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GAA

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★ CHARLIE McCARTHY



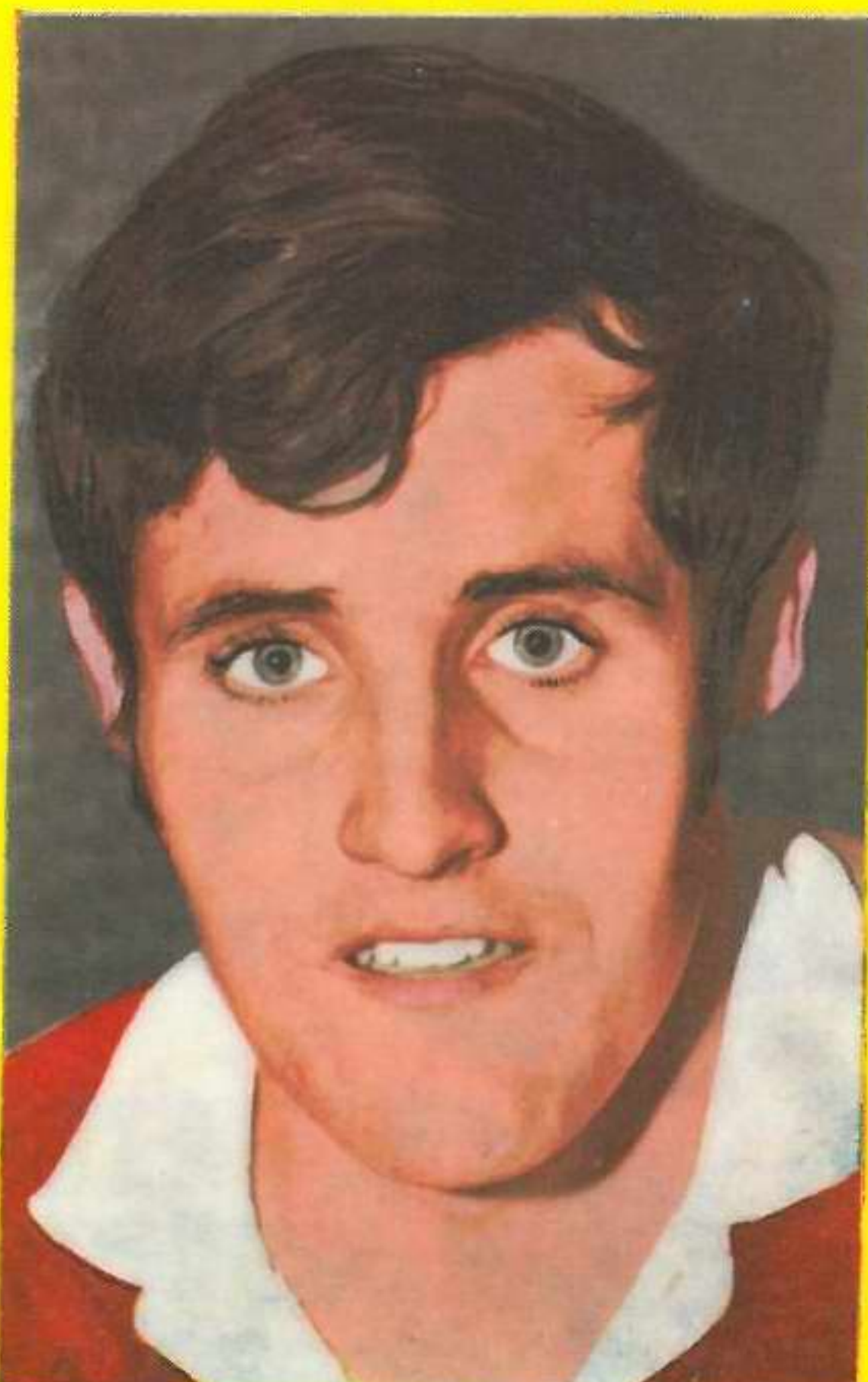
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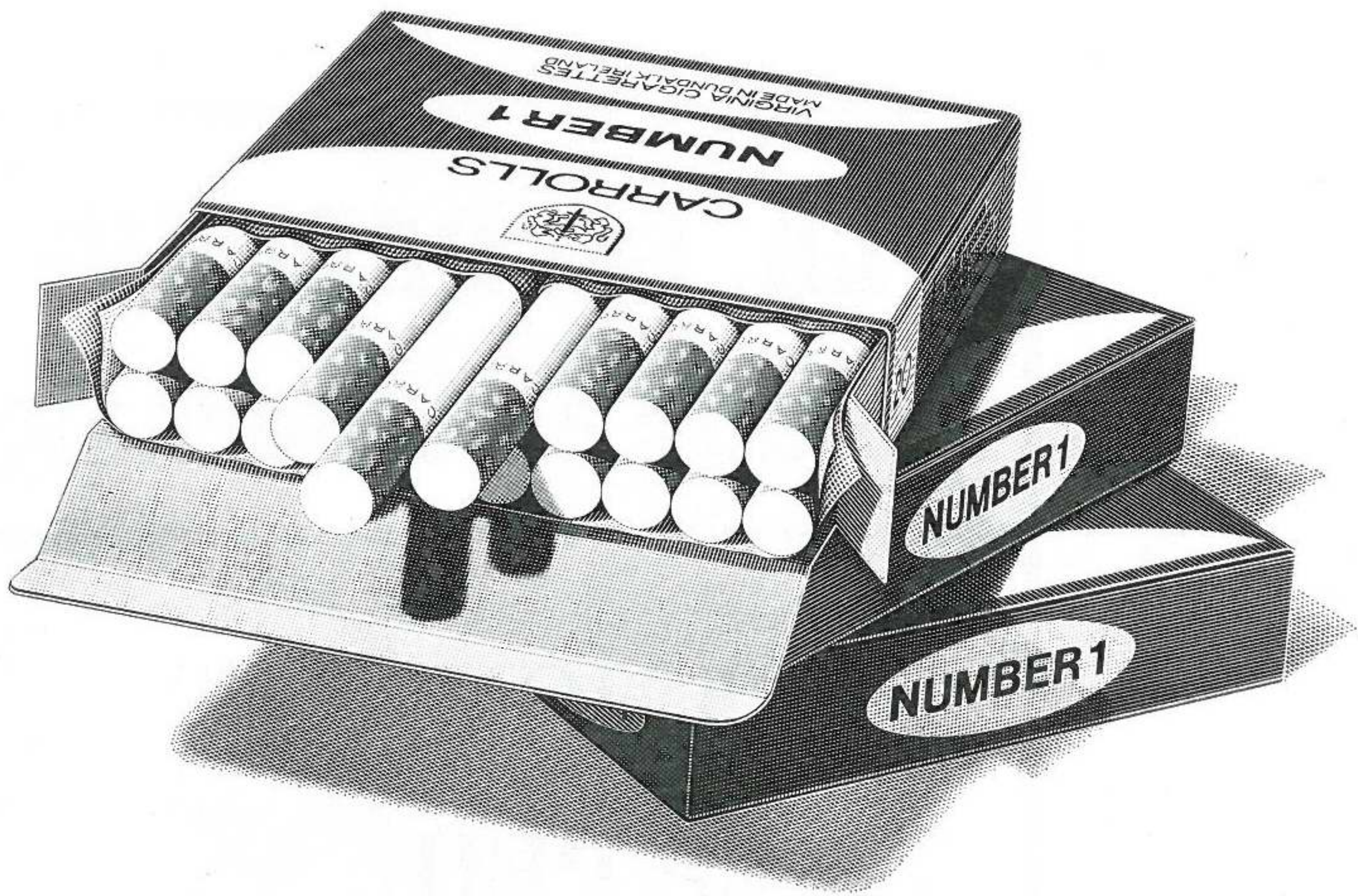
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TRY, TRY AGAIN

WHATEVER happened to the Australian dream? We are reminded of it this month as the Carrolls All-Stars and the All-Ireland champions, Offaly and Kilkenny, prepare for their visit to San Francisco.

Was it really a pipe-dream? Most certainly not. Meath made it come true, and so did Kerry, but at a cost that they hadn't anticipated before they left.

And we could ask, whatever happened to Harry Beitzel, the man who first wove the dream by bringing his Australian Galahs to Ireland as part of a world tour?

There was a paragraph in one of the daily papers recently, stating that Mr. Beitzel, during a visit to London, telephoned Sean O Síocháin, Director General of the G.A.A., at Croke Park. It was a courtesy call, but Mr. Beitzel mentioned the possibility of another Australian visit to Ireland. The newspaper item stated that Mr. O Síocháin "welcomed the idea."

Could this be the seed which may revive the whole idea of internationals between Ireland and Australia? The venture should have been pursued with vigour five years ago. There was plenty of talk—all hot air that evaporated quickly.


We are not ignoring or minimising the difficulties which existed then, and exist still. Huge distances and staggering expenses, for instance; the fact that Harry Beitzel was a freelance and that his tours abroad, or his promotion of Meath's tour to Australia, were unofficial—more, that the officials of the Australian Rules disapproved of his undertakings; the question of public support in either country which relates to the fact that neither side would—nor could they be expected to—adopt the other game; then, compromise rules, which produce a game that would remain a nondescript mongrel without continuous study and the evolution that is possible only with practice.

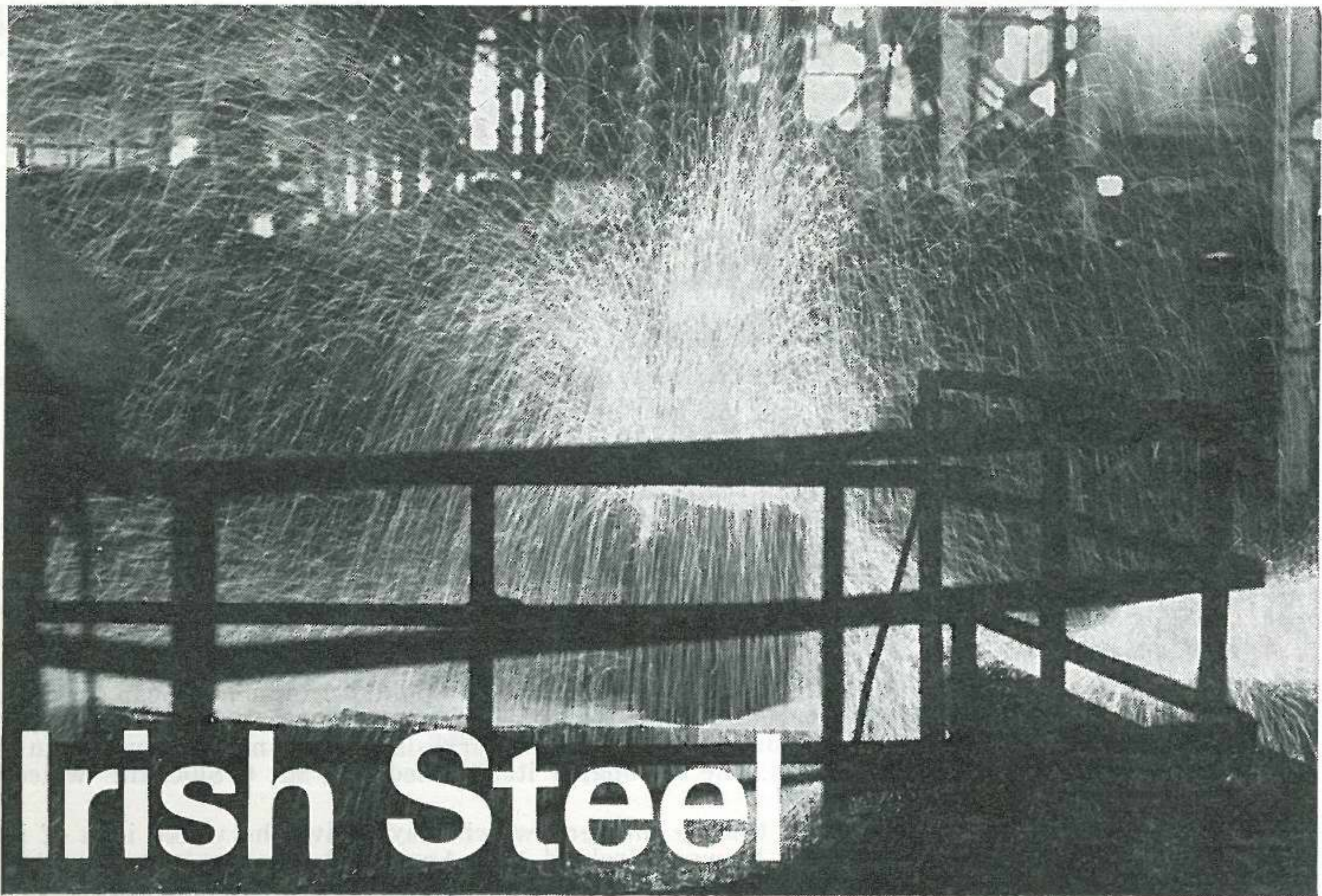
These were, and are, daunting barriers. But man has climbed Everest and set foot on the moon.

When Kerry toured Australia, Dr. Jim Brosnan made contact with Australian Rules officials. It was hoped that those tentative talks would bear fruit. Nothing has come of them since.

The world is shrinking. The annual tour to San Francisco is no longer a seven-day wonder; the New York hurling team, with Ollie Walsh and Mick O'Connell in their company, are touring the Fiji Islands, Australia and New Zealand.

Is there anyone in the Association who will now move to make the Australian dream come true? The Director General is the obvious man. We call on him to set the ball—round or oval—rolling again.

COVER PHOTO :  Our front cover this month we feature six of the Carrolls All-Star Award winners, Corkmen all. Kevin Jer O'Sullivan gained his Award for his outstanding performances on the football field, his five county colleagues achieved recognition on the hurling field. On page 19 of this issue Owen McCann spotlights the individual careers of these six outstanding G.A.A. personalities in greater depth.



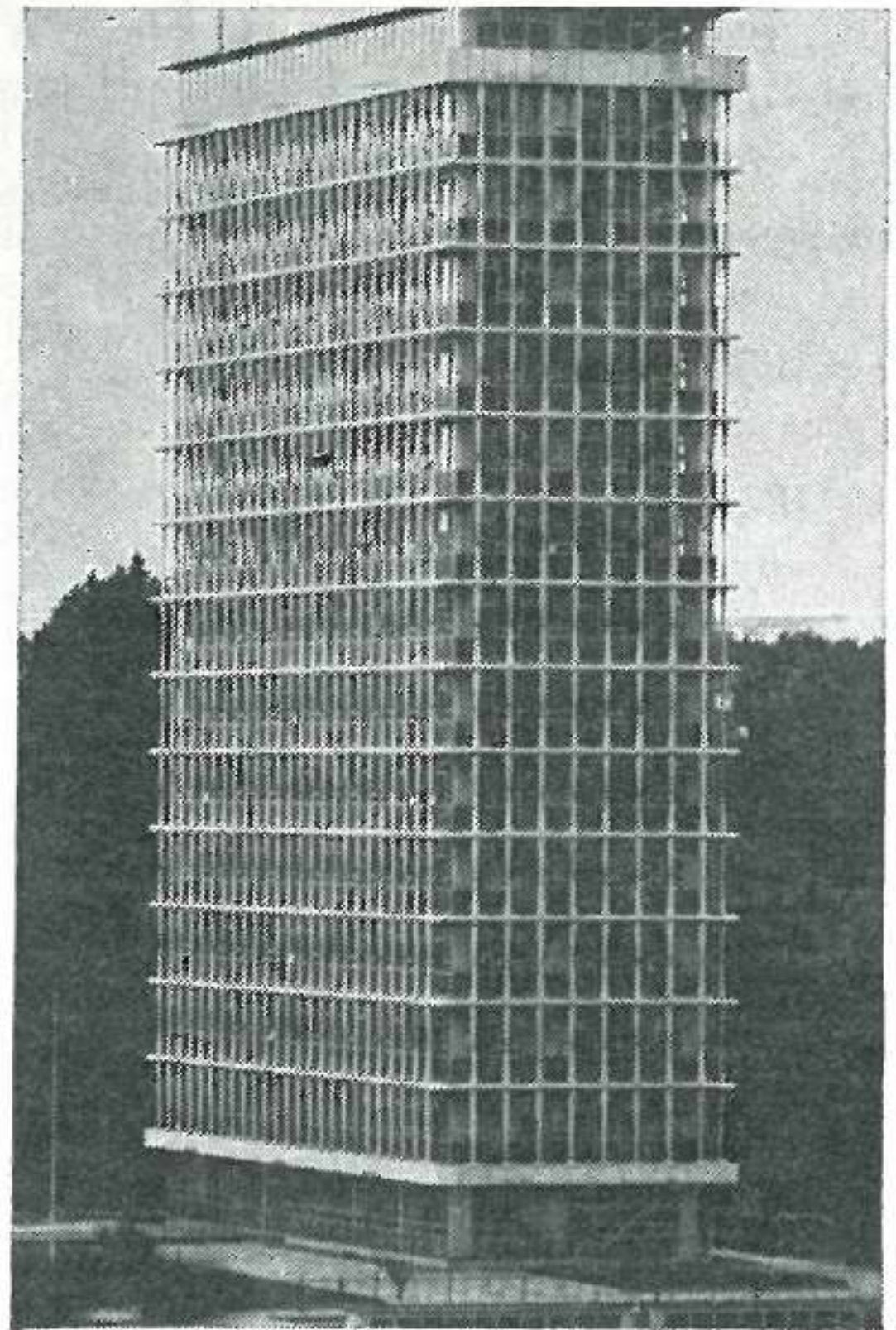
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STARS OF THE RAILWAY CUP

By MICK DUNNE (RTE Sport)

THE disastrous slump in the St. Patrick's Day attendances at Croke Park has given rise to the suggestion that the Railway Cup competitions should be abandoned. And the downward trend—from a peak of 49,023 in 1954 to the paltry crowd of 9,166 in '69—supports the argument that both players and public, for a variety of reasons, have lost interest in these games.

These competitions were conceived by the late, great Padraig O Caoimh, who saw the staging of the finals on March 17 as a fitting way to celebrate the National Festival, but the almost empty Croke Park we have seen on this day over the past five years is hardly now the most appropriate way of marking the feast-day of the National patron.

Nevertheless, I am one of those who would view the abandonment of the inter-provincial championships with some sadness. Firstly, I have always had a soft spot for the Railway Cups because they frequently produced hurling and football entertainment of a high degree in an atmosphere far less strained than is possible in the very much more competitive final stages of the All-Ireland championships and the National Leagues.

But principally I liked the competitions because they invariably provided an opportunity for some players to gain recognition and high honours they would never have obtained with their counties. Without the Railway Cups we would have had few, if any, occasions to admire in Croke Park the skills of such players as Alf Murray and Jim McCul-

lagh (Armagh), Mick Cahill (Tipperary), Gerry O'Reilly and Jim Rogers (Wicklow), Pakie McGarty (Leitrim), Noel Crowley (Clare), Jack Kenna (Laois) in football, or Jimmy Smyth and Matt Nugent (Clare) in hurling, to name but some of the great players who never, or only very rarely, had the good fortune to get to Croke Park in inter-county matches.

Thinking about these stars brings to mind the many enjoyable games I have seen over the years in the Railway Cup competitions. As it happened, my first inter-pro. was a football semi-final in 1939 when Leinster beat Connacht in Ballinasloe 3-4 to 2-5. But for the purposes of this article I will confine my memories to those football matches I watched as a sports journalist over the last two and a half decades.

There was the 1952 final, which gave Leinster their 11th success and the first in seven years.

Not a great match, but memorable for two things. There was the extraordinary low scoring—0-5 to 0-3 when Leinster beat Munster and the courage of Louth corner back Jim Tuft, in

● OVERLEAF



● Kevin Heffernan (Dublin)



● Gerry O'Malley (Roscommon)



● Paddy Doherty (Down)

● FROM PAGE 5

the last minute, when he dived at the boot of Kerry's Tom Ashe to prevent what must have been a certain winning goal for Munster. Jim was injured in the process and had to leave the field seconds before the end.

Next there was the '57 final, in which a Connacht side made up of all five western counties produced such an harmonious blend of devastatingly efficient football that one might have thought the 15 came, not from the same province, but from the same club.

Munster were the other finalists and the score was 0-5 each at the interval. But in the second half, these sweeping Connacht men were overwhelming with the elegantly smooth football they produced. O'Malley was massive on the half-back line, Nallen unbeatable at midfield, Purcell the over-riding engineer of the whole machine, and Stockwell creating havoc by wandering far and wide.

It was early in the second half when Purcell collected the ball near midfield, punted it into Joe Young, who spotted Stockwell careering towards the goalmouth. Joe delivered the pass and sped up in support, but it seemed to be a tragedy for the West when he and Stockwell collided in the parallelogram. However, will-o'-the-wisp Frank spun around in a flash and booted the ball past goalie Marcus O'Neill.

And 23 minutes into the second half Stockwell had a hand in the goal that clinched it for Connacht. He teamed up excellently with McGarty, and Pakie's shot was helped to the net by Young. Connacht 2-9, Munster 1-6.

And there were so many others. Remember the gripping second half, productive of so many thrills, in the '60 final. Twice in that game — midway

through the first half and again soon after the interval—Munster took a six-point lead, but they were pulled back by Ulster. Sean O'Neill, then the North's right half-forward got a goal five minutes from time and, in the midst of tremendous excitement a minute before the end, he lofted a 30-yard free over the bar for Ulster's 2-12 to 3-8 victory.



● Jim McDonnell (Cavan)

I doubt if anyone in the 40,429 who were at the '62 finals will forget the history made when Des Foley became the only man to win two Railway medals on the same day. At 21 years of age, the Dubliner played a large part in Leinster's 1-11 to 0-11 football win over Ulster and his fellow countyman, Mickey Whelan, assured Leinster of victory with a great goal, after a daring solo-run, ten minutes from time.

Although Croke Park has been sparsely attended in recent years, this has not taken away all the March 17 entertainment. Indeed, if we could be guaranteed the fervour, brisk pace and top-class football we saw on a muddy pitch in '69, when Connacht beat Munster, or if there

was promise of more of the great football we saw last year in Munster's 1-15 draw with Leinster, I believe there could be a dramatic upsurge in attendance figures again.

The Editor has insisted that I round-off this contribution by picking the best Railway Cup team of the last 20 years. I do so reluctantly, since it means leaving out so many outstanding players, particularly Munster players (and specifically Kerry-men) because the sad fact is that, great though so many southerners have been, the Railway Cup has only very infrequently been a display window for their greatness. And this is underlined by the fact that it took them 23 years before they regained the football cup last year.

So, for what it's worth, here is my team:

Johny Geraghty (Galway); **Mick O'Brien** (Meath), **Paddy Prendergast** (Mayo), **Sean Flanagan** (Mayo); **Sean Murphy** (Kerry), **Gerry O'Malley** (Roscommon), **Jim McDonnell** (Cavan); **Jim Rogers** (Wicklow), **Jim McKeever** (Derry); **Paddy Meegan** (Meath), **Sean Purcell** (Galway), **Paddy Doherty** (Down), **Kevin Heffernan** (Dublin).

But, as an exercise in self-tantalisation, just think what a match it would be (if possible) between that side and this one:

Johnny Culloty (Kerry); **Donie O'Sullivan** (Kerry), **Noel Tierney** (Galway), **Paddy Bawn Brosnan** (Kerry); **Gerry O'Reilly** (Wicklow), **Jack Mahon** (Galway), **Stephen White** (Louth); **Sean Brennan** (Kildare), **John Nallen** (Mayo); **Nace O'Dowd** (Sligo), **Padraic Carney** (Mayo), **Michael Kearins** (Sligo); **Mattie McDonnell** (Meath), **Frank Stockwell** (Galway), **Pakie McGarty** (Leitrim).

I, for one, wouldn't bet on the result.

Ring in the role of selector

BY EAMONN YOUNG

WHAT kind of a selector are you, Ringey?" I asked. "I must write about you."

"Oh, marvellous," he said with a slight smile and started his game of squash with Rockies hurler Terry Hassett.

What does a man need to become a good selector anyhow? Let's start with a knowledge of the game. There are two people completely qualified to speak on the subject: the man who knows everything and he who knows nothing. Ringey may not know everything, but when I first met him at eighteen he had definite ideas on hurling which made it obvious he had been thinking on the subject. Since then, and that's not yesterday, he has been a keen student and has shown in many conversations the depth of that study. I remember twenty years ago when I was writing about hurling on the Kerryman, and my friend, Jim Barry, the

Cork trainer, saying that now it was obvious Cork would have to go into special training for Kerry in the Munster championship, I listened to Ringey discussing the difference between playing at left and at right wing while he demonstrated with the vivacity which still remains a shining part of his personality. He has done a lot of thinking on the game since then, and seeing that he has been actively associated with the game for at least forty years, there can be little he hasn't discussed.

During his playing career, one of his habits was to re-read the photos on the Monday. Each photo, as every student of the game knows, tells a clear and definite story. The positions of the players is of interest and much of the teaching bound up with the game is demonstrated by good performers when action is at its fastest. As we all know, some of the action does not



● **CHRISTY RING** (above, foreground)

"With Ringey around, there will be less talk about medals won, and more about those lost" says Eamonn Young.

demonstrate the correct way, and I have used photos of the best players to show what is right and also, unfortunately, what is wrong.

Knowledge of the game isn't enough, however, for the selector. What of shrewdness and ability to read the game. Over the years, many of us have heard Ringey comment on the games. His ideas are usually very definite and one doesn't always agree, but the sentiments are obviously born of thought, and who agrees on games anyhow?

Certainly when the game is over he is able to put his finger on the larger mistakes made and one feels that if he were in charge of a team he would certainly see what was wrong, if he were cool enough to allow his judgment to decide for him. More of that later.

The personality of the manage-

● **TO PAGE 9**

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THE TOP TEN

WE'RE off again on yet another Top Ten campaign! And, while it will as usual be some months before a pattern begins to emerge, it is encouraging to see some bright new faces in the first tables. New faces are always very good for sport.

And one of the brightest new stars is Frank McGuigan, who led Tyrone in last year's All-Ireland minor football final against Cork, and earned interprovincial status last January. He now sets the pace in football on the nine points mark.

In hurling, Donal Rheinisch, who bagged 4-1 for Dublin against Kerry and showed some nice touches as well in the county's surprise, but merited draw subsequently with pace-setting Waterford, finds a spot.

FOOTBALL

- 9 F. McGuigan (Tyrone)
- 8 D. Earley (Roscommon)
- 8 S. Lowry (Offaly)
- 7 P. Lynch (Kerry)
- 7 L. Sammon (Galway)
- 7 E. O'Donoghue (Kerry)
- 7 K. Kilmurray (Offaly)
- 7 S. Cooney (Offaly)
- 6 A. Regan (Roscommon)
- 6 J. McKiernan (Antrim)

HURLING

- 9 F. Loughnane (Tipperary)
- 8 M. Jacob (Wexford)
- 8 D. Rheinisch (Dublin)
- 8 S. Kinsella (Wexford)
- 8 J. Treacy (Kilkenny)
- 8 P. J. Ryan (Tipperary)
- 8 A. Heffernan (Waterford)
- 7 P. Cunningham (Dublin)
- 6 P. Flynn (Waterford)
- 6 L. O'Donoghue (Limerick)

● FROM PAGE 7

ment is reflected in the collective personality of the team. See a team led by a weakling (and one doesn't have to be very weak to earn this term in games) or managed by a milk-and-water committee, and what happens? Firstly, weaklings are picked to play and, secondly, excuses are made officially for their poor show. When they come up against the rough stuff they fade and, after a while, all concerned publish their memoirs on the great might-have-beens. Life deals in results and not excuses, however, and that's why dynamism and guts are as important behind a team as in it. That's why the team picked by men is composed of men. That's why people like Ringey, one hundred per cent man (and he's not the only one on the Cork selection committee) should mean a lot in determination and single-minded endeavour to any side. The words and example of the courageous always inspire the genuine man. I look forward to seeing this happen. By the way, in addition to the selection committee, I can tell you that the arrival of a parcel of steel and whipcord, Willie John Daly as trainer, isn't going to do any harm either. Vitality and dynamism, determination and pride are lawful injections in championship endeavour. We'll see.

Man-management is an ob-

vious in team games. Breaking records, said Roger Bannister, is getting out of yourself what you knew you hadn't in you. Chaps who can wrestle thus with their own mortal clay usually get results out of the other fellow also. The difficult takes time, the impossible a little longer. I think that the present Cork team is going to be told that they have to get their backs into it, and when they do tax heart and nerve, and sinew, they will, I hope, be managed well, to get more good out of them.

It is nineteen years now since Ringey, playing at left wing in Croke Park, slipped a fast ball along the left wing to the corner man. Wexford were on top at the time and Corkmen knew they were in trouble. The sliotar ran towards the end line, chased by a slim lad with brown locks over his eyes. I thought he hadn't much of a hope, but young John Clifford accelerated, knowing this was it. Slap, and the fast ground ball slipped right through the green flag was up. It was the swan song of that Cork team, but a great win.

John Clifford, the Glen Rovers selector, answered my question. "Ringey? The very best. He knows the game . . . I've worked as a selector with all sorts of men and he's the best. We took four hours to pick the team to beat the Barrs in the county semi-final and for the following

Sunday in the final against Youghal we took three and a half. And there was only one change. You should hear his talk to the team on the morning of the game. He spelled it out . . . the strength and weakness of the other fellows . . . and the things we would want to watch also. And he has terrific fire.

"During the game? Oh, he keeps his head, though you would think that he wasn't listening to you. The day against Muscraí I wanted to bring on Tom Buckley. He went away from me and didn't come back for a while. I wanted to bring Tom on. "The time isn't ripe,' says Ringey.

"Later we brought him on and he wasn't two minutes on the field when he had a goal. Maybe t'was luck, I don't know. But one thing: Ringey won't move until he's sure. Definitely he's out on his tod."

And there I leave you. I deliberately didn't contact Ringey since the deserved defeat by lively Wexford. Let things simmer down a bit. There's plenty of time to think and discuss. One thing I'm sure of, there's a lot of straight talking being done now by men who want Cork hurling to progress a little. I feel we'll have less talk about the medals won and a little more about those that were lost. Corkmen are waiting. So are Tipp and Kilkenny.



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ARKS

HANNIFFY:

A guiding light for Longford

By NOEL COOGAN

ONE of the most interesting features of the G.A.A. scene in recent months has been the fine showing by Longford in the National Football League. While many may have felt that the midlanders would be struggling in order to remain in the premier section, the complete opposite is very much the case as the wearers of the blue and gold (at the time of writing) battle on for a place in the semi-finals.

Longford face their remaining games with an imposing record of 13 consecutive National League wins behind them. Such a run all began for them way back in October, 1971, which saw the midland county embark on a division two campaign, culminating in nine victories in a row to bring them the title and promotion to the first division.

Undaunted by the rise in class, Longford continued on their winning ways. Galway were defeated in no uncertain manner in a first-round tie. Then followed Longford's greatest triumph on Gaelic fields for quite a few years when they travelled to Tralee to take on the might of Kerry in their own backyard and win by three points. Inspired by this success they then went on to beat both Kildare and Dublin to keep their 100% record intact.

The last few years have been something of an up and down period for Longford football. 1966 saw them make the long-awaited breakthrough to the big time by taking the National League title. The following

championship campaign, however, brought about disappointment, with Louth ousting the men in blue and gold in the first round 1967 did not bring any better fortune, but 1968 exceeded anything seen from Longford in the past. The then All-Ireland champions, Meath, were dethroned at the first hurdle and, heartened by this upsurge in fortunes, Longford proceeded to have their best ever championship run. The little county went on to gain their first-ever provincial title, decisively defeating Laois in the final.

Then followed a really game showing against the might of Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final, in which the Kingdom were put to the pin of their collar to survive by a narrow margin. Longford had made their mark in the big time of Gaelic football in no uncertain fashion and also made new friends with their fast, incisive brand of clean, open football. Much more would be seen of them in the closing stages of major competitions, it was generally felt.

But they have been struggling in the doldrums most of the time since. That is, of course, until recently. During their afore-mentioned 1966-68 period of success, one of Longford's real stars was Jimmy Hanniffy. So how appropriate it should be that now as the midlanders again shoot up the prestige ladder, that Hanniffy should still be a guiding light. Jimmy Hanniffy has, over the past few years, been one of the

country's most consistent midfielders-cum-attackers.

It is with a certain amount of pleasure that I recall a chat I had with him one summer's evening of 1969 after he had lined out for Civil Service in a Dublin club championship game. A couple of weeks earlier, Wexford had sensationally ousted Longford in the championship, and Jimmy feared for the future of Gaelic football in his native county. In fact, he went so far as to say that unless six or seven promising new players could be found, the future looked dismal. He was probably right, as it took the selectors a few years to come up with the right blend.

At that time the ban was a sore point in Longford Gaelic circles after a number of club players were suspended for attending a soccer game. Hanniffy was very outspoken against such decisions and said that he completely ignored the ban. Now that inglorious rule is gone, but Jimmy Hanniffy remains as one of Longford's loyal servants.

A pure footballer to the fingertips, he is not one who will hesitate to condemn dirty play by his opponents. Such a player deserves to be successful. Now that Longford are again riding on the crest of the wave, one wonders what the future holds in store for them. The coming months will tell. One way or the other, Jimmy Hanniffy can be depended upon to play a big part in their efforts to reach the top again.

The Epsom Derby

Shipped to the 'States. May 4, 1780 was the date of the first Derby. The programme for that historic day included a cock-fight. Diomed was the first winner and, as was the frequent fate of his successors, he was then shipped to the United States where he founded a dynasty of American racehorses.

When the Irish horse Orby won the Derby in 1907, his trainer Colonel McCabe of the South Irish Horse sent a telegram to his regiment's commanding officer, "Medical Officer authorises the issue of champagne to all ranks." It should, of course, have been Paddy.

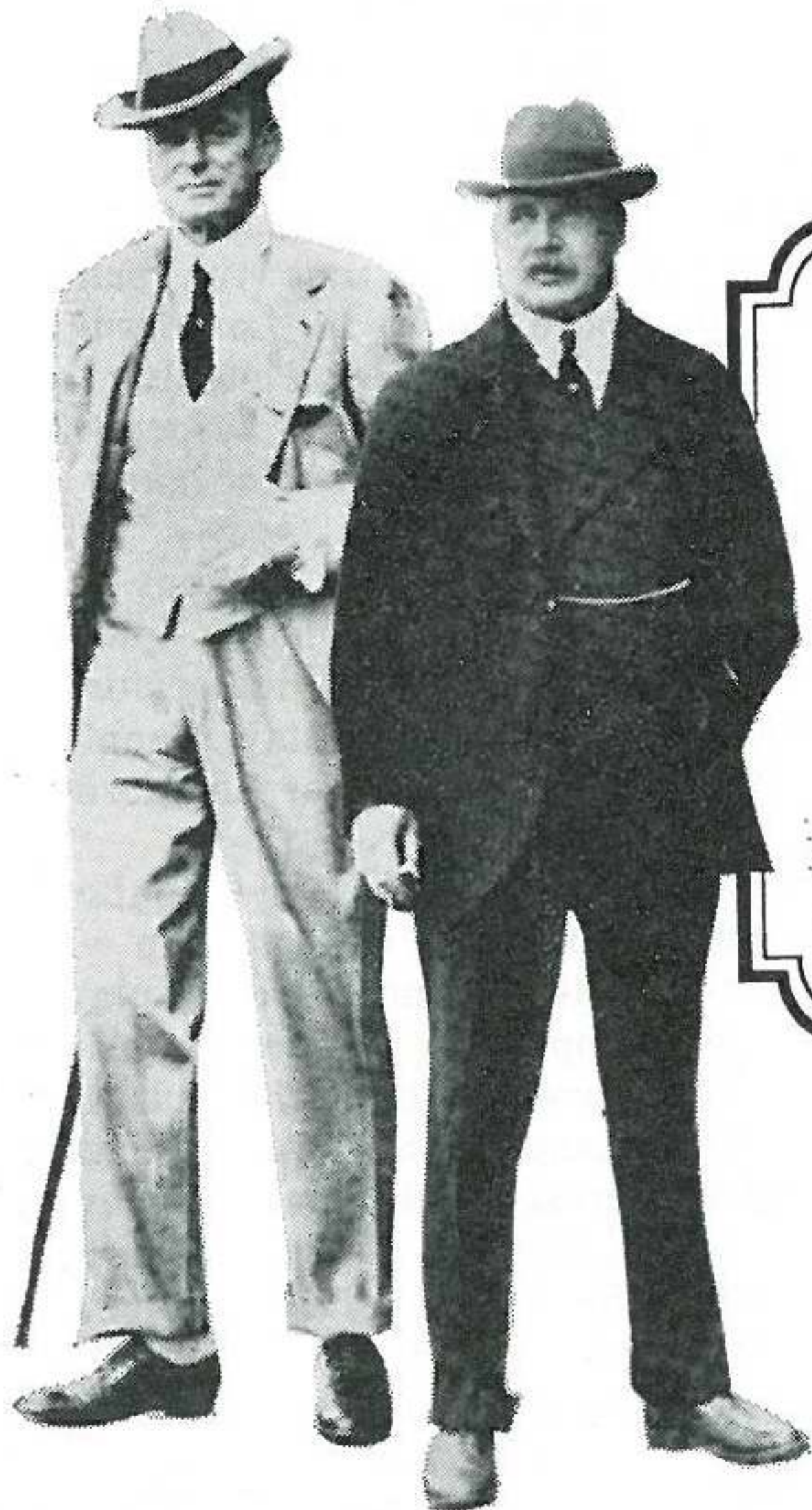
Paddy the thoroughbred whisky is the



odds-on favourite every time. Put your money on Paddy, the thoroughbred.

Danny Maher was the foremost jockey in England during the first years of this century. He won the Derby first on Triple Crown winner Rock Sand in 1903 and captured the winner's circle again in 1905 on Cicero and in 1906 on Spearmint.

The twelfth Earl of Derby gave the race its name, but it was the seventeenth Earl (seen here with the Hon. George Lambton) who proved the more successful owner. His horses won the family classic three times—Sansavino in 1924, Hyperion in 1933 and Watling Street in 1942.



Paddy

The Thoroughbred

Expert views on Wexford's hurling future

Compiled by :

JOHN O'SHEA (of The Evening Press)

OVERSHADOWED by their long-time rivals, Kilkenny, for the past few years and without an All-Ireland senior success since 1968, Wexford can hardly be regarded as one of the top three hurling counties in the land at present.

Yet, despite their absence from the honours list in recent seasons, there is a marked feeling of confidence in the "Model" county concerning their prospects in the current term.

What do those closely associated with the team believe Wexford can achieve in 1973? I put the question to a number of players, ex-inter-county stars and officials.

MARTIN DOYLE/team manager:

"We have enough talent to beat any team in the country. But I believe a good run in the League would give us a better chance in the championship.

"If we have a serious weakness at present it is the fact that we are forced to play Tony Doran at centre forward rather than in his best position of full forward. There is a definite need for another top class half forward in the side. Doran carries too much of a burden.

"Kilkenny will as always prove our most difficult opponents. If we can beat them I see nothing stopping us. My hope is that we will be there for the deciding steps of the League so that our lads will at least be fully fit to

contest the championship."

TOM NEVILLE:

"What Wexford need is a team manager of the calibre of Padge Kehoe. The talent is available, but there is a need for someone like Kehoe to bring out the best in them.

"The manager of the side, too, must be given greater authority. He should be solely in charge of the team, with the right to make changes at any time he likes during a game. The present set-up with three selectors is some improvement on what has been the case over the years, but there is still much to be done in this area.

"The manager, too, must get the necessary response from players by way of training and dedication. Last year, for example, they did not show sufficient interest.

"I would like to see Wexford stick with a panel, and draw off this during the year. At the moment, there is far too much



● PHIL WILSON

chopping and changing, particularly during a game when panic often seems to strike the mentors.

"If Wexford don't make an impression in the next year or two they could be down for quite awhile. The players are there now, but they must be used properly."

MARTIN QUIGLEY:

"We should have won the All-Ireland last year. So, since we have the same bunch of lads, more or less, we must have a fair chance of bringing it off in 1973.

"All Wexford need is some luck. We have the players, the dedication, and the desire to succeed. Like Martin Doyle, I agree that an impressive League run would be a great help. It would give us more confidence and also keep us match fit.

"Kilkenny are, of course, a big danger, but then there was never more than the puck of a ball between us, so if we have the

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Shell's outstanding oil record at Le Mans-			
11 victories out of the last 13			
28 victories out of 36			
1927-1934	1939-1949	1953-1955	1960-1967
1937	-1951	1958	1970-1972



TRIBUTE TO A DEDICATED LADY IN CORK

SOMEONE once said somewhere that "behind every successful man there is a woman," and no doubt there is a great deal of truth in the remark. One thing is sure, however—the G.A.A. owes a great deal for its success to countless enthusiastic ladies working away tirelessly and unceasingly behind the scenes in every county. Wives of club members who wash the jerseys and help in many other important ways in ensuring that the clubs keep ploughing along.

All of which leads me to an interesting article by John Joe Brosnan in "The Corkman". In the course of the feature, he spotlighted the tremendous work that Con Murphy, who is now honorary secretary, had put in as Cork county secretary, and went on:

"The midnight oil was often burned in the Murphy home as the secretary grappled with the affairs of clubs throughout the county, big and small.

"But all this was not enough.

During the day while he was at work, and often again at night, Con's devoted wife helped too with the chores of keeping a complicated administrative machine in working order.

"Those of us who were in close touch with County Board affairs knew Mrs. Murphy almost as well as we knew the county secretary himself. We bothered her with problems at every hour of the day and night and always found her understanding, helpful and fully conversant with the working of the Association.

"The Gaels of Cork have incurred a debt to this dedicated couple which can never be repaid. And their service will continue indefinitely, although fortunately much of their routine work will now be taken off their shoulders."

LIMERICK hurling has aroused plenty of comment in recent times. But what about the position of football in the county? "Everything in the Limerick footballing garden is not rosy", according to "Sporting View" in the "Limerick Leader".

The feature states that it is clear that Limerick must cater

as much as possible for the younger bracket, and adds that such a policy should pay dividends, provided a genuine effort is made by all concerned.

"Unfortunately, a youth policy will do precious little for the current-day senior footballers who, on the evidence of recent efforts, can hope for little in the championship, which gets under way with a right tough game against Tipperary at Pairc na nGael on June 3. At Shannon on Sunday, the selectors genuinely tried to put together the best possible side, nobody doubts their good intentions, but we question the wisdom of having five people deciding on team switches and changes while a game is being lost on the field.

"The 1969 Convention that agreed to appoint a manager for teams in all grades appears to have been completely forgotten, but then, of course, there are so many unprinted bye-laws that several of them are being overlooked!"

Sporting View goes on to say that now "must be the time to set up a separate county football board, as many others have done" and concludes on a hard-hitting note:

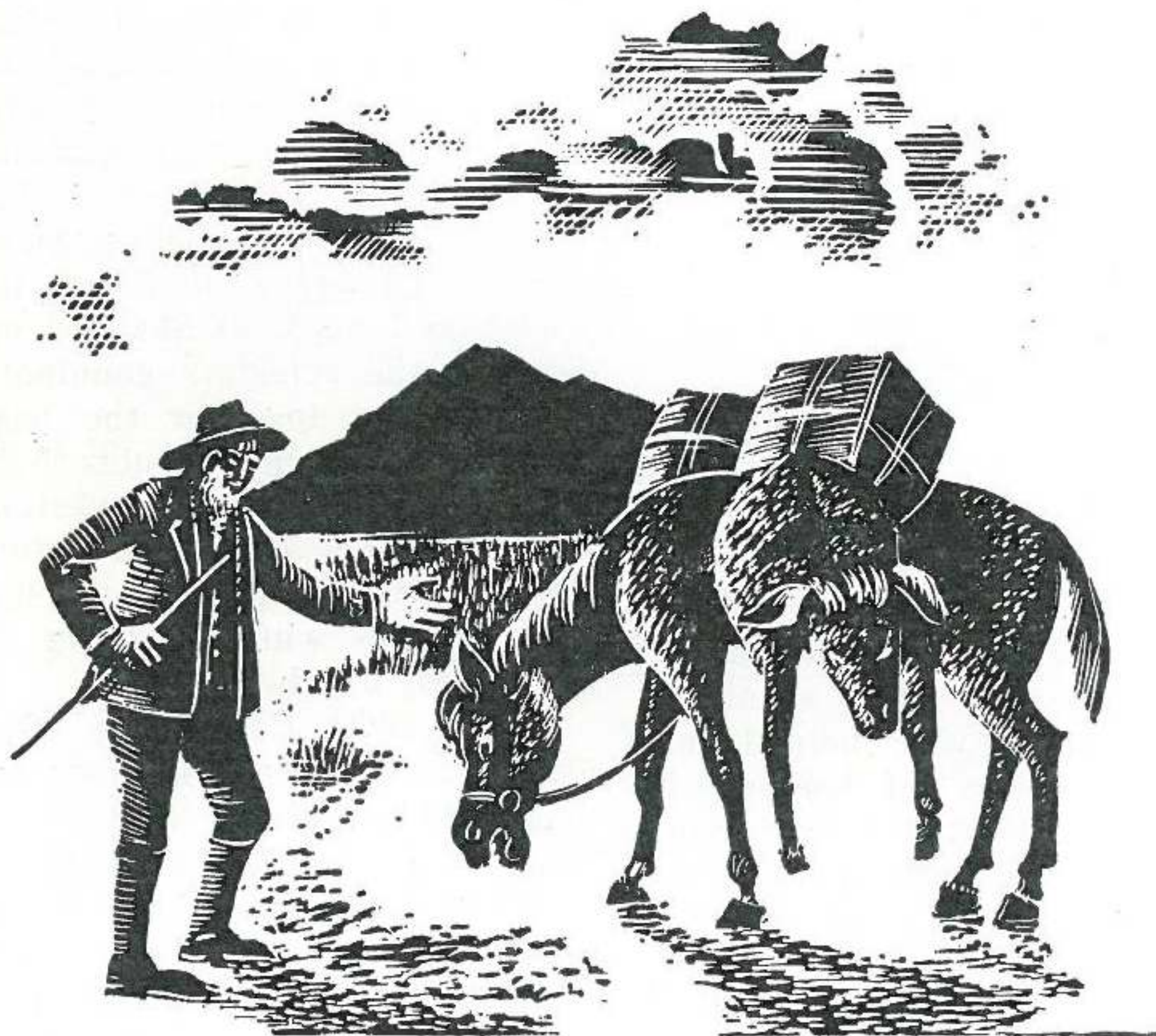
"There is now only one honourable course open to the people responsible for football in Limerick — do the job properly or opt out. The reputation of Gaelic games as a whole will be further tarnished by a continuation of the present apathy towards football within the county."

"GAELIC SPORT" has frequently commented in the past on the fact that sloppy attire hits at the image of the Association. Interesting, then, to read some pungent comments on the same

● OVERLEAF

The horse sense of Æsop

Æsop's horse did not expect to have to carry the dead donkey and the load as well. Big burdens come when you least expect them. But big prizes too, come out of the blue. Be prepared for luck. Never be without a sweep ticket. Any one of the scores of prizes would take a lot of weight off your shoulders.



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Tickets £1 each.

● FROM PAGE 15

score from another source—this time "The Connacht Tribune".

The Fr. Griffin's club in Galway requested at the County Football Convention that county players wear the same coloured stockings. Subsequently, "Pancake" said in his Sports Shorts column:

"It may sound somewhat trivial, but this insistence on uniformity and proper presentation is symptomatic of the type of style which the G.A.A. must acquire in presentation if it is to compete in the future. A care about dress could lead to matches starting on time, properly numbered jerseys and a lot of other improvements which are important to the fans.

"What a pity the suggestion was greeted with suspicion and statements like how much this was going to cost. The Griffin's proposer, Emmett Farrell, must have felt just a little frustrated, having pointed out that Galway players last year turned out in stockings of every colour under the sun.

"Then the hoary old chestnut was introduced about players who will not change lucky stockings no matter what the rules are. One delegate drew quite a laugh when he pointed out that in the Sixties 'one player did not change his stockings all year' (phew!).

"It was finally agreed that players being selected would be told to bring along a particular colour stockings. You will always have the oddities who won't wear a colour, but let's have a start made in introducing some uniformity and 'snas'.

"Now all the Football Board has to decide is what is the official Galway stocking—all maroon, maroon and white stripes, or white and maroon stripes — as somebody said, 'the plot thickens'."

Caps

ALL ROADS LEAD TO KILKENNY!

THE sign-posts in Co. Kilkenny are arrogant. And infuriatingly so on a dark, wintry evening when one slowly comes to the harsh and unhappy conclusion that one is hopelessly and irrevocably lost without ever breaking out of a radius of five or six miles from Nowlan Park.

Those bleak signposts — and have you ever noticed how they all seem to be pointing the wrong way when you are trying to pick them out with the lights of a car? — assume that everyone wants to go to Kilkenny City and they ignore every place else.

You don't have to take my word for it. Ask your man who was with me. His language at one beautiful stage of the proceedings would have stripped tar from the Carrigrohane Road in Cork.

However, let me tell you the story — right from the start.

We were due to meet at Liberty Hall at 11 o'clock on the Sunday morning to go to the Oireachtas final between Tipperary and Wexford at Kilkenny. But, somewhere around 10.30, he rang to say that he was having a little spot of bother and that our start would have to be delayed until 11.45.

Fair enough. I was there on the dot. He wasn't! I read the newspapers until noon, had a cup of tea that took me up to 12.10 and finally, at 12.16, he made his appearance. But, of course — and I should have known it — he had a small job to do and he did it while I went off to the G.P.O. to buy some stamps.

By 12.50 we were finally on the road to Kilkenny.

Lunch was out, so the next

best thing was a snack on the road. That, in its own way, was a mild disaster. At the prices we were charged we could have had a slap-up, four-course meal with a bottle of wine thrown in at the best restaurant in Dublin.

The company of a very charming young nurse from Holles Street shortened the journey to Kilkenny, but not enough to get us to Nowlan Park with the margin we would have liked.

Just as we entered the tunnel on our way to the Press Box, we ran slap bang into the Graigue-namanagh players who had just won a junior hurling final and we were damn nearly trampled to death in their rush into the dressing room.

The Graigue-namanagh players, one suspects, could hardly have been used to success. As they stampeded into the dressing room, a frantic official, screaming at the top of his voice, was trying to stop them. "Come back, come back, you idiots," he roared. "You've forgotten the bloody presentation ceremony."

However, we eventually made it to the Press Box at 3 o'clock just in time for the big game. Well, hardly, for at that precise moment, some of the shapeliest-looking young birds I have seen for years were going through some intricate marching on the field.

Beautiful to watch . . . but, remember this was a winter's evening and the light was already beginning to go. By the time the game started there was every prospect that it would end in near darkness — and so it did.

Then came our troubles. We walked out of the ground with Nick Rackard, then we ran into

Nick Purcell, got caught by Mick Lanigan for 50p worth of raffle tickets, and that was for each of us — and then Nick Purcell's car wouldn't start.

By the time we sent Nick on his way it was pitch dark and we were caught up in a traffic snarl that threatened to keep us anchored outside Nowlan Park for a few hours.

But your man was ready. In some extraordinary way, he managed to turn the car on a road that seemed to be just the width of the car — and we shot off for Carlow. Or at least that was what we thought we were doing!

We reached a signpost and it had just the one arm and that, unfortunately, happened to be pointing back in the direction from which we had come. Kilkenny — 5 miles.

Off again to another signpost and, unbelievably, the message was the same: Kilkenny—5 miles.

Half an hour later the first worry really began to sink in. Towns and villages had disappeared, so, too, had the signposts, and there was the growing realisation that we were lost.

With reports to go back to our papers, time was valuable. Your man's temper was fraying and I wasn't too grunted at that particular moment. However, on we drove. Somewhere out there, Carlow was lurking, or perhaps even a village where we could find our directions.

The miles disappeared behind us and then, like a welcoming beacon in the distance, there was the white flash of a signpost. Saved — at last.

Your man manouvered the car

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5 reasons for having an Election now:

1 We are living in difficult and dangerous times. Decisions taken now will affect us for generations to come.

2 Crucial policies are being formulated in the EEC; it is essential that Ireland's voice should be clearly and decisively heard in Europe.

3 The British proposals on the North will shortly be announced; here again, it must be made clear to the world that we speak with a decisive mandate from the Irish people.

4 Subversive groups are actively trying to promote anarchy in place of the peace which the Government has maintained in this part of Ireland. It must be shown that the Government's policy of dealing with these groups has the overwhelming support of the Irish people.

5 If progress with stability is to be achieved, the Government's mandate must be decisively and overwhelmingly renewed. By holding a General Election now, we are giving the Irish people an opportunity to voice their wishes at the ballot boxes.

VOTE
FIANNA FÁIL
FOR PROGRESS WITH STABILITY



Charlie McCarthy



Ray Cummins



Denis Coughlan



Con Roche



Tony Maher



Kevin J. O'Sullivan

CORK'S SIX CARROLLS ALL-STARS

THE strength of hurling and football in Cork is put into striking relief by this month's colourful front cover. The six highly talented players pictured earn for their county a unique ranking as the only one to gain representation in both hurling and football in the latest Carrolls All-Star selections.

Each Corkman honoured paraded sound credentials for selection. But let's take a broader look here at the careers of these players — a look, in fact, at some of the high points that proved the important stepping stones on the road to the top.

Charlie McCarthy, of the St. Finbarr's club, is Cork's greatest score-getter since the legendary Christy Ring. Last year he became the first from the county since Ring to break a century of points in a season's campaign, and then had the cruel luck to be robbed by an injury of a new Cork scoring peak.

McCarthy, who is 26, hit 13-64 (103 points) in 15 games up to mid-October, and then missed

the county's last four games because of injury. Tantalising that, in that he finished only a single point below the county record that Ring has held since 1961 at 22-38 (104 points) in 13 matches.

We had an early preview of the budding finishing technique par excellence of Charlie McCarthy in 1964 when he was in sharp-shooting form with the county's minors. In the All-Ireland final win over Laois he helped himself to an impressive 3-1.

He was promoted to the county senior side in the 1965 Munster championship, and the following year won All-Ireland medals at senior and Under-21.

The darting and elusive finisher has headed the Cork scor-

**By
OWEN
McCANN**

ing chart every year since 1967, and in the meantime he has added three National League medals and another All-Ireland senior souvenir (1970), as well as the Carrolls All Star Award, to his collection.

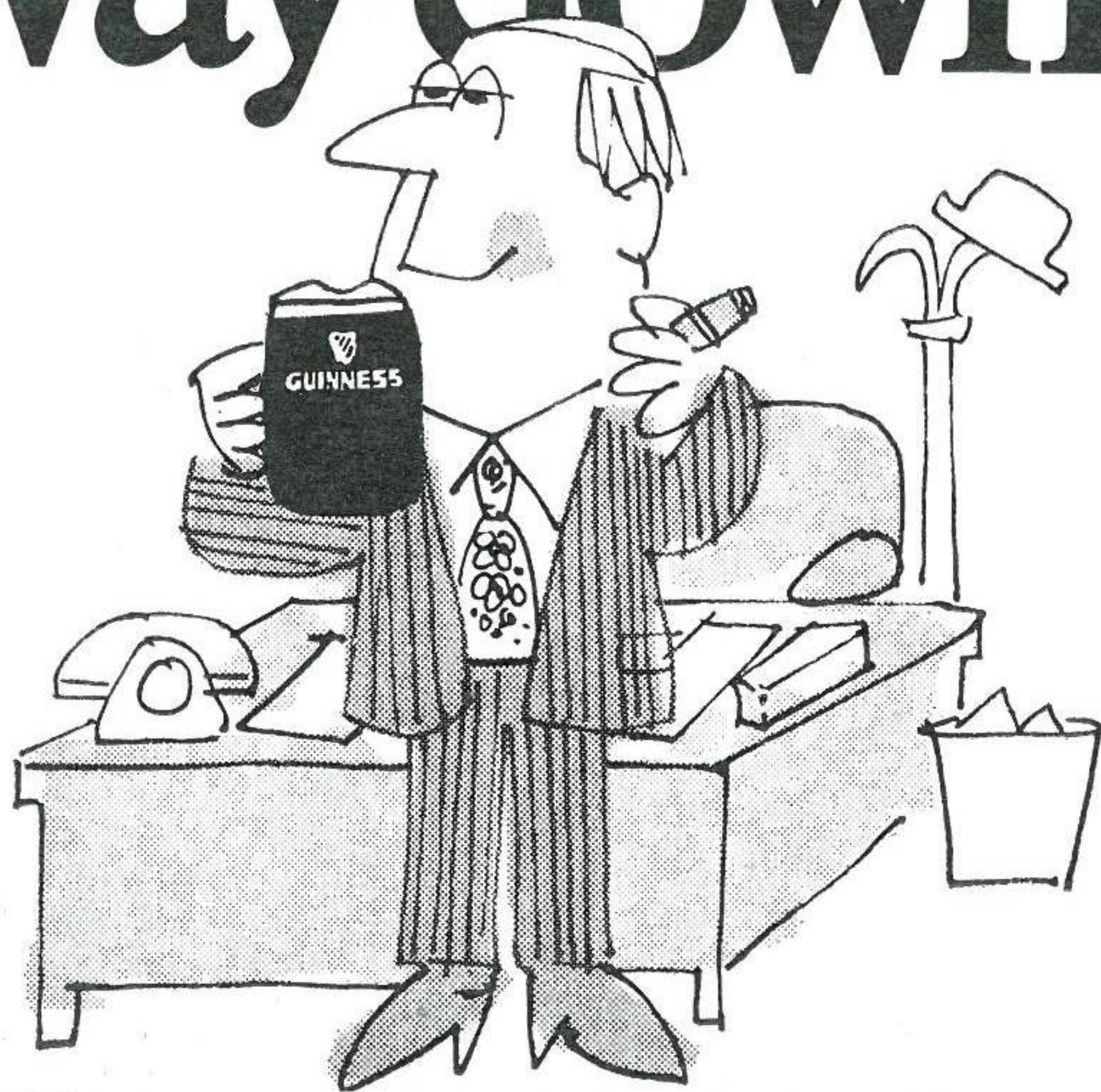
Ray Cummins, the 6ft. 3in. tall Blackrock club hurler, must rank as the best dual player we have seen in years. Certainly, it seems a safe bet to say that we will have to wait a long time until another two-games star emerges to equal his feat of 1971, when he became a man apart with his inclusion in the Carrolls All-Star hurling and football selections.

Last year Ray earned another proud "double" distinction as one of only three players to win Railway Cup medals in the two games by helping Munster to a first football title since 1949. He gained his hurling medal in 1970.

Cummins first hit the inter-county senior scene as a foot-

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Start at the top and work your way down.



Building a career usually means starting the hard way at the bottom and working your way up. It's different with a pint of Guinness.

You start at the top and work your way down. It's so much easier.

And much more fun.

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At the top.

Get together with a Guinness

The 'Power' behind upsurge of hurling in Decies

LIKE the rest of us, the Editor has heard the rumbling from the deep-woods down Waterford way, for his brief this month says: "Find out what all this talk of Waterford is about?"

Well, it was an assignment which fell in well with my own inclinations, because I, too, have been intrigued, incensed and curious by intervals at all the twitterings that have been emerging from the county, and the way in which Waterford people have been smiling knowingly and speaking glowingly about their hurlers.

It seems strange to hear such goings on: after all what business has a county among the second grade hurling counties hinting broadly that All-Irelands are going to be won in the not very distant future? It all smacks of silly presumption, or arrogance, or some kind of sophisticated confidence trick. If it were Cork, now, or Kerry in football, you wouldn't mind that kind of attitude, and it could be written off as oneupmanship. But, to find such insufferable self-confidence among Waterford people . . .

So, it was with something of the mixed feelings outlined above that I made a tour of duty in the Decies, sniffing the air and keeping a weather eye open. Everything seemed quite normal. Then, in conversation on ordinary topics, the hurlers were mentioned. The tone of voice changed a little and a matter-of-fact business man's voice suddenly warmed to his subject: "You know, our boys are coming

By
JAY DRENNAN

on nicely . . . tremendous improvement . . . always knew they were as good as the best . . . stagnating in the League . . . decided we were going to get out of Division I B . . . no holding them . . . Seamus Power . . . great young prospects . . . training no bother to them . . . Seamus Power . . . beat Clare already . . . Kilkenny at their best to hold them . . . All-Ireland before they stop . . . "

Next we got a copy of Seamus Grant's Annual Report as County Secretary and what was not written in black and white was clear enough between the lines. Then followed the speech of the County Chairman urging the delegates to think positively of success and suggesting there was now good hope to expect the



● Frankie Walsh . . . among the giants of Waterford's Golden Era.

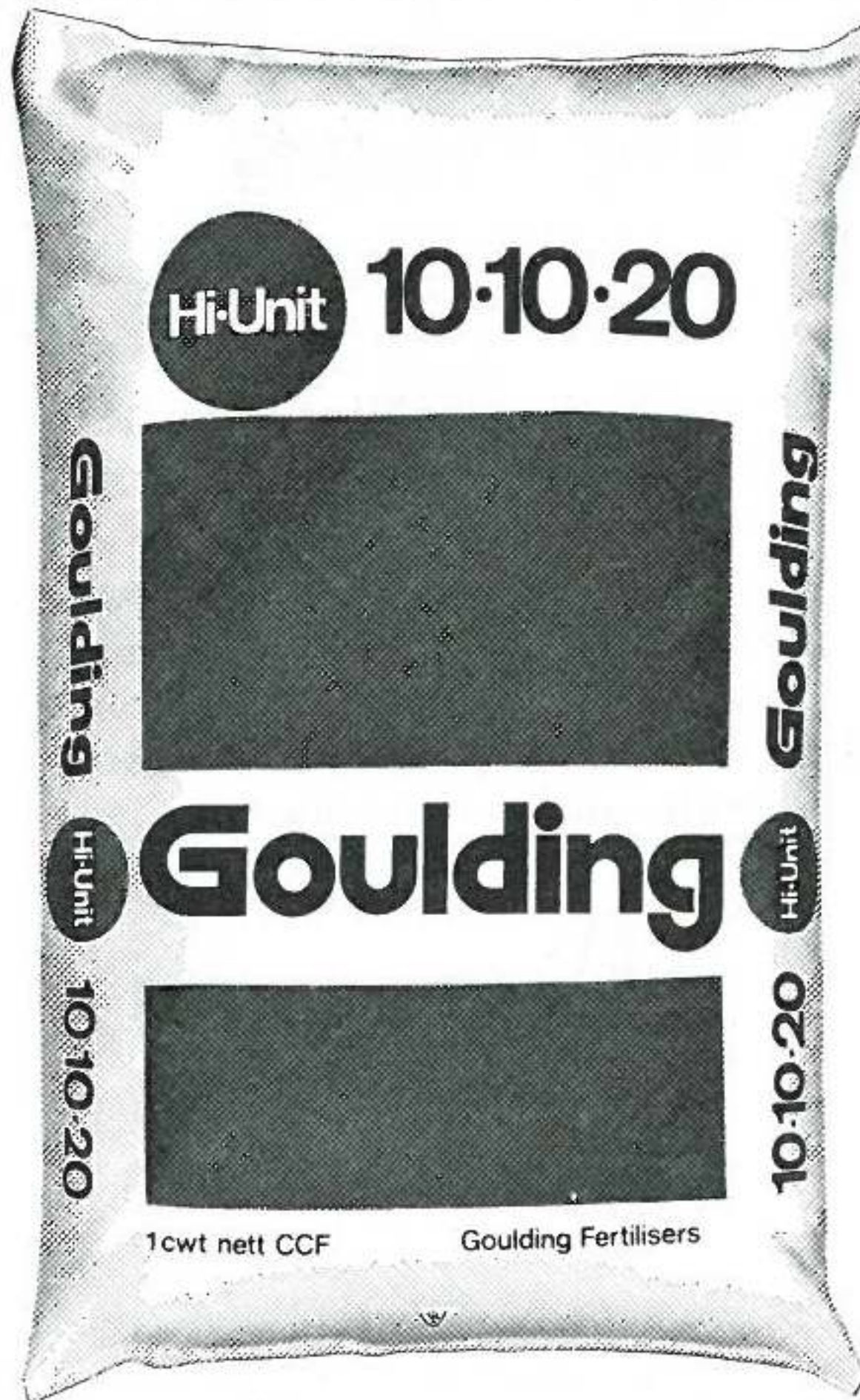
highest rewards in a short time. Everyone seemed to have the same theme in their talk — that Waterford were hurling's dark horses and they knew it. The common denominator in all remarks, however, was the same — Seamus Power.

There is a whole mystique around the great-hearted enthusiastic man who has taken over the training, coaching and selection (with a committee) of the county hurlers. Power is a legend in his own lifetime in Waterford: most of the players on the present team that he manages were hero-worshipping school-boys when he was one of the great players of the fifties and the first half of the sixties. Needless to say, something of the same awe still exists.

Having watched some training sessions and some of the county's recent matches, it is quite remarkable the manner in which Waterford's team responds to Power. Everything he says is gospel to these lads; they simply seem to have made a general act of faith in Seamus and under that umbrella-attitude accept that all his orders and all his suggestions are beyond the need for question or argument. It is an extraordinary thing to see, nowa-

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Goulding Hi-Unit CCF



**maintain
soil fertility
- increase
profits.**

Watching Waterford

● FROM PAGE 21

days. A perfect example of what a great player who needs no recommendation from anyone but that of his own record and reputation can do for and with young players.

By all appearances, Seamus has a free hand: you notice all the officianos, official and otherwise, standing around chatting about old days and present days and future days around the corner, comparing the new men with the greats of the past, but they content themselves with that. With the players, it is just Power: on the field, training them and with them, hurling with them, calling the shots and deciding the schedules, doing the talking before, during and after matches, laying the tactical plots and heaping up the fires of the spirit.

It is true that Waterford hurling was at ebb tide for some years: it had to be, I suppose, after the exciting times of Power and Grimes, Frankie Walsh, Tom Cunningham, Cheasty and Austin Flynn, John Kiely, Martin Og Morrissey and Larry Guinan. Reaction was inevitable; such a galaxy would make even bright stars scarcely visible. The public reacted too, probably, and the sense of extraordinary community involvement one felt on visits to Waterford around the end of the fifties and the early sixties drained away and left the county team rather like so many half-stranded fishes.

There was great anger, one remembers, that Waterford were classed as Division I B material when the new form of league began a few years back. In high dudgeon and a certain feeling of disdain they went forth carelessly to dismiss these lesser mortals from their path. And the

result was that it took two years to learn that such an attitude would not do, because lesser mortals prepare themselves with greater care because they are lesser mortals, and raise themselves to their best when facing those thought to be their betters. Secondly, and even more important, because Waterford had fallen even further than they realised.

One gathers that it was after the failure to gain promotion last year that the realisation crept in: especially as they nearly upturned Kilkenny in the play-off stages of the League, and afterwards felt they might have been much closer to Cork in the championship had they the experience of playing constantly in higher company. Firm resolutions were made: Davy Duggan, Paddy Coady, Mick Foley, John Kirwan, Jackie Whelan, Martin Hickey—players with some time spent in the team, apparently got down to talking “turkey” with the newer players and with Seamus Power, so that everyone pledged everything to get out of second grade hurling this winter . . . to give themselves a chance to see what they could do.

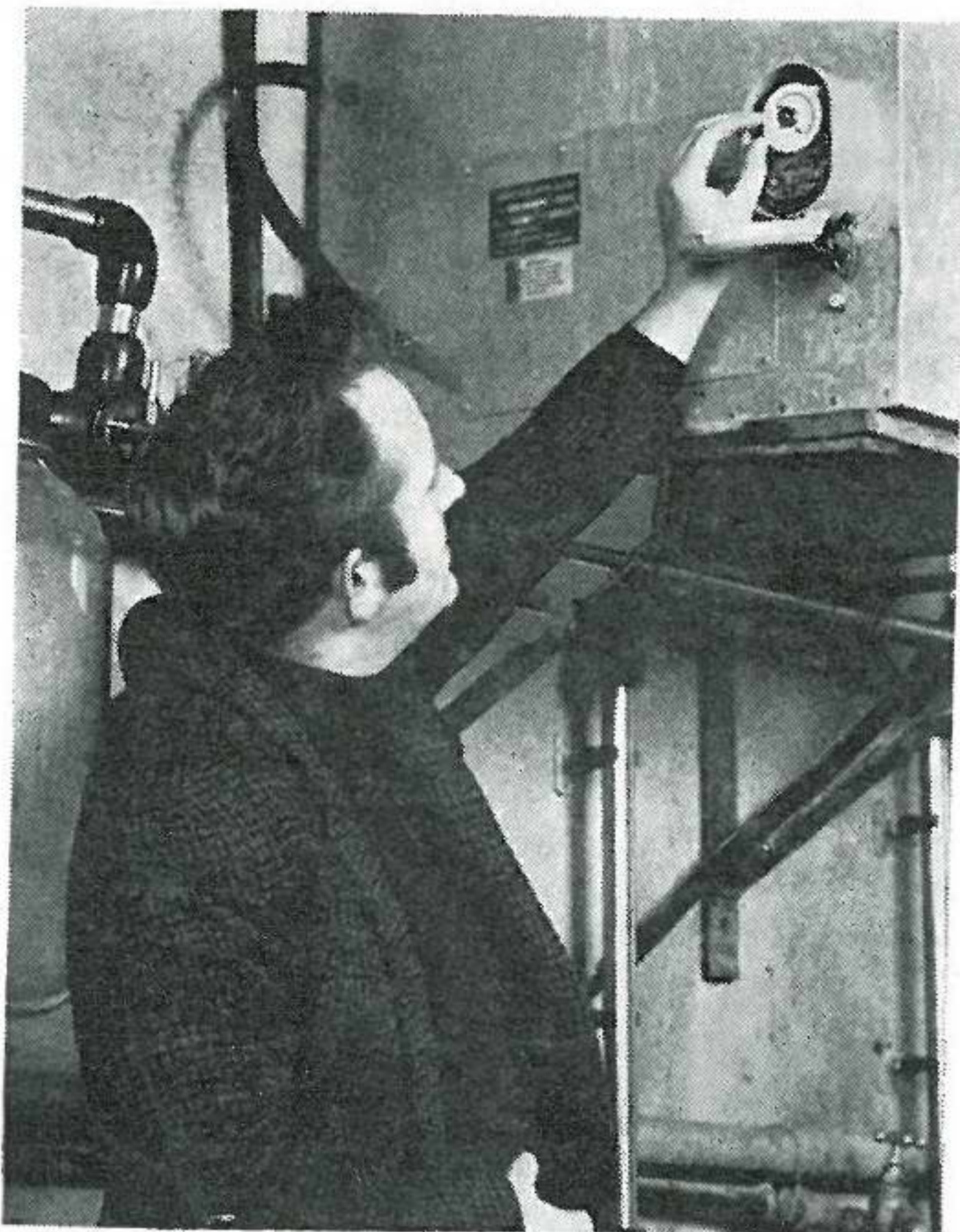
One feels that this was a lucky time to make the decision — though probably these more experienced players and officials realised, at the time, that there was a clutch of fine young prospects coming along. It is probable that shrewd chaps like Kirwan, Duggan and Coady would have had some punishing championship games at home trying to subdue some of these bustling young hopefuls and realised, in consequence, that plentiful material was on the horizon. From what one can see of them — and I have recently watched

them play in three games—almost every man they try out for the team has masses of potential and I understand the senior panel has begun to stretch involuntarily to 30 or more. Happy for the selectors who are more bothered with that kind of problem than wondering how on earth they are going to find enough good players to fill 20 places.

Last year we saw all the exciting power and skill of young Galvin — one of the future greats, to be sure, like his father Billy. Then Jim Greene came through with the Mount Sion team which recaptured their county's title; Shamey Hannon and Liam Canning showed their worth and their grit and spirit; Andy Heffernan, improving through several forward positions, has blossomed at midfield; Martin Geary forced himself to attention; Tom Doyle seized his chance, Garry Cunningham and Peter Whelan compelled recognition; Stephen Greene was already good enough to get on this year's Munster team; it only begins there, I am told.

We have heard that “Fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong”; but, if Waterford do not reach exciting heights, it will certainly mean that about 20,000 or so Waterford people are going to be wrong. Don't quote me on that All-Ireland talk; but you can quote me on the fact that this is a very fine team, still improving, almost fanatically willing, and it means that another county may be added to the top five or six for future reference. And that is surely the best news hurling has had for a long time . . . Come to think of it, it is probably Waterford's own funny way of saying thanks to Pat Fanning by providing his dearest wish and desire — that hurling can be revived, restored and reinvigorated where the spirit and the flesh are willing to try.

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SUCCESS COMES IN CYCLES

FOR one reason or another that is not easily explained, success appears to come to Waterford in hurling in cycles of nine to ten years. A brief look back at the county's achievements in the code will bear this out.

In 1929 Waterford won the All-Ireland minor championship — the county's first-ever All-Ireland title in any grade. After nine years the county struck it rich again by lifting the Munster Senior Championship for the first time. Waterford then beat Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final, but lost the decider to Dublin. So, there was no All-Ireland medal for such greats as Charlie Ware, Dec. Goode and W. Barron.

Then, ten years later, came Waterford's first real breakthrough, when, in 1948, the Decies won both the senior and minor All-Ireland championships. Jim Ware captained the senior outfit, and for John Keane, Christy Moylan and Mick Hickey, it proved sweet revenge for the defeat suffered ten years earlier.

Nine more years elapsed before Waterford made their mark again. Then 1957 ushered in a golden era lasting six years, and which came to an end with an unexpected defeat by Kilkenny in the 1963 senior final.

In that memorable six years period, Waterford won every competition — All-Ireland senior (1959), National League (1962-63), Oireachtas Cup (1962) and Munster championships (1957, 1959 and 1963). A proud record, certainly, and one that in the opinion of many shrewd judges was still scant enough reward for a talented team.

The men who were drafted into the Waterford side after 1963 had, understandably enough, a difficult task in following on in the footsteps of hurlers of the

By
**MICHAEL
DOWLING**

calibre of Cheasty, Grimes and Cunningham, who were all household names. The morale of the team was at a very low ebb, and the final nail in the coffin seemed to be driven home in 1970, when Waterford found themselves in the National Hurling League Division II.

At that stage the first priority was to regain a place in the premier Division. It was not to be, however.

Some improvement was shown in the 1971-72 League. Kilkenny were stretched to the full in the quarter-final, and although beaten Waterford came to believe in themselves. But because the form in the Kilkenny game had not been displayed in some of the earlier games, Galway had gained promotion to Division I and Waterford remained in the lower group.

Now, after a ten year period in the wilderness the big question is this: Is history about to repeat itself? Waterford certainly appear to be on the threshold of an important breakthrough.

The game against Cork in the Munster championship last May appeared to confirm the form displayed against Kilkenny, and it was then that the seeds of the present resurgence were sown.

The first game in the current League was against Laois, who were highly fancied after their fine championship bid against Kilkenny. Waterford had a well-merited if narrow win, and then gained a great fillip with a good win against Kildare, who had beaten them in two previous League meetings.

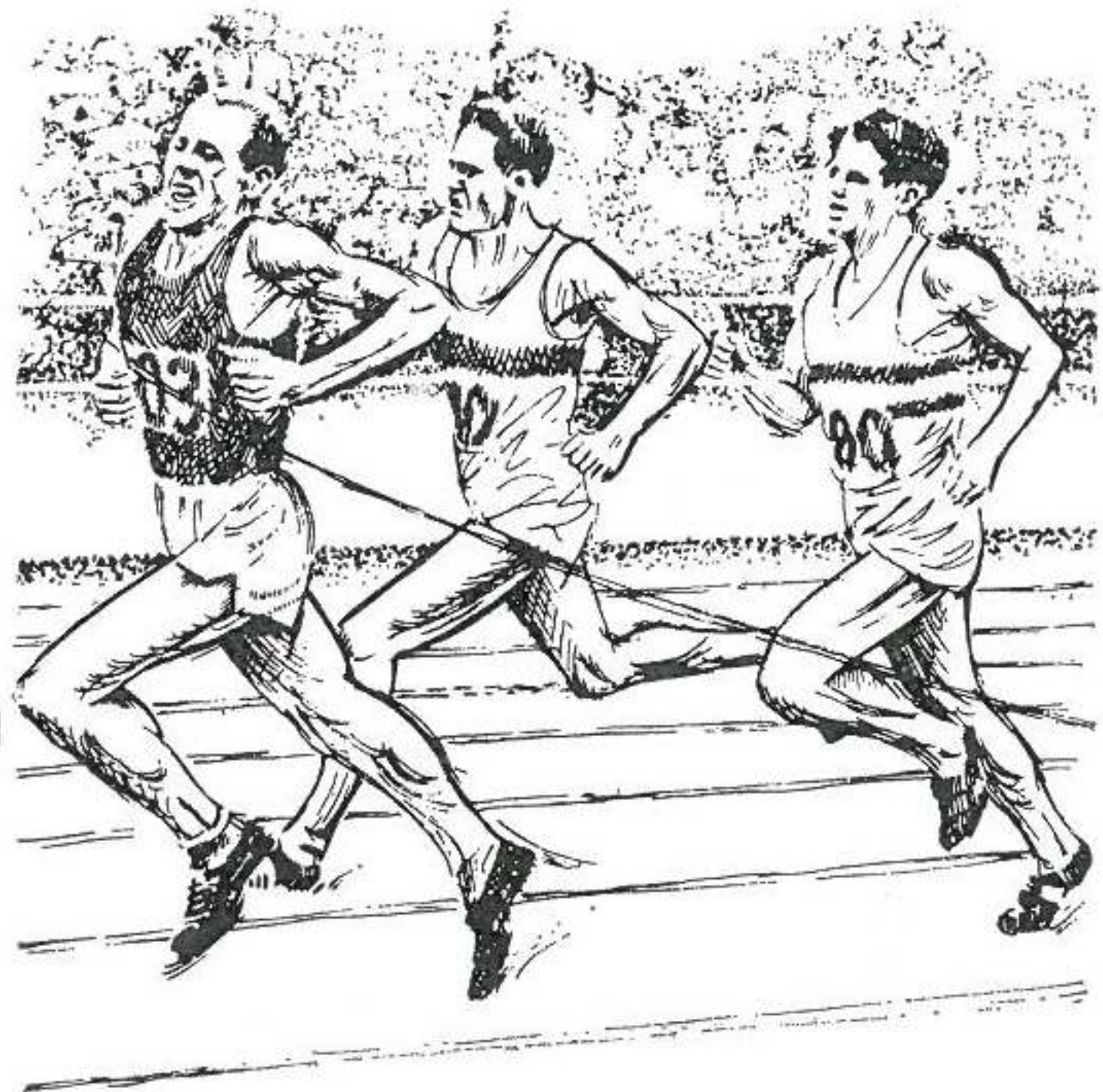
Since then, Waterford have gone from success, to success, with a series of impressive performances that had the county through to the League quarter-finals, and also assured of Division I status next season at the time we went to press.

The re-emergence of Waterford will be warmly welcomed by all lovers of hurling, for the game badly needs new faces. As to whether or not this year will prove another one of golden memories, after some ten years in the wilderness, only time will tell.

But this is an intriguing and distinct possibility that will undoubtedly help to liven up the hurling scene in the months ahead.

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ALL SQUARE

A SHORT STORY : By EAMONN YOUNG

THOSE football boots were the finest pair I had seen in this boarding school of ours. The summer sun sparkled on their shining black toe-puffs; the laces stood out snow-white. And they were tied on to the least athletic feet in the whole school, for Albert Goodbody was a tubby fifteen-year-old, knock knees, fat neck holding up pudgy head from which two brown eyes peered through thick glasses at a world where sport trailed a long way behind school-books and good food. Albert's people were well off and he had the best of everything, clothes, parcels of grub from home and now the boots. As we kicked the ball under the warm sun that danced upon the green carpet of springing grass I envied Albert.

"Wouldn't yer man give ye the gawk," says Timmy Cooke with his hands on his hips. "You wouldn't mind but the aul eejit wouldn't kick snow off a rope." Timmy in the same class, was a pal of mine. My father wasn't able to give me an expensive pair of football boots, but the old pair got too small for the big brother and they did fine. Timmy didn't have even a pair of hand-me-downs. Pity, for he was a good player for a junior, and a smashing left-footed shot. A valuable man on my team in the school league.

"There's a new pair of football boots missing," said Fr. McGilligan, staring straight at a bunch of us so-called hardy boys. "Any of you see them?" No Father . . . no one . . . no sign . . . who owned 'em . . . Goodbody . . . what does HE want 'em for? Oh, the new ones . . . God, they were lovely . . . lads who has 'em?

Hey nix . . . keep your trap shut . . .

The following Tuesday Timmy appeared in the boots which had come from home. Nice they were, polished brown over black and the laces were good but dirty. To put two and two together you didn't have to be Steve McGarrett. After the practice as we were togging off Albert was standing around saying nothing but just looking.

"Get to hell outa here," rasped Timmy at the scatter of first year fellas but a deaf man would suspect that the advice was intended to go farther afield. It did. "That four-eyed clawhammer," grunted Timmy.

Three days later we played Beefy Mulligan's outfit in the final of the League. No one liked him for he was a bully but standing six feet and twice as thick, there was nobody dashing up to say what we thought of him. Anyway it was a great game . . . of course it was . . . my side won, and Timmy Cooke scored a screw-driver goal with the ball turning in the air and the goalie all wrong. For once we ran around big Beefy in the middle of the field and laughed all the way for the cup from Fr McGilligan. Beefy raging off the field, beaten personally and team-wise, bumped into Albert gazing moon-faced at everything as usual through the thick glasses.

"Get outa me way," gritted Beefy and he spun the smaller lad around with a vicious shove."

"Please . . . stop bullying," quoted Albert in a high, precise voice.

The answer was a round-

house right which split Albert's cheek, broke his glasses and dropped him on the grass like a maggot.

Suddenly there was a flurry of arms and scrawny legs as a thin body in togs launched itself straight at Beefy's throat and grabbed. Beefy snarled like a dog, clawed the small fella from him, held poor Timmy with one big hairy hand and smashed a ham fist into his thin face . . . once . . . twice . . . three times.

Afraid of our lives, but driven mad we all piled in then, but the damage was done and after Beefy had thumped a few of us he disengaged himself smartly and trotted across the field to where the priest was driving a sliotar with Puck Moriarty, the teacher

I wiped some of the blood from Timmy's face where he sat on the stone. I had never seen him as a hero and my look must have said just that. To stick up for Albert Goodbody of all people. Still better say nothing.

Timmy looked down at the feet still encased in the black and tan football boots, and rubbed his bloody nose gently. "Maybe 'twill even things up a bit," he said quietly.

That night we were going up the stairs to the dormitories. Timmy had his head down; it was still spinning I suppose. Behind him climbed Albert Goodbody. As the two reached the landing where they would part for their own rooms the boy with the broken spectacles and the swollen face shyly caught the other's arm.

"Thanks Timmy," he whispered. "That makes it all square."

**There are
people
who'd like
to say:**

LET PAT LEA

IT is too easy to be facile; too difficult to be exhaustive and too dangerous to make broad statements in assessing the term of office of Pádraig Ó Fainín whose wonderful, exciting three years seem to have flown and must end in his home town at Easter. Perhaps the simple is the best way: that if Ó Fainín were to make a definite statement to-morrow that he wanted to stand again for a further three years that all of Ireland would say "To hell with the rules", tell the Commission to go boil their collective heads and say in unison: "Let Pat lead on."

No disrespect for the new man or any other in the field, (except sympathy at having to follow Ó Fainín in office) but rather an expression of the regard in which he is so widely held throughout the Association. And a bye-product of the work which he has put into the affairs of the G.A.A. over the past three years during which he has set everyone such a crippling pace that it must be like a rest to have a change. Not merely in dynamism of a physical kind, however, did Ó Fainín dominate, but because of his extreme fertility of mind and his eternally fresh approach to everything, his periscope fixed on the horizons of the future rather than those of the past.

The extraordinary thing is, I suppose, that it was with something of reluctance and fear of the consequences that the Association elected Fanning at all. Remember that he had been

turned down twice previously; especially when he was beaten by Seamus Ó Riain he had almost been a certainty. But wheels seemed to grind always within wheels to keep him out of the highest office.

There had long been an impression of Fanning the fanatic,

While it is true that he has set himself and maintained an absolutely killing pace, his great triumph has been, surely, that he was one of the few Presidents we have ever had who appreciated that his position was one from which he could get an immensity of work done through the co-ordination of and the delegation to groups of experts in particular fields those matters that needed attention in those fields.

Greater still in making an impression has been the manner in which, once he had appointed a committee, commission or group

**By
JAY DRENNAN**

the emphasis being wrongly laid only on the national and spiritual aspects of his fanaticism, a small thing by comparison with his fanaticism for all the positive and possible goals of the G.A.A.

How those who felt him a firebrand must now regret their opposition. For he truly turned out to be a firebrand that gave the spark to every aspect of the Association's thinking and doing.

to work out something, he never deserted them, never allowed them to be bothered by what might have been said, stood by them and even joined them if the going got tough. As a result of this many people through the Association will not have heard a word said against Fanning because he stuck to his principles and to his word, and when the pressures were on the Associ-

D ON!

ation people he did not walk away.

The Commission and its findings and the complete up-dating of the G.A.A. with a view to the challenges of the future must be the main monument to his Presidency, of course. It is doubtful, perhaps, if anyone could have got away with the sweep of changes both in operation and in organisation that Fanning piloted so skillfully through Congress. But, it was the full circle of the wheel — the man to whom many would not give an inch years ago was now the one to whom they would not deny an inch. The working out of a guilt complex, maybe, but, whatever, it means in simplest language that no more than that achievement can any man hope to gain for himself.

Were there frustrations? Yes, of course. There is a rankling disappointment that New York has not been entirely smoothed back into the pattern of the Association, a particular desire of the President. But things have not worked out that way and, therefore, a point not resolved. A second one not resolved is the question of hurling, for, while Fanning was leading and supporting every move for hurling im-



● Pádraig Ó Fainín, Uachtarán C.L.G., receiving a specially bound copy of the Report of the Commission on the G.A.A. from its Chairman, Pádraig Mac Con Midhe, himself a former President of the Association. The Report and the skillful manner in which he piloted it through the Special Congress will be the greatest monument to the Presidency of Pádraig Ó Fainín.

provement, it must still be said that he knows the war is not yet won. Yet, the fact that at least two or three battles have been won in that war must give good reason for further successes.

At the start of Fanning's Presidency the question of publications and suitable writings for young and old was a dire strain on the Association. Having set his face in that direction he was again successful to the extent that it is almost becoming an embarrassment to followers to try to keep up with all the new books, Year-books and magazines.

Yet, if one thing were to mark his Presidency from the ordinary, it surely was the manner in which he stepped right out of the starch and stiffening of high office to get down to the level of the people. The fact that he was so admired as a G.A.A. man and as a President by many prominent players who have now gone on record to say so, crossed a ravine that has always tended to divide the players from the officials and the officials from the top brass.

He could talk their language, voice their opinions, listen to their points of view without loss of credibility. And it made him a mighty influence in binding the Association when it needed it so badly.

And that is all just scratching the surface of a stint of duty that was the most physically punishing that exists in any voluntary office in the world to-day, yet finds Ó Fainín entering the final straight bouncing and bubbling with the same effervescence with which he took on the post. Full of new ideas and new slants every time you meet him, how different he is from so many Presidents who seem to have been worn out by the job before they came to the end of the term. On the contrary, Fanning has almost worn the job out. If it could have a persona it would surely be heard shouting out pleas to be rid of its torturer, asking for a nice, steady, unambitious person to give it time to get itself in order once again.

THE CAMOGIE SCENE

Observed by **AGNES HOURIGAN**

MARCH will see the semi-finals and final of the All-Ireland Club camogie championship, an event that is growing in prestige with each passing year. Admitting that camogie has not as many counties to cater for,

the fact remains that the Camogie Association was running an All-Ireland club championship for years before the G.A.A. ever managed to get around to such a competition in either hurling or football.

The All-Ireland club camogie championship got off to an unofficial start. In 1964 it was decided to mark the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Camogie Association by holding a club competition for a special trophy, the Jubilee Cup. This was won by the Dublin champions, Celtic, and provided such stars as Una O'Connor and Alice Hussey with the unusual distinction of winning two All-Ireland medals in the same year.

The Jubilee club competition proved so successful that the Annual Congress decided to make a club championship an annual event.

Congress had good reason for adopting such a course, for the Jubilee Cup aroused considerable enthusiasm and produced some memorable games, particularly the semi-final drawn game and replay between Celtic and Glen Rovers of Cork, and the Croke Park final between Celtic and Deirdre of Antrim.

An anonymous friend of the game donated a Cup and set of medals, and the first official All-Ireland club championship was staged in the closing months of 1965.

We had surprise winners, the Tipperary club, St. Patrick's, from Glengoole-Ballingarry. Led by Anne Carroll and the Graham sisters, and with a goalkeeper of particular excellence in Sally Long, St. Patrick's were very deserving winners and thus brought the first-ever All-Ireland title to Tipperary. In the following season, St. Patrick's retained the title, defeating in the final the club that was later to become the record breakers of the competition, St. Paul's of Kilkenny.

In those years, the Dublin champions did not participate

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because some of the early matches were played during their closed season.

In the following year, however, the then Dublin champions Eoghan Ruadh, won through in Leinster and then figured in a most exciting drawn final with Galway's Oranmore at Parnell Park.

Central Council officials were anxious that extra time should be played but the Galway club opted for a spring replay in Balinasloe, and possibly made a wrong choice for they were heavily defeated in the second clash, and Eoghan Ruadh, with the great Wexford player Margaret O'Leary outstanding, brought this particular trophy to Dublin for the first time.

In the meantime, St. Paul's had been gathering strength and they caused something of a surprise when, in the 1968 season, they overcame all Leinster opposition and then went on to take the All-Ireland title, defeating the Ulster champions, Bellaghy from Derry, and Limerick and Munster title holders, Ahane.

In the following year, St. Paul's retained their title again, counting Ahane among their victims.

In this victory, Ann Carroll set up a remarkable record. She had won the first two All-Ireland club championships with the Tipperary side, St. Patrick's. In the following year, the family built a house outside Kilkenny and went to live there.

She then played with St. Paul's and won two more All-Ireland championships with her new club.

In the 1970-71 season, however, Ann Carroll, and goalkeeper Jo Golden who, as university students, had been entitled to play both with St. Paul's and U.C.D., both graduated, and many felt that their departure would weaken the Kilkenny club side disastrously. But St. Paul's were

so much in the habit of victory by then that they went on to take the title for the third consecutive year, their most notable victory on the way to the final being that over Dublin champions Austin Stacks at Croke Park.

But Stacks had their turn. They defeated St. Paul's in the Leinster final last year and then went on to account in turn for Portglenone (Antrim) and Thurles (Tipperary) to take the title for the first time. Now they

are in the semi-finals again, but they have to travel west to take on Oranmore, the Connacht and Galway champions who, with many experienced players, could prove very hard to beat on home ground.

In the other semi-final, Portglenone are at home to the Limerick and Munster champions, Ahane. The first semi-final is on March 4, the second on March 11, and the final is scheduled for March 25.



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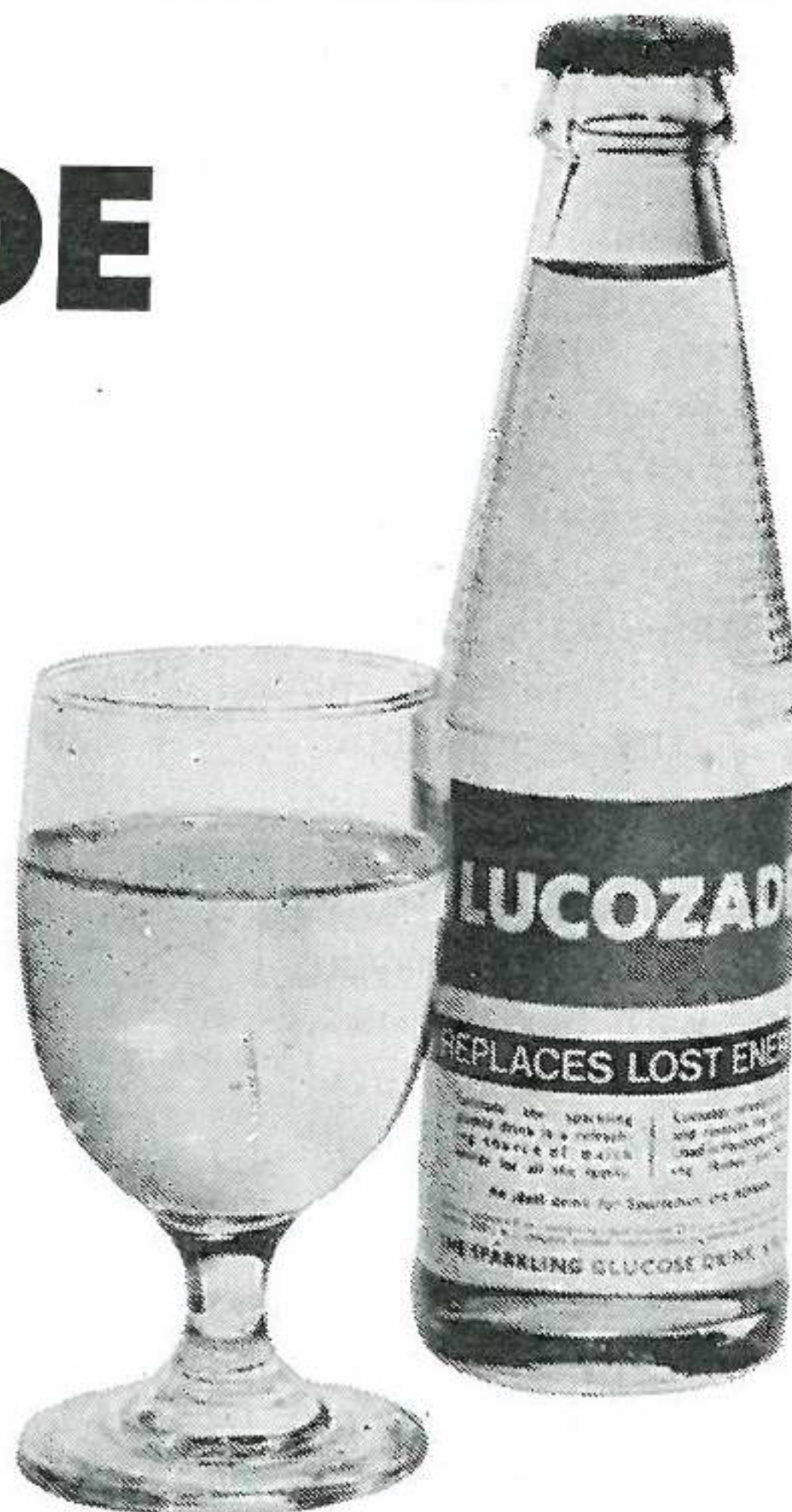
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WHEELS OF CHANGE ROLL IN LEITRIM

By Sean Rice

L EITRIM have long been the no-hopers of Connacht football . . . the Cinderella team always dismissed when prospects within the province are being weighed up. Their football was synonymous with the socio-economic depression in the county. Migration and emigration had left their marks and in the eyes of those who remained could be read a desperate apathy.

I once asked an official about the county's chances against Mayo in the first round of that year's championship. He shook his head and I saw the hopelessness of the situation.

"Leitrim are beaten before they take the field at all," he said. "They will not even train for the game, because they know it's useless."

All that is now beginning to change. It has taken considerable effort to get the wheels of change rolling. But a good start has been made and although it may be a few years before Leitrim reap any rewards, the signs are hopeful.

County secretary Tony McGowan told me that it all began three years ago when the

county boards decided to set up a commission to investigate the reasons for the failure of the G.A.A. within the county and to make recommendations.

"Two years ago, most of the recommendations made by the commission were adopted by convention. Among these was the imposition of a fine on club teams starting games late, and the setting up of a referees committee independent of the county board.

"The county senior championship was also streamlined. It now consists of winners and losers groups which has brought about a big improvement in the standard of play.

"As a result the spectators have come pouring back to games within the county. Last year there was a record gate for the senior championship final between Ballinamore and Mohill, and that record was twice the amount of the previous record," he said.

Perhaps one of the greatest things about Leitrim's upsurge is that nearly all the present county senior players are living in the county . . . far cry from the time when all but two of the team lived in other parts of the

country.

This is reflected in their two away wins, over Armagh and Antrim, in the current National League. And just before Christmas they had another heartening win . . . this time over Sligo in the Gael-Linn Cup competition. Later, they gave Down a close run in the League.

"All this has created a new spirit within the county," said Tony McGowan. "As well as having Ben Wryne selected on the Connacht team for the third year running, we have also got Tony Mulvey, Sean Kavanagh and Dermot Gannon among the subs.

"Dermot Gannon came out of retirement to play with us again. It is nearly eight years since he last played for the county, and along with Ben Wryne and the evergreen Pakie McGarty, has brought out the best in the younger members of the team, most of whom were on the county under-21 side last season

"At the moment, we have a senior panel of 27 players, most of them training under the guidance of Sean Kavanagh at Ballinamore. But of that panel

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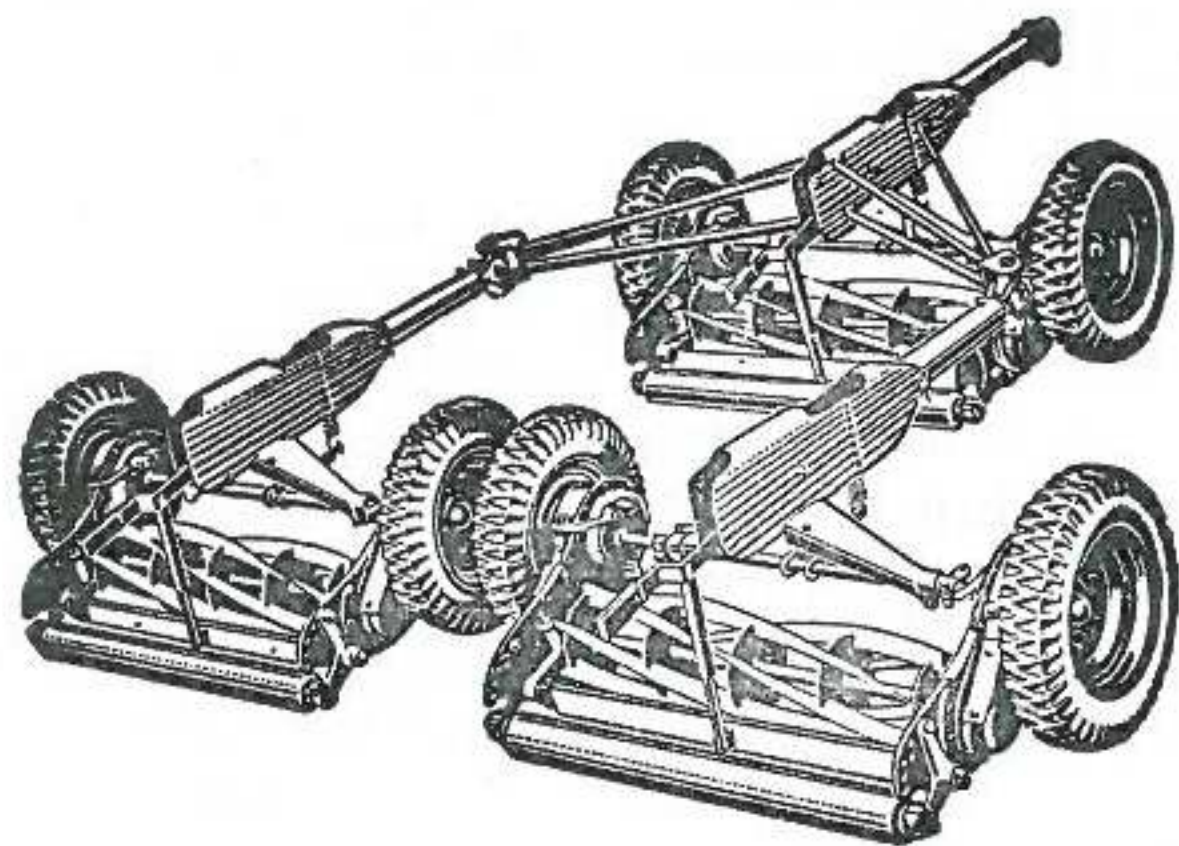
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● FROM PAGE 33

only about 18 players are of senior standard and we are hoping they can be groomed into a solid unit."

The Leitrim secretary says that interest in the game has not been so high for many years, and if they can manage to maintain this level they will be able to look to bigger and better things on the field.

Even now, the thought of having to meet Mayo in the first round of this year's Connacht championship holds no fears for the players. A new confidence is being instilled into each player and in fact all are now looking forward to that game.

There was once a time . . . in the Fifties . . . when Leitrim held no fears for any team in Connacht. And no team could dismiss Leitrim lightly. But admirable though their spirit was. they never managed to take the provincial title. Their last and only such title was won way back in the 'Twenties.

Over the past decade, they have fallen on hard times, their failure rooted in apathy and neglect. Now, the county board has begun to treat the roots, has begun to build and to invest in youth.

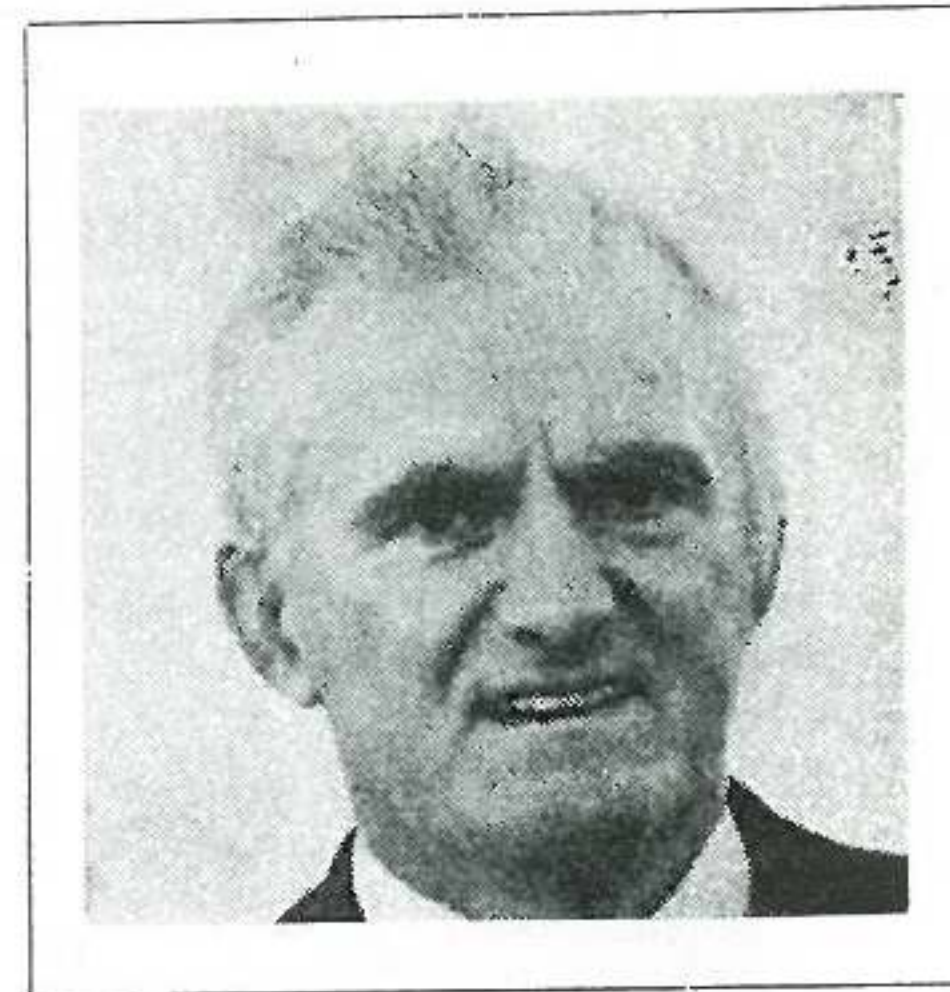
It is too early yet to suggest they will soon be a force. But eventually Leitrim will emerge again. The determination to succeed is now evident.

**LEINSTER COUNCIL
FIXTURES**

THE draw for the Leinster Minor Hurling Championship proper as published in our February, 1973 issue should have read as follows :

1. Ua bhFáilí v Cill Dara;
 2. Loch Garman v 1;
 3. Laois v Ath Cliath;
 4. Cill Choinnigh v 3;
- An Craobh : 2 v 4.

Donal Keenan the fancied runner



● Dr. Donal Keenan

AT least five presidential candidates have already been listed as in the race for the highest office in the Gaelic Athletic Association; though we may well see some further nominations before the closing date. However, of the five whose names have already been mentioned, Tom Loftus (Dublin), Mick Feeney (Monaghan), Frank Muldoon (Donegal), Paddy McFlynn (Down) and Dr. Donal Keenan (Roscommon), there can be no doubt that as far as general opinion throughout the country is concerned, Dr. Keenan will be looked upon as the most fancied candidate.

There are many reasons for this, the first of those being, of course, the qualifications of the man himself. Donal Keenan was one of the stars of the great Roscommon side that made football history by winning the All-Ireland titles of 1943 and 1944. He won a Dublin championship and several Sigerson Cup medals with U.C.D. and played for Connacht in a Railway Cup final.

Despite the calls of a busy professional career, he continued his interest in the Association when his playing days were over.

In a comparatively short time he had become chairman of the Roscommon County Board, a position he filled with considerable distinction until early this year. The work he has done within the county in the provision of playing fields is remarkable, and the new Hyde Park in Roscommon, with its magnificent Social Centre, is to a large extent a lasting monu-

ment to Dr. Keenan's energy and enthusiasm.

Though top success on the playing fields did not come, his interest in the players has always been an outstanding trait of his administrative years, and helped largely in the county's march to an under-21 victory some few years ago.

Moreover, during recent years, as chairman of the Connacht Council, and a vice-president of the G.A.A., Donal Keenan has made a considerable contribution to the Association at the highest level. He was a very prominent member of the recent Special Commission and an able defender of its recommendations.

There are other, non-personal, factors which could tell in Dr. Keenan's favour. Only once in the past 40 years has a professional man sought the highest office in the G.A.A.

He was another medical man, Dr. Joe Stuart, and there can be no doubt but that not alone was Joe Stuart a very able President, but that his personal standing gave the prestige of the entire Association a "lift" in circles which had been accustomed to assume that relatively few members of the professions were to be found within the ranks of the G.A.A.

Furthermore, Connacht has not had a President since another Roscommon man, Dan O'Rourke, was elected nearly 30 years ago.

Oddly enough, one man who might well have gained the office, never sought it. He was Brendan Nestor from Dunmore, who was chairman of the Connacht Council, but never aspired to the Central Council chair.

Now that Dr. Keenan has been nominated it is extremely unlikely that any other candidate from the West will be nominated in opposition, and yet Connacht has plenty of possible presidential material in reserve as it were.

There seems to be a tradition against clerical Presidents (there has never been one in the entire history of the G.A.A.), yet if that unwritten rule were ever relaxed what better representative of the Gaelic-minded clergy than Mayo's chairman, Fr. Leo Morahan.

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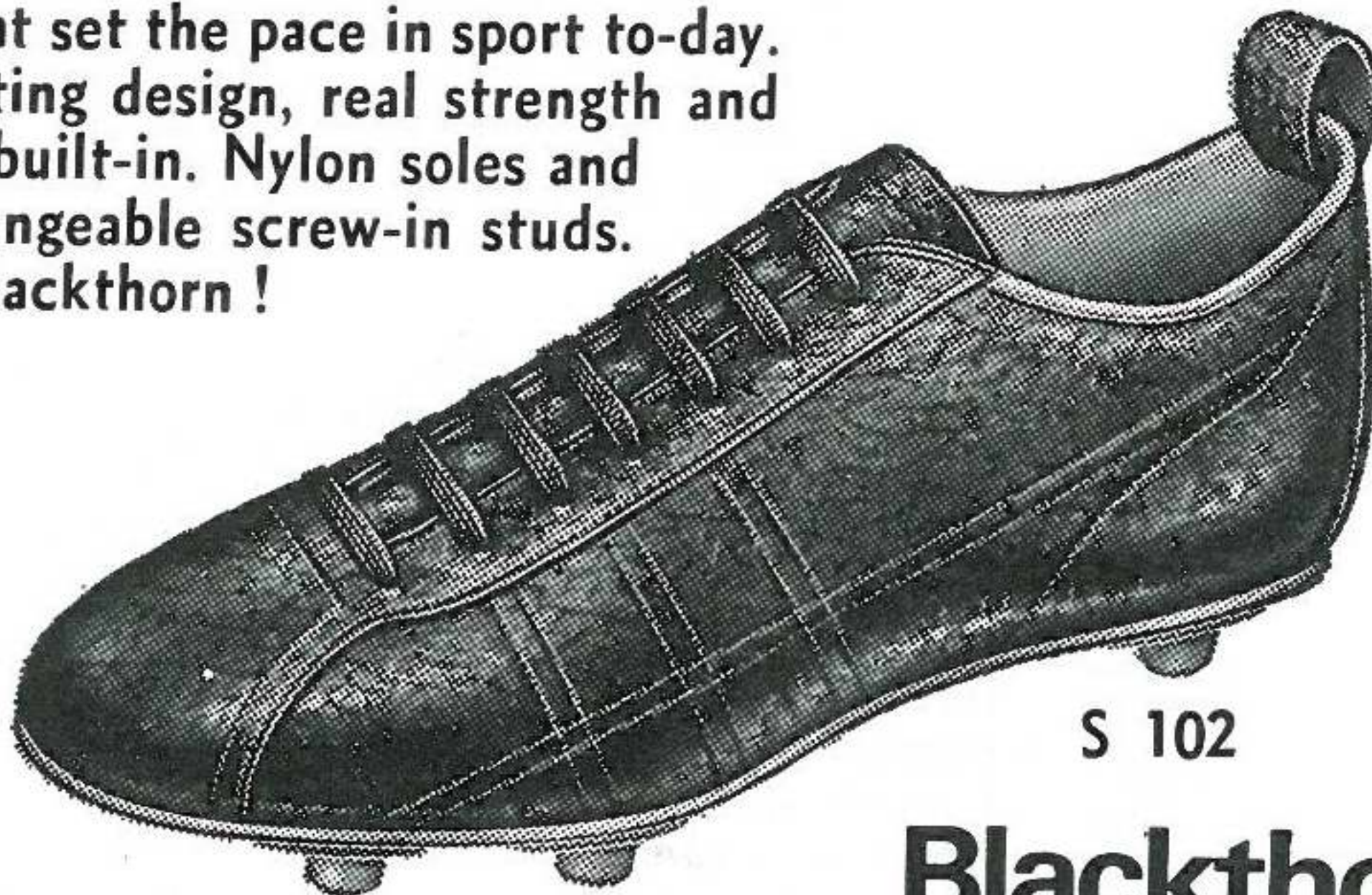
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The decline of Meath and the reasons

WHY

By NOEL COOGAN

“WHAT’S gone wrong in Meath?” I take those words from a short letter sent to me by “Gaelic Sport” Editor Tommy McQuaid a few weeks ago. Tommy went on to remind me of the ironic fact that the Royal County’s fortunes are very low at present and then asked me to suggest what steps are needed to get Meath back on top again.

The Editor probably felt that a Meathman would be the best person to come up with a suitable remedy to cure the problems besetting his favourite inter-county football team. But, believe me, putting the finger on the cause or causes of Meath’s recent slump is easier said than done.

At the time of writing the wearers of the green and gold have played five National League games and only twice emerged victorious. By the time these words appear in print they may well have avoided the dreaded drop to the Second Division, but not, I dare suggest, before they have given their supporters, whatever of them are left, some anxious moments.

This time last year the situation was much the same, with Meath only lifting themselves clear of the relegation zone with a last round win over Antrim. That was, in fact, only their third success from seven outings.

In between, the two aforementioned league campaigns the Royal County had a short championship run. A victory over

Longford gave hopes of a return to former glory, but Offaly put paid to such ideas with a convincing nine points victory in the Leinster semi-final.

While Meath were well beaten that day, they certainly were not disgraced. They fought hard all the way and weren’t beaten for lack of effort.

I remember coming home from Croke Park on that fine summer’s evening and discussing with a few fellow supporters what went wrong and also what the future might hold for Meath football. Our views were mixed and varied, but, on the whole we did not foresee the coming months as being hopeless.

That game against Offaly was to see the disappearance from the scene of two old favourites, Mick White and Terry Kearns. The latter will be long remembered for scoring the winning goal in the 1967 All-Ireland final, while the former gave a second to none service to his native county.

However, the selectors obviously decided that the time had come for these players, among others, to be replaced, and when Meath lined out for their opening encounter in the current



● BERTIE CUNNINGHAM
... great corner back and All-Ireland medal-winner in 1967—
now a Meath selector.

NEEDED TO BOOST PROSPECTS ?



Mick White



Terry Kearns



Mick Mellett

● TO PAGE 39



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● FROM PAGE 37

National League there were quite a few new faces on show. Judging by recent results the men responsible for fashioning the Royal County's footballing future are still looking for the ideal blend.

But, in fairness to the selectors, they've had their share of problems. Most of these have been caused by injuries to key players and the unavailability of others.

Last September their great-hearted interprovincial star, Ken Rennicks, aggravated an old ankle injury and has been on the sideline since and may not be back for some time.

Then about twelve months ago a young up-and-coming player called Ollie Kavanagh was making a big name for himself in the centre half back position. Just when it looked as if the East Meath defender was about to make the number six jersey his own, he broke his leg in a local club match.

Like Rennicks, Kavanagh has not returned since, but hopes are high that he may be back soon.

Meath's apparent lack of power in attack has been causing the selectors a lot of headaches of late and when long serving forward Tony Brennan recently sustained a knee injury which will keep him on the easy list for quite a while, it certainly did not help things.

Of the Meath team which brought the county its third All-Ireland senior title in 1967 only three, Jack Quinn, Pat Reynolds and Matt Kerrigan, remain. However, there are quite a few who feel that the panel's present strength could be boosted by the return of men like Mick White, Terry Kearns and Mick Mellett.

"Why drop a player if there is not a better one to replace him," is an oft used question. On the credit side, lesser-known players



Ken Rennicks



Jack Quinn



Matt Kerrigan



Pat Reynolds

like goalkeeper Frank Carberry, defenders Tommy Finnegan and Joe Brady and the midfielder Pat McManus have been showing the necessary requirements for making the grade at top level.

But, as has often been the case in the past, the forwards have been letting the county down.

In more matches than one the men up front have more or less thrown away games by frittering away opportunity after oppor-

tunity. A worrying factor has been the shortage of big men, weight and strength wise, up front. It is no secret that it takes a certain amount of strength for players to make good in the big time of Gaelic football. A small man must have a liberal amount of pluck if he is to make good.

The apparent lack of combination, particularly in attack, has been another distressing feature of Meath teams of late. However, no blame on coach Mick Campbell, whom I have often heard complaining about the failure of his charges to put into practice in matches what they were taught in training.

Indeed, Campbell's task has not been made any easier by the lack of interest by a few chosen players. The day when it was considered an honour to play for your county seems to be long gone, particularly in Meath.

There is an old saying "too many cooks spoil the broth" and with no fewer than seven selectors it could well be applied to Meath.

These are **Peter McDermott** and **Bertie Cunningham**, both former county stars, coach **Mick Campbell**, Senator **Jack Fitzgerald**, Frank Nulty plus county chairman **Colm Cromwell** and secretary **Liam Creavin**.

I cannot see much sense in such an outdated system and little valid point in having any more than three, a figure which brought such handsome rewards to Offaly.

Perhaps the modern idea of having a team-manager to act as a sole selector should be entertained in Meath in the near future. But whether this could help to cure the county's ills is debatable.

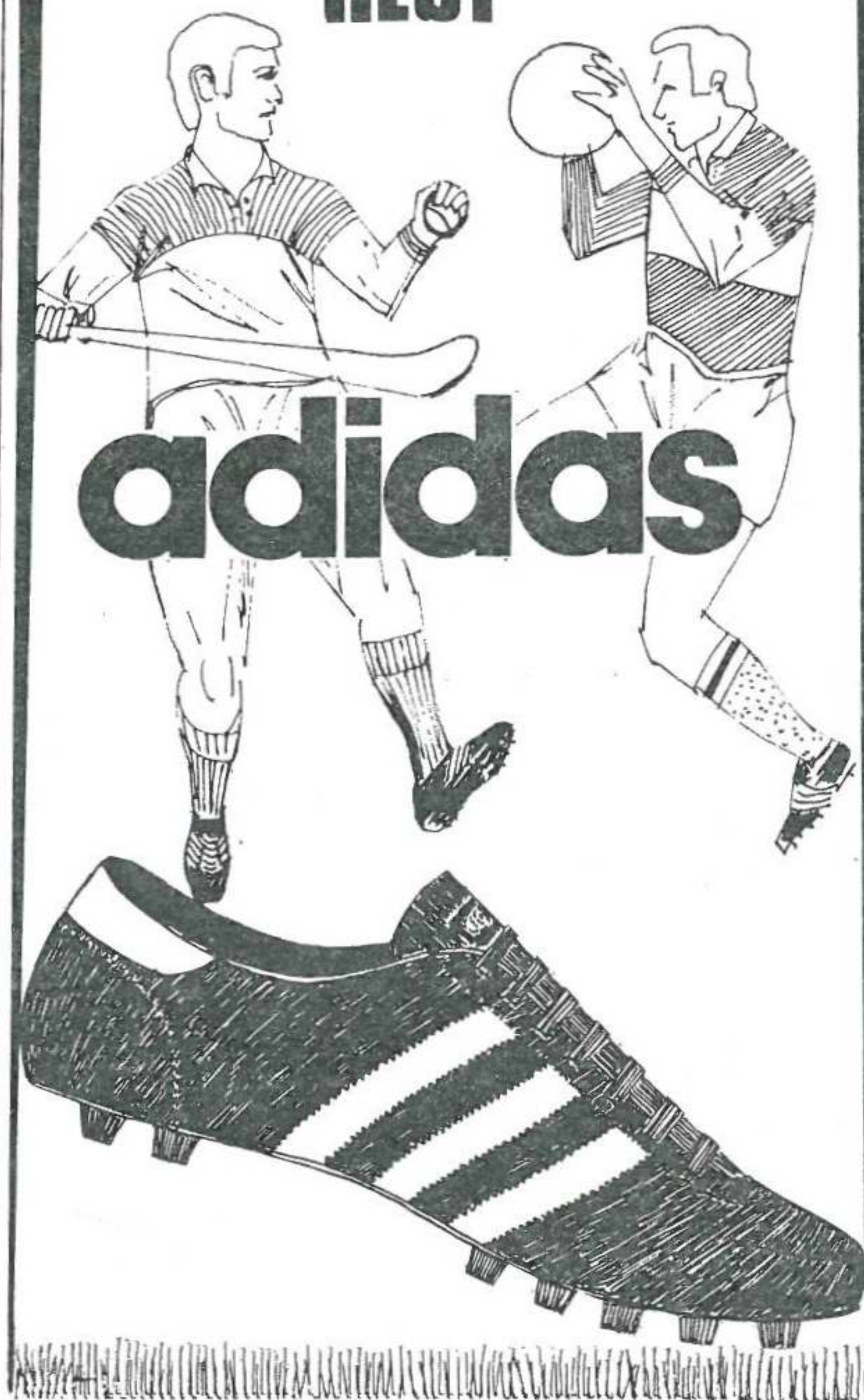
At the recent Meath county convention Colm Cromwell said that he would not be surprised if Meath regained the Leinster title next July. But I wonder if he has the material to help him do so.

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Club pattern already set

THE club pattern of the G.A.A. may be said to have been set before the Association itself was formed, for a number of club units, notably the Commercials of Limerick in football, and the Dublin Metropolitans in hurling, had chartered the road a year or more before the G.A.A. as such came into being.

The G.A.A. was only ten weeks old when the members of the first Executive decided at a meeting in Thurles that the aim of the organisation should be the formation, if possible, of a club in every parish throughout the country.

The decision to adopt the parish as the unit was a very happy choice, and played a big part in the spread of the new Association.

It was urged that membership of clubs be confined to the parish — and that only one club be formed in a parish — such club to be responsible for the organisation of athletic, hurling and football teams. The number of players on a hurling or football team was fixed at twenty-one—and this was the figure all through the early years.

The Executive also decided the number of officers a club should have — Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary; together with a committee consisting of six members. Each club was required to register with the Executive and pay an affiliation fee of ten shillings.

The first club to affiliate, in response to this invitation, was from Clara in Offaly. Shortly afterwards the first overseas branch of the G.A.A. was formed by exiles resident in Wallsend and Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. The

games spread to America and Canada before the end of the year.

The first educational establishment to rally to the call of the new Association was the Carmelite College at Terenure, Dublin. Following a meeting held on October 24, 1885, the professors and students under the chairmanship of the College President, issued the following statement:

“We hail with delight the efforts of the Gaelic Athletic Association to revive the historic pastimes of Ireland; and believing it to be of the functions of educational establishments to provide for the physical no less than the moral and intellectual training of youth in accordance with the instincts and traditions of their ancient race, we hereby form ourselves into a branch of the Gaelic Athletic Association.”

The club continued the only real unit of the G.A.A. for a few years. All clubs were affiliated direct to the Executive during this period, and were individually represented at Annual Congress.

It was only when the decision was made in 1887 to organise All-Ireland hurling and football championships that County Boards were formed. By this time the number of clubs had grown enormously and it was agreed that the championships be first played out on a County basis—the winning club in each code to subsequently represent the County in the All-Ireland series. Thus continued the arrangement for many years; until all county selections were sanctioned.

The first All-Ireland Championships were organised on the open draw system with matches mainly played on week days. This did not prove a very satisfactory arrangement — there were plenty of disputes regarding venues, some of which were very badly prepared, and public patronage was scant, mainly due to bad publicity, unsuitable venues and dates.

When the arrangements were being made for the second series of All-Ireland championships the list of grievances put before Congress were so lengthy that the meeting which opened on April 30, 1888 had to be continued almost all the following day before suitable arrangements were hammered out.

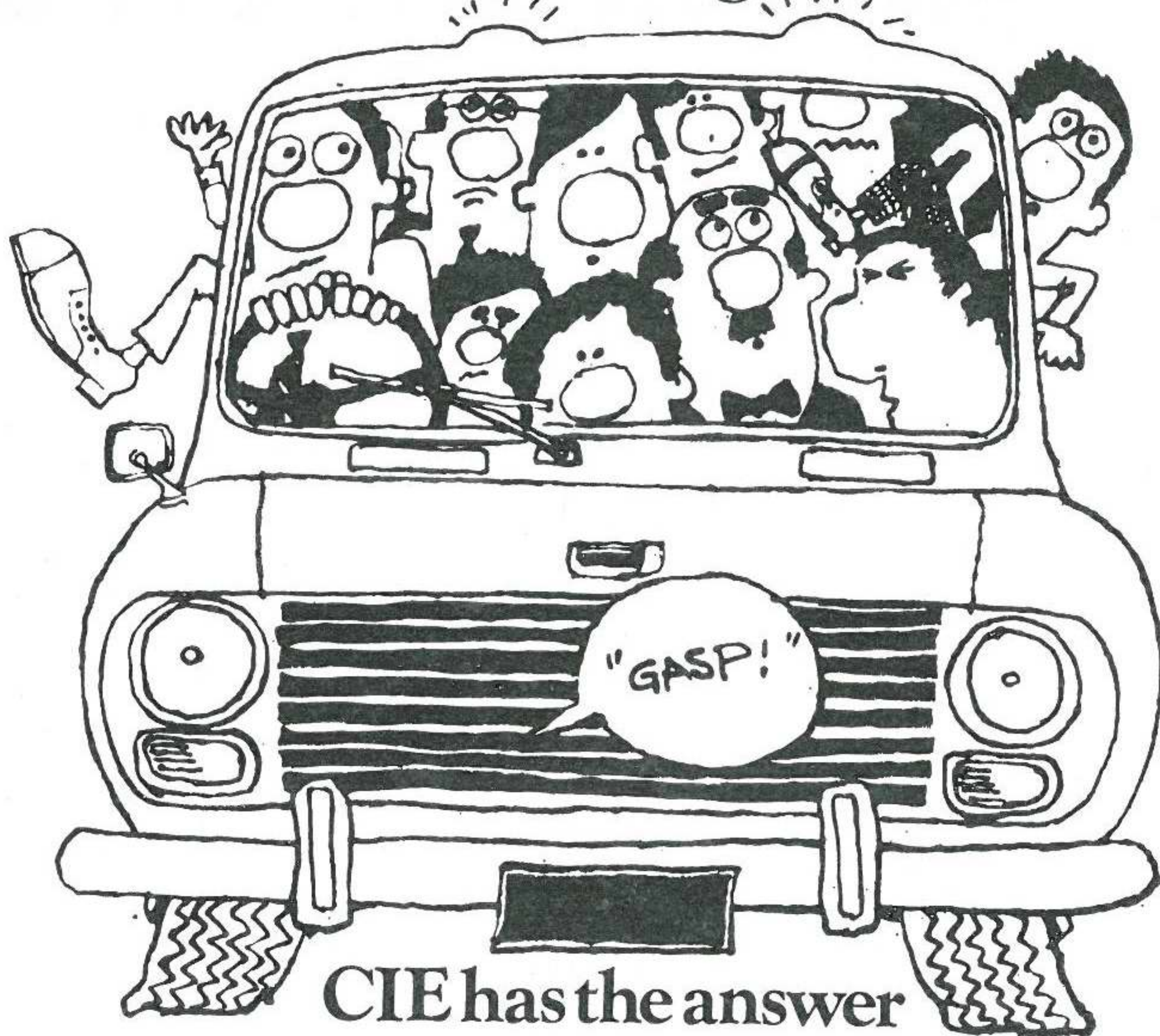
The eventual decision was to divide the country into provincial areas. Eighteen counties entered and the first championship draws on a provincial basis were made. And this is the system that has continued ever since — despite several efforts over the years to have it altered.

The first championships on provincial lines were never completed. They had reached a fairly advanced state when the decision was made to send teams of athletes, hurlers and footballers on what came to be known as “the American Invasion”. As a result the championships were abandoned — only to resume the following year and gradually assume the honoured place they now enjoy in the sporting life of the country.

A lot of trouble was experienced in the early years of the

● TO PAGE 43

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championships growth, and the intense political upheaval which followed the Parnell "Split" — that terrible conflict which divided close personal friends, even families — resulted in the dissolution of many clubs throughout the length and breadth of Ireland. The Central Council tried desperately hard to exclude controversial political questions from the affairs of the Association, but with not much success.

In fact, matters Gaelic reached rock bottom in 1893, the number of affiliated clubs was the smallest since the Association was established, and only three counties bothered to send delegates to the All-Ireland Congress of that year. The collapse of the Association looked imminent.

Dedicated men kept hammering away, however, and the tide was quickly turned. Clubs were re-organised, and by 1896 things were getting back again on an even keel. In fact, the Central Council that year took the plucky step of sending teams of athletes, hurlers and footballers to London for Whit, with a view to stimulating the spread of Gaelic games in England.

Despite the fact that championships were played on a provincial basis from 1888, it was not until the All-Ireland Congress at Thurles on September 9, 1900 that a decision was made to establish Provincial Councils.

Thus, seventy odd years ago, the G.A.A. system of government as we know it to-day fully came into existence, and has certainly served the Association extremely well. Many great men have given dedicated service in the intervening years and to them the G.A.A. must be forever grateful.

CORK'S CARROLLS ALL-STARS

palier at the start of the National League in the autumn of 1967. He was only 19 when he went into the county senior hurling team as a substitute in the 1969 Munster final.

A county minor in both football and hurling, he won All-Ireland medals in 1969 (under-21 hurling) and 1970 (senior hurling), and has also two National League awards. He had one of his most cherished days in football when Cork beat Kerry for the 1971 Munster title.

Denis Coughlan is another who has been blending his talents in football and hurling to splendid effect. Now 27, he led Cork in their 1967 unsuccessful All-Ireland senior football final bid against Meath, but before that he had considerable success in hurling — an All-Ireland under-21 medal in 1966 and minor inter-county honours.

The 6ft. plus Glen Rovers club hurler went into the senior inter-county grade in 1966, and was a substitute in Cork's 1970 Liam McCarthy Cup winning squad. He also has two National Hurling League medals.

Coughlan was sensationally left out of Cork's team for the 1971 Munster football final, but went in as a substitute and hit ten points in the win over Kerry. That tally helped him to a new county football peak of 6-64 (92 points) from 15 games that year, a record that still stands. He was to the fore for Munster in last year's Railway Cup football final replay victory.

Con Roche continues the proud story of star minors graduating to fame in the top grade. He was a team-mate of Charlie McCarthy in the 1964 under-18 national hurling championship winning outfit, and had his first

sample of senior inter-county competition in 1966.

The stylish and competent Roche, who is 26, has served Cork well in a variety of roles from defence and midfield to attack, and has also earned inter-county honours in football. The St. Finbarr's hurler collected an All-Ireland under-21 hurling medal in 1966, and has shared in every one of the senior team's national triumphs since.

Tony Maher earns the St. Finbarr's club further representation in the elite six. He has, in fact, made the right full back spot his own, having been honoured by the Carrolls All-Stars selectors in 1971 and 1972.

At 27, Maher has close on five years senior inter-county experience behind him, and has been a solid and very dependable link in the 1970 championship win, and in the three League final triumphs.

A county minor in 1963, Tony is yet another product of that great all-conquering 1966 under-21 Cork selection.

Kevin Jer O'Sullivan is a cool dependable half-back, who is proving one of his county's — and Munster's — most valuable assets. In 1971 he was outstanding in the half-back line when Cork beat Kerry in the Munster final, and last year the Adrigole man further enhanced his reputation with high-quality play at No. 7 for Munster on the way to their first Railway Cup since 1949.

Honoured for the first time by the Carrolls selectors last year, he found favour understandably again this year with Munster, and seems destined to prove one of the most exciting campaigners in the code in the seasons ahead.

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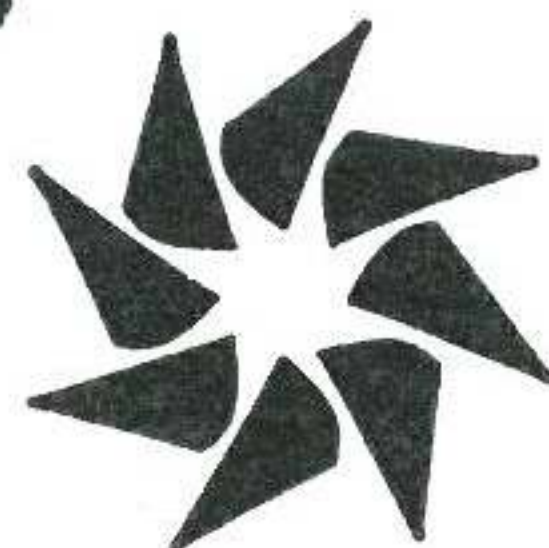
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MICK DUNNE WAS RIGHT!

IN that typically forthright appeal to the powers-that-be, Down chairman Paddy O'Donoghue, struck, for my money, the most vital note in the veritable symphony of talk emerging from our nine county conventions here in Ulster.

Paddy's call to Croke Park for a definite declaration of intent on future thinking will, I believe, be ignored at their peril by the new-style policy makers.

Everyone involved in the day to day running of the Association is entitled to know what he is expected to do and, as the Down boss argued, if the programme is clearly signposted by those at the top there will be no excuse for not co-operating with it.

And the Mourne leader admirably crystallised the steps necessary immediately by the new Management Committee in light of the staggering changes — especially following the special Congress — which have left supporters and not a few legislators in a state of bewilderment.

He certainly had his priorities right when he called for:—

- (1) **A clear directive to Central and Provincial Councils on the precise duties of the newly-formed Activities and Development Committees. This would have to be done before Provincial Councils nominated their committees;**
- (2) **A firm stand on club regulations;**
- (3) **The very early publication of a Master Fixtures Plan together with a decision on the new style All-Ireland club championships for which**

sponsorship should be sought;

- (4) **Arrangements to keep county boards and the public fully informed at every step of the way with the appointment of a professional P.R.O.;**

- (5) **The initiation of consultations with youth representatives on the setting up of youth structures. This would avoid the tragedy of seeing the goodwill and enthusiasm for youth involvement, so evident at Congress, dissipated by delay.**

It is quite impossible to differentiate between the five major points made — each seems a vital cog in the overall machinery.

Well, Mick Dunne's fears — so clearly enunciated in last month's issue of "GAELIC SPORT" — about the feasibility of allowing the Combined Universities to participate in the Railway Cup, were clearly borne out in the preliminary round game at Breffni Park where we had the illogical spectacle of Ulster going down to a side containing no less than nine players from the home province. And this allegedly in an INTER

PRO!

On February 18 Leinster were facing the same problem — albeit to a lesser degree — of seeing some of their stars in the opposition ranks. I am writing these notes before the semi-final but whoever eventually lifts the cup on St. Patrick's Day will certainly not be the best PROVINCIAL side in the country.

And here in the North there has been considerable reaction to the Breffni Park affair. Indeed there is a move afoot to scrap the inter-provincial tests after this year and hand over the Railway Cups to the club championships with the finals — yes, you've guessed it — on March 17. The idea has, so far, only been mooted at grass-root level but candidly I feel it has much to commend it.

Nobody is opposed to the principle of the students receiving recognition at the highest level. What is troubling legislators and supporters is that this recognition is currently being given at the expense of an already ailing competition.

But whatever emerges from the present debate I cannot let this occasion pass without a word of sympathy to the family of Brendan Dolan, whose tragic and untimely death cast such a cloud over the Ulster-Combined Universities game. Brendan will be sorely missed not only by the Aghyaran club and Tyrone but by the game generally.

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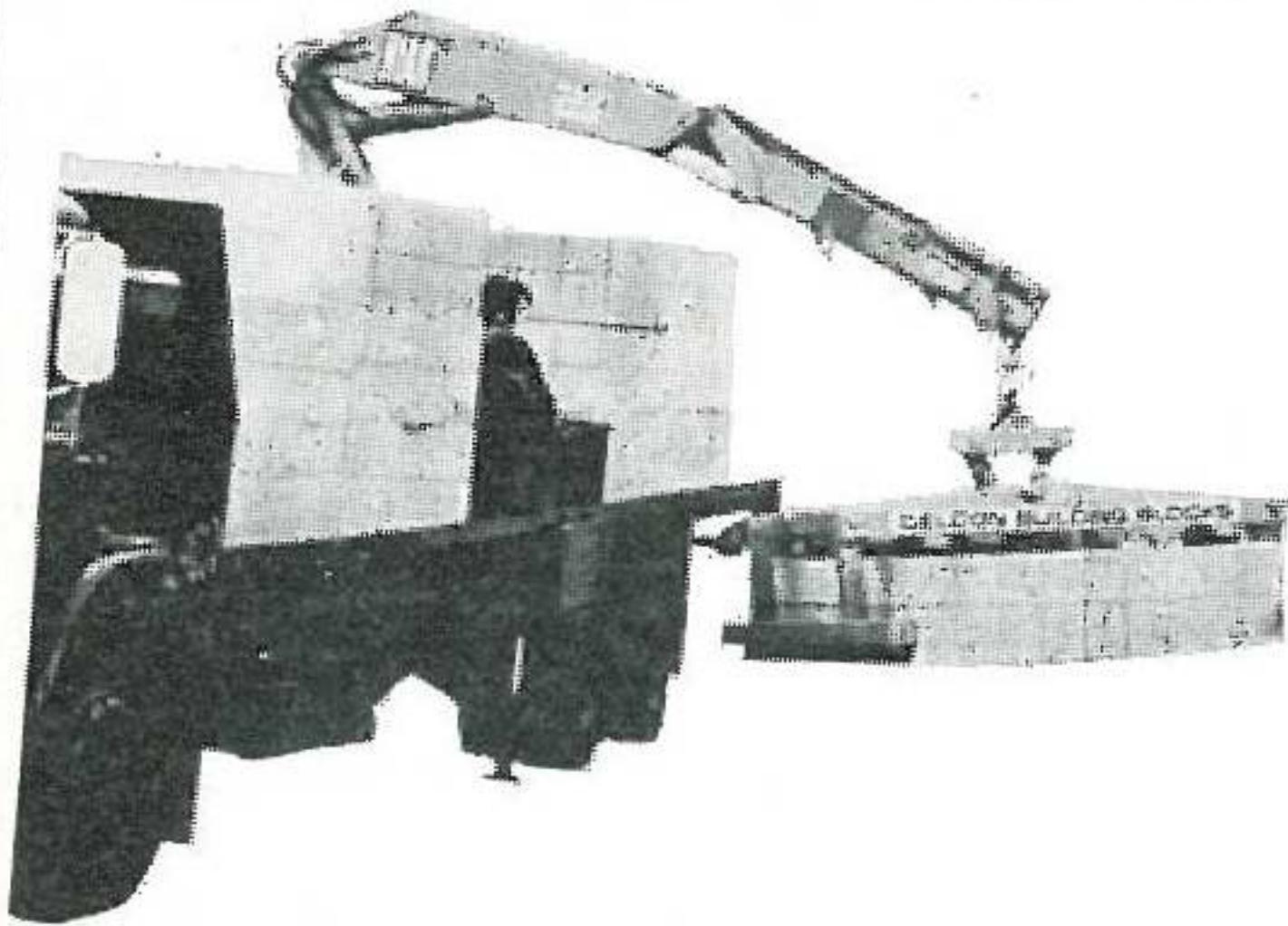
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If you are a pedestrian, and who is not at one time or another, you can take some elementary precautions. These are particularly necessary on unlit roads in rural areas where the risk is highest. Pedestrians should (A) walk on the right side facing oncoming traffic; (B) wear light coloured outer clothing, dark overcoats are literally fatal; (C) wear reflective armbands. These precautions won't guarantee your safety absolutely. They will, however, reduce considerably the risk and give the average motorist a chance of seeing you the pedestrian and reduce considerably the risk of being knocked down. A little thoughtfulness is all that is required. All of us who hold a current driving licence are

allowed to drive on the public roads. This is our right but like many other rights it carries with it an obligation to drive safely. Any amount of alcohol taken must by its nature impair to some degree our re-

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actions and our sense of judgement. As a nation we spend many many millions of pounds on alcohol and as you would expect drinking and driving is quite a big problem on Irish roads. An Foras Forbartha have carried out a survey into the incidence of accidents on Irish national primary roads. This shows that 12% of all accidents involving injuries (including deaths) take place between eleven and twelve midnight on weekdays and ten p.m. and mid-

night on Sundays. Only 3% of the total traffic for the week is on the roads at this time.

We are glad to be able to report that there has been a slight decrease in recent months in fatalities due to road accidents. This seems to be, however, as a result of increased garda enforcement, particularly involving the Breathalyser. Breathalyser detections have risen considerably in the recent past and penalties for those proved to have in excess of 125 mgs. of alcohol per 100 mls. of blood are quite severe. Would you like to be fined up to £100, be sent to jail for a maximum of six months, not to mention having your licence withdrawn for a minimum of twelve months. And that's for the first offence. But what about if a man wants to have a few jars? The answer to this is quite simple. If you drink, don't drive. Get a non-drinker to drive.

In European countries it is quite common for a group to decide at the commencement of the evening's festivities which one of them will drive the others home. Car keys are deposited with that member there and then so as to avoid inebriated arguments later on. The groups of people, such as your local G.A.A. club, who want to have a night out together, hiring a C.I.E. coach would seem to be the ideal answer. With this arrangement all the members of the party can enjoy themselves to the full with no nagging worry about getting home. C.I.E. can arrange for your members to have a door to door service with the safest and most experienced drivers in Ireland. C.I.E. have

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If you work on the land you probably drive a tractor. If you'd like to enjoy next year's annual dinner of your club you would be well advised to check that it has a safety frame. Since 1970 new or secondhand tractors being registered for the first time must

be fitted with a safety frame. Each year twelve to fourteen people are killed as a result of being crushed by tractors without safety frames, overturning—and don't fool yourself that your old-style weather cab will protect you. It won't! If you are in doubt check with your local dealer to see that your cab is up to the required standard. If it is not get a correct one fitted. You have a responsibility in this not only to yourself but to the other members of your family or employees who may use your tractor over the years. Would you like to think that you were directly responsible for someone's death?

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EXPERT VIEWS ON WEXFORD

● FROM PAGE 13

luck on the next occasion, we could be in business."

DAVE BERNIE:

"Provided the players and officials really want to achieve success in the coming term, we can do it. The players must, however, adopt the right approach to training and so forth, while the mentors will have to show more interest in the fields of organisation, challenge games, and preparation for important fixtures.

"If all concerned put in the maximum effort Wexford will do well during the next twelve months.

"Wexford have no inferiority complex. We know there is little separating Kilkenny and ourselves in hurling skill. We must apply ourselves more diligently to the job."

RODERICK

● FROM PAGE 17

gently until we could get a good look at it. Thank God, there were two arms on the signpost. We got up closer and the depression now really closed in.

One arm said Kilkenny — 5½ miles . . . and the other said Gowran—6½ miles. We hadn't even been in Gowran! Where were we now?

We started off again, on we went — to the next signpost. We may have gone two miles, three miles, perhaps even five miles, and what did the signpost tell us? Kilkenny — 4½ miles!

Was there no other place in Kilkenny but the City?

The next signpost said: Kilkenny—3 miles. Nothing else! We carried on and then, a blessed moment, there were lights far away below us.

Ten minutes later, we were

PHIL WILSON:

"Wexford will find it no easy task to sweep the board in 1973. There are a number of things wrong with Wexford hurling before we can think of winning All-Ireland titles.

"Our attitude to training will have to change. At the moment, there is a definite lack of interest. The players are available but it's a question of finding a combination who will show sufficient interest in winning important games.

"There is also a shortage of top class forwards. There must be plenty of useful players around the county, and those will have to be unearthed and encouraged.

"I would approach the coming year on a cautious course. It usually takes about two years to establish a fine team, and this

back at Nowlan Park. It had taken us an hour and a half to get right back to the point from which we had started.

I'll draw a kind curtain over the rest of the evening. We got our reports away, but it was 9.30 before we left Kilkenny, and this time we went the proper way home, slowly and wisely.

We had a meal, of course. But at 11.30 at night, a rather depressing beefburger and tired chips and frightened hot water, masquerading as tea, can hardly be classified as a gourmet's delight.

It was 1.30 in the cold of a Monday morning when I finally walked in my own gate. And remember, the Oireachtas final had finished at 4.30 the previous day!

Would you still like to be a sports journalist? It's a great life, isn't it?

It probably would be . . . if someone did a job on the signposts in Co. Kilkenny.

may happen to Wexford."

DAN QUIGLEY:

"Kilkenny are the best hurling team in Ireland and it's going to take some job to beat them. Still, we can play pretty well, too, and at this stage I would think that we have an even chance of getting out of Leinster.

"I don't accept that we have any real weaknesses."

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● FROM PAGE 35

Another man whose clear thinking and straight speaking made a big impression outside his native county is the former Galway chairman, Gerry Cloherly. Down the years, Central Council has had no more clear-sighted, fair-minded and effective member than the Leitrim representative, Leo McAlinden, while another Central Council man whose prestige has been high beyond the confines of his own county is Joe McMorrow of Sligo.

So that would seem to be the current Presidential picture as far as Connacht is concerned with the Province likely to stand united behind Dr. Donal Keenan if, as new seems likely, the popular Roscommon medico goes forward at Waterford next Easter.

TIME WAS when the Railway Cup finals on St. Patrick's Day were something of a spring showpiece for the Association. Steadily down the years the appeal of those games seemed to diminish, and it was not until the last couple of seasons that there was even the slightest sign of revival. The reasons for the decline of interest in the Railway Cup finals have, in my opinion, been mainly social.

Lack of interest among the players has been one of the big reasons advanced but I have felt through the last decade or so that it was the increasing lack of public interest that was affecting the players. And the reasons for that decline of public interest have been both varied and obvious.

In the first place, the fact that

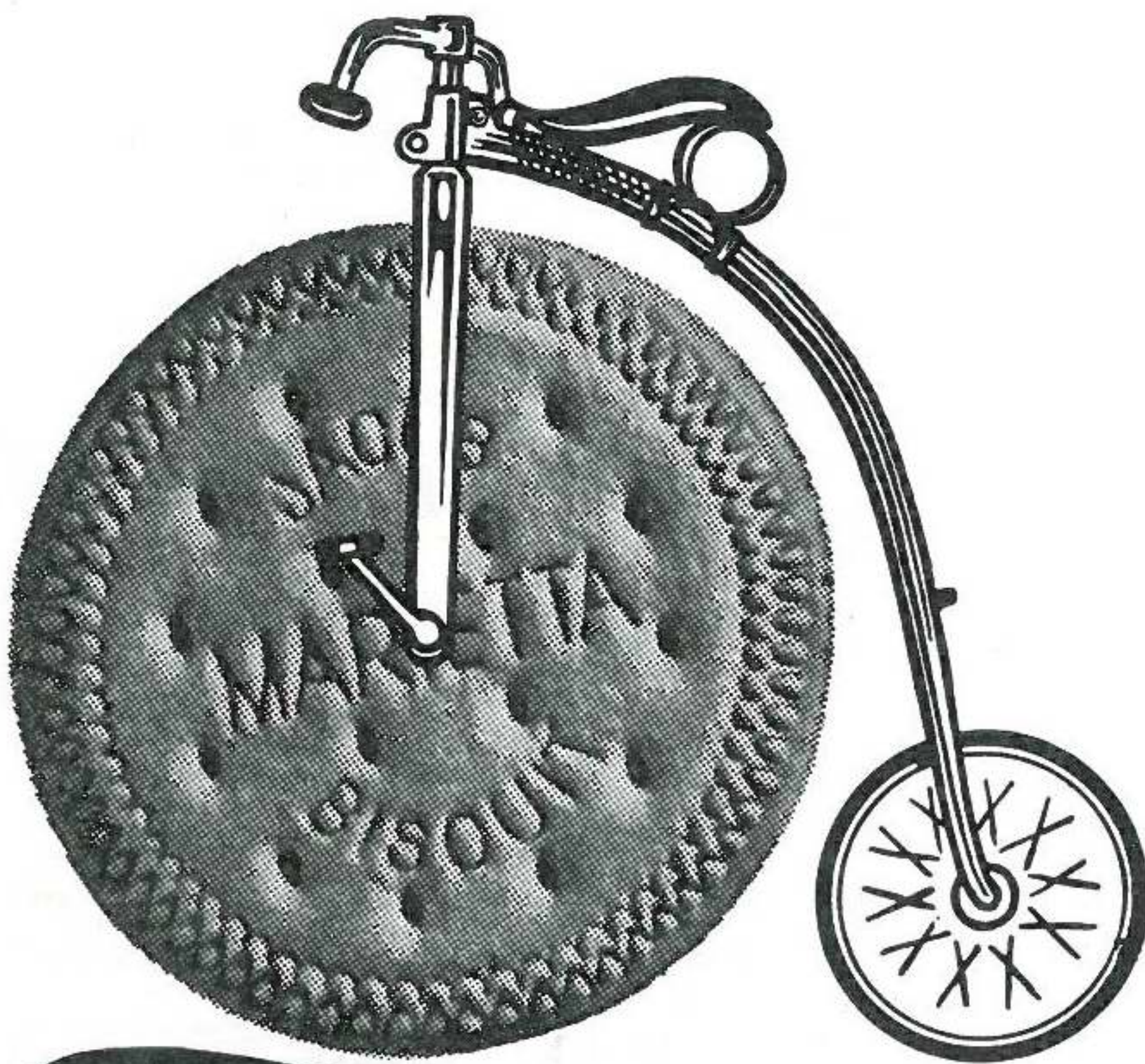
the games are televised "live" has been a most important factor, but by no means an isolated one. Another equally important, if not even more telling, reason for the decline in the St. Patrick's Day crowds at Croke Park have been the remarkable increases both in the number and the quality of St. Patrick's Day parades throughout the country. Time was when the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin more or less over-shadowed all the rest. Now it is, for a number of people, far handier to watch or take part in the parade in their home areas, and then, either before or after, get most of the Railway Cup games live on the television.


I also have a feeling that the relaxation of the licensing laws on St. Patrick's Day has had a certain effect on the social background to the National Festival.

And yet, last St. Patrick's Day showed considerable promise of revival. The two finals in Croke Park produced fast and entertaining hurling and football, and the fans went away well satisfied. Moreover, there were more fans than there had been in several previous years.

But of course there is one further factor that I have not previously mentioned. Through all the latter years of the '60s the weather on St. Patrick's Day was uniformly vile—wet, cold and windy. Two fine balmy days before it, a spring day for the Festival itself, and we could well see the crowds back again.

Later in the month, of course, the All-Stars and the All-Ireland champions fly out to San Francisco. This is an event that has greatly enhanced the prestige of the entire Association both at home and abroad and provides a very fitting reward to the stars of both games for their exertions on the playing fields.



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GAE LIC

SCRAPBOOK

1944

By
Tony
Reid

IF it hadn't been for the quality of the hurling in Munster and the rip roaring fare in the All-Ireland football final, it would be easy to forget the year 1944 when it comes to chronicling the best years in the G.A.A.'s history.

Seldom has such mediocre fare been served up to the connoisseurs of our native games in a single year, and even the Annual Congress, held at the City Hall, Dublin, was over in near record time.

The reason for this was the fact that a number of motions expected to prove controversial and long drawn out were withdrawn. Indeed, of the motions passed, the two which received the most attention were those which stipulated that the All-Ireland semi-finalists and finalists be compelled to hand a list of their playing sides to the General Secretary six days prior to the matches concerned. The other motion carried provided that the runners-up in the finals be awarded suitable trophies.

The Railway Cup gave us a moment of history when Connacht, after seventeen years of gallant endeavour, finally reached the hurling decider. They disposed of Leinster at Birr, 4-5 to 1-5 and there was never any doubt about their superiority. Needless to say, the Connacht side was an all Galway selection and the star of

their win was mid-fielder, Pierce Thornton. Neither Nick Rackard (Wexford) nor T. Wall of Kilkenny could subdue the ebullient Thornton.

The football semi-final between Ulster (2-10) and Munster (1-7) enabled Cork's Jack Lynch to establish what was thought to be a new record for versatility. On the morning of the Railway Cup fixture he lined out in an important Dublin Senior hurling league match for Civil Service against Eoghan Ruadh. Then came the match against Ulster hurlers which Munster won by 9-3 to 3-1. Not only did he play in these three games on the same day but also scored in all three. An astonishing achievement indeed.

St. Patrick's Day was, for once, a day of positively brilliant sunshine and huge crowds thronged Croke Park for the Railway finals. Connacht fought wonderfully well against Munster's hurlers with Pierce Thornton again having a grand match, but this time he was somewhat overshadowed by Jack Lynch who powered his province to a hard-earned, but deserved, victory, 4-10 to 4-4. Christy Ring also played a large part in thwarting Connacht's title winning ambitions.

The Laois full-forward, Chris Delaney, scored five points in a row to help Leinster footballers to victory over Ulster. In this

game, Bill Delaney (Laois) was playing in his fifth Railway Cup final and the win brought him his fourth victors medal.

While Dublin had an easy win in their Leinster hurling championship game against Meath, Kilkenny had a battle royal before overcoming Laois by only two points at Portlaois.

Wexford progressed to the Leinster semi-final and proceeded to shock the mighty hurlers of Kilkenny, winning by 6-4 to 4-6 to record their first championship triumph over the Black and Amber squad in thirty-eight years. However, Dublin won a poor Leinster final by

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YOUNG MAN

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Cork.

● FROM PAGE 51

seven points in a match of close marking and hard tackling. Harry Grey and Hassett took control of mid-field to quench the Wexford challenge.

The notable feature of the Leinster football campaign was the emergence from the wilderness of Carlow. From the moment of their 3-11 to 2-5 replay win over Kildare early in the competition in front of 9,000 people at Carlow, enthusiasm gripped the county and when this was followed up by a tremendous triumph over Wexford, 5-7 to 3-6, confidence reached an all time peak. That this confidence was not misplaced was proved beyond doubt when they beat Dublin, 2-6 to 1-6 in the final at Athy. It was the county's first ever Leinster title win and they were clearly the superior side on the day.

In Connacht, champions Roscommon were troubled only once on their way to another provincial football title when they were surprisingly held to a draw by little fancied Sligo. A good game in the replay saw Roscommon safely through by a seven point margin.

In the Munster football championship the really big shock was the defeat by Tipperary of Cork, the title holders. They won by six points and deserved their unexpected success. Unfortunately, their display in the final against Kerry left a lot to be desired and a poor match resulted in a four point win for the Kingdom men.

But now we turn to the "smouldering cauldron of Munster hurling" as one writer once aptly described this annual battle of attrition between the province's top teams.

First into the fray were those hardy men from Tipperary and they caused a mild surprise by eliminating the sturdy Waterford

side by an eight point margin in a thrilling contest that was brimful of thrills, spills and some truly classic hurling. Then the only poor match in the championship down south was played when Limerick removed Clare from the tournament. Then Cork beat Tipperary and coincidentally the score was the same as the one in which Tipp. had beaten the same opposition in the football game, 1-9 to 1-3!

The Munster hurling final between Cork and Limerick was of such regal proportions that one man, "Green Flag," in the Irish Press, wrote—"a game that poets could rave about."

He was referring of course to the replay because these two sides had turned in majestic performances in the first match that ended all square at Cork 6-7, Limerick 4-13 at Thurles. Yet, one man made a repeat performance necessary and he was Limerick's R. Stokes who scored his side's equalising point in the very last seconds of the contest. The final fifteen minutes of this game were almost out of this world for the very quality of the hurling and the fierce tension that gripped the 20,000 fans assembled around the arena.

If Stokes was the hero for Limerick in the drawn game, then the legendary Christy Ring stole the show for Cork in the replay with an astonishing forty yard solo run which he finished by flashing the ball to the net in the last minute to win the day for Cork by 4-6 to 3-6. Just a goal between them but the pity was that either side should have to lose.

Up North, Cavan continued to lord it over all and sundry in the football sphere. In their game against Antrim which they won by five points they introduced eight newcomers to the big time. Among them was one who was

destined to become one of Breffni's greatest football sons, Tony Tighe. For the benefit of those among you who collect such statistics, Tony made his debut in this match which was played on July 2nd, at Corrigan Park, Belfast, and when he scored a point in the tenth minute it opened Cavan's account in this particular match. How Cavan supporters must sigh today for another of Tighe's calibre!

For both Tony Tighe and Cavan the story has an unhappy ending because they met a rampant Roscommon team and were obliterated to the tune of 5-8 to 1-3, a scoreline that at such a stage was more reminiscent of a hurling match. The attendance figures for this semi-final All-Ireland was 33,290 the highest than for any match outside a final at Headquarters.

The next week these figures were shattered when 40,727 turned out to witness Carlow's gallant attempt to qualify for the final but a very fortunate Kerry side emerged from the game two points ahead of their Leinster rivals. It was largely inexperience that resulted in Carlow's downfall.

The final was a stirring affair played before a new attendance record of 79,245 people. The scores were level three times during the course of the match with Roscommon leading at half time by two points. The heroes at the end of the day were F. Kinlough, Donal Keenan, William Jackson and Bill Carlos as Roscommon retained their title. It was indeed a wonderful final.

The hurling final was a complete letdown as Cork literally strolled to a facile 2-13 to 1-2 win over hapless Dublin to record the Rebel County's fourth All-Ireland hurling title in a row, the first time that this was ever achieved.

JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

THE G.A.A. YEARBOOKS keep coming out. This is the way it should be. The latest is the 1973 TIPPERARY G.A.A. YEARBOOK (30p). Editor Gerry Slevin, of the 'Nenagh Guardian' and former G.A.A. President, Séamus Ó Riain, deserve credit for this—No. 3 in their annual series. The book covers all aspects of the G.A.A. year in Tipperary and is of interest mainly to Tipperary people. I liked especially John O'Grady's tribute to John O'Donoghue — a very fair and observant assessment. Tommy Barrett's scrutiny of the Tipperary minor scene is also compelling as are the tributes to Jim Ryan of Loughmore and Seamus Gardiner.

Every year this production improves. I would have liked a few simple quizzes with a Tipperary slant, with a profile or two of stars from the recent and not so recent past — the Jimmy Finns, Tony Walls, Paddy Kennys of not so long ago.

Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook 1973 (35p includes postage — from Gerry Slevin, Editor, 13 Summerhill, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary).

Another highly commendable publication is the club annual of the Ballinamore (Co. Leitrim) Sean O'Heslins called the SEAN O'HESLIN ANNUAL (15p). This is their second annual production and is a credit to men like Christy Gallogly, Tommy Moran, Brendan Burns and Co. Tommy Moran's very witty pen pictures were exhilarating.

The Sean O'Heslin Annual (20p

includes postage—from Brendan Burns, Technical School, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim).

ANDY McCALLIN

WE have a CUT-OUT from Ulster at last in wee Andy McCallin the dual star from Antrim — a football All-Star in 1971. Fairhaired Andy is a top-class football forward whose

combination with Sean O'Neill in a Railway Cup final win two years ago first caught the rave headlines for the brilliant St. John's star. Coming from the heart of Belfast, Andy inherits a great G.A.A. family tradition and we have pleasure in parading hurler cum footballer Andy.

All these Antrim Gaels deserve great credit.

From the Mailbag

OUR MAILBAG gets bigger and bigger. JUNIOR DESK fans are asked to keep their letters short, to write on one side of the page only and as neatly as possible. Starting this month JUNIOR DESK is offering a prize for THE LETTER OF THE MONTH. The name of the winner will be announced at the end of the Mailbag each month. Let's call it the "surprise" prize. On with the show.

Kevin Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Co. Sligo. — "The Connacht Gaelic Games Annual '73 is a great publication. So is Solo. Give us a Cut-Out of an Ulster or Connacht player."

● *How about 'Gaelic Sport', Kevin — another great publication — the oldest soldier of them all! (J.M.)*

Waterford Gael (London address enclosed). — "My favourite player to-day is Mick O'Connell — a great sportsman who togs very neatly always. I admire

Eddie Keher too. Some old photos, please."

● *How about some old team photos, Editor? (J.M.)*

Aiden Murphy, Ballyblood, Tulla, Ennis, Co. Clare. — "Hope you start a 'Letter of the Month' competition, Jack."

● *Agreed (J.M.)*

Harry Kavanagh, Wexford Rd., Arklow, Co. Wicklow. — "Vinny Holden of Dublin is a lovely hurler and footballer."

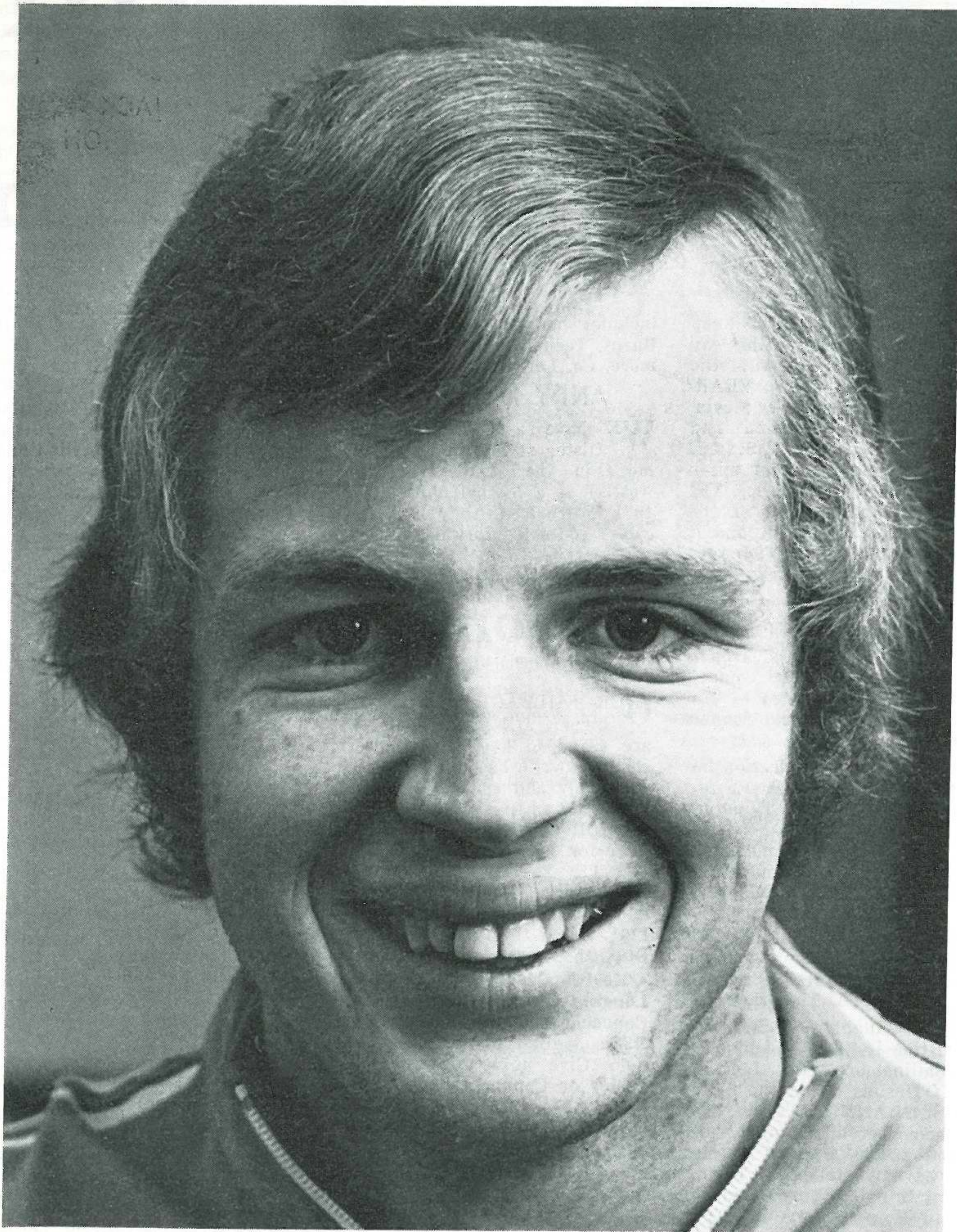
● *Boys like the Holden brothers may help to bring Dublin back. (J.M.)*

Wexford Fans, Aughrim Primary School, Co. Wicklow. — "Hurling is alive and well after such a great All-Ireland final. The G.A.A. needs more hurling coaches and trainers."

Vincent O'Reilly, Myler's Park, New Ross, Co. Wexford. — "There

● **TO PAGE 55**

CUT-OUT - - - - -



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ANDY McCALLIN ANTRIM

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● FROM PAGE 53

is no hurling like Wexford hurling."

Terry Doyle, Ballymorris Upr., Aughrim, Co. Wicklow. — "Give us a Cut-Out of Dermot Earley."

Paddy Mannion, St. Rita's, 54 Fitzroy Ave., Dublin 3. — "I enjoyed the Connacht Annual very much. Your list of dual All-Ireland senior medalists is incomplete. Leonard McGrath (Galway) won a S.H. medal in 1923 and a S.F. one in 1925. Paddy "Hitler" Healy (Cork) won S.H. medals in 1944 and '46 and in between, like Jack Lynch, won a S.F. in 1945 (as a substitute)"

● Thanks, Paddy, for completing the list. Perhaps there are others. (J.M.)

Michael Dowling, Hon. Sec., Erin's Own G.A.A. Club, Fanagown, 212 Lismore Park, Waterford. — "Our club has been elected 'Club of the Year' in

Waterford and we are thrilled."

● Congrats, Michael. Please send me on details on how the Waterford G.A.A. Awards are decided. I have my own pet ideas about the ordinary county awards we have in other counties. The G.A.A. loses out on the whole business. I like the Waterford idea and the Louth Past and Present Player Association Awards. Every county should organise its own G.A.A. awards. How about a few letters on this? (J.M.)

Gordon Ryan, Garda Station, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny. — "I live next door to Pa Dillon."

● A fine fullback, Pa. By the way, the No. 7 in your photo was not Pa but Martin Coogan — another great performer. (J.M.)

Jim Connolly, Mullaghbrack, Smithboro, Co. Monaghan. — "I want an Offaly jersey. My chest size is 30 inches."

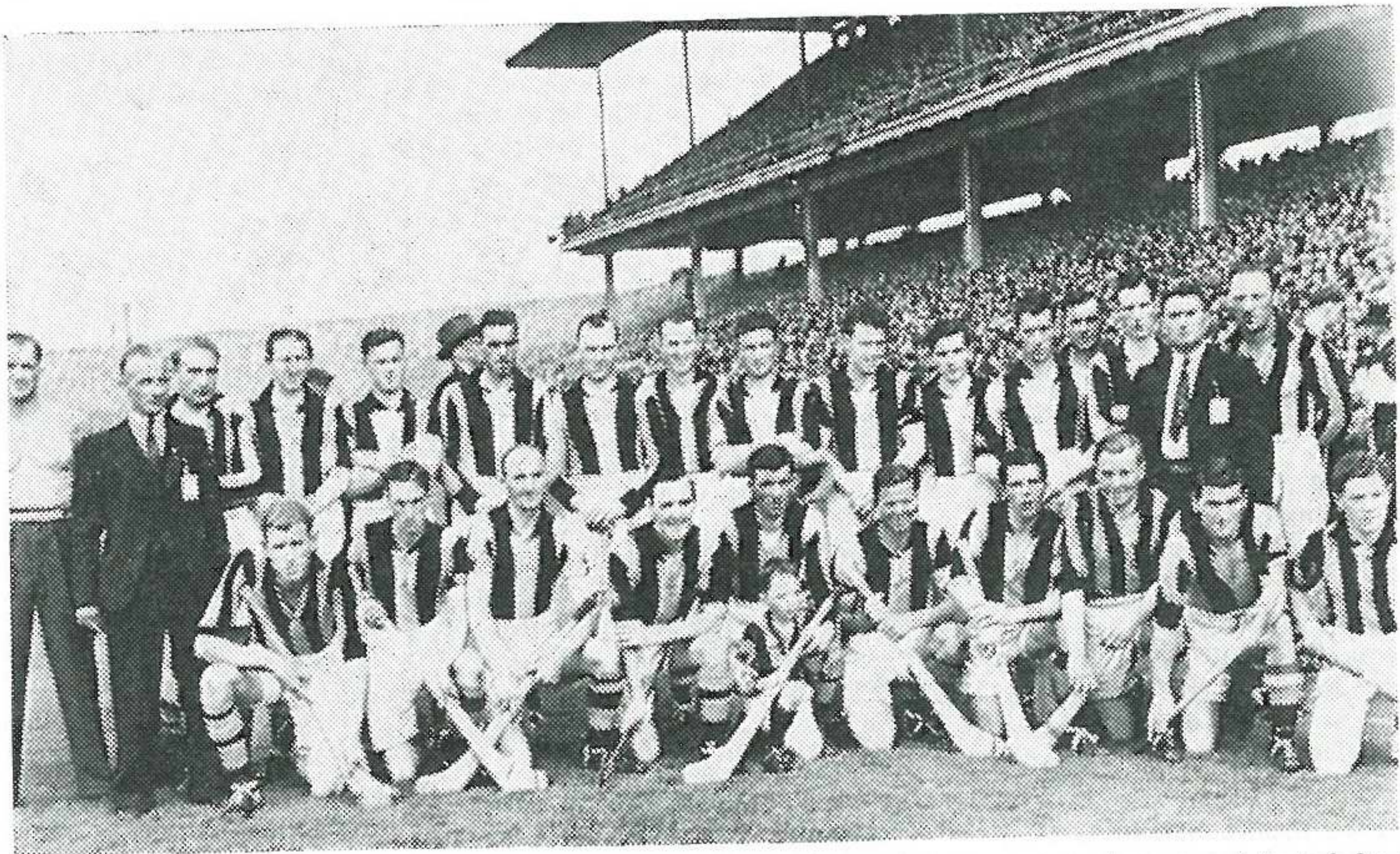
● Last year I tried to get one for

my son, John, but failed. Isn't it a terrible pity that some manufacturer hasn't 'copped on' to this very obvious market? (J.M.)

Sean Gaughan, Moybridge, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan. — "I dread to think of G.A.A. coverage on TV with Fred 'Barry John' Cogley in charge . . .

"Tell me why the pictures of teams taken in Croke Park at All-Ireland semi-finals and at Provincial finals are always taken with sparsely populated terraces in the background. They looked terrible in the 'Sunday Independent' this year, especially Kilkenny hurlers and Kerry footballers. Would it not be a bhfad níos fearr if the benches were placed in such a place that the majority of the attendance would be immediately behind i.e. with the Hogan Stand as background

● OVERLEAF



● At the request of "Waterford Gael" we include a photo of the Kilkenny team that was defeated by Tipperary in the All-Ireland final of 1945. We will give a prize of a year's subscription to 'Gaelic Sport' to the first Junior Desk reader who sends us in the correct score for this game.

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● FROM OVERLEAF

in Croke Park . . . The occupation of Casement Park is an insult to the Irish . . . Not enough importance is attached to the scoring of a goal in football and hurling . . ."

● *Some great ideas there. Especially the one about the photos with which I heartily agree. So over to you, Croke Park. (J.M.)*

(The direction from which the sun shines is a factor in photography. There is also the matter of background enhancing or diminishing definition of the subject. — Ed. "Gaelic Sport.")

Kerry Fan, (Name and address enclosed). — "At their best — as they played in the All-Ireland replay — I rate Offaly a great side; the equals of Down (1960/'61) or Galway ('64/'66), in my opinion; much superior even to that very competent Kerry team of '69/'70."

● *Sweet praise from a Kerryman. (J.M.)*

Gerard Gallagher, 21 Ashmount Drive, Portaferry, Co. Down. — "I love hurling and Gaelic football and play for Portaferry. Last year my school won the U-15 hurling crown. I cannot get any G.A.A. books up here. It is a crying shame. Nothing but soccer books. I saw the hurling final in 1972. It was great."

● *Keep up your interest, Gerard. We are swamped with English soccer books down here, too. It's more lads like you we want who will ask for G.A.A. books. (J.M.)*

Kieron Murphy, Glen Lodge, Church Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. — "Sean O'Donnell, the former Donegal star, is my uncle."

● *I played against him more than once. A very stylish half-back was your uncle. (J.M.)*

Sean Moulard, 49 Harmin Park,

Glengormley, Co. Antrim. — "I live outside Belfast and the only G.A.A. magazine I can get is "Gaelic Sport." Why can't I get others?"

● *A very good question. What about the Annuals? Surely these were on sale at Christmas. (J.M.)*

Seamus Logan, 24 Ballydugenan Villas, Toomebridge, Co. Antrim. — "I play football and hurling (under-13) for Cargin. Our football team has not been beaten yet. I have fifteen medals and a trophy. Five of the medals are real silver. I got them at Cargin for running. I got two for rounders last year. We won the rounders cup for boys. My brother, Martin, captained the same school again this year and won the cup for the second time. Our school is called Carlane. (I am now at another school, a secondary school) Peadar Ó Tuatáin is our Manager.

"I got two medals and a trophy for football in Primary school. We won the cup twice inside three years and the third year we were only beaten by a point. I have got five other medals for running and one for high jump, and a silver one for long jump. I wish that all G.A.A. clubs had running teams so that they could run against each other."

● *Fifteen medals takes some competing. (J.M.)*

Finally, at Christmas I received a mighty fine piece of work in the form of a project from Oliver Conneely (14) of Shannagh, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway, under the title 'Gaillimh Abú. His knowledge and love of the G.A.A. in his native county is unbounded. What an astonishing young G.A.A. student!

Before I leave, don't forget the LETTER OF THE MONTH every month from here on. This month's best letter is from Sean Gaughan, Moybridge, Emyvale, County Monaghan, and he receives as

his "surprise" prize a book token value £2 with the compliments of the Editor, Tommy McQuaid. So please write about anything to:

JUNIOR DESK,
GAELIC SPORT,
80 Upper Drumcondra Road,
Dublin 9.

Jack Mahon

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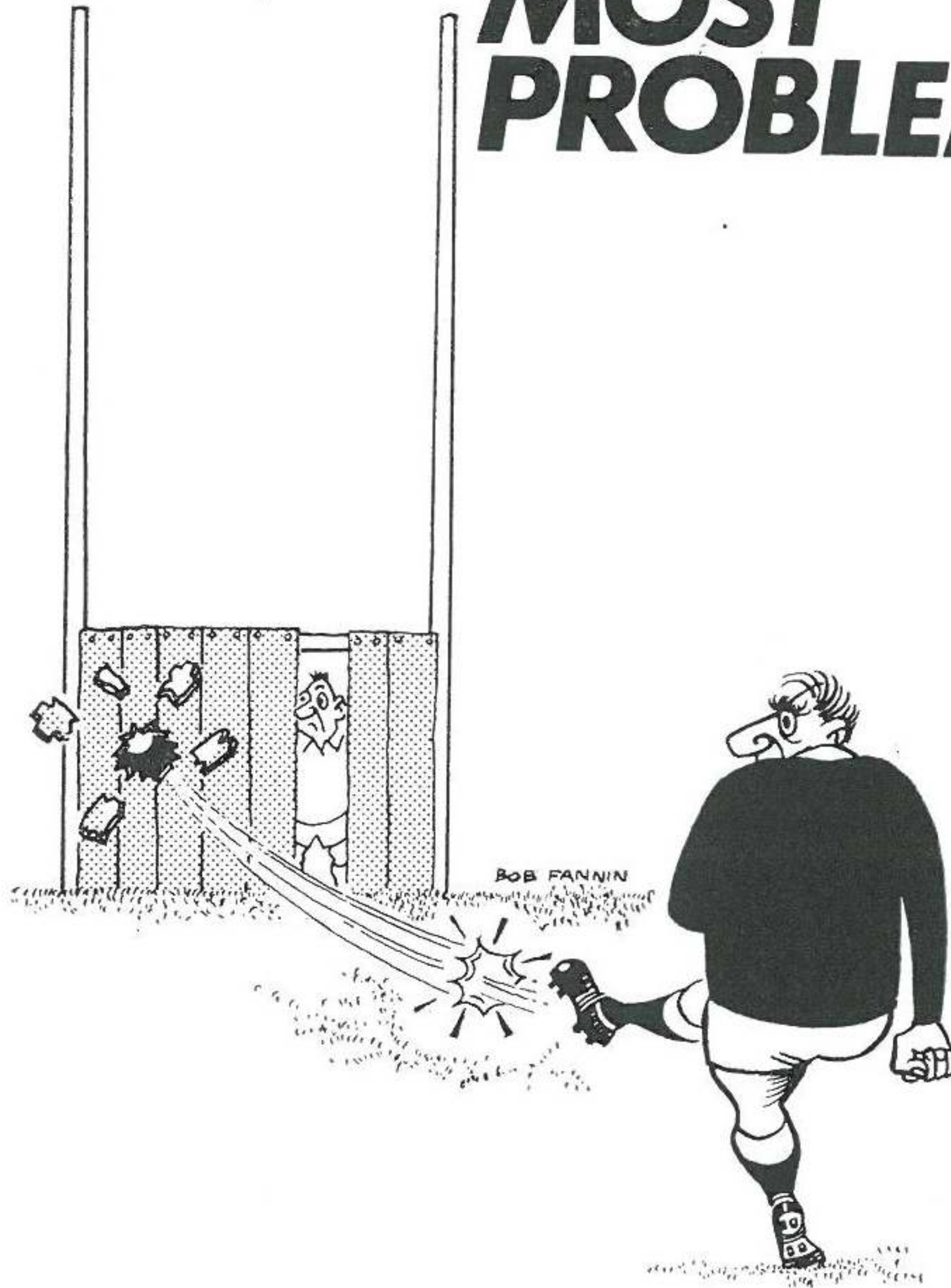
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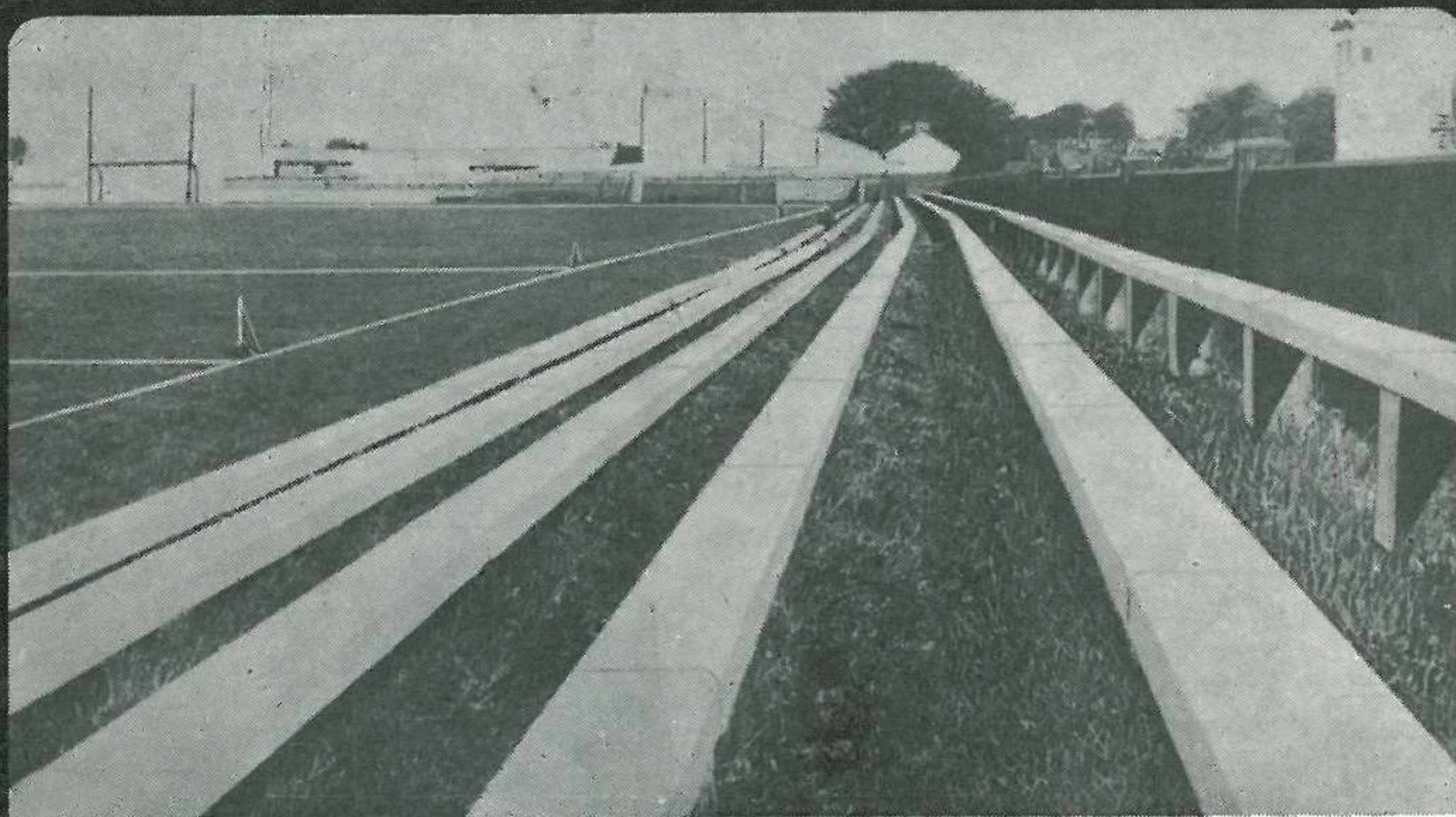
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