

THE ALL-ACTION G.A.A. FAMILY MAGAZINE

178 GAA

GAELIC SPORT

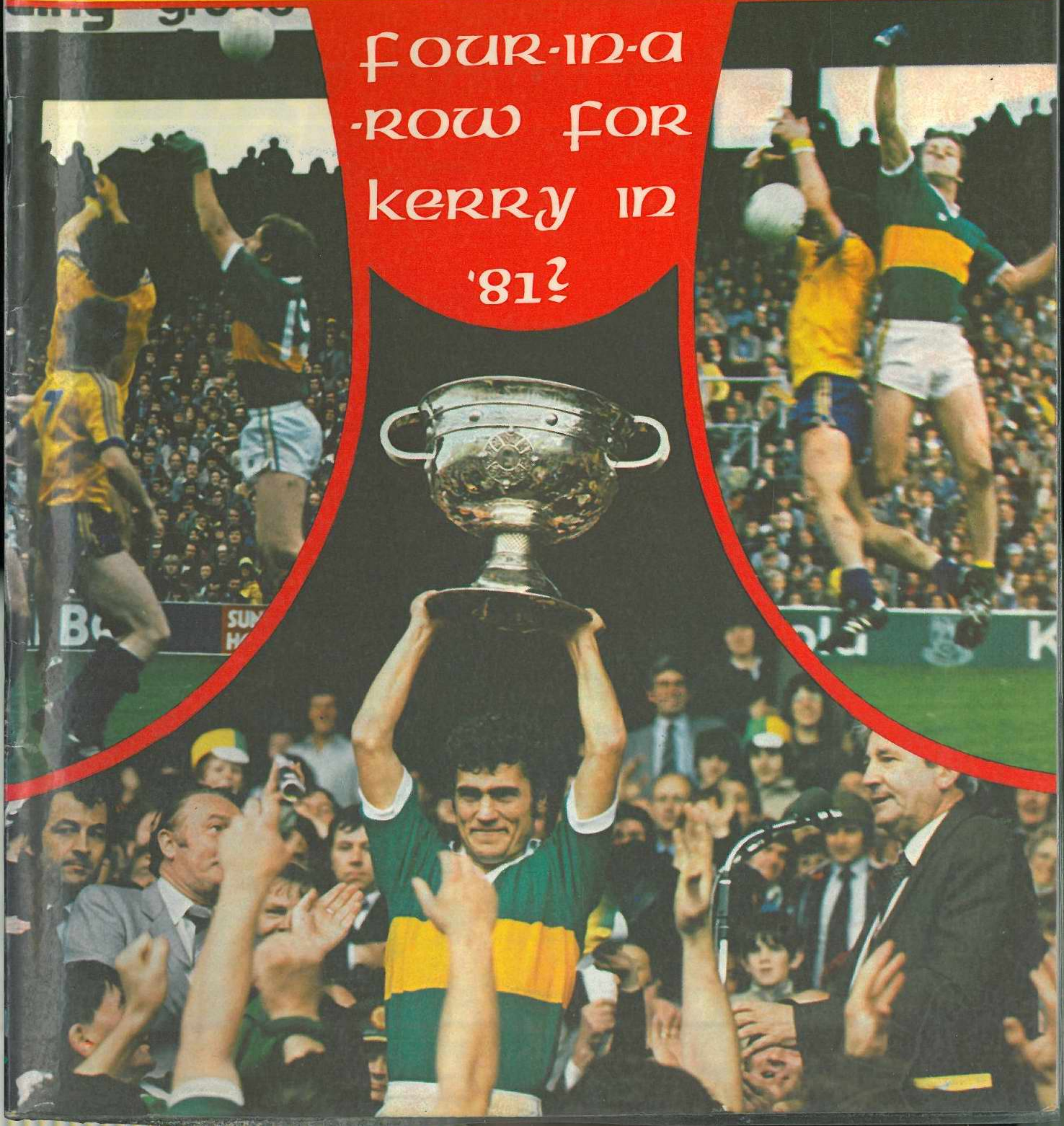
THE CHOICE OF THE STARS

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

DECEMBER 1980

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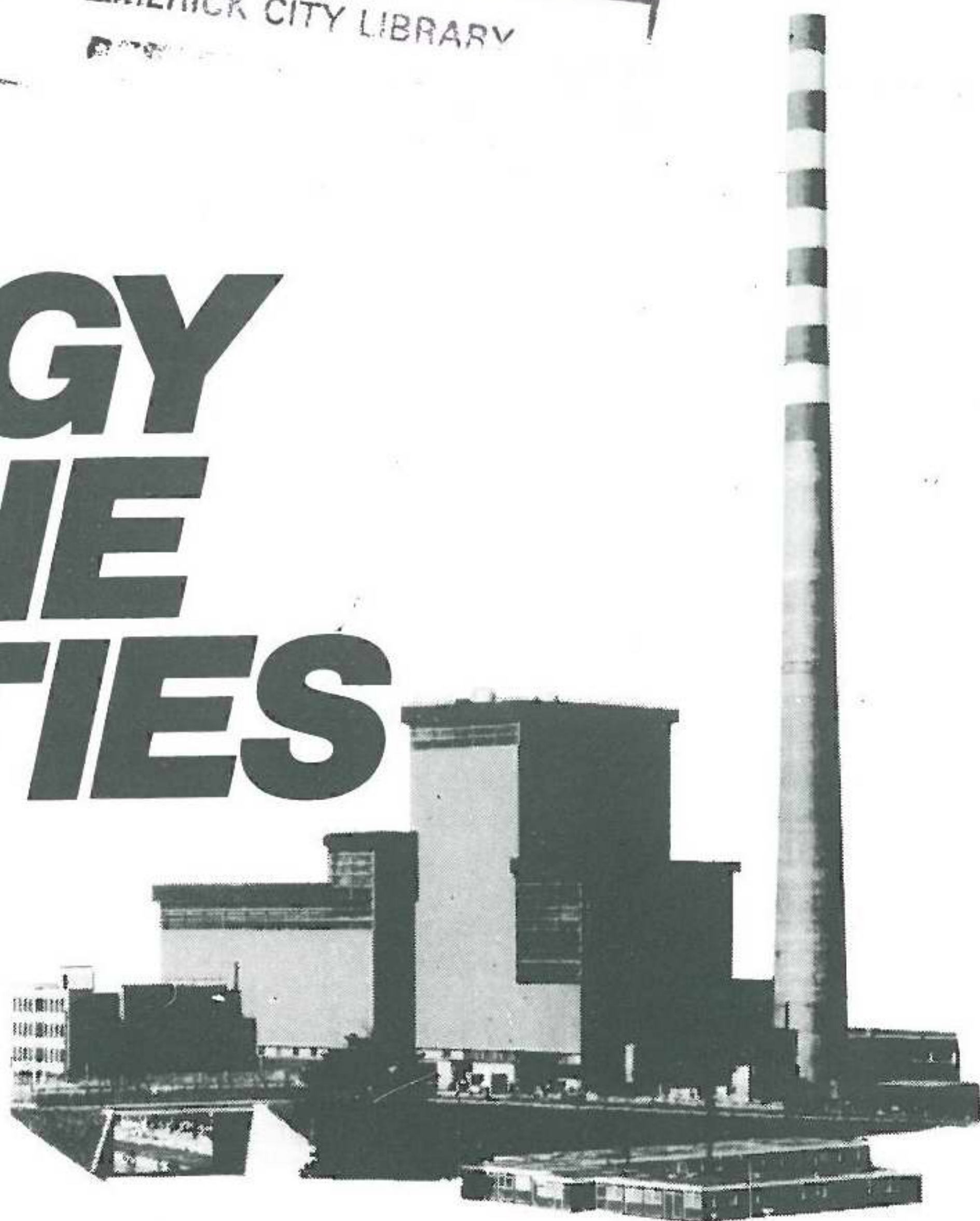
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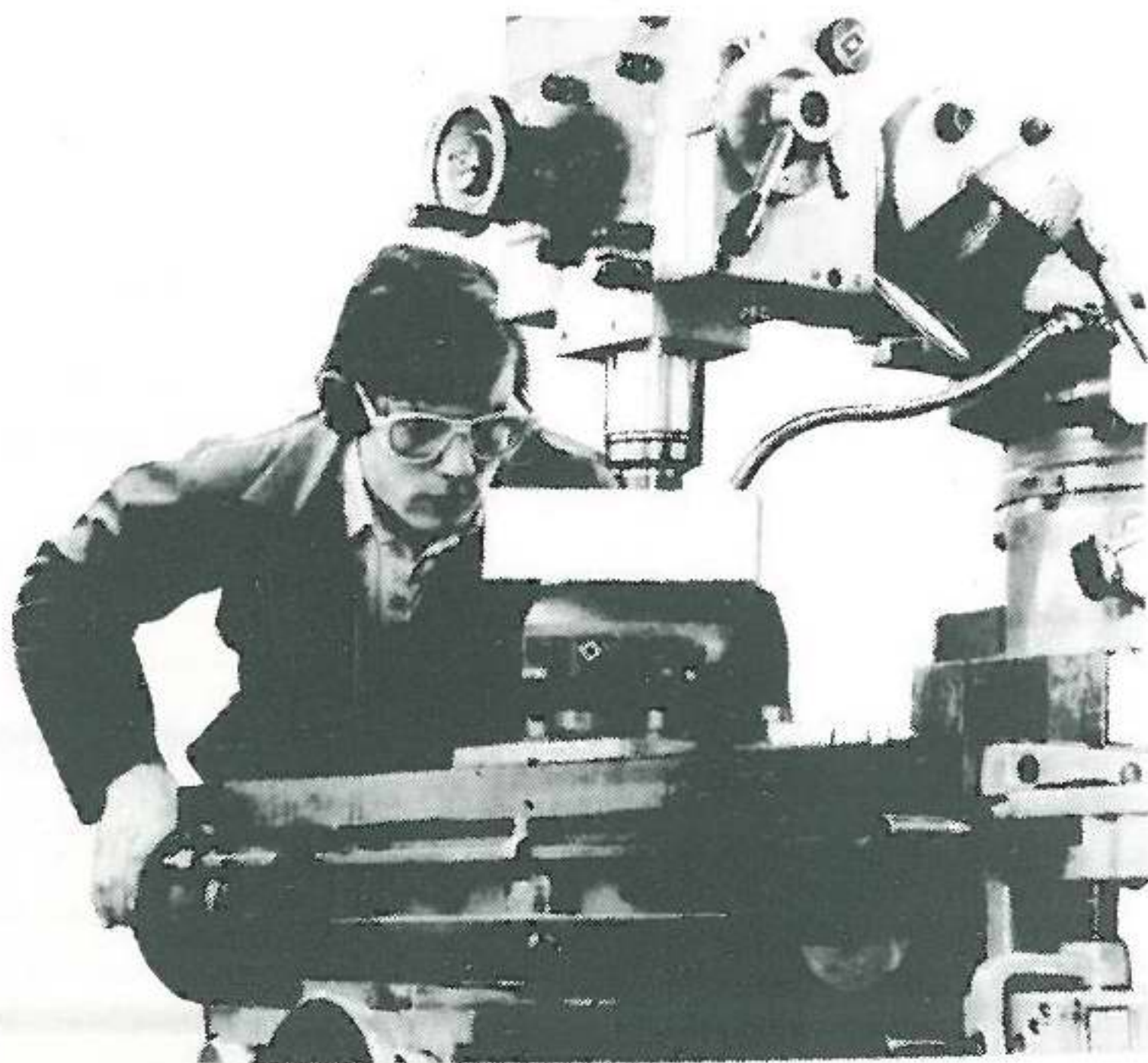
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Gaelic Sport

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PRESIDENTIAL TIME AGAIN

ALMOST without notice or warning, the time has virtually arrived for the Gaelic Athletic Association to consider one of the most important decisions facing the organisation in modern times — that of selecting the next President.

The present holder of the office, Padraig Mac Floinn, still has some eighteen months of his three year term to run. But the Ulster man's successor will be selected at next year's Congress under a system introduced nearly three years ago.

That resulted in Mr. Mac Floinn becoming in 1978 the first-ever President-Elect. A year later he succeeded Con Murphy (Cork) in the top position in the G.A.A.

With the County Conventions looming ahead in the coming two months, the time is now at hand for clubs and enthusiasts in general to give serious thought to the choice of the Association's next leader.

The selection of a President is an important event at any time. The President, more than any other man, can do much to shape the G.A.A. and provide the thrust for further progress.

Added point, however, is given to the latest election in that the man chosen next spring will lead the G.A.A. into and through the Centenary Year of 1984. This will be a momentous celebration for the Association; one that will put the organisation and the national President into the spotlight as never before.

The next President will be the central figure around whom so much will revolve. His dynamism and flair will have much to do in the build-up for the Centenary Year, which is already gaining momentum, and then in ensuring that what is bound to be an ambitious programme is carried through efficiently and with the dignity that will ensure that the celebrations over-all will enhance the prestige of the G.A.A.

There does not appear to be a strong front-runner for the post just now. That is not to say that there is a shortage of men with the necessary qualifications of proven service and all round ability for the position of President.

The G.A.A. continues to be rich in just such men. In all four provinces there are officials with the credentials to step into the demanding position at this memorable and testing period for the Association, and go on from there to add lustre to the long line of men who have soldiered so successfully down through every generation in the office of President.

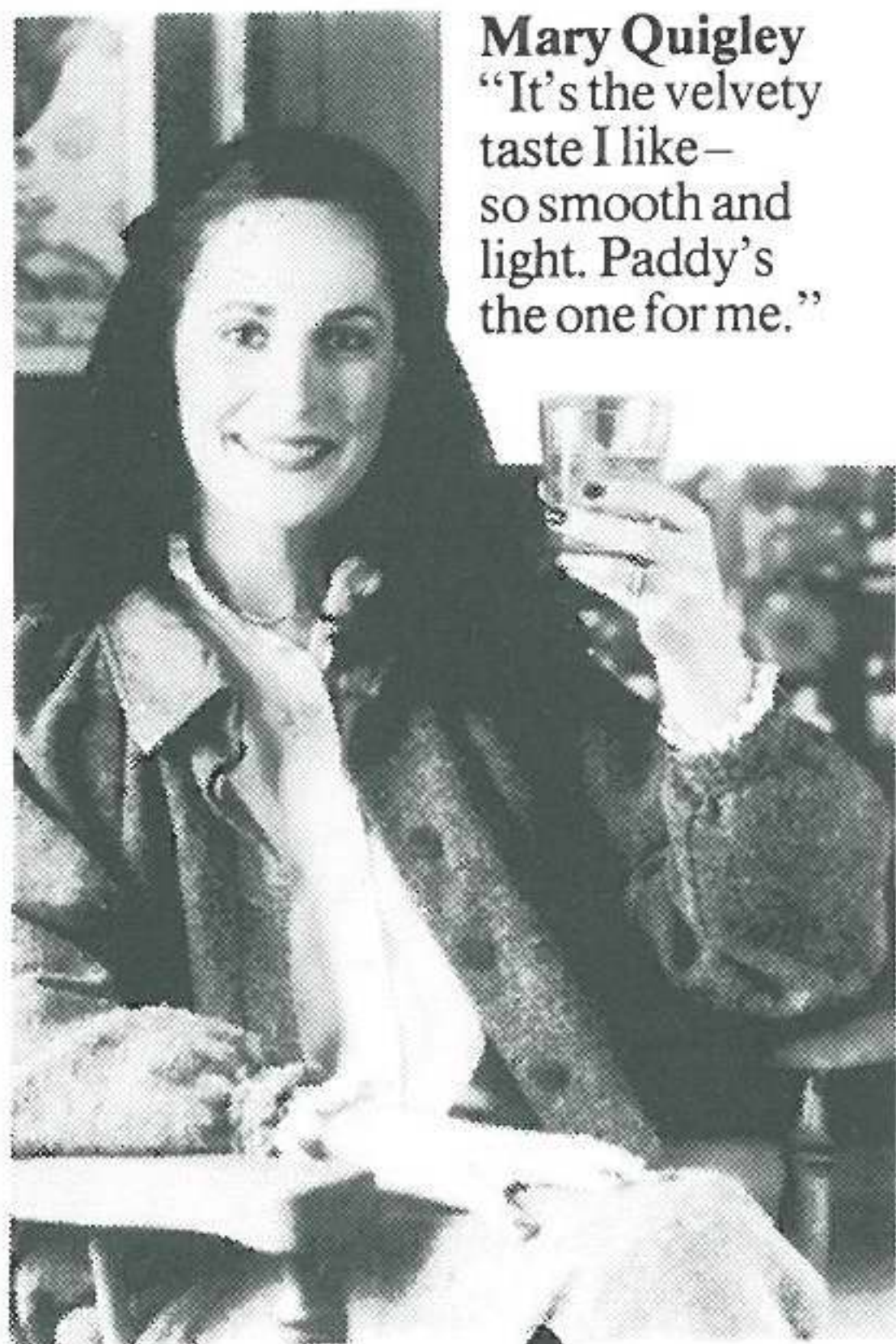
And enthusiasts in general owe it to those who will in time present themselves for selection to seriously consider the credentials of all concerned. Anything less would be a disservice to the candidates concerned — and to the G.A.A.

Join the light brigade

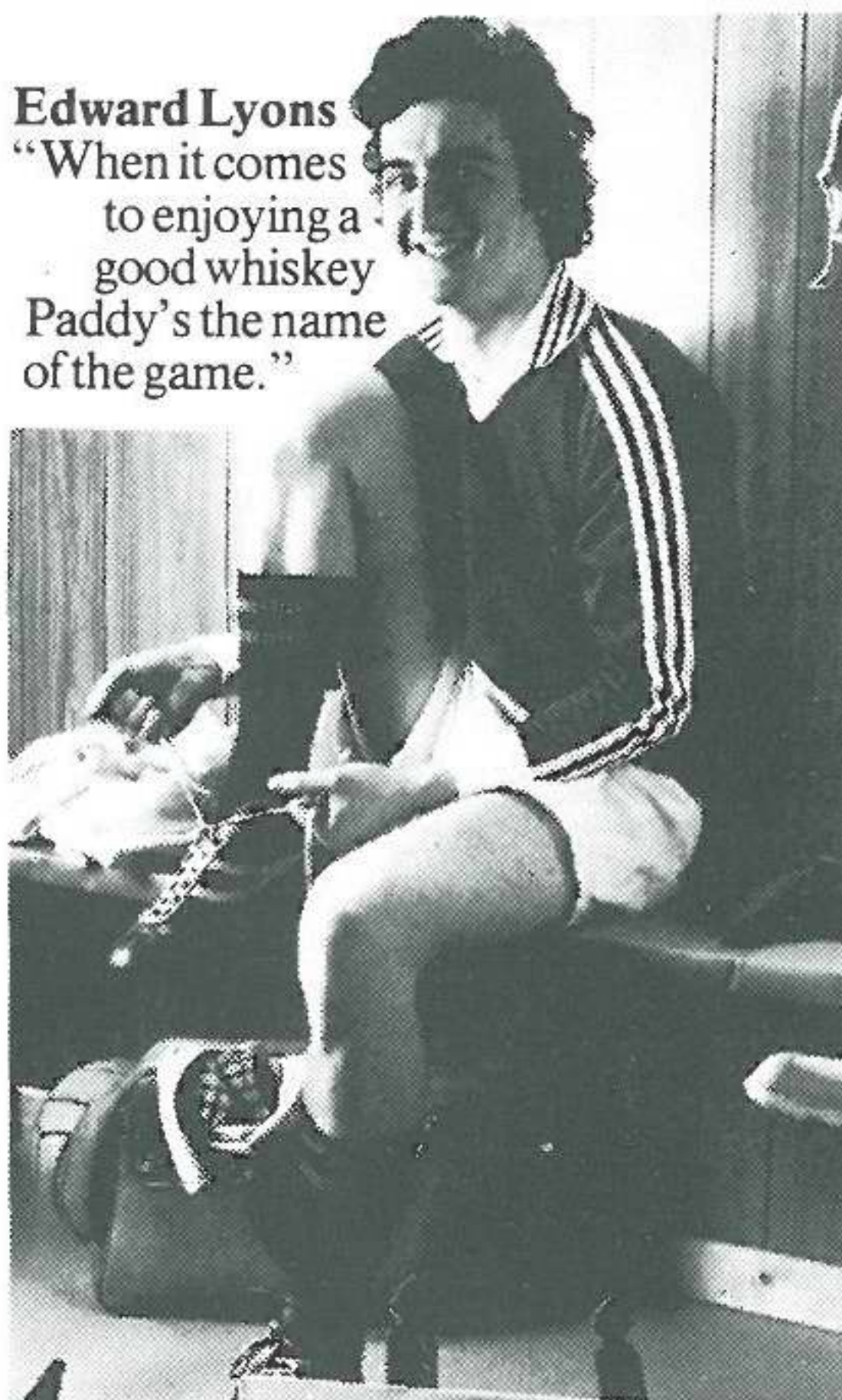
Jim Stanley
 "Paddy's just the job after a day on the river. Great consolation for the one that got away."



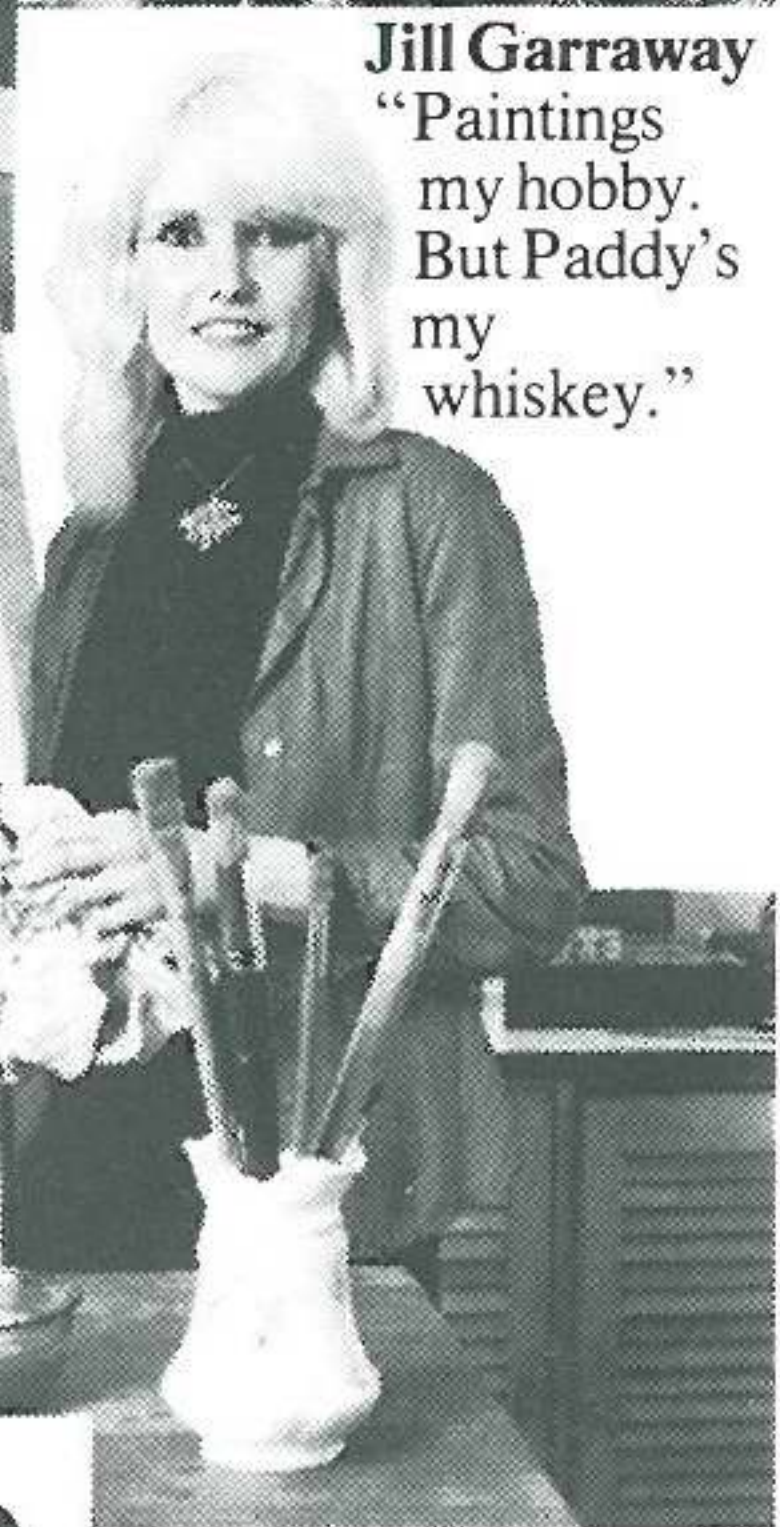
Mary Quigley
 "It's the velvety taste I like—so smooth and light. Paddy's the one for me."



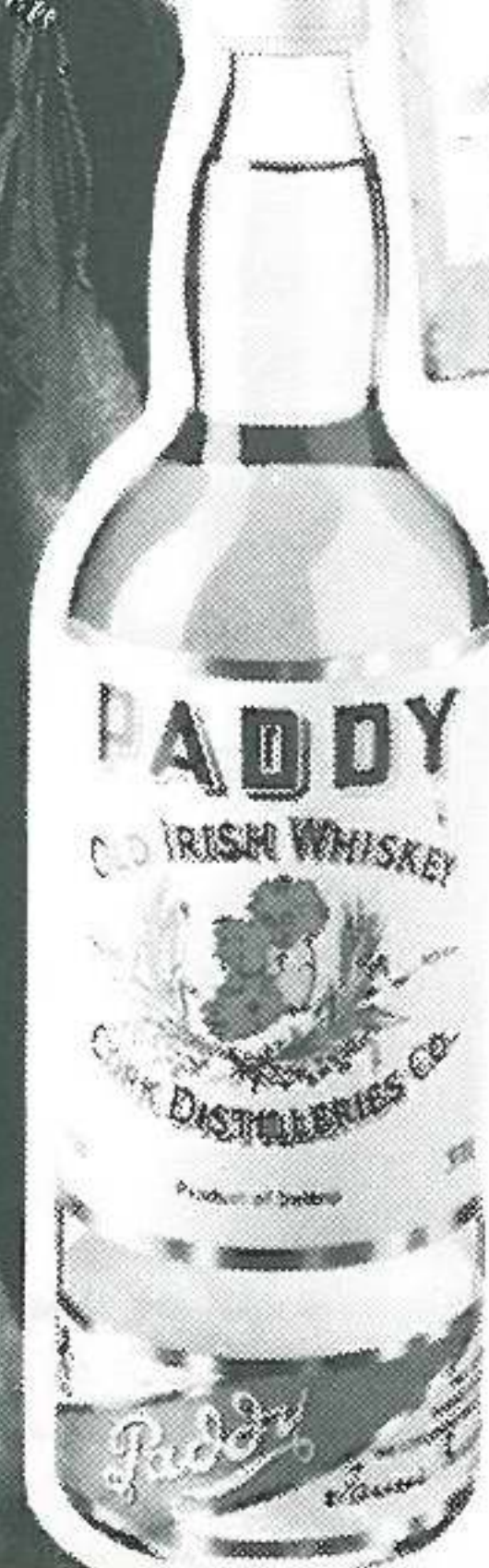
Edward Lyons
 "When it comes to enjoying a good whiskey Paddy's the name of the game."



Jill Garraway
 "Paintings my hobby. But Paddy's my whiskey."



John Andrews
 "A true thoroughbred, Paddy never disappoints. Top of the form card in my view."



Switch to
Paddy
 And see the light!



Tyler

Cork and Armagh share the honours

Top Ten

SEAN Silke strengthens his grip on the leading position over-all in hurling; Pat Spillane emerges as the newest challenger to football's impressive pace-setting Matt Connor . . . these are the main features from the series of games played from October 26 to November 23 inclusive, and on which the latest GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN charts were compiled.

Silke brings up the rear in this month's hurling review. He had a good game in Galway's draw with Tipperary in the League at Thurles early in November, and put in some vital touches for the All-Ireland champions when they went under to Cork in another League tie late in the same month.

The accomplished centre half back picks up 28 points to bring his tally over-all to 156 points, and this puts him ahead of the field for 1980 with a cushion of 30 points over his closest rival, Eamonn Cregan, who has failed to improve his position.

Showing the way in the current hurling table is one of the bright young men of the game, Ger Cunningham. He made his competitive senior inter-county debut in Cork's goal in their first round National League game against Wexford, and had a splendid game. Since then, he has added to his reputation with some fine saves in the wins over Waterford and Galway in the League.

Thus, after only mere weeks in the big-time, Cunningham has lost no time in gaining early and impressive recognition in the TOP TEN charts with the No. 1 spot for December on

44 points. A great start that for the 1979 All-Ireland minor medalist in goal!

Next comes Pat Morey, who has been prominently among the scores as Clare have revived hopes of great days in 1981 with an unbeaten record in the National League at press-time. Morey, who made his debut of 1980 in the November chart, collects 42 points to bring his record over-all to 74.

Matt Connor, the pace-setter in the big ball game, fails to win a place in the football chart this month, but still remains a clear leader over-all. The only one of the top five in the 1980 review to make any progress is Pat Spillane, who moves up from third to second place.

But, although the tireless Kerry winger moves up to 125 points, with a placing as far down as eight this month, he still trails the Offaly sharpshooter by 26 points.

Leading the current football chart is Jim Loughran. He was a bright star in midfield as Armagh beat Kildare in the League at Newbridge early in November, and he turned in a stellar show when the Ulster champions' mastered Kerry two weeks later at Lurgan.

So, Loughran makes his season's debut on 48 points.

The leaders in each code from the start of the year up to and including this month's edition are:

Hurling: 156 points: S. Silke (Galway). 125: E. Cregan (Limerick). 124: D. Coughlan (Cork).

Football: 151 points: M. Connor (Offaly). 125: P. Spillane (Kerry). 116: J. Egan (Kerry).

This month's charts are:

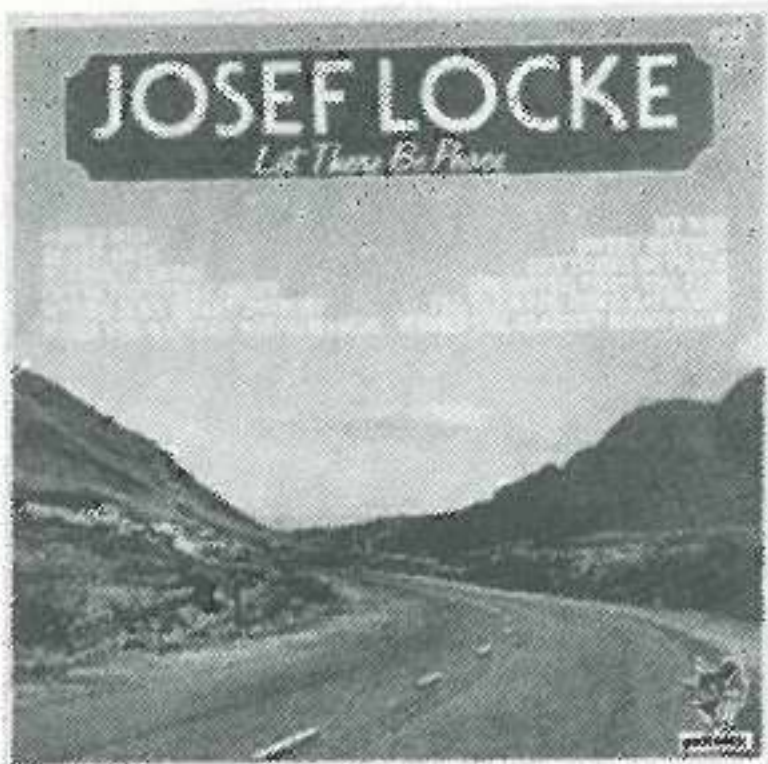
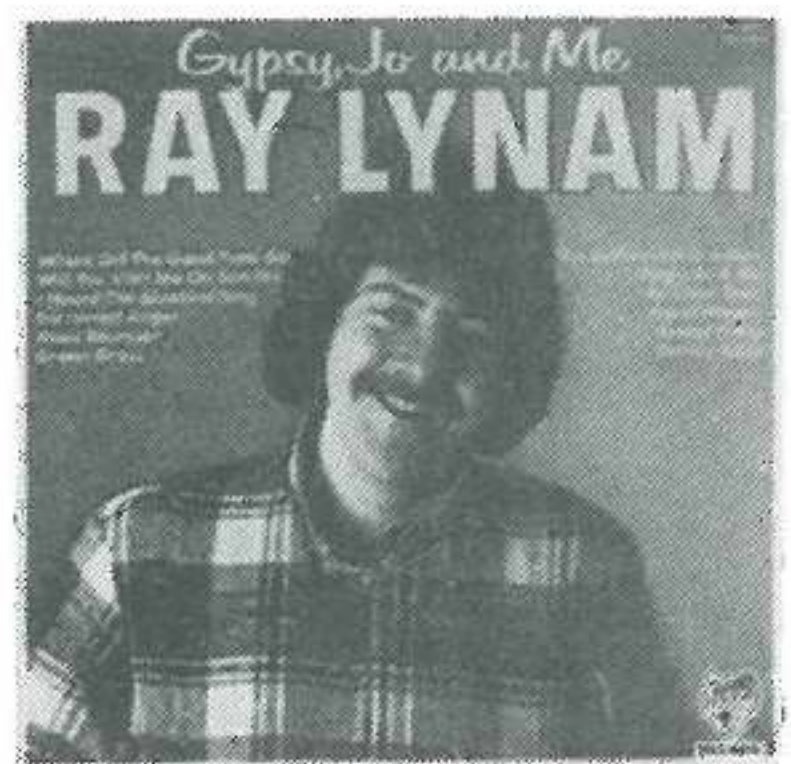
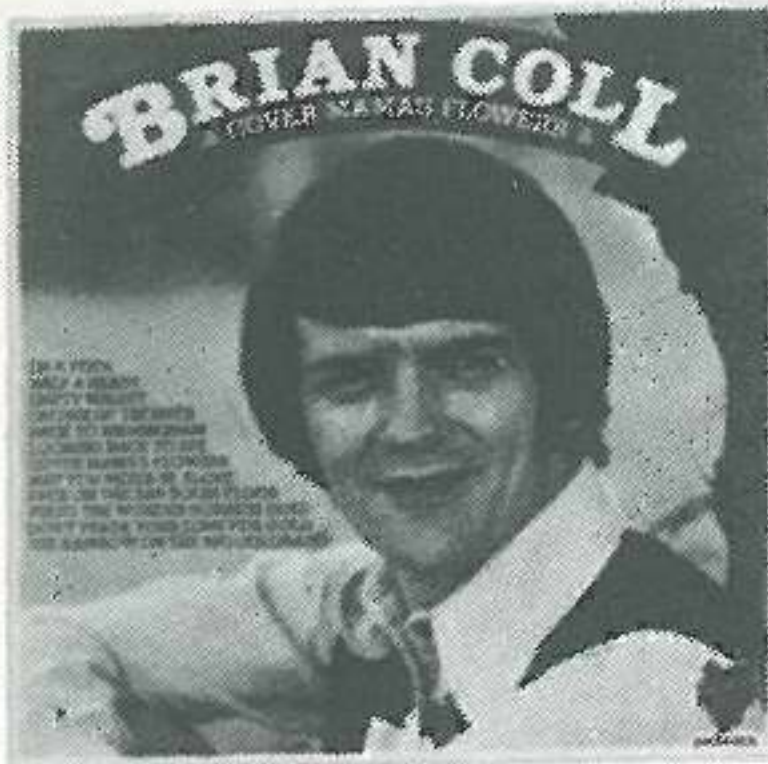
HURLING

44	G. Cunningham (Cork) ..	44
42	P. Morey (Clare)	74
40	S. Burke (Tipperary)	40
38	J. Callinan (Clare)	38
36	W. Bohane (Laois)	36
34	P. Horgan (Cork)	34
33	B. Gilmore (Down)	33
30	N. Lane (Galway)	100
30	P. Horan (Offaly)	88
28	S. Silke (Galway)	156

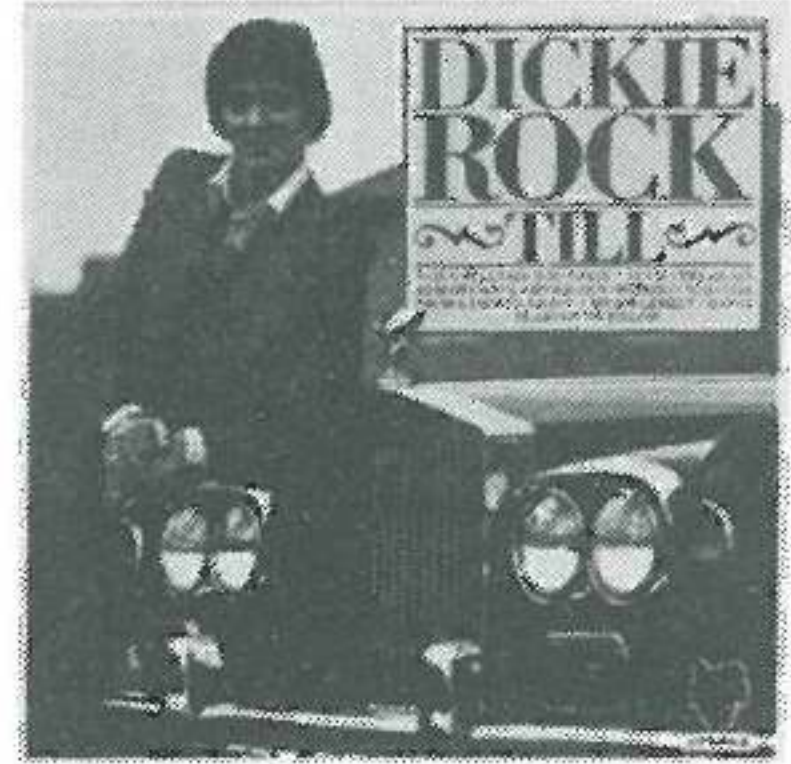
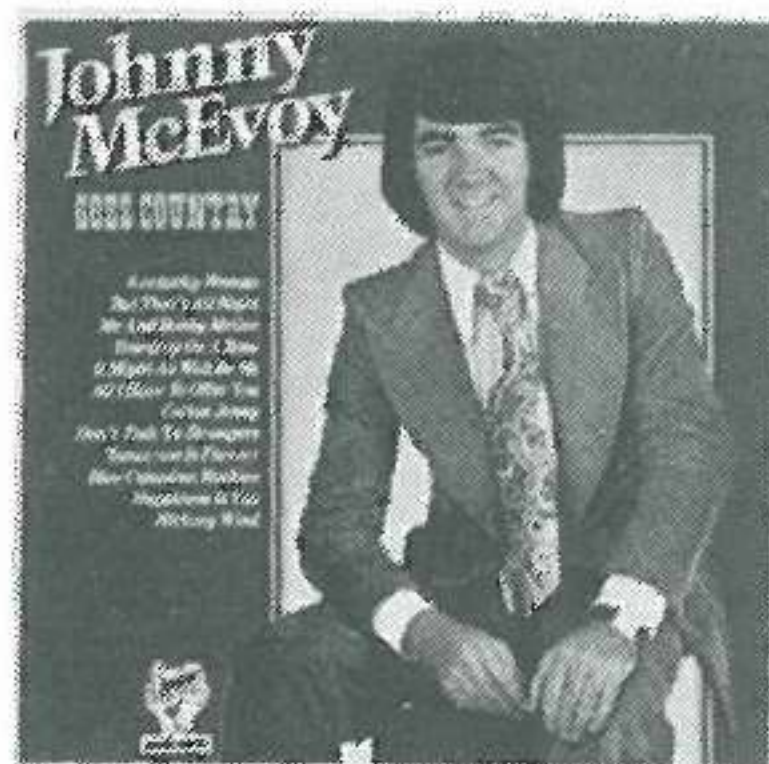
FOOTBALL

48	Jim Loughran (Armagh) .	48
46	S. Darby (Offaly)	46
44	Tony McManus (Roscommon) ...	100
40	N. Marley (Armagh)	40
36	D. Allen (Cork)	105
33	J. Hughes (Galway)	59
33	C. Sutton (Dublin)	33
32	P. Spillane (Kerry)	125
30	C. Campbell (Fermanagh)	30
28	E. Heaney (Derry)	28

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A big man in every sense

by Terry McGrath

THE late Nick Rackard was a towering and inspiring figure in a sequence of performances that brought hurling in the 'Fifties to a peak of popularity that the game had not enjoyed until then, and has not experienced over the past couple of decades either. That, in essence, is the best possible tribute to the greatness of the one-time hero of Wexford.

Rackard was not one of the stylists of the game, in the manner of, say, the late Christy Ring, of Cork, or of Kilkenny's Terry Leahy or Seamus Cleere, or Mick Roche, of Tipperary. But his mastery of the game's skills, his inspiring ability to lift a team when all seemed lost, his unquenchable spirit, and his uncanny gift for finding his way spectacularly and consistently through to goal put him in a special class.

Rackard, in short, had an aura all his own, at a time when the game was rich in personality-plus players, an aura that allied to his own many talents ensured him of a place among the greatest hurlers ever.

He was a big man in every sense of the word — big in stature, big in heart, big in ability and big in sportsmanship. During the Golden 'Fifties, and they were just that for the great game of hurling, Rackard strode the scene in majestic fashion as a big-hearted and sporting Wexford team enjoyed the contrasting fortunes of sport.

In the early years of the 'Fifties it looked as if it would prove a case of "so near and yet so far" for Wexford. But true to their spirit they did not accept second best, and in the end burst through superbly to a rare richness of titles that delighted the nation, had followers flocking to hurling matches as never before, and did more to promote the game than anything in the annals of the sport.

It would be untrue to say that Nick Rackard alone brought Wexford back from the hurling shadows to a place in the sun. Few who experienced that era in hurling, however, would dispute that his play in attack, refusal to accept defeat and leadership made him a major plank on which Wexford hurling legends were made.

When the decade of the 'Fifties dawned, Wexford had little to celebrate in senior hurling. But all that changed in 1951 as they beat Laois to regain the Leinster senior hurling title after an interval of 33 years. Few, however, could have realised at the time that one of the



● Nick Rackard of Wexford, Leinster and Ireland.

most exciting and colourful periods in senior hurling had arrived.

The road right to the top was, however, to be paved with major disappointments for Wexford. They lost the 1951 All-Ireland final to a Tipperary team that was then coming to the end of a proud era, the last run of three titles in a row by the county, and Wexford did not win out again in the East until 1954.

Once more defeat was their lot in an All-Ireland final in a game in which Christy Ring captained Cork, and collected his eighth medal.

But it all came good for Wexford in 1955. Nick Rackard, and his able helpers, who included his brothers, Bobby and Billy, Nick O'Donnell, Jim English, Ned Wheeler and Padge Kehoe, finally made the break-through, beating Galway for a first All-Ireland senior title in 45 years.

That was a great day for Wexford — and hurling. Even better was to come in 1956, however, as Nick Rackard and his gallant band of hurling giants from Wexford really sealed their place in greatness.

They beat Tipperary in the National League final, and Cork in

● TO PAGE 9

Obair bhaile dúinne a n'obair bhaile a dhéanamh torthúil.

I láthair na huairé tá sprioc ag na daltaí seo le baint amach. Ach nuair atá na scrúdaithe críochnaithe acu agus iad réidh le aghaidh a thabhairt ar an saol mór, ar bhfiú an staidéar agus an obair ar fad? An mbeidh deis acu an t-eolas agus a gcumas a chur chun tairbhe? Go tráthúil, féadfaidh Udarás na Gaeltachta an deis sin a sholáthair agus imhsaoil a chruthú ina mbeidh siad in ann páirt fhiúntach a ghlacadh i saol tráchtála agus sóisialta na Gaeltachta.

Tri na Gaeltachtaí i nDún na nGall, Maigh Eo, Gaillimh, Ciarraí, Corcaigh, Port Láirge agus an Mhí a chur go hionsaitheach i láthair tionsclóiri sa mbaile agus thar lear, tá ag éirí le Udarás na Gaeltachta fostaíocht a chinntú. Na blianta atá

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Trín a obair bhaile a dhéanamh, d'éirigh leis an Udarás deiseanna a aithint, conarthaí a phié ag na leibhéil ab'airde agus griosaithe fiúntacha a thairiscint do na tionscail chearta. An toradh ar sin ná réidh-ghluaiseacht i dtreo sprioc an Udarais - lan-fhostaíocht sna ceantair i-Ghaeltachta, le fostaíocht lanaimseartha do 4,560 duine bainte amach cheana féin.

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WEXFORD 1956

Back row, (left to right): Billy Rackard, N. O'Donnell, E. Wheeler, J. Morrissey, M. Codd, Nick Rackard, Padge Kehoe, Bobby Rackard. Front row, (left to right): T. Ryan, M. Morrissey, J. English (captain), A. Foley, T. Flood, T. Dixon, and S. Hearne.



● FROM PAGE 7

the All-Ireland decider, but behind those cold, hard facts, rank two of the most memorable games in hurling history.

Take the League final. Wexford trailed by fifteen points at the break, and even though they were favoured by a gale force wind in the second half they looked to have too high a hill to climb. But that day we saw Wexford heart, courage and determination at their best, as the Slaneysiders powered back superbly, and with Nick Rackard superb in attack, they sensationally finished four points ahead at the final whistle.

The Championship decider with Cork was a real classic. Rackard's exciting hurling, and his scoring flair made him a giant as his team beat a Ring inspired Cork for their only successful defence so far of the All-Ireland senior title.

That year, too, Nick Rackard won a Railway Cup medal to gain every possible major medal at senior level in the game. Earlier in his career he got among the Oireachtas Cup medals.

Nick Rackard graduated to big time hurling after starring with St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny. He played at midfield, and then went on to settle in at full forward to become one of the greatest ever to fill that position.

Interestingly enough, Nick Rack-

ard made his mark as well in football. Indeed, before his great years in hurling he proved good enough to command his place in the Leinster interprovincial side. He was full forward in the side that lost the 1946 Railway Cup final in the code.

Four years later he played for Leinster in hurling and football finals on the same day, the first man to line out with the East in both Railway Cup finals. He filled the full forward spot in each game.

However, it is as a hurler that Nick Rackard will be remembered chiefly. A hurler who adorned the game at a time when hurling was booming, and who helped to create many of the legends and much of the new tradition that has meant so much in latter years in keeping the sport flourishing by the Slaneyside.

He bowed out of inter-county hurling in 1957. He will be remembered as long as the great game is played.

EVERY HONOUR IN THE GAME

By Tony Keegan

NICK RACKARD made his All-Ireland senior hurling debut in 1951. His colleagues in the side that lost to Tipperary included his brothers, Bobby and Willie in defence, while another brother Jimmy was in the panel.

Earlier he won the first of four provincial senior medals.

In 1955 he collected his first All-Ireland senior medal, and the following St. Patrick's Day ended a number of appearances in losing Railway Cup finals by helping Leinster at full forward to beat a Munster team that was defending the title.

Rackard played for the Combined Universities against Ireland in the first representative hurling match in 1952, and went on to win four more honours with the Universities before making his debut in the Ireland team in 1957.

A tall hurler and a ceaseless worker, Rackard won his only National League medal that year.

His last final appearance with Leinster was in their losing outing against Munster in 1957 at full forward.

Every possible honour, then, came Nick Rackard's way, and few men merited the distinctions more, as he proved a legend in his own lifetime, and a driving power in hurling at a time when the game really flourished.

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THE ARTANE BOYS BAND

OLDER THAN G.A.A.

by Tony Keegan

IT is little wonder that the Artane Boys Band and Croke Park are synonymous. The "biggest little band in the world" has been such a colourful part of the headquarters scene on big match days that the absence of the band would be something akin nowadays to the playing of a game there without a referee!

Over the years thousands have annually been thrilled by the Artane Boys Band at Croke Park; delighted by the musical expertise of the boys, and entertained by the figure marching, and general all round presentation of the programme.

Then, there is the parade of the teams headed by the Band before the start of the All-Ireland semi-finals and finals especially. That is always a very emotional time at Croke Park, particularly on All-Ireland final days, and a feature that puts the programme in a place all its own compared with presentations in other codes.

With the advent of live television coverage of the top matches, the audience for the Band has grown on certain days to millions, not only in Ireland, but on occasions across the channel, and in the U.S.

Many are probably unaware that the Band has a history even older than the G.A.A. itself. It was founded in 1872, and performed in public for the first time two years later. Ten years later, in the foundation year of the G.A.A., 1884, the Band played at the London Exhibition.

That must have been an outstanding experience, in view of the way that travel was so difficult in those far-off days.

The Band returned to London when the G.A.A. introduced an ambitious presentation in 1958. That was the year of the first promotion of Gaelic games at Wembley Stadium, and in keeping with the event, the Artane Boys Band travelled with the teams — Galway and Derry in football, and Kilkenny

and Clare in hurling. It is interesting to recall, by the way, that the initial games drew an attendance of 33,240 to the famed London centre.

The Artane School, for so long the home of the Band, was founded by the Christian Brothers in 1870, and catered for under-privileged boys. The school closed in 1969, but thanks to the efforts of the Band Director, Bro. Joseph O'Connor, the band continued in operation.

Before the school closed he sought and received permission from his authorities to keep the band in operation by filling the places with boys from local schools, and so today the Artane Boys Band continues to maintain a long and proud tradition in Irish life in general, and at Croke Park in particular.

A major crisis in the Band's history was a fire in Artane in early 1969 that destroyed all the instruments, uniforms and music. Was this the end?

One person could supply the answer. Brother O'Connor did not let any grass grow under his feet. Before the day was out he had already obtained the permission of his Provincial, Brother E. D. Creed, to set about replacing the instruments, music and uniforms. The Musical Director of the band, Mr. Joseph Lynch, was of tremendous help to him in procuring instruments and musical arrangements for the band. A quantity of music was donated by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps Bands, Washington and the G.A.A. helped

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What a lot of people do not realise, however, is that the appearances of the band in Croke Park form only a very small

percentage of their annual programme. These boys give over eighty performances each year all over Ireland at concerts, parades, etc. Indeed it is the rehearsing for the concert work which mainly helps to

build up their fine musicianship. They learn to finger the difficult works of Bach, Suppe, Verdi, Sibelius, Wagner, Romberg, Sousa, Gould, Kern, Anderson and several other leading composers of world renown, on the best instruments valued at over £30,000 supplied by McCullough Pigott of Suffolk St., Dublin.

Eamonn Troy, Manager of the McCullough Pigott Band Dept. was loud in his praise of the dedication and musicianship of the Artane Boys and he should know for he has been "in the business" for over forty years.

"If Bro. O'Connor sets out to do something," says Eamonn, "it will be done. His determination is renowned".

"EXCELLENT MUSICIANS"

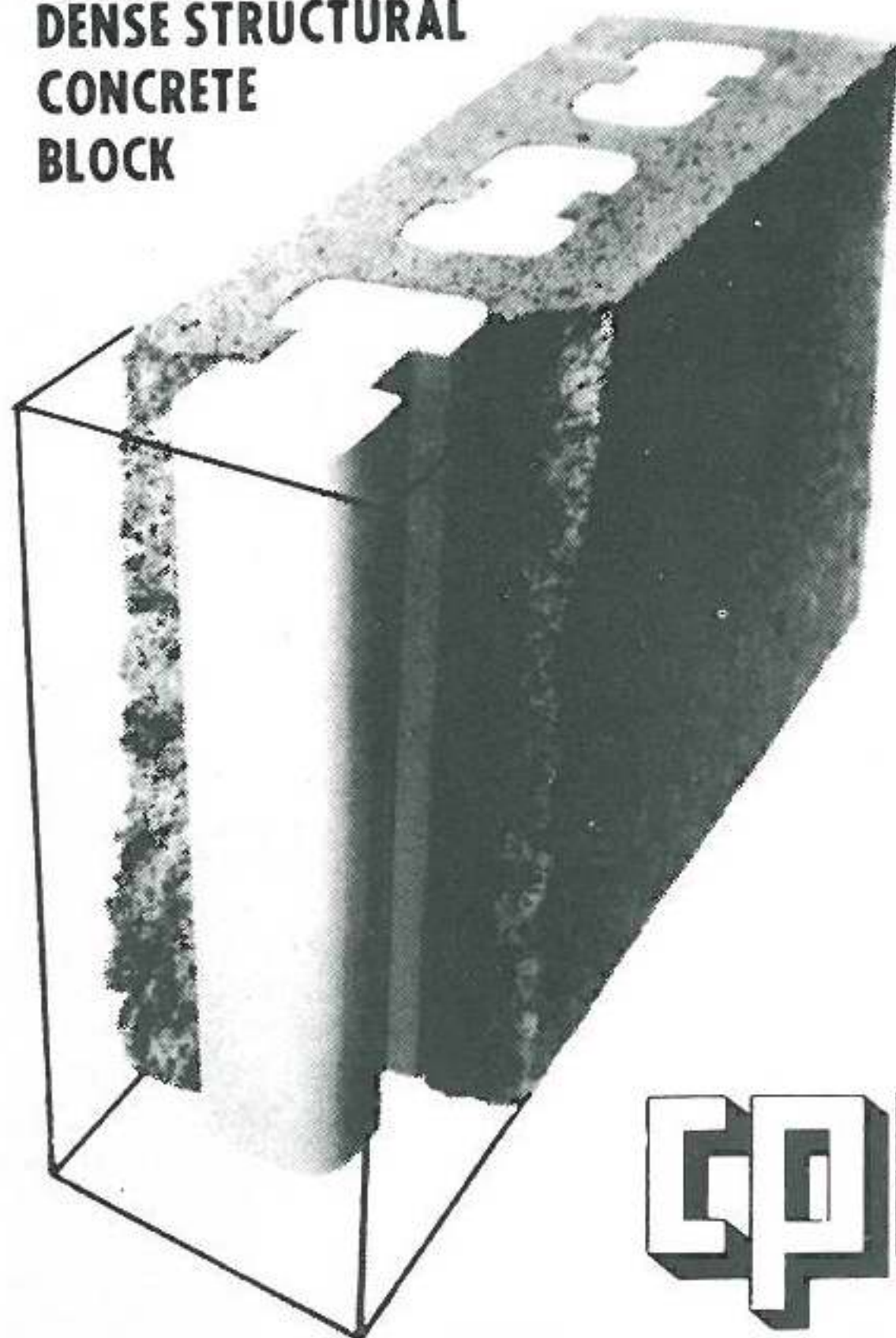
In March 1974 the band received an invitation from the United Irish Societies of Hartford, Conn., to fulfil engagements on the East Coast of America. Delighted to accept, the band performed in Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Washington. During that tour the music critic of the *Hartford Times* wrote the following after a concert given to an enraptured audience of 2,500 in the Bushnell Memorial Theatre in Hartford: "You can't review a band like this as schoolboys, you must review them as musicians, and they are excellent musicians in anyone's league. If you close your eyes you can imagine one of the crack regimental bands, rather than a group of youngsters, resplendent in capes, caps and short pants".

The association between the Artane Boys Band and the G.A.A. has benefitted both. May these ties develop and grow stronger as the G.A.A. advances towards its Centenary Year — and even much longer into the future

We would like to thank Bro. C. J. O'Connor, Director of the Artane Boys Band for his help in compiling this article.

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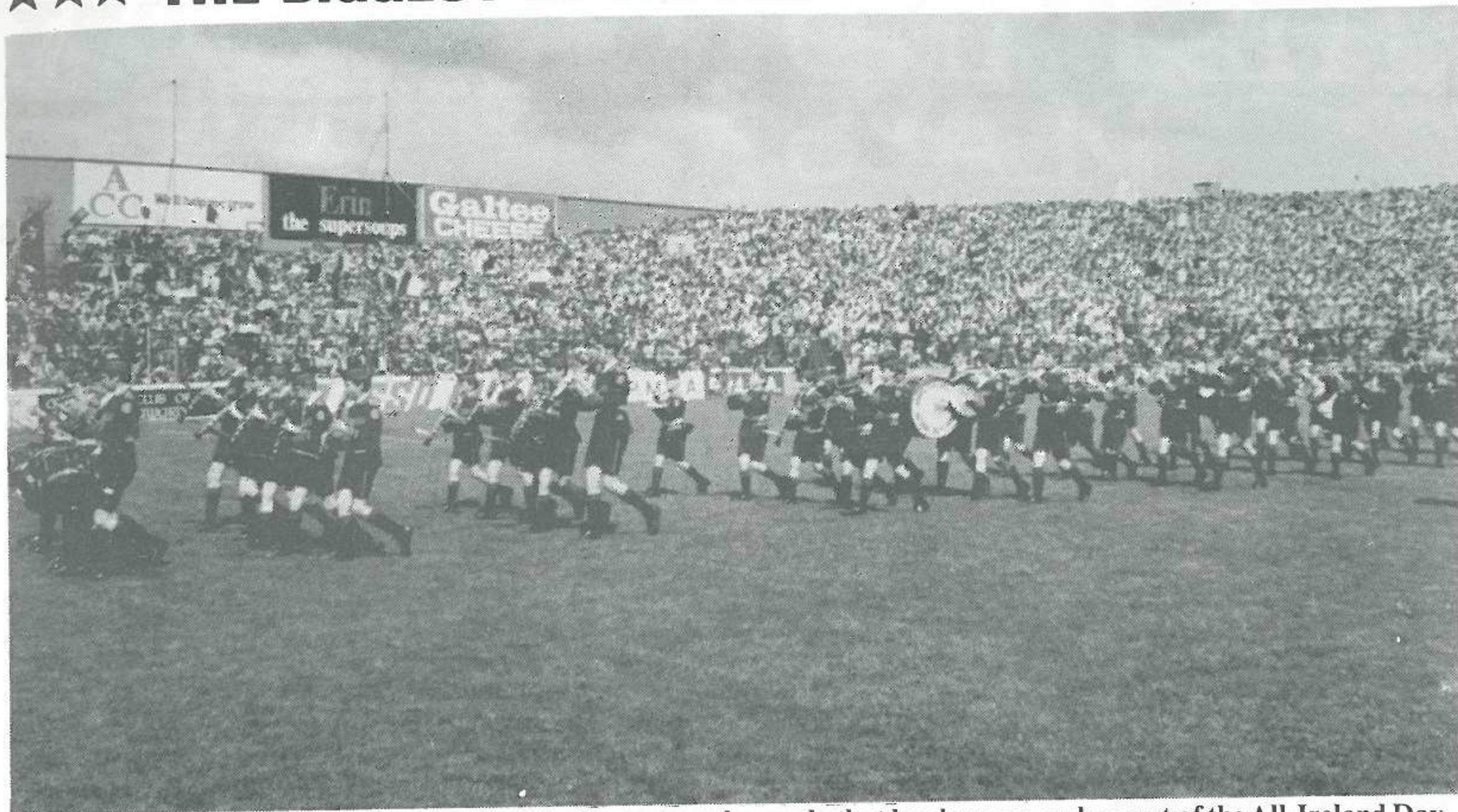
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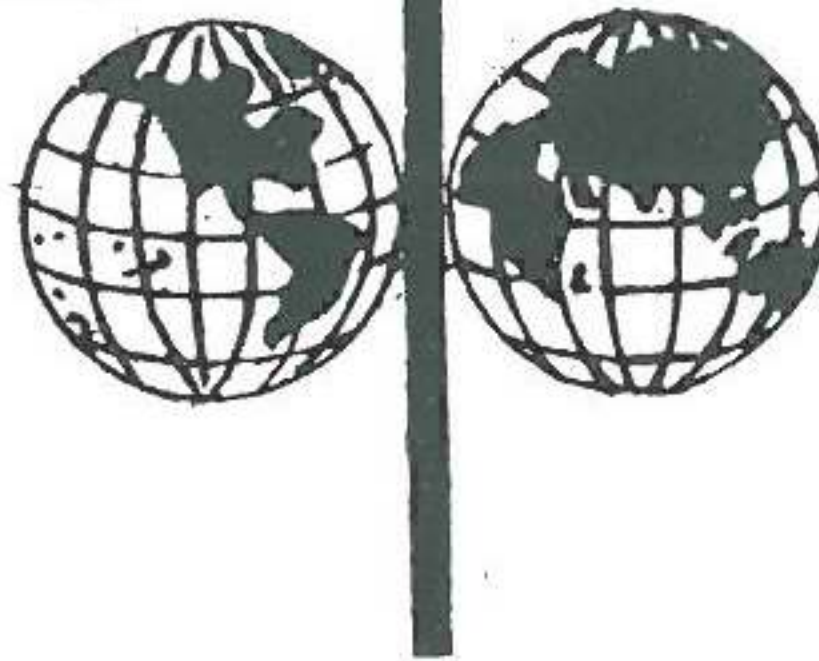
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The G.A.A.: an inside story

A REVIEW BY TONY KEEGAN

READING "The G.A.A.: A History" by Marcus de Búrca the wonder is not that the G.A.A. was founded and is due to celebrate its Centenary in 1984 — but that it survived through to this century at all. The history points out clearly that its first years were peppered with so many take-overs, attempted take-overs, dissensions, disaffiliations and political intrigues, that recent disagreements pale in significance.

Any organisation that survived the Civil War intact, as the G.A.A. did, looks set fair to continue towards its second centenary.

Let us first of all say that if you want to know the score, with fifteen minutes to go, in the second half of the 1931 All-Ireland Hurling Final between Cork and Kilkenny, you will not find it here. This well researched and informative book (280 pages including index) looks behind the scenes at the administrative side of the G.A.A. There have been and there will be other books which catalogue the highlights and excitements of long ago games. This book examines the political and economic background to the development of the Association and in effect, pays tribute to those hardworking officers, both full and part-time, without whose services and dedication the G.A.A. would not have survived to be the leading sporting and cultural body it is today.

"The G.A.A.: A History" while produced under the auspices of An Coiste Staire, reflects the personal view-point of the author, who received every help and encouragement from all levels of the Association in the preparation of this work.

In paying tribute to the many officers involved in the workings of the Association in the past one hundred years, the emphasis is on

four men — Michael Cusack; Luke J. O'Toole; Pádraig Ó Caoimh and Sean Ó Siocháin.

From the arrival of Michael Cusack in Dublin as a young man of twenty-seven (in 1874) the story begins. Michael Cusack was the inspiration and driving force in the founding of the "Gaelic Athletic Association for the cultivation of National Pastimes" as the infant body was named. It was ten years before the famous meeting in Hayes' Hotel on November 1st 1884 set up the Association.

Initially the G.A.A. was as much concerned with athletics as it was with hurling and football — and this is borne out by the references in Archbishop Croke's letter agreeing

to be a patron of the G.A.A., in which he mentions "casting, leaping — in various ways, wrestling, handy-grips, rounders, tip-in-the-hat", in addition to hurling and football. It was not, in fact, until 1922 that athletics was hived off into a separate body. The promotion of athletics while it was under the control of the G.A.A. cannot be seen as a success.

Cusack was the 'man of action' needed to give the necessary impetus to get the young Association off the ground, but unfortunately, it seems he was not the man needed to devote the necessary time to day to day affairs. He was sacked in 1886, and thereafter never achieved national office in the Association he helped to found. He died in 1906. Between 1884 and that time, control of the G.A.A. had passed to and fro between many factions by a bewildering series of coups and counter-coups, which with the background of the Parnell Split and its aftermath, was hardly surprising. Perhaps if what Cusack wrote in 1881 — "As one of those trying to keep the platform of sport clear from party spirit, he was saddened to observe that whenever a new political crisis broke, sport suffered" could have been achieved in practice, matters might have been simpler, but this ideal was as impossible in the latter years of the nineteenth century as it is today.

One of the ironies of the many splits that is brought out in the book is that when rival County Boards were set up, their zeal in attracting members to their side usually resulted in increased membership



Marcus de Burca who spent six years researching his G.A.A. History.

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Action from the 1947 All-Ireland Football Final played at the Polo Grounds New York. During Padraig O'Caomh's absence in New York the newly arrived Seán O'Siochain ran the Association.

★



● FROM PAGE 15

overall when the split was inevitably healed. It also seems that the players themselves did their talking on the field of play and left the Council chamber wrangling to others.

When Luke J. O'Toole of Dublin was appointed Secretary in 1901, there were between five and six hundred clubs, with Munster and Leinster having over four hundred between them. O'Toole, who remained Secretary until his death in 1929, and Tom Nowlan, President 1901 to 1921, worked well together and saw the G.A.A. through hazardous political and financial times. On a number of occasions money worries very nearly precipitated the winding-up of the G.A.A., but the support of the general public especially at critical times, enabled it to pull through and in 1912, to acquire from P. Dineen, a former President of the Association, the City and Suburban Racecourse, known today as Croke Park.

By 1918 the G.A.A. membership was such that an attempt by the British Authorities to prevent sporting events taking place without their licence, resulted in Gaelic Sunday — on August 3rd — and on this day between fifty-four and one hundred thousand people actively

engaged in unlicensed G.A.A. activities in every part of Ireland, a striking indication indeed of the support the thirty-four year old Association enjoyed. No more was heard of licences. By O'Toole's death in 1929 many competitions that we are familiar with today had been inaugurated. The National Leagues were started in 1926, the Railway Cups in 1927 and the Minor Championships in 1928.

When Padraig O Caoimh became Secretary in 1929 there was not much money in the "kitty". In fact, the Auditors revealed that there had been a rise in the overdraft from £1,550 to £5,100 in the previous twelve months — while O'Toole was in his last illness. As de Búrca says, it is to O'Toole's credit that the persistent low incomes of the Association, especially during the early 1920s, did not deter him from investing over £30,000 in Croke Park. O'Caomh continued this wise policy of ploughing gate receipts back into providing better player and spectator facilities. During his stewardship of the Association, the Cusack and Hogan Stands were built. The public repayed this confidence a thousand-fold and even during the Emergency, G.A.A. grounds were thronged.

Sean Ó Síocháin who was assistant to Padraig Ó Caoimh and actually ran the Association for some months during O'Caomh's absence in New York for the Polo Grounds Final in 1947, took over the top job in 1963. The history shows how grounds around the country continued to be developed and under the guidance of Alf Ó Múirí, President 1964-67, the G.A.A. became actively involved in the development of Clubs as Community Centres.

Nearer our own time, SCÓR and Feile na nGael are chronicled, as is the story of the final departure of the Ban.

An interesting thread running through the whole story is the continually frustrated desire of the Association to publish its own magazine or newspaper and by so doing communicate its message directly to the public. There had been a number of attempts from the very beginning: "The Gael" lasted nine months, in 1887; "Gaelic News" had one issue — in 1897; "An Caman" a joint venture between the G.A.A. and the Gaelic League, lasted three years — 1931-34, before it folded. "An Raitheacan" ran to five issues in 1936. "National

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OPEN DRAW THE CHOSEN SYSTEM

By Agnes Hourigan

THE wisdom of retaining the Provincial Senior Championships now that the Open Draw in the All-Ireland Senior Championship seems to have come to stay, is sometimes discussed in Camogie circles. The pros and cons usually have a certain amount of merit.

In the early days of the Association, the Open Draw was the chosen system because there were so few counties organised, and this obtained until 1932.

A great upsurge of interest sprang through the country after the 1928 Tailteann Games and it was maintained until the next Tailteann Games in 1932.

In 1932 it was decided to set up a Central Council which was quickly followed by the formation of Provincial Councils and from that year on until 1973 the Senior Championship was run off at Provincial level at first.

Dublin dominated the competition from 1932 to 1966, winning the Seán O'Duffy Cup twenty five times, Cork have taken the title eleven times, Antrim come next with five and Wexford and Kilkenny have inscribed their names on the Cup three times each.

It is interesting to note the challengers. Galway and Tipperary were runners-up eleven times, Louth two and Waterford, Down, Derry, Mayo and Limerick reached the decider once each. Cork lost eight times, Dublin were defeated six times, while Antrim were on the losing side ten times. Wexford and Kilkenny failed at the last hurdle twice each.

It is necessary to make it clear at this stage that the championships in Junior and Willwood Tailteann Minor are still decided at Provincial level to the semi-final stages so tradition dies hard. The provincial

councils feel that competition is necessary for a number of reasons. Travelling costs could become so prohibitive that the counties may be glad to revert to the Provincial system.

The Gael-Linn Interprovincial team is decided on the performance of the players in the local championship — an argument for holding on to the Senior Competition also.

At the other side of the coin the most logical argument for not continuing with the senior provincial competition is the overcrowded calendar.

In order to get the various competitions completed before the winter months, the Senior League begins as early as March. It is a very welcome sharpening-up exercise for the Championship, but it means that players are playing almost every second Sunday for three or four months and very many of them referee on the



• The Cork senior team, All-Ireland Champions 1980. They are back row (left to right): Marian Higgins, Nancy O'Driscoll, Angela Higgins, Patricia Riordan, Pat Moloney, Mary O'Leary. Front Row (left to right): Catherine Landers, Marion McCarthy, Mary Geaney (Capt), Martha Kearney, Marion Sweeney and Clare Cronin.

Sundays they are not playing.

Another reason for discontinuing with the competition is a declining interest since the inauguration of the Open Draw. The number of Senior Counties in each Province doesn't motivate great interest. Munster have four senior counties, Cork, Limerick, Tipperary and Clare. Leinster have three, Dublin, Kilkenny and Wexford. Ulster have three also, Antrim, Derry and Down and Connacht's only senior county is Galway.

If two teams meet in the League and perhaps again in the Championship, it doesn't help the Provincial meeting.

When the revenue from gates in any competition is falling and if the continuance of said Competition is serving little purpose, then it would be wiser to discontinue for the present.

Trophy costs, travelling costs and catering costs are mounting all the time so they have a bearing on what the Councils will do in the next year or so.

The Junior National League which was inaugurated last season was won by Armagh. Strange though it may seem Ulster counties have set up a record at winning new competitions. Down were also first to win the Junior and Minor titles.

The 1980-81 Junior League has got under way. Five more counties are participating this year. The counties are divided into three Zones as follows.

Zone A. Offaly, Carlow, Kerry, Waterford and Kildare.

Zone B. Wicklow, Meath, Armagh, Louth and Monaghan.

Zone C. Roscommon, Tyrone, Mayo, Cavan and Donegal.

Congratulations to Munster who won the Senior and Junior Gael-Linn Championship. The Senior title has not been in Munster since 1966, so there was great jubilation in the Munster camp.

The Club Championship title also went to Munster. Killeagh, the Cork Champions, became the first Cork Club to win the title in which they dethroned Buffers Alley, Wexford.



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The Road to Four-in-a-Row



Pat Spillane (Kerry) in action during the 1979 All-Ireland Final against Dublin.

THE boys who wish to beat Kerry in the championship next year would want to be up early in the morning. They would need to be working at it now. This crowd could win five if they're not stopped in four.

Kerry will stay on top as long as their strength and weakness compares with the rest for the little extra in experience, hard neck and good guidance will probably do the rest.

What are their strengths? Firstly there is real ability. These chaps are footballers and they've come up through a real hard sophisticated grind in skilful competition. Since they were lads they have been playing the best of company and chaperoned by old champion players and by older men still, who guided these champions. The competition is hard and the advice is sound. The men who have won and lost a lot on big days know how to get their message across to the young chaps and when such guidance is available all the time the young lads who make the Kerry senior team are qualified players, well schooled, well advised and well analysed. No wonder they play good football.

Kerry's panel is the envy of the country. Where else could one call on the subs they have? Even when short four or five the line-out is still recognised by everyone. The county is simply going through a golden age of football and that comes to all counties sometime. The important thing is to exploit the good luck to the maximum and win as much as possible for, God knows, a county can go down for even a longer time. I remember going almost around the bend with frustration following Cork hurling teams to Limerick to play Tipp from '56 for ten long dreary years. Tipp themselves are in the valley of shadows just now. It's important to win while you're good and Kerry have the panel to do it.

Look at the trainer and selectors they have. Joe Keohane, Bernie

A golden age for Kerry football

By Eamonn Young

rest are very well-trained men. They've seen a lot and played a lot of football and they're supported in the young grades by the likes of Tom Prendergast, the small man with the big heart and the darling ball-play as well as skilful, thinking, stylish Seamus Fitzgerald. Out in front of the selectors, very much the front man for it is he who does the hard work, is that mighty man from Waterville, Mick O'Dwyer of the burning energy, the hard frame and the fine football record. O'Dwyer is a man and a half. As long as he stays with the county side they will be hard to beat for he knew the game backwards and just as important knows his men inside out. Travelling the journey from Waterville to Killarney after his day's work in garage or hotel during the busy summer season O'Dwyer still has the drive, enthusiasm and dynamic power to get the last drop out of those fine men he trains. He believes in them and the feeling is mutual.

One of Kerry's great strengths is the confidence of the people. Firstly they aren't damned and tortured like Cork by the dual commitment. A Kerryman can settle down and work at his football for his whole career. He wins more as a result and that in turn makes him a better man and drives up the confidence barometer of the county. There is, quite

naturally, a great county and community pride stimulated and that in turn leads to social gatherings where the populace is given an opportunity of lionising the players. So it all travels around in a golden affirmative circle that gilds the lily.

Now what are their weaknesses? Needless to mention the first is possible loss of motivation. All the great winning teams have gone down at some stage and afterwards we always wondered just how much a dulled appetite had to do with it. The reason a player becomes prominent is because after using his God-given ability he works hard and very carefully at it until his ambition is achieved. After winning his big matches there come other inevitable rungs in the ladder of life like marriage and children. I know such trivialities shouldn't be allowed to interfere but the fact is they do. Just how enthusiastic will these men be next year—It's a hard question to answer. Certainly they will have to train as hard and as regularly as ever to stay on top. Maybe they'll do it just for one more year. We'll see.

Nobody can go through hard years without injury. These fellows are at it fairly hard in some cases since '74. They are young but they've played a lot and have been hurt a lot. It stands to reason that the heavily exercised player is likely to break

down sooner than the man who plays a lighter game over the ten years. If injury slows a man eventually, then several of these honoured warriors may pack it in earlier than one expects.

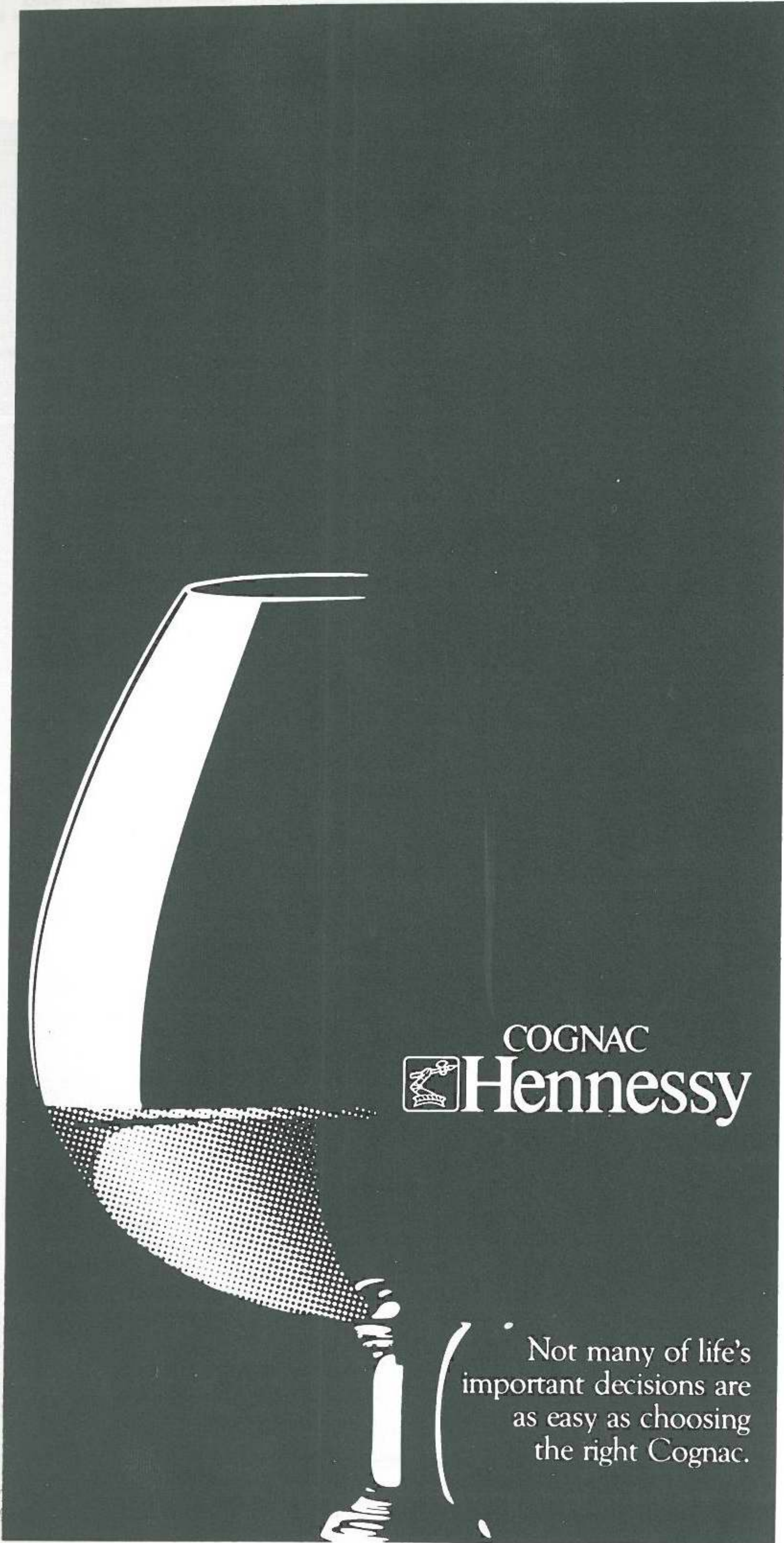
(I can hear some of them say that I'm hoping so. Indeed I am and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to attend their retirement parties). Now where are the teams to stop them. There's Mayo, Galway, Dublin, Meath, Armagh and Monaghan. There's Offaly, Roscommon and . . . hold it . . . there's Cork.

Armagh set the cat among the pigeons by their deserved win over Kerry in the league at Lurgan in November. The All-Ireland Champions have had a long hard season and its effects are beginning to catch up on the team. Come next summer however they'll be refreshed and fit to go on the championship trail again.

Our trouble is that we're in the same province. If we met them in semifinal or finals it wouldn't be any easier to beat them but getting that far would be of tremendous help to our young men from seventeen up. God knows I'd welcome the open draw in the morning and not altogether for the sake of Waterford, Tipp, Limerick, Clare, Leitrim, Fermanagh, Carlow and the rest. The best teams around, apart from Kerry, appear to be Cork, Roscommon Offaly and Armagh.

I asked Paddy O'Driscoll the Cork chairman what he thought "We're the side to stop them" he said emphatically. "We have the real fervour to beat them, and naturally enough the number of times they have stopped us make us all the more eager. But more important we have the players. There are plenty of them around. All we want is the right blend and a small spot of luck, which we didn't always have against Kerry. They're a fine side but we'll beat them when the time comes. Our under-21 lads will be a great help, I'm looking forward to Killarney

• OVERLEAF



● FROM OVERLEAF

next July".

Kevin Kehily so long a stern rock against Kerry waves, agrees with the opinion expressed on Kerry's merit, their trainer and their motivation. "If they continue in real earnest they'll be hard to stop. I was impressed by the play of Diarmuid O'Donoghue and Barry Walsh on the All Stars tour. Kerry certainly have a fine panel and the regulars are always under pressure to keep their places. We in Cork will be pretty good next May and in Killarney we'll put it up to 'em. They'll have to be in good shape to get through".

So I talked to Doney O'Sullivan of Killarney who teaches and lives in Tralee. "Nobody would stop them now" he said "but next Summer is a long way off. In '77 we all thought Dublin would stay on top for a while. Competitive life isn't very predictable, and of course success is related to the merit of the opposition. I don't see anything great around though Roscommon had us on the run for a short time in the final. Our men play this present game well and with luck they'll be hard to stop again next year.

What I'm afraid of is that the game as now played will not continue to be attractive and in ten years we may have small crowds looking at it. Imagine about three and a half thousand saw the All-Ireland and League champions meet in Cork in October.

So there's the picture. Doney O'Sullivan's comment that competition is hard to predict sounds very sensible and the other two students of the game have, along with myself, provided material for an estimate. I think that if luck goes their way — by which I mean training, availability of the large panel, fair luck on the field, an absence of last-minute injuries to a few key players — Kerry must be in there with a real chance of four in a row. Anyway if the road finishes in Cill Airne in early July the county can then concentrate on tourism.

Playing season of sweet memories

By Sean Clerkin

THE victory of Pakie Ryan in this year's Coca Cola Singles Championship should have an uplifting effect on the game in Dublin. The young players, who have been groomed so carefully by the Minor Board over the last decade have found a new inspiration while all those Dublin players, who have been trying unsuccessfully to win All-Ireland titles in latter years have a fresh motivation.

Ryan's victory has been built, not alone on his own inbred skill but on the rock of perseverance and the ambition to reach a goal.

When he was decisively beaten in the 1979 final by Tommy O'Rourke of Kildare, it appeared that the Dublin player, who, incidentally, is a Clareman by birth and a cousin of the Kirbys, had lost his final chance of landing the blue riband of Irish Handball.

But, rather than find alibis for his defeat or bemoan his lost opportunity, the St. Malachy's player looked to the new season and set about correcting the mistakes that caused his defeat. Thus, when the new season dawned we were to witness a refurbished Ryan, keen, confident and hungry for the title.

Many of the top stars, including champion O'Rourke, fell in his wake and on the eve of the Hurling All-Ireland, he proudly brought back the title to Dublin.

It had been a long wait for Metropolitan fans, since the late stylist Larry Roe was the last to take the title Liffeside away back in 1951.

One hopes that the Administrators of both handball and GAA activities in Dublin will take advantage of the victory and attempt to place handball in a stronger role throughout the county.

★ ★ ★

It was a playing season of sweet memories. How, for instance, could we ever forget the breath-taking

victory of Pat Kirby back in June, when he travelled to Tucson, Arizona and came back with the U.S.H.A. Masters Championship under his belt. Kirby, as he has so often done in the past surprised them all.

According to Clare administrator Caiman Jones, the American organisers had dubbed him the "weakened warrior" and placed him seventh in the ratings.

The Tuamgraney ace revelled in the under-rating as he proceeded to tear the form book to shreds and bury the ambitions of all the top players in the World who play in the Masters grade.

It certainly was an emotional occasion when King Kirby arrived back at Shannon, having done us proud in the playing court and with the tag of "his favourite sportsman of the championships" placed on him by Bob Kendler, the President of the U.S.H.A.

On a parallel, at least with Kirby is the track record of young Billy Bourke from Kilkenny who cleared the decks of all the minor championships and, in the process, pocketed no fewer than six prestigious medals.

It was a phenomenal feat that, I had long since assumed, was beyond the capabilities of any young player. Even before the 40x20 championships were introduced and four minor titles was the maximum anybody could achieve, the task of winning them all had eluded all-comers.

Which is all the more reason why we must salute this young starlet who unbelievably, is young enough to compete in the grade next season.

I hope his skills and techniques can be harnessed properly so that his handball flame will continue to burn indefinitely. Then in the immediate future, we can confidently expect the emergence of a young adult handballer, cast in the same mould

as the late great John Joe Gilmartin, also a Kilkennyman. What a season it was for Kilkenny.

Were it not for Bourke's phenomenal success, the spotlight would have been trained on Paddy Reilly and Ollie Harrold who won the Coca Cola Doubles Championship, thus bringing the title home to Kilkenny for the first time in a quarter of a century.

The victory was well deserved and in the case of Reilly, in particular, relieved much of the frustration that pertained to his best efforts in recent years.

Jim Bourke, father of Billy and Christy Young retained their 60x30 Masters title and in the process were involved in probably the best game of the season against the brothers, Willy and Tom Kerins of Kerry.

Pat O'Keefe, who played handball in America for twenty years, proved to be the kingpin in the Masters 40x20 code and gave every indication that he could be winning this title for Kilkenny for many a long day.

A review of the year's activities would not be complete without reference to Pat McGarry who won both titles in the hardball grade for his native Limerick. Joe Bennis once again proved an able foil for him in the doubles code while the feats of Tom Quish who won three of the four junior titles will be cherished by Limerick fans in the years ahead.

Mavis O'Toole kept the women's game to the forefront by winning the senior singles title for the eleventh successive time and in the doubles she joined Liz Nichol to victory.

And the last chapter belongs to Micky Walsh the great Mayo veteran. He won the golden Masters title and in the process displayed the same type of enthusiasm as he did when competing as a youth some forty years ago. He epitomises one of the game's best selling points — "that handball is the game for life."

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Allied Irish Banks
Ar chúil gach báire

Killeedy are worthy champs

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

THE Limerick County Senior Hurling Championship was inaugurated in 1887, and since then eighty-six titles have been distributed.

There were a few interruptions to the annual programme in the early years, but looking back now over the entire championship it seems remarkable that from what is by far the largest Division in the County — West Limerick — only three of its clubs had, previous to this year, collected the County Crown.

Ballingarry were the first western club to win the title, away back in 1911; the divisional capital, Newcastle West, were champions in 1917 and again in 1925, and then we had to wait until 1963 for another western success, when Teenagh-Kilmeedy, after winning the Junior Crown the previous year, surprised all by gaining Senior renown.

The last occasion a new name was added to the roll of Senior Hurling champions was in 1965, when Patrickswell won the first of their six titles, and now Killeedy make another distinguished entry, having previously figured unsuccessfully in three County Finals — 1973, 1976 and 1977.

In winning this year's County Championship Killeedy played on four consecutive Sundays — and this they did by choice.

In the quarter final they were pitted against Claughaun, who had top scorer of the year — Eamonn Cregan, in their attack. This game

ended in a draw, and the replay took place the following Sunday. On this occasion a considerably improved Killeedy were successful.

They were pitted against a fancied Doon side a week later in the Semi-Final, and were in very confident mood as they coasted to victory.

They opted to take on South Liberties in the County Final the following week. They felt that they were in winning vein, and they certainly confounded the critics by beating a side that could boast the inclusion of three remarkable All Stars — the irrepressible Pat Hartigan, who was honoured on a record five occasions by the Carroll selectors; Joe McKenna, who, this season equalled Hartigan's



● Paudie Fitzmaurice of Killeedy and Limerick



● Willie Fitzmaurice of Killeedy and Limerick

performance; and Eamonn Grimes, who, in addition to being an All Star in 1973 and 1975, was Captain of the Limerick team that won Munster and All-Ireland honours in 1973.

It was a mighty proud Killeedy side that took possession of the storied John Daly Cup for the first time, and many will say that a more valiant or dedicated side would be very difficult to find.

The story of their rise to fame is an inspiring one but maybe, first, we should briefly go back over the years and trace their progress since their foundation, which goes back to the early G.A.A. days.

The earlier Killeedy teams were affiliated under the name of the Ashford St. Ita's, and they made a notable contribution to the development of hurling in the South West of the County long before fully coming to the notice of a wider public.

● TO PAGE 30

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★

Twilight of

★

the gods?

★

GERALD McCarthy called it a day at the end of '79, Charlie McCarthy retired recently, Martin Doherty will probably never don the red jersey again, veteran Denis Coughlan can hardly continue much longer, Martin Coleman has dropped out of favour and players like Ray Cummins, John Horgan and Pat Moylan are rapidly approaching the twilight of their careers.

So the great Cork team that took the three-in-a-row during the 'seventies has begun to disintegrate and many new faces will emerge from the Rebel county in the new decade. But what are Cork's prospects of remaining at or near the top during the 'eighties?

Will the calm follow the storm and the Leesiders be forced into the background for a spell? Or will the team evolve smoothly and the newmen replace their illustrious predecessors without unduly disturbing the balance which had made Cork the most feared and respected hurling team since 1976?

Intriguing questions which only time will answer although I am inclined to favour the suggestion that Cork's star will not wane for some time yet.

By
Noel
Horgan

For a start, experienced and youthful players like Dermot McCurtain, John Crowley, John Fenton, Pat Horgan and Jimmy Barry-Murphy give Cork a solid foundation on which to rebuild a strong team. And with All-Ireland minor victories in '78 and '79 to their credit, Cork have reason to be optimistic about the quality of the up-and-coming talent.

Possibly the brightest prospect in Cork at the moment is teenage goalkeeper Ger Cunningham from St. Finbarr's. Since Cork emerged from the hurling wilderness to take the Liam McCarthy Cup in 1966 the Leesiders have been admirably served between the sticks.

Paddy Barry, for instance, was a

fine goalkeeper who gave Cork over a decade of sterling service during which he won two All-Ireland medals. But Paddy had a rather short temper which affected his concentration at times.

Martin Coleman made a huge contribution to Cork's tremendous achievements in the 'seventies and his spectacular play won him countless admirers. Martin was the star of Cork's victory over Limerick in the '75 Munster final and he was also the chief architect of the championship victory over Tipperary the following year.

And who can forget the magnificent late save which the

● OVERLEAF



A look back to the glory days of the Cork team with (from left) Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Ray Cummins and Willie Murphy (Wexford).

● FROM OVERLEAF

Ballinhassig man made from Christy Kehoe in the '77 All-Ireland decider, an effort which deprived Wexford of, at least, a share of the spoils. For all his brilliance, however, Martin was slightly suspect under the dropping ball.

Tim Murphy played a major role in Cork's league success last season but looked unsure in subsequent championship outings. Ger Cunningham, however, has the potential to become the complete netminder.

Blessed with a keen eye, a safe hand and razor-sharp reflexes, Ger seems also to have the ideal temperament for the No. 1 jersey. Composed and confident, his vigilance never wavers and seldom, if ever, will one see him conceding a soft goal.

Like Martin Coleman, Ger Cunningham can drive the ball massive distances with his puck-outs. He came to prominence as a Cork minor in '78 and '79 but it was in last year's county senior final that

he really displayed star quality.

He was St. Finbarrs top player as they failed to Blackrock and he produced another top-class display in this year's final when the 'Barrs conquered Glen Rovers.

Inevitably, Ger was called to do league duty with the Cork senior team and on his October debut against Wexford at New Ross he emerged as the star of the day as a depleted Cork side crushed the Slaneysiders. His form then added further weight to the popular opinion in Cork that Ger Cunningham is destined to become a major star in the 'eighties.

Twenty-three year old Denis Mulcahy from Midleton is another fine prospect. He attracted attention with a super display when pitted against Gerald McCarthy as Midleton failed by a point to St. Finbarrs in the 1979 county semi-final. And he was similarly impressive when the East-Corkmen again went under by a narrow margin to the 'Barrs at this year's penultimate stage.

A strong stylish hurler, Denis has been shining with Cork in recent league games and he seems set to establish himself as a regular on the team this season.

Tony Coyne from Youghal was a free-scoring forward with the Cork minors last year and he is another highly-skilled player. At nineteen, he has already sampled senior intercounty fare — he scored a good goal against Wexford minutes after coming on as a substitute — and so far his prospects of making the transition to senior status are very encouraging.

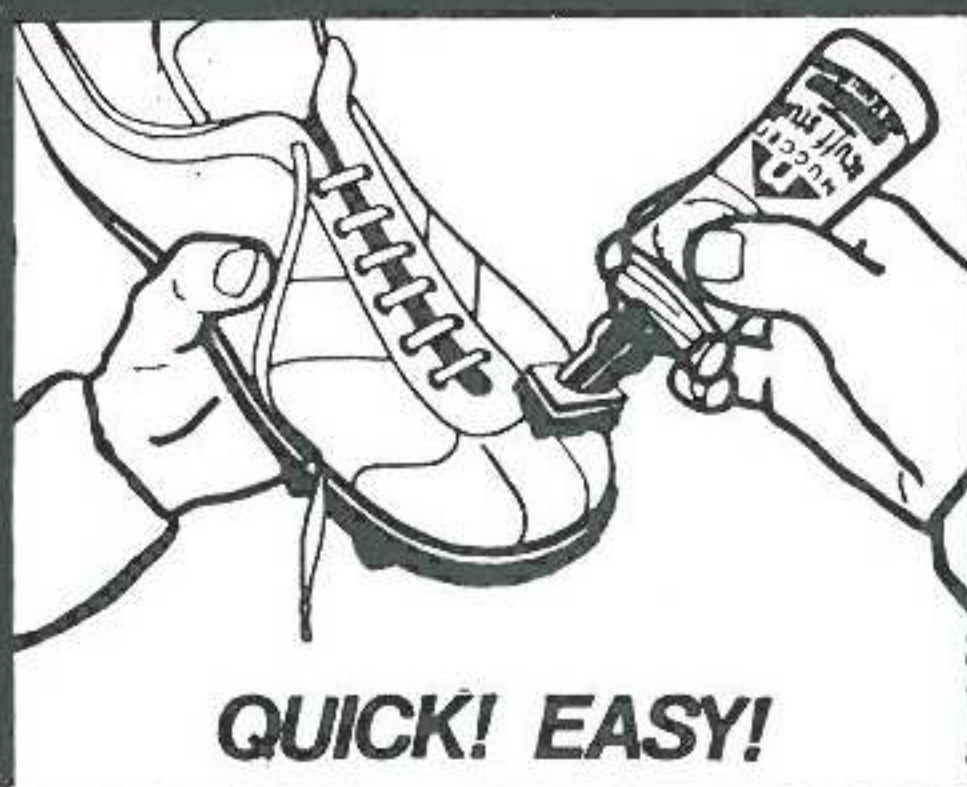
John Blake and John Cremin of St. Finbarrs, Willie Cashman of Aghada, Sean O'Gorman from Milford, Pdraig Crowley of Bandon and Midleton's Tadgh McCarthy are others who will be striving to make their mark with Cork in the near future.

With such a string of top-class talent available, it is not unrealistic to suggest that the Liam McCarthy Cup will make an early return to Cork in the 'eighties.

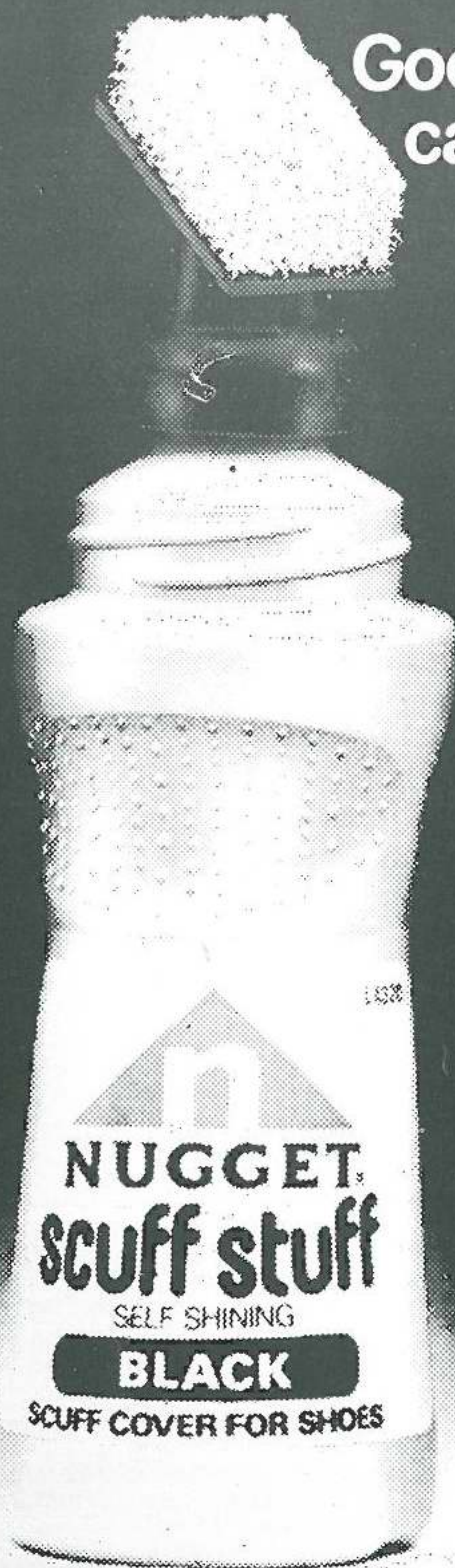
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• Erins Isle Finglas Dublin, which won the AIB Club of the Year Award for 1979.

AIB CLUB OF THE YEAR

IT is amazing how time flies! It seems like only yesterday that the **Allied Irish Banks** introduced an exciting new dimension to the club scene by announcing details in June 1979 of their inaugural and very ambitious Club of the Year awards promotion, yet here we are already almost on the eve of the closing date for the second presentation.

Already the indications are that the latest promotion will be even more strongly supported than last season's. All parts of the country are represented in a heavy entry already received, and no doubt the coming weeks will see many more clubs join the ranks of contenders for the 1981 awards.

But, time is marching on! The closing date for entries is December 31, 1980, and adjudication will take place during January and February. The results will be announced in March.

The Club of the Year award presentation is designed to give recognition to voluntary effort, and by highlighting achievements, encourage clubs to improve. It is shaping up like proving one of the best success stories in Gaelic games in modern times.

By TERRY McGRATH

The response last year was first rate. A total of 456 clubs, drawn from all provinces, entered, and the standard of the presentations was very high, indeed.

Erin's Isle, of Dublin, won the premier award.

This time around the clubs have even more incentives to strive for. The prize money, for example, has been increased from £7,000 to £13,000, and new categories of awards have been added.

There are four main categories of awards, together with four other special categories covering the promotion of hurling, handball and the Irish language, and for the best project or programme designed by a Club Ladies Committee.

Participation is a keynote of the promotion, and one that could pay-off in a handsome dividend.

For example, clubs who took part last season, and enter again for 1981 will be awarded marks for improvements in performances over the past twelve months. Similarly, participation this year could open the door to greater things in the future for the unsuccessful clubs of 1981 — providing, of course, they file entries for future events.

The idea, and a very laudable one, too, is to encourage clubs to keep trying. In this way the clubs and the A.I.B. Club of the Year awards will grow and develop to their full potential.

Another worth-while incentive in this regard is a free draw. Every club that takes part automatically qualifies for a draw of ten prizes for sports equipment to the value of £100 each.

One way and another, then, the clubs, large and small, have much to gain by supporting this ambitious promotion.

The A.I.B. Club of the Year promotion is an exciting development in fostering the club and community spirit. Let's hope that with the experience gained from this year's event the Awards, will, as was the case from last year, go on to build up towards even greater things in the future.

The Assessors for the Awards are: Mr. Hugh Byrne, Dr. Donal Keenan, Mr. Pat Fanning, Mr. Alf Murray, Mr. Seamus O'Riain, and Mr. Con Murphy, all past Presidents of the G.A.A., together with the A.I.B.'s Mr. Tom Moriarty and Mr. Eddie Keher.

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Le ceannach díreach ó

Oifig Dhíolta Foilseachán Rialtais,

An Stuara, Árd-Oifig an Phoist,

Baile Atha Cliath, 1.

• FROM PAGE 25

Hurling and football games did not get much press coverage in the early years of G.A.A. activity, and the first mention we find is of a match played in Con Magner's Field, Killeedy on 17th June 1894, when Castlemahon Deel Rangers beat Ashford St. Ita's, 1-2 to 0-3.

The Ashford players to gain particular notice in that game were O'Donnell, Captain; Casey, Herlihy, D. and T. McInerney, Collins, Dore, Body, Roche and Twomey.

The footballers of this period were also to the fore, and it is on record that Castlemahon and Ashford drew on 12th August 1895 at Newcastle West in the County Senior Championship. Castlemahon won the replay and went on to reach the County Final, in which they were defeated by the far famed Commercials, who, the following year, won their second All-Ireland title, at the expense of one of the great teams of that time, Dublin Young Irelands.

It was almost a quarter of a century afterwards that the club as we know it to-day was formed and the name Killeedy formally adopted. The big figures in that revival included Dan King, Jim Shanahan, Jack Foley, Roger Daneher and Jack Browne.

This club was only three years in existence when first championship honours were won — the Junior Hurling "B" Western title. To the fore in that success were: the Dore trio, Jerome, J. J. and Willie; the Hayes brothers, Joe and Roger; the O'Mahony's, Sean and Conor; the Curtins, Tom and Bill, and Tommy O'Connor.

Junior Hurling "B" honours were again won in 1957, when a Championship double was achieved, with the Minor Hurlers also successful, and being the first club team to reach a County Final, in which they had to give best to St. Patricks.

The Minors had earlier won Western renown in 1950 and again in 1955, and with the Juveniles

A RECORD CHRISTMAS

By Joe Grace



• Some Pickwick recording artists and recording industry executives photographed recently, including from left: Brendan Quinn; Larry Cunningham; Denis Allen; Brendan Grace; Michael O'Riordan; Gloria; Stephen Lewis of Pickwick U.K.; Michael Clerking, managing Director, Release; Daddy Cool and Shay Hennessy, General Manager, Pickwick.

RECENTLY I spoke with Shay Hennessy, General Manager of Pickwick Records, who are rapidly becoming a major force in the Irish Record Industry. With a background in the Irish music business, going back to 1967, Shay is in an ideal position to assess the potential that there is for the development of this industry. He says that there is a large potential market for quality L.P.s priced competitively and that Pickwick aim to fulfill this need.

A key factor in helping to focus consumer attention on the Pickwick range will be the Harp label, designed as a showcase for Irish talent and featuring such well known artists as: Red Hurley, The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, Larry Cunningham, John McNally, The Dubliners and many

many others. There will also be a re-release of an album made in 1972 by Mike Murphy, one of the most popular D.J.s in Ireland.

Harp L.P.s will retail at £1.99 and Tapes at £2.49 which is really excellent value.

In mid November came the announcement that Pickwick had become the exclusive distribution company in Ireland for R.C.A. records, making records by such well known stars as James Galway, John Denver, Jim Reeves, Elvis Presley and many many more

available again on the Irish market.

The latest release by Pickwick is the Brendan Quinn album on the Release Label RRL 8016, in conjunction with which is a single featuring Brendan singing "Mama's Angels" (A side) and "I'd take a Cowboy" — on sale from December 1st.

All of these and many others by Pickwick are available from your good local Record Shop, or from Woolworths, Roches Stores, Tesco, V.G. and would make an excellent and well received Christmas present.

triumphing in 1954, it was evident that the youth were very much alive hurlingwise. The lads that hit the headlines in these games were Jimmy Shields, Patsy Shine, Willie Doody, J.J. Quinliven, B.J. Kenny, and Maurice Shanahan.

When the West Under-21 Championships were inaugurated in 1965 Killeedy were the first hurling winners. A success they repeated in 1969. In the latter year also the Juniors reached the Divisional Final, in which they were beaten by Ballingarry 4-9 to 3-7.

The West Senior Hurling Championship was revived in 1972, and amongst the participants were Killeedy, who fought their way to the final, in which they were beaten by old rivals Tournafulla, 3-9 to

1-11. They have not missed a Western Final since, a remarkable achievement.

In addition to winning the County Senior Hurling Championship for the first time, the club had another recent notable achievement in reaching the All-Ireland Final in Under-14 Hurling at the National Community Games, after capturing County and Provincial honours. At Mosney they secured the runners-up Silver Medals, which were presented to them by An Taoiseach, Charles Haughey, himself an old hurler with the Dublin Parnells.

Progress on the playing fields has been allied with other worthwhile development work. A new ground has been acquired, and the plans for same include the provision of club

and dressing rooms, and a handball court.

Members are also working on a club history, so that posterity will remember the men that sowed the seeds and made it all possible.

Any reference to Killeedy would not be complete without some acknowledgement of the leading part played by the late Liam Fitzmaurice, whose three sons contributed so much to the recent triumph.

Liam gave magnificent service to Gaeldom, as Vice-Chairman of the Western Board from 1947 to 1957, its Chairman from 1957 to 1969, and as Vice-Chairman from 1960 to 1966.

• TO PAGE 40

CALL FOR SPECIAL CONGRESS

By Eamonn Young

THERE was a sudden blaze of electricity in the dying moments of a conference recently. The Annual General Meeting of the country's Vocational Schools was almost at an end in Clonliffe College. Doney O'Sullivan of Kerry stood up. He proposed that something be done to save the game of football. He said that only a Special Congress of the G.A.A. could do it, for the playing rules cannot be changed for another four years. The Congress without any great argument quickly agreed and the request will go to the Activities Committee of the Association. Is that the start of the crusade or will the light fizzle out?

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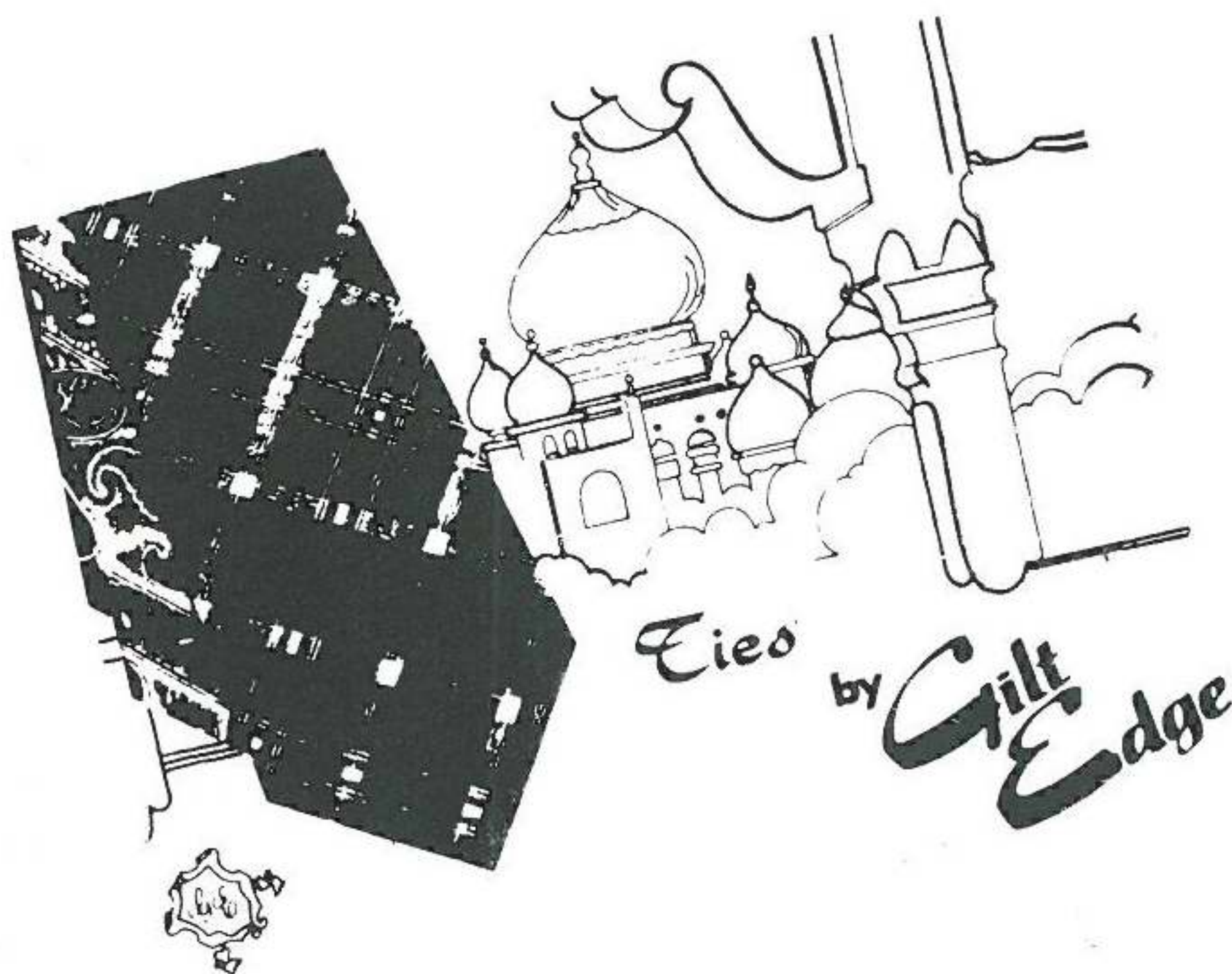
"Here I am," I said, "Send me"! (Is 6;8).

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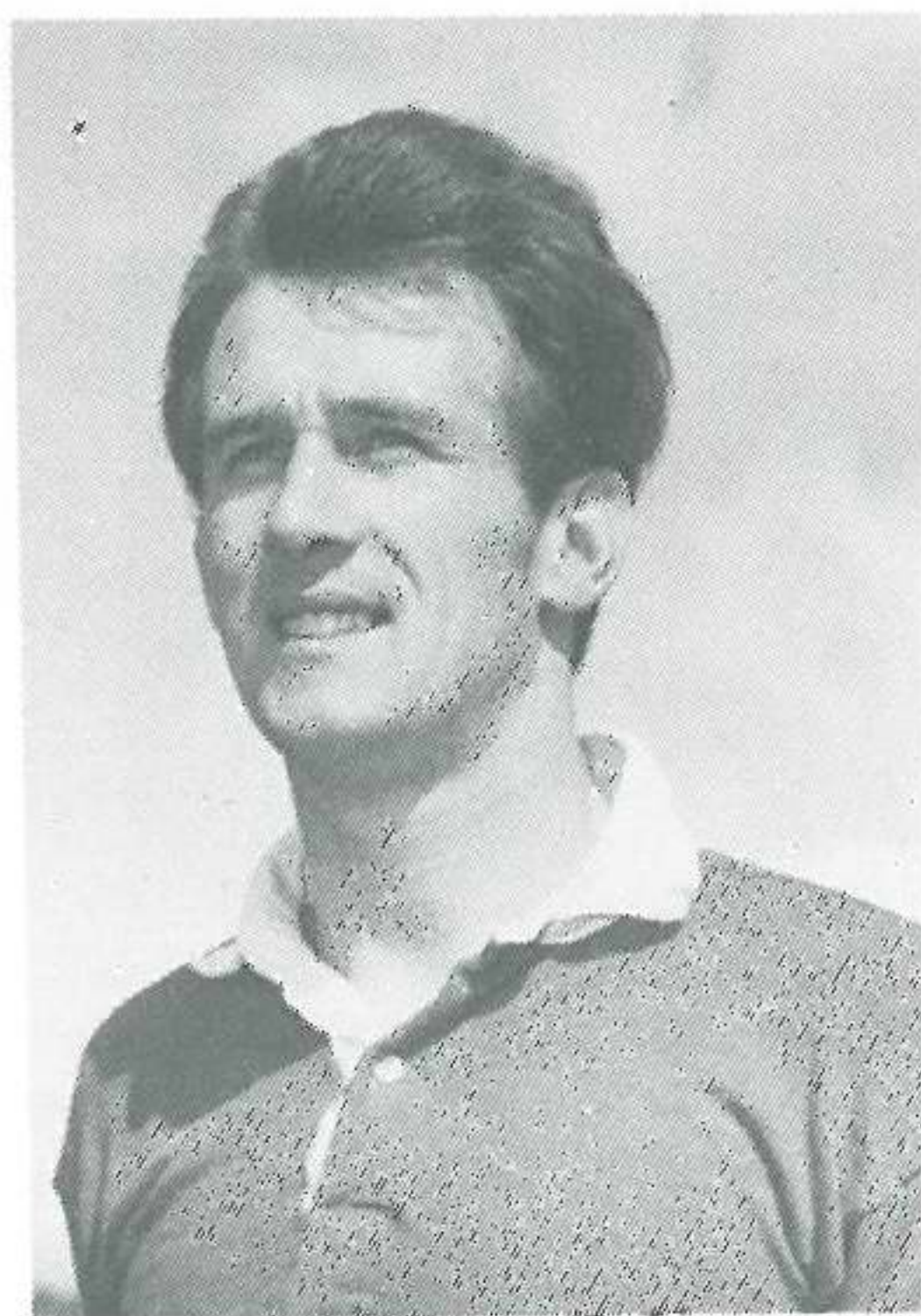
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Clare's hurlers face a tough task



• Justin McCarthy the former Cork star now one of the "backroom boys" of the Clare hurlers.

THE most welcome news that Clare hurling has received this year has been the announcement that Fr. Harry Bohan is to resume as manager of the county team. Without doubt Fr. Harry was the main driving force behind Clare's emergence as a major hurling power in the 'seventies.

I can recall clearly a Cork-Clare Munster semi-final in 1975 which a Leaside team, trained by Justin McCarthy, won at their ease. Clare looked a disorganised and spiritless bunch that day, a team accustomed to defeat with the will to accept it being the norm.

Under Fr. Bohan's guidance, however, the attitude within the Clare camp had changed dramatically inside a year. New confidence had been instilled and the pride attached to wearing the Clare jersey had been restored.

Clare qualified for the league final in 1976 when they drew with Kilkenny in a thriller. A brilliant performance from Mick Brennan and a hat-trick of goals from Pat Delany were instrumental in crushing Clare in the replay but progress had been made.

The Clare-men gained invaluable experience from their jousts with the Noresiders and in 1977 they climbed another rung of the ladder by taking the National League title.

Subsequently, Clare fell to Cork in the Munster final, their cause not being helped by the fact that they were forced to play the entire second-half with fourteen men. Still, the team was developing as planned and a championship break-through in 1978 was the target.

They retained the league title that year and were fancied by many to topple Cork when they clashed again in the southern decider. When Clare trailed by just two points at half-time, they looked odds-on to succeed with the near gale-force wind to back them on the resumption.

But that great Cork team, on the trail of the three-in-a-row, lifted their game for the second half and managed to maintain their slight

advantage until the finish. Thus, Clare's dream was shattered and their morale severely dented.

Inevitably, they slipped back a bit in 1979 but the Clare-folk were hopeful that, having regrouped their forces, the Bannermen might mount a strong challenge again in 1980. But it was not to be.

Instead, the slide continued as Fr. Harry Bohan resigned and the team suffered relegation in the league. And now many observers are confidently predicting that Clare will remain in the doldrums for another lengthy spell.

Fr. Harry's return, however, has raised fresh hope of success in Clare. Harry has proved himself to be a great motivator and he is noted for his total dedication to every challenge.

Critics will say that he has been over-committed to the Clare team in the past, making reference to his stout defence of two Clare players following misdemeanours against Eddie Keher and Ray Cummins in the '76 league final and '77 Munster final respectively. But what respect can a leader command if he is not prepared to publicly defend the men under his control? Words of discipline are often more effective when administered in private.

Fr. Harry Bohan will have a tough task trying to restore Clare's hurling pride. Many of the seventies' team are drawing close to the veteran stage while there appears to be little top-class underage talent in the county at the moment.

But if anybody can mould a strong Clare team from the talent available, then Fr. Harry is the man for the job. To him, Justin McCarthy and the rest of Clare's backroom boys, I extend my sincere best wishes as they attempt to improve Clare's standing in the hurling world in 1981.

ON THE SPOT ...

by Tony Keegan

A MEMORABLE year for hurling, with Galway striking a golden jackpot on a day of emotion at Croke Park in September, the season that Offaly made a rare provincial break-through in hurling, and then completed a first Leinster double in the top grade, and a generally disappointing campaign for football, with one of the least pleasing All-Ireland senior finals on record . . . THAT was 1980, in brief, in Gaelic Games.

Now, at this time for musing by the fireside, let's see how many of the memories that go to make up the 1980 programme in Gaelic Games remain green. Our last quiz of the year is something of a review of past events, with the usual points on offer for each question to maintain the now proven and popular competitive edge of **ON THE SPOT** . . .

There are four separate sections, and these cover all aspects of Gaelic Games, hurling, football, handball and camogie. Here, then, is an ideal opportunity to judge just how knowledgeable **YOU** are over the broad spectrum of Gaelic Games activities.

Let's start with ten questions on that general broad theme in a section entitled:

GENERAL REVIEW

1. Who were runners-up for the All-Ireland senior camogie championship in September?
2. One of the following, Pat McGarry (Limerick), Pakie Ryan (Dublin) or Ollie Harrold (Kilkenny), won the All-Ireland Coca

Cola Open Singles Championship in handball. Name the player in question?

3. Connacht won the Railway Cup in hurling last March for the first time in 33 years. Who led the Westerners to their win over Munster in the St. Patrick's Day game?

4. The Dr. McKenna Cup is an all Ulster knock-out senior football tournament. the trophy was won last August by Armagh, Donegal or Monaghan. Make your selection from that trio, please?

5. What was unique about the final in the past year of the Gael-Linn Cup, another knock-out senior football tournament, in which all the Connacht counties, plus Clare, compete?

6. Who captained Offaly to their Leinster hurling final win last July?

7. Who led Cork to their National Football League final win over Kerry in April?

8. A bonus question. Kevin McCabe and Henry Gavin led their county senior teams in provincial finals in 1980. Name the teams concerned, and collect five additional points if both sides are listed correctly?

9. Where was the National Hurling League final replay between Cork and Limerick played?

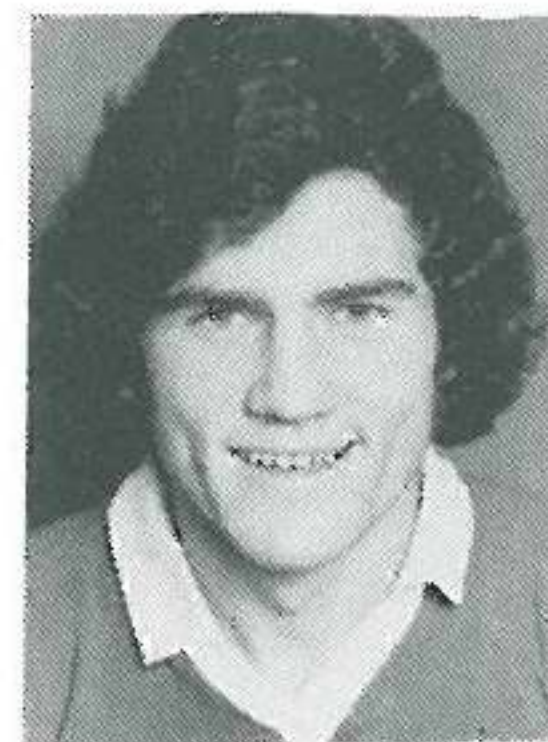
10. What was Galway's winning margin in the All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final?

This section carries a grand total of 55 points. That works out at five points for each question answered correctly, plus that five points bonus for No. 8 **YOUR RETURNS**

As always personalities made news during the past year. All those in the spotlight in this second section were in the headlines at one time or another in the past campaign:

PERSONALITY PARADE

1. Who are the inter-county personalities pictured here?



2. Paddy Moriarty captained Armagh to their Ulster senior football final win. What position did he fill in the Northern final?

3. Who was Limerick's captain in their Munster senior hurling final win over Cork?

4. Name the club of Danny Murray, who led Roscommon to

their fourth Connacht senior football title in a row?

5. The hurler who led Limerick to their 1980 Munster final win captained the county to a provincial senior title for the second time in his career. True or false?

6. Peter McGinnity led Ulster to their Railway Cup football final win on St. Patrick's Day. What was unique about his achievement? ...

7. Mary Geaney captained an All-Ireland senior title winning team in the past year. Name the team in question?

8. Charlie Nelligan was chosen as Bank of Ireland All Stars goalkeeper in football in 1980. How many All Stars awards has the Kerry net-minder gained so far?

9. Pat Kirby, the legendary handballer from Clare, won a major title abroad last June. What was the title in question?

10. This talented dual performer won an All-Ireland club senior medal, and national souvenirs in inter-county football and hurling in 1980. Name the personality in question?

Five points on offer for each correct answer. However, an extra five points may be added on by "going through the card" correctly, making 55 points over-all possible. **YOUR SCORE**

To complete our quiz, two short exercises on the All-Ireland senior finals:

HURLING

1. Who scored Galway's opening goal in the third minute?

2. Who lined out at No. 7 for the Connacht side?

3. Name the club of the Limerick full back, Leonard Enright?

4. Who won the toss in that game?

5. Eamonn Cregan scored two of Limerick's three goals. Who hit the

other?

A further bag of 25 points may be collected here. **YOUR TALLY**

FOOTBALL

Name the position in which Tom Doyle actually lined out for Kerry against Roscommon?

2. Who scored the Connacht champions' goal after only 25 seconds?

3. Michael Sheehy was top scorer in the final. He finished with 1-4, 1-6, or 1-7. Your selection?

4. Kerry won the toss. True or false?

5. How many times have Kerry now won the All-Ireland senior title?

ANSWERS

1. Full forward. 2. John O'Connor. 3. 1-6. 4. True. 5. 26 times between 1903 and last September.

FOOTBALL

1. Bernie Forde. 2. Seamus Coen. 3. Patrickswell. 4. Limerick. 5. Joe McKenna.

HURLING

1. McGinnity became the first Fermanagh footballer to lead the North to a Railway Cup final win. 7. Cork. She filled the full forward position in the senior camogie final win over Limerick in a replay. 8. Nelligan won his first All Star award in 1980. 9. The U.S. Masters Open title at Tucson, Arizona. 10. Jimmy Barry-Murphy, who helped St. Finbarr's to the club title, and Cork to their unique titles double in the National Leagues.

Once more it is possible to advance the total over-all by 25 points. **YOUR MARKS FOR THIS SECTION**

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP

There are 210 marks on offer. Help yourself to an **EXCELLENT** rating for 190 points plus.

VERY GOOD is the rating for a return of 170 to 190. From 150 to 170 goes down as **GOOD**.

Under that? Well, perhaps a regular order for **Gaelic Sport** for 1981 might help you to improve the position come the end of another season. At any rate: Happy Christmas, and good sport in 1981!

(Printed in reverse to avoid distraction)

1. Tom Cashman of Cork and Ger Power, Kerry's captain. 2. Right half back. 3. Sean Foley. 4. St. Faithleach's. 5. True, he was captain of the 1974 title winning side. 6.

PERSONALITY PARADE

1. Limerick, who were beaten in a replay. 2. Pakie Ryan (Dublin). 3. Joe Connolly. 4. Monaghan, who beat Cavan in the final by 1-8 to 0-7. 5. The final was played in New York, where the Exiles, won by seven points on aggregate scores over two games. 6. Padraig Horan at full forward. 7. Christy Ryan, who lined out at centre half back. 8. Kevin McCabe captained Tyrone against Mayo against Roscommon in senior football deciders. 9. Paire Uí Chaomh. 10. Two points — 4-9 to 3-10 v Offaly.

GENERAL REVIEW

Results Summary

U.S. TOUR

October 21: Chicago: Football: Kerry 4-15; All Stars 1-11. Hurling: Galway 3-16; All Stars 2-15.

October 26: Los Angeles: Football: All Stars 4-8; Kerry 2-14. DRAW. Hurling: All Stars 1-15; Galway 1-14.

CEANNARUS TOURNAMENT

FOOTBALL

November 9: Croke Park; Final: Offaly 1-11; Kerry 1-8.

NATIONAL LEAGUES

FOOTBALL

November 2: Tullamore: Offaly 2-5; Dublin 0-11. Tralee: Kerry 1-6; Roscommon 0-9. Newbridge: Armagh 2-11; Kildare 2-10. Newcastle: Cork 3-9; Down 1-9. Castleblaney: Monaghan 1-8; Galway 1-8. Portarlinton: Meath 2-8; Laois 0-13. Casement Park, Belfast: Antrim 0-10; Tyrone 0-10.

Cavan: Wexford 1-11; Cavan 0-12. Lisnaskea: Fermanagh 1-5; Clare 0-7. Dundalk: Louth 1-5; Donegal 1-5. Emly: Tipperary 3-9; Sligo 2-8. Carlow: Carlow 1-11; Leitrim 2-7. Stradbally: Waterford 3-7; Limerick 2-8. Aughrim: Wicklow 2-13; Westmeath 1-6. Longford: Longford 2-7; Kilkenny 1-8.

November 16: Croke Park: Dublin 3-9; Kildare 0-11. Fermoy: Cork 2-9; Offaly 2-9. Lurgan: Armagh 1-17; Kerry 2-5. Roscommon: Roscommon 0-13; Down 0-2. Ballinasloe: Galway 1-7; Antrim 1-4. Ballinascreen: Derry 2-7; Monaghan 0-7. Navan: Meath 2-10; Mayo 3-7. Omagh: Laois 0-9; Tyrone 1-5.

Wexford: Wexford 2-8; Tipperary 2-4. Doonbeg: Cavan 1-13; Clare

1-5. Ballybofey: Donegal 0-4; Fermanagh 0-4. Tubbercurry: Louth 1-10; Sligo 0-9.

Nowlan Park: Wicklow 4-13; Kilkenny 0-5. Cloone: Longford 3-5; Leitrim 1-8. Limerick: Limerick 3-9; Carlow 3-8. Castletowngeoghegan: Westmeath 1-8; Waterford 2-2.

HURLING

October 26: New Ross: Cork 4-12; Wexford 1-7.

November 9: Limerick: Offaly 2-14; Limerick 4-6. Thurles: Tipperary 3-8; Galway 0-17. Fermoy: Cork 6-12; Waterford 1-9. Nowlan Park: Laois 3-12; Kilkenny 2-10. Ardferit: Dublin 4-13; Kerry 1-7. Casement Park, Belfast: Clare 3-9; Antrim 1-7. Newbridge: Kildare 5-3; Carlow 1-11. Trim: Down 8-8; Meath 4-8. Athleague: Roscommon 3-10; Wicklow 2-10.

November 16: Croke Park: Kilkenny 2-11; Dublin 1-8.

FOOTBALL Division III

October 26: Final: Carrick-on-Shannon: Mayo 2-13; Monaghan 0-7.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

CONNACHT — HURLING

October 26: Athleague: Tremane: Roscommon 9-9; St. Mary's, Leitrim 3-6. November 2: Semi-final: Athleague: Tremane 2-17; Tooreen, Mayo 0-5.

LEINSTER — FOOTBALL

October 26: Portarlinton: O'Dempsey's, Laois 2-2; Clane, Kildare 0-8. Draw. Longford: Baltinglass, Wicklow 2-10; Longford Slashers 1-10. Croke Park: Civil Service, Dublin 5-5; St. Fintan's, Wexford 1-5.

November 1: Naas: O'Dempsey's 2-11; Clane 2-11. Replay.

November 8: Aughrim: Baltin-glass 3-11; Walsh Island, Offaly, the holders 1-3.

November 9: Tullamore: O'Dempsey's 1-8; Clane 0-7. Second Replay. O'Toole Park, Dublin: Civil Service 0-8; Walterstown, Meath 0-8. Draw. Carlow: Éire Óg, Carlow 0-8; Roche Emmets. Louth 0-5.

LEINSTER — HURLING

November 1: Naas: Ardclough, Kildare 3-13; Camross (Laois) 3-9.

November 2: Delvin: Rathnure, Wexford 1-15; Ringtown, Westmeath 1-12.

November 8: Kilkenny Shamrocks, Kilkenny 2-15; St. Brendan's, Dublin 0-9.

November 16: Carlow: Rathnure, Wexford 2-12; Shamrocks, Kilkenny 3-9. Draw. Aughrim: Coolderry, Offaly 3-11; Carnew Emmets, Wicklow 2-7.

MUNSTER — FOOTBALL

November 9: Stradbally, Waterford: Stradbally 0-9; Galtee Rovers, Tipperary 0-9. Draw.

MUNSTER — HURLING

November 16: Semi-finals: Drumcollogher: St. Finbarr's, Cork 3-14; Killeedy 3-7. Newmarket-on-Fergus: Roscrea, Tipperary 2-10; Newmarket-on-Fergus. Clare 2-8.

ULSTER — FOOTBALL

October 26: Semi-Finals: Ballybay: Scotstown, Monaghan 2-10. Kilcar, Donegal 1-7. Hilltown: St. John's, Antrim 4-6; Clonduff, Down 0-12.

ULSTER — HURLING

October 26: Final: Ballycran: Ballycastle, Antrim 1-20; Ballycran, Down 0-13.

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JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON



AS this is the Christmas issue of Gaelic Sport, I thought it best to look back at what were for me the memories of 1980. It was the year in which I first met that marvellous Gael, Sam Melbourne, whose G.A.A. museum is becoming bigger and better with every day and becoming known more and more throughout the land. It was the year in which Galway at last won the All-Ireland Senior Hurling title after 56 years of waiting and we haven't got over the feeling of happiness and celebration here in Galway since. The year too in which Tuam C.B.S. won its first ever Connacht Colleges Senior Football title beating St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, twice in the same College year. And the year in which Offaly won its first ever Leinster Senior Hurling title, bringing off the Leinster double in the process.

So many firsts help to keep the lesser known clubs and colleges and counties going. Kerry won their 3-in-a-row in a depressing final against Roscommon that lacked colour, style and above all the character that was so much part of Gaelic Football — ten, twenty, thirty years ago. Something is seriously wrong with the game of Gaelic Football. The best game I saw in the whole year was the Connacht Colleges Final already alluded to. Especially the second half of that game when it poured from the heavens and players threw caution to the winds and forgot about the man and played the ball as it should be played.

It was the year too, in which we saw the brutal murder of three of our well-known Gardai G.A.A. members — John Morley, Henry Byrne and Seamus Quaid. I was travelling on a plane from Pisa to London when I read with disgust of the tragic deaths of the two Mayo Gardai and I thought to myself that we shouldn't tolerate this destruction of our best people by some of our so-called

patriots. Overall, hurling memories tended to dominate but this is not to take away from the fact that the present Kerry team is one of the greatest I have seen and would be capable of asserting itself in the game played as it was even twenty five years ago.

INDIVIDUALS

On the individual side one remembers the great scoring feats of Matt Connor of Offaly. Especially those kicked goals. One remembers too Minor star, Tom Spillane, another of that illustrious Temple-noe family and one remembers the boyish face of wee Ollie O'Connor of Limerick as he tramped off the field after the Munster final surrounded by hordes of fans in what was for him a great hurling year apart from the indifferent final. This new hurling star has many years ahead of him.

I loved too the singing of Kevin Owens with the Artane Boys Band of the rival counties "National Anthems" at half time during both Finals. And even if it wasn't a year in which Jimmy Barry-Murphy's name was on everybody's lips it was yet a marvellous year for him in that he won National League medals and Cork County Senior medals in both codes in the same year. What a marvellous young man and such a modest character. Other names to impress in an individual way were Galway hurlers, Bernie Forde and Jimmy Cooney and Roscommon left-corner back, Gerry Connellan whose name wasn't known outside his own county at the start of the year.

CONGRESS

Congress in Newcastle, Co. Down, was a tremendously organised affair. It was great to meet all the old Down stars and to see the wonderful visual presentation of the A.I.B. Award winners and the

Down Coiste na nOg sponsored schoolboy Art and Scrap Book competitions. The handpass debate in Congress is one I will never forget. It was a great pity that the English Grand National was televised at the same time as this vital debate, for it robbed the hall of many voters. If this should ever happen again, there should be a recess for the Grand National showing.

Scór too provided me with many great memories especially the finals (Senior in the National Stadium and Scór na nÓg in Leisureland). Waterford's great triumphs in the Senior Finals will always be remembered and overall the set dancing seems to dominate my memories.

Here in Junior Desk the "Mailbag Section" was as always the most interesting and we gave out many prizes as usual. Our greatest memory has to be our O'Neill sponsored tribute to the ten most deserving winners from our ten years of Junior Desk. Our thanks once again to Seamus Dalton of O'Neills who kindly contributed ten track suits to the winners and a Super Prize to Junior Desk's most loyal member over the period of ten years namely Gerry Pender of Aghrim, Co. Wicklow.

It was refreshing to go back on the ten years of Junior Desk and to parade the names of the young people who made the column and to see the stars developing like Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Charlie McCarthy and Mickey Sheehy and Dermot Earley and Iggy Clarke and Jimmy Keaveney to mention but a few.

SUNDAY GAME

"The Sunday Game" came back on the T.V. screens during the Summer with a new face in Sean Óg Ó Ceallachain who settled quickly into the job. Early on Liz Howard (hurling) and Enda Colleran

• OVERLEAF

● **FROM OVERLEAF**

(football) were the sole panelists. Later Eamonn Cregan and Kevin Heffernan were added to the panel. I would like to see Eddie Keher, Frank Murphy of Cork, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Mick O'Connell, Joe McDonagh availed of more in this line. Liz and Enda have become quite expert at this game now but they need to be supplemented for discussion purposes.

Donncha O'Dulaing in his Highways and Byways programme continued to include the G.A.A. and its stories of today and yesterday in practically every one of his daily outputs. The G.A.A. owes a lot to this man who realises what the organisation means throughout the land. He is a natural radio man and his easy conversation style puts his subjects at ease. He knows his G.A.A. too and is much more conversant with the scene than Liam Ó Murchu who usually has to be told who everybody is at his Trom agus Eadrom shows prior to the All-Ireland final. I usually enjoy these shows very much and I was glad to see the football one this year top the Tam Ratings.

During the Summer I did a profile series for the new Sunday paper, *The Sunday Journal*, and this brought me in contact with among others, Iggy Jones of Dungannon, Jack Walsh of Asdee, Co. Kerry, the Bomber Liston, Damien Martin of Offaly and Denis Coughlan of Cork. It was great especially to meet Iggy Jones after so many years and to find him so full of life and so interested in the G.A.A. and Tyrone football. It is a pity that we haven't a few of his calibre in the game playing for counties other than Kerry at the moment. So much for the memories of 1980.

CUT OUT

Our Cut-out this month is Pat McLoughney the wonderful Tipperary goalkeeper. The first time he caught my eye was in that epic game v Cork in Páirc Uí Chaoimh in June 1979. His was an All-Star display that day. One save just nearing the end that day will always remain with me as one of the greatest and most courageous I have seen. Not alone did he save well but he cleared magnificently as well. That was the day he became a star and he is star ever since.

REVIEWS

Junior Desk is always a good forum for G.A.A. book reviews So what is current?

Éire Óg, Ennis monthly club bulletin costing 20p deserves great praise. The October issue tells the story of Éire Óg's Clare S.H.C. success with many good photos, after match comments and a two page autograph team photo centre spread plus some off beat photos from the Co. Final scene. But the "Sidelines" by Observer column on the back page is the real meaty club information section. Eire Og deserve credit for this bulletin. Keep it up even when there is no county title won.

New Gaelsport G.A.A. Annual for Boys. This is the first ever G.A.A. Youth Annual and Coisde na n-Óg have kindly offered five copies for a competition in this column. The annual is very colourful and sells at £2.25. It can be got in the shops. Best of all it competes with the imported ones. So all of you interested are asked to get a Postcard, write your name and address on it and answer the following questions.

(1) Jimmy Barry-Murphy's club is

(2) The G.A.A. Ground in Roscommon is called Park?

Then complete the following sentence in no more than twenty words "Hurling is better than football because"

..... " Don't forget to sign your name and send on the Postcard to the address at the end of the Mailbag. Do it right away.

Castlegar — 100 Years of Hurling — The History of the 1980 All-Ireland S.H. Club Champions. This, the history of Galway's most titled hurling club, is available costing £2 from Michael Broderick, Parkmore, Castlegar, Galway. It is a seventy two page book and is a must for all fans to add to their collection.

THE MAILBAG

Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20, Fairfield Rd., Bath, England BA16JG "Re Gaelic football, the sooner the throw is outlawed, the better. How good are Kerry? Very good but not

the best I have seen. For me the Down team of 60-'61, then the present Kerry side and the Dubs of a few years ago".

● *Any reader like to comment on this? (J.M.)*

Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway. "Thanks for the prize of a Galway G.A.A. tie. I think you should have a Reader of the Year prize"

● *What do other readers think of this suggestion? I hope you wear the tie well. (J.M.)*

Eileen Murphy, Railway View, Rathmore, Co. Kerry. "I was delighted Kerry won the 3-in-a-row. But the game left a lot to be desired. The rules should be reviewed! My stars of the final were Tim Kennelly, Pat Spillane and Jack O'Shea. John O'Keeffe must stand a great chance of at least equalling Dan O'Keeffe's record of seven All-Ireland football medals".

● *How about a photo of John, as he is called in Tralee, specially for Eileen (J.M.)*

Michael Coen, 1 Crowe St., Gort, Co. Galway is a cousin of Steve Mahon's and proud of it. He loves Junior Desk, especially the Mailbag section and attended the last two All-Ireland S.H. finals. "Galway's display in this year's final was magnificent".

● *So it was Michael. Fáilte to Junior Desk. You win a Galway G.A.A. tie. (J.M.)*

Joseph McElligott, Glenoe, Listowel, Co. Kerry has the following tapes, if any reader is interested.

Dublin v Kerry All-Ireland S.F. Final '78.

Cork v Kerry Munster S.F. Final '79.

Monaghan v Kerry Semi-Final '79.

Dublin v Kerry Final '79.

Cork v Kerry Munster Final '79 and this year's Kerry v Offaly (S.F.), Galway v Offaly (S.H.) and Dublin v Offaly (S.F.)

● *Any readers interested please write to Joseph. (J.M.)*

Sean McCartan, Dercar, Beragh, Omagh, Co. Tyrone. "It was great to see Tyrone reach this year's Ulster Final. My favourite players are Kevin McCabe, Eugene McKenna, Damien O'Hagan and Patsy Kerlin. I want a Cut-out of Patsy. It is a long time now since Jackie Taggart played on you in Croke Park".



Specially for Jack Mahon and lovers of good hurling everywhere we include this action picture from the 1980 All-Ireland Hurling Final. Seamus Coen is on the left and Jimmy Cooney also from Galway on the right.

● *Sean, yes it is a long time. Jackie was a great footballer. So was John Joe O'Hagan, Damien's father. You win a Tyrone G.A.A. scarf. (J.M.).*

Leo Doyle, Bodyke, Co. Clare asks me a lot of questions in his letter and straight away let me say I'm against the handpass in football. Leo wants a Quiz of the Year. He won a minor medal in Sept. and was at the All-Ireland S.H. final where he thought Bernie Fond the man of the match "because he was able to pick off this scores so nicely".

● *So he was. (J.M.).*

Finally a letter from old friend Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper,

Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow who sent me on copies of the *Wicklow People* and *Enniscorthy Guardian* for their county final previews and accounts. Gerry is delighted with Galway's hurling success. "They had so many heroes but Bernie Forde was my man of the match. He was superbly sharp and skilful. He gave a display to compare with Eddie Keher, Pat Delaney or Kieran Purcell. The first time I saw him play was in the minor game v Cork before the epic Galway v Cork semi-final in 1975. I was at the Wicklow S.H. and S.F. finals and the Wexford S.H. final".

● *Good man Gerry. You're a real true-blue. (J.M.).*

So that's it for another month. Nollaig shona dhíobh to léir — don't forget the competition.

Write about anything to:—

Junior Desk,
c/o GAELIC SPORT,
80, Upper Drumcondra Rd.,
Dublin 9.

Jack Mahon

RESULTS SUMMARY

• FROM PAGE 36

HANDBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE

October 26: Clonmel: Clare bt. Tipperary. Division II: Cappagh: Tipperary bt. Kildare. Castlebar: Mayo bt. Armagh.

November 2: Croke Park: Dublin bt. Kilkenny. Division II. Garryhill: Carlow bt. Tipperary. Loughmacrory: Meath bt. Tyrone.

November 8: Cappagh: Limerick bt. Kildare.

November 16: Tinahely: Wicklow bt. Dublin. Tuamgraney: Wexford bt. Clare. Division II: Garryhill: Carlow bt. Limerick. Ballymore-Eustace: Dublin bt. Kildare.

CAMOGIE LEINSTER SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

October 26: Final: Mullinavat, Kilkenny: Kilkenny 5-6; Dublin 4-3.

GAEL-LINN CUP

Senior Final: November 2: St. John's Park, Kilkenny: Munster 2-5; Leinster 2-1.

Junior Final: November 2: St. John's Park, Kilkenny: Munster 1-9; Leinster 3-2.

ALL-IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

November 9: Final: St. John's Park, Kilkenny: Killeagh, Cork 4-2; Buffer's Alley, Wexford 1-7.



• At a recent function in Cork to mark the presentation of a pewter plaque to the former Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, T.D., as a memento of his visit last June to the Guinness Brewery in Malaysia were (from left): Patrick Galvin, Managing Director (Dublin) and John Lyons (right) Cork Area representative of Guinness Group Sales. John Lyons played with the former Taoiseach in the 'fifties' at both club (Glen Rovers) and county level, and they both hold All-Ireland hurling medals — Jack six and John four.

• FROM PAGE 31

Another who played a very vital part and injected a new spirit into the players was Father David O'Connor, now ministering in the U.S.A. With his brother, Joe, he was the inspiration behind the revival and complete re-organisation of the team.

Father Dave instilled into the players a firm belief in their abilities, he stressed the absolute importance of ground hurling, allied with a quick movement of the ball and quick decisive tackling by the defence — tactics that have certainly proved their value as the key to eventual success.

The club has given many players to county teams down the years, and the most prominent of these were — Rev. Joe Hayes, Revs. Willie and Paudie Fitzmaurice; the Curtin brothers of Glenduff; the Magners, Con, John and Tom; Jim and Pat Shanahan, John Herlihy, Jerome O'Callaghan, John Joe Dore, Jack Foley, Donie Flynn, Ben O'Sullivan, John McGrath and Denis O'Connor.

REVIEW

• FROM PAGE 17

"Action", which was concerned with social and political questions, lasted for three issues — 1942. Nearer our own time "An Fios" (not mentioned in the history) appeared in the early 'Seventies'. Of all the G.A.A. publications — the one perhaps that we miss the most is "Our Games" which first appeared in 1958 and was generally agreed to be one of the best G.A.A. publications on the market up to its demise in 1978.

This is an absorbing book for all those interested in how the G.A.A. developed and achieved its present pre-eminent position in Irish society. It would make an excellent Christmas present for either yourself or somebody else in your home, where you could get a free read.

"The G.A.A.: A History" by Marcus de Burca, price £9.95 (including taxes) is available from the G.A.A. Shop, Croke Park, Dublin 3 and all leading booksellers.



**Pat
McLoughney
(Tipperary)**

Age: 25
Height: 5ft. 10ins.
Weight: 12st. 7lb.
Club: Shannon Rovers
Position: Goalkeeper
Senior Inter-County
Debut: 1976

**CAREER
HIGHLIGHTS**

Pat had a big say in bringing the National Hurling League title back to Tipperary in 1979 after an interval of 11 years. That win gave him his only major national inter-county medal so far.

He was honoured in the initial Bank of Ireland All Stars team in 1979 to become the first Tipperary man to find favour in the No. 1 position, and he retained his place in this year's selection.

Pat was goalkeeper for Munster when they lost the Railway Cup final to Connacht last St. Patrick's Day — his only appearance as yet in a national senior decider at headquarters.

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