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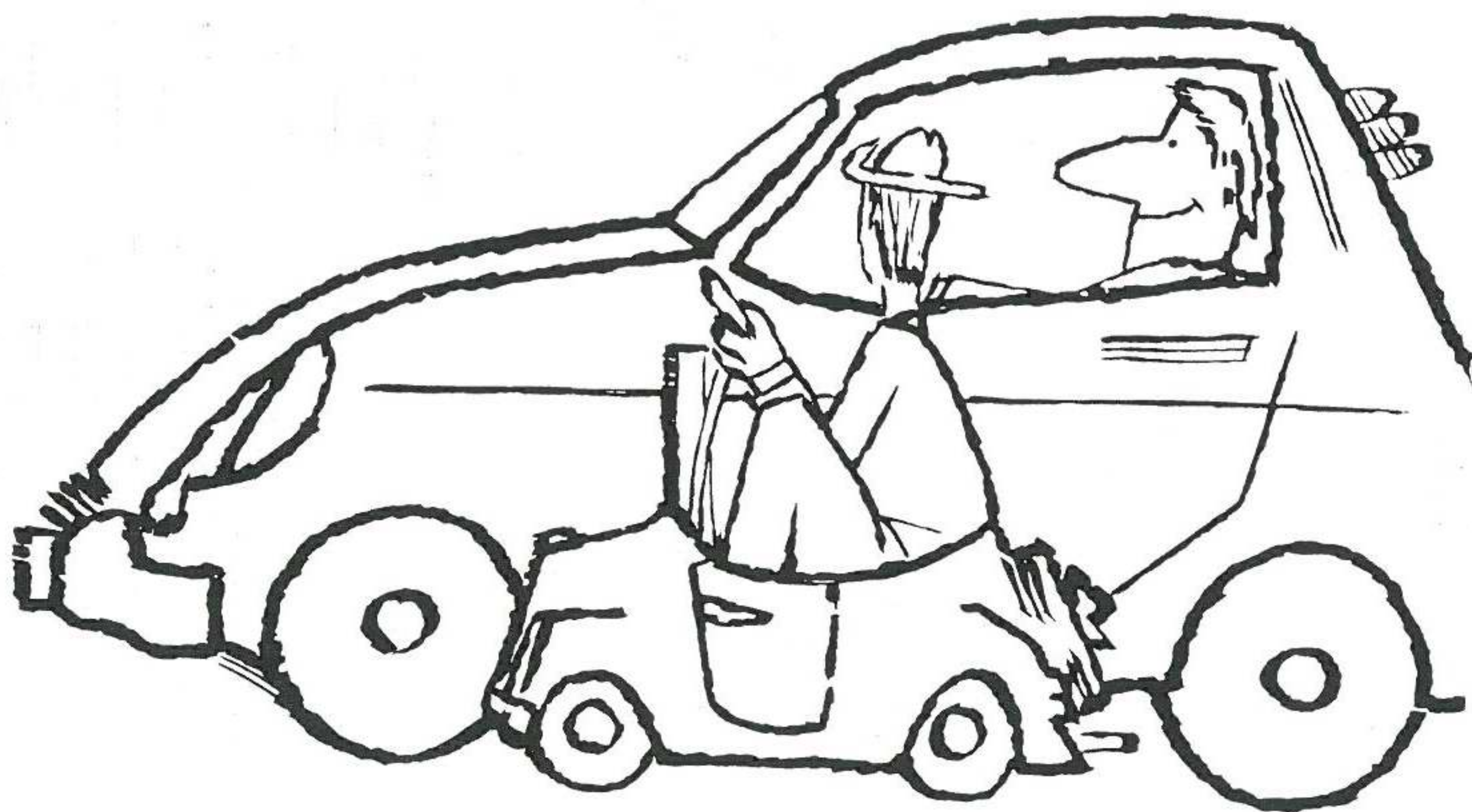


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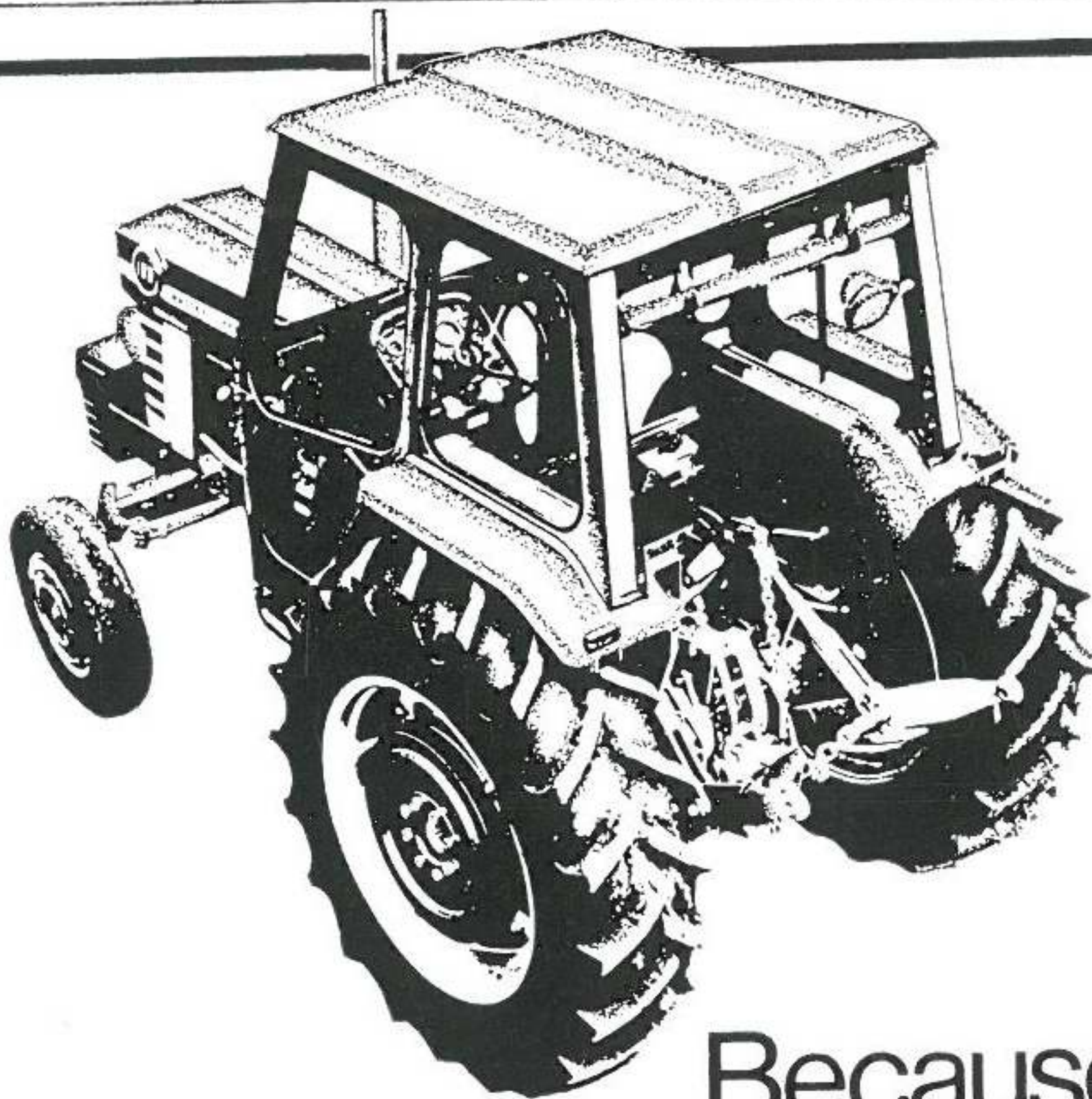
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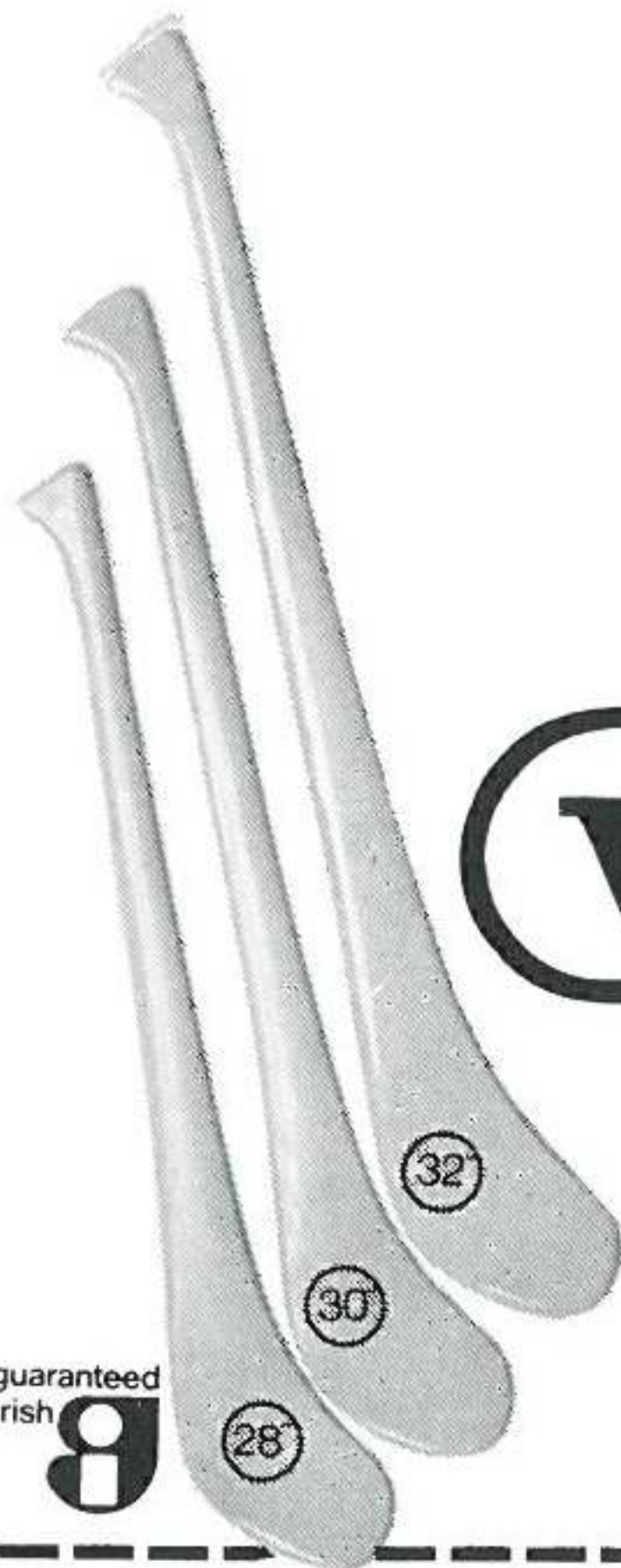
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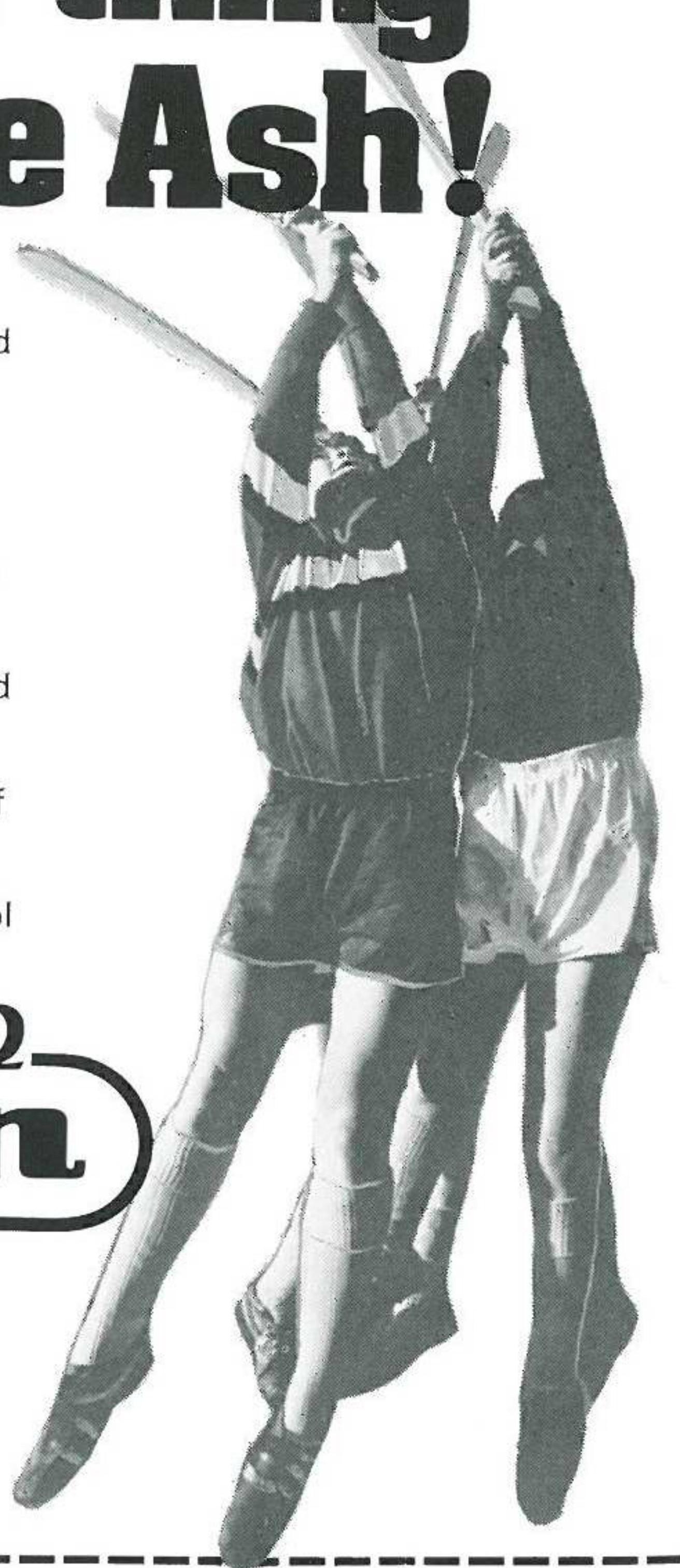
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

HURLING is flourishing as rarely before in the traditional strongholds — despite the fact that Cork and Tipperary have lost their places among the elite in the National League. The relegation of these legendary giants to Division I "B" for next season's League is a blow to their prestige, but it would be the height of folly to suggest that there is any cause for concern as a result about the future of the ancient game by the Leaside or in the homes of Tipperary.

Hurling is too much a way of life in these counties to lightly dismiss their chances of making an impact in the coming championship or of climbing back speedily to their old positions in the League rankings.

And with the other leading lights generally moving well, and Offaly also showing encouraging signs of emerging as a real force, the prospects are bright for really stimulating days ahead on the hurling fields.

But the other side of the coin is that the game is still finding the going extremely tough outside of the small circle of hurling counties — and that is a sad state of affairs as the G.A.A. moves rapidly towards its Centenary Year.

It is not easy to accurately pinpoint why this should be the case in view of the time, efforts, enthusiasm and moneys that have been expended over the years in trying to "bring back the hurling", but it could be argued that the game itself is not being exploited strongly enough in the revival drive.

Hurling, which can be such an exhilarating and pulse-raising spectacle, is in itself by far the best advertisement the G.A.A. has in the promotions drive, but look at the way that Croke Park has been cold-shouldered as far as the major National League ties are concerned. Only one semi-final (Cork against Dublin in 1974) has been played there over the past seven seasons, and only one final in the same period.

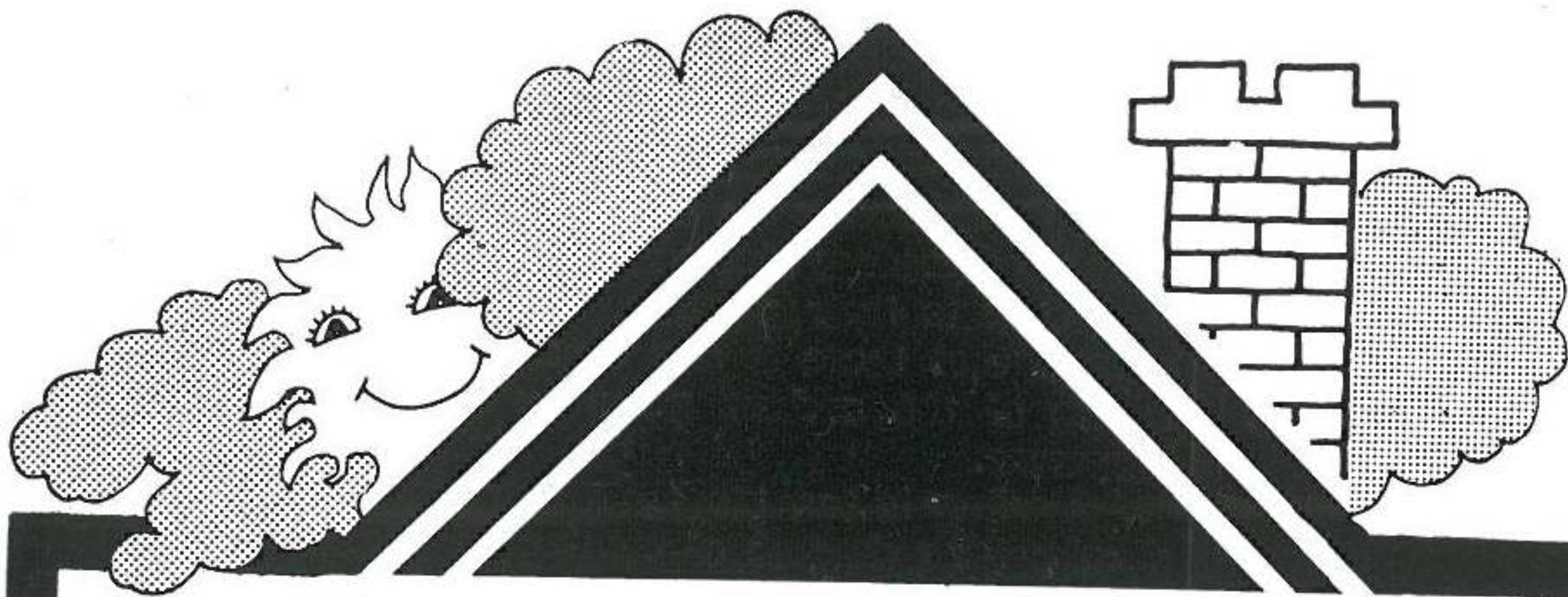
Playing the top ties at Southern venues is very cosy for the supporters of the counties concerned — an important consideration it must be said for such enthusiasts in these days of expensive travel.

But, the result has been that the Hurling League has not been playing the role it should in promoting the game generally.

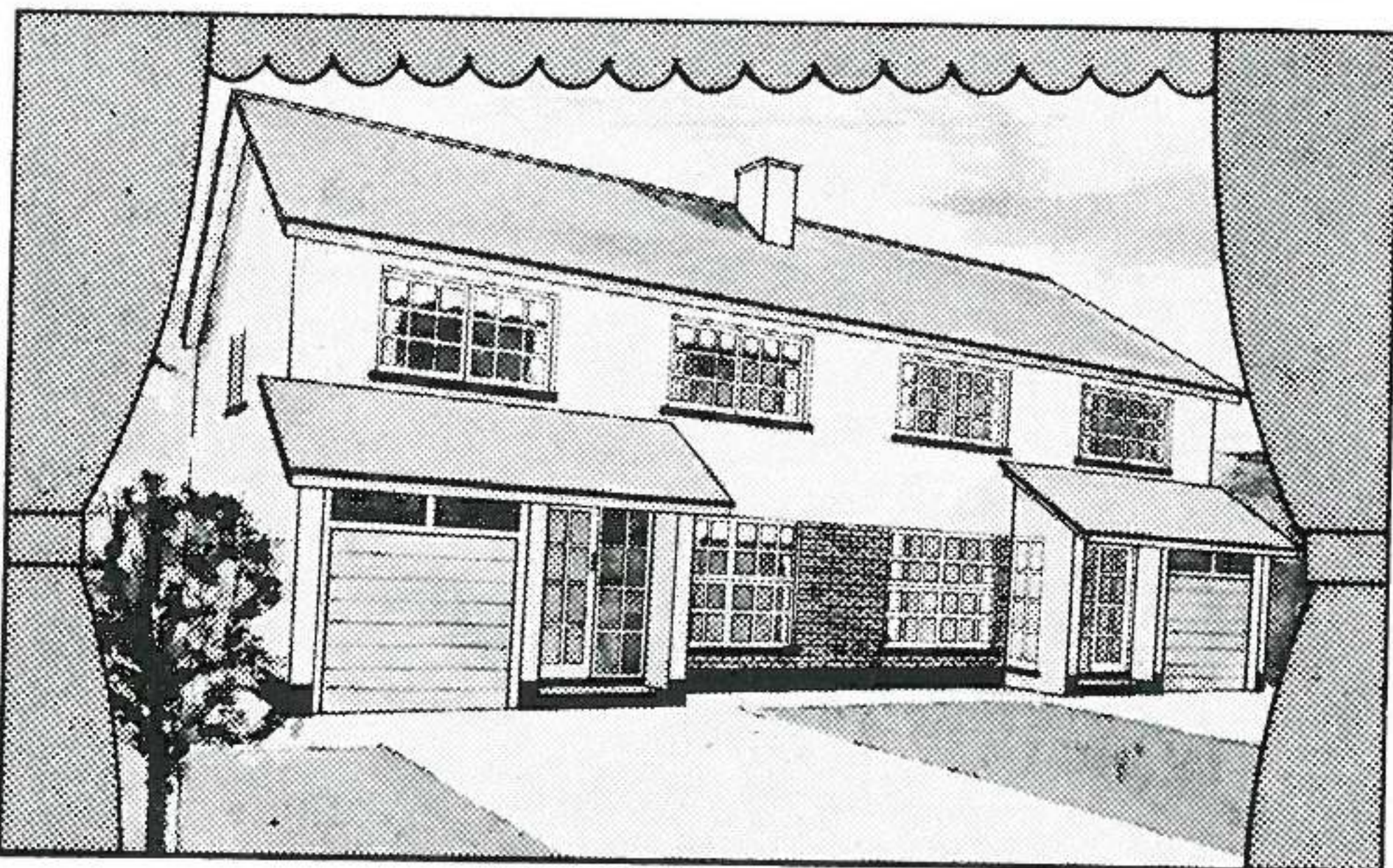
Take, for example, Clare's re-emergence. Since their return to the top bracket they have injected new interest and excitement, yet for many enthusiasts outside of the hurling powers, the Banner County remain something of an unknown quantity because they have not had a major outing at Croke Park.

And, it is enthusiasts in Dublin, which can fairly be said to be a real problem area, and the surrounding counties, not to mention Ulster, who need the stimulus of regular and attractive matches, and the appearances of new teams and personalities at headquarters if their interest is not to continue to wane.

It is time officials acknowledged this fact. The good of the game in general demands that all League semi-finals and finals should be played automatically at headquarters. Otherwise, we will hasten the day when hurling will become an even more exclusive preserve of counties in the Southern regions than it is at present.



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Tyler

Down and Clare men

Top Ten

are tops again

ALTHOUGH Down were surprised by Mayo in the National Football League semi-final early in April, this still cannot cloud the fact that by far the outstanding individual display in either code in the latest TYLER TOP TEN period under review (March 19 to April 9 inclusive) was that of Colm McAlarney in the Easter Sunday replay win over Kildare.

In that marathon quarter-final—the Croke Park game went to extra time—the big midfielder gave one of the best exhibitions, not only of the year so far, but for some time, by any Gaelic sportsman. Add to that a good showing the following day in Ulster's draw with Munster in the Railway Cup final, and it just has to be the Down skipper for a top of the table ranking for the second month in succession.

The result is that by gaining a further 40 points to add to the 28 he won in the April ratings, McAlarney streaks ahead of the field over-all with a lead of 14 points on his closest rival, Tom Prendergast (Laois). The Northerner is the only footballer listed in the current review to find favour for the second time this year.

Clare underlined their well-being in hurling with a thoroughly competent performance when handling the semi-final challenge to their double ambi-

tions from a spirited Limerick at Thurles.

The League champions had many stars in that early April win, not the least being Seamus Durack, so dependable once more in goal, and Sean Hehir, who had a splendid hour in the half-back line.

But it was the progressive hurling all through of Noel Casey, listed at top of the left, but who played at centre half forward, that had a particularly decisive influence in shaping the seven points Clare triumph, and he comes into the line-up for the first time this year on a top-of-the-table rating with 32 points.

Two points behind is Rory Kinsella, who capped a good showing in Wexford's quarter-final win over Waterford at Kilkenny by scoring a vital goal, and who was prominent again in the drawn semi-final with Kilkenny.

Only one hurler takes his place



Tommy Drumm
(Dublin)



Joe McKenna
(Limerick)

in a monthly review this year for the second time—Mossy Walsh, who collects 20 points, and now has a grand total of 44 points.

Here, it is appropriate to spotlight the year's pace-setters after three monthly reviews. They are:

FOOTBALL: 68 points: C. McAlarney (Down); 54: T. Prendergast (Laois); 35: P. Moriarty (Armagh); 33: J. McKerr (Armagh).

HURLING: 49 points: I. Clarke (Galway); 44: M. Walsh (Waterford); 33: F. Cummins (Kilkenny); 32: N. Casey (Clare).

Finally, this month's charts:

FOOTBALL

40	C. McAlarney (Down)	... 68
28	A. Egan (Mayo)	..... 28
28	D. Dolan (Mayo)	..... 28
26	B. Fitzpatrick (Mayo)	..... 26
26	A. McGurk (Derry)	..... 26
26	T. Drumm (Dublin)	..... 26
25	G. Power (Kerry)	..... 25
24	D. Maher (Dublin)	..... 24
23	J. Costelloe (Laois)	..... 23
22	G. Power (Kildare)	..... 22

HURLING

32	N. Casey (Clare)	..... 32
30	R. Kinsella (Wexford)	.... 30
28	J. McKenna (Limerick)	... 28
27	J. Kelly (Offaly)	..... 27
27	S. Durack (Clare)	..... 27
26	S. Hehir (Clare)	..... 26
26	N. Buggy (Wexford) 26
24	P. Henderson (Kilkenny)	24
24	T. Quaid (Limerick) 24
20	M. Walsh (Waterford)	... 44



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ANDY CROAK

The writer with the
rasping comment

The saga of a non-trip to dear old Ballina

JUST think of my dedication to matters sporting and particularly matters Gaelic. I turned down an invitation to spend the Easter week-end with friends at a posh hotel in Kerry so that I could attend the G.A.A. Congress in Ballina.

I figured that if I sat (incognito, of course) on the fringes of the meeting for two days I would come away a wiser and vastly more informed man. And, I fondly imagined, I'd pick up enough material to fill half a dozen columns for GAELIC SPORT.

Alas, for my well-laid plans. I bid my friends adieu as they set off for Kerry on Good Friday afternoon and, after a restful night's sleep, switched my Daimler into purring life at a comfortable hour on Saturday morning.

Pointing her westwards out of Dublin I calculated that I'd hit Ballina in three hours and a bit, take a bite of lunch and then slip quietly into the Town Hall.

Alas, indeed, for my well-laid plans. The machine packed up just outside of Lucan and neither cajoling nor cursing would get her moving again.

I called three garages which happened to be open but drew a blank. "Are you crazy, man," they said (or words to that effect), "don't you know this is Saturday of a holiday week-end? Call again Tuesday."

I thought of my friends luxuriating in the posh Kerry hotel and I thought of the G.A.A. Congress and my dedication to matters Gaelic . . . Then I uttered a few carefully chosen words which are

not exactly the sort you'll find in this family magazine and, with sore heart, thumbed a lift back to Dublin.

★ ★ ★

From the foregoing you'll have gathered that I never set foot in Ballina. I'm sorry for taking so long to get that item of information down on the page, but I wanted to make the point, in a general way, that, especially when friends offer to put you up in a good hotel for three whole days, you should never put business before pleasure.

I had to be content with the newspapers for knowledge of what went on at the G.A.A. Congress. And I'll tell you this — you could go to worse sources for information of that kind.

As usual, it got extensive coverage but with different emphasis on certain matters in the various papers. I thought the "Irish Times" gave it the biggest splash, with the front-page lead story on the retention of Rule 15 and inside, in addition to the sports section report, nearly half a page of Con Murphy's presidential address to the delegates. It was a good address and I wonder why the "Irish Independent" and "Irish Press" gave so little of it.

★ ★ ★

I gathered from the reports that Fr. Leo Morahan of Mayo made an impassioned speech in favour of the motion to stop the G.A.A. accepting sponsorship from cigarette and drink companies. It lost by only thirteen or fourteen votes — a close call for the All-Star lobby!

Leo and Charlie (you don't mean to say you don't know who I mean when I say Charlie) will soon rid this country of all its bad habits.

I saw a Little Sister of the Poor down town a few days ago and she had a very bad habit. Tell me now, what are they going to do about that? (Oh, I'm in top form with the wit this minute).

Here's another one before I get back to the serious stuff. They say that all the delegates who voted for the Mayo motion in Ballina are to be known henceforth as Charlie's Angels (Ha, Ha, Ha, that's as good as you'll hear on any stage since the Tivoli closed its doors).

Now, when you've stopped screeching and rolling in the aisles I'll proceed.

I was disappointed at the way Congress dealt with the motions which wanted the dropping of the hurley to be allowed. There is no doubt that this interpretation of the "throwing" rule is wrong, but Congress tamely accepted the Central Council's error.

The reports said that Frank Murphy of Cork blamed the media for making a fuss about the interpretation and unfairly slanting their comments against it.

Well, now, I say that ALL the hurlers who dislike this new rule (and they are numerous) should get together in some way, maybe through the newspapers, and let their objections be heard loud and clear. That would soon bring the Central Council to its senses.

(TO PAGE 9)

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(FROM PAGE 7)

I found another interesting tit-bit in the newspapers. It reported Michael O'Callaghan of Roscommon as saying that you could search through the national papers some days of the week and fail to find any news of Gaelic games.

I know Michael O'Callaghan only by name and appearance. I saw him on that RTE programme of a couple of years ago, "My Own Place," and he was tops as they say in the best circles of panting journalism. I'm almost certain he won an award for his part in it.

Yes, that's the Michael O'Callaghan I know by reputation, so I'm all the more disappointed to hear of his Ballina remarks. There are many things you could say about the national papers but what Michael said is totally unjust.

He knows very well that all the papers carry something, be it big or small, about G.A.A. affairs EVERY day.

★ ★ ★

The "Irish Independent" is consistently the best of them in its comprehensive coverage and the prominence it gives to Donal Carroll's daily articles.

The "Irish Times" comes out with a good show some days but then gets bitty and patchy at times (no pun), as if someone turned the wrong knob, or was struck on the head with a golf club.

It's hard to know what to say about the "Irish Press." Gaelic games are covered every day, it is true, but there are occasions when it's hard to find where that coverage is situated.

It gets lost somewhere on the inside while the main sports page, the back page, is given over completely to soccer, and English soccer at that.

It's sad, really, about the journal on Burgh Quay. My father used to tell me that it was the "Irish Press" led the way with splash coverage of the G.A.A. games back in the 1930s. They set the pace and the others followed suit — generally they kept ahead all down the years.

CROAKETTES

I WAS looking through my files a day or two back and I came across a couple of letters that should have been acknowledged before now.

One came in a long time ago from Peter R. Pozzoli, Editor of Women's Track and Field World, at 155 Ordnance Road, Enfield Lock, in London.

Mr. Pozzoli replied to something I wrote here about plans (now shelved) for an extended and split, All-Star tour.

He wrote: "Dear Sir, I came across your magazine for the first time with the current No. 7 issue and write to say it must certainly be one of the most finely-produced sports magazines anywhere. Whilst Gaelic football and hurling are not of paramount interest to me I am nonetheless interested in all sports and found much interesting reading in your pages.

"One comment by Andy Croak on page 4, however, surprised me more than somewhat. He says 'How in heaven's name could the teams visit and play in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Boston, Detroit and Toronto in a three-week tour? It would be physically impossible.'

"Now I guess the Carroll All-stars must be the fittest and most able of Irish sportsmen in the most arduous of Irish sports, but they must be well short of their forefathers' capabilities if six games in three weeks are beyond them."

Peter then outlines the schedule of an ice hockey team, the Montreal Canadiens, who take part in the National Hoc-

key League. The programme for 1976 shows that in one period they played ten games in nineteen days at venues as far apart as Los Angeles, St. Louis, Atlanta, New York and Montreal itself. In 1977, they played eleven games in twenty days, this time taking in Vancouver as well as Los Angeles, Washington, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Boston.

I've taken your point, Peter. But these All-stars may not always be as fit as you so generously think they are. My apologies for mislaying your interesting letter.

He wrote at greater length than that, but space doesn't allow me to print it all now.

The other mislaid letter. It came from B. O'Carroll of Niall Street, North Circular Road, Dublin, and it chided poor Croak for predicting early last year that Dublin would not retain the All-Ireland football title.

In a note to the Editor he wrote: "Enclosed please find something (a cutting) for the infamous A.C. to Croak on. Please make him eat it and oblige."

Okay. I was wrong, but I never claimed to know all — just nearly all.

Very soon I'll be making my predictions for 1978. Don't miss them. Order your copy now. And what's more, make sure you order it in advance. I picked up that little exhortation from the popular press. Cute and neat and so very breathless and gushing, isn't it? 'Bye now.

Until about ten years ago. And look at the paper now! Except on some Monday mornings, you'd swear it was an English paper, so totally overboard has it gone on soccer.

Nothing wrong with soccer of course. But those who run the paper should remember that Gaelic games are still the most

popular sports in this country.

Of course, if the "Irish Press" wants to go on losing circulation, that's their affair. Someone else will pick it up. But somebody should tell them that their back page should feature Gaelic games more than four or five times a fortnight.

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*Iggy Clarke
(Galway)*

Clarke switch may yet be Galway trump

IN looking back on the course of development of famous teams it is sometimes surprising to note that it took quite a time for the powers which put them together to manage to arrive at the right blend. In retrospect it all looks so obvious and one wonders how on earth such and such who made such a reputation for himself as a centre-fielder or a corner forward was pushed here and there in all kinds of positions before his real location was discovered more by accident than good judgement.

Of course, there is a great difference between the view one gets of a team by hindsight and that which it offers to the harassed selectors some months or years before it made its name and proved their sagacity.

That is one of the reasons why it always seems churlish to criticise any switches or changes which selectors make because what is concealed in the womb of the future cannot be fathomed. Who is to know what the key switch may be which will make everything else fall into place?

Sometimes, too, one looks at a fair old team that did not really hit it off, never achieving greatness or winning very much. Yet, their names on paper after the passage of the years seem formi-

dable and one wonders what it was that was not done that might have transformed them into a winning and immortal combination.

It is often that such little things change the course of human endeavour that one marvels at the manner of their happening. In this context it is that one wonders about the new Galway formation and, in particular, about the decision to uproot Iggy Clarke from the left half-back position which he had made his own and to which he had given lustre, and transplant him in midfield, a position where successive pairings had promised much and yet failed to deliver the ultimate payoff.

It certainly seems a logical

move, and much more dependent on cold reasoning than on those divine sparks which have caused unlikely moves and brought off marvellous and unexplained transformations.

In other sectors of the game of hurling Clarke is no stranger to midfield play; he has shown no aversion to the position and, in fact, demonstrated his mastery there from time to time. The skills and all-round play which he displayed at half-back are not radically different from those which would be required in top midfield play. Staying power, speed and the physical requisites were all there.

So it was not in any way illogical to try him. Maybe the worst of the thing was the danger of taking him out of the wing-half position in which he had played so well in his own right, and also given many exhibitions of how to help out a distressed or off form colleague in defence.

Galway were lucky enough to conjure a replacement of more than adequate quality in Johnny Cooney. Nothing undermines a possible change so much as the appearance of an ugly gap in the position vacated. This did not happen in Clarke's case.

With such a good replacement available it certainly was logical to try to mend the problem centre-field area by moving Iggy forward. At the same time, more or less, Tom O'Donoghue from Killimor-Daly worked his way through into the team and the result was that the two settled into what seemed to be and may yet be a most effective partnership for Galway.

The victory over Cork in the play-off game in the NHL was most clearly attributable to the excellent showing of Clarke and

● TO PAGE 39

L★A★D★I★E★S P★L★E★A★S★E



Edited by *KITTY MURPHY*

IT'S terribly important to get the Flu. I missed it last year and do you know something, it was like being away for Christmas. This time however we were all lucky, the lot of us got it and to give credit where credit is due we got good mileage out of it. It was priceless coming in to work in the morning. The minute I opened the door I was bombarded with sneezing and coughing and spluttering. Of course there's no such thing anymore as the quite, personal, muffled kind of sneeze. Ah no, that's a thing of the past, it has to have a good sound accompaniment now. As well as that it helps the cause to enquire if anyone has a spare tissue, preferably by involving two or three handlers, gives the occasion a bit of publicity and that never goes astray. Woe betide anyone then who chooses to ignore the distress signals but it's a long road and all that . . .

The sneeze eventually gives way to the cough. The beginnings of the cough are tame enough but it too matures with age. If it doesn't shift within the first few days it's time to look out for complications. I watched the developments closely in a buddy of mine at work and 'twas great. He'd come in, sit down and start coughing. I couldn't ignore it so rather than ask the obvious I told him he had a bad cough. He assured

me he had but he presumed it was all the rushing to get in on time. I couldn't have agreed more with him though when I get in I'm so out of breath that I'm physically unable to cough. Anyway, the cough abated and I asked him to get me a file from the Basement. Off he went and came back about ten minutes later choking and spluttering.


You see everybody hates the basement and no joking I do not know how someone hasn't picked up Malaria or something equally queer there. It's a dreadful place and the minute you enter you feel doomed. It's a cold, eerie, miserable

kind of a joint and I have a sneaking suspicion that it's haunted. Of course when I announced that one time they all laughed. I asked a few of them to investigate but being "chicken" they went in numbers. They didn't see or hear anything unusual but then nothing strange ever happens to a crowd. Anyway I was relieved of my duties some time later and I was mighty glad indeed. I figure my much-coughed friend feels it's time he was lifted to a higher plateau too. I figure he has done more than his stint in the dungeons and maybe for once his coughing will bring good re-

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sults.

The sore throat is a very vital component of this Flu. Of course it can be the glands or the tonsils or indeed both so you have to make the most out of that. The first thing you do is stick the neck well out, lift up the chin and move the head from side to side. If nobody notices that unusual course of action all you can do is repeat the process till you go blue in the face. The next step now is to feel the neck. It is advisable to use both hands for this because, let's face it, if the glands are that badly swollen one could scarcely make the stretch with one hand. If you are lucky enough to get noticed make sure you say the swelling is going up the back of your head and down into your shoulders. There's no use in losing ground and there's no point in showing anyone the swelling. I have found myself that even in cases where it does actually exist it's tough going to convince an outsider of it.

The tonsils are a dodgy enough set up too but at least there is something positive there. Now you never ask anyone to have a look at your tonsils until you know they are septic. After all if they are perfectly healthy it means there are no bugs there and you were always warned to share and share alike. It's of the utmost importance therefore to be sure of your ground. First of all you must do your own examination. You procure a mirror and if it hasn't a magnifying side to it leave it back. An ordinary mirror is of no use whatsoever as it completely minimises the effect. You have enough on your plate besides that kind of thing. Anyway get a magnifying mirror even if it means buying one. You will find it really worthwhile because the

smallest blemish is blown up to the most satisfactory proportions. This is exactly what you hoped for and it gives you that added bit of confidence to keep going.

As soon as you have established that there is definitely something wrong it's very important to get going straight away. The awful drawback about tonsil trouble is that it can actually go away so you see the reason for getting on the move quickly. The best time to begin attracting attention is at meal time. Now it is advisable to have a little filler snack beforehand but to make sure that nobody sees you. Now sit down and take a bite of your dinner. Make a few gurgling noises and announce that it is hell to swallow. Catch the two sides of the neck then — one hand at a time — and press till it hurts. Continue holding the neck and announce that you feel the old throat is acting up again. Your pal doesn't believe a word of it but call his bluff and invite him to have a look for himself. Now he hates the look of the inside of a mouth every bit as much as yourself but he might as well pick up whatever germs are going free gratis.

True to the last you stand back and open your mouth. He looks in, sees absolutely nothing but he has now acquired the "cop" to assure you that yes the throat is quite bad. That eases the whole situation considerably. You are free now to discuss the throat set up and of course you'll get lots of ideas from your pal. That's of course assuming that he's half normal in the first place. It's a god idea at this stage to announce that one tonsil is far worse than the other one. Pick the left one — that's nearer the heart and it sounds that bit more serious. The throat of course is also connected with the ear some

way or other. For side affects then it does no harm to put a bit of cotton wool in one ear. The Lord knows you'll hear enough and anything you miss is bound to be going around again. Anyway let's face facts — the good ear will pick up what suits the rest of you and that's about the best set up you could have.

Now I've been talking of all these ailments as if they related to someone else. The awful truth is that when I got the flu I got ninety nine per cent of them. Every bone in my body ached and the throat and head were disastrous. I was as weak as a rush and had a temperature of a hundred and four. I even had to have the doctor brought in a couple of times. I can tell you 'twas just as well I was in bed because the bills he left me would have knocked me off my feet anyway. It's really very costly to have anything wrong with you these days. One time I used to think multi-coloured tablets and taking this tablespoonful out of a bottle four times daily was a great bit of diversion. I don't know though, the times they are "A-changing". On a serious note however, I have the height of sympathy for anyone who really got the flu. It's bad enough if the weather is cold and wet but can't you imagine the misery of lying low and the sun shining.

Of course when I went back to work do you think they'd believe I had the flu — not on your life. I recalled my ailments one by one but all to no avail. I was a bit annoyed with them really because unsympathetic colleagues are an awful burden. Would you believe one of them even had the cheek to tell me he thought I got a tan! Ah well, I'll suffer on and wait . . .

See you all next month. Good-bye.

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CHRYSLER
I R E L A N D

GO WEST

YOUNG MEN,

YOU ALL

DESERVE IT!

By OWEN McCANN

IT is good to see the younger brigade so strongly represented in the panel of hurlers and footballers travelling as replacements and reserves to the United States this month for the series of matches involving the Carrolls All Stars and the All-Ireland senior champions.

Not that I have anything against the more experienced campaigners included in the party. Men like Pat Hartigan (Limerick), Tony Doran (Wexford), Colm McAlarney (Down) and Ger Feeney (Mayo), who have all been to the U.S. before, are among those in hurling and football I admire very much, but it is always nice, nonetheless, to see the younger players creating an impact.

One who has already enjoyed more success than most in national competitions is Dick O'Hara, whose performances in recent months in his new role as Kilkenny's full back suggests that he is poised to carve out a great reputation for himself in this testing role.

Since taking over the position in the senior team in a second round National League tie against Offaly last October at Nowlan Park this Thomastown native has

Dermot Early, the experienced Roscommon campaigner, off on another All Star trip to the U.S. Dermot gets his place on the team despite stiff competition from the younger brigade.



gone from success to success. So much so, in fact, that no student of hurling could really have been in the least surprised when O'Hara's short tenure in the post brought a quick reward with a first Leinster jersey for this season's Railway Cup.

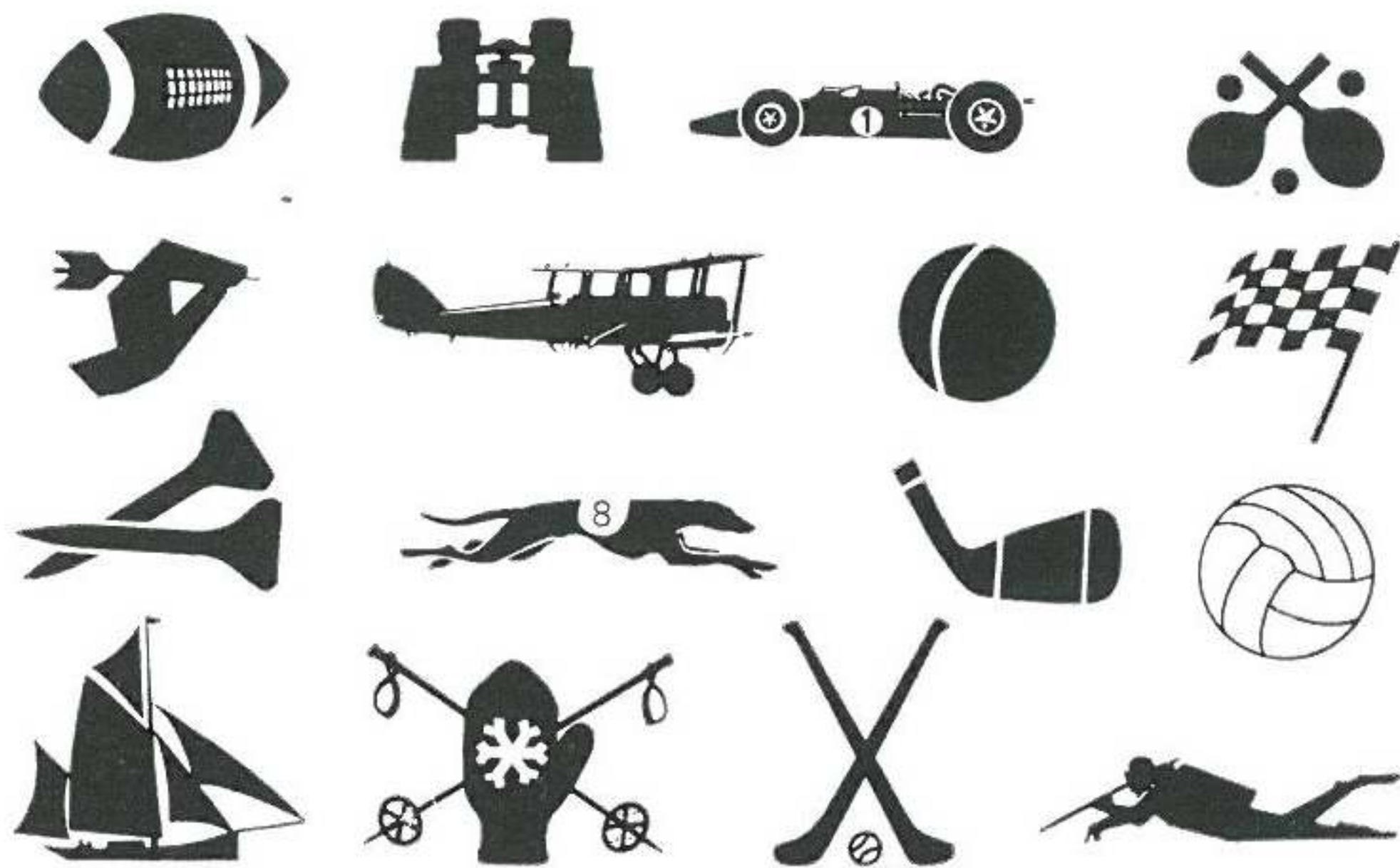
The cool, dependable and hard-working Kilkenny defender has graduated to the top after a firm grounding in under-age hurling. He had a truly remarkable season in 1975 when he helped Kilkenny in striking fashion to a rare hat-trick of All-Ireland championships — Vocational Schools, minor and under-21. In those days he put his budding talents

on parade in eye-catching style at centre half, and full back.

Nor had O'Hara long to wait for a senior call-up. As far back as February 1976 he was playing at right full for Kilkenny in a challenge against Tipperary, although it is since the second round of the 1976-77 National League that he has been playing more or less regularly with the senior squad.

In those early days in senior inter-county fare he wore the No. 4 jersey, and it was in that shirt also that he saw the action with Kilkenny in their unsuccess-

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**Here's to
enjoyment**



Slainte Mineral Waters 45 Montpelier Hill, Dublin 7.

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ful defence of the National League title in last year's final with Clare. Later as centre half back with the under-21 side he had a big say in the return last October of the All-Ireland crown to the Noreside.

Now as a full back his genuine talents are really coming into bloom as a senior, and he could yet go on to become the first from Kilkenny to win a Carrolls All Star award in the position. Certainly, Dick O'Hara should give spectators at the matches in the U.S. plenty to admire, and he is undoubtedly a young man who will repay watching here at home in the years ahead.

Many were caught on the hop by the selection of Tom Prendergast for the 1977 Carrolls All Stars replacement party, but over the past year or so the Laois footballer has well and truly emphasised the merit of that early honour with his high standard play. Now, understandably enough, he has found favour for the second time.

Prendergast did not, eventually, "make" the 1977 tour as such. Only days after his selection he was sent to the line near the end of the Leinster club final at Croke Park, where his team, Portlaoise, beat Cooley Kickhams, and thus he lost his chance of the trip.

Prendergast scored two classic goals for Portlaoise in their very spirited bid against Austin Stacks, Tralee, the eventual title winners, in the 1977 All-Ireland club semi-final at Portlaoise.

Goals, in fact, are fast becoming synonymous with the incisive and clever Laois raider. His ability to find his way through to the net was an important factor in the march that brought the O'Moore County the National

League Division II South title earlier in the year, and with it promotion to the premier division for next season. And, subsequently, in the League campaign of 1977-78 he was again on the goals target.

Prendergast, who won his first Leinster jersey in 1977 when he went in as a substitute against Connacht in the semi-final at Navan, where the West won, and was on duty again for the East in their unsuccessful visit to Cavan in March, was a member of the Laois team beaten by Kildare in last year's Leinster under-21 semi-final.

Prendergast, who needs close watching all through any match, has been an inter-county senior since the opening games of the 1975-76 National League campaign. Could he, perhaps, go on now to become the county's first full Carrolls All Star in either code?

Brian Talty and Michael Kilcoyne will doubtless team up once again during the tour. They were both in that talented company of footballers from Thomond College, Limerick, who wrote another new chapter in the annals of the game by winning the All-Ireland club championship on Easter Sunday.

Talty, who is a member of the football panel in the replacement party, was at centre field in the success over St. John's, Belfast, while Kilcoyne, who has been chosen to travel to the U.S. as the dual selection, held down the No. 13 spot in the club decider.

The last medal win was Talty's second national souvenir with the Limerick Student team. In 1976 he was full forward for N.C.P.E., as the College was then known, in their success against the then Sigerson Cup (Universities' Championship) holders St. Pat-

rick's, Maynooth, in the All-Ireland Higher Education Championship final at Croke Park.

That year the Tuam Stars club man played with the county in the Connacht under-21 championship and the drawn senior provincial final at Roscommon with Roscommon. He was not in the team that won the replay at Tuam, but went into the All-Ireland semi-final against Dublin as a substitute and put his name on the scoring sheet.

Talty was early enough amongst the interprovincial jerseys as well. He appeared in the Connacht attack in their unsuccessful bid against Leinster in a 1976 semi-final, and won another provincial jersey earlier this year when called up from the substitutes' bench as a forward during the losing outing against Munster at Sligo in March.

Kilcoyne has been prominent with Westmeath senior hurlers particularly in recent seasons. He won an All-Ireland "B" medal in 1975, and was in action in the under-21 grade last season. He is 21 and from Ringtown.

LIST OF FIXTURES FOR U.S. TRIP

The following games have been arranged in the U.S.:

May 14: Carrolls All Stars v New York in football at New York; Carrolls All Stars v All-Ireland Champions Cork in hurling at Boston.

May 21: Carrolls All Stars v All-Ireland champions Dublin and Cork in football and hurling at San Francisco.

May 28: Carrolls All Stars v the All-Ireland champions in Los Angeles.

The referees for the tour are Sean O'Grady, of Limerick, in hurling, and Seamus Aldridge, of Kildare in football.

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**HISTORY
MAKERS . . .**

The Thomond College, Limerick panel of players who won the All-Ireland Club senior football Championship for the first time. This was also the first senior football title win by a Limerick side since 1896. They defeated St. John's of Belfast 2.14 to 1.03.



THOMOND'S RAPID RESPONSE!

SOME people would see it as an intervention by Fate when Thomond College so easily won the All-Ireland Club football final less than 24 hours after the annual congress had rejected a proposal to bar the National College of Physical Education and the universities from the club championships. But you can take it that Pat Spillane and his men were not relying on fickle Fate to beat St. John's of Belfast.

Far be it from me to take sides on an issue in which opposing viewpoints are strongly, and sincerely, held. Except to say that I believe the G.A.A. should be encouraging students at all the colleges of higher education to participate in Gaelic games when the choice in sport is so wide for them in those institutions. If allowing them to play in the club championships — when they have become county champions — will encourage and exhort the students to devote their spare

By
MICK DUNNE (RTE Sport)

time to hurling and football, then I am all for it.

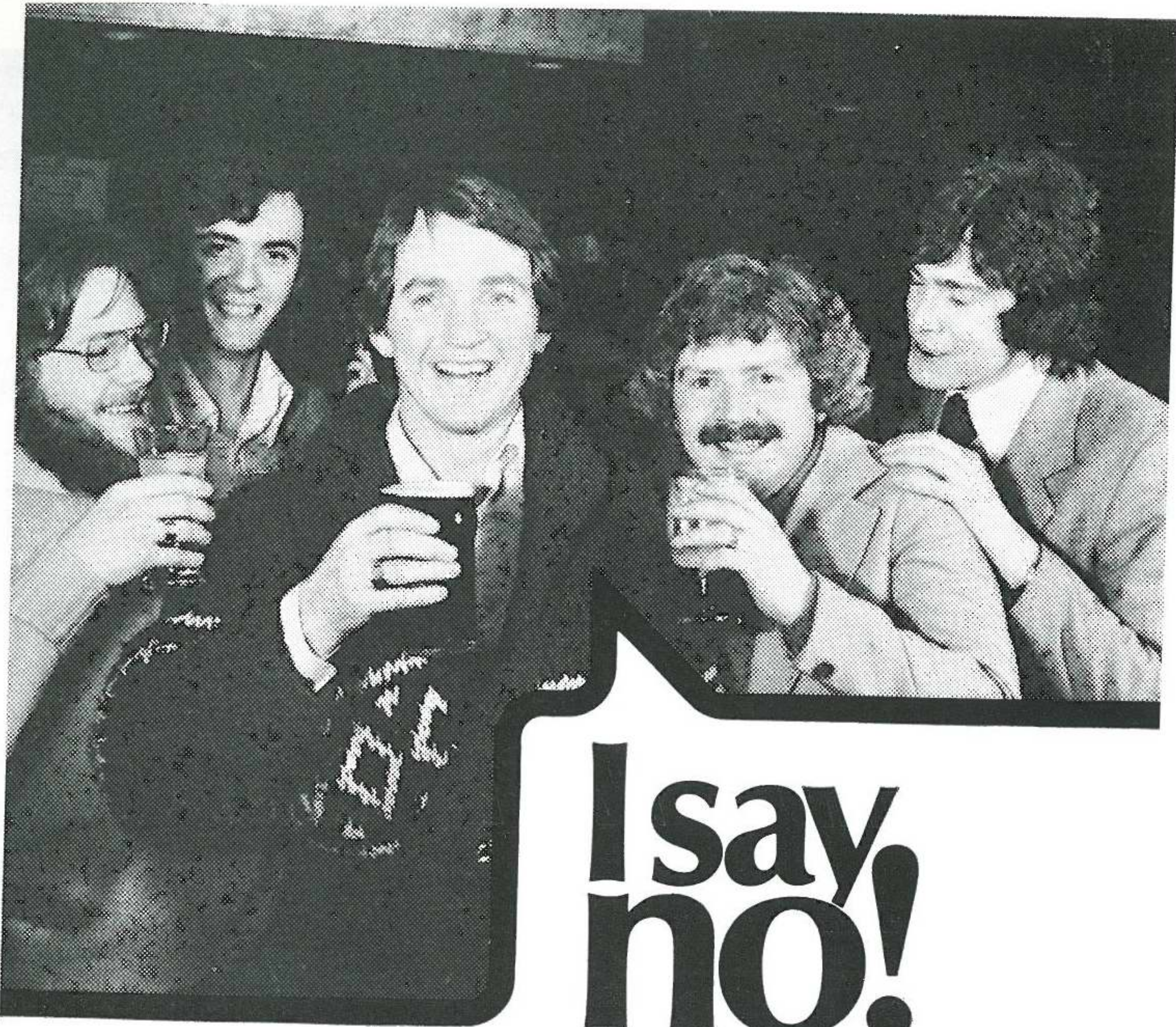
It is only logical that once a county accepts a club affiliation from any group — be they from a college or a small parish—that this club must be allowed to compete in all competitions. At the same time I accept that there is an inconsistency which, often expressed during congress when delegates were considering the Kerry motion which emanated from the Austin Stacks club. If a college team is acceptable as a competitor in the All-Ireland club championship, then a divisional side which wins a county title must similarly be allowed in.

Above all, Thomond College must be seen by the G.A.A. to play a vital part in the future welfare of Gaelic games. The students there must be given

every encouragement by the Association, even with all due respect to my friends in the universities — more encouragement, if necessary, than those attending U.C.D., U.C.G. or U.C.C. The university men will understand when I say that the graduates of Thomond all move on to teaching posts and therefore have a significant role to play as moulders of their pupils' sporting interests. This is not the case with those graduating from the universities, only some of whom will teach with others going into medicine, the law or other professions.

Consequently it is absolutely imperative that the students coming from Thomond College should be well-disposed towards hurling and football as they take up positions in the secondary and vocational schools throughout the country. They would almost certainly not be so disposed if the

● TO PAGE 21



I say no!

For years I was involved in the round buying system. Meeting the lads after a game and drinking more than we wanted. Then I decided to break away.

At first I felt slightly self conscious about breaking the old round system, but instead of criticising me, the lads thought it was a great idea, so now we all buy our own.

We drink as much as we like, or as little. We can come and go when we please.

No such thing as arriving late and feeling obliged to buy a round, and now - we are enjoying ourselves more.

CHEERS!

**Health
Education
Bureau**



● FROM PAGE 19

G.A.A. at Easter had taken a decision to close the door on their college's participation in the All-Ireland Club championship.

Had Brian Talty, one of the Thomond midfielders, not come from a family environment in Tuam that gave him an early devotion to football he might, indeed, have turned away from Gaelic games with some displeasure a year and a half ago. He, you may remember, and his fellow countyman — indeed fellow student in Thomond — Declan Smyth, were suspended for six months at the end of 1976 for playing in the American Board championship with a Philadelphia club without the proper clearance from their county secretary.

Their contention was that they were unaware of the need for such clearance and were not even sure it was a championship game, but they were suspended by the Management Committee on the evidence of an investigation that was carried out by the American Board. The players served four months of the suspension before being re-instated by the "mercy committee" at Easter last year. But during the summer more than a few of us in this country wondered about the value of that investigation when officers of that same American Board made highly irresponsible statements and threats about David Hickey's appearance on the U.S. tour with the Dublin team. I would suspect any investigation ever again carried out by people who made utterances as rash as these.

Happily Brian was keen on getting back into football as soon as the suspension was lifted, for he had been dedicated to the game since his early playing days with Tuam Stars and since his first appearance in the Galway

jersey as a centre half-forward on the 1975 under-21 side. Two years earlier he had been a member of the St. Jarlath's College team that won the All-Ireland title and five years through Jarlath's leaves a lasting football devotion.

Brian, 23 this month, played his first senior game with Galway in a National League match against Sligo in 1975 and he has since played in four forward positions as well as midfield. But it was as an outstanding midfielder that he contributed so much to Thomond's successes this year.

Michael Kilcoyne, a dual player from Westmeath who will be on the U.S. trip this month with Brian, also played a leading role in the triumphs of the National College of Physical Education.

Michael, 22 last January, has played hurling and football in all grades for Westmeath. He plays his club hurling with Ringtown, but assists Castletown-Finea at football in the Westmeath championships. It was as a hurler that he first wore the county jersey—in a 1974 League tie against Kerry—and he made his football debut in a League match against Armagh two years ago.

Michael has now graduated from Thomond and is already teaching. He and the others who leave the Limerick College have a very important contribution, apart from playing the games, to make to hurling and football in the years ahead as coaches and trainers. But, sadly, one national sport they and any of the present day students at Thomond will not be qualified to coach is handball, simply because our college of physical education, which we call "national", does not include handball on the curriculum.

This is something which the authorities at Thomond College, but more especially the relevant

sector of the Department of Education, must quickly put right. From the beginning Thomond has had facilities and courts for the playing and coaching of squash, but the plans for two 40 × 20 handball courts remain mere drawings on an architect's blueprint.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with squash—an excellent game in its own right—but one would imagine that when an Irish Government Department was making provision for facilities at our National College of Physical Education they would at least have given equal space to one of our national sports—even if they did not feel under any obligation to give priority to a national sport.

Why the Department of Education, or whoever advised them, felt there was need to provide squash courts at the N.C.P.E. (as Thomond was originally known) from the very beginning, but delay the erection of the handball courts has never been adequately explained. Certainly no one could have imagined there would have been a demand for squash over handball from the students enrolling at the college since very, very few of them would have played squash before entering Thomond.

Indeed, it would be an interesting exercise if some of the Thomond College authorities did a survey among their first-year male students to find out how many had played handball and how many had played squash before entering the N.C.P.E. The answers would, I am certain, come out very heavily on the side of handball since nearly every secondary school in the country, without question the boarding schools, have some type of handball alley—four-wall or three-wall, open or covered. But only a very small minority have squash courts.


~~~~~

By  
**EAMONN  
YOUNG**

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THE day I'm hoping for in Munster football is when Cork and Kerry will no longer be certainties for the final. I bow to nobody in my affection for the red jersey and when a big cup comes to Patrick Street it's one of the big days of my life, but for the sake of the people, the great association which entertains us, and the mighty work in the weaker counties, to see the honours going around would be terrific.

This year Waterford are already working at the May 14 date with Tipp in Clonmel and I think the winners will give Kerry plenty to worry about. Limerick will probably not beat a very enthusiastic Clare bunch but I don't regard the next game as a push-over for Cork, simply because Clare will be good, and I just don't know how useful we'll be. But for the moment let's work on a Cork-Kerry final and if I'm wrong (once again) I won't be run out of town.

But before we even consider whether Cork can beat Kerry there's another aspect to the story which is pretty obvious to all when set down: Dublin must be beaten. A fine bunch of lads, certainly, and well they have deserved the great honours they have won. In addition, they seem to me to wear those honours with a proud and indeed analytical humility, while their readiness to admit in public an uneasiness when the other side plays well (as in the Laois game) makes them harder than ever to beat.

This year could for Morgan and

It takes a mighty strong pair of legs to carry a big head and (unfortunately) this very common malady doesn't seem to have struck Dublin. So in Munster we don't talk about who is going to win the provincial final at all: it's the All-Ireland we are after and let's see if we can win it.

The whole country lit candles at the Kingdom shrine when in '75 the garsoons of the championship went out and destroyed the great Dublin. In this day of the blurb, good, bad and seldom indifferent, the lads from the Kingdom, who indeed put up a

great show, were all but canonised as football archangels and they would not have been human if the heads of some had been turned as indeed happened a few good Cork footballers after '73. But after the defeats of '76 and '77 one suspects that the feet are firmly on the ground again and that's the firmest basis for progression.

Kerry have the panel of three years ago and in addition can add to it Sean Walsh, Owen Liston and Vincent O'Connor of Dingle who played well last year as under-21 full back and at centre

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**UDT
BANK**

see an upswing

Cork

A proud Billy Morgan holding aloft the "Sam Maguire" after Cork's great 1973 All-Ireland football championship win

field for U.C.D. in the Sigerson. On the county league final recently O'Connor had a powerful game for Dingle against the Stacks, scoring 2-2 on the day and he may be a good man on the inter-county half way line. Mike O'Connor of Castleisland is another midfielder playing well in the club games. Of course one can never be sure if a man can take the big step to inter-county championship. All one can say is, that so many have done so.

So with a panel of what I'll term All-Ireland footballers, surely no son of the mountains is

going to say that Kerry aren't pretty good. Midfield has been part of their problem and if they can solve that which many say they can, then they must be good.

Doney O'Sullivan whose interest in football, particularly the Kerry brand, goes back in a rather expert way over some years, says to me: "Midfield was only part of our problem against Dublin last year. The Dublin half backs and half forwards also had a fairly good game with the result that they controlled the entire middle of the field. Teams



have won the All-Ireland with weak midfielders. Kerry will be better this year if they are more determined and if we can, as I hope, provide first class leadership both on and off the field. The good player will show by example in the tough moments of the game. We have a problem with the short game, and the first step towards cure is to recognise that a problem exists. If the side achieves a balance between the short, passing game and the long delivery, then this side could make a lot of us sit up.

"Dublin were there for the taking in last year's semi-final and without Kevin Moran they'll be weaker; so with the right approach I see no reason why Kerry can't beat them." And then he added with a grin: "Of course, we'll have to accept that Cork

● TO PAGE 24

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● FROM PAGE 23

also exist, but we'll take care of ye when the day comes."

Dr. Jim Brosnan of Moyvane, practising in Dingle, who like his father Con tore holes in teams for

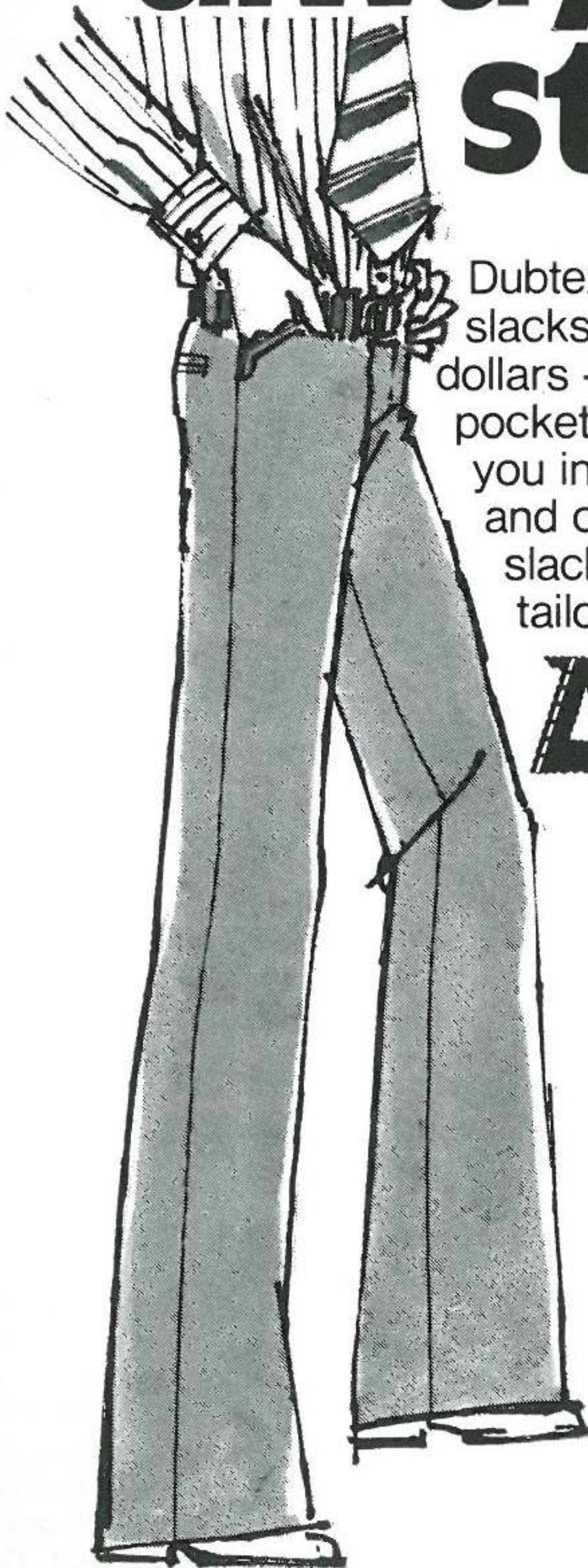
Kerry, says he thinks they have a sound panel. "We must combine the short and the long game," he says. "And remember, the short game demands a lot of guts because you have to take a hard tackle often in order to give an

accurate pass. If we want to stop Dublin's short-passing game we must tackle hard and fair. I hope we can field a stronger pair at midfield this year and if so we'll be fairly good. Dublin may not get through Leinster and so either Kerry or Cork could win it out. Cork just now don't seem to be great but they can always play well against us especially in Cork. It's time we brought the cup back."

The fortunes of Cork have been mirrored with reasonable clarity by the career of Billy Morgan who has blocked some tremendous shots in the Leaside goal and at other times taken that disconsolate journey to the back of the net when the ball had been put there (not so often, indeed) by Kerry or Dublin. I was delighted to see that Billy is as enthusiastic as ever and is looking forward with a real player's bright courage to the summer and the Munster final.

"We have built up a good defence," he says, "and though Humphrey Kelleher's departure was a big loss we are lucky that Kevin Kehilly is playing so well at full back. I feel very happy behind him and he has a grand sense of anticipation. Christy Ryan, a big, fast young man might fill Kevin's place at left half back and then we must replace Denis Long who is a big loss. If Vincent Coakley who has a fine fetch makes the grade here, we could have him and Dave McCarthy putting it up to everybody, but then we must get a real scoring forward line. We lost Declan Barron and Ray Cummins but one never knows, both are young enough, and they might pull on a Cork jersey again. Then there's Jim Barry-Murphy, Denis Allen, Sean O'Shea, Denis Linehan, John Crowley the hurler who is a very good player, Seamas Coughlan, who if he's on the team as captain, might really fulfil his promise, and Sean Murphy, a good winger. We have

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the men, and with a bit of luck we could find ourselves a good side for the first round and if we got over that then the sky is the limit. Honestly, I think this is the year to beat Kerry. We'll say no more for now."

So off he went on that sunny evening to have his tea, before going out in that wonderful enthusiastic way of his to train once again at the game he loves. Morgan has meant a lot to Cork: the goal he saves has so often set us up for a point on the other side. I have no doubt he'll be just as good again this year.

Jerry Lucey, who played at full back in front of the young Billy Morgan in the 'sixties is now a Cork selector. He tells me that the aim of the present committee is to establish a sound panel based on the seasoned players and he hopes that the new-style Cork championship will get the players into good form. Big Donal O'Sullivan the chairman, who was incidentally the last man to captain a winning Cork team in a national league (that was against Meath in '56), says that it's up to every man to earn his place the hard way and he sees no reason why we shouldn't have a good side. "There's Frank Cogan as coach and selector and Teddy Owens as trainer. We have plenty names and fair enthusiasm also. Cork should be good enough for Clare and Kerry this year. That's enough for the moment."

So that's it. Jim Brosnan and Doney O'Sullivan see some faults in the Kerry side and think these can be cured. Donal O'Sullivan, Jerry Lucey and Billy Morgan know they have a Cork side that could break out of Munster. I think myself they are right. When this appears Cork will be playing Kerry at the opening of the Bishopstown pitch, with the game in Gneeveguilla a fortnight after also with the Kingdom. After that we should be sorted out for the championship. It can be won.



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*Tom Walsh—President
of the Irish Handball
Council.*

By SEAN CLERKIN

ONE of the most interesting facets of this year's G.A.A. Congress was the apparent interest by a representative cross section of delegates in the promotion of handball.

President Con Murphy enthused about the benefits of the game, both as a sport in itself and as a vital factor in projecting the comprehensive ideal of the G.A.A.

It is equally true to say that a very favourable impression was created by Tom Walsh, the Mayo-born, Donegal based school teacher, who was recently elected as President of the Irish Handball Council. Walsh spoke to the Delegates on the question of "Integration", which in its broadest sense means a constructive scheme for the widespread promotion of handball within the G.A.A. This initiative by Walsh, which obviously will be his platform during the stipulated three year term of his office is to be welcomed and will certainly be to the mutual advantage of Handball and the G.A.A.

When I spoke to Tom on the subject he had not devised a work plan for his policy, other than to suggest that 1984 should be the target date to achieve full integration.

"I do not propose to introduce any grandiose schemes", he said, "other than to expand on the theory that G.A.A. members should have a wide focus on all activities under the umbrella of the Association, even if they have a specific interest in one game." "Handballers also have a seri-

ous commitment in this regard in so far as they must broaden their horizons towards the hurling and football fields."

When I posed the question to Tom on the future of the 60×30 in relation to the 40×20 game he was obviously not poised for an argument and dismissed me by saying that the life or death of either game is cast so far in the future that one could not fully gauge the maximum potential of either. The one area where I did get agreement from him was on the administrative structures of the game, which he believes, must be examined and overhauled at all levels.

It is my belief that, in Tom Walsh, the handball game will flourish to the same extent that it did under his predecessor Michael Boyce. He is a G.A.A. man in its truest sense, in so far as he believes that the Association will flourish by continuing to remain steadfast to the ideal that the games are solely not an end in themselves, but, that they must be garnished by promotional pursuits of Cultural and Irish Language Outlets.

In this regard, Walsh is not pounding a hollow drum. He is a fluent Irish speaker and is well known as a Drama Producer and Actor. This year he brought a group of 50 young people from Donegal to compete in the finals of Slogadh Competitions in Wexford while he is also closely connected with the Scór events. It is interesting to note that he has also won an Oireachtas medal for acting.

Tom Walsh's childhood memories hark back to The Neale, in County Mayo, where he was born forty years ago. He remembers, with pride, the example and inspiration provided by Tom Warde, the Principal of the Neale National School, who introduced him to the Language and Gaelic Games. Thereafter, his academic career was continued in Terenure College and U.C.D.

Walsh spent a number of years in the late fifties and early sixties teaching in Halifax where he became involved in the administration of the club, was also one of its top players and for good measure also contributed to the foundation of a thriving Irish Club.


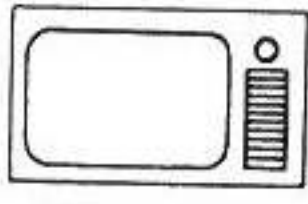

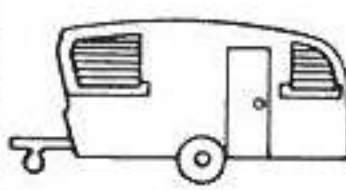


On his return to Ireland in 1962 to a teaching post in the Vocational School at Gortahork he immersed himself in local activity that saw him in the role of player, administrator, and referee until his elevation to the Chairmanship of the Donegal G.A.A. Board, and, in turn, such roles as Ulster Handball Chairman, Representative to the Central Handball Council, Central Council of the G.A.A. and the Policy Committee of the G.A.A.

Walsh has certainly served an apprenticeship that has been hallmarked with initiative, idealism and the motivation to complete projects as swiftly as possible.

He carries these characteristics into the Presidency of the Handball Council, which he will duly serve with dignity and dedication.

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CAMOGIE AFFAIRS

By

AGNES

HOURIGAN

THE start of the month past was dominated by the annual Congress of the Camogie Association when the delegates had to face a problem which many other associations would be glad to have, how to cater most efficiently for ever increasing numbers of players, of schools, of counties and of competitions.

Like its counterpart the G.A.A., the Camogie Association draws its strength from hundreds of voluntary workers at all levels from the Central Council officials down to the never publicised but absolutely essential club-helpers, who ensure that the players and teams get to matches, who provide transport and every help, financial and otherwise. But the position of the Camogie Association at the moment is that with tens upon tens of thousands of players, All-Ireland championships in six different grades, involvement at all levels of Education from the Universities and third level Colleges right down to the Primary Schools, Coaching Courses, Administration Courses, Referee's Courses, etc., it is essential that the Association should have a full-time official to co-ordinate and consolidate all the voluntary work.

A sub-committee which had been asked to consider the need for and the feasibility of such an appointment reported back to the recent Congress at Kilkenny. The Committee's report stressed the urgent necessity of a full-time appointment, but pointed out the obvious problem was the financing of such a project.

It was felt that there was no point in making such an appoint-

ment unless the post was filled by an experienced administrator properly qualified, and properly paid. The delegates agreed to give Central Council authority to proceed with such an appointment but only when ways and means have been devised of funding the new position. Already it has been agreed to stage a National Camogie Walk next year to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Camogie Association and the proceeds will go towards the full-time officer fund. Other suggestions are for a levy on members.

The other very important decision taken was to expand the Gael-Linn Cup interprovincial competition to include both the senior and junior grades.

For nearly twenty years this interprovincial championship was open to all players, but it was eventually felt that a greater chance should be provided for players from the weaker counties. So three years ago the Congress decided to confine the competition to junior players.

That period has now elapsed, so Congress decided that, while the weaker counties had benefited from the junior status proviso, the championship has lost in general attraction from the absence of the All-Ireland stars. So Congress came to the sensible decision to continue the competition at both levels playing the semi-finals and finals together where feasible.

There were several motions ruled out of order because they involved changes in the playing rules, and these are at present being revised by a special Rules

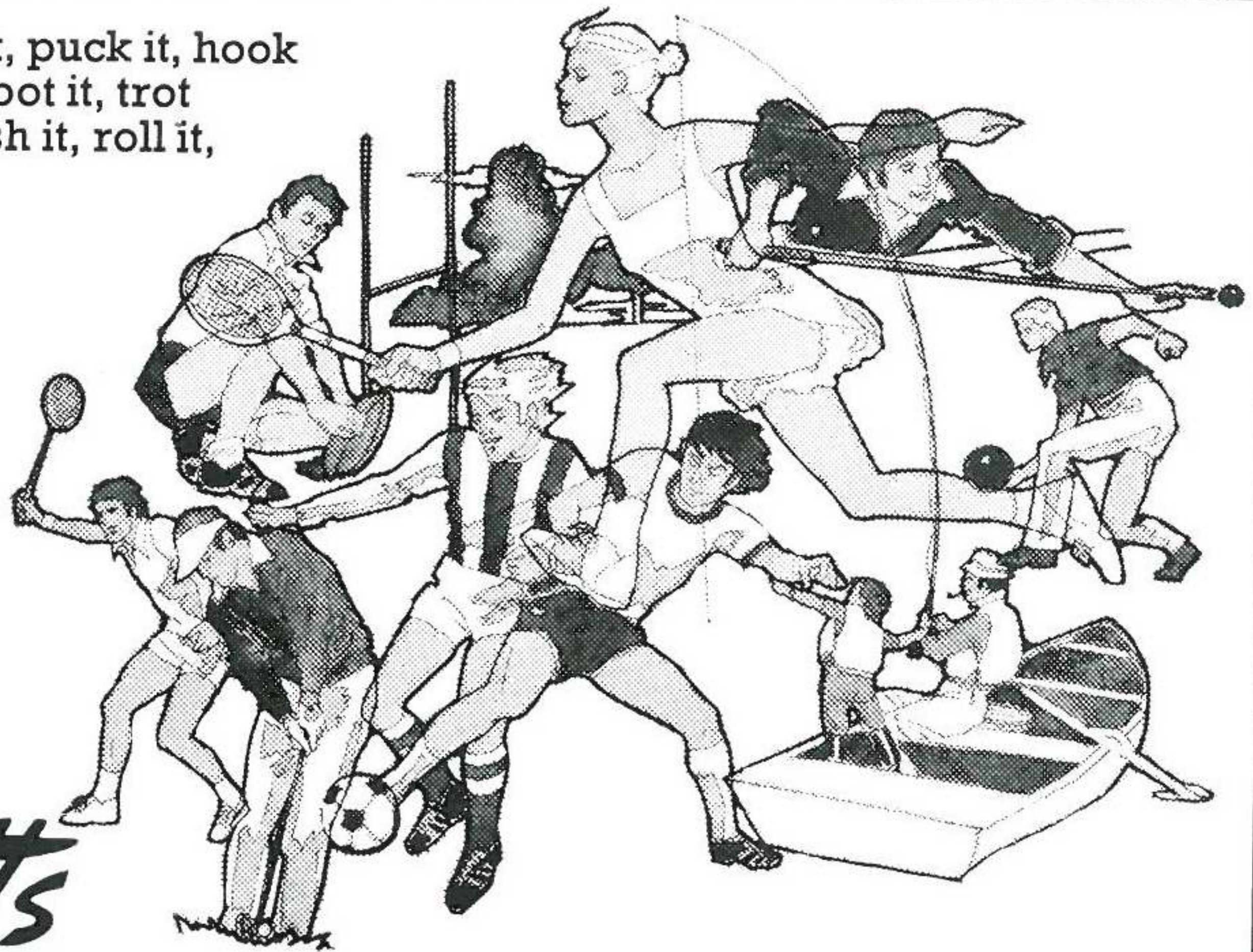
Committee to which the suggested changes were referred. These included a request for the abolition of the second cross-bar and the extension of the playing time in All-Ireland senior finals to 30 minutes aside. Meanwhile the stage is now set for the 1978 championships and the National League which will again be played simultaneously through the summer months.

Certainly the Central Fixtures Committee will be hoping for better luck than has been theirs in the past two seasons when bad weather and a series of play-offs held the League finals back until well into the Spring.

With Athenry having achieved an ambition in winning the All-Ireland club championship, and the county having won the All-Ireland minor championship and the Willwood Tailteann medals, I will be surprised if Galway do not make a very big impact indeed in the forthcoming championships. Holders Kilkenny will have their work cut out if they are to retain the title for the third year in a row. The champions have plenty of good young players coming up from Colleges ranks, but they will not be ready for the big-time for another year or two.

Cork and Antrim are still rebuilding, while Limerick could spring a surprise, but the team that I would make precompetition favourites for the championship are Wexford if they can compensate for the loss through retirement of those two great stalwarts, the sisters Bridget Doyle and Kit Codd.

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President-elect has time to find his feet



● Paddy MacFlynn

TWELVE months from now we will have the fourth Ulster President of the G.A.A. Paddy MacFlynn, who was a convincing winner over Wexford's Jimmy Roche in the final Ballot at the recent Congress at Ballina. Through the next year Paddy MacFlynn will serve a kind of apprenticeship to Con Murphy before taking over at the next Easter Congress which is due to be held in Ulster, and already there are suggestions that it would be a nice gesture to the new President if that Congress were to be held in County Down.

But though he has been associated with the G.A.A. in Down for so many years, Paddy MacFlynn is not a Downman. He is a native of Magherafelt in County Derry where he was one of the founders of a local Club when still in his early teens. Indeed he was so dedicated as to be chosen as Secretary of the East Derry Board when only sixteen years old, and though he temporarily relinquished the posts he held when he went away to London to be trained as a Teacher at Strawberry Hill Training College, when he returned to Ireland to take up a teaching post, he quickly resumed his former interest.

His worth was quickly recognised and he became Secretary of Derry County Board a post he held until 1951 when he moved to a teaching post in County Down and thenceforward gave

his official G.A.A. allegiance to the Mourne County which was also quick to recognise his value at Executive level. Soon he was Treasurer of Down County Board, later became Chairman and was honoured by his Province when he was elected Chairman of Ulster Council, a position he held from 1961 to 1964.

Down's representative on Central Council since 1963, Paddy MacFlynn has had a long and sometimes dispiriting road to the Presidential Chair. He first ran and was defeated in 1970, was again among the also-rans in 1973, but was runner-up to Con Murphy in 1976 and now has undeniably proved his right to succeed the Corkman. He has all the necessary experience and expertise and he is of course the current Chairman of the Activities Committee a post which has been an exceedingly hot seat indeed over the past twelve months.

A 58-year-old Primary teacher who lives at Laurencetown in the corner of Down outside Portadown, Paddy MacFlynn is the twelfth teacher to be elected to the highest honour within the gift of the Association. Indeed of the three previous Northern Presidents two have been National Teachers, Padraig McNamee, God Rest him, and Alf Murray who one was glad to see give us more than one flash of his old spirit and incisive thinking at the Ballina Congress.

Paddy MacFlynn will now, pre-

sumably, have to vacate his Central Council seat, but it is not yet, at the time of writing, clear as to whether or not he will continue on as Chairman of the Activities Committee. It seems to me only logical that Paddy MacFlynn stay on. There could not, at the present time be a more testing post in which a President-elect could serve his apprenticeship, with the worst-ever Fixtures crux being further complicated by an unexpected sequence of drawn games.

Now the Activities Committee, before several of these games, issued a request that on account of the parlous position, with far more Fixtures than there were Sundays on which to stage them, extra time should be played when teams finished level. There were games when teams understandably did not want to consent to extra time, the League quarter-final at Croke Park was a fair instance when Down and Kildare finished level, but was there any good reason why, in all the circumstances, extra time could not have been played in the Oireachtas Cup hurling final at Ballinasloe? Heaven knows that particular competition had already set something of a record for modern times in the length of time it has taken to play off, when one considered that only four teams were involved, and that the first semi-final was played, and decided, away back at the

● TO PAGE 36

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AROUND AND ABOUT

with Neil McCavana

I HOPE that the spirited drawn Railway Cup football final on Easter Monday will finally bury all the loose talk we have had to put up with monotonously year after year for some time past that the players in general are no longer interested in the interprovincial championships.

I have made it a point in recent times to ask hurlers and footballers if they felt the Railway Cup tests should go by the board. Not a single player supported such a move.

Some remarked to me that it appeared as if it was the press alone that wanted to see an end to the competition. Others were so keen on the Railway Cup matches that they suggested that the provinces should organise more and more training sessions each year in order to develop teamwork and work-out tactics.

Be that as it may, I don't see how anyone can from now on complain about a lack of commitment from the players after the drawn Munster-Ulster match. If ever a game provided a "way out" for footballers as far as a disinterested approach for the Railway Cup was concerned, it was undoubtedly that Easter match — particularly as far as the Ulster players were concerned.

Nearly all the Northerners were in action the day previous in competitive ties, yet that did not prevent them from putting in the effort for the province, with Colm McAlarney deserving special mention.

When I took up my position in Croke Park just beside the dug-out, the big Down midfielder was having his right thigh bandaged. Then, he went on to turn in a

fine game, and almost earned Ulster a dramatic victory with virtually the last kick of the game, when his shot for a point went wide.

All this, less than twenty-four hours after the Castlewellan club man had given one of the finest individual performances I have seen anywhere in years when leading down to their National League quarter final replay win over Kildare in extra time. That was a gruelling tour-de-force by the Down skipper as he covered nearly every part of the headquarters pitch with an energy sapping but progressive display that saw him pull his weight in defence, at midfield and in the attack.

No one could have complained if, after that powerful show and the amazing amount of ground he covered, the long-serving Down ace had opted out of the Railway Cup decider. Yet, the enthusiasm of McAlarney for the interprovincial final was infectious, and as the players trooped off the field at the final whistle, there was no mistaking the delight of the big midfielder and his teammates from the North at having lived to battle another day.

Nor was the enthusiasm for the game confined to Ulster. Pat Spillane, who had led Thomond College, Limerick, so splendidly to their historic All-Ireland club football final win the day before, was one of Munster's most efficient units.

Nor was the edge of the Southern footballers dulled by the fact that the province had won the title for three years previously. There was certainly enough evidence on the field, and around the dug-out to indicate

that all in the holders' camp were very keen to keep the trophy in the province.

I will, as a result of Easter Monday 1978 be much less tolerant than I have, of any who may in the future belittle the commitment of the players to the Railway Cup.

★ ★ ★

The U.S. tour this month will once more badly hit at the senior inter-county fixtures schedule, but one bright side to this is that the under-21 championships will come more strongly into the spotlight than has been the case in most of the past seasons.

I think the Association is losing out badly in not using these championships as vehicles to try out some new angles in the fixtures schedule.

These championships, for instance, like most competitions in Gaelic games, drag on over a very lengthy period. The opening shots last year were fired in early April, yet the finals were not played until October.

I fail to see why these tests drag out over such a long period. I know that Sunday dates are at a premium, but what is wrong with week-evenings?

We have had matches, including provincial finals, on week evenings in the past, and Ulster have broken new ground this year with Saturday fixtures at under-21. So, why not run off the entire championships between April and July on week-days?

I don't see that this would pose any great problems. It would enhance the appeal of the championships, I have little doubt, and might help to streamline the

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Shock could well work wonders for Tipperary

By JAY DRENNAN

THE position occupied by Tipperary just now in the hurling scene is one which would have taken a fertile imagination to conjure only a few years ago. In 1971, for instance, when they powered their way to their last All-Ireland victory, they seemed to have a company that mixed veterans and experienced players with young fellows who seemed to promise the future.

But that is only something less than seven years ago and for most of that time Tipperary have been far from the top of the hurling world. Indeed, we have come to expect moderate League performances from them followed by a stirring but inadequate showing in the championship.

In a way, therefore, it is no surprise to find them performing poorly . . . but to find them relegated into Division 1B is a sore shock. They seemed to be free of such indignity, those traditional giants of the game. Maybe, in fact, we were simply blinded by a whole-hearted trust in the fixity of things when related to the status of the hurling giants.

Because of this very surprise it may well be that what some Tipperary officials have said about relegation doing them good might just be right. For, if it brings a jolt of surprise to an

★
A glimpse of former glory. Michael Maher and John Doyle (Tipperary) clash with Wexford's Martin Codd in the 1965 All-Ireland Final. Tipperary went on to win their 21st title by 2-16 to 0-10.

★

outside observer, what must it do to Tipperary folk themselves? Smarting with the humiliation of it all they may well knuckle down to business in a manner which had not been known since the dedicated men of the fifties and sixties gradually faded out.

Of course it must also be said that some of the worst of the pain has been killed by the more recent humiliation of their great rivals, Cork, who accompany them into the second-class category for 1978-9. Cork and Tipperary together — a nice bag, indeed!

However, bad and all as it is to see such counties dumped from the top section and expelled from



the company of their peers, it may well have one important side effect of great value. With Cork for Tipperary to meet, and with Tipperary for Cork to meet, it will not be entirely a barren wilderness. There will be some incentive; the standards of both counties need not drift away catastrophically through lack of any kind of exciting competition — as happened to counties like Waterford and Limerick when they spent some time in that Division.

And, naturally, the fact that Cork and Tipperary are in the Division will mean that the gates will not be so terribly diminished

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start of last Summer. Now, because there was no attempt to play extra time at Ballinasloe, it is going to be very hard to get that Oireachtas Final played before Cork, plus a couple of the Galwaymen, take off for the United States.

Even more puzzling is the fact that extra time was not played in the Railway Cup football final. That game had already been arranged for Easter Monday in order to fit it in. Even at that, it attracted what could only be described as a minimal crowd.

Yet, despite the almost catastrophic Fixture position, extra time was not played, and, whatever about League games, there was nothing at stake in that one except the title and the medals. I know there is no necessity, under rule, for the players and officials to agree to extra time when teams draw at a first meeting, but when one considers the critical position fixture-wise I feel they should have agreed to do so both at Ballinasloe, and at Croke Park on Easter Monday. By not doing so, they reduced the appeal from the Activities Committee to no more than a pious aspiration.

Deep down, of course, the problem of the Fixtures chaos is based on two factors, the proliferation of competitions and the American trip through the best three weeks in May.

In spite of the already overcrowded schedule there were proposals at Congress for (a) a minor All-Ireland club championship in both hurling and football, (b) a revival of the junior championships, (c) a revival of the Special Under-16 hurling championship.

Fortunately the minor club championship suggestion was turned down, the delegates were reminded that counties still had the option of choosing between the junior and under-21 grades, and the revival of the Special Under 16 hurling championship accepted. This was the only one of the three motions that really made sense, as it helps the promotion of hurling and can presumably be played on Saturdays, thus not being affected by the despairing cry of Senator Jack Fitzgerald from Meath, "If we sanction any more All-Ireland competitions we will need not 52 but 352 Sundays in the year."

We were promised, both in the course of the debates, and even more strongly in Con Murphy's Presidential address, that the entire Fixtures' structure is being brought under review, senior All-Ireland dates and all, and that the American Tours will also be reconsidered. In that regard I was interested in a motion that suggested these tours take place during the so-called "closed" season. Now you couldn't play on the American East Coast at that time of year, but you could play in California and that is where everyone wants to go. So that might prove to be a very good idea.

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when those counties play even if the opposition is sometimes not quite what it would be expected to move them.

But, along with the good there are also some dangerous possibilities. For Tipperary, now that they have seen the All-Ireland champions Cork come down to join them, there is the danger that they may laugh and say that relegation is not such a serious thing after all: when the All-Ireland champions go in for it surely it cannot mean much.

And they might conclude that relegation did not really mean anything by way of comment on the situation of Tipperary, and that there was not any reason why they should not be in the shake-up for next September's All-Ireland.

That conclusion would be false and dangerous. It is an easy way out for those who have not in them the moral courage to face up to the deteriorated condition of the game in County Tipperary.

It was not until last summer when I saw a Tipperary county championship game being played before some big inter-county game that the full realisation of the decline began to strike me. In case this was an untypical example I went back to see three or four other senior championship games in the county before the end of the year, and was dismayed to find that the evidence of the first game was true.

Thinking back, as near as I can remember, it must be the middle sixties since I actually saw any senior club championship games in Tipperary. At that time I was not unfamiliar with the scene there. To say I was surprised at the drop in standard is putting it mildly. Even when some percentage is allowed for the "far away hills" syndrome, there could be no doubting that the ordinary club player of to-day is miles behind his counterpart of



● Roger Ryan (centre), one of Tipperary's outstanding forwards for many years.

a little more than a decade ago.

Two points, in particular, apart from the broad and not very helpful generalisation struck me. First, the big names of that time stuck out a mile in club competition. Of course they were marked men but that made their presence even more noticed. Today, there are hardly any names that appear more prominent than others, and even when players are accepted inter-county men they do not create the same sense of size and dominance in the club games.

Second, the second line of players which was always there before — those handy men who were of immense value and either cunning, polished, knacky or strong according to their particular category — has simply disappeared. They were men apart in club competition and accepted as such, needing as much attention as inter-county men, though seldom getting it, of course, and, therefore, often emerging as match winners. But, put them in a county jersey and,

somehow, it would smother them — they just were not intended for the Croke Park trail.

To-day, I'm afraid, this category of second line players simply does not exist. There are a few with recognisable characteristics of the breed, but that is all . . .

So Tipperary have plenty of mending to do and a lot of hard groundwork to restore the position that was so rich and rare in the 1950s and much of the 1960s, but which was, obviously, too much taken for granted.

They will have to settle for something less than the greatness they remember and work towards it with real intensity. And that must now be done within the fight for promotion next autumn. At least, they will have an excuse for buckling into the revival of hurling in the county, something they could not focus on while the memory of the greats was still green and was being misinterpreted as promising the future for all time.

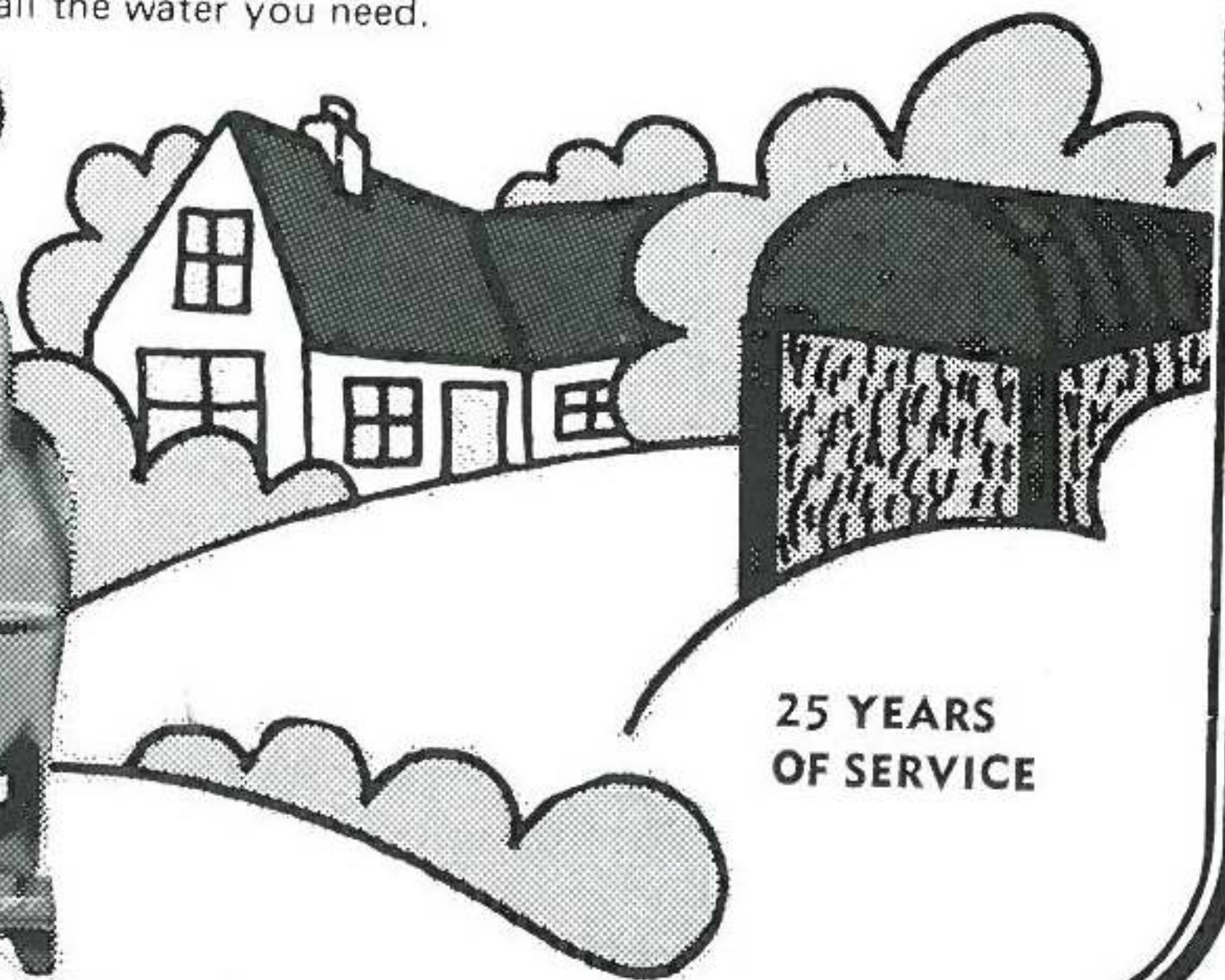


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● FROM PAGE 11

O'Donoghue in the centre, where their combination of skills and niceties from Clarke and staying power with honest endeavour from O'Donoghue blended too effectively for Cork.

Further proof, perhaps, of the possibilities of this pairing were evidenced in the adversity of the quarter-final game against Limerick. Galway had dominated the first half and appeared to be winning; immediately after the interval O'Donoghue had to leave the field with an injury, and many ascribe the fall off of Galway which allowed Limerick to rampage into the game to that accident.

No doubt the defeat by Limerick and the manner of it, with so many players showing less than the requisite heart and dedication, not to mention fitness and resilience against the Limerick onslaught, will cause Galway a lot of remorse.

They had reached a point where they were being watched by all with care as the team most likely to cause a lot of trouble in the rest of the League and the championship afterwards. It was important for morale, as well as to keep opponents and potential opponents on the hop that they should have held their form.

Maybe they will prove the lapse against Limerick as being untypical and temporary, and it might even be the cause of complacency in some future opponents. Yet that is the negative way to look at things. And the truth is more likely to be that Galway have a big job of moral repair to perform. Unnecessarily so, too, since they had everything in hand after the Cork game.

It is to be hoped they will collect the pieces and get everyone pulling together with a will because they are far too talented not to play better and far too exciting to watch to be denied to us the followers.

~~~~~  
~~~~~ **AROUND AND ABOUT** ~~~~~  
~~~~~

● FROM PAGE 33

senior championships programme.

Tony Hanahoe in an interview in GAELIC SPORT back in December 1976 made the point that he felt the senior championships dragged on over too long a period—and I could not agree more.

I think, too, the under-21 championships are tailor-made to experiment with an open-draw principle. It would probably be unrealistic to have a complete open-draw because of the distances and the age limit involved, but a break-away from the provincial boundaries could be introduced by introducing four new zones.

This would end the Kerry-Cork monopoly of the Munster scene, and inject new variety in the other provinces as well. And, again it would prove a profitable way of evaluating the merits or otherwise of the full open-draw in

the top grade.

★ ★ ★

London, who handed Leitrim a rare old shock in last year's Connacht senior football championship, will be back on the Western circuit on May 21 when they open their 1978 provincial campaign with a visit to Sligo.

I hear that they are likely to have some exciting new faces in their squad.

There are those who say that the championships should be confined to home teams, but my view is that if London wish to take part in competitive play here then it is up to officials to facilitate them. It seems to me that the arrangement provides an added incentive for Exiles to keep up their interest in the game in the British capital.

I'm particularly pleased to see

● TO PAGE 44

# A week's free colour!

**RTV** RENTALS



# RESULTS SUMMARY

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

**Football.** March 17. At Croke Park: Laois 4-9; Cavan 2-10. Down 1-13; Kildare 3-7. Draw. March 26. At Croke Park: Down 1-15; Kildare 1-11. Replay. In extra time. Semi-finals: April 2. Dublin 0-12; Laois 0-7. April 9: Mayo 0-10; Down 0-8.

**Hurling.** March 19. At Kilkenny: Wexford 2-13; Offaly 2-6. April 2. At Kilkenny: Wexford 2-10; Waterford 1-9. At Thurles: Limerick 3-16; Galway 4-5. Offaly 1-9; Cork 0-9. Semi-finals: April 9. At Thurles: Clare 2-16, Limerick 3-6. At Carlow: Kilkenny 3-5; Wexford 2-8. Draw. Division III—April 9. At Irvinestown: Fermanagh 5-10; Tyrone 1-2. At Castleblaney: Monaghan 2-8; Derry 3-5. Draw.

## 1978-'79 LEAGUE

**Football:** March 26: At Lurgan: Derry 3-6; Armagh 0-7. At Ballybay: Monaghan 2-10; Louth 0-8. At Lisnaskea: Longford 1-10; Fermanagh 0-9. At Tullamore: Offaly 1-12; Meath 1-8. At Askeaton: Clare 1-9; Limerick 0-7. At Wexford: Wexford 0-12; Carlow 0-10. At Aughrim: Wicklow 8-12; Kilkenny 4-4. April 2: At Clonmel: Meath 2-7; Tipperary 0-7. At Sligo: Sligo 1-11; Longford 1-7.

## DR. McKENNA CUP

**Football:** April 2. At Belfast: Armagh 2-5; Antrim 1-6. At Ballybofey: Tyrone 2-8; Donegal 1-7. At Newry: Down 0-9; Derry 0-9. At Ballybay: Fermanagh 0-12; Monaghan 1-6.

## LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Under-21 Hurling:** April 2: At Newbridge: Kildare 7-9; Wicklow 2-5. At Athboy: Meath 2-7; Westmeath 0-7.

## OIREACHTAS CUP

Final: March 19. At Ballinasloe: Galway 2-8; Cork 2-8. Draw.

## RAILWAY CUP

**Football:** Semi-finals, March 19. At Cavan: Ulster 1-7; Leinster 0-7. At Sligo: Munster 2-6; Connacht 0-7. Final, March 27. At Croke Park: Ulster 2-7; Munster 2-7. Draw.

## REPRESENTATIVE GAME

**Football:** April 9. At Croke Park: Final: Combined Universities 2-9; Advanced Colleges 0-11.

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Football:** Final, March 26. At Croke Park: Thomond College, Limerick 2-14; St. John's Belfast 1-3.

**Hurling:** Semi-finals, March 26. At Wexford: Rathnure, Wexford 2-20; Four Roads, Roscommon 2-8. At Cork: St. Finbarr's, Cork 6-12; Rossa, Belfast 1-16. Final, March 27. At Thurles: St. Finbarr's 2-7; Rathnure 0-9.

## COLLEGES' FINALS

Connacht—**Football.** March 17.

At Charlestown: St. Jarlath's, Tuam 1-11; St. Colman's, Claremorris 0-6. **Hurling.** March 19. At Ballinasloe: Our Lady's, Gort 1-7; Garbally College, Ballinasloe 0-3.

**Leinster—Football.** Carmelite College, Moate 1-9; St. Mel's, Longford 0-10. **Hurling.** St. Peter's, Wexford 1-6; St. Kieran's, Kilkenny 0-5. Both games at Croke Park on March 19.

## CAMOGIE

**All-Ireland Club final.** March 19. At Athenry: Athenry 10-5; Portglenone, Antrim 1-1.

## HANDBALL

**Gael-Linn Cup final (60 x 30).** March 18. At Croke Park: R. Lyng (Wexford) beat P. Reilly (Kilkenny) 21-15.

**All-Ireland (40 x 20) Senior Semi-finals.** April 1. At Ennis: Doubles: Pat and Mick Kirby (Clare) beat Michael Ward and Gerry Scully (Galway) 21-11, 9-21, 21-18. April 2. At Enniscorthy: Singles: Joey Maher (Louth) beat Greg Sheridan (Cavan) 21-13, 21-12.

**All-Ireland (40 x 20) Senior Semi-finals,** April 9. At Claremorris: Singles: Pat Kirby (Clare) beat Peadar McGee (Mayo) 9-21, 21-14, 21-18. Senior Doubles: at Monaghan: S. Buggy and J. Goggins (Wexford) beat M. Conway and J. Kelly (Armagh) 21-10, 21-6.

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

**GAELIC SPORT,  
80 UPPER DRUMCONDRA ROAD,  
DUBLIN 9.**

Please send me a copy of GAELIC SPORT for a period of \*one year for which I enclose a Postal Order valued £5.00.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....  
**Please use Block Capitals.**

\*Gaelic Sport is published monthly and the subscription fee covers postage.



# JUNIOR DESK



By  
**JACK  
MAHON**

**B**ELIEVE it or not "Junior Desk" is 8 years old this month. How time flies. It hasn't changed that much over the years. The young people who write in grow up and like the Artane Boys' Band are replaced by others eager to have their say. Keep writing. The Mailbag is the important part of this column. I'm grateful to Jimmy Smyth, Secretary of the Activities Committee of the G.A.A. for taking the time to reply to one of our most regular Mailbag correspondents, Seamus Woulfe.

## DERMOT EARLEY

Our Cut-out this month is Roscommon's Dermot Earley who has made a remarkable return to the big time since returning from the Middle East. I have watched Dermot Earley's progress since he was a star player with St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen. I always seem to bracket himself and Jimmy Duggan of Galway together because of the parallel nature of their careers. Dermot is a powerful player of mighty physique. He is a great sportsman and we congratulate him on his choice as Cut-Out. The Army man is a superb example to our youth.

## BOOKS

This month I have two reviews: **The History of the South Liberties Hurling Club (1884-1976)** by Antoinette McGinley.

(Price £1.00 does not include postage from Liam O'Connell, Treasurer, South Liberties G.A.A. Club, Ballyneety, Co. Limerick).

I applaud every club which takes on the task of compiling its own history. This club was lucky that the author adopted this as a Project for her studies in the N.C.P.E. in Thomond and the club decided to publish her work. The 64-page booklet is printed on art paper and is well sprinkled with photos old and new.

**Score** (Issue No. 5 of the official magazine of Down GAA). This is a 32-page booklet that improves with every issue. I love its Junior Scene and activity columns. There is a first class interview with Sean O'Neill and another article believe it or not tells the story of eight years of Junior Desk written by myself. I like the new cover design. The Editorial Committee, Sean Magorrian, Leslie Burnett and Dan McCartan deserve every encouragement. Every County Board in Ireland should get a copy.

(Price 30p, including postage, from Sean Magorrian, 2 Bay Road, Ballykinlar, Downpatrick, Co. Down.)

## Mailbag

"Cork Hurling Fan", Dillons Cross, Cork, "I'm delighted to hear your second Quizbook is ready and soon to be published. When will it be in the shops? Junior Desk continues to be the most interesting feature in GAELIC SPORT every month. It's usually the first item I read, and I'm sure it's the same with most

grown-ups like myself."

● *I'm blushing. Still keep reading it first! (J.M.)*

**J. Walsh, Sec., Old Als Camogie Club, Cork.** "Dear Jack—You were asked in the January edition of Junior Desk if Angela and Ann Downey of Kilkenny were the first and only set of twins to win Senior All-Ireland Camogie medals together. Your answer to the question was not accurate.

The Hegarty twins, Maureen and Patty, played together in three All-Ireland finals:

1941 v Dublin: Maureen at centreback and Patty at right forward;

1942 v Dublin: Maureen at centreback and Patty at left wing;

1943 v Dublin: Maureen at centreback and Patty at centre forward.

Cork defeated Dublin 7-5 to 1-2 in the 1941 final so the Hegartys hold All-Ireland medals. Maureen played for our club throughout her career. She spent a number of years in your part of the country when her husband, Barry Dromey, was working in A.I.B., Ballinasloe. Patty lined out for U.C.C. from 1941-44 but played prior and after with our club.

I am glad that you include Camogie from time to time in your Junior Desk."

● *Thanks for the information. I'm happy to print it in full. And I'm delighted to include mention of Camogie in Junior Desk. (J.M.)*

**Thomas Rodgers, Fortunestown, Saggart, Co. Dublin** is 11 years old and a Dub fan who thinks Mick Dunne is making a great

● **OVERLEAF**



## ● FROM OVERLEAF

success of Gaelic Stadium. This is the first time Thomas has written to us in Junior Desk.

● *Fáilte, Thomas. Keep writing. (J.M.)*

**Patrick McEvoy, 8 Clintons Park, Downpatrick, Co. Down** has sent me on details of SHOOT's 1978 Collectors Album. In fact Dermot McCarthy sent one on to me from England with some stickers and they both feel that we in the G.A.A. should be moving in that direction. As Patrick writes "I am certain if we had a G.A.A. Collector's Album that it would be a very potent instrument for promoting our games among the 8-12 years age group".

● *Both Patrick and Dermot will be glad to know that moves are afoot, in fact, steps are actively being taken to have such an album and a sticker scheme on G.A.A. stars here in the very near future. But more details later. (J.M.)*

**Leo McGough, Browne's Hill Rd., Carlow** one of our greatest fans here a few years ago writes again to tell us of the launching of the book CARLOW HURLING MEMORIES with which he is associated. He pays tribute to P. L. Curran for his great work for the book. "All I can say is that it is really great to have been involved in the publishing of a book and I would like to thank you for starting me off in Junior Desk. I remember the great thrill when one's name appeared in print and if you included a few words at the end of the letter it meant all the world."

● *Thanks Leo. Your words of gratitude make Junior Desk so meaningful. I love Junior Desk and will keep at it. But your last comments make it so much better. I hope "Carlow Hurling Memories" is a great success. (J.M.)*

**Patrick J. Hughes (Junior), 42 Oakman St., Belfast BT 12 7BP** writes to say Mayo beat Down not Kerry in the 1970 N.F.L. final. He has the following list of tapes of G.A.A. games which he will swop for other tapes or programmes: 1973 N.F.L. Final, Kerry v Offaly; 1973 All-Ireland S.F.C. Final, Cork v Galway; 1974

All-Ireland Semi-Final, Cork v Dublin; 1974 All-Ireland Final, Dublin v Galway; 1976 N.F.L. Final, Dublin v Derry; 1975 N.H.L. Final, Galway v Tipperary; 1975 All-Ireland S.H.C. Semi-Final, Galway v Cork.

● *Now that's a great offer. I'd like a copy of the last one myself. Paddy Flanagan, the Westmeath P.R.O., tells me he has a great collection of tapes. (J.M.)*

**Thomas Ryan, Riversfield, Spawell Road, Wexford:** "I think Gaelic Sport should have a competition every month. Where could I get a Lucozade wall chart?"

● *As a special surprise we are sending you one. (J.M.)*

**Kevin Falvey, Knockanish West, The Spa, Tralee, Co. Kerry** feels there are too many ads. in Gaelic Sport, is confident that Cork footballers will be back at the top again shortly if they can come to grips with the dual star problem, wants to know if there is any publication as a guide to training for Gaelic football. "I would like a Cut-Out of Sean Walsh, whose mother taught me for a short time last year. Sean is the best young player in Ireland. I was delighted with the Cut-Out of P. J. Molloy. He was my hurler of 1977. Finally, I think Dublin will win the N.F.L. even though they will miss Kevin Moran's attacking flair."

● *Kevin, your letter wins you a copy of the following two books, "Fitness for Gaelic Football" by Joe Lennon (Price 45p) and "Peil—Gaelic Football Skills" (Price 25p). Readers should write to the G.A.A. Shop in Croke Park for a price list which includes a list of current G.A.A. publications available. (J.M.)*

**Fergal Walsh, c/o St. Finbarr's Seminary, Farranferris, Cork** wants a Carrolls All-Star Chart. He tells me he wrote for one last year and wasn't successful.

● *Write to Mr. Pat Heneghan, Public Relations Manager, Carrolls, Grand Parade, Dublin, again. He is a busy man but you may be luckier this time. (J.M.)*

**Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow** feels the Railway Cups should be continued and run off on a holiday weekend like Whit weekend, semi-finals on Sunday, the final on Monday. "Even recent years' finals have produced some great displays, like Jimmy Barry-Murphy's four goals in the 1975 football final, Pat Spillane's display in the '76 final, Colm Doran's and Mick Brennan's displays in the '77 hurling final. And then there are the players from the weaker counties, such as Eddie Webster (Tipperary), Michael Martin (Leitrim), Padhraic Horan (Offaly) and Pat Dunny (Kildare) who would be denied this exposure if the Railway Cups were discontinued."

● *I still think the Railway Cups are on the way out. Your weekend suggestion may be a lifesaver for them. Certainly they need a shot in the arm. (J.M.)*

**Donal Ring, Coolavokig, Lissacreasig, Macroom, Co. Cork** answers Tommy Flaherty's questions as follows: (1) The hand-pass should **not** be banned; (2) The Railway Cups should **not** be dropped. Donal can't see why I'm so anti-Railway Cup. (3) Palmed scores in hurling should be banned but not in football. Kicked scores in hurling should be allowed. Donal thinks the Goals and Saves of the Year on R.T.E. were good ideas and he disagrees with Patrick Byrne in saying that we are copying our English counterparts.

Donal thinks wee Charlie McCarthy will be a good Cork hurling captain. His best outsiders for the All-Irelands are Galway (H) and Cork (F). This is his best hurling team in Ireland now.

N. Skehan, F. Larkin, W. Murphy, J. Horgan, C. Doran, S. Silke, D. Coughlan, T. Cashman, G. McCarthy, C. Honan, M. Quigley, J. B. Murphy, C. McCarthy, R. Cummins and E. Cregan.

● *How could you leave out Iggy Clarke, one of the best hurlers we have ever had in Galway?! (J.M.)*



**Denis Sweeney, Meenaguish, Letterbarrow P.O., Co. Donegal** wants the following programmes: All-Ireland S.F. Finals, 1950, '51, '52, '54, '55, '56, '57 and '58. All-Ireland S.H. Final, 1964. N.F.L. Finals, 1960, '61, '64, '65, '66, '68, '69, '70, '71 and '74 (draw and replay), N.H.L. Finals, 1960, '61, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68, '69, '70, '71, '72, '73 and '74. For the above he has the following programmes which he can swop: All-Ireland S.F. Finals, '61, '62, '63, '65, '66, '72, '74, '75, '76. Denis writes to say he got the Tyrone G.A.A. Yearbook from John McCusker.

● Programme collectors will note that Denis has some good programmes to swop. Thanks John McCusker for looking after the Tyrone G.A.A. Yearbook crux. All's well that ends well. (J.M.)

**Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway** got a leg injury in a street league game but is O.K. again. He wants to know where he can get a G.A.A. Diary. He is full of praise for G.A.A. President Con Murphy and wants a Cut-Out of Jimmy Duggan or Ogie Moran or Finbarr Gantley of Beagh. He would like to see a football team as well as a hurling team in Gort.

● Write to Siopa C.L.C.G. re G.A.A. Diary. There are some available. (J.M.)

**Brian Treanor, Dundian, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan** wants to know about the availability of cassette tapes or tapes of any kind of All-Ireland finals.

● Some Junior Desk readers will be getting in touch with you I'm sure. Let me know how successful you are in getting this information. (J.M.)

**Tony McGinty, 8 Tonragee Mid, Tonragee P.O., Westport, Co. Mayo** wants to know if he can get any of the following tapes: All-Ireland S.F. Finals 1958, '59, '60, '61, '63, '64, '65, '66, '68, '72 (draw and replay); All-Ireland S.H. Finals 1958, '59 (draw and replay), '60 and '67. Also tapes of Mayo's All-Ireland wins of '50 and '51.

● Tapes are becoming a great craze. All you tape collectors are asked to note Tony's requirements.

(J.M.)

**Thomas Walsh, 1 Ardcairn View, Ballintemple, Cork** lives near Páirc Uí Chaoimh and goes down regularly to see Cork training for big games. Thomas has a great regard for Tom Cashman's hurling. "I think Mick Dunne does a great job with Gaelic Stadium. He deserves great credit."

● Mick will be delighted with that tribute. (J.M.)

#### SUMMER-TIME



● One of the Summer sights I love to see is a group of lads eagerly tussling for the sliothar. The popularity of the new Caman Wavin is emphasised in the picture above in which all the young stars are using the new hurley.

**Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20 Fairfield Rd., Bath, England** tells me that Frank Doran's scrapbook is now in the care of Croke Park where it will remain permanently. "I hope to get to this year's All-Ireland hurling final. I hope too that the G.A.A.'s sticker album will be launched soon. It should go down very well." Once again, Dermot pays great tribute to Frank Bellew, Chairman Gloucestershire Co. Board, "who was mainly responsible for getting under-age football going here and thereby ensuring the

survival of the G.A.A. in Britain."

● Dermot, I keep scrapbooks myself and have about 70. I wouldn't part with them for anything. I'll be very anxious to have a look at Frank Doran's scrapbook and I applaud you and Frank's family for giving it to Croke Park. (J.M.)

**Martin Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly** is very disappointed that Tipperary were relegated. "Offaly played very poorly in Thurles. They never seem to get distance into their shots."

● Martin, Offaly have improved immensely these past few years and are now in the top bracket of hurling teams. Their dedication to hurling is paying off. (J.M.)

**Anthony Murphy, Doolough, Connolly, Ennis, Co. Clare** loves Junior Desk and the colour Cut-Out. His best team since 1975 is S. Durack, F. Larkin, M. O'Doherty, J. O'Brien, G. Loughnane, M. Jacob, C. Doran, M. Moroney, P. Moylan, J. Connolly, J. Barry-Murphy, P. J. Molloy, C. McCarthy, T. Doran and E. Keher. Anthony wants a Lucozade G.A.A. wall chart.

● We are sending you one as a surprise prize. (J.M.)

**Martin Carley, 1, Glenview, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath** hopes Galway or Limerick win the N.H.L. Martin has over 300 G.A.A. books and has nearly 150 GAELIC SPORTS (every copy since 1966 excepting the year 1969). He loves the G.A.A. Diary 1978. Martin enjoyed the Waterford v Westmeath N.H.L. game at Castletowngeoghegan and is thrilled that Michael Kilcoyne in going to the U.S. with the All Stars. Finally Martin wants a Westmeath Cut-Out and asks why Mick Dunne isn't in charge of Sports Stadium on Saturdays. Finally he would like to get copies of GAELIC SPORT for the year 1969.

● That's a tremendous library of G.A.A. books. Some day I'll count my own and we'll compare notes! (J.M.)

**Philip Maher (same address as Martin)** writes for the first time

● OVERLEAF



FROM OVERLEAF

is 9 years old. His favourite hurler is Martin Doherty and Pat Spillane is his No. 1 footballer. His favourite Moneygall club players are Pat Sheedy and Philip Fanning.

● *Philip, you win a Tipperary G.A.A. scarf. Welcome to Junior Desk. (J.M.)*

**Seán Óg McAteer, Age 16, Stella Maris, Ballincraig, Newry, Co. Down** is very keen on the G.A.A. and is the manager of a team in the Newry Streets League. He is also the League's P.R.O. He tips Down to go a long way this year. "Where can I get some Wall-charts to illustrate the skills of the game?"

● *Sean Og, you win a Down G.A.A. Bobcap. Write to Health Education Bureau, 52 Upper Mount St., Dublin 2 for the wall charts you require and mention GAELIC SPORT. (J.M.)*

**J. J. Ryan, Top Cross, Lisgoold, Leamlara, Co. Cork**—"Lisgoold beat Middleton in 1889 by 1 goal to 1 point. A year later Middleton won the All-Ireland S.H.C. title representing Cork beating Wexford by 2-4 to 0-1. Some of the Middleton team of 1890 were from Lisgoold."

● *That's history for you. (J.M.)*

**Barry Murphy, Castlebridge, Wexford**, thinks the rule to get rid of the dropping of the hurley before handpassing is all wrong, slows up the game and allows for abuses. He wants Cut-outs of players going back to the 'fifties. His top stars in hurling are Colm Doran and Denis Coughlan, and in football Brian Mullins and John O'Gara.

● *This is Barry's first time writing to us and he wins a Wexford Bobcap. (J.M.)*

**John McInerney, Clarehill, Clarecastle, Co. Clare**, is very fond of Armagh and pays great tribute to the Armagh hurling officials, Jim Carlisle, Jim Kirk, Enda Kirk and Pat Toner who have been bringing senior and juvenile teams to Clarecastle since 1971. John tells me his club Clarecastle were the first club to go North to play Armagh Cuch-

★

Specially for  
**Norman  
Rochford  
of Gort**  
we include this  
action picture of  
**Jimmy Duggan  
of Galway.**

★



ulainns under the Hurling Adoption Scheme in 1970—"a 360 mile round trip that has produced a lot of good hurling work and great friendships over the years." He tips Clarecastle (The Magpies) to win the Clare 1978 S.H.C. title.

● *John I know the Armagh men you praise having seen them in action in Gormanston in 1968 — all tremendous workers and gentle-*

*men. I saw Clarecastle play in one Clare S.H.C. final and remember "Wax" Guinnane's great display. He was a great favourite with the crowd. (J.M.)*

That's it for another month.

Write about anything to

**Junior Desk,  
GAELIC SPORT,  
80, Upper Drumcondra Road,  
Dublin 9.**

● FROM PAGE 39

that Fermanagh, a county I saw win their only All-Ireland inter-county championship back in 1959 at London's New Eltham pitch in the junior grade, are represented in the replacement party for this month's U.S. tour.

Peter McGinnity is the Fermanagh man making the trip. And right well this talented six-footer merits this latest honour.

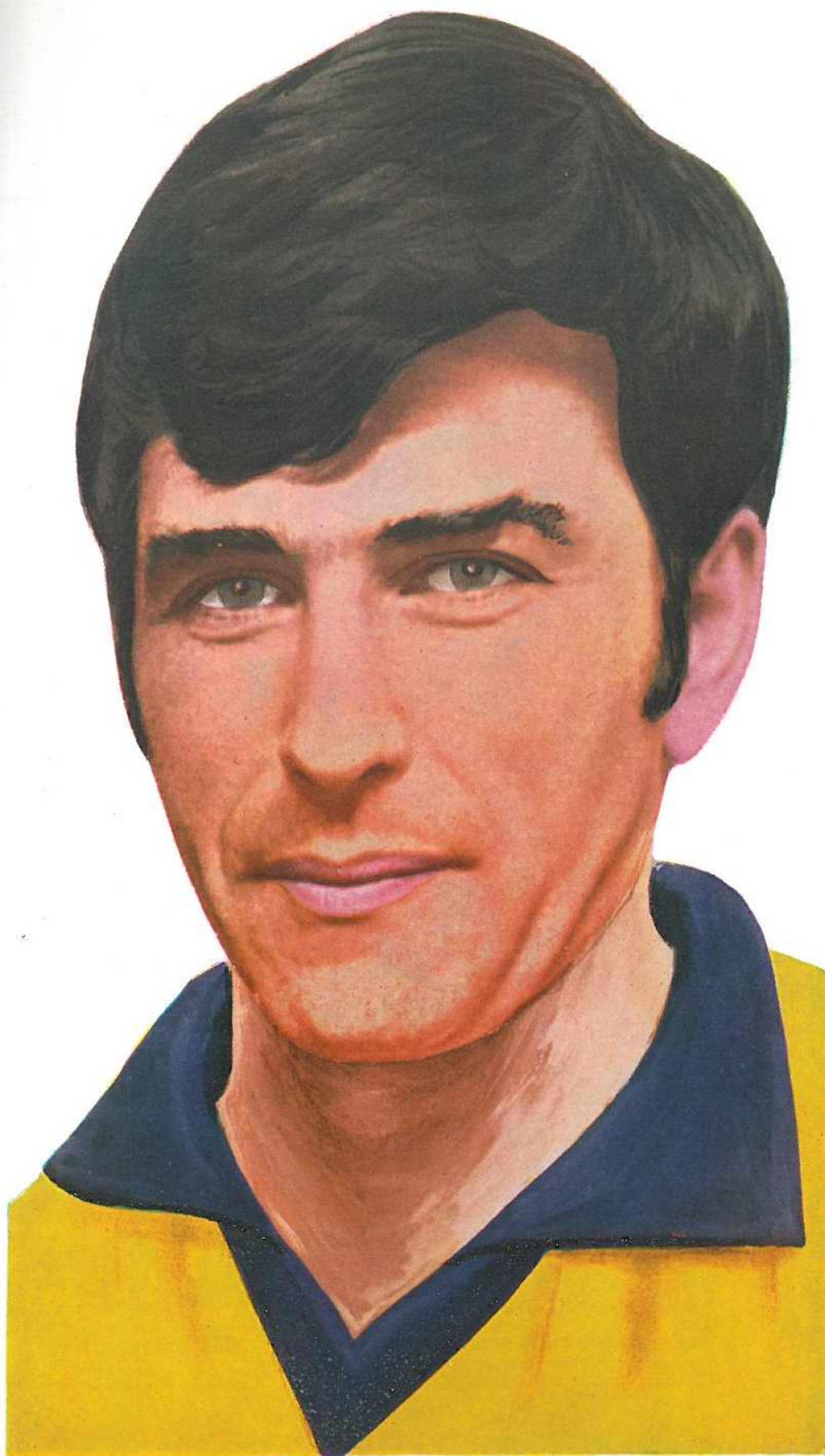
He was only 16½ when he first captured the national headlines in a big way in 1970 with the Fermanagh team that lost the All-Ireland under-21 final to Cork. He has been prominent with St. Joseph's, Belfast, in the Universities' competitions, and was a star of the Advanced Colleges

team that won the first representative series of games last year by beating the Combined Services and the Combined Universities.

Peter, who won an Ulster club senior football medal with St. John's, Belfast, last winter, and is, of course, an experienced interprovincial, had his most important medal win in the senior inter-grade almost a year ago.

Then, he and his brother, Gerry, linked up in the centre in Fermanagh's win over Donegal for the county's first Dr. McKenna Cup title triumph in 44 years. The McGinnity brothers have been forming a strong partnership for the county for some time now.





**Dermot  
Earley  
Roscommon**

**Age:** 30  
**Height:** 6 ft.  
**Weight:** 13st. 12lb.  
**Position:** Right  
Half Forward  
**Club:** Michael  
Glavey's  
**Senior Inter-  
County Debut:**  
1966.

**CAREER  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Dermot has the distinction of having won a Railway Cup medal on his debut with Connacht as a substitute in the 1967 final. A year earlier he highlighted outings in the minor, junior, under-21 and senior inter-county championships by winning an All-Ireland medal at under-21.

An automatic choice for Roscommon and Connacht in the meantime, he won a second interprovincial medal in 1969, and helped Roscommon to their Connacht senior title wins of 1972 and last year.

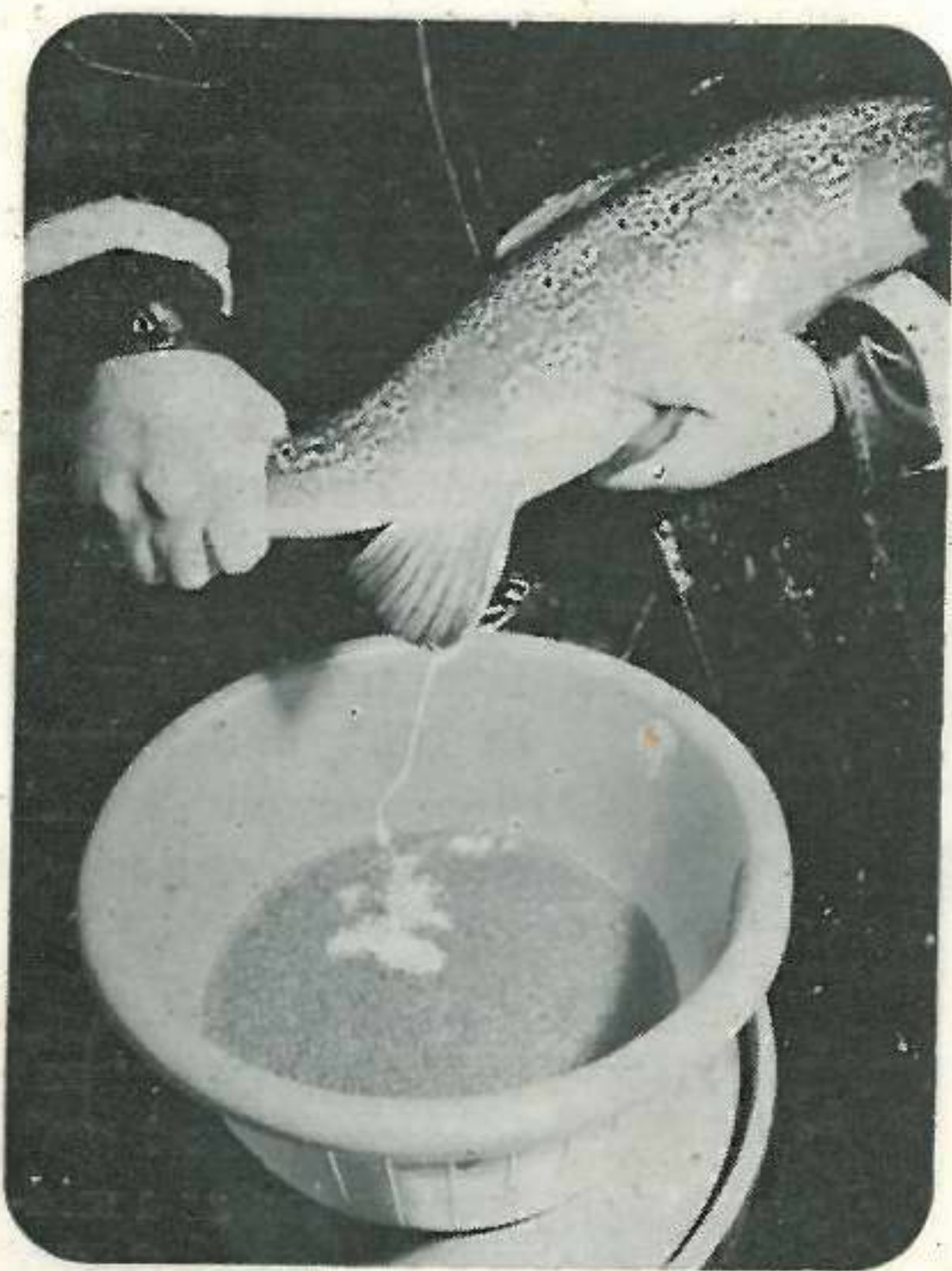
Dermot, who has also created a big impression as a mid-fielder, won a Carrolls All-Star award in 1974, at centrefield.



# *The Ones that Get Away...*



Salmon angling at Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.



Salmon 'stripping' at the E.S.B. Hatchery and rearing station, Parteen.

About 700 hen salmon get away every year - away from the ESB's Hatcheries at Parteen and Carrigadrohid - but they leave their eggs behind and from these the ESB fishery experts rear up to 5 million fish every year, salmon which are then planted out in Ireland's rivers to improve fish stocks and to provide better sport for Irish and visiting anglers.

They're not narrow-minded at Parteen; they rear trout as well and these too, go to swell the population in Irish lakes and rivers.

It's all part of the ESB's ongoing programme to ensure that the rivers and lakes which it uses to produce electricity will also yield another harvest - and good sport as well.

