order to be able to attain a decent standard of living for those who remain on the land the Irish farmer has to modernise, to take full advantage of technological and scientific advances, and to put his business on a strictly commercial footing. All this requires money which the farmer almost invariably cannot provide from his own savings or profits. Credit must be made available to him just in the same way as it is available to industry to build modern factories, to provide new machines and to set up marketing facilities.

It is not just sufficient to make the credit available. In these changing times when we have a decreasing farm labour force, coupled with rising productivity, where systems of production are becoming more intensive, where machinery and buildings are substituting for labour and where off-farm employment is assuming more importance, it is very desirable to have experts in the field of credit assessment and administration. A lot of the credit requirements of Irish agriculture are long-term and the

facilities offered by the commercial banks are not suitable for any long-term development farming programme.

● OVERLEAF



*Brendan C. Considine, Chairman of the Agricultural Credit Corporation is an All-Ireland medallist.*

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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Any credit institution must be comprehensive in the facilities it makes available. If it is to serve its function properly, it must be constantly looking ahead towards future developments and gearing itself accordingly.

It is not enough merely to give loans to farmers — considered advice covering the entire spectrum of agricultural credit and its implications is also required. It was with this object in mind that the A.C.C. in recent years has built up a countrywide network of Area Officers. These A.C.C. Area Officers, now seventeen in number, are experts in farming and finance. They understand the implications of credit and will offer advice as to how it can be best used.

In recent times the A.C.C. is becoming increasingly recognised as the "Farmer's Bank". We provide deposit account facilities at highly competitive rates. All investments are guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Minister for Finance and rank as trustee securities. There are no fees or commissions charged to investors; withdrawals are easy; all transactions are confidential and speedy and are accepted either at our Area Offices or Head Office.

In the long term we feel that we must look to the farmer to provide the finance necessary for his own industry. It is true to say that Irish farmers have considerable savings and investment in financial institutions which may have no direct interest in Irish farming. When one considers the great capital requirements of our Agricultural industry it would certainly be encouraging to see our farmers invest their savings in an institution such as A.C.C. which is undoubtedly the best geared to administer the credit need of the industry.



# THE PLAYERS' CHOICE

Says OWEN McCANN

I DON'T know who ranks as YOUR favourite writer on Gaelic Games, but I do know that when it comes to the players themselves, one correspondent is held in particularly high esteem. He is Paddy Downey, Gaelic Games Editor of THE IRISH TIMES. You don't have to simply take my word for this!

Only the other month in an interview in GAELIC SPORT with colleague Tony Keegan, Offaly's Willie Bryan commented: "I have always enjoyed reading Paddy Downey of THE IRISH TIMES. I've always found that his reporting gives a fair and accurate account of the entire match."

The man who led Offaly to their greatest-ever success was maintaining a now proud tradition in this connection. For, it is a remarkable fact that time and again in these interviews in GAELIC SPORT, the top hurlers and footballers have singled out Downey as the columnist they admire most.

There could hardly be a better tribute to any sport writer's qualities than that. It is a tribute, too, that an ever-growing number of supporters and officials will wholeheartedly subscribe to. One does not have to be over-observant to note the frequency with which the name Paddy Downey

is cropping up these days for favourable mention when enthusiasts get around to discussing press matters generally.

One could be a little unfair to Paddy Downey and say that he got off to a better start than most in this field — he is a native of Cork! As a son of Ulster, who lived for a time by the Leaside, I would be prepared now to argue that there can be no better passport to success than a Cork birthright.

However, it has taken much more than his Cork roots to get THE IRISH TIMES columnist to the position of eminence he now holds in Irish sports journalism. It has taken talent, flair, dedication, efficiency. And, with the passing of time, he has also put together a blend of precision and experience that now has him right on top of his subject, whether it is the match preview, match report, the interview, or in the field of editing.

Downey is by no means a grey-beard, but these days he still brings more than twenty years of experience to his writings. Years in which he has been constantly in touch with the games, the players and the affairs of the Association as a writer. In addition, he has been rattling his typewriter during probably the most momentous years in the history



*Paddy Downey of THE IRISH TIMES, winner of the coveted Gallaher Press Award for the Best Sports Journalist of the Year in 1970 and again in 1971.*

of the Association, and this has helped to bring to his comments a shrewdness and authority that make them all the more deserving of the utmost respect.

Paddy Downey took over his present position backed by a thorough schooling. He was for a time a respected commentator with the Gaelic Weekly, and later still polished up his style and technique further, while also winning many more admirers nationally, with the "Sunday Review" and the "Evening Mail". Subsequently came his appointment to THE IRISH TIMES.

In latter years he has done more than command a large and respected readership for his Gaelic Games articles in THE IRISH TIMES. He has won noteworthy distinctions both for himself and his paper.

For instance, to win the Sports Writer of the Year award is a proud honour for any writer. Downey has walked off with it not once, but two years running!

A man who has given sterling services to two important facets of Irish life, journalism and Gaelic Games . . . that's Paddy Downey.



## MOONDHARRIG

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Yet the odds will be on Limerick and that Cork game should steel them for their final League outing against Tipperary at Thurles, a game in which they will be striving to compensate for that Munster final defeat at Killarney.

Kilkenny and Tipperary look

most likely to accompany Limerick into the semi-finals, and certainly both look certain to reach the quarter-finals in which the third and fourth counties in Division I A play off against the first and second teams from Division I B for semi-final places.

Kilkenny have yet to travel to play both Clare and Dublin but on form should be capable of collecting all four points. How-

ever, it remains to be seen who will be the fourth team to make the knock-out stages from this section. Offaly look the best placed, but they have yet to face both Tipperary and Cork and are unlikely to gain any great bonus from either game. Indeed Wexford may well be the one to reach the fourth place as they are at home to Clare and away to Dublin in their two remaining games and if they win both are almost sure of qualifying. Dublin remain the unpredictable factor. Up to the Sunday before Christmas they looked very much the poor relations in this sector. Then they beat Cork in Cork, and transformed the whole set-up. Now, if they win their two remaining matches they will not alone be safe from relegation but might even make the play-offs.

In Division I B, Galway have a point to spare over Laois, and three over Waterford who, however, have a match in hand. But Galway have still to play both of these, their closest challengers, and the situation could yet be radically altered.

Laois are at home to Galway, and if they could win that game, would almost certainly make the play-offs, and would possibly also earn promotion, as their remaining game is away to pointless Westmeath.

Waterford have a home game against Wicklow, but must travel to play both Galway and Antrim, so their promotion prospects are not nearly so bright as they were before losing to Kildare at Naas.

As things stand, Galway must still rank as favourites both to "make" the quarter-finals, and to earn promotion, but John Connolly at mid-field will need more support fore and aft than was the case in their recent games against Antrim and Wicklow, if those successes are to be achieved.

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# HURLING UNDER LIGHTS FOR THE FIRST TIME!

(With Santa Claus as referee)

by PHILIP RODERICK

I HAD intended to write this story before Christmas. But, between all the high jinks of the festive season—plus, I regret to say, the occasional lapse from the straight and narrow—I put it on the long finger, and, of course, the finger got longer and longer with every good day of December.

So, here I am now, right in the middle of a bleak January, writing my Christmas story for last

year—or should I try to pretend that it's an early Christmas story for this year?

However, here goes . . .

This goes all the way back to 1931 to a time when Pat Danny O'Brien and myself were growing up in Cork. And, in case you need your memory jogged just a little, that, too, was the year that Cork took on Kilkenny three times in an All-Ireland hurling final and finally beat them.

I had a few years on Pat Danny and I don't suppose that you could ever say that we were special friends. Pat Danny was inclined to treat me as a second father and I was always the one he turned to when he landed himself into trouble or when things were getting the better of him at school.

I had to plead for him on the day he was caught robbing Connell's orchard and I had to lead the way back to his mother on the day he dropped the two-pound pot of strawberry jam in the street.

I laboured with him through addition and subtraction and there was a time when I thought I'd never get him through the intricacies of simple multiplication and division.

There was rarely a day that I didn't see Pat Danny—and, God knows, it was always to help him with something.

But, oddly enough, he didn't consult me at all over the Christmas presents that he wanted in the tail end of 1931. But then, I daresay there was no necessity.

Cork had won the All-Ireland hurling final and every youngster in the town, whether or not he still believed in Santa Claus, wanted one present that year. A hurley . . . and, of course, with a little luck, there might even be a hurling ball.

And when Pat Danny didn't consult me about the Christmas present he wanted, I knew full well that he had already made his mind up. It had to be a hurley or nothing. After all, every other kid in the town, myself included, was looking for the same thing.

But when I met Pat Danny at 10 o'clock on the Christmas

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morning, he was a heart-broken, shattered figure. The creases of the tear marks were still sadly evident on his face.

Surely, I thought to myself, his father had not forgotten to get him the hurley?

But, no indeed. Pat Danny, with the tears beginning to well up in his eyes, assured me that he had got his hurley—and a hurling ball as well. Both of them were at that moment lying in state in the kitchen at home.

And then he told me his story . . .

It must have been 3 o'clock on Christmas morning when he woke up and the house was as silent as a grave at that hour.

He crept downstairs to the drawing room where their presents were to be left, opened the door gently, took a quick look in . . . and there was the hurley—and the ball, too.

He was in like a flash, grabbed

the hurley and ball and was back upstairs within a matter of seconds.

It took him just a few minutes to dress himself and then he nipped back down the stairs, opened the front door and then, with the hurley in one hand and the ball in the other, he was off down the street like an Olympic sprinter, heading for the town square.

And at this stage, I had better tell you about the square. It was the one place in the town that you could count on having plenty of light.

Just two months earlier, the electricity, all the way from Ardnacrusha, had come to the town for the first time and the four street lights in the square were still something to be looked at.

Particularly as they were left on all night and indeed, were not switched off again until about six or seven o'clock in the morning.

And that was where Pat Danny was heading for as quick as those chubby legs of his would carry him.

So why was he heart-broken when I met him on Christmas morning? What was there to cry about? And he told me.

"I got to the square, all set to play," he told me sadly and then he really broke down and cried and cried . . . and cried.

"Hold on a moment," I told him. "What happened? You had the ball, you had the hurley . . . for God's sake, shut up for a moment and tell me what happened?"

And finally, even with the tears still cascading down his face, he told me.

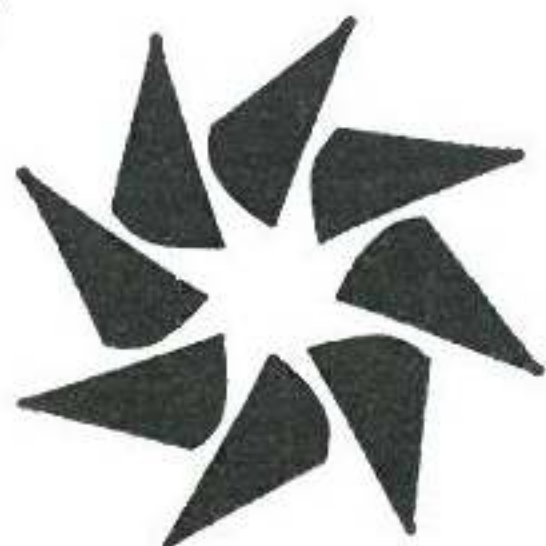
"They wouldn't let me play. The teams had already been picked."

I could appreciate how he felt. At 3.30 a.m., on a Christmas morning, it must have been a sad moment.

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## SCORESHEET

# PAT ENRIGHT

## BLAZES

## NEW TRAIL

By OWEN McCANN

WITH the National Leagues about to swing into action again after the Christmas recess, this is an opportune time to run the rule over the chance-snappers who are proving the pace-setters in the scoring line. And the campaign is shaping up into a real record-making one.

Already blazing a blistering new trail is Pat Enright (Waterford). He shares the over-all leadership in hurling and football on the 39 points mark with Eddie Keher (Kilkenny). Previous to this the Waterford high-point stood at 6-13 (31 points) in four matches in the 1968-69 campaign to the credit of Tommy Walsh.

Enright's match average is nearly two points better than Keher's. He hit 9.75 points in each of his four games for 3-30, as against the Kilkenny sharpshooter's 7.80 points a tie for 2-33.

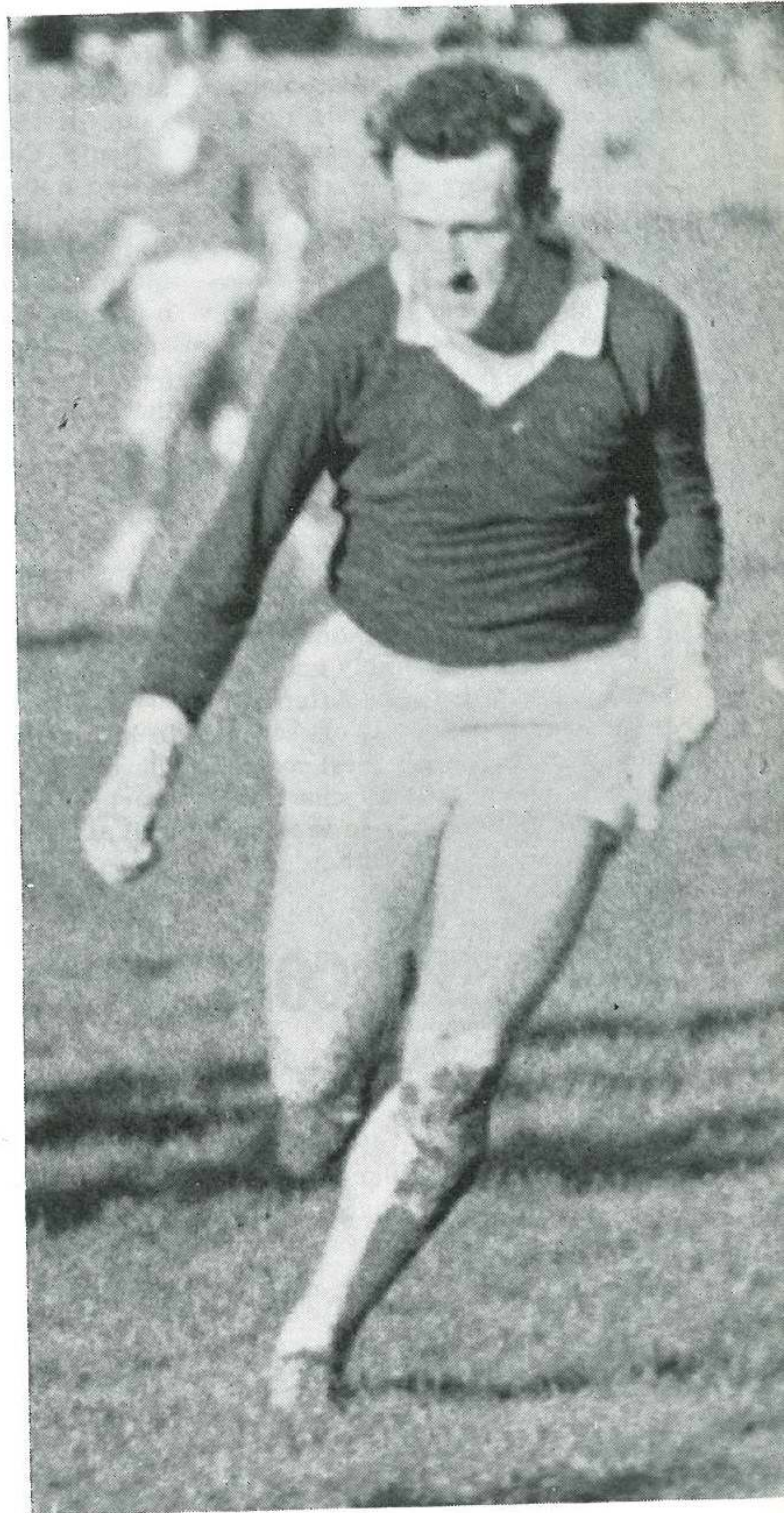
But the Waterford finisher's match score is still only good enough to put him second in the averages chart. Leading the way is Paddy Fahy (Galway) with ten points in each of his three games for 3-21 (30 points).

Keher was the top scorer last

season in both codes with 2-55 (61 points) in eight games. He holds the national record with his tally of 6-48 (66 points) in seven outings in 1966-67.

A mere point behind the chart-toppers is Johnny Walsh (Kil-

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● MICHAEL KEARINS of Sligo, still totting them up.



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dare). After five engagements he has 1-35, a 7.60 points match score. Last year he hit a whopping 8-35 (59 points) in eight tests.

Mick Moroney (Clare), who holds down third place in hurling with 5-20 (35 points) from five games, could join Enright in the record-making class.

As Moroney's pre-Christmas scoring rate was seven points an hour, and Clare have still at least two games to come, he must now have a good chance of passing out Pat Cronin's county record of 7-21 (42 points) in seven games in 1967-68.

Holding down the leading role in football is, predictably enough, Offaly's Tony McTague. After five matches he has 0-35, or seven points a game at the best match average in the football chart.

With Offaly doing so well in the current League, their cap-

tain must be a good bet to improve on his own county top score of 2-45 (51 points) in seven games last season.

Denis Coughlan has already moved out into new fields for a Cork footballer. Last season he set a record with a score of 3-21 (30 points) in six games. He is in better form in this campaign having 2-27 (33 points) from only five matches, for second place in the code.

Holding down the No. 3 spot is the man with the Football League best score of all, Michael Kearins. The Sligo star reached new figures last season when he bagged 2-48 (54 points) in eight games, including the relegation play-off matches.

With Limerick setting the style in hurling, it is surprising to find the county unrepresented in the chart. However, their scores are well distributed among the forwards, with Andy Dunworth set-

ting the lead on 3-7 from five outings.

As regards noteworthy individual scores, Paddy Fahy shot 2-7 in Galway hurlers' win over Kildare at Galway in early October. Tony McTague landed 0-10 against Dublin at Tullamore on October 30, and that same afternoon Maurice Burke punched home 2-4 in Galway's win over Tipperary footballers at Ballinasloe.

## — THE SCORING CHART —

### HURLING

Points		Score	Games	Average
39	P. Enright (Waterford)	3-30	4	9.75
39	E. Keher (Kilkenny)	2-33	5	7.80
38	J. Walsh (Kildare)	1-35	5	7.60
35	M. Moroney (Clare)	5-20	5	7.00
34	D. Lovett (Kerry)	4-22	5	6.80
31	M. Bermingham (Dublin)	3-22	5	6.20
30	P. Fahy (Galway)	3-21	3	10.00
28	S. Cuddy (Laois)	7-7	5	5.60
25	M. Keating (Tipperary)	5-10	3	8.33
25	P. Flynn (Wexford)	6-7	4	6.20

### FOOTBALL

35	A. McTague (Offaly)	0-35	5	7.00
33	D. Coughlan (Cork)	2-27	5	6.60
30	M. Kearins (Sligo)	1-27	5	6.00
27	M. O'Dwyer (Kerry)	1-24	5	5.40
26	M. Burke (Galway)	4-14	4	6.50
25	M. Freyne (Roscommon)	0-25	5	5.00
23	K. Kelly (Kildare)	2-17	4	5.75
22	S. O'Connell (Derry)	1-19	4	5.50
21	J. Hanniffy (Longford)	1-18	5	4.20
21	A. McCallin (Antrim)	2-15	5	4.20

## Player Wills Reinvest Winnings



● Player Wills, who are one of the first National Firms to invest in the G.A.A. Club Development Scheme, drew the December prize of £500. The Company has reinvested the prize in the scheme and our picture shows Alan Buttenshaw (left) Managing Director, Player Wills presenting the cheque to Pat Canton, G.A.A. Club Development Scheme Director.



# DERMOT EARLEY

talking to JACK MAHON

**D**ERMOT EARLEY of Roscommon, "Star in Focus" this month, was born in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, on February 24, 1948. An army officer and physical education specialist weighing 13st. 10lb., his home club is Michael Gleaveys in Co. Roscommon. He is married.

**Your favourite player, Dermot?**

Mick O'Connell.

**Favourite team, apart from Roscommon?**

Mayo.

**Most difficult opponent?**

Colm McAlarney of Down.

**Most memorable game?**

Winning the All-Ireland under-21 final v Kildare in 1966.

**Biggest thrill?**

Winning the County Intermediate Championship in 1970. We won by two points after being eight down at half time.

**Biggest disappointment?**

Losing to Galway in the Connacht senior final of 1970.

**Miscellaneous likes?**

I love to watch under 12 and under 10 teams play football. They really put everything into it and it's most enjoyable.

**Miscellaneous dislikes?**

I dislike people running down the G.A.A., especially when they compare it with other organisations. It really annoys me.

**Favourite T.V. shows?**

All the sports programmes, Hawaii Five-0 and the Men from Shiloh.

**Favourite singers (pop, folk, anything)?**

Cilla Black, Tom Jones and Jim Reeves.

**Favourite actors/actresses?**

Peter Sellers and Sophia Loren.

**Best friends?**

Sean Kilbride (Mayo) is a good friend of mine. We train together as he is in the Army. Tom Heneghan, Billy Morgan and M. J. Keane are also good friends of mine.

**Biggest influence in sporting career?**

My father. He is very interested in sport and always gives the right advice. Tells me when I am not fit, what I do wrong, how to improve and so on.

**Biggest bore in the G.A.A. (i.e. the most boring thing)?**

The petty fouling that goes on in football—pulling down, jersey pulling, pushing, etc.—very frustrating for players and most boring to watch.

**Personal ambition?**

To win an All-Ireland senior championship medal with Roscommon.

**The person in the world you'd most like to meet?**

Pele. I would love to play football with him.

**The Irishman you revere most in history?**

Michael Collins.

**The Irishman of to-day you admire most?**



● Dermot Earley.

Jack Lynch — as a sportsman and politician. He deserves great admiration for his coolness and ability over the last few years.

**Your favourite sportstar outside the G.A.A.?**

Martin Chivers, the Spurs centre forward.

**Can you speak Irish?**

Yes, I can.

**Do you intend to become a referee?**

I often think of this and I would like to become a referee when I retire from competitive football.

**Will the G.A.A. go professional?**

I can't see it happening in the near future, but I think it would be a step in the right direction.

**Your favourite sports writer?**

● TO PAGE 52



**Stop Smoking  
and win the  
game of your  
life**

**AN ROINN SLAINTE**



# JUNIOR DESK



A forum for  
the  
young reader

DEvised AND WRITTEn

By JACK MAHON

THE first thing I'm going to talk about this month is our All-Ireland senior football champions—Offaly. For the Offaly v Kerry vital S.F. League game in Tullamore on December 12, like many others, I travelled to the Offaly venue. Never have I seen an Offaly team so impressive. They were fantastic—played like worthy champions from start to finish. Their's was an exhibition of Gaelic football at its best and they trounced a gallant Kerry team.

On behalf of **Junior Desk** I salute these great men from the midlands.

After the game, my old Offaly opponent and friend, Sean

Foran insisted that I come to Hayes's Hotel and meet the champions. What a grand bunch of fellows. **Junior Desk** was mentioned more than once and I have lined up their brilliant centre half-back, Nicholas Clavin, for an interview.

This month we present an interview with Roscommon's Dermot Earley. Remember the wonderful goal he scored in last year's Railway Cup final? Our next interview is with Micheál O'Hehir. After that, Paddy Downey the *Irish Times* G.A.A. writer. Then Nick Clavin.

## TIPPERARY YEARBOOK

Another G.A.A. book came my

way over the Christmas. I refer to the Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook 1971—an official Tipperary Co. Board production. This 96 page annual, selling at 30p carries a very attractive colour cover of the All-Ireland S.H. champions and a comprehensive coverage of the club scene in the county in the year gone by. Gerry Slevin, the Editor, writes about the Féile na nGael weekend, while Michael Dundon tells about the very successful Féile Museum in Thurles.

Other contributors include John O'Grady (always a great favourite of mine), Rev. Dr. T. Marsh, Michael Maher and Séa-

● CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

WHAT  
HAVE  
THEY  
IN  
COMMON ?



Mick Keating



Charlie McCarthy



Frank Cummins



Denis Coughlan

THEY  
ARE  
ALL  
NON-  
SMOKERS



# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

mus Ó Riain. I recommend this book to readers. The address is: Gerry Slevin, "The Guardian", 13 Summerhill, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

## DAN McAREAVY

Thanks Dan, for including **Junior Desk** in your top ten awards of 1971. This was the first tribute we have received so far. Pat Fanning has always been an avid reader of ours. So has Séamus Ó Riain. You name them—they read us.

Anyhow, Dan, it was nice to be remembered. You'll be glad to know we are receiving more letters now from youngsters in Ulster (I mean the nine counties of Ulster) than before.

## OUTFITS

The day I went to the Offaly v Kerry game, I brought a few of the under 10 footballers from Salthill with me. They were thrilled to meet Mick O'Connell and all the Offaly stars. Really impressed. To such an extent that two of them wanted Offaly team outfits for Christmas — one of them my own son, John.

It was impossible to get an Offaly team outfit here in Galway. The shopkeeper told me I could have Manchester United, yes, or Leeds, or Chelsea, or Arsenal or Spurs. No, he had no Offaly outfits. He'd take my order. It would depend on whether O'Neill's made Offaly jerseys in boys sizes. So the boys and I must wait. But isn't this a sad state of affairs. Surely this is an area where the G.A.A., themselves, can help manufacturers to anticipate trends. Semi-State manufacturers like Gaeltarra Éireann might be interested in such a market. Anyhow, it seems a shame that we allow a situation like this to prevail.

If two young boys in Galway want an Offaly outfit, then how many young boys in Ireland would want it if we really sold them the idea. Have I made my point?

Boys, please write in and let me know what you think of my suggestions. How about county KIT-BAGS? Don't forget to write.

## CUT-OUTS

This month's Cut-Out is Dave Bernie of Wexford. One of the men who made headlines for visiting New York to help some team there during the past year. We won't go into the rights and

wrongs of that issue. Dave has always made headlines for his hurling ability as a mid-fielder. He comes from a county whose hurlers have always been very popular since Nicky Rackard and his brothers, Billy and Bobby, aided by such as Tim Flood, Jim Morrissey, Ned Wheeler, Padge Kehoe to name a few, thundered on to the hurling scene in the early 'fifties, like Limerick did last year.

Dave Bernie is one of the early 'fifties, like Limerick did team. Don't be surprised if "The Boys of Wexford" come out of Leinster this year.

## From the Mailbag

**Billy Moran, Ballyspillane, Midleton, Co. Cork (11 years)**—"I'm in fifth class. I go to Midleton C.B.S. and play hurling and football. Hope to be on school team next year. My favourites are Mick Roche, Mick Keating, Eddie Keher, Justin McCarthy, Denis Coughlan, Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer."

**Padraic Mannion, Curra-maigh, Toomard, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway**—"How about an interview with Michael O'Hehir? Thanks for Liam Sammon's cut-out."

● *You won't have to wait too long for the Michael O'Hehir interview (J.M.).*

**Feargal Ó Deagha, Bóthar na Cúirte Nua, Bré, Co. Cille Mann-táin**—"My favourites are Maurice Burke and John Connolly. I met Coleen McDonagh. My aunt Betty Dermody went to U.C.G. with Coleen and Liam Sammon. Please ask them do they remember her."

● *They remember her well and send on their regards to both of you. You're the first to mention Maurice Burke here. He is a great footballer. (J.M.)*

**John Petty, Chelsea Manor, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare**—"Please give us cut-outs of Michael Keating, Mick Roche and Peter O'Sullivan."

**Gerard Giles, Lakeview, Claregalway, Co. Galway**—"I like

**Junior Desk.** Liam Sammon teaches me in St. Mary's College, Galway. Thanks for his cut-out. My favourites are Liam, P. J. Smyth, Jimmy Duggan, Willie Bryan, Mick O'Dwyer, Eddie Keher and Richie Bennis. I play hurling and football for Carnmore."

**Kieran Foley, St. Anne's, Green Lane, Carlow**—"My favourites are Tom Geoghegan and Charlie McCarthy."

**Junior McGovern, Glendoon, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan**—"Cavan are playing great football in the League."

**Denis Sweeney, 42 Park Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham**—"This is my favourite team of the 'sixties: J. Culloty (K); E. Colleran (G), L. Murphy (D), Niall Sheehy (K); J. Boyle (A), C. O'Leary (D), C. Wrenn (O); J. Lennon (D), M. O'Connell (K); S. O'Neill (D), J. McCartan (D), P. Doherty (D); J. Keenan (G), J. Joyce (D), K. Heffernan (D)."

● *Not a bad team. I wouldn't agree with all your choices. (J.M.)*

**Kieron Murphy, Glen Lodge, Church Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow**—"What are the Wicklow colours? Have the Wall Posters in colour? How about a Wicklow man as a cut-out?"

● TO PAGE 52



**CUT-OUT** - - - - -



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **DAVE BERNIE, WEXFORD**



● FROM PAGE 50

● *The Wicklow colours are blue and gold hoops. (J.M.)*

**John O'Loughlin, Ballinahuon, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare** — "My favourites are Jimmy Duggan, Brendan Lynch and Gene Cusack (football); Charlie McCarthy, John Flanagan and Seamus Durack (hurling)."

The **Mailbag** for the Christmas period included a long and highly interesting letter from **Michael Collins, St. Vincent's College, Castleknock**, one from a **Kingscourt, Co. Cavan** reader agus ceann tré Ghaeilge ó **Padraic Ó h-Iarlaithe** as an gCloáiste Gaelach sin i gCarraig na bhFear i gCo. Corcaigh. A sincere go raibh maith aguibh to **Joseph Doyle, Kenmare**; **P. J. Hughes, 42 Oakman St., Belfast BTR 7BP**; **Tomás Mac Donnchadhe, Cnoc, Leitirmullen, Co. na Gaillimhe** and old friend **Liam Jones** for Christmas cards received.

Finally, if you haven't received copies of the annuals mentioned last month send for them as follows:

**Our Games** (cost 40p), Páirc an Chrócaigh, Ath Cliath 3.

**Offaly the Heroes** (cost 10p), c/o "Gaelic Sport", 80 Upper Drumcondra Rd., Dublin 9.

**Connacht Gaelic Games Annual 1972** (cost 30p), 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway.

**Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook 1971** (cost 30p), "The Guardian", Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

Allow 5p-10p in each case for postage and if I get details of any further publications, I'll keep you all informed. Certainly every library, county, school or club should have copies of all these Irish publications. So if you yourselves cannot afford them all, or indeed any of them, get after your library to get them.

I read where Wexford have published a G.A.A. book but I have still to be sent a copy for review. Mayo and Roscommon have theirs almost ready. Again, I would appeal to the publishers in each case to send me on a copy, if they wish to have it reviewed in **Junior Desk**.

That's it for this month. Don't forget SCÓR 72. Be sure to participate if you can. The All-Ireland finals of Scór 72 will be well worth seeing. But that's in March. See you all before then le congnamh Dé. Write to **Junior Desk, c/o "Gaelic Sport", 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9.**

● FROM PAGE 9

trouble in Cork these days, Tipp. will have next year's All-Ireland handed to them on a plate."

He was over-stating the case. After all, I still think that Lime- rick could be the team of 1972.

But, you know, your man was right about Cork. They're making an unholy mess of things down there at the moment.

I don't know who's right or who's wrong . . . but having looked at every aspect of the latest blow up in Cork, I think everyone is wrong.

And everyone seems to have forgotten that it's now '72 and that we can now only win eight All-Ireland senior hurling titles in the 1970s.

And surely that should be the only thing that matters in Cork?

No wonder they're laughing their heads off in Tipperary.

If I were a Tipperary man, I'd be down on the ground screaming my head off with joy.

But then I'm not a Tipperary man and I'm not laughing.

You know, by the time we reached Dublin on that Monday morning, there were two very sober Corkmen in that car.

## Dermot Earley

● FROM PAGE 47

Jack Mahon, of course. I think Junior Desk is really great and I love to read the views of all the boys and girls throughout the country.

**Your favourite authors?**

Ernest Hemingway and Seán Ó Faoláin.

**Advice to young players?**

Practice the skills as often as possible and play in as much competition as possible.

**Do you favour long hair?**

No, especially very long hair. Hair should be neat and tidy and

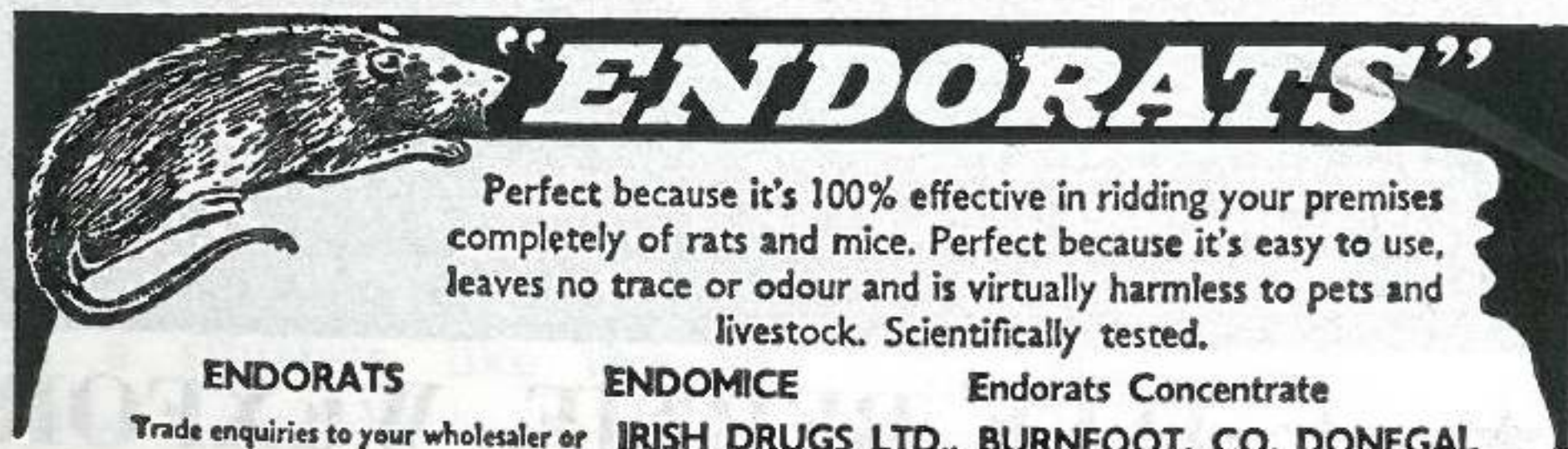
not too long.

**Are Irish people becoming less Irish?**

I don't think so. Even though we are becoming more aware of, and influenced by, foreign ways we are still very much Irish.

**What identifies you most as an Irishman?**

Many things, really especially the fact that I take part in Gaelic Games. This was brought home to me when I was in London last year. People would refer to me and others as the 'Irish Footballers'.



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