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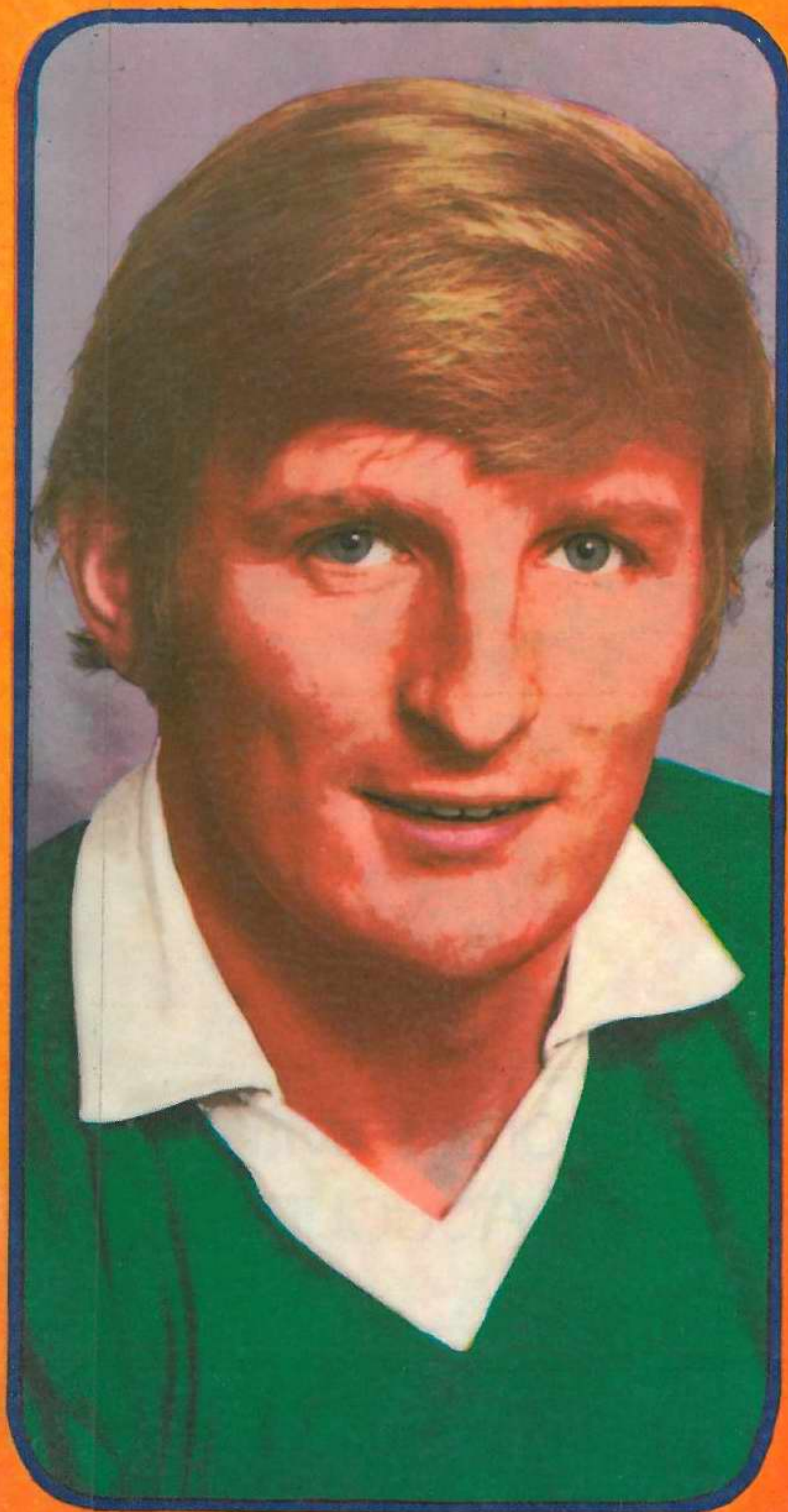
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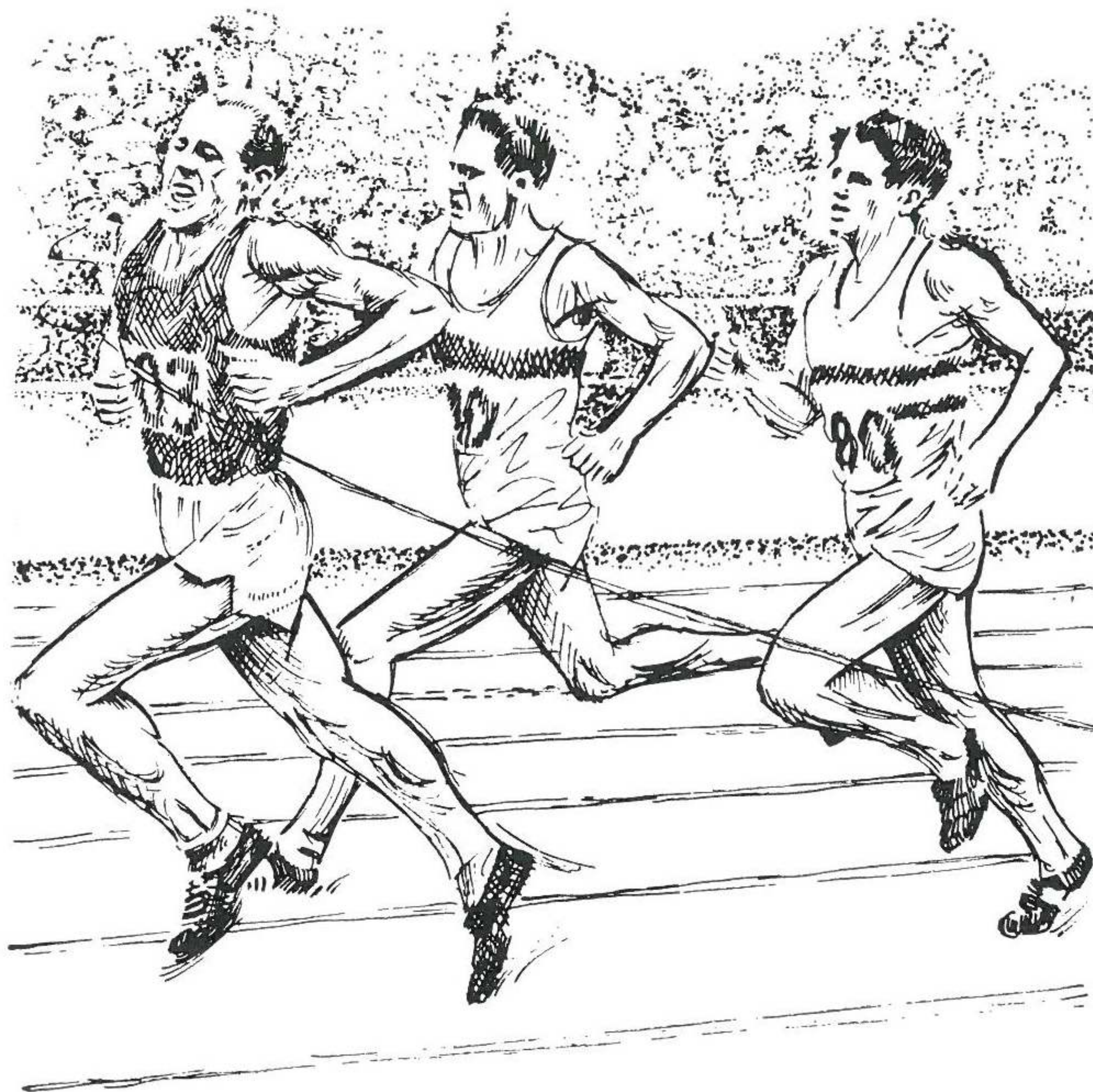


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New Head Offices for "Farmer's Bank"

"OUR agricultural growth prospects in the E.E.C. are excellent provided we are prepared to take a firm and competent grasp of our opportunities". This is what Mr. Brendan Considine, Chairman of the Agricultural Credit Corporation, said during his speech at the opening of A.C.C.'s new head offices in Dublin recently.

CAPITAL FOR EXPANSION

"These opportunities offer higher farm incomes as a result of better prices and a rapid expansion based on assured markets", he said, "Capital must, therefore, be available if the farmer and agro-industry are to have the necessary resources with which to expand and compete effectively with producers in other parts of the E.E.C."

Mr. Considine stressed that only a substantial expansion in the use of credit could help to remedy the gross and persistent undercapitalisation of Irish agriculture as compared with other countries.

"To day A.C.C. is supplying one-third of all institutional credit to agriculture and it is our intention to ensure that, at this time of unique opportunity for the industry, we will continue to spearhead the provision of essential capital development."

The opening ceremony, which was performed by An Taoiseach, Mr. Liam Cosgrave, T.D., was attended by members of Government and Opposition and representatives of farming, agricultural and banking organisations as well as members of the diplomatic corps. The five-storey, 54,000 sq. ft., air-conditioned office building was formally

blessed in an ecumenical service conducted by Bishop Kavanagh, auxiliary Bishop of Dublin and Dr. Alan Buchanan, Archbishop of Dublin.

NEW ERA FOR AGRICULTURE

Mr. Considine, thanking the Taoiseach for officially opening the building, said that it was a significant milestone in the history of the A.C.C.

"It represents more than that, however," he said. "It reflects not just a new and important era in A.C.C.'s business but also a new era in Irish agriculture, traditionally, and now more than ever, contributing a major portion of our national income."

GREAT EXPANSION

The great expansion of the A.C.C.'s activities in the last few years resulting from the rapidly developing agricultural sector, made it necessary for the A.C.C. to seek more adequate accommodation for a staff which has doubled in numbers. Since 1963 the A.C.C. had their head office in the nearby former Harcourt Street railway terminal building.

As a result of the escalation in the A.C.C. operations—from £9 million in 1970/71 to an estimated £55 million in the current year organisational changes were made which were considered essential for the successful running of the business. A computer has also been installed and the system will go into operation shortly.

"We feel we are now geared to handle all the increasing and intricate business, both in farming and in agro-industry," said Mr. Considine: "Agriculture over the years had been lagging be-



● **BRENDAN CONSIDINE**,
Chairman of the Agricultural
Credit Corporation.

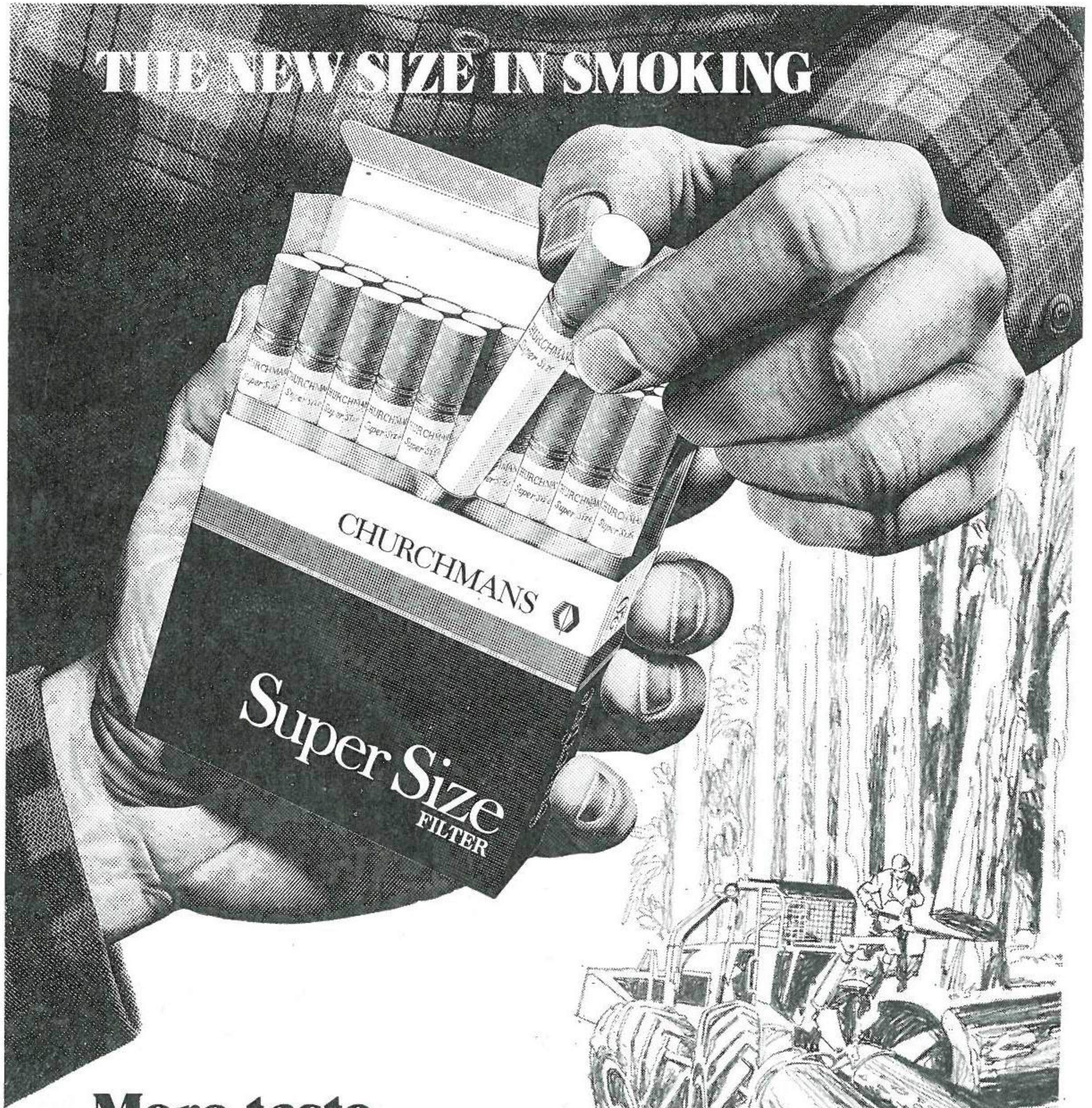
hind industrial expansion and during the years from 1965 to 1971 industrial production increased at more than twice the rate of agricultural production. In 1972, however, the relationship began to change and agricultural production has been showing a dramatic increase in value, due largely to better prices for certain products, particularly beef and milk."

"Higher prices and a world beef shortage are among the influences on agricultural expansion; but the most significant development of all, for agriculture and the country as a whole, was Ireland's accession to the European Economic Community. It is felt that we need not wait for history to demonstrate that our new community link with Europe was a decisive factor of the seventies. It is already apparent"

"THE FARMERS' BANK"

The A.C.C., when you consider its functions, could truthfully be termed the "Farmers' Bank". It is something more than just an ordinary bank in that its deposits and interest are guaranteed by the Minister for Finance. Money received on deposit is immediately diverted to projects aimed at improving the quality of life in rural Ireland. This aspect makes investment in the A.C.C. particularly attractive to the farming community itself.

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ACTION, NOT TALK

AN article in this issue spotlights the fact that leading players will contribute to a seminar at Maynooth College later in the month on the theory and strategy of Gaelic football. This is all to the good, because the inter-change of ideas is vital to the development of any sport.

On a wider field, however, the primary need for 1974 as far as the playing rules of football and hurling are concerned, is action on the playing fields, rather than talk.

Officials were on the right track in promoting the Grounds' Tournament before Christmas under the experimental football rules. But the proposed hurling regulations have still to get a trial, and as we went to press there was no news of matches in the offing under the experimental rules in either code.

It is only in competitive fare, and over a full playing season that it is possible to judge the real value of any proposed regulation. Players, after all, need time to adjust to change, and the Grounds' Tournament did not offer much scope in this direction. For the same reason, trial matches are not of much help either.

It is imperative in the interests of the games, then, that officials ensure that there are enough of the right type of opportunities for experimentation at competitive level in the year ahead. The position is too serious for any other type of approach.

Few will seriously dispute that the games, and more particularly football, need to be improved as spectacles.

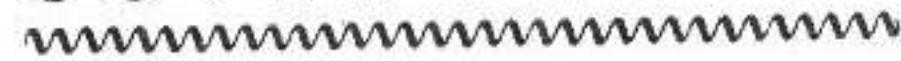
The changes advocated by the Rules' Revision Committee may not necessarily all be the ones that are needed to bring about this improvement. It must be said as well that there appears to be a lack of general enthusiasm for the suggested alterations in hurling.

But there is nothing to be lost—and everything to be gained—by ensuring that the recommendations are given a thorough test under the best possible match conditions. Such an approach has the added merit that it could turn the key as well on other ideas and suggestions that might, with profit, be adopted when the rules eventually come up for revision at Easter 1975.

For too long now a wall of conservatism has been the hallmark of the Association's approach to changes in the playing rules. This needs to be replaced now with boldness, with imaginative effort.

Otherwise, football and hurling could suffer badly, and thus prove under-equipped to compete successfully with other leisure-time activities in what are sure to be keenly competitive years ahead.

COVER PHOTO:



WE congratulate Eamonn Grimes and Billy Morgan, our front cover personalities, on their selections as Texaco Gaelic Stars of 1973. They are worthy successors in a long line of hurlers and footballers who have won these coveted awards. Neil McCavana takes a look at some of the highlights of the careers of our cover men on page 21.

THE good start that Wexford and Waterford got in this year's League made a lot of difference to the nice state of balance which now exists as we await the renewing of the combat in 1974. The fact that Wexford filched two points from Cork and another two from Tipperary right at the start before either of these strong counties could find their League legs prevented them from making the impression they might otherwise have done.

The loss of those first two points hindered Cork a good deal because they ran into progressively improving form afterwards and might be pretty well sure of a play-off position by this time. Similarly, the situation of Tipperary would not be so doubtful as it is at the moment, for they have only a moderate chance of qualifying and it must largely depend on the failures of others.

Waterford's run of success which brought them seven points out of the first eight, and put them firmly on top of the table for a stretch, did even more to add to the uncertainty. They seemed to be steaming easily for one of the semi-final places and thus seemed to close-up one of the positions which might otherwise have been available for the more glamorous counties.

They also shot holes in Wexford's complacent position after their good start and threw them in with all the others who are hoping without certainty, or even sureness, of their final destiny. And they look a very vital point from Kilkenny.

Most of all, perhaps, the two between them (Wexford and Waterford) helped to make Limerick's position almost impregnable, cruising along to the top of the table with their late run, in which they gave ample evi-

ence that one of the semi-final spots should be marked for them.

Now, when the New Year of hurling begins, it is on Limerick that the centre of attention will lie, for it is with them, largely, that the determination of the fate of others lies. They have to play Cork and Tipperary in their remaining games; beating them both would do little good for their fortunes.

Funnily enough, this might well create an ugly little vice in which Waterford could find themselves caught. Partly, but not entirely of their own making. But, with Limerick playing with such authority right up to Christmas, they could well be expected to seriously endanger Cork and Tipperary even if victory in both matches is not entirely necessary to qualify for the play-offs or even the semi-finals.

That would mean that poor Waterford would find themselves

faced by the most savage assault from Cork and Tipperary, because the second game which each of them still has to play is against Waterford.

It could also, of course, mean that after all their brave front-running form in this League—and it was a major factor in making it so enjoyable so far—the Waterford men could find themselves squeezed between all the big powers as they reach their most fierce. One recalls the pleasure expressed by the officials of the county after they had drawn Kilkenny earlier. Now, it might be that very point which was lost then that makes their position vulnerable. Nevertheless, to outsiders, even if we are concerned with the brave efforts of the Deise people to reassert themselves, we will be able to form a better opinion of their mettle if they have to get a couple of points from Cork or

HURLING LEAGUE

IN THE BALANCE



● *The Wexford team which won the National Hurling League in 1973.*

Tipp. as the case may be to make the play-offs. That certainly will be an acid test.

Indeed, it could be the most intensely close finish; it is possible, indeed, that score-ratio will play a part in deciding the issue. It is clear enough that nothing can stop Limerick getting into the play-offs, almost certainly the semi-finals; and Cork will think themselves very hard done by if they are beaten so well in their remaining two games that they are passed in score-ratio by two of Tipperary, Kilkenny, Wexford, and Clare. If Waterford are beaten by Tipperary and Cork, they are in queer street, because (even if Limerick beat Tipperary) Kilkenny and Wexford stand with a reasonable chance of reaching 8 points above them, or, even 7 points with better scoring ratio.

Clare are likely to be caught in a nasty vice also around this time, for Kilkenny and Wexford are gunning for the same targets

and Clare could be riddled in the process. But, like Waterford, Clare have the fashioning of their destiny in their own hands.

In regard to Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford and Clare, (whichever survives with a complete skin—and it is always to be remembered that they might destroy one another in the process) will be hoping that the Deise men will pick on Tipperary to beat, for that will give them a very good chance of taking one of the top four places. Should they, however, beat Cork and lose to Tipperary, it might not improve the outsiders' chances at all.

It is all so much in the balance: every stroke is going to be important when the teams line out in February.

From Div. 1B Dublin are sure to participate in the quarter finals; it will probably be Kildare or Offaly for the other spot — though that will not mean promotion for the one which

emerges, as there is only one place and that has already been ensured by Dublin, unless something quite astonishing occurs.

Having said all that, however, it would be flying in the face of appearances to suggest that anyone has anything like the credentials of Limerick when the eventual winner is thought of. They are a far better team now than when they played the championship: confidence has added another dimension to their play and their strength is seen in a really impressive light at this time of the year when backed by confident hurling.

The main threat will probably be Cork, since Kilkenny and Tipperary have been rather rickety in their form for some time and since Wexford may have trouble getting to the play-offs. Certainly, Cork have begun to find their touch again, and their appetite which is just as important.



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SEELY'S 'SUPER LEAGUE'

AT a time when club football is clearly in need of an imaginative injection, I am intrigued by a "Super League" suggestion from Brian Seely, manager of the all-conquering Lurgan Clan na Gael, Armagh and Ulster champions for the past two years.

In essence, Brian, who represented his county in the 1953 All-Ireland final against Kerry, wants the Ulster Council to consider the formation of a league comprising the championship winners and runners-up in each county.

"Such an arrangement," he says, "would provide stiff opposition for the teams involved and thereby raise the standard of football. It would ensure good spectator sport and bring in worthwhile 'gates'."

I have sounded out several players and officials about the plan and while there is full acknowledgment of the organisational problems which such a scheme would entail, it would appear that, at least, the idea merits a thorough discussion.

If all nine Ulster counties took part, the proposed league would have two divisions—one for the county champions with the runners-up in the other—giving a 16-match programme for each of the participants. (I am not fully in the picture as to the importance attached to league football in the other provinces but certainly up here clubs depend on leagues as the main activity after the championships in the season's fixtures. A sustained league programme would therefore be nothing new.)

Presumably there would be neither promotion nor relegation in the proposed new league as its make-up would be determined by the teams appearing in their respective county finals each year.

Nor would there be any difficulty in having the championships completed in time to allow the finalists to start off their league campaign in the spring. The county championships here are invariably finished by September or October thanks to the Ulster Council's insistence that the provincial club championship is played-off by the end of December each year.

Admittedly this is merely an outline of Brian Seely's plan but basically it does appear that, with co-operation all round, it could be made a very viable proposition indeed.

On the debit side, however, there could well be a sharp reaction from clubs in local leagues who might well be reluctant to see the best teams "disappear" each season thus reducing the overall standard of play in a particular competition. There could also be the financial hazard for these clubs of having to play regular fixtures in direct opposition to the attractive fare, which the new-style league could reasonably be expected to throw up.

Personally I don't believe the new plan will get further than the drawing board stage at present but I am confident that it could well come into operation in a very few years' time.

If that day comes Brian Seely will be entitled to say: "I told you so." One way or the other he deserves our thanks for not only reminding us that something must be done for our clubs but also for prescribing a remedy.

SELECTION SHOCKS

Turning to more immediate considerations, supporters and commentators in the North remain shocked at the choice of the Ulster Railway Cup side to take on Connacht on February 10.

One leading commentator summed up the general feeling rather well when he wrote in his column: "I didn't know whether to laugh or cry when Gerry Arthurs gave me the Ulster football team. My immediate reaction was one of utter shock and disbelief. In fact I checked the panel over and over again with the provincial secretary just in case gremlins had got into our phone and were playing practical jokes on the both of us."

And the team which has whipped a new interest into the Railway Cup competition — if not altogether for the right reason — is as follows: P. Lyons (Cavan); G. Taggart (Tyrone), P. McShea (Donegal), P. Mulgrew, capt.

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(Tyrone); M. Hughes (Tyrone), M. McAfee (Derry), G. O'Loughlin (Derry); J. McKiernan (Antrim), P. McGinnity (Fermanagh); F. McGuigan (Tyrone), G. McCann (Antrim), E. Tavey (Monaghan); P. Rooney (Down), S. O'Neill (Down), P. Loughran (Armagh). Reserves: J. Somers (Derry), C. Campbell (Fermanagh), E. McGowan (Cavan), P. King (Tyrone), P. Armstrong (Antrim), A. McMahon (Tyrone), S. Bonner (Donegal).

We are well used to getting more than our quota of surprises from the Ulster selectors with much of the dissatisfaction based on the fact that only five counties, together with the provincial chairman and secretary, are represented on the panel. However, no one need feel left out in the cold this time with all nine counties given places after that conclave lasting three and a half hours. A case of proportional representation gone mad?

On the other hand the province has had a most successful run in the competition especially since 1960 and this year it could well be another case of the much maligned selectors having the last laugh. Personally I have my doubts that they will.

A 'CHAMPION' PUBLICATION

Easily the most interesting present I received over Christmas was "Cork '74," the official publication of the Cork County Board.

"Gaelic Sport" editor Tommy McQuaid serves the publication superbly well in a similar role here but even Tommy would admit that he has been working with an absolutely top class team.

At 30p it seems that inflation has not reached the Rebel County and I am confident that "Cork '74" will be read avidly by followers far outside the bounds of the county. Congratulations to all concerned.

Agitation likely for changes in National Leagues

By MICK DUNNE (of RTE Sport)

THERE'S bound to be agitation for changes in the National Leagues when the current two-year cycle is completed and the competitions come under review sometime during the summer. Simply because in nearly half a century that the Leagues have been in existence a system hasn't been devised to satisfy everyone.

It's very unlikely that such a system could ever be found. To achieve the complete satisfaction of all the diverse interests which are catered for by the League would be impossible. You have the strong counties and the weak ones, the football counties only and the ones fielding only hurling teams and then again the counties that not only play in both Leagues, but have dual players.

Whatever alterations are made in the competitions I sincerely hope the counties won't renege on the principle of promotion and relegation, which was introduced in season 1970-'71. Nor would I want to see the football counties reverting to the unimaginative, small groupings so lacking in variety that we had from 1965 to '70.

Certainly the groupings of the counties in Division I of the football League will change before the '74-'75 League starts next October. This will happen out of

financial considerations. As I pointed out in the December issue of *Gaelic Sport*, being in Division 1A is financially much more rewarding than playing in Section B. Last season ordinary gate receipts in Section A brought in nearly £8,000 more than those in Section B. The position will be similar — if indeed the monetary gap isn't greater still — when the revenue report is made on the current football league.

Even if the present system remains unchanged we can certainly expect some counties which are now in Section A will find themselves in B next season and vice versa to make the drawing power of the two groups more balanced.

Already we have heard clamourings for a reduction in the number of National League matches so that greater emphasis can be placed on club games. This sounds fine — and it's the ideal — since the club in theory — although rarely in practice

over the last 20-30 years — is acknowledged to be the basic unit of the Association.

But let's be realistic: it is a very miserable concession to the club, and the important fundamental place it is supposed to have in our organisation, if we hand over a few Sundays at the worst time of the year as far as the weather is concerned. If the number of League matches are cut-down then the clubs get November, December or February Sundays. What self-respecting county would want to have its important club competitions running into that period of winter.

If we're really serious, and honest, about investing the clubs and their competitions with more importance and greater glamour let's ensure that the Sundays are free for them at the best time of year — summer or early autumn.

In case you think every county is crying out for less matches in the League let me say not many of them were satisfied with four League games in the past. In 1968-'69 Antrim, Louth, Monaghan and Armagh were so concerned about so few games for their county sides that they staged their own four-county league in February and March 1969. Twelve months later eight counties participated in a Supplementary League only because the National Football League was inadequate — Cork, Tipperary, Armagh, Leitrim, Fermagh, Antrim, Carlow and Tipperary. (Cork beat Antrim 2-6 to 0-8 in the final, by the way).

Under the present set-up of eight teams in each section we have plenty of variety with counties meeting opposition they can't encounter in the provincial championships and probably

● TO PAGE 15

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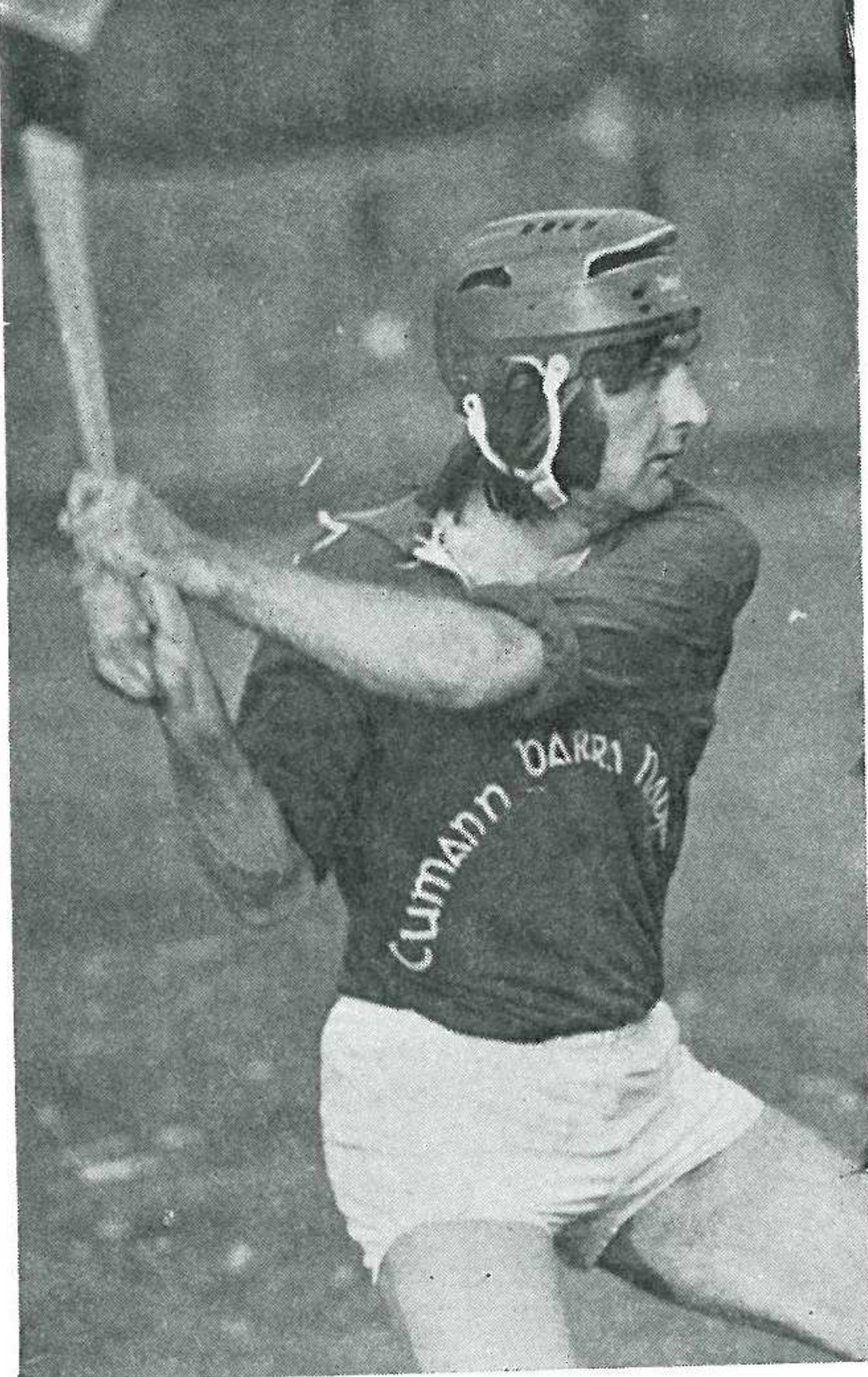


EAMONN YOUNG ATTEMPTS TO ANSWER AN AWKWARD KIND OF QUESTION

“ARE the Cork hurlers ready to take their places in the sun in '74?” asks that man Tommy McQuaid. Come to think of it he has been asking me questions for years and getting away with it. The files of GAEILIC SPORT have shown some answers under my name. A lot of them would make an old soldier weep. But then I laugh also. What's this about the sun of '74?

You know I don't think we've been exactly sunburned down here in recent times. Take the last twenty All-Ireland championships: Limerick picked up one, so did Waterford. Wexford skidded away with four, the Black and Amber nailed five and the men of Tipperary, hats off to them, robbed us all of no less than six. What about Cork? Including that last great win of '54 (which gave Ringey his eighth in fourteen seasons) Cork have won, believe it or not, only three senior hurling championships. The tumult of '66 gave us one and the other was the '70 win over Wexford. In the twenty years there were three losses ('56, '69 and '72) so altogether a spot of sunbathing wouldn't do us any harm. What are the chances?

The first factor is this very disappointment, which the figures reveal. We're just about fed-up of looking at all these other fellows winning. Sure, it's grand and there's no man will salute a champion readier than I, but selfish, proud, mean and all the rest as I am, I want to see a Cork hurling captain



● GERALD MCCARTHY, one of Cork's most experienced hurlers.

holding that cup up a little more often on a September Sunday. There are many more like me and this feeling gets around. There are many players like that also and the feeling is usually transferred into pounding feet, trickles of honest sweat and swift neat strokes of a hurl. I could see a Rockies-led Cork side getting down to it this month and the result of the league games will not be as important as the way the boys will fight it out for the hour.

The footballers won a great All-Ireland and have been beaten since. Those reverses are just what the doctor ordered to tune up the chaps for a certain date in July. But meanwhile the football success has spurred on the hurlers and since I was a boy there has always been rivalry between the

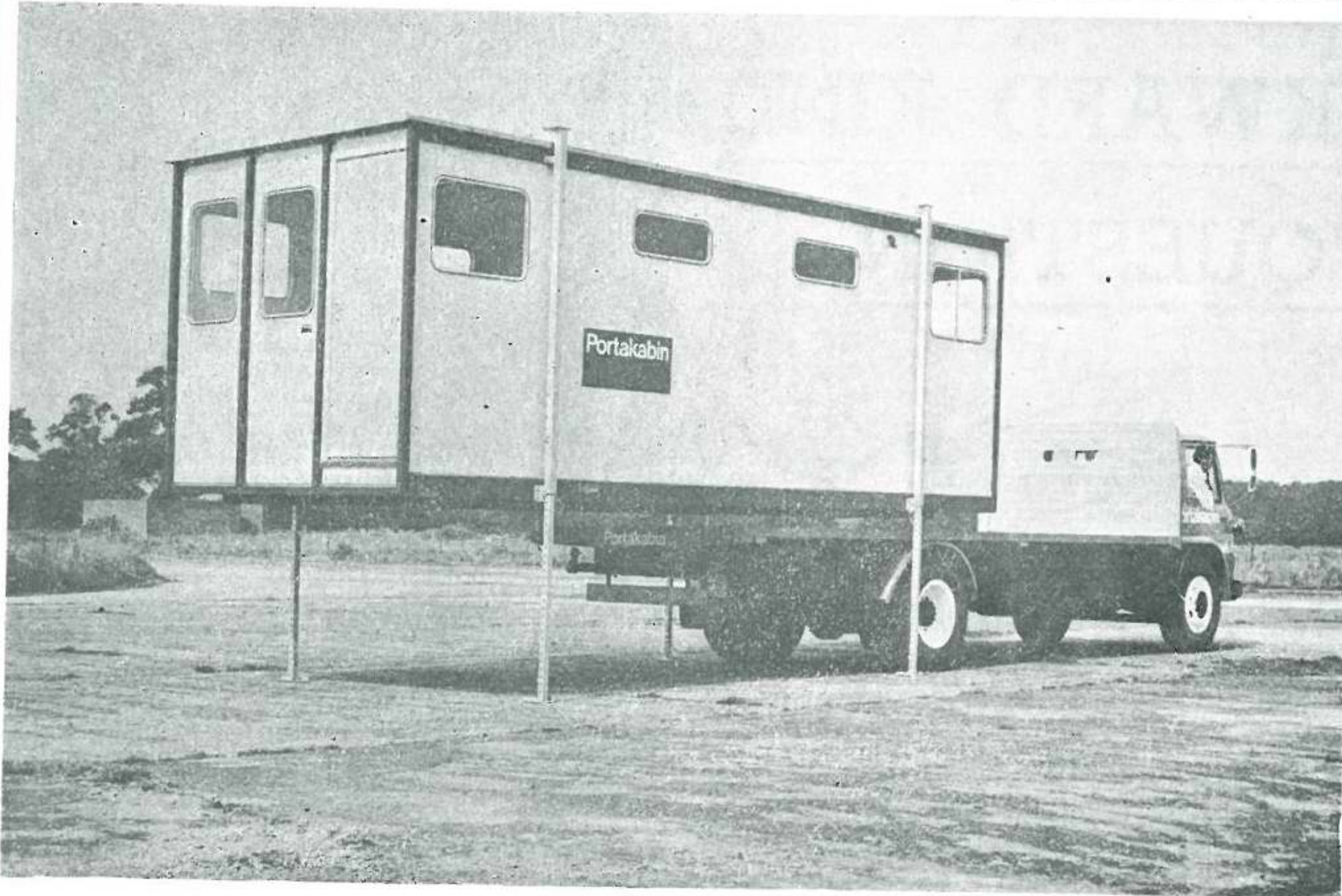
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● FROM PAGE 13

two sets of players here in Cork. That's a good thing. The next point is the important one of merit. Every county has its bad teams and I'll never forget the '54-'66 wait, when we did have good men but not enough of them. Just now Cork has twenty-five players who wouldn't shame themselves in any company. The competition for places is an excellent stimulus and there is nothing to make you train more carefully, go home an hour earlier, or try a little harder, than the fact that there's a decent chap over there on the line watching you out of steely analytical eyes. Sure, he wants the side to win but maybe he feels that its chances are better with you on the bench instead of him.

The side in fact has not been in better form in Wintertime as long as I can remember. They have beaten Kilkenny twice, Tipp and Clare and Wexford all in a few months. So that is about everybody except the All-Ireland champions, though nobody but a fool would ignore the Waterford revival which I hope will be a blaze of triumph, providing we are not there. What matters now in Cork's case is what the form will be like in the next two months for if these players show they are really in earnest during March and April they will go flying into the championship and then let the best horse jump the ditch.

Now the men behind the team! What can one say about the importance of a good trainer? The man who ensures by a combination of diplomacy, leadership, example and earnestness that each player does a lot of steady training, who takes time off to look into the cavities of the hurler's heart and head, who is the counsellor, and loyal friend of the selection committee . . . just how important is he? We had Willie John Daly last year—a man who lived hurling, who never counted the hour or the day that he gave to Cork but as a work of pure manly enjoyment fired into blinding heat by a personal glow that often set me alight. I heard talk before Christmas that he wouldn't be with the lads

in the New Year. I hope that is wrong . . . very wrong. We need men like Willie John.

The selectors. Just how important are they? Again the question is naive. Before, during and after the game they will be at their work and only time will tell if the side is as well guided as are some of the other counties. Selectors are not crystal ball-gazers any more than middle-aged sportsmen who scribble lines, and I know that keeping your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you (and often rightly) is a little harder than when you're up on the terraces with two pints of stout and a good meal in your stomach and no shred of responsibility to prick your mind or scratch the teeth-edge of your temper. And we can all see very plainly what should have been done . . . about an hour after the game. Trouble is the chaps on the score-board are gone home by then. The Corkmen in the gap here are Jack Barrett the county chairman, Ger Leary of Rockies, Danno Mahony and Paddy Cooney who have been there often before and the experienced Barrsman Mick Murphy. The five should know enough about it and I see no reason why after much deliberation they should not handle the side in the moment of tension.

So there it is: Cork hurlers are big enough, strong enough, numerous enough, as well trained and as well-guided as the next. Why shouldn't they put up a good show?

I will quote one disadvantage—the dual commitment. Can Ray Cummins, Brian Murphy, Denis Coughlan, Martin Doherty and Teddy O'Brien survive a hard and busy round of tournament and championship games from February to the end of July? I wish these good performers a lot of luck which I hope they won't need. But let's take our chance and facing the months ahead with a player's steady heart say that Cork has a fair chance of a season of sunbathing and surely after that lean twenty years we do need a spot of tan.

Agitation likely for changes

● FROM PAGE 11

wouldn't ever meet outside the League. It adds spice to the competition and the paying public likes it.

Promotion and relegation has to be retained because we must never get back to the time when teams, whose interest in reaching the semi-finals had evaporated by mid-February, simply didn't

bother about their last match or two. Fulfilling these engagements in March was a mere formality—and the teams they fielded underlined this, that is if the counties even bothered playing at all. Some of them didn't. The fear of relegation now keeps them on their toes to the end.

It has been said that the promotion and relegation is all too

predictable because Tipperary and Waterford came up one season and went down the next. But Down are certainly staying up next season and Wicklow just might, too. Dublin are coming back up again, but it's not at all predictable that Kildare will accompany them as they did going down to Division 2. Nor is it certain right now that Meath and Laois will get back up; they could be pipped by Antrim and Donegal. In fact, it's all very unpredictable.

An Roinn Talmhaíochta agus Iascaigh

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ONE-YEAR COURSES IN AGRICULTURE are provided at the Department's Colleges at Athenry (Co. Galway), Ballyhaise (Co. Cavan), Clonakilty (Co. Cork) and Kildalton, Piltown (Co. Kilkenny) and at State-aided Colleges at Gurteen (Co. Tipperary), Monaghan, Mount Bellew (Co. Galway), Multyfarnham (Co. Westmeath), Pallaskenry (Co. Limerick), Warrenstown (Co. Meath) and Rockwell (Co. Tipperary). Basic training, both theoretical and practical, is given in agriculture and allied sciences. The courses are designed for those who intend to make a career of farming but are also valuable to those who intend to pursue higher studies in agriculture and related subjects. More specialised second-year courses are provided by a number of the colleges. Over 400 scholarships are awarded annually by Co. Committees of Agriculture.

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ONE-YEAR COURSES IN RURAL HOME ECONOMICS of value to future farm home managers are provided at State-aided schools at Ardagh (Co. Longford), Claremorris (Co. Mayo), Gurteen (Co. Tipperary), Navan (Co. Meath), Portumna (Co. Galway), Ramsgrange (Co. Wexford), Swinford (Co. Mayo) and Dunmanway (Co. Cork). Training is given in dairying, poultry-keeping, household management, cookery, laundry, home nursing and arts and crafts. Over 300 scholarships annually are provided by Co. Committees of Agriculture for these courses.

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For full information about these courses write to the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Section 24), Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2.

THE SIGERSON SEMINAR

By OWEN McCANN

THE Universities Senior Football Championship for the Sigerson Cup has down the years made an important contribution to the general advancement of the game. Launched in 1911, this knock-out competition has been all to the good of the game on the national scene. The history of the code, in fact, is liberally sprinkled with the achievements of Sigerson Cup players on the inter-county field.

It is entirely appropriate, then, that this year's Championship, which will be decided over the weekend of February 23-24, will be marked by an exciting new development, and one that will place a new emphasis on the importance of constructive analysis of the game. This will take the form of a seminar on the theory and strategy of Gaelic football.

The seminar will be held at Maynooth College on February 16. Six prominent inter-county footballers, one from each line on a team, will present papers, each analysing his own specific area of competence in a positive and precise manner.

The line-up for the seminar augurs well for the success of the promotion. The players who will contribute are Billy Morgan (Cork), Donie O'Sullivan (Kerry), Brian McEniff (Donegal), Pat Mangan (Kildare), Liam Sammon (Galway) and Sean O'Neill (Down). In addition, former Antrim star Pat O'Hara, who coached the Universities to their historic Railway Cup title win last year, and who has wide experience as an inter-

county coach, will contribute a paper.

The seminar will be chaired by GAELIC SPORT Junior Desk Editor Jack Mahon, the former Galway star. Mahon, Morgan, O'Sullivan, Sammon, O'Neill and O'Hara are all former Sigerson Cup stars.

All in all, then, one would find it difficult to improve on this impressive roll call of top-class talent and experience.

Two officials from each County Board have been invited to attend.

The seminar is an ambitious and progressive venture, and one that is especially welcome at this particular time when proposed changes in the playing rules of football are being considered.

The men primarily behind the seminar are Fr. Malachy O'Rourke, lecturer in French at Maynooth College, and Christy Timmins, manager of the Ulster Bank in Kilcock. They are former inter-county players.

Here it is appropriate to record that the Ulster Bank will sponsor both the seminar and the Sigerson Cup competition. This is a splendid gesture by the Ulster Bank, and one that, in practical terms helps to both enhance the Sigerson Cup competition, and to open up new thinking and interest in the skills and techniques of the game.

Maynooth College host the Sigerson Cup for the first time. The competition will start on February 2 with two quarter-finals. These will see U.C.D.

start their defence of the trophy against Dublin University at O'Toole Park in Dublin, and U.C.C. and U.C.G. in opposition at Nenagh.

Maynooth, who appeared in the decider for the first time last year—they made their debut in the competition in 1972—and who will be captained by Tony O'Keeffe (Kerry), have a bye to the semi-finals. Queen's University, Belfast, have also a "free passage" to the last four.

The semi-finals will be played at Naas on February 23, and the final the following afternoon at Newbridge.

U.C. Dublin will be chasing their 28th title since 1915. They have not won two Sigerson Cup titles in succession since 1957, a year that saw the Dublin College complete a hat-trick of wins.

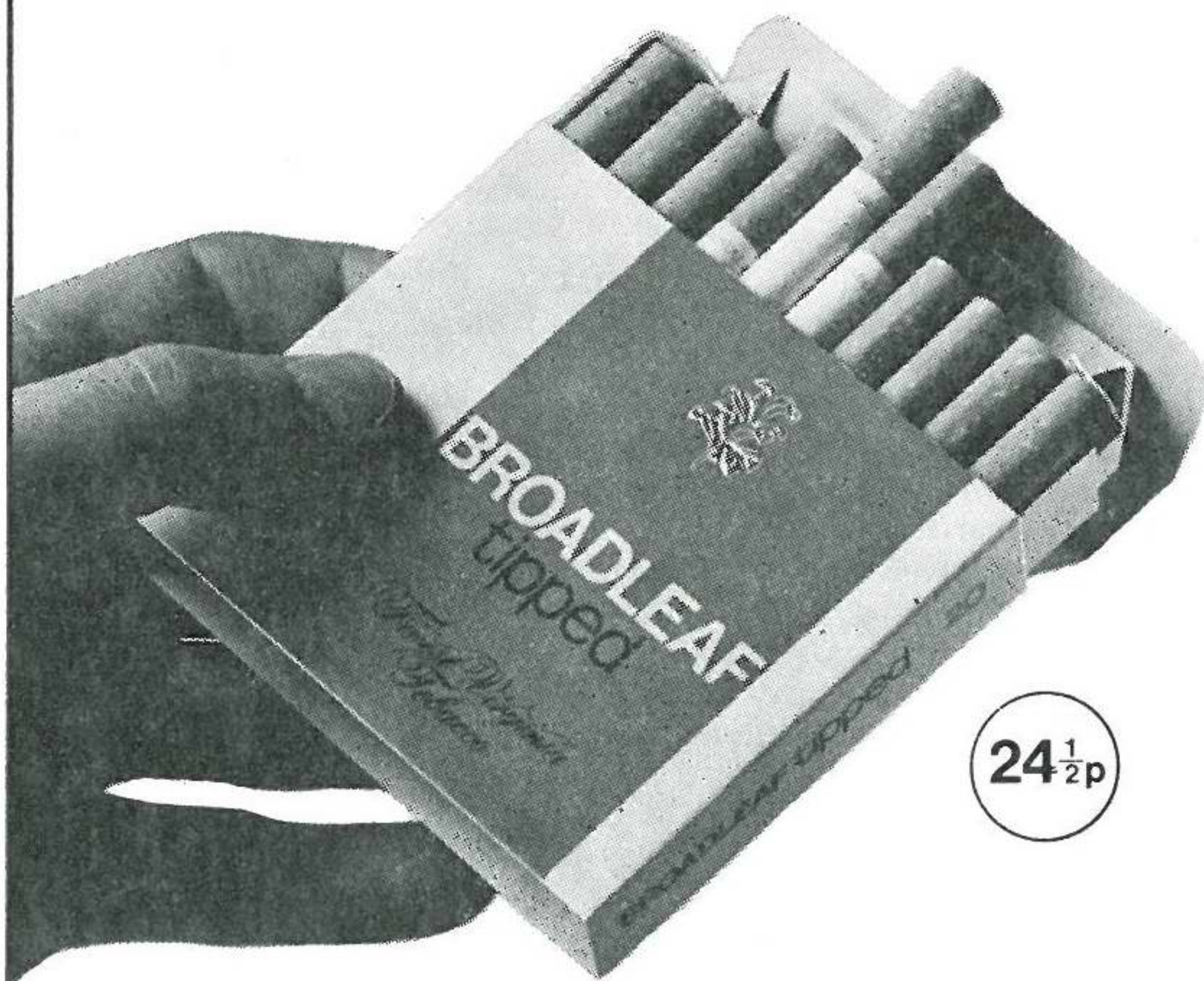
U.C. Galway have been out of the honours list since 1963. That season they brought their bag to 17 titles since 1912.

U.C. Cork won the first Sigerson Cup series in 1911, and boosted their record to 15 titles in 1972. This College completed the last double in the competition in 1969 and 1970.

Queen's first made the breakthrough as recently as 1958 with a team that included Sean O'Neill. The great Down forward was there again when the Belfast College regained the title in 1964. Queen's lifted the championship for the third time in 1971.

Dublin University, and, of course, Maynooth College, have still to win the Sigerson Cup.

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ALL ROADS LEAD TO KILLARNEY IN JULY

ON the night of the Cork-Kerry National Football match in Killarney last November a Kerryman in our group declared: "There'll be no getting in to the Munster final next July." He was unashamedly savouring, even then, the anticipation of that confrontation between the old Munster rivals.

It's fair to say my Kerry friend could hardly wait for the summer to come around, so eagerly was he looking forward to the next clash with Cork. And they All-Ireland champions, into the bargain. The reason for his impatience was, of course, the fact that on this very day a young and new-look Kerry side had run Cork to a point.

That was a Kerry team without Donie O'Sullivan and with Paud O'Donoghue and Mick O'Dwyer just having their first outing since the summer and Eamonn O'Donoghue not fully tuned-up yet. It was a most promising performance, full of whole-hearted spirit in the second half, by a side composed mostly of the successful 1973 under-21s.

Since then these young players—more of them in fact—had an even more notable display when they went to O'Connor Park in Tullamore and decisively beat Offaly, who had been looking so good in early winter. The absence of John O'Keeffe, Paudie Lynch and Jackie Walsh and their experience demanded even more from the under-21 players and they rose to the occasion very, very adequately.

Goalkeeper Paudie O'Mahony is settling down nicely in a position that has been filled by so many players before him. Jimmy Denihan at left full-back is a vigilant, sturdy defender and Ger Power and Jer O'Keeffe are quick-thinking, sharp wing half-backs. In the attack John Long, John Egan and Michael Sheehy are full of energy, have a high work-rate and move well in collusion.

The return of Donie O'Sullivan, who was in topping form after being called in at the last-minute for the Tullamore game, and the re-appearance of John O'Keeffe, Paudie Lynch and Jackie Walsh when they recover from injuries will give Kerry a strong blend. They have every reason to be optimistic going into the new playing year.

Whether their hopes will be completely fulfilled is another matter altogether. Assuming that Tipperary, Waterford, Clare or Limerick don't "throw a spanner in the works" by depriving us of that Kerry-Cork Munster final in Fitzgerald Stadium will Kerry take back the title?

By July the young men who have come up from the under-21 side will have had over six months of senior football, meeting some of the better footballing sides in the game, and will have benefitted considerably from the experience. They will almost certainly have had the advantage of playing in the League semi-final, so they will be a more confident bunch by provincial final time.

Remember, however, that Cork are now virtually out of the running for the National League semi-finals—only some astounding upsets of form in Division 1A would revive their interest—and they will have a period of rest from the end of March. Then they have a tune-up before the championship starts when they play Galway at Wembley Stadium in May. Therefore, they go into the championship refreshed . . . and that's important because All-Ireland champions can become weary of football, especially when the league comes so soon after as climatic a triumph as Cork's long-awaited one was.

Moreover it will be a different Cork in Killarney next July than the Cork side that went there in the summer of '72 and failed in their defence of the provincial title. This time they also have the morale-boosting All-Ireland crown and in July they will be fiercely determined to have it still when they leave Fitzgerald Stadium.

There's no doubt Kerry have the material and the potential to guarantee them good times ahead, but expecting them to dethrone Cork next July may be a little ahead of their time.



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The Texaco Stars

By NEIL McCAVANA

LIMERICK and Cork have produced some great captains down the years, and in Eamonn Grimes and Billy Morgan, who have just added the Texaco trophies to their impressive collections of top awards, they have men well qualified to command prominent places among the outstanding team leaders in hurling and football. Their strong, purposeful leadership did much to create the mood for those long-awaited All-Ireland senior triumphs by Limerick and Cork.

Grimes, whether at midfield or in attack, set a bright standard all through the Shannonsiders' glory march with his darting, skilled hurling and inexhaustible energy. Morgan matched the headline consistently on the football front with his coolness and dependability in goal, and deft and intelligent clearances that so often sent Cork sweeping out from defence into attack. Truly, captains who were shining examples to their team-mates.

Eamonn Grimes, now 25, and Billy Morgan, who will be 29 this month, have more in common than their great qualities as inspiring captains of All-Ireland senior title winning outfits. Both are former Colleges' players, although the Limerick native enjoyed the greater success nationally as a schoolboy. He won All-Ireland senior hurling medals with Limerick C.B.S. in 1964 and 1966.

This pair also put their budding skills on parade on the inter-county minor front. In those days, however, as in the Colleges' matches, the man who has now carved out such a proud reputation for himself as a master of the goalkeeper's art, was chasing scores as a forward.

Morgan moved into goal around the mid-'Sixties, and quickly won honours with Cork in the position in both the junior and Under-21 grades. In addition, he collected

Sigerson Cup medals with U.C.C. in 1965 and 1966.

This now celebrated duo continued virtually in step during 1966. Billy was called up to the senior inter-county grade for a challenge game on Easter Sunday, and a few months later Eamonn made his debut with the premier Limerick squad in a Munster Championship encounter with Tipperary.

Since then they have been consistently to the forefront in the top rank, perfecting the matchless skills that helped them to earn such acclaim during the past year.

As is so often the case, however, the early days in inter-county senior competitions did not prove especially fruitful for Grimes or Morgan as regards the top national honours. The 'Seventies have brought a dramatic change in fortune, however.

COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

Eamonn, with his great competitive spirit and skill, proved a vital link in the side that completed a rare double for Limerick in 1971 by winning the National League title and the Oir-eachtas Cup. Some months later Morgan, who has been Munster's first choice in goal since 1967, was putting up the type of barrier that was invaluable in helping the South to power in 1972 to a first Railway Cup title win in 23 years.

The vigilant and brave goalkeeper figured in another celebrated win later that year when his club, Nemo Rangers, took the Cork senior football championship for the first time. And yet again the Limerick hurler, a native of Donoughmore, kept firmly in step.

He pulled his weight in impressive style in a victory over Patrickswell that earned for South Liberties a first county senior hurling final triumph since 1890.

In their reigns as county captains this gifted pair marshalled their many telling skills to a degree that made each the type of rallying force that means so much to a team. They grew in stature with leadership that was brimful of intelligence and inspiration.

Small wonder, then, that Eamonn Grimes and Billy Morgan continued firmly in step by taking their places for the first time in the ranks of the Carrols All-Stars awards winners in December, and then went on to emerge as the Texaco Gaelic players of 1973.

They well deserve these latest distinctions, for they have served not only their counties, but the games really well. There can be little doubt, either, that they will continue in the seasons ahead to adorn the games with their power-packed play and sportsmanship.

As long as hurling and football keeps producing men of the dedication and high qualities of Eamonn Grimes and Billy Morgan, then there is no need to be fearful for the future of the national games.

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HONOUR FOR ANDY

By Jay Drennan

A NEW face to the big hurling scene will appear in the No. 11 jersey for Munster in the Railway Cup series this spring. Andy Heffernan of Waterford has already been in the substitutes' list last year, but now makes his first appearance in the team itself. It may not have been a great year for centre-forwards, but Heffernan has, nevertheless, forced his presence on the selectorial mind by constancy, endeavour and no little skill throughout the recent successful League campaign by his county.

Not that one has to have a special introduction to Andy Heffernan, for he is one of those for whom hurling must have been a natural thing, born in the blood.

The name is a familiar one to any serious hurling follower, but, for the most part, it is in a Kilkenny connection. The name creates visions of Kilkenny teams of the '40s. But, of course, one should always remember the fluid inter-relationships between Kilkenny and Waterford, so it is no surprise to find Andy turning up in the Munster colours.

Two of his uncles were outstanding hurlers, in their day, and Mick had the rather unusual distinction of playing for both Leinster and Munster in the Railway Cup series. First with his home province Leinster, and after moving southwards, with Munster when playing with Waterford.

It is, therefore, a case of blood being thicker than water. Andy is the second brother of the family to make an impact in the Waterford jersey, but his elder brother Jimmy was tragically killed in a motor accident a little over a year ago.

Andy has reached inter-provincial status as a centre-forward just at a time when the debate has not yet been resolved as to whether he is really a centrefield man or a centre-forward. It is fair to say that he is still a comparative learner as a pivot of the attack, because he is a midfielder for his club and was recognised for a considerable period as a midfielder for the county team also.

Only a year ago there was great talk about the

midfield pairing of Andy Heffernan and John Galvin for Waterford: it was considered by many good judges as one of the finest young partnerships to come on the hurling scene. They were playing well with one another and there certainly was an element of compensation for one another evident in their partnership.

Curiously, neither is now in the position for the county selection: Heffernan has moved to centre-forward and Galvin has been more recently playing in the half-back line where he plays the most of his club hurling.

The thing that causes many people to favour centre-field for Heffernan is his scope and drive and wonderful all-round fitness. It is not in the close hurling that Andy scores but in the open field, where he can make up in a longer run for possession the speed which he does not possess over the first few paces. Those long legs and tall frame need a few warming up strides before they get into full flight, but when he is going, no one goes so hard and uncautiously after the ball.

It is nothing strange to see Heffernan hurl himself full length to block a stroke by an opponent; quite usual to see him make up yards of ground by sheer grit to harrass a man already on the ball until he robs him; and standard procedure for him to charge in through the whirling hurleys to get a crack at goal.

In fact, Andy drives himself hard. It has to be a question of driving himself because he is naturally a very shy, quiet, lad and his original problems in establishing himself had all to do with nervousness and some slight doubt. He is now well over the days when he could muff a free through being too tense; and there is no earthly reason that he should have another dose of diffidence in his new status as an interprovincial. Even at that, however, it is not altogether clear that he would not make a better centre-field player than a centre-forward.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN BEING DAMNED WITH FA

MAYBE I am being pessimistic, but as things stand at the moment, I have a sad feeling that the suggested changes in the football rules are being damned with faint praise, and being pushed to one side in general G.A.A. thinking. Indeed if the present trend continues, it looks to me as though they will be cast aside by Congress and the hard work of the Rules Revision Committee will once again have been all in vain.

I sincerely hope and trust that this will not happen. I have seen these proposed rule changes tried out three times in public competition, and while I believe now as I did then that there are still various aspects to be ironed out, especially as regards the pick-up and the solo-run, I still am very much in favour of the proposed changes which, from what I saw of them, brought fast open and spectacular play and reduced the personal fouls astoundingly. At the very least these rule proposals deserve a fair and extended trial, but what gets me down is to see them condemned out of hand by people who have never seen them in action, and even by players who have never attempted to play under them.

Doubting Thomases one can accept, but not those who choose to condemn suggested changes that they have never seen and have only read about. Surely they should at least do President Donal Keenan, Paul Kelly, John Moloney, Patsy Devlin and Des Ferguson the courtesy of at least trying out those suggested changes before they condemn them.

Another aspect of some of the criticism of the suggested rule changes is that the attitude is entirely negative. People are against the suggested alterations but have no alternatives to suggest, although many of these critics will readily agree that our football game is sadly in need of improvement. On the other hand I am prepared to listen carefully to those, and most of them are players who feel that if the present rules were re-written, made more clear-cut and strictly enforced, there might be no need for any drastic rule revision at all.

With that attitude I, to an extent, agree. The present rules properly applied would, in my opinion, deal quite well with such matters as obstruction, the third-man tackle and the pick-up.

Moreover, if the solo-run were confined to one hand-to-toe, it would solve that problem. But I am all in favour of the larger square, but inside the smaller square I would allow the goalkeeper to be challenged but not charged.

I would however rigidly enforce the rule that

By
MOONDHARRIG

no attacking player can enter the "small" square before the ball. The Camogie people have had this rule for years and it works very effectively indeed. If enforced in hurling and football it would make an end first of all to goalkeepers being intimidated by forwards before ever the ball comes in, and the more than aggravating and frustrating sequel of forwards trying to get into that square and backs striving to keep them out, and all this happening before a "70" or a "50" is taken.

Certainly I agree that we should revise, clarify and enforce the present rules, but in that clarification and revision I would incorporate the ideas of the Rules Committee as far as is practicable. We must open up the game, we must have more continuity of play, and we must put an end to the pulling and dragging, the deliberate obstruction, the pulling down of the man, the tugging of the jersey, and the persistent third-man tackle.

If we do not open up the game, speed it up and make it as attractive as it should be for players and spectators alike how long are we going to attract

RULES ARE AIN'T PRAISE

the crowds, how long are we going to attract the allegiance of the rising generation.

In many counties at Convention time various officials were worried about loss of interest in our games by the Youth, and this was especially true in the football counties. The answer surely is to make the game as attractive as possible for the lads coming up. Otherwise they will either give their allegiance to some other code, or worse still play no game at all and spend their spare time either in front of the television sets or in the plush bars.

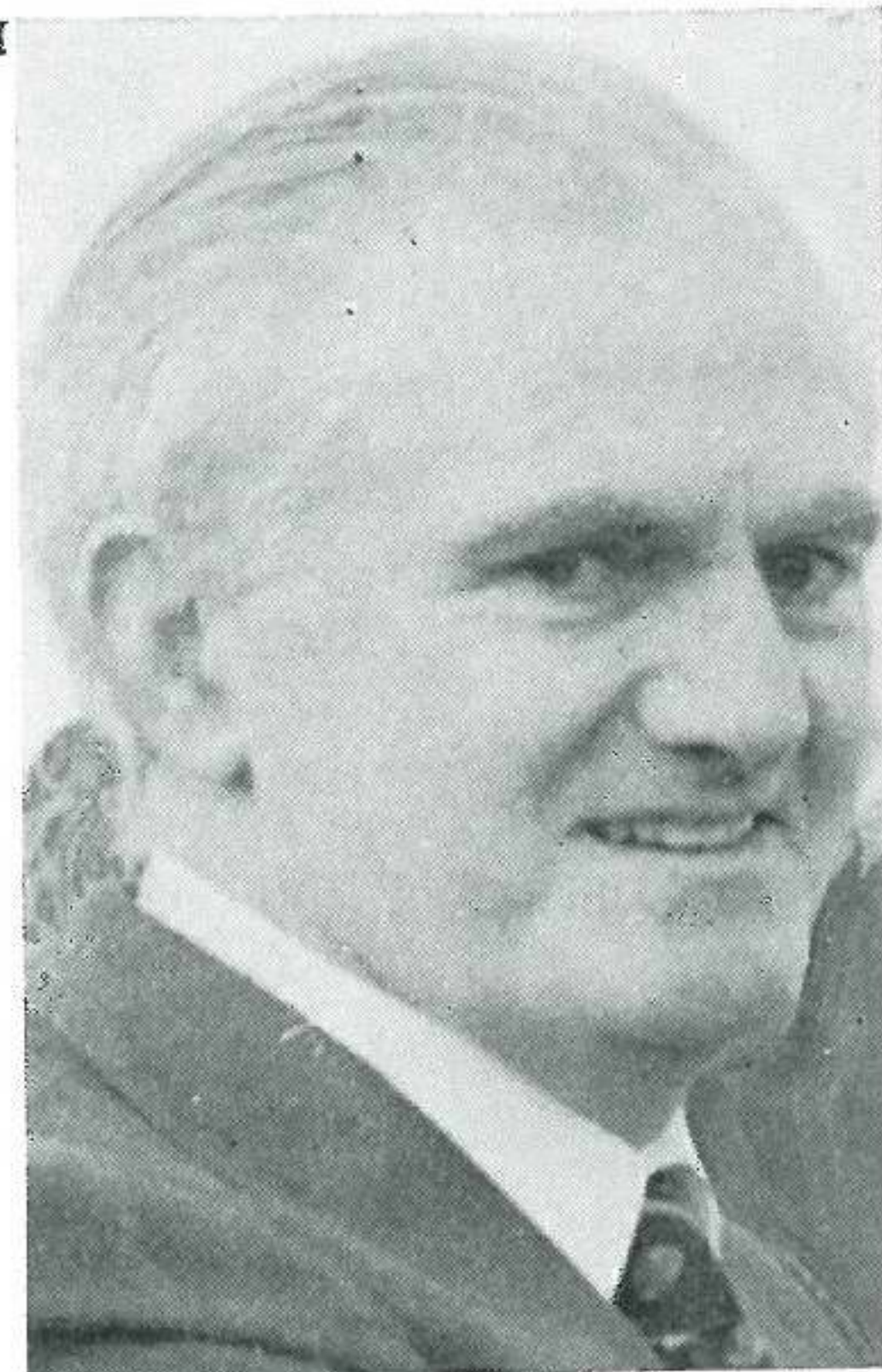
And I don't like to rub it in, but those in charge of Dublin juvenile teams tell me the pre-teenagers love the proposed revised Rules and have no difficulties with the "chip up".

About the hurling rules I have said nothing because there is so little to say. At the time I write they have not been tried out at all, and anyway the only controversial suggestion was the one about not being permitted to lift the ball from the ground to hand with the stick.

I would, of course, like to see the proposed rules about the squares and the third man tackle enforced on the hurling fields too.

* * *

Meanwhile of immediate interest is the problem of who will reach the knock-out stages of the National Leagues. In the football competition the odds in the A section are now heavily in favour of Kerry going through to the semi-finals, with the second place resting between Offaly and Roscommon. All-Ireland champions Cork, and beaten finalists Galway still have outside chances, but are unlikely to make up lost ground unless pre-Christmas form was all wrong. In Division 1 B, Sligo look very much like certainties to reach the semi-finals once again, with Tyrone my own fancies to join them, though, if Mayo could beat Tyrone in the last game of the League proper they could join their Connacht neighbours in the money-spinning stages.



● *Dr. Donal Keenan, Uachtarán C.L.G., who was a member of the Rules Revision Committee that drew up the present proposed rule changes.*

In Division 2 A, Dublin are almost assured of promotion, with Waterford the team most likely to go up with them, and Kildare still retaining an outside chance. In the other section, four counties are still very much in contention for promotion. Meath, Laois and Antrim top the table with eight points each, with Donegal just a point behind them.

But Meath have still to visit Donegal, and Laois have to travel to Antrim, so it is obvious that the winners of these vital games are most likely to be the two counties to make the semi-finals, and, probably promotion. But at this stage the whole question of promotion and relegation must remain somewhat vague since the entire League set-ups are due for revision at the end of the current competitions.

In hurling, Limerick, Cork and Waterford are at present favourites for the top three of the Top Four positions in Division 1 A, with oddly enough, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Wexford and Clare all still hopeful of gaining the last place from here. But since most of the top teams still have to play one another, there could be remarkable upsets yet before the end of this month.

In Division 1 B, Dublin like their footballers should reach the knock-out stages, with Kildare the most probable side to join them there.



● Pat Hartigan, one of the key men in Limerick's plans for 1974.

Three or four changes needed if Limerick are to retain All-Ireland

BY SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

THE celebrations — and they were prolonged — are now over, and Limerick hurling supporters, and probably hurling lovers everywhere, are speculating on the prospects of the Shannonsiders retaining their crown in 1974, or even following up the pattern of the 'thirties with a long spell of hurling supremacy.

I can tell you this was a foremost topic at many of the "celebrations"—particularly those in which the old timers participated. I have especially in mind, the magnificent reception laid on by the Mayor and Corporation, to which they very thoughtfully invited all players who had won All-Ireland medals in the Limerick jersey down the years.

We had five survivors of the 1918-1921 successes present on that occasion, but the greatest turn out of all represented the 1933-1940 period, with only five of that spell missing — only one really, because the other four

had crossed the Great Divide.

Whilst all agreed that Limerick had hit an inspired patch in the All-Ireland, and were unbeatable on the occasion, the general opinion was that they could not reach a like tempo again, and consequently the battle to hold on to their crown was certain to prove a very tough one indeed.

It was almost unanimously conceded that three, or possibly four, changes were an absolute necessity before Limerick could be even rated in the running for the 1974 title. Running the rule over the reserves was not a very rewarding exercise—the material on the whole was accepted as not of All-Ireland calibre, unless very intensive competition induced a vast improvement.

What most of those debating the matter then failed to take into consideration was the inspiration the All-Ireland win had created throughout the county.

This was very evident immediately the County Championship

games got under way — and an early shock was the defeat of the County Champions—South Liberties. Other fancied teams fell in subsequent encounters, and when the County Final was reached the fantastic situation revealed itself in that only one of the participants—Mossy Dowling of Kilmallock — was on the All-Ireland team.

Attendance records were broken at almost every game and the crowd that witnessed the final was far in excess of anything previously experienced in Limerick.

The competition was also remarkable for the promising material it unearthed. One thing certain is that the County is not going to have any shortage of half backs in the immediate future.

First class forwards were not as plentiful, but it is generally accepted that the selectors have much wider scope for experimen-

tation than looked possible in the immediate wake of the All-Ireland decider.

The amazing interest created by the County Championship ties has prompted the revival of an inter-divisional senior hurling championship — a competition that proved very popular some years ago, but was permitted to lapse when the local championship programme got into arrears.

For the first time in many seasons the local Limerick slate is clean—1973 saw all championships completed, some in arrears from as far back as 1971.

The standard appears evener in the divisions now than at any previous period in Limerick hurling history, and the proposed inter-divisional championship could have a profound influence on the composition of the Limerick team for the next championship season.

It is generally believed that the team that played in the All-Ireland final should be the one to participate in the American Tour and the meeting with the Carrolls All-Star side in San Francisco, next April. Once that tour is over, however, quite a few changes are likely, and it could be a much altered Limerick side that will line out when championship time comes round again.

The shape of things to come have been already noticeable in some recent League line outs. Limerick have the ambition of appearing in their fifth successive National Hurling League Final — an achievement in itself and they are determined to crown their championship triumph with a resounding League success, thus completing a double first achieved by a Shannonside team before the turn of the century, when Kilfinene won both championships and Croke Cup in 1897, the first Irish County to do this.

And it must not be forgotten

that during their great spell of the 'thirties, Limerick won five national Hurling League titles in a row — an achievement no other county has succeeded in equalling.

Limerick has some great hurling days behind them and it is the ambition of those now guiding the destinies of the County that the new era now entered upon will be as rich in achieve-

ment as any was in the past.

This is setting an extra high target, but recent indications are that it can be reached, and that Limerick of 1974 will follow the example of the men of two score years ago, when the All-Ireland Golden Jubilee year "double" of League and Championship was achieved, as a prelude to a great spell in Limerick hurling history.



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DISCOVER IRELAND '74 COMPETITION RESULTS

WE received a really excellent entry for our Discover Ireland '74 Free Holiday competition so graciously sponsored by Bord Failte.

You will remember that in our January issue we published eight advertising slogans which appeared in that issue and we asked our readers to identify the company in each case. The first six entries to be drawn from the hat were to be the prizewinners.

The first correct entry to be drawn and consequently the winner of the first prize of a Holiday Voucher for £50 was Aidan Cloake, 52 Bayview Avenue, North Strand, Dublin 3.

The winners of the five runner-up prizes of £10 each were:

John Crowley, 26 Ferndale Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 11.

P. J. Houlihan, Lacca, Ballyduff, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Miss Margaret Flannery, c/o McGivneys Flats, Sean Costello Street, Athlone.

Miss Siobhan McAreavy, 21 Oakleigh Road, Portadown, Craigavon, Co. Armagh BT62 3QF.

Miss Claire M. Kemple, Galway Road, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Congratulations to all the winners and we hope you will have a wonderful Discover Ireland Holiday. We extend a big thank you to Bord Failte for their sponsorship and to all the companies who allowed their advertising slogans to be used in our competition.

The correct solution to the competition was:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Smithwicks | 6. Churchmans |
| 2. Taylor Keith | 7. The Braids Group Ltd.
(El Jay Laces) |
| 3. Hibernian Insurance | 8. Belvedere Bond |
| 4. Allied Irish Finance | |
| 5. P.M.P.A. | |

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Tony McTague

By OWEN McCANN

Pressure on the top scoring men

WE'RE off again on yet another season that should add some further colourful chapters to the lively and exciting world of inter-county scoring achievements in football and hurling! Who are the forwards likely to grab the bulk of the headlines?

Such established regulars on top of the charts as Eddie Keher, Michael Kearins and Tony McTague provided plenty of evidence during 1973 that they are not ready yet to move over and make way for a new generation of sharpshooters. At the same time, the signs were still there during the past year that the recognised scoring giants will be under plenty of pressure.

Tom Byrne has emerged as one of the sharpest finishers in hurling. In fact, he went close to the top award last year in that he finished second nationally in hurling just six points behind Eddie Keher.

The Wexford man put up a wonderful score of 16-17 (124 points) in 20 appearances, and in the process he helped himself to a proud distinction. His haul ranks as the best by any Wexford hurler since Nick Rackard established the county record at

35.50 (155 points) in 19 games back in 1956.

Byrne is also the first player from the county to reach three figures in an annual campaign since those days when Rackard was hammering home the goals and points in such spectacular fashion. He had his best individual bag of the year against Kilkenny in the Leinster final, a match in which he punched home 2-6, and he failed to score in only one engagement.

Another county to get back into the limelight last year after a lengthy absence was Tyrone . . . thanks to the accuracy of Patsy Hetherington, who emerged as the new "hot shot" of Ulster football. A noteworthy bag of 4-67 (79 points) in 21 games left the Donaghmore club man the top scorer of 1973 in the North.

He is the first player from Tyrone to earn this rating since Frankie Donnelly achieved the county record at a splendid high of 117 points (5-102) in 22 games in 1957. Since then no player from Tyrone had reached even 50 points in an annual programme, until Hetherington went a score-making in such fluent style in the past year.

Patsy had his most profitable outing, score-wise, against Armagh in a League tie at Lurgan last February, at 1-6, and he missed out completely in the scoring stakes in only one appearance.

Another young man whose achievements in the past year are well worth spotlighting is Peter McGinnity (Fermanagh), who will be in action at midfield for Ulster this month.

This 21-year-old had not a record-making campaign, but he still made an important impact by finishing joint seventh in the All-Ireland chart with 1-52 (55 points) from 15 games. This left him only three points behind the Fermanagh peak that was scaled back in 1966 by P. T. Treacy at 7-37 (58 points) in 14 games. So, if this marker is to be erased in the near future, Peter McGinnity looks the young man to do it.

Richie Bennis has, of course, been prominently to the fore in the hurling chart for some seasons past, although he has still to land the coveted premier ranking nationally. Nevertheless, he has provided himself as other Limerick hurlers with a new target to shoot at in 1974.

Bennis finished Munster's top marksman of 1973 and third in the All-Ireland table in hurling with a score of 9-87 (114 points) in 17 games. This pipped by a single point the previous best for Limerick that he had established himself in 1971 when he first led the way in Munster, and took second place nationally, on a score-line of 6-95 (113 points) in 16 games.

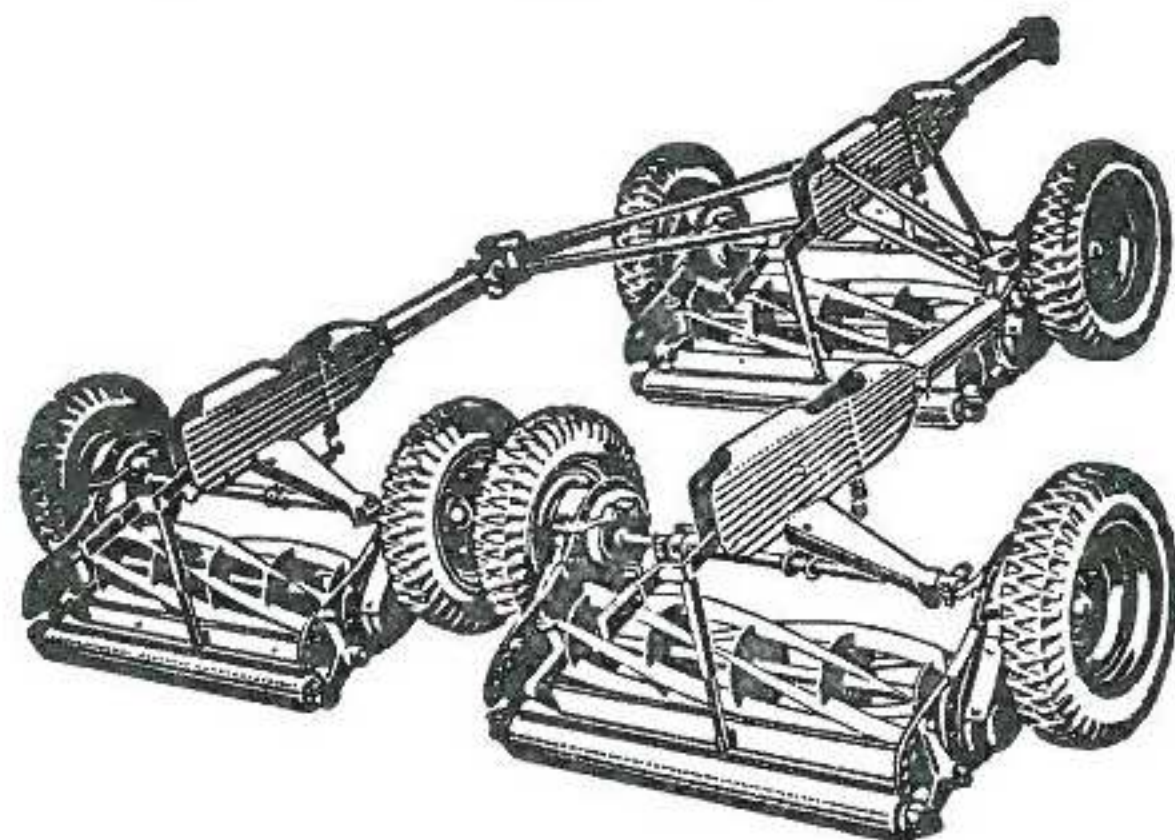
The great Patrickswell hurler scored 1-7 against London in the All-Ireland semi-final at Ennis, and 0-10 in the All-Ireland de-

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● FROM PAGE 29

cider — his two leading match totals of the year. He found the target in every one of his engagements.

Mention of an All-Ireland final brings to mind the sharpshooting of Morgan Hughes in the senior football decider. That was the 19-year-old Killarney youth's first full senior championship match, and it speaks well for his budding talents that he finished Galway's top scorer in the game with 0-7.

By the year's end Hughes, who was in the St. Jarlath's, Tuam, team that lost the All-Ireland Colleges final in April of last year, had made nine appearances with the Galway premier side and put up 0-31 to join that unlucky sharpshooter from the county, John Tobin, in second place in Galway's chart.

Tobin had scored 0-31 in only six matches when his career was interrupted by an injury. This pair finished just five points behind Liam Sammon, who hit 3-27 (36 points) in 20 ties.

Another interesting feature was that Noel Myles made only seven appearances with Kildare in senior football, but still did more than enough to emerge as the county's most prolific scorer. He had a brace of points to spare over Jack Donnelly, who had eleven engagements, with his bag of 3-32 (41 points) at the good match average of 5.85 points.

Finally, with the outlook brighter for Waterford hurling than for some years it will be interesting to see if the 1963 county peak will be improved on. That year Phil Grimes played 14 games, and scored 10-57 (87 points).

Stephen Greene's score of 13-24 (63 points) in 16 games for ninth place nationally in hurling in 1973, is the best score by a Waterford hurler since the Grimes run.

Colourful year for handball

by ALLEYMAN

THIS is going to be a most colourful year in the history of handball as the Irish Handball Council will celebrate its fifty years of integration with the G.A.A.

Previous to 1924, when this marriage took place, handball was organised through the I.A.H.A., and in fact this latter body remained in existence until the mid-thirties. In those earlier years the emphasis was on the old code of hardball, but in time, this shifted to softball which undoubtedly is now the dominant code.

Indeed, as handball moves into another phase of history, it is interesting to note that the main point of contention concerns the type of court in which we play.

With the passage of time we have moved from the open three-walled court to the covered and floodlit court and in latter years the compact American type structure has gained many new adherents. The debate which is in existence on the merits of our own 60' x 30' and the American 40' x 20' court should and, I hope, will provide us with a clear-cut policy in the near future.

Let us, for a brief spell ponder on the progress of the game during the last 50 years. We found handball, prior to its integration with the G.A.A. as a major sport in the sense that it was played almost exclusively on a professional basis.

Only the top players received recognition and the wager or side stake was the important bait.

There was relatively little organisation on a national scale, hence the judicious appraisal of the game by Most Rev. Dr. Croke when he accepted patronage of the G.A.A. on December 19th, 1884, was timely. However, although handball was included in the Charter of the G.A.A. from this time it was not until forty years later—January 27th, 1924, that the inaugural meeting of the Irish Handball Council was held in Croke Park. John Lawlor, the famous handballer, became its first President.

In the intervening years it can be said that under the guidance of the I.H.C. the game of handball has made commendable progress.

It has initiated and maintained competitions for all grades of handballers, including juvenile and

lady players. Clubs have been encouraged to develop and improve their amenities, and the Council has seen fit to contribute to the best of its financial ability to bring these plans to fruition.

I would not be completely satisfied, that as a viable unit of the G.A.A. it has received adequate nurturing from the parent body. This applies particularly at Club level and, proof is forthcoming in the relatively few G.A.A. clubs who do, actually promote handball.

This point is vindicated by the long serving Secretary of the Irish Handball Council, Joe Lynch, who, in commenting on the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, states that all units of the G.A.A. will have to stand up and be counted as to their efforts in fostering the game.

"While handball has always enjoyed the full support of the G.A.A. Central and Provincial Councils," he states, "the same cannot be said of the majority of G.A.A. clubs."

He suggests that 1974 should be set aside as the "Year of Handball Promotion" by all units of the Association and this should take precedence over everything else. He gauges that if this support is forthcoming handball as a means of recreation will sweep the country and the sport will attain its rightful place in our country.

It is hoped to organise many events to coincide with the Golden Jubilee, one of which is the decision to send a team of four players to San Francisco, in conjunction with the Carrolls All-Stars, to meet an American selection in a series of matches. The players selected are Joe Maher (Louth), Pat Kirby (Clare), Murty McEllistrim (Kerry) and Peadar McGee (Mayo).

The matches will be staged at the Olympic Club during the week 25th—30th March. This is one of the most prestigious clubs in the world with over 600 handball playing members.

It is likely that both Pat Kirby and Joey Maher will compete in the U.S.A. National Championships which will be staged in Knoxville, Tennessee, during the week commencing March 18th. This would allow them to travel on to San Francisco to join up with the other players.

1973 will be another vintage year for Irish Milk.

Irish Milk has a long, rich history.

It makes some of the most famous names of the chateau regions seem like mere infants. And the best thing about this product is that it never changes.

Every year is a vintage year. Every year, Ireland's dairy herds yield the finest milk in the world. All that changes is the quantity.

Last year, the efforts of the Irish dairy farmers were rewarded with a record yield of 598 million gallons. Their products to the world's markets earned more than £100 million.

Ireland's farmers supply the basic material for the finest dairy products in the world. An Bord Baine's task was to find the finest markets in the world. Ireland's membership of the E.E.C. provides us with an excellent opportunity to get the farmer an even better deal.

The U.K. will still be the largest market for the products that come from Irish milk — cream, butter, cheese, whole and skimmed milk and chocolate crumb.

The rest of the enlarged Community represents even more exciting opportunities for the board, not to speak of further expanding our existing markets in Third World countries.

Perhaps even the grape growers of those famous chateau regions will learn a new toast from the dairy farmers of Ireland . . . Slainte!



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for the best dairy products in the world.*

Grattan House, Mount St. Lower, Dublin 2.



SUCCESS IN THE E.E.C.

Joe McGough of Bord Baine interviewed by Linda Collins

A MAN whose message for Ireland these days looks like a ray of light amid the encircling gloom—and the nice thing is that you can believe him when he gives you a bit of good news—is Joe McGough of Bord Baine. We may have an inflation-hit economy, second thoughts about the Common Market may have struck a chill in some hearts—but Bord Baine's record of success is there for all to see.

Strangely enough, Mr. McGough who is so closely identified with the dairy farming industry, hasn't got an agricultural background to speak of. He was born in Kilkenny and his father was a Clareman but he received all his early education in Dublin, attending in succession O'Connell Schools, U.C.D. and Kings Inns.

He was called to the Irish Bar in 1951 and then to the English Bar (Grays Inn) in 1957. But not alone did Joe McGough acquire legal accomplishments but he studied Marketing for a year at Harvard in 1961. One meets very few legal eagles who also have a professional knowledge of the selling business and fewer still who can carry their expertise in as relaxed a manner as Joe McGough. He tells you that one of the most important aspects of his job in Bord Baine, as he sees it, is to get out and meet Irish farmers as often as possible. Apart from being a duty, it's also an enjoyment because he loves close contact with the men and women who produce the primary products which Bord Baine then sells so efficiently. Sociable, humorous and unassuming, he strikes no poses as the high-powered executive. When he talks, he talks sense and the media have learned to listen to him and weigh what he says.

Joe McGough spent twenty years in the Army, joining the Volunteer Forces in 1940 and gaining his commission the same year. He retired in 1960 with the rank of Commandant having held the position of Judge Advocate, and then practised at the Irish Bar.

He took on the job of part-time Secretary of the fledgling Irish Exporters Association shortly afterwards (he is President of the Exporters' Association this year) and joined Bord Baine in May 1962 as its Secretary, a month after Tony O'Reilly's appointment as General Manager. Joe McGough became Assistant General Manager of Bord Baine in 1964, General Manager in 1966 and Managing Director in 1968. He has thus been in since the beginning

and has seen exports of Irish dairy products grow from £7.5 million in 1960 to £58 million in 1972. The figures for 1973 aren't complete yet but they are estimated at £125 million.

Bord Baine now has outlets in fifty-three countries throughout the world and has built up its markets in a very sensible manner. Granted, we all know our products can compare with the best but that alone doesn't guarantee sales. The Board has a strong distribution network which functions efficiently and though he doesn't claim it himself, part of the credit for this must surely go to Joe McGough whose enthusiasm is so infectious. The Bord Baine agents in many parts of the world may have no other Irish ties—but they're as keen as the Managing Director when it comes to looking after the interests of Irish dairy products and thus the home producers. They identify with the company and spin-off benefits can accrue from this in all sorts of unexpected directions. One of the most valuable, says Joe McGough with a laugh, is that you're always told in good time what your competitors are up to!

Asked what he thought were the most essential qualifications for a job like his, Mr. McGough said he thought it might be the ability to make decisions rapidly but not rashly, and also to have the courage of your convictions. When the U.S. lifted its embargo on imported dairy products, Bord Baine was in a position to move onto the market immediately—because they had foreseen that this could happen and they had put huge stocks into bonded warehouses so as to be able to sell the Yanks all the Irish cheese, butter and skim milk powder they wanted.

From its earliest days Bord Baine had a small board and a small executive, so everyone was involved in what the other chap was doing and when there was an extra load of work to carry, the nearest man put his shoulder to the wheel. This was an incalculable benefit and it is this spirit which Joe McGough wants to retain in the Bord. Besides leading to greater efficiency, it gives everyone great satisfaction in their jobs. Talking about the future, he says that the target of exports of £250 million by 1980 isn't just attainable — it could well be exceeded. Which is wonderful news for Irish dairy farmers. And as we said at the beginning, when Joe McGough gives you a bit of good news, the nice thing is that you can believe him.

CAREERS SURVEY

Compiled by
A. E. KEEGAN

THE Department of Labour has produced a series of career information leaflets. There are more than 200 such leaflets, and, as well as distributing them to schools, youth clubs and libraries, they are sent free to anyone who asks for them.

The leaflets set out such basic

information as where to apply, the educational standards required, the cost of training—if any—and the pay and conditions when qualified.

The jobs covered range over a wide field. Some require fees during training, in others this is free, though there may be a

competitive examination before entry. Still more require a period of apprenticeship.

The required educational levels, too, can vary, some requiring good grades in the Leaving Certificate examination while for others no formal standard is specified as essential.

The leaflets may be had free on request to the Career Information Section, Department of Labour, Mespil Road, Dublin 4.

Department of Labour

FREE LEAFLETS ON CAREERS

The Department of Labour has published a number of free leaflets covering a wide range of jobs. The occupations covered include industry, the professions, business careers, apprenticeship trades, catering, public services, clerical positions, social work, transport and travel as well as scientific, agricultural and technological careers.

Each leaflet describes the work involved, the educational and other requirements, the procedures for entry, pay, conditions, promotion prospects and sources for further information such as the professional body, trade union or employer concerned.

Tá leagan Gaeilge de gach bhileog ar fáil agus fáilteofar roimh comhfhreagras i nGaeilge.

Write to:

**CAREERS INFORMATION SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR
MESPIL ROAD, DUBLIN 4**

stating, if possible, the careers you are interested in.

SEAMEN

Irish Shipping Ltd. is creating opportunities for Irishmen to embark on careers in which they will develop and exercise skills which are comparatively rare in Ireland. Many who joined Irish Shipping as young boys are now acknowledged internationally as experts in nautical science, marine engineering, naval architecture, shipbroking, ship operation and maritime law.

Candidates for the positions of deck boy and catering boy, which lead to Boatswain and Chief Steward respectively, must be at least sixteen years of age, and of average intelligence. If the deck boy intends to advance beyond the post of Able Seaman, or aspires to officer rank, the higher his standard of education the greater will be his chances of qualifying.

Practical training at sea is given, and in the case of deck boy an opportunity to sit for the Efficient Deck Hand test. Those who complete this test are entitled to a certificate issued by the Department of Transport and Power.

There are also career opportunities for those wishing to be Engineer or Navigating Officers. The intelligence and aptitude required for these positions are understandably quite high. Candidates can qualify for entry on obtaining Leaving Certificate or

equivalent with suitable subjects. Alternatively, experience of heavy engineering in industry or a suitable technical diploma or degree can also qualify for an Engineering Cadetship.

No charge is made for training given by the company, and food and accommodation are provided both on land and at sea.

After completing the cadetship, opportunities are available for further training and qualifications that can lead to the posts of Chief Engineer or Captain.

Irish Shipping Ltd. was established in March 1941, and is a state sponsored company. Over the past year alone the company's ships called at more than 600 ports in 71 countries. This illustrates the world wide trading activities of the Irish Shipping fleet, which consists of modern, well-equipped vessels, manned by top-class personnel, who are worthy representatives of Ireland around the world.

A career with Irish Shipping will involve hard work under sometimes adverse conditions, but can result for young men of character in a sense of job fulfilment and training unequalled elsewhere.

Details of careers at sea may be obtained from the Training Superintendent, Irish Shipping Limited, 19/21 Aston Quay, Dublin, 1.

CERT

CERT is the Council for Education, Recruitment and Training for the Hotel Industry. It is a Government-sponsored agency, whose main activities are:

(1) The recruitment of school-leavers for courses and careers in the hotel industry;

(2) The co-ordination of training in formal training centres and of in-service training;

(3) The placement of trainees in hotels on completion of training courses.

CERT recruits school-leavers at two levels—at Leaving Certificate standard for persons wishing to train as Managers, receptionists and housekeepers, and at


Intermediate or Group Certificate standard for chefs, cooks, waiters, waitresses and house-assistants.

An annual recruitment campaign is organised in May and


June, when school leavers are interviewed for craft-level courses—chef, cook, waiter, waitress and house-assistant. Secondary and Vocational schools are

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Qualifications: Applicants for Navigating and Engineer Cadetships must (1) Be between the ages of 16 and 18½ on July 31st. (2) Be in good health. (3) Hold or expect to pass the Leaving Certificate or G.C.E. exams with Maths, English and Science as important subjects. Navigating Cadets must be able to pass an eye-sight test without glasses.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 15th.

Write for full details to Training Superintendent, Irish Shipping Limited, 19/21 Aston Quay, Dublin 2.

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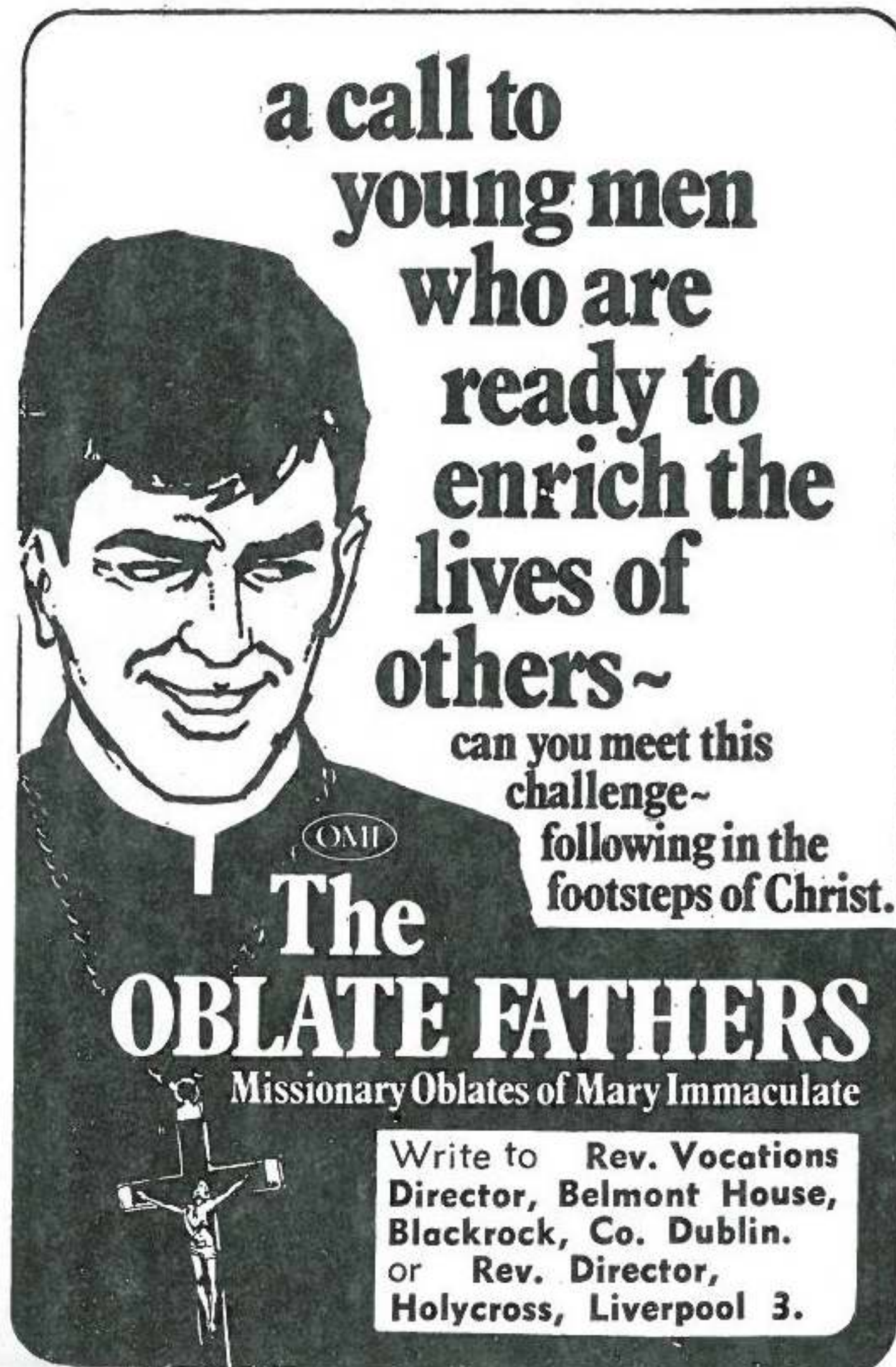
PRIESTS FOR DUBLIN

Few dioceses in the world can offer a dedicated priest such a variety of work:

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- Prisons and hospitals;
- Welfare services;
- Communications and other specialised fields;
- Opportunities for some on overseas ministry.

FURTHER INFORMATION from the Director of Vocations:

Fr. Owen Sweeney,
666 Sth. Circular Rd.,
Kilmainham, Dublin 8 (Phone 752465).



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Director, Belmont House,
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or Rev. Director,
Holycross, Liverpool 3.

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

notified of recruitment centres in April, but interested persons should contact CERT before then if possible.

A brochure giving details of the range of courses is available, and may be obtained by writing to CERT at 1, Ailesbury Road, Dublin 4 (Phone: 693522).

VOCATIONS

It is unfortunate that in our everyday language the word "vocation" has been for too long taken to refer exclusively to the priesthood or the religious life, and that "careers" are assumed to conflict with the idea of vocation.

If we are to make a true success of our life we must sincerely want to do what God wants us to do, whatever it may be. Service is what a Christian life is all about. We are all called to serve whether it be in the married or single life as a doctor, a carpenter, a priest, a nurse, a nun, or an engineer.

In Ireland the decline in the number of vocations to the priesthood and religious life has not been as great as elsewhere in the world. Nevertheless, in a diocese such as Dublin where the population is to increase from around 940,000 now to about 1½ million in 1980 the need is very acute.

In considering the needs of Ireland we cannot forget our commitment to missionary effort but the surest guarantee of continued missionary commitment is strong faith at home. The fires of faith cannot be kept burning brightly without an adequate supply of priests in Ireland.

Having said that, however, let us consider just one missionary order, the Holy Ghost Congregation who have over seven thousand priests and brothers at work in the missions. The Irish Province sends men to North America, Australia, South America, West, Central and East Africa and many other countries in the Far East.

The aim of the Holy Ghost missionary is to meet and live among those who are farthest from Christ: to revitalise the faith of neglected peoples: to show them Christ by word and service. The policy of the Holy Ghost Missionary is to stay with the people he serves, to support them as they grow until they are able to stand for Christ by themselves. The missionary goes to Africa not to serve souls but to save body and soul. Preaching, education, community development and relief work all form part of the missionary challenge.

WHAT IT TAKES

There must be a continuing genuine desire to be a priest or religious. You must want to help people in the particular way a priest helps them: in bringing God's love and consolation into their lives.

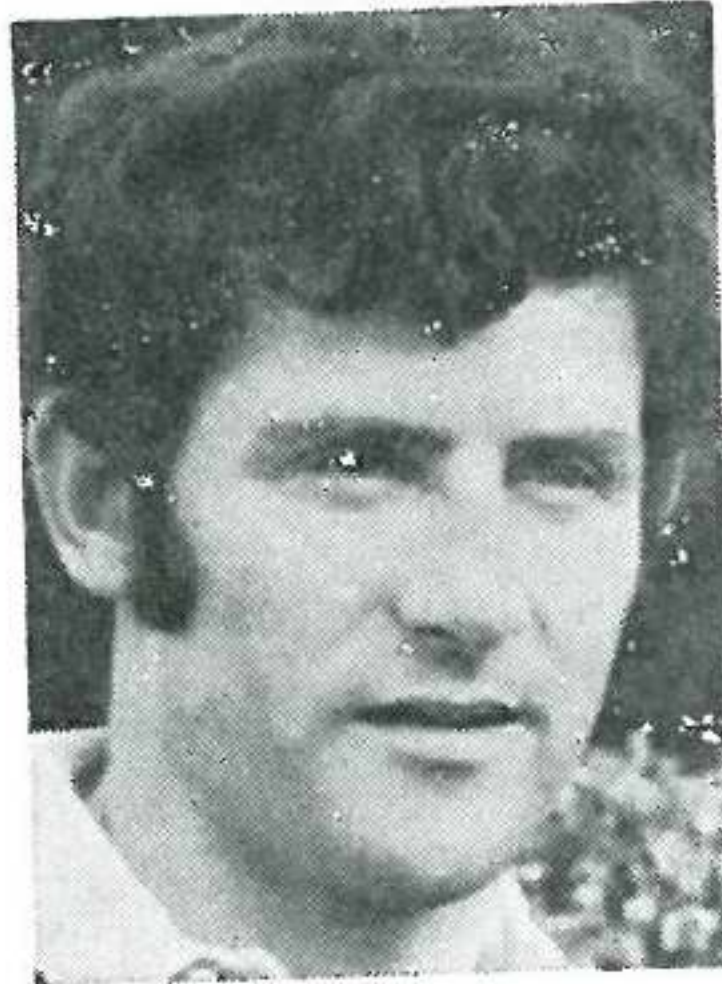
You must have the necessary qualities to match your desire, sound health of mind and body, a strong faith, balanced tempera-

ment, general will, drive and initiative and intellectual ability. In the case of the priesthood this means the Leaving Cert (or its equivalent) or the ability to reach it.

The Church must call you by saying yes to your request to be accepted and lastly you must, of

your own free will respond, I will. God invites, he does not compel.

The priesthood and religious life present a real challenge and offers a life of fulfilment and lasting satisfaction by giving yourself totally to others at the highest level of human need.



TADGH O'CONNOR

... although essentially a wing half back has given Tipperary outstanding service in the centre half position over the past couple of seasons. O'Connor, of the Roscrea Club, won a Carrolls All-Star award at right half back in 1971 and was captain of Tipperary's victorious All-Ireland team in that same season.

**Have you
anything to
give to the
people of God?**



Could you do more for Christ's reign in the world as a Jesuit priest or brother? If you are willing to give and not count the cost, to work in Zambia, Ireland, Hong Kong, Malaysia or anywhere in the world, and not seek reward —

Write for information to: **FATHER RICHARD BRENAN, S.J.,
MANRESA HOUSE, DOLLYMOUNT, DUBLIN, 3. Phone: 331352**

CLUB DEVELOPMENT NEWS

THE contrast between the facilities that exist in such clubs as St. Finbarrs Cork and Na Fianna in Dublin just to mention two and the vast majority of the clubs throughout the country is quite glaring. Unfortunately it is economically impossible for every club in Ireland to enjoy such top class facilities but surely there is a way of achieving some minimum standard. In this regard perhaps Portakabin buildings might be considered as a solution to the problem.

As the name suggests Portakabin is a portable—well you name it—office, classroom, gymnasium, changing room, clubhouse. It is high class instant accommodation. I'm sure like myself you've noticed the familiar grey and yellow structures at building sites all over the country. They serve as site offices, canteens, changing rooms, but in fact they can be used for nearly every purpose that requires four walls, a floor and a roof. Because basically that is what they are. A shell

building of timber and steel with a really top class finish inside and out. Four telescopic legs allow the Portakabin building to be levelled on concrete slabs or prepared hard surface. An important point in its favour is that all loading and unloading can be done by one man. It is a double skinned structure with insulation between the skins while the roof because of a system of overlapping is completely waterproof. The building can easily be moved from place to place and can carry up to sixty pounds per sq. foot while being transported.

While there is a basic standard design complete with lighting fittings, plugs, floor covering, etc., representatives of A. H. Masser who market Portakabin in Ireland can quote on the spot for special facilities to suit individual needs. Supplies can be effected all over the country—anywhere a lorry can go Portakabin can go.

At present these buildings are

in use with Government Depts., State and semi-State boards as well as private companies in Ireland. In rough use there is a guaranteed minimum life of ten years, but with reasonable care this can be very much extended.

Sizes range from under one hundred square feet in floor area to over seven hundred.

County boards and central authorities in the G.A.A. who must make choices between one area and another in providing facilities might very well find that a building with the unique attributes of Portakabin would be the answer to many problems. Its portability and flexibility of use could for instance allow it to double as a changing room at the weekend while allowing it to be used perhaps elsewhere as a centre for fund raising during the week. This concept of flexibility requires a certain shift in thought from the usual view of a building being static but it is a shift that may be profitable in more ways than one.

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VIEWS FROM THE 'BACKROOM'

Compiled by JOHN O'SHEA (of the Evening Press)



Liam Sammon

WHICH teams will hog the glory and the trophies in the coming months? Can we expect the Limerick march to go ahead unimpeded, and can Cork's footballers again reign supreme?

At this stage neither Limerick or Cork appear to have lost any of their edge, but nature being what it is, every county feels, this could well be their year.

What follows is a sample of the views of some of the "backroom" men on their respective sides' prospects.

ALO KELLY (Offaly): Whatever about winning the All-Ireland, I think Offaly will feature in the last four. Leinster is not going to be easy with Laois and Kildare the big dangers, but I'm confident we can make the All-Ireland semi-finals.

After that, well I fear Kerry and Mayo most. Cork I think may go out to Kerry in Munster, and we all know how well the "Kingdom" plays when they get to a final.

We still have a good crop of footballers in Offaly; it's just a matter of finding the right blend. The talent is there so I believe we will have to be reckoned with.

MICK LANIGAN (Kilkenny): We will be knocking at the door again, I'm sure of that. After a poor start to the League, the lads are beginning to find their form, and come March or April, we should be hurling as well as any team in the country.

I think it's important that we do well in our forthcoming meetings with Galway and Clare. Confidence is a very vital aspect of a side's approach and with a

few good wins under our belt, we will prove pretty difficult to beat.

I imagine that it will be another Wexford-Kilkenny Leinster final, with again, nothing but a point or two between them. After that I rate Cork the main dangers, though Limerick and of course Tipperary are also certain to put in strong bids.

PACKY McGARTY (Leitrim): If one is to be realistic, Leitrim can expect to have another poor year. Yet there are some reasons why I think the tide may change.

Over the years we invariably do better against Sligo and Roscommon than against Mayo or Galway. So it suits us to meet Sligo in the first round of the championship, with the winner taking on Roscommon.

Still Leitrim are a very weak team and for us to do anyway well, we will require a lot of luck and more than a little determination. We just don't have the players to mount a real challenge.

LIAM SAMMON (Galway): The games with Kerry and Offaly this month will tell us much about our ability. Galway have not been doing too well recently and we are in need of a boost.

We face a tough opening round of the championship against Mayo, but provided our approach is right, we will stand a fair chance. There's no doubt that there is plenty of ability in the county. A lot of good young players are coming through and this year I expect there will be a considerable number fighting for their positions.

I'll have a better idea of how we will fare after our next two League engagements.

SEAMUS POWER (Waterford): If we maintain the rate of progress we showed in the past twelve months, we can hope to enjoy a successful year. I see no reason why Waterford won't figure in the end of term honours list.

We have been doing very nicely in the League, and with a bit of luck could well advance to the final. Limerick were unfancied last year, and surprised everyone. I'm not so sure Waterford won't emulate the Shannonsiders.

Make no mistake we in Waterford are craving for success. Perhaps our time has arrived.

TOM BOLAND (Limerick): Limerick expect to carry on where we left off. The team is playing well, so optimism is the keynote.

JIM McDONNELL (Cavan): Prospects are gloomy. It's the same story, an acute lack of talent, caused primarily by emigration. Things can change for the better of course during the year, but at this stage, I don't think Cavan will be setting the football world ablaze for some time.

TOMMY BARRETT (Tipperary): Tipperary are on the way back after some undistinguished performances. In recent months injuries and the enforced absence of certain key players have had an unsettling effect on the side.

We hope to show a big im-

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ON CAMOGIE FIELDS

with AGNES HOURIGAN

AS usual the two big events on the Camogie fields at this time of year are the Ashbourne Inter-varsity tournament and the semi-finals and final of the All-Ireland club championship. Between them they mark the restart of the game through the country on a nationwide scale. Once again the Ashbourne Cup series can boast of an entry from every University in the country.

In the preliminary rounds, University College Galway play Queens University, the New University of Ulster take on U.C.D. and Dublin University will face St. Patrick's College Maynooth. Holders, University College Cork, as the host College this year will not have to play until the semi-final stages. The first round losers will also be playing at Cork, in the Shield competition.

The home side Cork, must be firm favourites to retain the trophy for the third successive year, even though the strength of these Ashbourne teams often seems to run in cycles, as star players graduate, and adequate replacements do not always come to hand immediately. However the Cork students will again have the services of four famed Cork county players, Rosie Hennessy, Cally Riordan, Liz Garvan and Pat Maloney.

Rosie Hennessy has played at full-forward in all of Cork's four in a row All-Ireland senior victories. Cally Riordan set an all-time record by playing on both the winning junior and senior All-Ireland teams at Croke Park on the same day. Liz Garvan, won her very first Ashbourne medal in Dublin last season, she had been absent through injury when the Cork students won in Galway in the previous season. But because she was out of Ire-

land through the summer in a holiday job, she missed Cork's senior All-Ireland victory, although she had been the brightest star of the county's senior attack in all three previous victorious campaigns; while Pat Maloney has won two Ashbourne medals at midfield.

With that amount of forward power, and playing on home ground, Cork should retain their inter-varsity trophy with their final opponents most likely to be U.C.D. The Dublin students have lost in the past couple of seasons all their great inter-county stars, but they have some promising replacements out of Colleges ranks, who while possibly a bit immature at the moment could prove a formidable Ashbourne force in another year or two.

On the other hand, I feel the team most likely to create a surprise is University College Galway, who should also have some promising players on view.

Indeed there will be special interest in the display of the Western students in view of the wonderful revival of the game in Galway through the past couple of years. It all began, of course, when Presentation Convent Oranmore won the All-Ireland Colleges title in 1972. Then Galway's county side, relegated to junior status that season, came out and won the All-Ireland title in that grade, following that up by representing Connacht in the Gael-Linn Cup series, and after a good semi-final win over Ulster gave the holders Leinster a hard run in the final.

And Galway continued to progress in 1973. First of all, a rather unfancied U.C.G. team gave winners U.C.C. a very hard run in the final of the Ashbourne

Cup at Belfield. Then Presentation College Athenry failed to emulate Oranmore's feat in the previous year, going down to Presentation Mountmellick in the All-Ireland Colleges final.

In the All-Ireland senior championship, played as you will remember on the open draw system, Galway caused an early surprise by defeating Dublin in the opening round, and all but caused the shock of the season when they went within a puck of the ball of defeating holders Cork in their semi-final at Ballinasloe.

Meanwhile of course they had to find a completely new junior side, which again upset all calculations by winning through to the All-Ireland final, but the big occasion manifestly upset their young players who did not do themselves anything like justice in the first half, when they let Cork run into a long lead.

It was perhaps significant however, that Galway never conceded a second-half score and gave a very good account of themselves indeed. Then came the great triumph when they added the most brilliant of their juniors to the stars of the senior county side, and sent them out to represent Connacht in the inter-provincial series. This revised Galway side first drew with the Cork seniors, who were representing Munster, and then beat them in the replay, and really showed their worth then by defeating Leinster, the holders, in the final at a Dublin venue.

On that showing, Galway must be in with a very bright chance indeed of making a great bid in 1974 for their first senior All-Ireland title, and what a wonderful thing it would be for the game if they succeeded in that quest for too-long-awaited glory.

THE G.A.A. has, throughout its history, experienced good years and bad years. This month takes us to one of the "bad" years. The Great War was raging in Europe and many Irishmen were involved in the bloody conflict with the result that manpower for playing and spectating was at a low ebb. A considerable amount of annoyance was caused by the actions of a number of former prominent members of the Association who acted as "recruiting officers" for the British army and the whole episode left a bad taste in many mouths.

It was 1915 and in August the death of the Fenian veteran, O'Donovan Rossa, sent a wave of sorrow across Ireland and the tremendous turn-out at his funeral procession was ample testimony of his real significance to the Irish race. The procession from Dublin's City Hall was astonishing as volunteers, some of whom were fully armed, came from all over the country and heard Padraig Pearse's graveside oration. The event was a vital milestone in Irish history.

Another event to capture the headlines in 1915 was the effort to establish a rival organisation to the G.A.A. and the move emanated from Kickhams Club in Dublin who had not been enjoying the best of relations with the Central Council for some years previously. A few clubs in Wexford lent support to the move but after a short time the "revolution" petered out and Kickhams returned to the fold.

This year also saw the inauguration of the Wolfe Tone Mem-

By TONY REID

orial games, a competition which served as a consolation tournament to those counties who fell by the wayside in the championship battles.

The year also proved historical for one of the lesser lights of the hurling world, Laois. They met Kilkenny in the semi-final of the Leinster championship and caused a major sensation. At half-time Kilkenny trailed the Laois men by the incredible scoreline of 3-1 to nil, and when the final whistle blew Laois were winners by 4-1 to 2-6. Kilkenny came alive in the second half and were deprived of victory because of the unrelenting defensive action of a gallant Laois side. Not even the combined efforts of such renowned Kilkenny stars as Sim Walton, Dick Grace, Dan Kennedy and J. Power could save the day.

Laois next confronted Dublin in the Leinster final at St. James' Park, Kilkenny, on Sunday, August 15th, with Mr. John Lalor, Kilkenny, acting as referee. Most judges predicted that Dublin would prove too strong for the Laois side but at the call of time the score was, Laois 3-2, Dublin 0-5, and there was not a shadow of doubt about the merit of the victory.

Down in Munster, Cork sailed past Clare in the Munster final winning by the huge score of 8-2 to 3-1. It was only in the dying minutes of the match that the 20,000 crowd got anything like value for money when Clare

finally realised that they were involved in a Munster final but by then it was too late and many fans were streaming for the exits thoroughly disgusted at the poor exhibition they had just witnessed. It was completely out of character as Munster finals go and must surely have been one of the poorest of all time.

The hurling final between Cork and Laois was played before an attendance of 14,000 and it rained continuously during the game. Cork came to town red hot favourites to take the top prize in hurling and were perhaps a trifle over-confident especially when they scored three quick goals with the match only minutes old. Then, in the 21st minute, Laois got through for a goal and that was all they needed to pull themselves together. By half-time they were only a point behind, 3-0 to 2-2. Cork were showing signs of panic.

The second half was a revelation as Laois out-hurled and outran Cork and the final score, Laois 6-2, Cork 4-1, shocked all Gaeldom. The winners received a magnificent welcome home with bonfires, parades and bands turning out all over the county to hail this memorable achievement. For the record the names of that Laois side who performed so wonderfully were: J. Finlay (Captain), J. Walsh, Tom Finlay, Jim Carrol, Jack Carrol, Joe Carrol, J. Daly, P. Champion, J. Phelan, J. Hiney, John Phelan, E. McEvoy, Bob O'Keefe, J. Dunphy and P. Ryan in goal. Those names are inscribed forever on the hearts of all Laois men.

● OVERLEAF

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In football Wexford beat Kilkenny, nine points to one, on Sunday, June 27th and thereby started a march into the record books of Gaelic football history. In the Leinster final Wexford met Dublin at Croke Park and an extremely close game finished with the sides level at 2-2 apiece. The replay provided entertainment that was right up to the high standard of the drawn affair but this time Wexford emerged worthy winners by an eight point margin.

Clare footballers equalled the feat of their hurlers by reaching the Munster football final but like their hurlers the footballers also crashed heavily, Kerry winning by 4-3 to 0-1.

On the 7th November, Wexford and Kerry footballers met in the All-Ireland final for the third successive year. The weather was fine, the pitch in perfect condition and both teams were trained to the ounce. The quality of the

football was of the highest standard possible and both teams kept nearly 30,000 people on tenterhooks for the hour. Fortunes swayed first one way, then the other as the giants battled for supremacy. At half-time Wexford led by two points with Kerry somewhat unlucky not to be ahead. Indeed, for a brief period in the second half the Kingdom men did enjoy a slender lead but Wexford fought back brilliantly and soon re-established their superiority. With time running out Kerry done all in their power to pull the game back in their favour but Wexford's defence was in no mood to be pierced and they defended mag-

nificently right to the end.

At full time the scoreboard showed that Wexford had notched 2-4 to Kerry's 2-1 and so the first of Wexford's four-in-a-row titles was won. Sean O'Kennedy was the proud captain of this powerful winning side and he was splendidly served by team-mates Gus O'Kennedy, Jem Byrne, Paddy Mackey, M. Howlett and T. Doyle. For Kerry Dick Fitzgerald played an inspired game and the Kerry captain was loud in his praises of the winners.

It had not been a great year in G.A.A. history but neither was it too bad. Certainly Laois and Wexford folk would never really call it a "bad year" I suppose.

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provement in the coming year and while our task is formidable, we have not thrown our hat at the League.

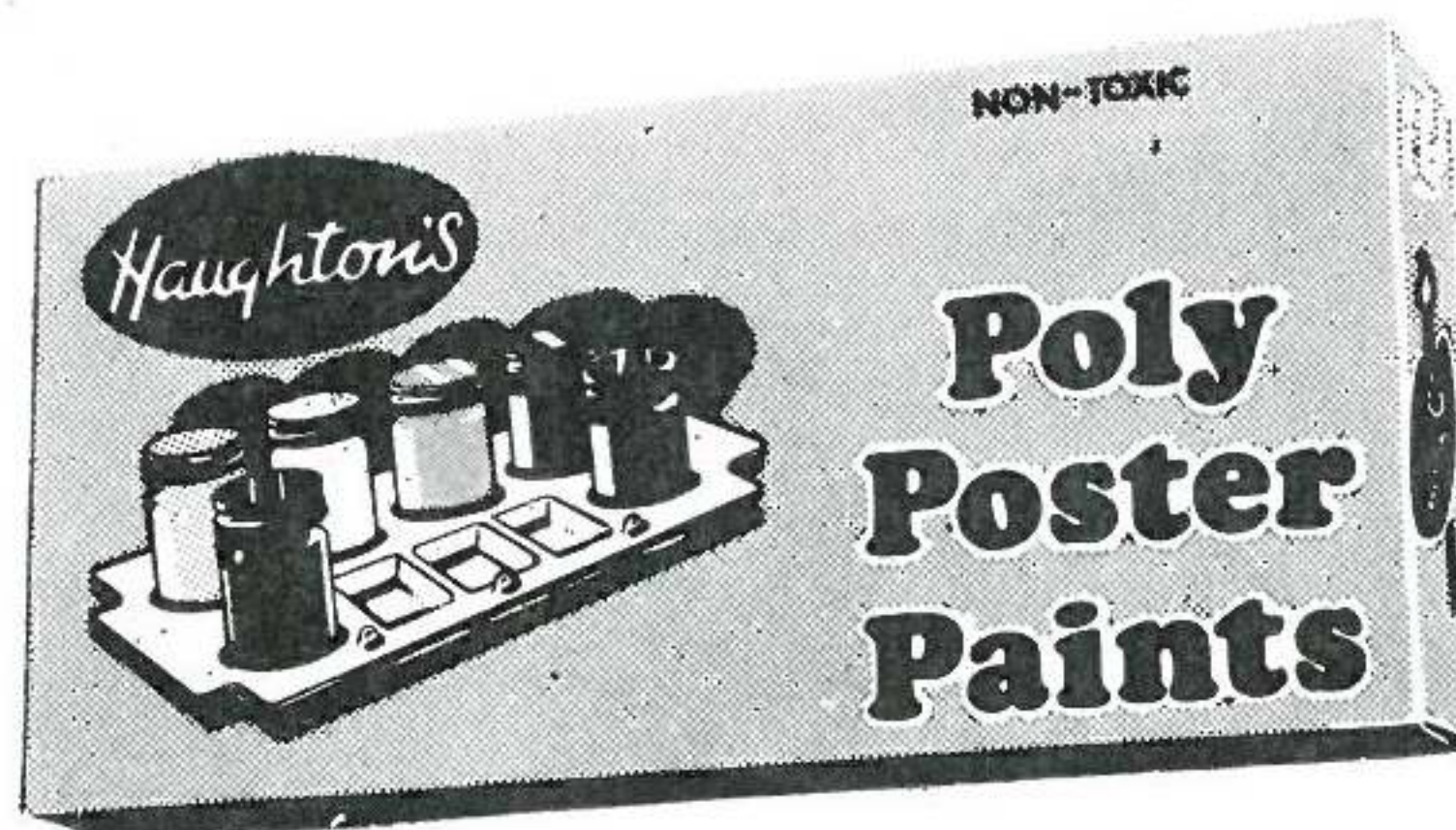
The championship is going to be especially interesting as I can-

not recall a more even competition. Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Clare and ourselves will all be in there with every chance.

While I can't admit to being extra confident about the coming year's performances, I believe Tipp can hold it's end up.



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CORK WERE NOT POOR CHAMPIONS

Says EAMONN YOUNG

THOSE forwards weren't bad at all. 'Twas how I made 'em look that way," grinned Danno Keeffe, a Kerryman who won seven All-Irelands. In fact Danno was only joking, for both of us knew he was repeating the words of his successor Johnny O'Riordan. But how true the words are when we compare the performances of many a loser with many a winner. Sometimes the winner is great and nothing will touch him. Quite often he's just in better form than the equal he plays and so makes the other fellow look poor.

In the Munster football final of this year Cork certainly made Kerry look pretty drab for the first twenty-five minutes scoring five goals in the process. After that dreadful start Kerry pulled themselves together and made a good fight of it drawing within a few points of the Corkmen at one stage. But the Kingdom had been caught groggy and the scores ensured that the game was over.

Cork made an immature Tir Eoghan team look mediocre and a smart Galway side ran rings around fancied Offaly in the other All-Ireland semi-final. Galway, with sixteen wides in the second half, plainly told us that either way they were a super side or that Offaly were bad. Two noted judges, to wit myself and John D. Hickey, decided after the game that Offaly on the day were next to helpless.

Cork took on Galway in the final. I thought before the game that Cork would win mainly because Liam Sammon would be held at centre forward and the young Galway forwards, bereft of his guidance, would fail. That and Cork's forward smartness turned

out to be the main reasons why the cup came south. Cork were acclaimed and in my book the boys deserved it for a display of smart movement and slick thinking.

After that Offaly beat the All-Ireland champions in the Grounds tournament where those doubtful changes interfered. A week later Offaly really beat Cork (with no rules difficulties) in Cork and people began to ask "Are the Corkmen poor champions?"

The question is quite fair and must be answered. My first answer is Danno Keeffe's or Johnny O'Riordan's. It is often the equal makes you look poor at "rambling or roving or football or sporting Or drinking black porter" even . . . Often it goes with the day.

Cork are not poor champions. They were beaten deservedly by a good Offaly side which had trained well for the Grounds tournament and the League, a side which had been hurt by its failure to score three in a row and which was stimulated by good men behind the side. The merit of the Leinster team is known and all that was needed to make it really formidable was a little extra in preparation. Cork, with none of the same urgency, could not be relied on to match and so the result was expected.

A fortnight later the test was a little different. To be beaten by Kerry in Cill Airne wouldn't be a bite readily swallowed and so a little individual preparation was done. In addition the motivation was higher and there was no need to tell each man that this was a game to be won. Kerry started well, carried the fight right to each Corkman and throughout

the best League game I ever saw neither side wilted but hit with all the fair manhood the two counties could produce playing good football as well until the crowd rose to a grand finish which went Leewards by one point. It proved to all that Munster football is sound and that either will make the rest of the country hop next year in the semi-finals.

Kerry were caught in the Munster final; Offaly were caught in the Galway semi-final; Offaly caught Cork in the League and from now on in that competition a lot will depend on the individual form and motivation. We must wait till the spring and the golden days of June and July to see how good all these teams are and I will be very surprised then if Cork don't prove to be a tough one for any team they meet.

The Cork fifteen which won the final this year will be available I hope. Add Billy Field who probably will be in action again, after his disaster of the Tir Eoghan game when he was carried off with a broken ankle within five minutes of the start. Add Jerry Lynch, Teddy O'Brien, Seamus Coughlan, Robert Wilmot, Mick Scannell, Noel Murphy, Martin Doherty and Tony Murphy.

It's pretty hard to win two All-Irelands in a row but Cork have a lot going for them . . . as much as anyone else and while it is far too early to talk yet I'd be a very happy man to be following the lads to Croke park next August . . . if . . . if . . . IF . . . we can get out of Cill Airne, laughing back over our shoulders once again at the airy boys from the Kingdom. . . . That will be the day.

■■■■■■■■■■ A BOOK OF MEMORIES ■■■■■■■■■■

RECENTLY while doing a bit of house tidying I came across an old autograph book which was my treasured possession when I was a little boy.

Although it is now seventeen or eighteen years old it has withstood the test of time very well. As I leafed through the pages memories came flooding back. I recall how I used to go to local games Sunday after Sunday always equipped with my autograph book. At that time I had quite a number of favourite players many of whom I was delighted to meet and receive their autographs. All the players whom I approached were very co-operative and I don't think I ever got a refusal.

Some of my idols were members of the Meath 1949 and 1954 All-Ireland winning teams. Probably my favourite of those sides was full back Paddy O'Brien still rated by many shrewd judges as the greatest number three ever to grace a Gaelic field. Paddy worked as a commercial traveller in my area at that time and it was one evening after school that I met with him. He was happy to oblige me with his signature. Years later I was again to meet Paddy O'Brien when I had the pleasure of interviewing him and again he was most courteous and helpful.

Other Meath players of that era are in my little book. Kevin McConnell, Miceál O'Brien, Michael Grace, Tom Duff, Peter McDermott, Seamus Keery, Christo Hand, Brian Smyth, Frankie Byrne and Mattie McDonnell are all listed.

Michael Grace was the hero of the 1954 final when Kerry were beaten. In that same year Tom Duff sustained a broken leg in the Leinster Final against Offaly. Last year he was still playing club football with Syddan. Peter

By **NOEL COOGAN**

McDermott went on to contribute to the G.A.A. in many ways and the same can be said of Brian Smyth and Kevin McConnell. Frankie Byrne still lines out with Jimmy Magee's All-Stars and retains a lot of his old craft and speed.

Of course I collected autographs of players from other counties. Paddy Markey (Louth) and Ollie Freeney (Dublin) were two that I was lucky enough to get. I admired the deadly accuracy of Freeney from placed balls. Tyrone were one of the top teams of the mid 'Fifties and I was delighted when they paid a visit to Kells to play in the now defunct Fitzsimons Cup. I met most of that brilliant Northern combination, all of whose names are in the book. What great players Tyrone had then. Men like Jody O'Neill (now the county team manager), Thady Turbitt, Iggy Jones (a great little wing forward) and Frankie Donnelly (not long retired).

I also remember a visit of Sligo to Navan for a National League game. Sligo were not big guns in the football world then, but still they were inter-county players and I was interested in obtaining their autographs. Nace O'Dowd, who often played full back for Connacht, was the best known of them and I see his name in my book. Also Paddy Christie who proved very helpful to me.

Also I remember the 1955 All-Ireland Junior Football final which was played in Navan. Cork won it and I think it was Armagh that they beat in the decider. But the highlight of the game was a superlative display at mid-field for the winners by a fellow called Jackie Collins. I got his autograph and he even gave me his address which was Clonakilty.

However, I never heard of him making it in senior football and I wonder what became of him.

There are other famous names in my book such as Sean Flanagan and Tom Langan (Mayo), Paddy Harrington (Cork), Frank Evers (Galway) and Simon Deignan (Cavan). Also great cyclists like the legendary Gene Mangan of Kerry. That autograph book still remains one of my most treasured possessions and I would not part with it for anything. I wonder how many young boys go to games nowadays equipped with their autograph books.

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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

I WAS at the Carrolls All-Star Banquet in the New Jury's Hotel and it was a fabulous affair. More than one of the All-Stars talked to me about Junior Desk. They are all so keen to hear your views. Eddie Keher was thrilled to have been selected the Junior Desk hurler of the year last year. Which brings me to the Special Junior Desk Awards for 1973. They are:

Gaelic Footballer: Billy Morgan (Cork).

Hurler: Richie Bennis (Limerick).

Camogie Star: Caly Riordan (Cork).

Handballer: Joey Maher (Louth).

G.A.A. Journalist: Paddy Downey ("The Irish Times").

Referee: Michael Slattery (Clare).

G.A.A. Official: Dr. Donal Keenan (Roscommon).

The closest contest was for Referee of the year. John Moloney ran Michael Slattery very close indeed. Paddy Downey is the only one to be re-chosen for the Award. I would like on your behalf to congratulate the winners and to thank you, Junior Desk fans, for going to the trouble of filling in the form and posting it on. The lucky winners will each receive a specially prepared scroll to commemorate the occasion.

COMPETITION

This month's competition will

have 10 prizes of the Galway G.A.A. Scarf to the 10 best questions addressed to Liam Sammon of Galway. Keep the questions short and be as original as you can. It is open to Junior Desk fans under 18 on 1/1/74 and entries must be sent to me at the address at the end of the column before February 20. You may send on two questions (not more than two though). Liam is a great Junior Desk fan and is looking forward no end to answering all your questions. His answers to your questions will appear in the April issue of Junior Desk.

KEVIN KILMURRAY

Our cut-out this month is

Offaly's Kevin Kilmurray — another keen reader of Junior Desk. I first met Kevin in Athlone last Easter Monday after he had helped the Combined Universities to beat Connacht in the replayed Railway Cup Final. Modest and unassuming he talked about Gaelic Sport and Junior Desk. I have great admiration for Kevin. He is one of the best centre half forwards to hit the scene since the departure of the great ones like Purcell, Higgins, Freaney, McDonnell, McCartan (James), Long . . . The greatest tribute I can pay Kevin is to say he is fit to be included among them. A great man to have on your team and one of the most travelled men of football.

From the Mailbag

The Mailbag gets bigger all the time. Here are some extracts from letters received.

"The Connacht Gaelic Games Annual '74, Our Games '74 and Cork '74 were all wonderful. I still cannot see why Gaelic Sport cannot bring out an annual of its own". (John B. Murphy, Ballymae, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick).

"Wishing you all the best for 1974 and keep up the work in Junior Desk". (Tom Downes, Kilmihil, Co. Clare).

"I think the new rules are no good" (Peter Driscoll, Age nine, 16 Farranlea Grove, Model Farm Road, Cork).

"The Football Immortals by Raymond Smith was great" (Patrick Leogue, Age 15, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly).

"How about a cut-out of Bobby Millar of Laois" (Joseph Thompson, Fathana, Mountrath, Portlaoise, Co. Laois).

"This year our U-12 footballers won the first trophy in the 3 year history of our school. We beat Morning Star N.S. by 2 points. I was captain and was lucky to score all our scores. A few weeks ago Ray Cummins

● OVERLEAF

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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

and Denis Coughlan visited our school with the Sam Maguire Cup. A week later John Horgan visited us with the Co. Hurling Cup. We have great trainers in Mr. Fahy, Mr. Hayes and Mr. Sexton." (Bernard Kirk, Scoil Barra, Beaumont, Cork).

"Eamonn Cregan is one of the best hurlers in Ireland. When are we going to have a cut-out of an Offaly man in Junior Desk?"

● *Would you believe this month, Mary. (J.M.)*

(Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare).

"The New rules bring too much soccer into Gaelic." (Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow).

"How about Peter McGinnitty (Fermanagh) for Cut-out. After Offaly they are my favourite team." (Jack Naughton, Brackagh, Horseleap, Moate, Co. Westmeath).

"There is no better corner forward in the country than Jimmy Barry-Murphy. Shame on you Munster selectors for not picking him." (John Keane, Emmet Place, Youghal, Co. Cork)

"Where can I get copies of G.A.A. books currently available?"

● *This month's Junior Desk should help you a lot. (J.M.)*

(Michael O'Sullivan, Glenmore West, Lauragh, Killarney, Co. Kerry).

"Where can I get a copy of the programme for 1973 All-Ireland Hurling final?"

● *Write to Mr. S. O Laoire, C.L.C.G., Pairc an Chrocaigh, Ath Cliath 3 (J.M.)*

(John McCormack, Main St., Swatragh, Maghera, Co. Derry).

"Frank McGuigan, should have been selected as an All-Star". (Donie Hanrahan, Corracunna, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork).

"Hurling is a better game than Gaelic football." (Paddy Cowman, Age 11, Drombanna, Co. Limerick)

"Junior Desk is wonderful now. I love the colour cut-outs." (Gerald Traynor, 893 Francis St., Edenderry, Co. Offaly)

"My favourite players—Jimmy Barry-Murphy (football) and Charlie McCarthy (hurling). Ray Cummins lives down the road

Martin Quigley and Michael Carthy". (Terry Doyle, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow).

"My favourite player is Francis Loughnane." (John F. Delaney, Roan House, Killenaule, Co. Tipperary)

"My favourite players are Willie Bryan and T. J. Gilmore." (John Connolly, Furnish, Lettermullen, Co. Galway)

PEN PAL

Des Dunne, Killina, Rahan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, would like a pen pal, age 11-12 years, from Roscommon or Kerry. His own hobbies are stamp collecting, reading, hurling, gaelic and a lot of other sports.

ANNUALS AND YEARBOOKS

Haven't times changed? For the better too. Time was when Carbery's Annual was the only offering. Now they get more numerous every year. Of better quality too. Because of the number I'm not going to review them all. Every club with clubhouse facilities should at this stage have gotten round to the idea of building a club library. Every school with a library should have these books stocked, especially the schools in the area covered by the books in question. Public libraries too should have copies. Hereunder I present details of all the G.A.A. books received by me during the Christmas period. Price includes postage in all cases.

- (1) **Our Games 1974** (Price 50p from An Rúnaí, C.L.C.G., Páirc an Chrocaigh, Ath. Cliath 3)
- (2) **Cork '74** (Price 40p from Gaelic Sport Publications, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9).
- (3) **Connacht Gaelic Games Ann-**

BACK NUMBERS

There are a number of past issues of "GAELIC SPORT" available to interested readers. Send stamped, self-addressed, envelope for details to "Back Numbers," GAELIC SPORT, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9. Terms are cost price plus postage.

from me. He sometimes plays football with me and my friends. I play football with Ballinlough school. We drew with Cobh last Tuesday." (Jimmy Buckley, 35 Sundrive Park, Ballinlough, Cork).

"I will never forget the wonderful commentary Michael O'Hehir gave of the '73 Munster S.H. Final. He is part and parcel of the G.A.A. There is magic in everything he says. The man with the Golden Voice. He does so much for those who cannot get to see the games."

● *What a lovely tribute and may I say well deserved. (J.M.)*

(Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare)

"Please give us a Cut-out of Peter McGinnitty (Fermanagh)".

● *That makes two Mr. Editor. (J.M.)*

(Harry Kavanagh, Wexford Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow).

"Wexford stars of '73 were

Editor, 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway).

- (4) **Cuchulainn Annual 1974** (Price 50p from Fostra Press Ltd., 5 Seville Place, Dublin 1)
- (5) **Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook 1974** (Price 40p from Gerry Slevin, "The Guardian", Summerhill, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary)
- (6) **Kilkenny Yearbook 1973** (Price 50p from Gaelic Press Ltd., 5 North Great Georges St., Dublin 1)
- (7) **Westmeath G.A.A. Yearbook 1974** (Price 55p from Noel Daly, Editor, 31 Newlands, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath)
- (8) **Mayo G.A.A. Yearbook 1974** (Price 40p from Christy Loftus, Editor, Linenhall St., Castlebar, Co. Mayo)
- (9) **An Choinneal—Louisburgh, Co. Mayo, Parish Magazine** (Price 50p from Mrs. Clementine Lyons, N.T., Louisburgh, Co. Mayo).

MY CHOICES

Skimming through all of these books here are my personal choices. Eamonn Young's very special tribute to Weeshie Murphy in "Cork '74" and the introduction of a Junior Scene in a county Yearbook for the first time. The Foreword by Leon Ó Murcháin in the Mayo Yearbook; Seán Óg Ó Ceallacháin's very readable piece in the Westmeath Annual entitled Eleven-O-One in which he tells many stories behind his results programme on Radio. The list of County S.H.F. teams (and referee in each case) in Kilkenny for the past 25 years—what a nice presentation in the Kilkenny Yearbook. The colour cover and John O'Grady's usual good writing in the Tipperary Yearbook.

The other 3 annuals have all

been well reviewed so I won't dwell on them. The Louisburgh parish magazine is the best parish magazine I have ever seen—an example to all rural parishes in Ireland. Get a copy if your parish has any ambitions in this direction.

ANOTHER ANNUAL

Clare Football Annual 1973 (Price 50p includes postage from Tom Downes, Kilmihil, Co. Clare). This is a first for a Clare football annual. It is a good beginning. The reproduction of team photos could be much improved. Still this 84 page Annual is full of interesting data about Clare football, past and present. All Clare followers should have a copy and even those G.A.A. people without any Clare connection will get an idea of the West Clare football fever. For make no mistake about it. West Clare is a place apart full of all that is Irish and good. I wish Tom Downes and his Annual every success.

So that's enough of Annuals for the time being. In the results of the January competition only 6 were named as prizewinners. There should have been 12 winners. The 6 left out were: Seamus Burke (12), 25 Ratoath Ave., Finglas, Dublin 11. Joseph Thompson, Fathana, Mountrath, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Patrick Leogue (15), Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly. Shane Fitzgibbon (11), Churchview, Adare, Co. Limerick. Michael McGrath, Oxpark, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary. Patrick McGrath, Ashler, Tulla, Co. Clare.

● *Sorry about that folks!*

G.A.A. SEMINAR

This month is Sigerson Cup annual 1974 (Price 50p from the

month and it is being held in Maynooth for the first time. I have been asked to "chair" a Seminar on football in Maynooth for the occasion at which Billy Morgan, Donie O'Sullivan, Brian McEniff, Pat Mangan, Liam Sammon and Sean O'Neill will speak. I might get them all to write a message for Junior Desk on some topic. How about it.

In the meantime don't forget your two questions to Liam Sammon. Write about anything to me; Your school; your favourite player; your coach; the new rules; a Pen Pal you want—anything to—

Junior Desk,
Gaelic Sport,
80 Upper Drumcondra Road,
Dublin 9.

Slán agaibh.

Jack Mahon

YOUNG MAN

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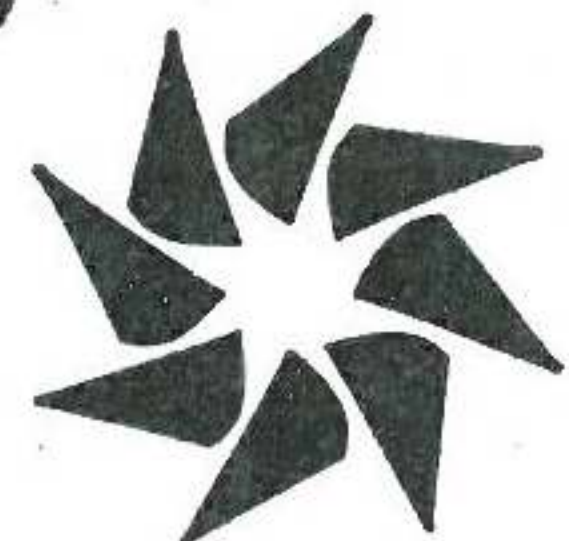
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**KEVIN
KILMURRAY**
Offaly

Age: 23
Height: 6 ft.
Weight:
13 st. 2 lb.
Clubs: Daingean
and U.C.D.

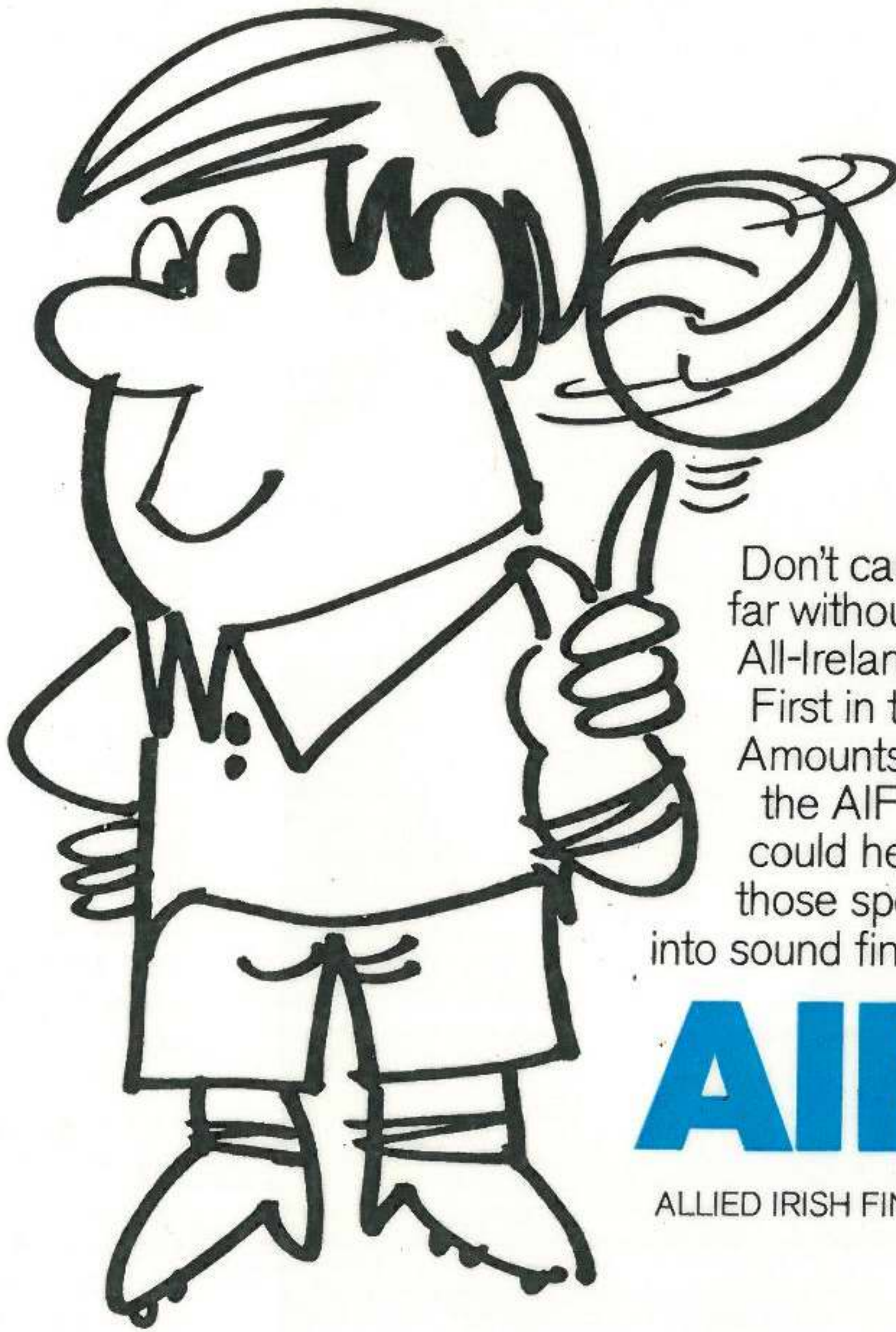
Position: Centre
half forward. Senior
Inter-County Debut:
April 1969.

**CAREER
HIGHLIGHTS**

Kevin is a former Leinster Colleges' senior medalist with Belcamp College, Dublin, and was still eligible for minor when he made his senior debut with Offaly. Such is his versatility that he has played with the county at half back, midfield and in a number of positions in attack.

He holds All-Ireland senior medals (1971 and 1972), has played with Leinster, and helped the Combined Universities to win the Railway Cup last year. A Carrolls All Stars award winner in 1972 and 1973.

GAA



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