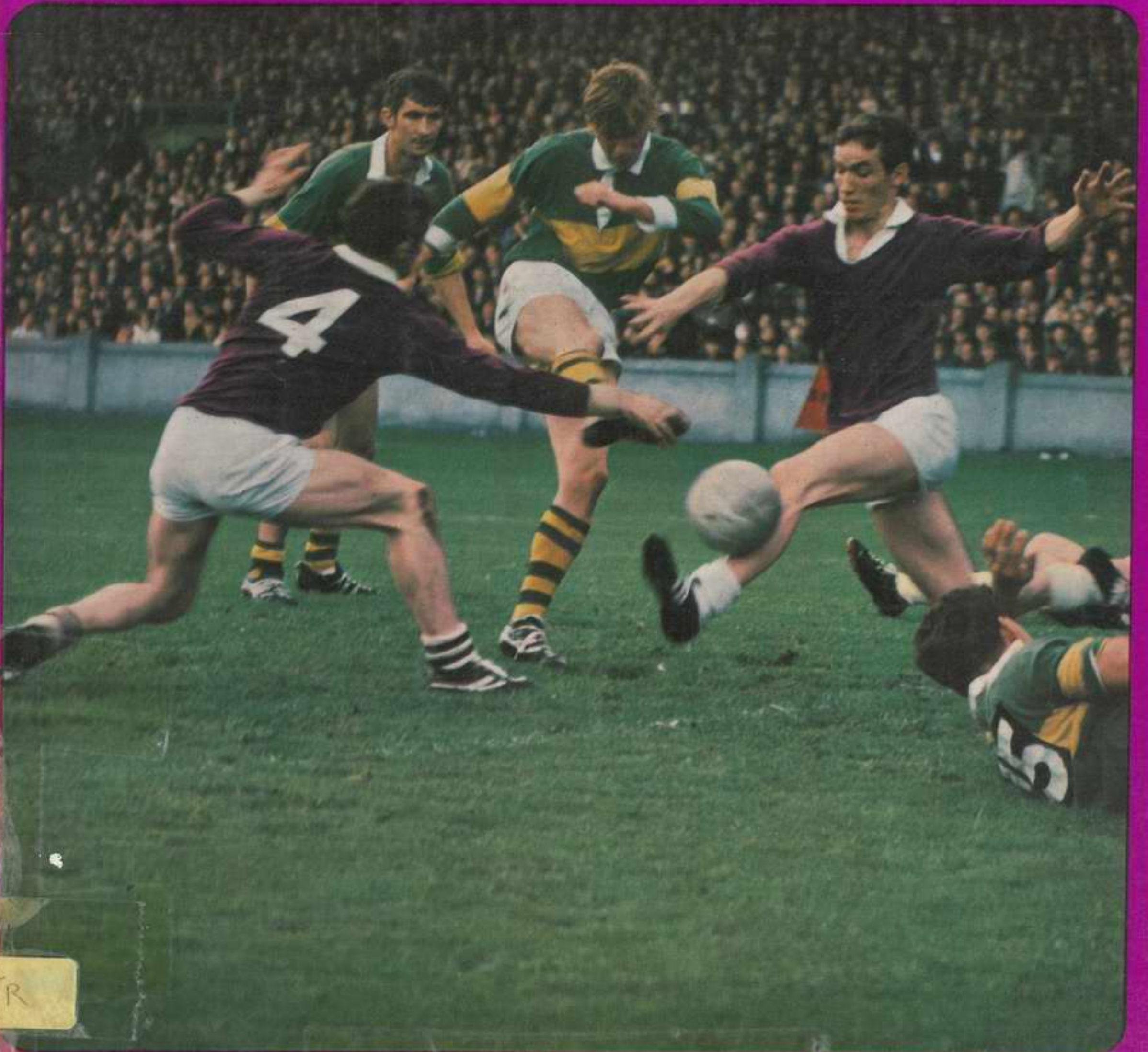


euehulam

annual 1969

luach 4s



TR

FOR THE
BEST HOLIDAY OF ALL—

COME TO

Butlin's

HOLIDAY CAMP

MOSNEY, CO. MEATH

*

TWO BALLROOMS

::

TWO THEATRES

HEATED INDOOR SWIMMING POOL
SPORTS EQUIPMENT FREE

*

inquiries to the Camp, or to Butlin's Holiday Bureau, 4/5 Trinity Street, Dublin, or any Travel Agent.

*

HAVE FUN IN THE SUN AT MOSNEY!

BANAGHER TILES LTD.

pioneers of precast concrete products in Ireland and makers of the famous



BANTILE

PRECAST CONCRETE

PRODUCTS

Already we have supplied precast, pre-stressed concrete bench seating at G.A.A. sports grounds in Mullingar, Athlone, Ballinrobe, Roscrea, Westport and Castleblayney — now we have pre-stressed some 10,000 ft. of seating for Gaelic Grounds at Ennis Road, Limerick.

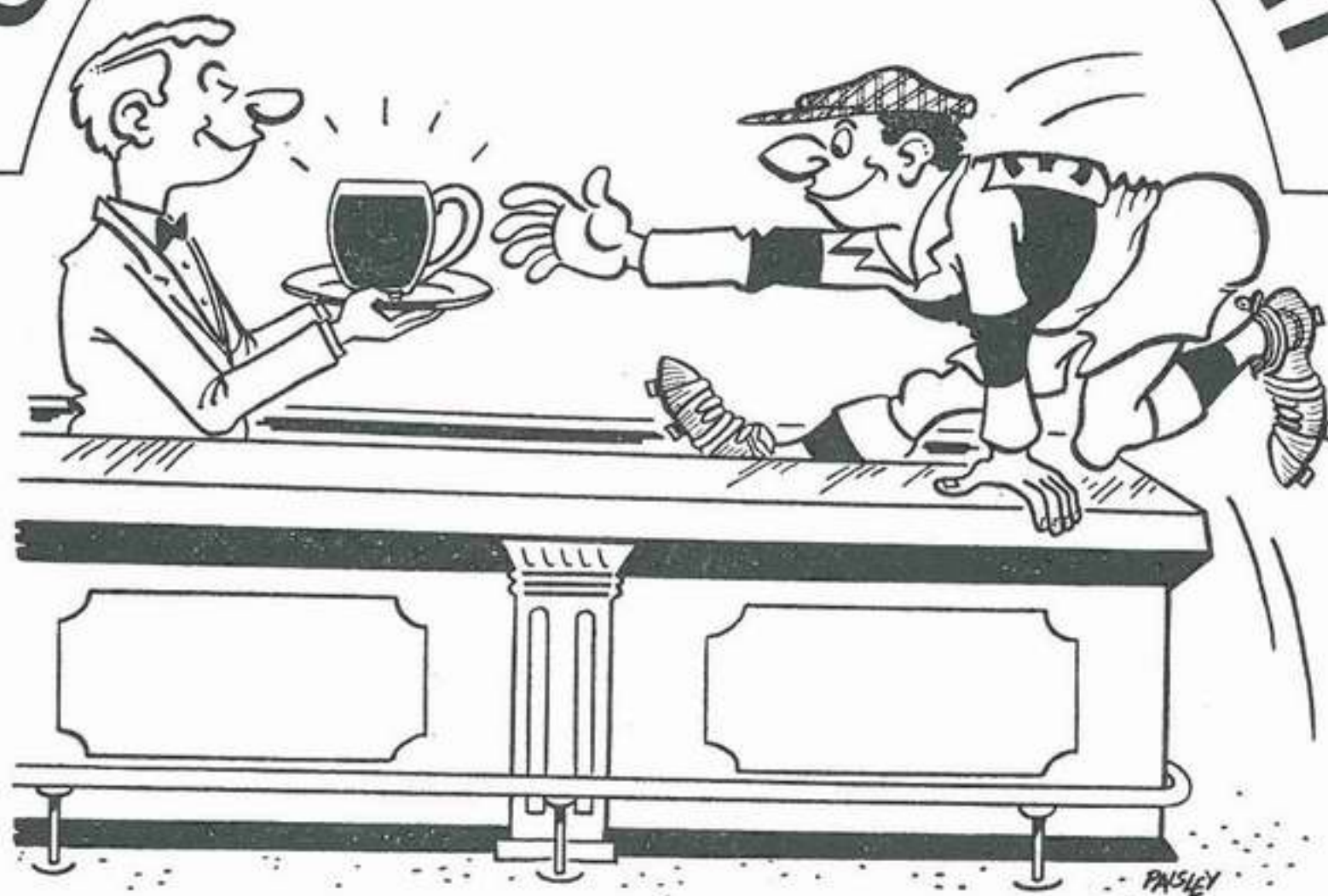
Pavilions, changing rooms and similar structures can be easily and quickly erected using our precast sectional buildings.

Contact us and we will be glad to help you with your Sports Grounds problems.

BANAGHER TILES LIMITED, Banagher, Co. Offaly

Telephone: Banagher 17 and 37

OVER THE BAR FOR A PINT



GUINNESS
naturally

GD465b

Limerick City Library



3 0002 00232216 2

Mackey's

THE PORT PEOPLE

*

*CORK FOR THE BEST IN
HURLING*

*

*MACKEY'S FOR THE BEST IN
SAUSAGES*

*

39 PRINCE'S STREET,
86 NORTH MAIN STREET,
CORK

'DRIPSEY'

The name that denotes quality

in

TWEEDS

BLANKETS

RUGS

CURTAINING

and

UPHOLSTERY FABRICS

*

Representatives :

DUBLIN : M. S. Corcoran, 31 Marlborough Street.

MUNSTER : P. O'Kelly & Son, 15 Princes Street, Cork.

THE CORK RENDEZVOUS
FOR
ALL GAELS

THE METROPOLE HOTEL

MacCURTAIN STREET, CORK

Telephone : CORK 51301

D. Matthews

LIMITED

ACADEMY STREET, CORK

Agent for

ST. LUA HURLEYS

*

Stockists of

FOOTBALLS, JERSEYS,
KNICKS, SOCKS,
BOOTS, and ALL
OTHER EQUIPMENT

*

*Special Terms for
Schools and Clubs*

*

TELEPHONE 20787/24981



Nazareth House Ceili Band, tips from the Professor!

In SCOTLAND at Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Kilmarnock.

In IRELAND at Sligo, Mallow and Fahan, and Belfast, Portadown, and Derry.

In AUSTRALIA at Melbourne, Ballarat, Sebastopol, Brisbane Geraldton, Tamworth and Sydney, Tasmania, Perth.

In NEW ZEALAND at Christchurch and Middleton.

In SOUTH AFRICA at Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Johannesburg, Kimberley, Fourteen Streams, Pretoria and Salisbury.

In CALIFORNIA, U.S.A., at San Diego, Van Nuys, Los Angeles Fresno and San Francisco and Madison, Wisconsin.

For the reception of Aspirants to the religious life a House of Study has been opened at: St. Teresa's, Nazareth House, Fahan, Co. Donegal.

Novitiates have been opened at Nazareth House, Hendon, London, W.4.; Nazareth House, East Camberwell, 6; Victoria, Australia, and at Nazareth House, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

NAZARETH HOUSE

HAMMERSMITH, LONDON, W.6.

The Mother House and Novitiate of the Congregation of the Poor Sisters of Nazareth. Application for admission of Candidates to the Novitiate are to be made to the Rev. Mother General, who will be happy to furnish all particulars.

Telegrams: "Religo, London, W.6."

Branch Houses of the Institute all styled "Nazareth House", are established in ENGLAND at: Birmingham, Bristol, Bexhill, Blackburn, Birkenhead, Cheltenham, Cardiff, Ditton, Finchley, Great Crosby, Hendon, Isleworth, Lancaster, Middlesboro, Newbury, Newcastle, Nottingham, Northampton, Manchester, Oxford, Plymouth, Southend, Southampton, Swansea, Southsea, Wavertree, Wrexham, Yelverton.

INQUIRIES INVITED

FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLAYING
PITCHES

*

We are geared to carry out earth works with our own machine and can supply designs and prices for our system built Dressing rooms which are fabricated in our shops and erected in a matter of days on your pitch.

*

J. J. O'LEARY & SONS
(Contractors) LTD.

FERMOY

TELEPHONE 119

FOR SECURITY

BET WITH

JOHN P. CURTIN

Head Office:

**4 SULLIVAN'S QUAY,
CORK**

Branches Throughout City

Fón: 21771

BE CORRECTLY DRESSED FROM HEAD TO
TOE

by

KELLYS
MALLOW

COMPLETE LADIES', GENTS' and CHILDRENS'
OUTFITTERS

Tel.: Mallow 21227/21425

KEVIN KANE and
THE
**ARRIVALS
SHOWBAND**



Fastest Moving
Showband on
the Scene



MANAGER,
15 BRIDGE STREET, CORK

CORK MARTS

Ireland's Largest Producer-Owned
Livestock Marketing Organisation



ANNUAL SALES
£14.5 MILLION



CORK CO-OPERATIVE MARTS LTD.

36 PATRICK'S QUAY, CORK

'Phone 51391/8

Telex 6110

SPECIALISTS WITH A TRADITION

in the Manufacture of Cups, Sports Trophies and Medals
LARGE STOCKS OF JEWELLERY, Watches, Clocks, Silver,
Silver plate and Waterford Glass at a price to suit all pockets.
Engravings and watch and jewellery repairs are carried out by
a large and highly skilled staff.

Hopkins & Hopkins Ltd

(Opposite O'Connell Monument)

Agents for Omega, Rolex, Candino and Certina Watches..

Large Selection of Diamond Rings from £10 to £500.

GALWAY ATTESTED SALES

Sell all your Livestock in our Salesyard

at

ATHENRY CO-OP. MART LIMITED

Tel.: 72 and 79

BALLINASLOE CO-OP. MART LIMITED

Tel.: 184

GORT CO-OPERATIVE MART LIMITED

Tel.: 84

TUAM CO-OPERATIVE MART LIMITED

Tel.: 24353

Enter your Stock early for our Sales to enable us to advertise numbers on offer. Large entries make good sales.

If you are a Pig Feeder let us handle your Pigs for you. Highest Basic Prices paid for all Pigs. In addition a Bonus of 5/- per st. d/w. on Pigs Grading 'A' Special and 4/- per st. d/w. on Pigs Grading 'A'.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR SPECIAL SALES ADVERTISEMENT in Daily and Weekly Papers and in Old Moore's Almanac for 1969.

The more support you give the Co-operative Movement all the more it can benefit you.

Clóidóirí na Corrib

CORRIB PRINTERS



All Your

PRINTING REQUIREMENTS

carried out

promptly and efficiently



EYRE SQUARE, GALWAY

Telefón 4369

New Factory Premises at PARKAVERA, MILL STREET

HOTEL SACRE - COEUR

SALTHILL, GALWAY

SOCIALS, WEDDINGS and OTHER FUNCTIONS CATERED FOR

Centrally Heated throughout : Fully Licensed

MUSICAL EVENINGS EACH NIGHT DURING THE SUMMER SEASON

Telephones : 2807 and 4818



We put safety first!

with the **GOOD YEAR G8**

and the full range of GOODYEAR Tyres for Cars, Trucks, Vans and Tractors
Made in the Republic of Ireland

Main Distributor



When your
tyres
are worn
avail of the
FIT KILKENNY
Remould service

Depots:

KILKENNY · DUBLIN · CORK ·
LIMERICK · GALWAY · ATHLONE ·
LETTERKENNY · DUNDALK ·
TRALEE · SLIGO · BELFAST



Frank O'HALLORAN

FROZEN FOOD DISTRIBUTORS

*

CASTLEMAHON OVEN-READY
CHICKENS

WHITE DUCKLINGS
TURKEYS

*

BEST SUIR VALLEY ICES

*

BATCHELOR'S FROZEN FOOD
Distributors for all Clare

ENNIS

Tel. 21335

WE HAVE THE MOST LUXURIOUS AND LARGEST FLEET
OF CARS IN IRELAND

Play Safe by Hiring from

MOLEY'S MOTORS

THE SELF-DRIVE SPECIALIST

49, VICTORIA SQUARE, BELFAST

Telephone: 33123. 10% Discount to all G.A.A. Clubs

For top quality
BEEF, LAMB and PORK
go to . . .

ARMSTRONG'S

MEAT PURVEYOR and
POULTERER

Sausages a Speciality
Fowl & Eggs direct for the
Farm

509 CRUMLIN ROAD,
BELFAST

Telephone 744329

**TERENCE
MURPHY**

●

PUBLICAN

●

1 MONAGHAN STREET,
NEWRY

Telephone 3345

For the Best in —

LACES, ELASTICS

and

TAPES

**BRAIDS
LIMITED**

DUBLIN

Tel. 771186

ENNIS

Tel.: 21109

EAMON REEVES

ENNISCORTHY

*

LUXURY COACHES FOR HIRE

Advance Booking Advisable

TOURS, DAY TRIPS, DANCES, SPORTING EVENTS,
Etc.

PICNIC FACILITIES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Tel.: Enniscorthy 2464

AMBROSE D. HOWARD

GENERAL GROCER,
SELECT FRUIT

and

SWEETS

5 NEWBRIDGE ROAD,
ENNIS, CO. CLARE

Telephone 21355

VIGZOL

MOTOR and TRACTOR OILS

supreme in every field!

VIGZOL LUBRICANTS LIMITED

The Long Mile, Walkinstown, Dublin, 12

Telephone 503933

Make your first call at the

ABBAY HOTEL

THE DIAMOND, DONEGAL

Telephone 14

Telegrams: "BRESLIN'S HOTEL, DONEGAL"

THE DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES

a modern Society of Religious Priests and Brothers, have missionfields in South America, China (temporarily closed), Formosa, Japan, The Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea, Africa and India.

Boys and young men thinking of serving Christ in the Missions and those who as yet are merely interested, are cordially invited to write to:

FR. HUGH McCLURE, S.V.D.
Donamon Castle,
Roscommon.



Every SPORTSMAN knows —

HARRY'S

(Proprietor: Thomas Bourke)

KINNEGAD, CO. WESTMEATH

Tel.: Killucan 7706

Select **ACCOMMODATION**

High-class **RESTAURANT**

Fine Foods ————— Excellent Service ————— Luxurious Surroundings
FULLY LICENSED ————— G.A.A. TEAMS CATERED FOR

JOHN McNEILL

The Castle Bar

Castle St., **BALLYCASTLE**

Tel.: Ballycastle 435

When in Ballycastle visit the
Castle Bar. For best Draught
— Wines and Spirits.

Prop.: John McNeill

Whether you lose, or whether you win, there's' always a welcome at
the

GLEN INN

PETER BYRNE

THE SQUARE, GLENGORMLEY

MODERN PUBLIC & LOUNGE BARS

OFF-SALES DEPARTMENT

IRISH CENTRE

127 MOUNT PLEASANT,

LIVERPOOL 3

The Irish Centre has been pleased to arrange week-ends in Liverpool for G.A.A. clubs from Louth and Tipperary. Visits to Liverpool Cathedral and Aintree Racecourse, as well as Hurling and Football with the Liverpool G.A.A. clubs have been included. Why not your club ?

IRISH QUALITY GOODS

The Irish Centre recently added to its facilities a shop for the promotion of Irish made goods of top quality.

If you think we can sell your goods, send samples and prices now!

Enquiries : T. WALSH, Manager

Main Rootes Dealers,
Cork and County,
Hillman, Humber,
Sunbeam, Commer.

TRUX LTD.

20/24 LAVITTS QUAY,

CORK

25008 25009 25000



B.W. CREDIT CORPORATION LTD.

Members of The Irish Finance Houses Association

- **AGRICULTURAL**
- **INDUSTRIAL**
- **MOTOR FINANCE**



INDUSTRIAL BANKERS

14 FITZWILLIAM SQUARE, DUBLIN 2. Telephone 67206

34 Grand Parade, Cork. Phone Cork 24429. Market Cross, Carlow. Phone Carlow 566

Athlone Road, Roscommon. Phone 6277. John St., Kells. Phone Kells 14

CUCHULAINN ANNUAL, 1969

contents

Reamhrá an Uachtaráin	11
A Year Remembered	12
Betting and Gaelic Games	15
Brendan Behan	17
A Family Affair	18
Ard-Cuimhní na Bliana	21
Down Team in Colour	25
Annals of Gaeldom	27
Case Against London	29
Ulster's Year	32
Jimmy Duggan Talks	35
The All-Stars	41
The Times a-changing, O!	44
Camogie	47
Scoring Feats of 1968	50
Poem	53
Photo Competition	54
Great Photos of 1968	55
Wexford Team in Colour	64
The Best of Mace	65
Discoveries of the Year	66
Siar, is Romhainn	69
NACA Results	71
Memories	78
The G.A.A. and The Olympics	81
Handball	83

Published by Press Cuchulainn Ltd., 58 Haddington Road, Dublin 4 (Tel. 60271) and printed by Drogheda Printers Ltd., 8 Bolton Street, Drogheda. Member of the National Publishing Group.

Edited by Brendan Mac Lua

Eagarfhocal

It is probably safe to suggest that no native activity or subject has had more written about it down the years than has the G.A.A. and Gaelic games. The commentators, both national and local have been, and still are, legion and, almost without fail, the theme of every article is stolid in the extreme.

This prompts the question if, despite all the great deficiencies levied against the Association, one major deficiency has been overlooked — namely, the inability to laugh at ourselves?

As a small test of that premise we are reproducing an article from COMHAR, "The Annals of Gaeldom," and we sit back and await a re-action to it. Will it be one of condemnation or of laughter?

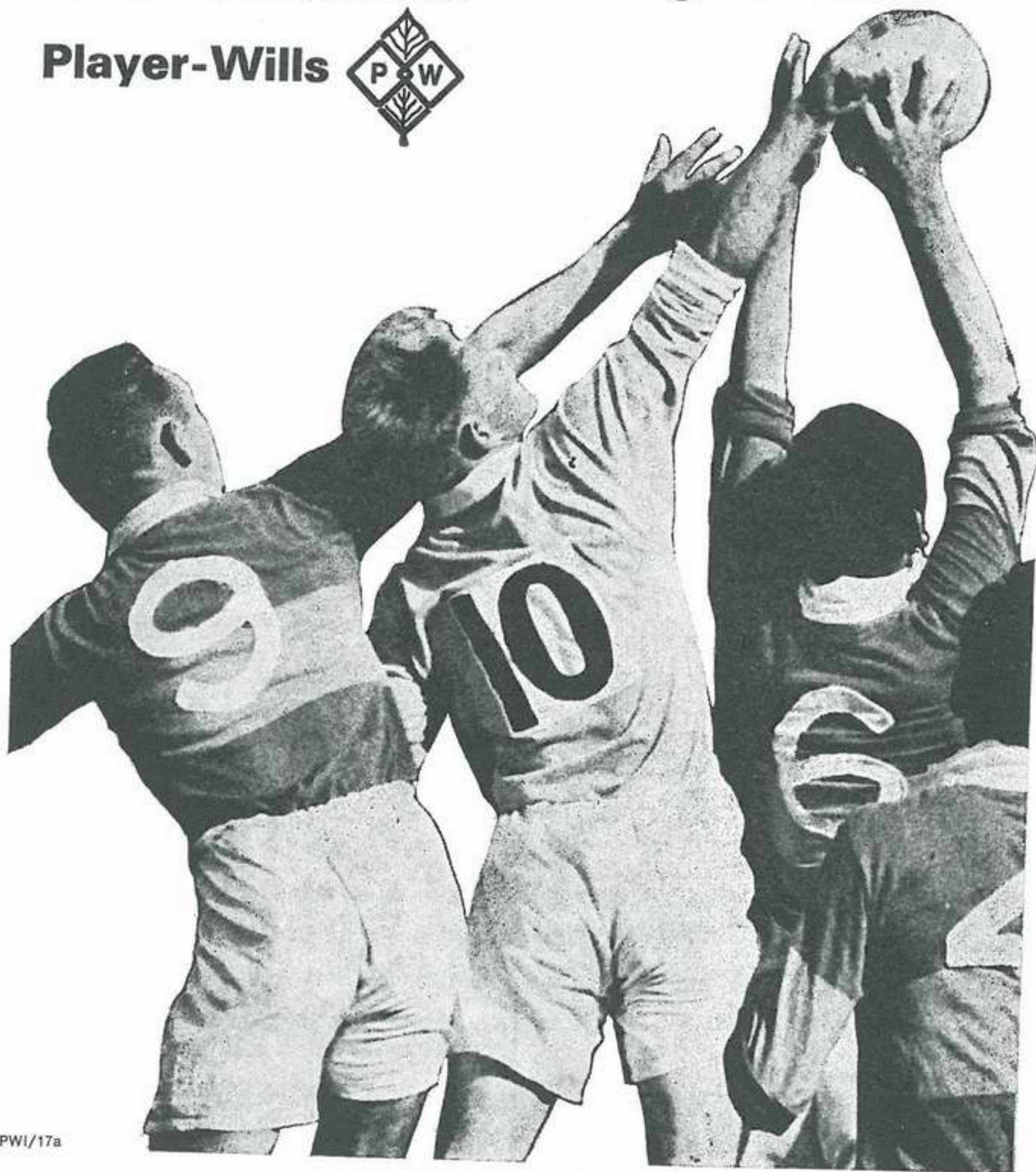
We hope it is the latter . . . if for no better reason but that it is Christmas time!

Nollaig faoi shéan agus faoi shonas.

Player-Wills, famous throughout the country for their support of sporting and cultural projects, have long been closely associated with the G.A.A. Over the years they have sponsored the Gael-Linn films "Peil" and "Christy Ring", Jack Mahon's "Three in a Row" and Raymond Smith's history of hurling, "Decades of Glory". As well as a great many other activities. Now Player-Wills are proud to have helped to make possible the publication of Raymond Smith's new, definitive work, "The Football Immortals".

**another winner
by the same
great team**

Player-Wills



Réamhrá

an

Uachtarain



Séamus Ó Riain, Uachtarán C.L.G.

IS déagóir breá láidir é Bliainiris Chuchulainn. Ní beag an teist ar a éifeacht agus a fheabhas go bhfuil an aois sin slánithe aige agus gur i méid atá an glaoch air. Tá mé faoi chomaoín ag an Eagarthóir toisc an deis a thabhairt dom cúpla focal a scríobh mar réamhrá do eagrán na bliana seo.

Faoi'n am seo de bhliain bíonn na siopaí leabhar ag bruacháil le bliainirísí de gach cinéal iad uile ag iarraidh súil an phobail a tharrach. Cúis bróid duinne "Cúchulainn" d'fheiscin go dea-ghléasta, beathaithe in a measc agus ní mór dúinn traoslú leis an lucht stiúrtha mar gheall ar an crot taitneamhach atá air agus toisc an t-ábhar atá ann a bheith chomh suimiúil, oiriúnach.

It is pleasant to write a foreward for this Annual which has become so well established over the years. Its appearance in the book stalls is eagerly looked forward to at this time of year and each new issue becomes more attractive in appearance and in content.

Readers of all ages look to the Cuchulainn Annual to recall and highlight for them the thrills of the past year as they took place on our playing fields. The Annual also includes some critical comment and analysis which gives rise to the discussions which are so necessary for the continuing development of our Association.

Back numbers of the Cuchulainn Annual are a constant source of reference in so many homes and are thumbed through again and again as the years go by. As well, it is a medium through which our views of ourselves, of our Association and of its activities are widely disseminated — especially among the young.

Once again we are indebted to Press Cuchulainn for contributing so valuable a publication to G.A.A. literature.

Gura fada buan é.

— SÉAMUS Ó RIAIN

A year remembered

by Eugene McGee

THE foot and mouth precautions had curtailed activities on the playing fields towards the end of 1967 and so there was very keen interest when the season re-opened on January 28. Up in Newry, Down held the All-Ireland champions, Meath, to a draw with the help of two points from Paddy Doherty, making a comeback after a 16 months absence, while in Croke Park U.C.D. regained the Sigerson Cup after a six year losing spell.

When Down defeated Meath in the replay at An Uaimh the following Sunday interest in the concluding stages of the League was given a new impetus. Eventually, the four divisional winners emerged as Down, Galway, Sligo and Kildare, the big surprise being the emergence of Sligo from a group that included Derry, Cavan and Longford.

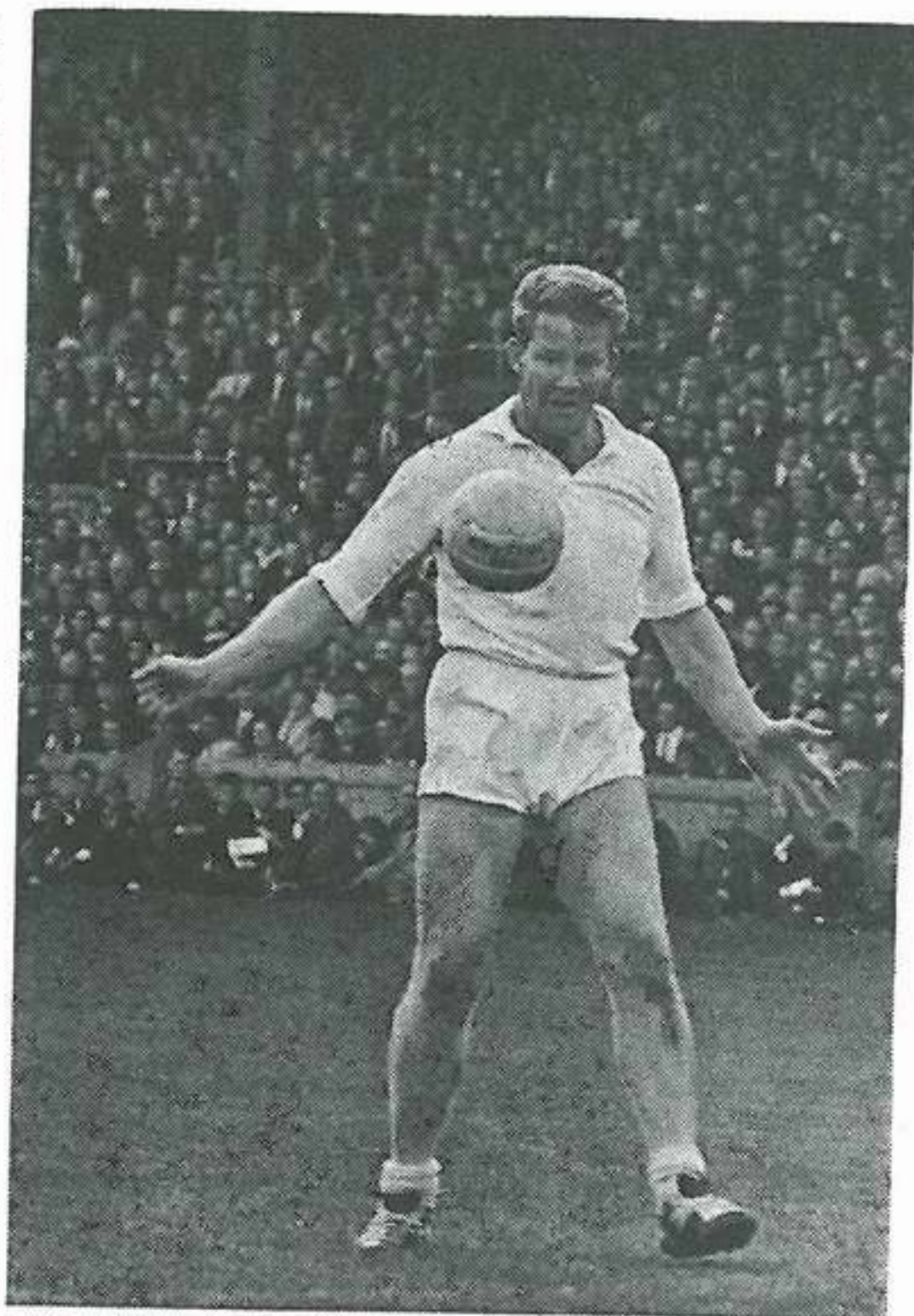
The hurling League was also sorting itself out with Cork, Clare, Kilkenny and Tipperary qualifying for the semi-finals.

The first indications of the imminent decline of Kilkenny from their position as All-Ireland champions were evident from the fact that they were held to a draw twice by Clare, before winning narrowly at the third attempt and qualifying to meet Tipperary, easy conquerors of Cork, in the final.

The month of March as usual brought us the Railway Cups, and the smallest recorded attendance on St. Patrick's Day in Croke Park watched Ulster footballers and Munster hurlers emerge victorious. In the hurling game neither side managed to score a goal.

On the same day in far away Melbourne, Meath concluded their historic tour of Australia with their fifth win in five games, thus avenging the heavy defeat inflicted upon them by the Aussies in Croke Park the previous October.

All this time the triennial assault on Rule 27 and its relations was reaching its climax bringing forth the usual amount of heat but very little light. Congress on Easter Sunday had only to put the rubber stamp on what was numerically a foregone conclusion by retaining the rules on a vote of 220 to 88.



Mattie McDonagh punching over his last point for Galway.



In triumph . . . Wexford minor captain Tom Byrne

Attention was now turned to the playing fields again and Sligo surprised once more when drawing with Kildare in the League semi-final. Down gave further evidence of their rapid development by decisively beating Galway and in the final itself they won an exhilarating game with Kildare by a margin of three points. Sean O'Neill scored a goal in the first minute for Down which was countered two minutes later by a Tommy Carew goal for the Lily Whites. The attendance was the biggest of the season up to then — almost 48,000. On the strength of this showing Down became the favourites of many neutrals to win the All-Ireland title again. Meanwhile little or no attention was given to a news item concerning the appointment of former star Jackie Lyne as trainer to the Kerry team.

In the Cardinal Cushing games in Gaelic Park, London caused a major surprise by hammering New York, who were then National League champions.

The hurling League final was won by Tipperary after

a tempestuous game which was later the subject of a special investigation by the Central Council. As a result Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny) and John Flanagan (Tipperary) were each suspended for six months causing one of the most stormy controversies that the game has known in modern times.

The way was now clear for the championships and it was generally agreed that neither Meath nor Kilkenny had very strong grips on their titles. We hadn't long to wait for the first real shock provided by Laois, when they beat League finalists Kildare by nine points. On the same day, in Ballinascreen, Down were fortunate to beat Derry by two points in a game in which four players were sent off, while one week later a crowd of 15,000 saw Galway luckily survive the challenge of Roscommon to earn a replay in the Connacht semi-final. Longford overcame their bogey team, Dublin by a goal at Tullamore, thus qualifying to meet Meath in the Leinster semi-final.

There were no surprises in the early rounds of the

hurling championship with the old firm of Kilkenny and Wexford qualifying for the Leinster final. In Munster it was again a Cork-Tipperary final. Tipperary, on their return from the United States where they had beaten New York, got the better of Clare, while Cork were hard pressed to beat Limerick in the other semi-final.

Some off the field activity was provided in June by the impending visit to the U.S.A. of the U.C.D. club when several counties realised they would be missing players for championship games. After much negotiation and manipulation of fixtures all sides were satisfied with the exception of Down who could ill afford the loss of John Purdy since they already had two players suspended since Ballinascreen.

However, Down found little difficulty in beating Donegal to qualify for their tenth successive Ulster final where the holders Cavan awaited them. The absence of Ray Carolan was too great a handicap for the Breffnemen and Joe Lennon brought home the Anglo-Celt Cup to Down.

But it was from Leinster that the shocks continued to emanate. Laois proved that their Kildare success was no fluke by beating a fancied Offaly team in Tullamore, while the greatest shock of all was caused by Longford who trounced All-Ireland champions Meath in Mullingar. The Midlanders then made history by taking their first Leinster title with an easy win over Laois.

In Connacht, Galway managed to scrape home in the replay with Roscommon and Mayo again proved their superiority over Sligo to give us another Mayo-Galway final. In a thrilling game, the feature of which was a magnificent second-half rally by Mayo, Galway won back the Connacht crown and qualified to meet Down in the semi-final.

Kerry, scoring long range points from all angles, took the Munster title from Cork to give us the unique pairing of Kerry and Longford in the second semi-final.

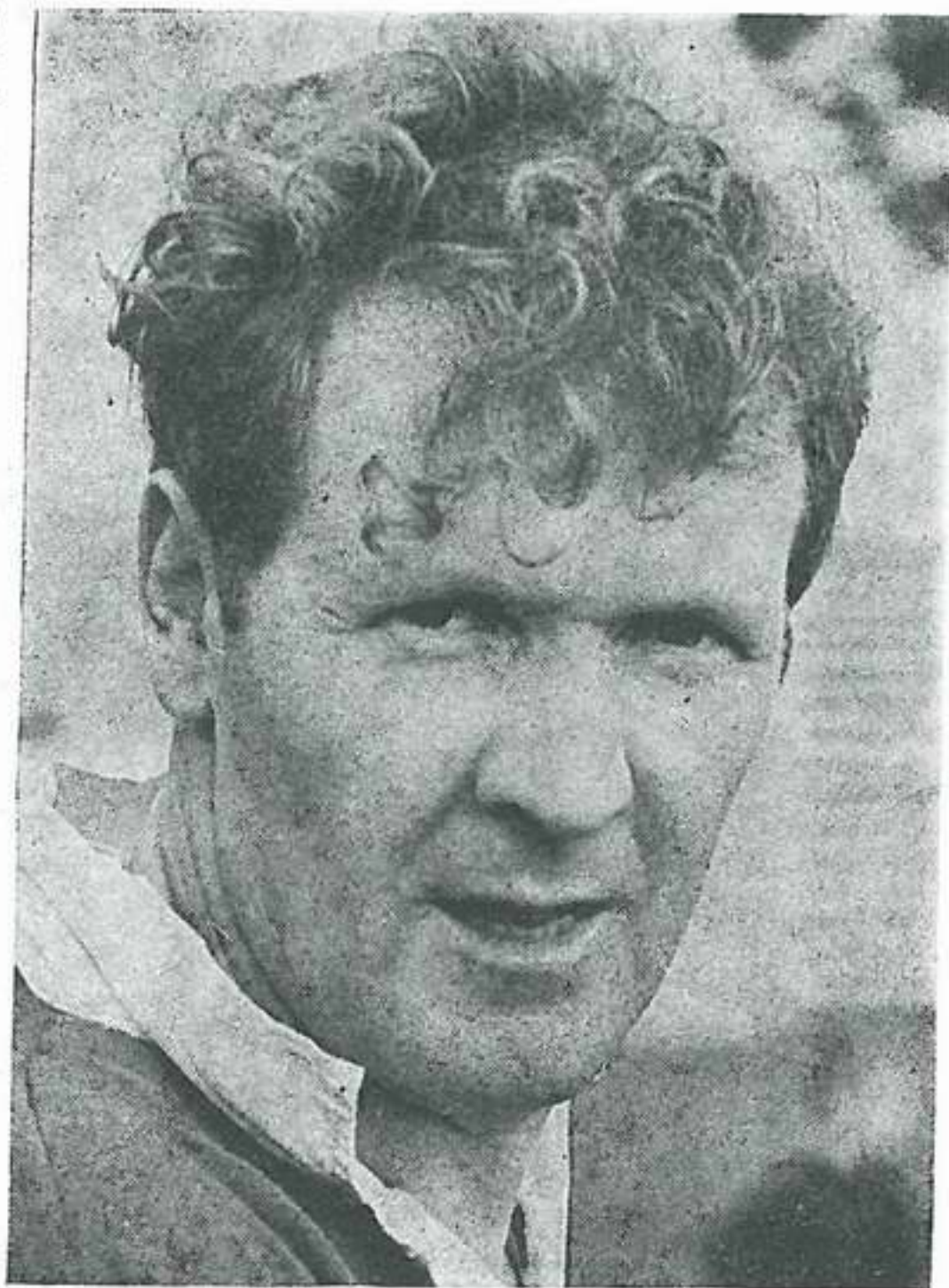
In July we had yet another disappointing Munster hurling final at Limerick. Cork were well beaten by a very lively Tipperary team, in which Michael Keating had an outstanding game. Their opponents in the All-Ireland final were Wexford who dethroned the champions Kilkenny by a single point in the Leinster final.

In August, we were treated to two splendid semi-finals. The first of these between Kerry and Longford was fast open and high scoring, with the Kingdom's second-half lead of eight points being wiped out by an extraordinary ten minute rally by Longford, mainly inspired by the dominance of Tom Mulvihill at centre-field. But Kerry still had something in reserve and Mick O'Dwyer and Brendan Lynch shot the winning points towards the finish.

Down's victory over Galway was also highlighted by a second half rally by the losers and, almost in identical fashion to Kerry, the Ulster champions pulled out something extra, in this case a brilliant goal by Sean O'Neill.

In August too the under-21 and junior football 'home' championships were drawing to a close, with Derry and Offaly; Tyrone and Mayo respectively qualifying for the finals.

The hurling final on September 1 was highlighted by a fantastic comeback by Wexford who found themselves eight points in arrears after a brilliant first half display by Tipperary. The second half was Wexford's all the way as they hammered in score after score to eventually



Ollie Walsh — in the news.

emerge victorious by two points. With about five minutes remaining Wexford had been eight points in front. To add to their joy the Slaneysiders also took the minor title by beating Cork.

Before the football final the subsidiary 'home' competitions were finished off. Tyrone beat Mayo in junior, while Derry as expected, beat Offaly, in the under-21 final. The intermediate hurling 'home' title was won by Dublin.

The much discussed football final meeting of Down and Kerry failed to achieve what it had promised. In a tame enough final, Down had a blitz start with goals from Sean O'Neill and John Murphy and points by Paddy Doherty and Jim Milligan all inside the space of eight minutes. At half-time Down had a lead of eight points and though Kerry rallied somewhat after the interval they never seriously threatened to overhaul Down's lead and were eventually beaten 2-12 to 1-13.

In the finals of the secondary competitions Tyrone beat London in junior football to give veteran Frankie Donnelly an All-Ireland medal at last and London intermediate hurlers advanced their claim to senior status with a runaway win over Dublin. Warwickshire took the junior hurling title at the expense of Kerry.

In short it was a very interesting year — dominated by Down with Wexford giving a needed new-look to the hurling pinnacle. Yes a very interesting year . . . but not a really great one.

Betting and Gaelic Games

Almost £250,000 wagered in 1968

AT LEAST ONE PLAYER involved in this year's All-Ireland senior football final had a good-sized bet on the outcome with a bookmaker, while it is possible that as much as £250,000 was wagered with bookmakers on major G.A.A. games during 1968.

In the course of researching this article, the editorial staff of GAELIC WEEKLY NEWS spoke with many of the bookmakers who take bets on Gaelic games. The following is a summary of information gathered from just three of them — each of whom gave us permission to publish in full.

Joe McKee is one of Belfast's leading bookmakers and the trend-setter when it comes to odds and receiving bets on Gaelic games. His list of odds for the 1969 senior football and hurling championships were completed within weeks of the conclusion of this year's championships.

During 1968, Joe McKee took approximately £10,000 on G.A.A. games and he just about broke even on the year. His biggest single bet was £550 wagered on Down prior to the All-Ireland final at 11/10 on. However, much more worrying for him was a £150 bet on Kerry which was placed early in the championship at an ante-post price of 9/1.

Down were particularly well backed with him both ante-post and prior to the final. Galway and Meath also attracted much ante-post wagering.

Joe McKee also does a good business on hurling. Prior to the All-Ireland final he had Tipperary at 7/4 on favourites but was hoping that they would win—mainly because of a £200 bet which he carried on Wexford at the ante-post price of 6/1.

Mr. McKee has been "doing a book" on Gaelic games for ten years and the volume of business is growing yearly — to the point where it is now significant business worthy of careful attention. The year 1967 was a bad one for him — Meath being well backed, while in 1966 he had an excellent season.

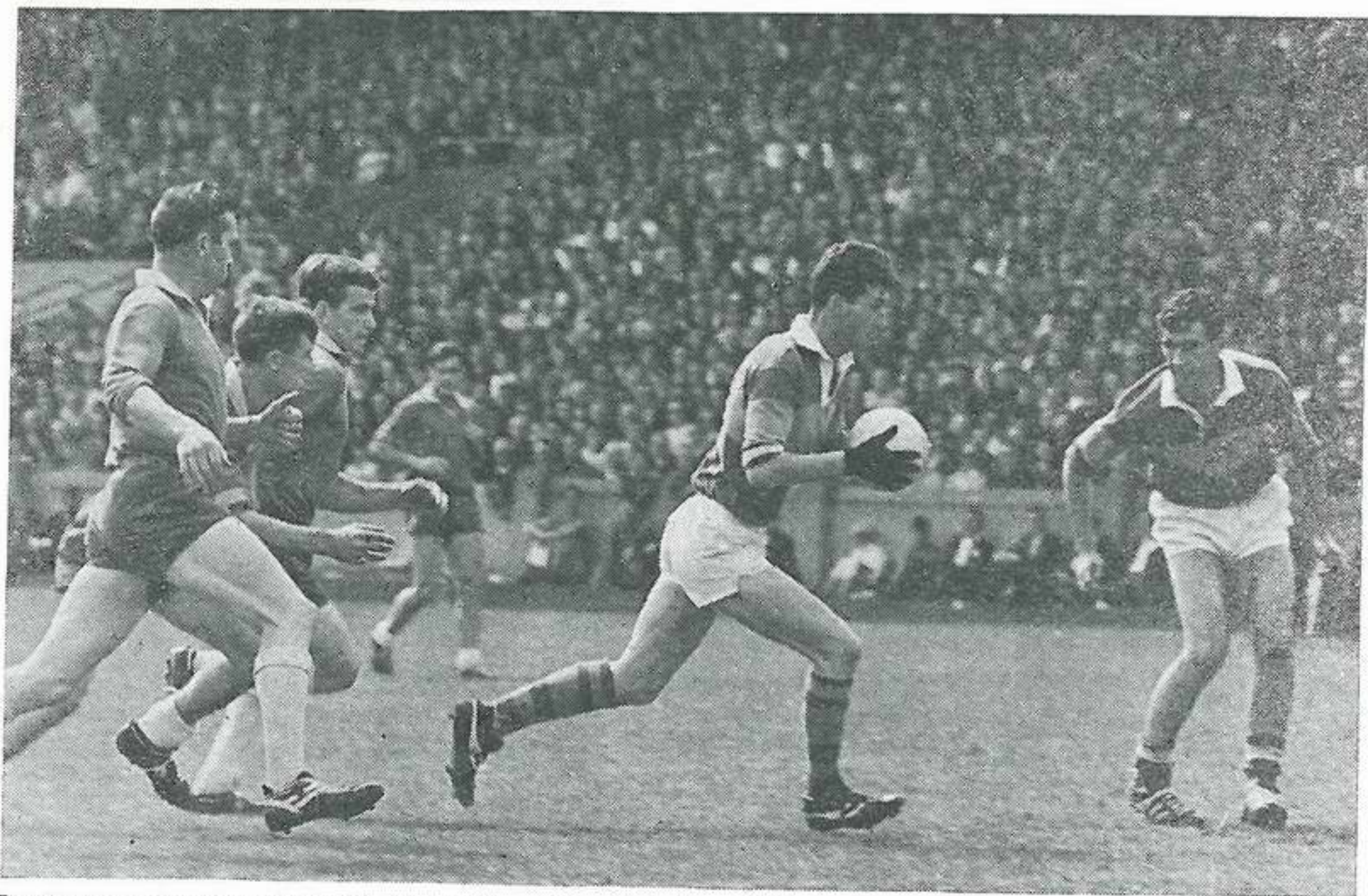
Dublin's colourful Terry Rogers has also been long attracting G.A.A. punters. He welcomes them for, with him too, they now represent major business. On a particularly good year his volume of G.A.A. bets would go towards £50,000.

In 1967 he took a single bet of £2,500 (to win £2,000) on Tipperary in the All-Ireland final. This particular bet was mentioned to us by others as well and it would appear to be the biggest single bet on record for a Gaelic game. From a source other than Mr. Rogers we learned who placed the bet — a person particularly well known in G.A.A. circles.

Terry Rogers made money on both the 1968 senior All-Ireland finals. He had Down priced at 5/4 on; Kerry at 6/4 and 8/1 a draw, while in hurling Tipperary were 6/4 on and Wexford 6/4.

The only recent year on which Terry Rogers lost money was 1966 when Galway were heavily backed at an ante-post price of 3/1.

The law does not allow the advertising of odds on any form of football or hurling in the 26 counties; in the Six Counties it is permissible to circularise to clients and prospective clients. In Britain advertising of games odds is permissible and Terry Rogers, who has considerable business interests in Britain, advertises his odds on G.A.A. games there and enjoys a good response.



Pat Griffin going through against Longford . . . Kerry had been 9/1 in anti-post betting.

Barney Eastwood is probably as well known a professional boxing promoter as he is as a bookmaker. He also won two All-Ireland minor football medals with Tyrone in the 'forties. He carried a lot of bets on Down in 1968 and lost money as a result.

He opened the championship season with Down at 7/2. After the Ulster final they dropped to 5/2. Against Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final he had Down 5/4 on and for the final he had the Mournemen favourites at 6/4 on but, following their poor performance prior to the final in a challenge game against Dublin, he raised his price on Down to even money and for the week prior to the final had the game at "evens — take your pick" and 10/1 a draw. He finished up losing £3,000 to £4,000 on the final.

Barney Eastwood's biggest G.A.A. bet in 1968 was £500 laid on Down at the ante-post price of 7/2.

However, this bet was almost topped by a Kerryman who wanted to lay £800 at 6/4 prior to the final. Eastwood offered him 5/4 and they failed to do business. We understand that this bet was later placed in the 26 Counties and that it was on behalf of a group of people who had joined together in the wager.

Barney Eastwood also did a sizable business during the championship season with bets on which team registered the first score. Down did this in most of their games and were heavily backed to do so in the final.

It is somewhat of a coincidence in that regard that Eastwood himself registered the first score in Tyrone's minor finals of 1946 and '47 and that the trainer of those

teams was Down's team-manager Gerry Brown.

All bookmakers to whom we spoke agreed that live television was a major contributory factor in stimulating G.A.A. betting. The "live" showing of the major games brings football and hurling into contact with punters who otherwise would not have any marked awareness of them. For example, Terry Rogers enjoys a marked increase in his G.A.A. betting in Britain to coincide with the B.B.C.'s showing of a game.

The bookmakers also agree that G.A.A. betting was rapidly on the increase and likely to double in volume during the next few years.

So far not many of the major "professional" gamblers have been attracted. Of all the bookmakers to whom we spoke only Terry Rogers had this type of client wagering on Gaelic games — and in his case there were only two of them.

Betting on Gaelic games with bookmakers now covers all significant games. Barney Eastwood's odds on this year's minor football final were Cork 7/4 on and Sligo 7/4. He feels that there would be no wagering on minor games were it not that the semi-finals and finals are shown 'live' on television. The viewing of the semi-finals stimulates betting on the final.

The Grounds' Tournament, Oireachtas and latter stages of the National League are all now attracting bets and those bookmakers who do cater for Gaelic games fix their odds for them.

In a word — G.A.A. betting is now big business.

Back in 1956, in the very early days of the "Gaelic Weekly," the Cusack Stand was in the course of being painted by the New Process Paint Company. A "Gaelic Weekly" advertising representative approached the company for an advertisement and they agreed—provided they were also given an editorial 'plug'. The advertising representative explained that "Gaelic Weekly" had no correspondent who could write authoritatively on painting. The company stated that this was quite alright. They would supply their own writer. They did and he was Brendan Behan. We now reproduce his 'plug':

My earliest memory of Croke Park

BY BRENDAN BEHAN

THE dwarf of blood chased me round Croke Park, till I dropped and was carried off out the canal gate, and up to my mother in Russell Street.

This was during the Tailteann Games, when I was five years old.

Every morning we would go down to Croker, my two elder brothers, Rory and Sean and me in the middle, to watch the day's events from the beginning. We had no season tickets but hard necks, and the groundsmen knew us well. Knew us well enough to know that if we weren't let in we'd get in by devious routes and holes only wide enough to accommodate very young sportsmen, three or four feet tall, and about half a hundred-weight.

A big athletic meeting from the Tramway Sports to the Olympics has always a casual air about it during the early part of the day. Inside on the pitch there are hammer throwers and jumpers and darn the one only themselves and their nearest and dearest taking a tack of notice. Outside on the one track may be cyclists and inside on the other runners.

In the case of the Dwarf of Blood, he was running in a race that seemed to my imagination then, to have lasted about three weeks.

Every morning, Rory and Sean, and I, in the middle would go down to Croker, and sure enough there they were, hard at it, going round the track in their sweaters and shorts, and somewhere among them, never vulgarly to the fore, but never too shamefully behind either, was this squat little man, running doggedly on, and no one taking a hathe of notice of him.

Till one day we came down, and like the pinkeen in the jampot, he was near his last gasp.

"Ah, the poor ould Dwarf of Blood," said Rory, sadly.

I nearly cried for the poor old Dwarf, and the next time he came round, I let a scream of encouragement at him: "Go on, go on the Dwarf of Blood, go on the Dwarf a'..."

I waited till he came around again, a half-hour later, they were getting a bit tired by this time, and screamed again: "Go on, the Dwarf of Blood."

At last he came to realise it was him that was being

shouted at, and turned his head to acknowledge my screams, but with a face like a snarl, and a shouted panting dying curse, that showed anything but appreciation of my encouragement, "I'll-Dwarf-you-you-blooming-little - - -!" and he ran around the track and (as I thought) after me, till I ran home.

I got pneumonia watching (for what you could see of them) Kilkenny and Limerick, in the hurling final of 1935, because there was a priest sitting beside me, and he asked, when I got up to leave, whether I was made of sugar.

I thought he had given me dispensation against rain... anyway, he'd lifted me over the sideline from below Hill '16 and I didn't like to desert him.

As a young man of fifteen in '38 in the new Cusack Stand, I stood with its author for the National Anthem, and discussed with him the finer points of its construction.

Last week, I stood on the girders with its spidermen painters and looked out through the scaffolding at the whole of the North City, its spires and roofs, the twin chimneys of the 'Joy, for many's the Gael knew that place as well as he knew Croke Park, from John Joe Sheehy to Cathal Goulding, in Wakefield Jail, this minute, for arms raiding in England.

I examined with interest the gleaming finish of the paintwork and spoke to the men, sprayers, brush-hands and sign-writers of the New Process Paint Company, thinking of the painters that knew and loved Croke Park, next to Bodenstown, the holiest place in Gaelic Ireland, thinking of Peadar Macken, Peadar Kearney, all the Gouldings of the North Circular, from old Charlie, the Invincible, to his grandson.

"This," said one of the painters, with a proprietorial gaze around the heights of the Cusack Stand, "is one of the largest single objects in Ireland."

"And," asked another, shooting a fine jet of enamel into a cluster of nuts, "why shouldn't it be?"

Why shouldn't it, indeed?

Bail o Dhia ar an obair!



Sean O'Neill and Dan McCartan in Croke Park on a cold afternoon last spring.

A family affair

BY BRENDAN DOYLE

IF TRADITION COUNTS then the McCartans and the O'Neills were destined for football greatness. Their mothers, whose maiden name was Murphy, were from the great Down G.A.A. stronghold of Clonduff, the parish that later was to yield Kevin Mussen and Patsy O'Hagan. The Murphy brothers, Dan, Eddie, and Frank (R.I.P.), uncles of the O'Neills and McCartans, each played with distinction in the Clonduff colours, while the McCartans' father, Brian, a well-known county player in his day, was so determined to play for Clonduff that he payed yearly "dues" in the parish so as to make himself eligible. Pat O'Neill, who captained the

great Armagh team of the 1950's, was a first cousin of the O'Neills — so, as they say in the racing world, the breeding line was good.

Much has been written about the football feats of the two McCartans and the two O'Neills, the great goals they scored, or, perhaps, prevented being scored — but less known is what type of men they are when their football gear is put away in hold-alls and their everyday clothes are donned. I have had the pleasure of knowing them since childhood and, perhaps, I can fill-in somewhat in that regard and put human flesh on the cold football statistics.



James McCartan in full flight.

James McCartan was the idol of Downmen in those glorious years of the early 1960's. His forceful play and brainy football made many a victory and from it all grew an "iron-man" image. However, behind the image there beats a heart as big as the football he so expertly played.

James is one of the kindest men I have ever known and anyone who has ever visited Donacloney will know what I mean. He and his wife Marie manage the family bar and farm. Say a wrong word about James within the barony of Donacloney and you had better be adept at running for your life. Such is the regard in which he is held by all in a community which is very much of mixed denomination.

A non-smoker and non-drinker, James plays darts with the pub team, is no mean golfer and likes the odd flutter on the horses. From childhood he had that special quality which separates the men from the boys. I remember the warm summers of school holidays. We swam, fished, fought and played football with corn-stacks as our goals. Often Kevin O'Neill and I used to

place the ball in such a way that James had to dive and bounce to save his goal and we loved to see him do it. This same vibrant quality of play was to endear him so much to football followers in later years.

He always accepted criticism lightly — in fact he seemed to enjoy it as he might praise. One Dublin newspaper commentator once compared him to a rugby player — a comment which suggested a failure to recognise the great skill which James coupled with his dash. However, he enjoyed the reference no end and liked to quote it.

In the 1961 Ulster final, Armagh appeared to be set for victory when James came in from the subs bench and cracked home a beauty of a goal. An enraged Armagh defender turned to him in frustration and called him a big so and so. The remark was the beginning of a great friendship which is close to this day.

James McCartan still plays football with Tullylish and is still young enough to continue doing so for many a day.

Dan McCartan is more an introvert than James. Dan prefers the background and one wonders if his great and unbroken service to Down has received the full recognition it merits. It is common for him to slip off home immediately after a game rather than attend the inevitable reception. He likes nothing better than a quiet evening at home with his Dublin-born wife Nuala, and young son, Mark. He is keen on gardening — but the demands of football are such that much of this has to be left to the good woman of the house.

A partner in a very successful Belfast dental business, Dan laughs off the label of toughness which some attach to him. He smiles easily and has a particularly firm and warm handshake.

Dan regards the 1968 All-Ireland triumph as the highlight of his career — outweighing even the golden years of 1960 and '61. He plays club football with James and Tullylish — junior grade. Rarely will he talk about it, but one can detect a great pride in the history-making achievements of the 'sixties — of having followed in his father's footsteps and of having helped put Down at the football forefront.

It could be that Dan McCartan will continue to play football for Down for many a day, but when, eventually, he does go, his true worth will more fully be realised.

Sean O'Neill! There is magic in even the name nowadays.

Back in the mid-1950's, I once asked Gerry Brown as to who was the best man he had ever handled. As Gerry was then in charge of the Tyrone team, I expected him to name Iggy Jones, Jackie Taggart or some other such member of that famous squad. But no. Without hesitation he named Sean O'Neill. Sean was then 15 years of age.

O'Neill is, of course, the complete footballer and his personal life is just as successful. The only bachelor of the four footballing cousins, he is a practising solicitor with a Belfast firm.

Sean seldom does anything without a purpose. A friend said of him recently: "Sean O'Neill wears braces for one purpose only — to keep his trousers up." And while this does not altogether illustrate the point, it does, nonetheless, indicate to some extent the mental make-up of probably the shrewdest footballer of our time.

Ask Sean a question and he will, invariably, deliberate before answering. Ask him for advice and he will readily jump to your assistance.

He has an exceptional ability of being able to share his triumphs with others. A wonderful host, he can quickly make one at home and I treasure the memories of those many after-match evenings — none more than following this year's All-Ireland final, when, in the early hours of the morning, the members of the team and supporters were scattered all over the reception room in little huddled groups and Sean succeeded in forming one great party. He felt that some were being left out.

The O'Neill family takes a very deep pride in Sean. His mother wears his 1961 All-Ireland medal as a brooch — while, at the same time, she can sit through an entire after-match reception without even identifying herself as his mother. Their pride is a personal thing.

I have heard O'Neill referred to as "not being one of the boys". I would very much disagree. You just ask any one of the many youngsters on the current team. He is their father-figure — who applauds their successes

and so understandingly overlooks their mistakes.

It may appear a little out of character but he plays a guitar. He also handles a number three iron with considerable skill, but both have had to take a back seat to football and its strict schedule.

I know no player more generous in his praise of opponents and he makes a point of referring to them by their Christian names. Following a great display against Jack Quinn early in 1968 Sean brought all the after-match back-slapping to a halt by saying: "I got the ball the way I liked it. What do you think would have happened had I been fed high deliveries the way Jack likes them."

In bearing, manner, dress and behaviour, Sean O'Neill leaves a permanent impression of graciousness.

The last of the footballing cousins, the oldest and, in my book, the most under-rated of the 1960-'61 Down team, is Kevin O'Neill. Like Dan McCartan he seldom attracted 'rave' notices from the press but some of the star forwards who played against him will tell you different. As well as playing with Sean for Newry Mitchels, Kevin is also Club Secretary and this curtails his great hobby of fishing. The O'Neill household is truly football territory for Kevin's wife, Mary, is, of course, a sister of the McKnights of Armagh. Their two-year-old son, Michael, can already kick with either foot.

Mary's sister, Bridie, is married to P. J. McElroy, while her brother, Felix, is married to James and Dan McCartan's sister, Delia.

Kevin O'Neill has many of Sean's qualities. I have never met a more sincere person. Those who know him will agree. One meeting with Kevin will always guarantee a ready greeting on the next. We have been close since childhood and he could always do things better than I. If I wanted a son to grow up like somebody in particular, I would like him to grow up like Kevin O'Neill. In that way he would truly be a man.

Kevin is Assistant Town Clerk in Newry.

As can be seen, I am an admirer of the footballing cousins — not alone as footballers but as men. I am proud to have known them . . . and even prouder to be their cousin.

To be informed

you simply must read

Gaelic Weekly News

each week. It only costs 6d.

to know it all.

Ard Cuimhni na Bliana

LE PADRAIG O MEALOID

IS IOMDHA SIN gné de imeachtaí Chumann Lúthchleas Gael a sheasann go hárd i gcuimhne duine teacht deire an tséasúir. Ar nós gach éinne eile tá mo chuid cinn féin agam-sa, agus ní móide go naontóidh cuid mhaith liom gurab iad a ba mhó tábhacht. Ní de réir a dtábhacht atá mé ag ríomh cuid acu, ach de bhárr go gceapaim gur ceart iad a lua mar go mbaineann siad leis an gcúis a nimirfotar cluichí ar aon chor. Tá rud nó dhó béidir go bhféadfadh muid déanamh dhá bhfoireasa.

Ceann de na chéad rudaí a thagann chun mo chuimhne ná turas na Mí chun na hAstráile. Ba mhór go deó an teasc a ghlac lucht a eagraithe orthu féin, óir níorbh thuras oifigiúil de chuid Chumann Lúthchleas Gael é. Ba mhór an rud breis is dhá mhíle dhéag punt a chnuasach agus cupla punt a bheith le spárail acu ar fhilleadh dhoibh.

Ach ní mba shin é an príomh rud. Bhí cuid mhaith daoine ag fiafrú ce'n sórt díth céille a bhí ortha agus a dhul chor ar bith! Nár bhuail na hAstráiligh go damáisteach iad annseo sa bhaile, agus dá bhrí sin ce'n bhail a cuirfi ortha san Astráil? Ach ta's ag cách anois ce'n tuairisc a thug siad ortha féin taobh thíos. Chuir an turas as a seans ar Chraobh na hEireann de'n dara huair as a chéile iad, ach bhí a néacht ar theib a bheith chomh tábhachtach le buaichaint na craoibhe.

Rud eile atá go hárd in mo chuimhne ná na trí cluichi idir An Clár agus Cill Chainnigh sa tSraith Náisiúnta Iománaíochta, nuair ba bás nó beatha a bhí i gceist. Trí huair a ba cheart do'n Chlár an bhua a fháil, ach faoi dhó a ligeadar do Chill Chainnigh teacht cothrom agus iad a bhualadh an triúr huair.

Ní bhéadh a fhios agat ag an am arab amhlaidh a bhí an Clár ag teacht chun cinn no Cill Chainnigh ag dul síos. Bhí súil ag cách gurab é an chéad rud a bhí fíor, ach is baolach, de réir mar a chuaigh cúrsaí ó shin, go mór mhór le gairid, gurab é and dara rud a bhí fíor, nó ar a laighead nach raibh an Clár tagtha go barr. Ach bhí sé

go maith, fad is a mhair sé.

O thárla mé ag caint ar an tSraith Náisiúnta rachaidh mé leis an bpeil nóiméad. Ba iontach an rud contae mar Shligeach a fheiceáil i bPáirc an Chrocaigh i gcluiche leathcheannais an chomórtais in aghaidh Chill Dara. Bhí ortha imirt faoi dhó, cluiche cothrom a bhí sa chéad cheann. Ba dhóigh leat on gcaoi ar imir Sligeach sa chéad chluiche go raibh foireann nua eile chugainn ar bárr. Bhí siad gach uile órlach chomh maith le Cill Dara, d'imir siad peil mhaith theoiriciúil, agus níor fhéach sé go rabhadar ag braith ar Mhicheál O Ciaráin chun a gcuid scór a fháil. Ach ba é an sean scéal arís é san ath-imirt. Is cuimhneach liom a rá ag an am nár cheap mé go ndéanfadh Cill Dara mórán cúis sa Chraobh Chomórtas.

Níl comhaireamh ar an méid athruithe atá déanta ag Sligeach ar a bhfoireann ó shin. Tá siad sa bhliain dheire beagnach anois dá bplean cúig mbliana, agus mór mhór dhoibh socrú síos mar fhoireann go lua. Cúis misnigh dhóibh go ndeachaidh a bhfoireann mionúr go cluiche ceannais Eireann sa pheil. Agus is é an foireann sin a sholathruigh gníomh spórtúlachta na bliana an lá ar bhuail Corcaigh iad sa chluiche ceannais. D'iompair beirt nó triúr acu captaen Chorcaigh trasna na páirce tar éis dó an corn a ghlacadh ar Ardán Ui Ogáin. Sin é an cineál spiride atá ag teastáil sa ré seo ina bhfuil an spórtúlacht imithe as spóirt, agus díocas, fóiréigean agus formad ina áit.

Tá mé ag ceapadh gurab iad na himreoirí a chaithfidh dea-shampla a thabhairt do'n lucht féachanna, agus cabhrú chun an teannas sin atá ag gabháil le ócáidí spóirt le tamall a leaghadh. Is minic go dtárlaíonn a mhalairt, go dtosnaíonn na himreoirí ar chaighdeán imeartha a bhunú ar mhodh iompartha a lucht leanúna.

Ach má thug mionúir Shligigh dea-shampla uatha bhí mionúir eile nár thug. Bhí an oiread salachair le feiceáil i gcluiche mionúr amháin i mbliana agus a chonaic éinne ariamh chéana i ngach cluiche mionúr a chonaic

THE ABBEY GROUP OF COMPANIES

TUBBERCURRY, CO. SLIGO

Acknowledges with admiration and appreciation the finesse and sportsmanship of the Sligo Minor Football Team, runners-up in the All-Ireland Football Final, 1968, and the skill and determination of the Sligo Senior Football Team, semi-finalists in the National Football League, 1968.

BASTA LTD. : Manufacturers of Locks and Builders' Hardware.

THE TOOL AND GAUGE COMPANY OF

IRELAND LTD. : Precision engineers and tool specialists;
Gauges and moulds for all industries.

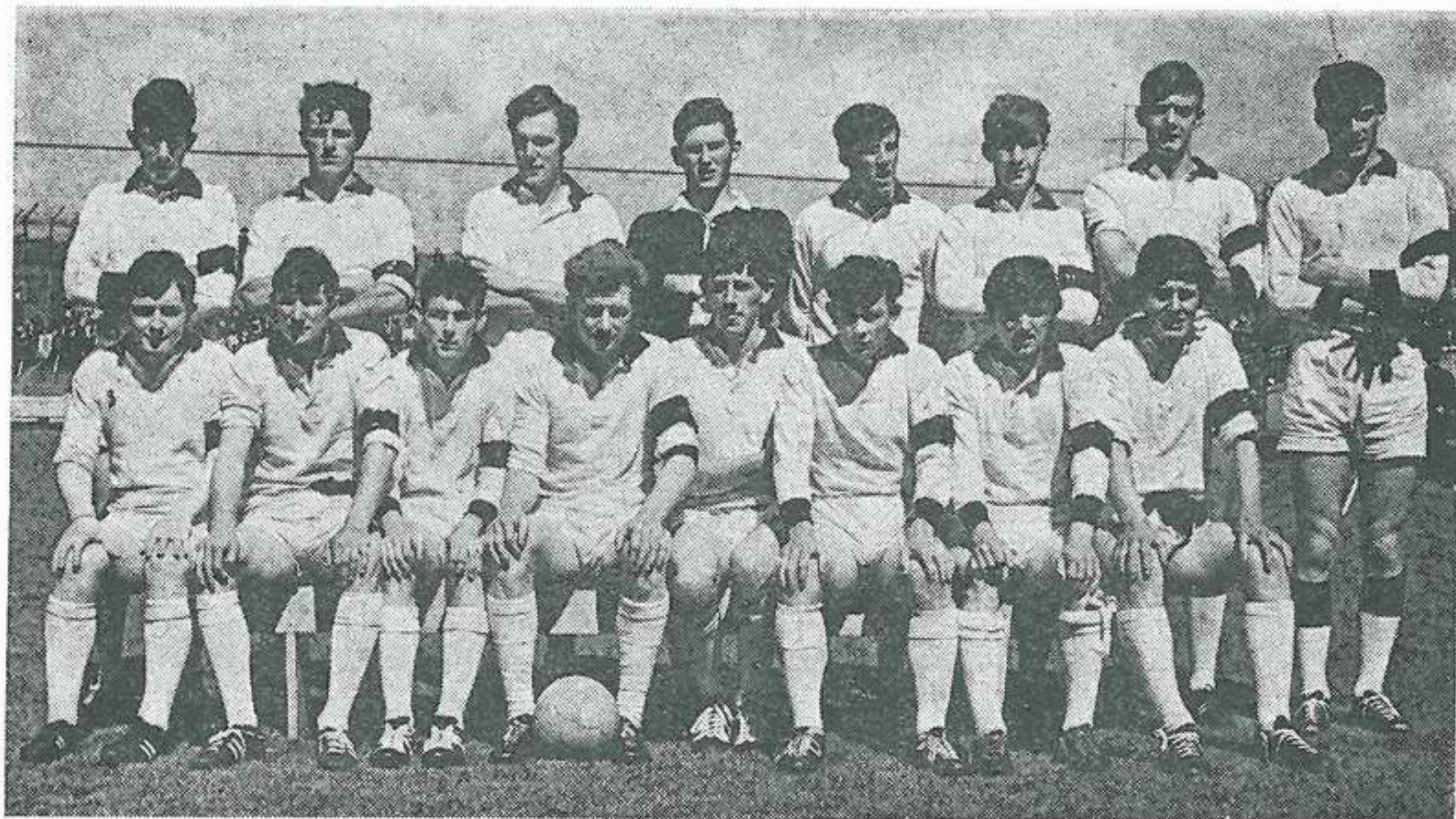
INDUSTRIAL

FOUNDRIES LTD. : Die casters in zinc, brass and aluminium.

ABBAY MANUFACTURING

COMPANY LTD. : Manufacturers of Household and Domestic Appliances.

MEMBERS OF THE ABBEY GROUP



Sligeach . . . sár iarracht.

sé le chéile. Ar ndóigh ba ghnáthach le cluichí mionúr i gcónaí a bheith glan, ba chuma cé chomh dian is a bhí an imirt nó chomh cothrom is a bhí an cluiche. Act tá athrú ag teacht ar an scéal sin agus is fíor a rá go bhfuil nós na himeartha salaigh ag teacht i réim i measc na n-óg. Is trua sin, agus tá súil agam nach scaipfidh sé níos fuide, agus go ndéanfar iarracht deire a chur leis an méid atá ann de.

Is dócha gur féidir a rá gurab é foireann iománaíochta Loch Garman, a bhuaigh Craobh na hEireann, ceann de no fóirne a ba spórtúla dhár sheas ar pháirc i mbliana. Bhí fáilte ag cách roimh aiséirighe fhir Loch Garman. Cheap daoine go raibh siad chugainn bliain roimhe sin, ach chuir gortuithe siar bliain iad. On uair a bhuaileadar Corcaigh luath sa bhliain b'fhurast aithne go raibh fuadar fútha. Ní go ró mhaith a d'éirigh leo in aghaidh Thiobrad Arann sa tSraith Náisiúnta, ach fiú is an uair sin leiríodar gurabh fhéidir leo briseadh tré na gcuid cúl agus scóranna a fháil gan bhuíochas do imeacht na himeartha. Cé dhéanfas dearmad ar an athmhuscailt a tháinig ortha sa dara leath de chluiche ceannais Eireann, in aghaidh Thiobrad Arann. Ba dhóigh leat go raibh an cluiche ina nglais ag na Tiobrad Arannaigh ag leath ama, agus nach raibh i Loch Garman ach scáile de'n fhoireann a chonaic muid ag tabhairt sár-theaspántas in aghaidh Chill Chainnigh i gcluiche ceannais Laighean.

Ach ní mar sin a bhí, agus ní raibh fhios ag cuid de fhir Thiobrad Arann céard a bhuaill iad, go mór mhór nuair a thosnuigh Antoine O Deoráin ag obair mar ba cheart, taréis é a athrú isteach lán tosach ón dachad slat. Ba é mo thuairim féin ag an am go mba é Antoine

a ba chionn tsiocair le na mbuachaint, ach ar ndóigh ní bhuadhann fear amáin cluiche ar bith.

Dhá mbéadh aon fhear aonarach in ann é sin a dhéanamh sé Micheál de Róiste, Thiobrad Arann, is gaire a racadh dó. A leithéid de theasbántas is a thug sé an lá céanna sin! Mo bharúil, pé céard is fiú é, go bé Micheál sár iománaí na bliana, agus béidh iontas orm muna dtugtar an gradam sin dó, cé gurab é an nós atá ann é a thabhairt do dhuine éigin de fhoireann na gcuraiithe.

Sul má fhágfas mé an iomáint tá cúpla pointe eile ba mhaith liom a lua. Theaspáin mionúir Loch Garman cé chomh láidir is atá an cluiche sa chontae nuair a bhuaigh féin Craobh na hEireann. Agus ní i measc na bhfear amháin atá an cluiche láidir ann. Chuir cailíní Loch Garman tuille borradh faoi'n gcluiche camógaíochta leis an teaspántas breá a thug siad i gcluiche Ceannais Eireann. Bhí cuid de na cailíní seo agus ba creidiúint iad ar fhoireann iománaíochta. Ba shuntasaf de an ócáid de bharr gurabh é seo an chéad uair a raibh Loch Garman sa cluiche ceannais.

Ach ba trua le duine ar an ócáid chéanna nárbh fhéidir le captaen Chorcaigh, Aine Ní Chrotaigh, bonn Uile Eireann a fháil tar éis chomh fada is atá sí ag fanacht leis, agus tar éis dí imirt sa chluiche ceannais cúpla uair roimhe sin. Níl mé ag dearmad ar ndóigh an teaspántas cúl báiríochta a thug beirt cailíní an lá sin.

Dearnadh giota beag staire i mbliana nuair a cuireadh ainm nua ar liosta gcontaetha a bhfuil Craobh a gCúige buaidhte acu. Táim ag tagairt do Longfort, a bhuaigh Craobh Laighean sa pheil de'n chéad uair, tar éis bothar fada chuige a bheith taistilte acu. Ní go ró-mhaith a



An cúl sin in aghaidh na Gaillimhe . . . ionadh ar Dan McCartan agus Danny Kelly.

d'eirigh leo in aghaidh Chiarraí i gcluiche leath-cheannais Eireann. Ach ní minic go deimhin go néiríonn le foireann dul an bóthar ar fad de'n chéad uair, agus b'éidh lá eile ag Longfort tá mé cinnte.

Bhí an tráth ann nuair a ba mhí-bhúntáiste é an tSraith Náisiúnta peile a bhuachaint roimh aghaidh a thabhairt ar an gCraobh Chomórtas. Ach níl sé do-dhéanta feasta and dá cheann a bhreith leat in aon tséasúr amháin, rud atá déanta cúpla babhta anois, agus a rinne an Dún i mbliana. Níor fheach siad i dtús bliana gurabh fhoireann iontach iad, dhá mbéadh aon anáil ag Gaillimh bhéidís buailte acu i gcluiche leath cheannais an tSraithe Náisiúnta. Ach ní raibh, agus ba mhaith an sás cleachtaithe do'n Dún an comórtas, agus bhí siad i bPáirc an Chrócaigh Domhnach Chluiche Ceannais na Craoibhe chun an bhua a bhreith ó Chiarraí.

Tháinig Chiarraí go dtí an cluiche ceannais agus cáil mhór bainte amach acu. Bhí roinnt mhaith sean pheileadóirí tugtha ar ais acu do'n bhliain, agus iad ag imirt ar fheabhas. An cháil is mó a bhí bainte amach acu b'éidir ná an uimhir mhór cúilín a bhí faighte acu ina gcuid cluichí, seans gur fada arís go mbuadhfaidh foireann ceithre cluichí indiaidh a céile agus 71 cúilín scóralta acu le na linn, gan trácht ar chúil. Rud eile a bhí suntasach faoi'n mbliain seo ná an oiread cúilíní is a fritheadh as i bhfad amach. Bhí beirt a rinne éacht leis an obair seo, Micheál O Conaill, Chiarraí, agus Seán O Cionáin na Gaillimhe.

Thar aon scór eile, smaoiníodh an té a chonaic é ar

an gcéad chúl a fuair an Dún in aghaidh Chiarraí sa Chluiche Ceannais. Liathróid árd ag teacht isteach, bhuaill sí an polla. Cheap an cúlaí a bhí ina sheasamh ann go raibh sí ag dul leathan, nó thar an trasnán, agus ní raibh a aire ar an mbéidir a bhí ann go mbuailfeadh sí an cuaille. Cé bhí annsin ar an láthair ach Seán O'Neill, cé eile. Bhí sé sort ag imeacht ón áit nuair a thit an liathróid ag a chois, agus ní fear faillí é Seán, isteach sa líon leí, agus bhí Chiarraí geall le bheith buailte. Mo thuairim go bé Seán a áireófar mar pheileadóir na bliana.

Ach bhí cúl eile i gceist go mór, agus ba shin é an ceann a fuair Gaillimh in aghaidh an Dúin sa cluiche leath cheannais nuair a tugadh de bhreith do raibh an liathróid taobh thiar de'n líne nuair a rug Dónal O Ceallaigh, cúl báire an Dúin, uirthí.

Tá rud truabhéalach amháin, atá againn anois le roinnt blianta, agus sin laige na Gaillimhe san iomáint. Tá an trá imithe a mbíodh siad in ann buachaint ar fhoirne mar Loch Garman, Chill Chainnigh, Corcaigh, agus Tiobrad Arann, agus ar phioc Chúige Laighean agus Chúige Mumhan corr uair. Is iontach go deo an titim é, agus is trua é.

Rud atá an-deacair a dhéanamh ná fanacht ar barr mórán acahir, mar a gheabhas Loch Garman agus an Dún amach seans. Ach is seacht measa fós a bheith thíos i measc na lag i gcónaí, rud atá de mhí-ádh ar chuid mhaith contaetha. Ba deas an rud é ceann nó dhó acu seo a fheiceál ag teacht chun cinn san ath bhliain. Tomhas ort cé haid má thagann.



CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

COISTE CONTAE THIOBRAID ARANN

We take this opportunity of extending our sincerest thanks to our Members, Players and Supporters for their great support over past years.

Relying on such loyalty we are confident that the Blue and Gold will reign supreme and that we can continue to make a useful contribution to the Association.

Sincerest wishes for a Happy Christmas and every Prosperity in the New Year.

Nollaig Shona d'Ar gCairde Uile

Coiste Co. Laoise

THE LAOIS COUNTY BOARD

take this opportunity to thank all their players, officials and supporters for their great work during the past year

We also return thanks to the "Gaelic Weekly News" for their coverage of our games and wish them continued success in the future

L. O Braonáin
(Rúnaí On.)



Chances are
within the hour
someone you know
will make out a
Bank of Ireland
cheque...

WHY?

Because more and more people (including your friends) are realising the advantages of a Bank of Ireland account... Complete control of your finances—you carry an instant record of income and expenses... You have at your disposal the valuable advice and comprehensive services of the country's foremost banking institution, including the special facilities of the Bank's Executor and Trustee, Income Tax, and

Foreign Departments... But mostly it's because opening an account with the Bank of Ireland is so simple. A large or small account, a Deposit or Current account—it makes no difference. Simply call at your local Bank of Ireland Branch—where you will find a friendly staff who will be glad to help you on any banking problems.

BANK OF IRELAND

Head Office: College Green, Dublin 2. Over 150 Offices throughout Ireland.

The Annals of Gaeldom

Se an Spiorad Naomh an Tuairis eoir is fearr

BHI ME OG go maith nuair a léigh mé an abairt seo leanas in alt le Fear Ciúin sa Sunday Press. Ag cur síos ar an iománaí breá úd, Seosamh Mac an Bhradáin as Gaillimh a bhí sé . . . "At a comparatively early age he has etched himself a niche in the annals of Gaeldom but he should curb a tendency to propel the leather skywards." Sílim fós gur cacamas Gaelach ar chaighdeán árd an abairt úd agus níor mhiste don té a chuirfeadh roimhe bheith ina thuairisceoir ar chluichí Gaelacha é chur de ghlanmheabhair. Tá na bunriachtanais ar fad ann; tá sé foclach; tá sé áibhéileach; tá an téarmaíocht "dúchasach" agus an rud is tábhachtaí ar fad, tugann an scríbhneoir le fios go bhfuil eolas tugtha aige duit.

Is soiléire fós an gné deiridh seo, an rud is dlúth agus inneach don chineál seo scríbhneoireachta, sna habairtí seo as tuairisc a foilsíodh le gairid san Connaught Tribune:

"After five minutes of the second half only a point separated the sides. Then, after the referee, with the help of stewards and Gardaí, had cleared the pitch and two injured players had been removed to the side-line, P. Gill pointed a 21 yard free for the equaliser."

D'fhéadfaí go leor ceisteanna a chur i dtaobh an phíosa sin ach bheadh sé fánach. Is amhlaidh a fágfar chuile rud faoin samhlaíocht ach amháin an rud is tábhachtaí . . . an scór agus an té a fuair é.

Fiú nuair a bhíos an tuairisc níos loime ní mór rudaí a fhágáil faoin samhlaíocht. Mar shampla: "Disgraceful scenes marred the County Intermediate 'B' final at Tonleegreen on Sunday and Referee Murphy had to abandon the game after five minutes of the second half. The 'pulling' was robust from the start with both sides paying undue attention to the 'man'. Spectators 'invaded' the pitch on several occasions and only the intervention of the Rev. Chairman of the County Board prevented the game (if such it could be called) from coming to an even more premature ending . . . Five minutes after the re-start a Tonleegreen forward, going through on a solo-run, was felled with a blow of a hurley by a Tonleegreen back . . ."

Chun an chuid eile den scéal seo a fháil caithfidh tú fanacht le tuairisc Cruinnithe Bhord an Chondae ag a léifear tuairisc an mholtóra ach amháin sa gcás go raibh tuairisceoir eile i láthair a scríofadh a scéal ar an mbealach seo:

Comhar

Tá an t-alt seo, le BREANDAN O hEITHIR, dá fhoilsiú le cead COMHAR, iris an Chomhchaidrimh, mar a raibh sé i gcló sa chéad dul síos.

Tonleegreen 2-11; Tonleegreen 0-5 (Abandoned after 5 minutes of the second half).

"A disgrace to the Association," was the verdict of one old Gael as we left the Tonleegreen Stadium on Sunday, after a game that is best forgotten. It will be indeed interesting to see what punishment the County Board dishes out to the culprits when Referee Murphy's report comes up for discussion.

As for the match, suffice it to say that the end came when spectators swarmed on to the pitch after an incident involving P. Green (Tonleegreen) and a Tonleegreen player . . ."

Is minic, áfach, nach gá fanacht le tuairisc an mholtóra ar chor ar bith le téadacha an scéil a shnadhmadh (gabh mo leithscéal, tá an galar seo tógálach). B'fhéidir gur tuairisc bheag den tsórt seo a chuirfeadh an léas riachtanach ar fáil.

Brothers on Assault Charge

At a special court in Tonleegreen on Monday John Joe Green (38), farmer of Tonleegreen Upper and his brother Martin (18), mechanic, of the same address were charged with the attempted murder of Ignatius (Sonny) White (27), farmer, of Poulcam, Tonleegreen outside Tonleegreen Dance Hall at 12.25 p.m. on Sunday night. Asking for a remand on substantial bail, Inspector Black said that White was in a critical condition in the County Hospital, having had 32 stitches inserted in his face and head. He said he had reason to believe that the incident was connected with incidents that had occurred earlier that day during an unfinished hurling match in the town.

The brothers, who were not professionally represented, were remanded to the next sitting of the Court, on bail of £50 each."

Nuair a chuireann an moltóir a thuairisc os comhair

cruinnithe de Bhord an Chondae d'fhéadfadh go leor rudaí titim amach. B'fhéidir nach bhfaca an moltóir an eachtra de bhrí go raibh sé ag coinneáil súil ar an lán-chúil agus an lán-tosach, a bhí ag lascadh a chéile istigh ar imeall na cearnóige. Labhrann teachta na fóirne a bhí chun tosaigh nuair a chríochnaigh an cluiche. . .

"Proposing a motion (rejected) that the match be awarded to Tonlegee Mr. Seamus Green (Tonlegee) said that his team would never again play in Tonlegreen. It was not the first time, he said, that the Tonlegreen team and supporters has resorted to what he called "Nazi tactics" when everything else failed.

"We brought four young fellows over from England to play," said Mr. Green, "and two of them had to be treated in hospital. . ."

Mr. White (Tonlegreen) "And three of them were illegal!"

Mr. Green "Objections and dirt. That is all you are good for!"

Cheapfá ón méid sin nach mórán de chás a d'fhéadfadh ionadaí Tonlegreen a chur ós cóir an chruinnithe. Bheadh dul amú ort, áfach. Ar an gcéad dul síos d'fhéadfadh sé admháil go ndearna an t-imreoir a bhuail an buille feall (ag cur sa gcás go bhfuil sé ainmnithe i dtuairisc an mholtóra). D'fhéadfadh sé a rá go mba iad lucht leanúna Tonlegee a tháinig isteach ar an bpáirc agus a chuir iallach ar an moltóir deireadh a chuir leis an gcluiche. D'fhéadfadh sé a rá go ndúirt sé féin leis an moltóir go rabhadar ullamh le dhul ar aghaidh leis an gcluiche nuair a bheadh an pháirc glanta aige-san. Ní bheadh stró ar bith air fianaise a fháil (sa gcás go gcuirtear ar a shúile gur ar a chlub féin a bhí freagaracht an pháirc a ghlanadh) gur buaileadh agus gur bascadh cuid dá gcuid maoir a bhí ag iarraidh pháirc a ghlanadh.

D'fhéadfadh rud eile a theacht i gcabhair air freisin. An dara tuairisc úd ar an gcluiche. Cuir i gcás gur i bpáipear atá i bhfabhar deireadh a chur leis an gcosc ar chluichí Gallda a foilsíodh an tuairisc . . . ansin d'fhéadfadh rud éigin mar seo tarlú.

"Before the referee's report on the unfinished Tonlegee v. Tonlegreen Intermediate "B" Final was read the Rev. Chairman referred to certain sensational reports of the match that appeared in some newspapers.

"I am referring to one report in particular," he said, "and no Gael present has to be told what to expect from that shoneen rag. We in the Gaelic Athletic Association are well able to regulate our own affairs without snide advice from those who have but little understanding of our ideals. Let these gentlemen stick to their foreign rugby and soccer and leave us to regulate our own affairs. ('Hear, Hear').

Is léir go gcruthaíonn an chaint seo atmaisféar eile ar fad i seomra an chruinnithe agus ní gá mórán samhlaíochta chun a fheiceáil go mb'fhurasta cur faoi ndeara do theachtaí Tonlegee agus Tonlegreen buicéad mór whitewash a mheascadh agus an scéal go léir a mhúcadh do réir an tsean-nóis Ghaelaí.

Ach ní chríochnóidh an scéal ansin. . .

Fined for Cry in Street

"Paschal Green (58), a married farmer of Tonlegee Upper, was fined £2 at Tonlegreen Court on Tuesday on a charge of behaviour calculated to lead to a breach

of the peace.

Garda Maghnas O Domhnuoll said that defendant, who seemed to have drink taken, was standing in front of White's licensed premises in Tonlegreen, at 10.43 p.m. on the night of August 11th shouting loudly and looking for fight.

Justice Bowe: Did his remarks have any special significance?

Garda Domhnuoll: He was shouting. "Tonlegreen — — — —. Everything above the ground but the thistles."

Justice Bowe: What mystical significance is attached to these words, apart from the opening obscenity (laughter).

Garda O'Donnell: There is great hurling rivalry between the parishes of Tonlegreen and Tonlegee and there are three court cases pending as a result of the last match played between them.

Defendant, who said that he was never in trouble before, agreed to take the pledge and to stay away from White's public house. He agreed that he had behaved foolishly.

Justice Bowe: I have a good mind to bind you to the peace. It is people like you who keep these antedeluvian prejudices alive.

Defendant: It was the whiskey did it.

The Justice ruled as stated. Garda Walsh was also in the case."

We have just extended our premises which has enabled us to instal the most up-to-date modern printing machinery. We are now in a position to handle all types of printing — magazines, four colour brochures, labels, etc. If you are looking for quality printing and fast delivery dates, why not ask us for a quotation . . .

DROGHEDA PRINTERS LTD.,

BOLTON STREET,
DROGHEDA.

Telephone 8997/8998.

In retaining their Intermediate title, the London hurlers won wide acclaim and could be allowed compete in the senior championship next season. John O'Grady is opposed to such a development and states . . .

The case against London

MOST sermons start with a text. An article would be no worse for an introductory quotation also. I take mine from an editorial some months back in *GAELIC WEEKLY NEWS*: "It is now obvious that there can be significant international competition, provided the necessary effort is made to properly organise it."

The important word here is "international". I am glad to see it used, for there are people who resolutely shut their eyes to the fact that, once you have New York, London, Warwickshire or even Australia playing against Irish counties, the resulting competition is international in nature. No amount of tear-evoking mysticism about the sea-divided Gael, our invisible empire, and so forth, can alter that basic geographical fact.

I raise the matter at this time because, after London's untroubled victory in the intermediate hurling final, there are people who are discussing, as if it was the most natural thing in the world, London's up-grading into the senior championship next year. Granted that their presence in a junior or intermediate final has already broken the territorial logic of an All-Ireland title; as New York's in the Leagues has done in those events.

Since, as the reader will have gathered already, I am firmly opposed to London, or anyone else from abroad, getting into the senior race, it might be as well to give a fair hearing to the contrary proposition. The "pro" points are obvious enough and carry considerable weight, if one decides to overlook the basic flaw.

So let's see them: London have won the intermediate title, have proved their quality and now deserve automatic promotion; their presence would lead to a much-needed widening of the narrow "field" of teams that have any sort of hope of All-Ireland success; London would be a useful variant to the monotonous, respective confrontations of the "home" rivals; they deserve it as a reward for keeping our games alive in foreign parts against unavoidably severe handicaps, and as a stimulus to greater efforts still.

Supporters of the idea will also be able to say that it would not be without precedent. London-Irish are there in the list of senior champions under the date 1901,



Willie Barnaville — one of the heroes of London's triumphs.

having beaten Cork 1-5 to 0-4 in the final. So when we Tipp people complain about Cork's 1941 All-Ireland, won with Tipp and Kilkenny ruled out because of the foot-and-mouth regulations — Tipp later winning the delayed provincial final — the Cork folk can reasonably argue

Party Travel or Private hire... there's more to enjoy when you go CIE.



More comfort, more convenience, more places to see—more easily. CIE are experts on group travel organisation, take care of every detail at lowest cost. They'll take you where you please—or suggest any amount of bright ideas in tour trips. You can hire a CIE coach—or travel by train at special rates for 8 or more people. Everything goes more smoothly when you talk it over first with the top people in the tour business. For full details contact: Passenger Sales Manager, CIE, 59 Upr. O'Connell St., Dublin 1, or Area Sales Managers, Cork, Limerick, Waterford or Galway.

Get the party going with



HOSPITALER ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF GOD

Boys are accepted into the Juniorate of the Order on completion of the Primary Schooling and from the age of 12 upwards. From that time they continue their Secondary Education up to the Leaving Certificate. Young men over 17 years of age with Profession or Trade are accepted as postulants. Those not already trained will be given opportunity to do so. Then, God willing, they become Novices and are clothed in the religious habit.

HAVE YOU A VOCATION ?

The requirements are simple : Good health, good will and sufficient intelligence.

Further particulars may be had from :

**REV. BROTHER JOHN, O.H.,
"GRANADA", STILLORGAN, CO. DUBLIN.**

I.N.T.O.

BUY IRISH

The Central Executive Committee of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation appeal to members of the Organisation to give their maximum support to the campaign "BUY IRISH" initiated by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, and urge them by talks to their pupils, to bring the importance of buying Irish Goods to the notice of their parents.



The London team which made such an impression in winning the All-Ireland intermediate title.

that it only balances the books for 1901, when Cork were the best in Ireland, and still got no official title.

The 1901 experience, to my mind, is useful both as an illustration of what could happen, and an advance warning against risking a repetition. The case "against" rests fundamentally on the simple thesis: when you've proved yourself Ireland's best you are, or ought to be, All-Ireland champions and owners of the glory, the cup and the medals that belong to such an accomplishment.

Again, let's concede that at that rate Dublin, not London, ought now be our intermediate champions, and that a New York League win would be as illogical as London's intermediate one. Under semi-duress, and for the greater good of the game and its players, we'll have to put up with the flaws apparent in the League and the lesser championships. When it comes to the senior, however, it's high time someone, in the current phrase, shouted stop.

Mount Sion as Tipp champions, Glen Rovers as Waterford's, Thurles Sarsfields as Limericks . . . Ridiculous, you say. London as All-Ireland champions! Ridiculous again, and for the same obvious reason. When you put whiskey into water — or the other way round — it's no longer pure water. Put any outside group into an All-Ireland and how can you regard it as the same championship, still adequately described by the same name?

If London had remained in the championship all along it would have been, at least, consistent foolishness, and we'd have got used to it. To have them in at one time and out at another could only take from the integrity and meaning of the championship.

County against county has always been the basis of our annual contests. Even if we originally got our counties defined for us by foreigners — starting with King John in the latter part of the 12th. century—they have

long since become part of our consciousness and the objects of our affection, our pride and our prejudice. For better or worse, county records do matter. Now London, whatever it is, is no county, not even an English one.

Now, there is no point at all in letting London in if they didn't have a winning chance. And if indeed they did win, someone else would lose to a team from outside the nation. What harm, says a dissenter, if Tipp, Kilkenny or Cork lost one? Right: let us suppose that Clare come through in Munster next year, as they may well do. A nice thing if, after all their years of effort, their long deserved break-through should be checked in a semi-final by an amalgamation of Tippetmen, Corkmen, Kilkennymen, Waterfordmen—and even Claremen! That would pin-point the absurdities of the situation glaringly enough for anyone.

Whether it would be a better championship in playing standards has nothing at all to do with the principle of the thing. Ireland is Ireland; anywhere else is abroad. To put it so baldly may sound like callous coldness to our emigrants, but to grant them the privileges of being at home while in exile would be to realise the Australian-Irish fantasy of having "old Ireland over here."

And so back to our text and the next sentence to that which I have already quoted: "It would be tragic if the present opportunity was allowed to fade because of a failure to recognise its importance." The editorial earlier recommends a "well-conceived plan whereby New York, London (or Britain) and home teams in hurling, are matched to produce competitions which will be attractive and, as far as possible, financially self-sufficient." With which sensible sentiments I leave the pulpit.



The Derry under-21 team

It was Ulster's year

By Owen McCann

A YEAR OF MANY NOTEWORTHY FIRSTS that was 1968! And Ulster took the lion's share of the honours with a series of first timers that put the year into the record book as the greatest of all time in the history of football in the North.

The first major record was achieved in real winter conditions — intermittent showers of rain and hail and a gale force wind — on St. Patrick's Day. The North regained the Railway Cup with a 1-10 to 0-8 win over Leinster, and Sean O'Neill carved out a unique niche for himself in interprovincial history.

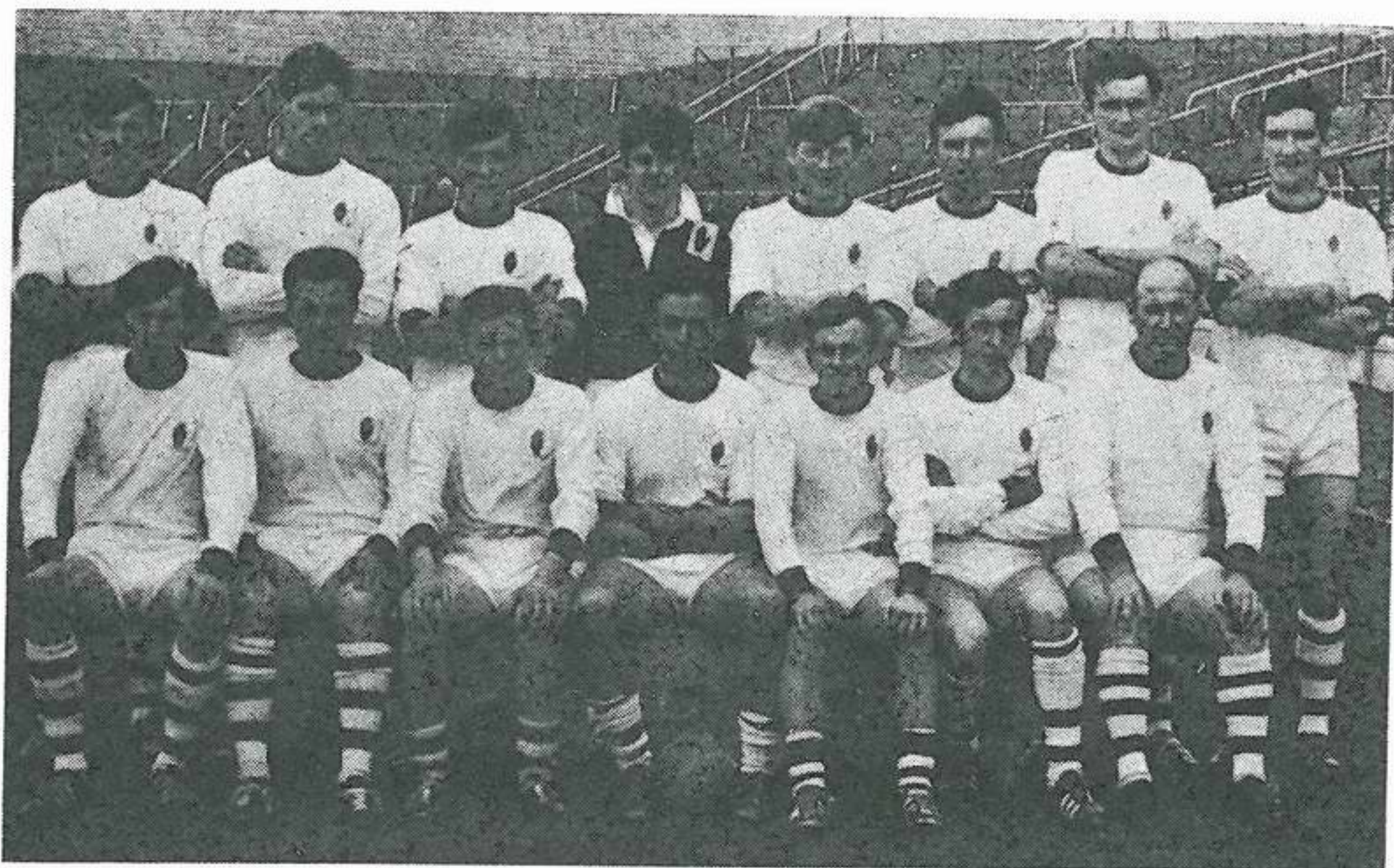
The Down forward artist won his first Railway Cup medal on his debut in a final in 1960. He played in each of the four finals that saw Ulster equal, in 1966, the Leinster 1952-'55 record of four football crowns in succession. And the 1968 final win earned for O'Neill the distinction of being the first footballer to figure on six Railway Cup final winning teams.

Later in March it was a double-joy day for Antrim. In their first year competing in the All-Ireland vocational schools' football championship, Antrim took the title with a resounding 6-7 to 1-4 final win over Galway at Croke Park. That was also Antrim's first All-Ireland championship in any grade of football or hurling.

When Down defeated Kildare in the National League final they gave Ulster the first Railway Cup and League double by any province since 1960.

August was a real record-making month for Ulster. Tyrone made it a winning debut in an All-Ireland junior football semi-final at Kerry's expense at Dungannon; Down beat Galway at Croke Park to become the first Ulster team to win an All-Ireland senior semi-final since live telecasts of these games began in 1962; and then it was the turn of Derry's Under-21 footballers.

Prior to Kerry's visit to Ballinascreen to oppose Derry, no Ulster team had won an under-21 football semi-final



The Tyrone junior team

since the championship was introduced in 1964. The Oak Leaf county starlets, however, crashed this barrier in no uncertain manner with a 3-11 to 0-10 win, and went on to make it another first for the county, and the North, by beating Offaly.

That success, too, in the final, gave four of the Derry side — full-back Tom Quinn, left-full Michael Kelly, centre-half Malachy McAfee and midfielder Seamus Lagan — a unique grand-slam of All-Ireland under-age medals.

All four were in the team that brought the All-Ireland colleges' senior championship to St. Columb's Derry, for the only time in April 1965. Later that year this quartet also figured nobly in Derry's win over Kerry for the county's only All-Ireland minor title win. And, for Tommy Diamond there was also the distinction of being the first footballer to captain successful teams in both the minor and under-21 All-Ireland football finals.

Down, of course, set that new peak with a third win in three All-Ireland senior finals, and September went out with Tyrone, who beat Mayo in the "home" final, bringing the All-Ireland junior title to Ulster for the first time since 1959. This was Ulster's greatest sweep ever.

And, Down added another trophy to the Ulster list in October, when they completed the big hat-trick of League, championship and World Cup by beating New York on aggregate 3-19 to 2-18; the first such treble, of course, by any county.

But Ulster had not a monopoly of firsts. In hurling, it was a year to remember with pride for Wexford, a year of sweet success and record-making achievements. It

really started in May, when St. Peter's, Wexford, retained their All-Ireland colleges' senior title.

A first-ever Leinster minor hurling hat-trick, a Leinster senior final success over Kilkenny, and victory over Antrim minors resulted in Wexford earning a dual representation for the first time in the All-Ireland championship finals, on the first Sunday of September.

Wexford made it a doubly historic first-timer by becoming the first county to win both finals since Tipperary in 1949, and the first Leinster county to complete this double since 1935. In addition, Wexford became the only county to complete in the same year the great treble of colleges', minor and senior All-Ireland hurling titles.

But, the Wexford success story does not end there. The county's camogie team made it a first Leinster senior championship final win by beating Kilkenny, then ousted Antrim in Antrim, and conquered Cork in the final to become only the fourth county to win this All-Ireland senior championship. Until that Wexford camogie success, Cork ranked as the only county to win the All-Ireland senior and minor hurling and senior camogie titles in the same year — 1941.

Back to the hurling achievements, and another famous first. This time for Ned Power, who trained the Wexford minor and senior team, and also the St. Peter's outfit; a truly wonderful treble of successes in the one year.

And the remarkable record of the Quigley family, of Rathnure, of being represented on every under-age Wexford All-Ireland championship winning team was maintained in 1968.

The first leg of a great double — Joe Lennon with the National League trophy following Down's triumph over Kildare in the final. Four months later he was to carry the Sam Maguire Cup from the Hogan Stand.



Dan and Pat were in the team that won St. Peter's first All-Ireland colleges' championship in 1962, and Pat helped Wexford to their initial All-Ireland minor title in 1963. In 1965 Dan and Pat were again team-mates in another history-making side — the outfit that won Wexford's only All-Ireland under-21 crown.

In 1966, John Quigley was in Wexford's second All-Ireland minor title winning 15, St. Peter's got back on the All-Ireland colleges' title winners' list in 1965, and three Quigley brothers, John, Jim and Martin, were all in that squad. Martin was again a star for St. Peter's, and for Wexford minors in 1968.

Munster, too, had its firsts. Colaiste Chriost Ri, Turner's Cross, Cork, retained their Munster colleges' senior football title, and then made a winning debut in the Dr. Harty Cup (Munster hurling) final. The Cork college beat St. Nathy's, Ballaghaderreen, in a replay, and in extra time to reach their first national football final. That game resulted in two new records: ONE : A win for Turner's Cross (they beat Belcamp O.M.I., Dublin); TWO : The first win by a Munster team in the history of the Hogan Cup for the All-Ireland colleges' championship.

Then, there were those impressive new peaks scaled by the footballers of Meath and Longford. Meath carried the flag right the way to Australia, where they exceeded most expectations with a superb unbeaten run in five games. Longford had their first senior football championship win over Dublin, at Tullamore on June 2, and on July 21, the county became the eleventh in Leinster to win the provincial championship, when they scored 3-9 to 1-4 by Laois at Croke Park.

Top scorer in that history-making march by Longford, was Jimmy Hannify, who hit 1-8 in a three-game programme. Jackie Devine scored 1-6. And the man who captained Longford in their final win was Vincent Daly at right wing forward.

One also remembers the power-packed football of Aidan Richardson, midfielder and captain, that brilliantly helped to fashion a doubly-historic win for Sligo in August. In their first appearance in an All-Ireland minor football semi-final at Croke Park, Sligo met Armagh, the county that bested Sligo on their only All-Ireland semi-final appearance in 1949 at Lurgan, and, with Richardson brilliantly to the fore, the Connacht county won a far from distinguished game 1-6 to 1-3.

But, it was Cork who triumphed in the final — their first minor football final double — and it was a unique occasion for six of the Leaside squad. Goalkeeper Declan O'Mahony, full-back Fergus Cronin, left full Seamus Looney, right half back Der Cogan, full forward Martin Doherty and left full Brendan Cummins go into the record book as the first Munster footballers to figure on All-Ireland colleges' and inter-county minor championship winning teams in the one campaign.

There were other notable achievements during the year . . . a 3-9 to 2-8 by Sligo over Louth that put the county into an All-Ireland junior hurling "home" final for the first time . . . Down's first All-Ireland camogie final victory (at junior over Cork in September) . . . the year that saw Tipperary beaten for the first time in successive All-Ireland senior hurling finals.

Yes, 1968 was, indeed, a year of many notable firsts . . . a year, in fact, that will be hard to match in this respect in the seasons ahead.

Jack Mahon talks to:

Jimmy Duggan

A tape-recorded interview



Jimmy Duggan

IN my book *TWELVE GLORIOUS YEARS*, when writing about Galway football of the twelve years prior to 1965, I predicted that a then college footballer Jimmy Duggan would be "the Purcell of to-morrow." I have always regarded Sean Purcell as the greatest footballer I have seen, so in saying this I was paying the greatest tribute to Jimmy Duggan.

Now three years later I take pride in the prediction for the lanky Galway midfielder has vindicated everything I said about him and I have great pleasure in interviewing him here. Before I ask him any questions I'd like to introduce him by saying that he was born in Galway; his father, Joe, was a brilliant Galway footballer in the 'forties as well as being an outstanding athlete; his mother, whose maiden name was Stephens, is a sister of Paddy Stephens of Corofin, now President of the Galway Football Board.

Paddy Stephens, popularly known as "Staff" in his native Corofin, was a wonderful clubman with Corofin in my young days, full of spirit, always urging on his teammates and, usually, getting the most out of them. I remember Jimmy's father playing in the Tom Sullivan era. Sullivan was my particular hero when I was a child.

I'll begin my interview by asking Jimmy who was his particular idol, when he was a youngster?

A: Sean Purcell was my idol — as a forward. I never saw him play in the backs or at midfield but I saw

him often at centre half-forward and at "full".

Q: What age were you then?

A: Eight I think. I can still remember 1956, '57 and '58 clearly.

Q: Were you at the All-Ireland final of '56?

A: Yes and at the League final against Kerry in '57. In fact I was at almost every game Galway played. It was our Sunday ritual.

Q: Can you remember the first time you met Sean Purcell?

A: It was after a training session in Tuam in 1957. My father brought me along with him to see the team training before the League final game against Kerry. We were sitting there in the cold watching those players out running and I was wondering if I ever would make the grade like them.

Q: Who was training the side then?

A: Billy O'Neill I think and John Dunne. John is still there of course. All I can remember now is the players starting at one end of the field and running all out to the other end, at the time, I couldn't imagine myself ever being able to do the same thing. I wanted to be able to run like that when I'd grow up.

Q: You were born in Galway and at this time, as at present, your family was living in Claremorris, Co. Mayo. While in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, you played club football with Claremorris as a juvenile, minor and senior. When did you leave the club?

THE PALLOTTINE FATHERS

ask you

Are You Big Enough for a Mansized Job ?

If so, we could use you.

SPECIAL COURSES for Late Vocations.

For further information please write for free coloured brochure to :

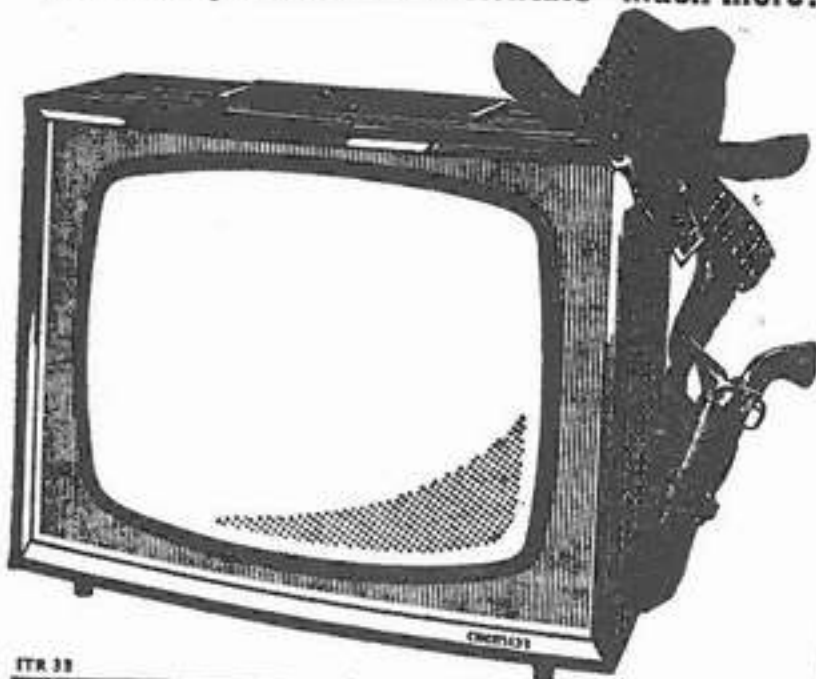
Fr. John Mannion, S.A.C.,
St. Petroc,
Stillorgan,
Co. Dublin.

or

Fr. Robert Horner, S.A.C.,
Pallottine College,
Thurles,
Co. Tipperary.

STRAIGHT SHOOTING:

It is not our policy to resort to gifts, gadgets and gimmickry. Commonsense will tell you that such things must be paid for—in one way or another. We prefer to concentrate on what really matters: offering the best sets and service we can possibly provide—for a rental as low as we can make it. If this is what you want (and we are sure it is) come along to your nearest Irish TV Rentals Showroom. You'll find, year in and year out, that when it comes to the things that really matter, you get more for your money with Irish TV Rentals—much more!



Visit or 'phone your local Irish TV Rentals Showrooms—Prove for yourself our rental value is unbeatable. Minimum rental period 12 months. Aerials at low rental. Free installation—Free maintenance—Free receiver insurance—Prompt, efficient servicing on all rental models. Prefer to buy? Our terms are outstandingly low. Let us supply you with all the details. Remember, whether renting or buying you get more for your money with . . .

Irish TV Rentals

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

P. J. DIFFLEY

GROCER; SPIRIT and PROVISION
MERCHANT

BALLYMAHON, CO. LONGFORD
Telephone 3370

Hardware, Timber, Seeds and Manures
Complete Funeral Undertaker.
Builders' Provider. Agent for Deering,
McCormack, Bamford, Lister, Blackstone
and Star Agricultural Machinery.
Wallpapers, China, Delft, Glassware,
Cutlery and Electro-Plate; Farm Imple-
ments, Paints, Oils and Varnishes,
General House Furnishing, Hire Pur-
chase terms arranged.

CUNNANE'S GARAGE

COURTHOUSE ROAD,
CLAREMORRIS

for
SATISFACTION and SERVICE
GUARANTEED

TELEPHONE : 25

Tillie & Henderson (Eire) LTD.

"DEE HILL" SHIRTS
"SITRITE" SHIRTS
"RESTRITE" PYJAMAS

Factory : Carndonagh, Co. Donegal

27 SOUTH KING STREET,

Dublin

Telephone : 52619

A. : At the age of 18 or 19 I changed over to my home club in Galway, Corofin, where I was born, and the club of my uncle, Paddy Stephens.

Q. : This engendered a certain amount of bitterness—the fact that you were living in Mayo, and playing club football there, but turning out for Galway. You encountered this bitterness yourself of course. Has it had any adverse effects on you?

A. : It hasn't really. I played club football with Claremorris for approximately three years and won two county titles with them. But when I did decide to play for Galway, some of the Claremorris people resented it. They said I was a renegade, even though I still played club football for the town. From this time onwards I was never really accepted by the Claremorris people so I decided it was far better for me to get out of Mayo football altogether.

Q. : As a result, has the initial bitterness you encountered in Galway - Mayo games now disappeared?

A. : Yes, practically. I still hear the odd supporter shouting: "go home to Claremorris", but I choose to ignore these silly remarks.

Q. : Does this ever happen on the field?

A. : No, not now. In the past, yes, but it has passed over now. It seems that the players have accepted the fact that I'm a Galway player.

Q. : You achieved an extraordinary amount of success early on in your career. Have subsequent events been an anti-climax or has your ambition for future glory been dimmed as a result of your early successes?

A. : Although I was extremely lucky in my first year of intercounty competition I'm still as keen as ever.

Q. : What is left for you to do beyond enjoying the game which I'm sure you do? Or have you got a surfeit of it yet?

A. : Yes, you can get too much of it in one go. When I was 18 I wanted to be playing every day for as long as I could. But you eventually get tired of the continual playing. If you're constantly playing every Sunday and training twice or three times a week you get tired and need a rest. However, with all the intercounty and club commitments it's often very difficult to get any respite from the game.

Q. : What training schedule have you? What do you do when Galway aren't training officially?

A. : It's easier now than it was because I'm presently working in the National Bank in Galway city. But when I was working in Gort last year it was impossible to get anybody to train with, even a young kid to kick a ball to you — and it's so monotonous kicking a ball up in the air yourself. Before I went to Gort I used to train at least three times a week, but the schedule went all haywire in Gort. You wondered when you trained on your own were all the other lads at it, or were you the only one who was training. There must be some enjoyment in training.

Q. : Do you think that today, boys are reluctant to train on their own and that things must be organised for them?

A. : That could be a point but against that the present Galway team often train voluntarily when they know they're not fit. However it's very hard on a winter's evening when you've quit work about 6 o'clock and it's nearly dark to set about organising training yourself. What I'd favour is organised training the whole year round, like what Down do — twice a week too. Down

have proved the benefit of this. Drink is a problem in this aspect. Many lads would rather go out for their pint at night rather than go training. If there was scheduled training, it would get over this difficulty.

Q. : Do you feel that being a top-class footballer is an advantage to you in your work as a bank official?

A. : Oh yes. Anyone working with the public, like myself, realises this is a great advantage.

Q. : Do you ever become tired of continually talking about football?

A. : I do, but it's something I have to put up with. You can take so much but if you're talking to somebody about something unconnected with football, such as at a dance and another person comes over and starts discussing the day's match and the game in general, it becomes a little tiring. It's a great thing at the beginning but it tires you sometimes, especially when you'd like to get away from it.

Q. : Do you think that being a top-class footballer or hurler has come to mean more in the placing of these people for jobs. It used to be said that top rugby men got all the better public relations jobs in Ireland, that we lagged and that our Padhraic Carneys never made it like their Tony O'Reilly's.

A. : I think the G.A.A. star has come into greater demand in this respect. But county boards and clubs could do more in this respect. Some great players still emigrate. It's not a question I know very much about but if a lad is not happy in his job he will not play well and here a change of work would help.

Q. : Do you think football is a rough game?

A. : The game can be dirty at times although this is the exception rather than the rule. However, there can be dirty matches. Often there can be "needle" between two counties. Galway - Mayo games are generally reasonably clean but some Offaly - Galway games I played in were really tough and some ended up in a fracas.

Q. : Did anyone ever try to intimidate you in your first year as a senior?

A. : Yes indeed. They knew I was young and obviously they said to themselves that they'd put the fear of God on this young fella.

Q. : What kind of remarks?

A. : "I'll kill you if you move." That happened alright in my first year. It would put a little fear into you alright.

Q. : Against what county?

A. : Mayo. Not against anybody else. We played Cork and Meath later. I got a few dirty belts against Cork too, in the first few minutes. I never encountered the slightest bit of tough play against Meath in the final. The only really dirty game I ever played in was against Offaly in Tullamore. It was terrible that day. My shins were black with kicks after it.

Q. : Any particular foul you hate?

A. : The meanest foul in Gaelic football at the moment is the tackle after you get rid of the ball.

Q. : Do you think it is getting worse?

A. : It is and the referee never seems to see it.

Q. : Have you ever been knocked out by this type of foul?

A. : No, but I've been very sore after a few of them.

Q. : Your nose was broken recently in an inter-banks game. Was it from such a foul?

A. : No.

Q.: You've had your share of injuries for a young lad. This hasn't dampened your ardour a bit has it?

A.: No, not really. I felt pretty sore after the nose operation but once I got well I wanted to be out kicking again.

Q.: Did you ever deliberately hit any opponent on the field?

A.: I hit a few fellows as hard as I could a few times but it was with a fair shoulder. I have never kicked or punched anybody intentionally nor do I ever intend to. I believe in hitting shoulder to shoulder within the rules as hard as you like. What I dislike — besides the late tackle — is a kick in the ankles from behind or a punch in the back of the neck or mouth.

Q.: Any particular team that are adept at this type of thing?

A.: Well there's a fellow in nearly every team at it. There is always a mouse who does everything behind the referee's back. There is one filthy player on the Mayo team.

Q.: The Australians have come and gone this year. Did you see them play?

A.: Not this year but I did last year. They have this method of going in twos and threes from the half back line. It's a risky move but they're so fit — semi-professional — that they get away with it. They attack right out from the full-back line. They can pass accurately to a team-mate at a 30 yards distance while running at top flight. They are uniform in their speeds — three in a line running at exactly the same pace. It's different here in Ireland. On a county team, I suppose you could get five fast men, five mediocre speedy men

and five slow men. We don't have such uniformity of pace here.

Q.: Any peculiar fetching ability you admired?

A.: Yes very definitely. They had this way of going up for a ball and seeing a loose team-mate out on the wing and using a kind of a palm — maybe it's against the rules now but I'm not quite sure — but they go up and catch it with their hands, and more or less throw it across to the loose man, like you would see sometimes in basketball.

Q.: Have you ever tried this gambit yourself or is there any Irish player with whom you'd associate it?

A.: Joe Lennon is very adept at it. He has also the habit of taking the ball from you from behind by placing his hands between you and the ball and more or less lifting the ball back from you.

Q.: Have you read Joe Lennon's book?

A.: Yes I have.

Q.: Do you admire Joe?

A.: Well he has great points. He has great spirit and injects determination into the Down players. He plays very intelligent football but he is not as clean as everybody thinks he is.

Q.: Have you ever met him?

A.: Not really except on the field. I would like to meet him and talk about the way he trains. It's so typical of big G.A.A. games that you never meet your opponents except on the field of play. Things would be improved if there was even one recognised meeting place like, for instance, Mansion House, where it became a custom for teams to meet.

AIDAN KELLY

VICTUALLER

90 SOUTH MAIN STREET : WEXFORD

TELEPHONE 376

Congratulations to our Three Champions

"THE GREEN GOOSE"

Calderwood Road,
Sion Hill Road,
DRUMCONDRA

Telephone : 375242

ALL GAELS MOST HEARTILY WELCOME

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

*

COMHAIRLE ULADH

*

Beannacht an Linbh Iosa
agus a Mhathair um
Nollaig agus san
Aithbhliain ar ár
lucht leanúna
go léir.

Q.: Any particular opponents you admire in present day football?

A.: I admire Mick O'Connell though I've yet to play on him. He is so clean and he passes a ball so perfectly at a 20 to 40 yards distance and fetches beautifully too. I'd like to meet Mick too.

Q.: Any other player?

A.: Looking back I thought Kevin Heffernan a great forward with a wonderful sidestep. Indeed that Dublin team of the 'fifties really impressed me. Jim McKeever of Derry is another man I've yet to meet. I'd especially like to meet him and ask him to compare the football of today with football of yesteryear.

Q.: Mayo beat Galway in Tuam last November. At the time I wrote there was an All-Ireland in this young team. Do you agree?

A.: I can't say there is. In the game you refer to Galway hadn't the same enthusiasm.

Mayo played as if their lives depended on it whereas Galway hadn't the same enthusiasm. Galway were very bad and stayed with Mayo until the last ten minutes. Mayo, if they had real class, should have beaten us by far more. Maybe there is an All-Ireland in them, as you say, but I can't see it.

Q.: Looking at the game from the stand one thought struck me about this game of ours. Nobody ever seems to be able to get away now without being pulled or dragged all over the place and so many players in this game were pulled up by the referee for overcarrying.

A.: If teams aren't fit they can't run. They stay in the one position and when the ball drops they are all in a bunch and they haven't the energy to move around the field. If there is a wind, the play tends to confine itself to one half of the field. Then you have 30 players almost in one half of the field. The sun often causes bunching too. The remedy is to lessen the number of players in a team to 11, 12, or 13-a-side.

Q.: Where do you think this should be introduced?

A.: In the college competitions and in under-21 football. This would cut out much of the pulling and dragging. I'd not go less than 11-a-side.

Q.: Is 30 minutes each way long enough?

A.: It can be if the play is open, but when there are too many stoppages it is not.

Q.: Any ideas on refereeing?

A.: It is good and bad. I dislike the referee that blows for everything. My favourite referee — Eamonn Moules. I was sorry to see him retiring from the scene. I'll never be a referee. A poor referee gets so much abuse — even on the field. Especially if the game is close and tense. I've heard remarks like "What the hell is that for ref?" A man should be cautioned for this and should get the line if he says it again. It would get rid of this. People often say this man shouldn't have been put off, etc. But they don't really know what happens out on the field, in the heat of play. Players talk not too nicely sometimes.

Q.: You saw the Olympic soccer final. Did you think the referee overdid the discipline here?

A.: No not really. There were language difficulties and I wondered how the referee knew what the players were saying.

Q.: Any soccer tendencies coming into Gaelic? Any sign of a scorer being kissed like happens in soccer? Some of us think G.A.A. players are pampered. The bottle of drink (lemonade I presume) is rushed in every

so often. During the summer I noticed players got a sponging of water. What next?

A.: No we don't start kissing each other — maybe a clap on the back. The bottle is something you think you need now especially if you are unfit.

Q.: You won a Railway Cup medal. What do you think of this competition?

A.: It's a beautiful medal but there is something lacking in the competition. It should be disbanded.

Q.: Would an Australian trip for the winners put back the bite it once had into it.

A.: Yes, I think so. Only a few players now get fit for it. I remember when it used to be such a competition and the public enjoyed it too.

Q.: G.A.A. games get much publicity. Do you like reading about yourself in the newspapers?

A.: I read the reports, but I'd never read the paper if there was a crowd present. I'd read it myself carefully later. I'm very critical of these reports.

Q.: Did you ever feel offended by something written about you, so much so that you wrote to the writer in question?

A.: No. Writers have been very fair to me. There are times, however, when they are way out. I'm thinking of matches I see and when reading about them I wonder was it the same match at all.

Q.: What is your main ambition?

A.: To captain Galway in an All-Ireland final win. To do that I must captain Corofin to a county title win — another ambition, of course.

Q.: Do you think All-Irelands in the future will command as much attention as they do now?

A.: I don't think there will be any lessening of interest. The games are lively, are becoming faster and more scientific, and youngsters at school are as keen if not keener than ever.

Gaelic Weekly News for Breakfast

Ensure your copy of Gaelic Weekly News in the post each Friday morning by placing an order now. It will make Friday's the best breakfast of the week! The subscription rates are: 15 weeks — 10/-; 32 weeks — 20/-; 52 weeks — 30/-.

Write, enclosing subscription, to Gaelic Weekly News, 58 Haddington Road, Dublin 4.

Alternatively, place a firm order with your newsagent. There is no better value for 6d. Tell your friends this too.

Heartiest congratulations on yet another fine achievement and every success in the future to Wexford — from

P. KELLY & SONS

SPORTS OUTFITTERS

GENERAL DRAPERY

HOUSE FURNISHERS

75 MAIN STREET, GOREY. Telephone 144

Branches :

WEXFORD : Cornmarket, Tel. 244. South Main Street, Tel. 705.

GOREY : Main Street. Telephone 144.

NEW ROSS : North Street. Telephone 21466.

ENNISCORTHY.

Specialists in FOOTBALL BOOTS, JERSEYS, STOCKINGS, HURLEYS, FOOTBALLS, HURLING BALLS, Etc.

OSMOND BENNETT & SONS LTD.

DUBLIN ROAD : PORTLAOISE

Ford Main Dealers

CARS, TRUCKS, COMMERCIAL
VEHICLES

Agent for : RANSOME IMPLEMENTS

ALL FARM MACHINERY IN STOCK
Personal Supervision

BEST TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE, H.P. AND INSURANCE
ARRANGED

TELEPHONE 21506

N. CAMERON

& CO. LIMITED

— Specialists in —

ALL TYPES OF FENCING
AND GATES

Supply and Erect
LOCHRIN UNCLIMABLE STEEL
PALISADING

8 COLLEGE SQUARE, NORTH,
BELFAST, 1

Telephone 29633 (2 lines)

The All-Stars

—or don't train harder, just shorten the pitch

By **LIAM CAMPBELL**

QUESTION: Name somebody who has played football against the Galway team of 1956, the Dublin and Kerry teams of '55, Meath's '49 and '54 outfits, the Armagh line-up of '53, the Cavan stars of '47 and '52, Antrim's men of 1946, and (believe it or not) the Kildare All-Ireland champions of 1928?

Answer: Jimmy Magee. Additional information: With the help of his All-Stars.

Jimmy was born in New York at an early age, and soon after moved to the Cooley Peninsula. He played minor for Louth, and then decided that talking about games was a lot safer than playing them. In 1966 he had the brainwave that led to his name and that of his team becoming synonymous with all that is worst in Gaelic football.

His idea was to assemble a group of showband singers, sports commentators and a few genuine footballers to play our national game in the cause of charity around the country. It was anticipated (correctly) that it would be the sort of football which nobody would watch unless it was in the cause of charity, and a most deserving one at that.

So fifteen brave, if not particularly wise, men took the field for the first time at Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan, on June 6, 1966. They called themselves the Jimmy Magee Radio & TV All-Stars, which is one of the reasons that nobody ever cheers for them. (Imagine shouting: "Come on, the Jimmy Magee Radio & TV All-Stars!"). The initial venture was a success, and now, two years, three seasons, twenty-five counties and many thousands of miles later, the All-Stars can look back on more than fifty games played and more than forty thousand pounds raised for charities all over Ireland . . . and all those games were Gaelic football of a sort!

Basically, the idea is to play a game against a famous team of the past, and follow this with a dance, at which the showbiz members of the All-Stars perform free. This entire operation normally takes place on Monday nights, since Monday is the only night off, the showbands have, and remember that all travel, etc., is at

their own expense. So the entire proceeds of match and dance go to charity. When one considers this, one can forgive them for the type of football they play.

It's surprising how many of these showband boys can kick a ball, though. Larry Cunningham still plays an occasional club match at home in Longford, and of course Dermot O'Brien captained an All-Ireland winning team. Brendan Bowyer has the makings and the build of a fine centre half-forward if he'd only give up this silly singing and get down to some serious training. His Royal colleague Tom Dunphy, all nine stone of him, has scored many fine goals at top-of-the-left, and Belfastman Joe Doherty, a yodeller with the Millionaires Showband, is a better attacking half-back than you'd see on many a club team.

There are, too, a few real footballers on the team, just in case the opposition would adopt the shady tactics of including anybody under forty. Frankie Byrne of Meath, with his receded hairline, is the fittest man on the team; Father Michael Cleary, the singing priest, still retains the skill he had when he played for Dublin in the 'fifties. His shooting might be a little sharper, though; one evening, after he had missed a sitter, Frankie Byrne told him to say five Our Fathers and five Hail Marys!

Jim Tunney is with the All-Stars, too, another ex-Dublin player who is now a member of Dublin Corporation. Paddy Harrington of Cork often helps us out, and so does Jack Quinn from Meath.

One or two stars from other games have joined up with the All-Stars. There's Mick Lynch and Tommy Farrell from the world of soccer, and on occasions an ex-Irish rugby captain has worn the colours. For the benefit of those who are fond of telling us about the narrow mindedness of the G.A.A. it's worth mentioning that never even once had there been the remotest suggestion of official displeasure at any level about these men playing with the All-Stars on a Gaelic pitch. It's like Senator Sean Browne said on the occasion of the All-Stars' visit to Gorey: "When it comes to charity, the G.A.A. is always there."

G. MORGAN & SONS, Steel Furniture Manufacturers

Specialists in: Kitchen Suites; Stacking Chairs; Bar, Lounge and Hotel Furniture

Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda — Telephone 8068

SPORTS CLUBS! Place your order now for Men's and Boy's Football Hose, Track-suits, and Shorts, Team Jerseys, Goalkeepers' Sweaters, Goal-nets, Flags, Athletic Singlets and Shorts — Main Agent for Perdix Sportswear.

PHIL LYNCH — General Draper

4 & 41 PARK STREET, DUNDALK. TELEPHONE: 5187

Agents for O'Neills footballs in Dundalk.

Specialists in Fully Automatic Equipment —

COYLE BROS., Greenlanes, Drogheda

Electrical Contractors

Telephone: Drogheda 8414

N. SMITH & SON

MAIN FORD DEALERS - AUTO ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS - Come and see our range of top quality used cars
FIRST-CLASS TRADE-IN TERMS HIRE PURCHASE AND INSURANCE ARRANGED

North Road, Drogheda

Telephone: 8951/2

T. O' HUGGINN

AGUS CHOMH. TEO., GAILLIMH

**T. O'HIGGINS & CO. LTD.,
GALWAY**

*Deantoiri — Trosgan Tighe, Eaglaise agus Sgoil
Household, Church and School Furniture Manufacturers
Oll-Dioltoiri — Suirin, Gleasanna Cocaireachta agus
Fearaisti Plumearachta de gach cineal*

Distributors of Ranges, Cookers and all types of
Plumbing Goods

Telephone 2289, 4524

Guthan 2289, 4524

M. V. COACH TOURS

FOR

Football Runs and Club Outings

ALSO

Weddings, Social Functions, Dance Transport, etc., or
just for getting your children to school on time and dry
in their own coach

Contact:

M. V. TOURS, Ballymakenny, Drogheda

Telephone 7089 (after hours 8393)

Cumann Luthchleas Gael

**COISTE CONTAE
NA MI**

We wish to thank our players and
supporters for their loyal assistance
during 1968 and we look to their
continued support during the season
ahead.

We extend to all our friends the
joys of a Happy Christmas.

**Nollaig faoi Shéan is faoi
Mhaise**

Jimmy Magee insists that the team togs out in an immaculate all-red outfit, on the theory that if you can't be a footballer you can at least look like one. The outfits were donated by O'Neill's of Capel St. When a press conference was planned last March to announce details of the 1968 itinerary, Paddy Madigan offered his lounge free, and didn't charge for the refreshments either. As a gesture of their gratitude, the All-Stars decided to make Paddy's premises their training headquarters. The decision was unanimous, as Madigan's lounge is a lot more comfortable than the Phoenix Park. Paddy is a rugby man himself, but sure none of us is perfect.

Probably the biggest night of all was in London, when, after playing under lights at the White City Stadium, the All-Stars drew what looked like the entire population of London to the Galtymore Ballroom, Cricklewood, to give a big boost to the funds of the Irish Centre. We've been short a few players since; the rumour is that they're still over in Cricklewood, where, I can assure you, the crack was good.

We have a course commentary at the games, in which I attempt to keep the customers informed as to what's going on; I'm not always sure myself.

Up to every trick, we take our own referee with us: Paddy Kennedy. The deal is that he doesn't get a lift home if we lose. He normally does as he's told, but he reverted to type when we played the Kerry team of '55 in Tralee. We were leading near the end, and what does our referee do but give a penalty to Kerry when it should have been a line ball for us . . . you can't trust anyone nowadays.

Club chairmen and team manager is John Joe Lavin, who played with Sligo and Connacht many a time. He

has been accused at several games of having sixteen men on the field; these accusations are quite clearly false, since John Joe never has less than seventeen men playing at the one time.

Apart from the benefit to charities, there is one feature of this All-Stars business that is worth considering: the social aspect.

The All-Stars have been responsible for the re-assembling of many great teams of the past, often after ten or fifteen or more years. Some of these men hadn't met each other in all that time, and it has been heart-warming to stand in a dressingroom and watch their faces as they come in one by one and meet their teammates again. Bulging waistlines and balding heads are freely and irreverently commented upon, and by the time they go out on the field the occasion has already become a social one . . . which is why we win so many matches!

The type of football played by the All-Stars is best described as well-intentioned. To their credit, our opponents recognise this, and play well within even their ageing abilities. After all, a puck in the gob could be a costly business for a singer or a commentator, and we don't want to be running a charity match for one of ourselves.

So between the strayed passes and the missed sitters and the screaming muscles and the creaking backs a lot of money has gone to help the many good causes that abound in the land. We often ask ourselves why we bother with it all . . . maybe it's because charity covers a multitude of sins. If it doesn't, we're all in trouble.

WHEN MAKING YOUR TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS

Consult

HAYES TRAVEL SERVICE

18 ENGLISH STREET

::

DOWNPATRICK

TELEPHONE 2570

WORLD WIDE SERVICE — LAND — SEA — AIR

PACKAGE HOLIDAYS ARRANGED

Charter Flight Specialists for Clubs or Group

WHEN NEXT TRAVELLING CONSULT US

"TIMES are changed," he said with that curious sadness of those who see present things and only enjoy the images in their memories. "I remember a day when Kerry used to be unbeatable in a final."

He was just one more veteran who had come to Croke Park in September to witness what he had been assured would be the vindication of the old-style against the new. Reading the papers he had drunk in the tale of Kerry's great renaissance, seen in his mind's eye the great lunging leaps of men in green and gold to hold the flying ball at undreamt of heights, imagined them bursting a way through pigmy figures to send flying points from all angles and distances.

To him the fact that Down had won, and decisively, proved nothing more than the passage of time. To him Kerry of old would still be invincible, only palely reflected in today's team. Of Down and their development of a new concept of football and a new efficiency of execution, he thought little, and would have been surprised had he been asked to evaluate it. He probably

hand-pass that none of the developments in the game had established any real superiority over the Kerry style, played by Kerry. Mayo did not, Antrim also failed in the 1946 semi-final, and the successes gained by Ulster in the interprovincials was not conclusive, not lasting, and probably would have been achieved by strict orthodoxy in any case by the stars they possessed just then.

The Dublin style, evolving through an All-Ireland junior team of 1948 to serious senior business in the early 'fifties, posed a definite challenge to the catch-and-kick. It carried about it — this Dublin style of neat passing and running into position — an attraction of cleverness and thoughtfulness, almost of intellectuality which would become an emerging urban society; the Kerry methods smacked of rural stodginess, traditionalism and even a certain lack of intelligence. But, when the chips were down in 1955, Kerry whacked Dublin out of sight, and the great reformation was staunchly yet awhile.

The influence of Dublin's team of that time, however,

The times they are a-changing, O!

By Jim Bennett

would have been outraged had it been suggested to him that these luminously-clad Northerners would have made a sad spectacle of the great Kerry teams of his memory.

It must be acknowledged that over the past few years the whole emphasis has changed in football from natural untrained and uncoached qualities, such as were the basis of the earlier great Kerry teams, to styles evolved by intensive concentration on fitness and close attention to tactical planning. It became quite clear that playing at catch-and-kick with Kerry was very much in the category of "teaching your grandmother to such eggs."

Would-be challengers without the natural advantages or tradition which made this style so effective for a Kerry team or a Galway one, a Meath or Cavan one of some thirty years ago, realised that they must set about interpreting their own best advantages in a style to suit themselves.

Mayo, in the 'thirties, tended to stress speed and combination as their best weapon, making a definite deviation from the traditional style. From Ulster, in the 'forties, came the most significant influence in all the subsequent tactical development, when a brilliant Railway Cup forward line held the talent and all round skill to impose themselves on the pattern of play, and to mould the style of play to their own liking. With Alf Murray master-minding that attack, the possibilities of close and rapid inter-passing with hand or foot were first opened out.

Antrim was the county which carried on this foundation to complete construction in their short few years of brilliance and fascination with the hand-pass. It was their over-elaboration, perhaps, using the passing game almost as an end in itself which was their undoing. At any rate, it could be said after the outlawing of the

was widespread, because of the immense success with which their highly talented group of players were able to exploit the style which best suited them. Most counties began to think more in terms of combination and passing to a better placed man. With this changing pattern emphasis was naturally laid more heavily on mobility, speed and general fitness; training became a more subtle art no longer confined to lapping the field and doing a few sprints.

All through these challenging times Kerry had the greatest trainer of his time at their disposal — Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan whose authority in the physiological and psychological aspects of sports and training for sports was world-wide. But during his reign the ban on collective training, which Kerry always used for finals and occasionally for other big games, was imposed. Dr. Eamonn always disputed the wisdom of that decision and pointed to the special injustice which it did to Kerry through the inaccessibility of their players, some of them far away from home.

The ultimate challenge to the authority so long exercised by the traditional high catching, long-kicking style of play has come in the 'sixties, and from several sources, but principally from Down and Galway. This variant of the Dublin style probably carries a bit more bite than the prototype, lays heavier stress on planned tactical exploitation of strengths and negating of opponents' advantages. More than ever before, the style depends for its effective interpretation on standards of fitness far in advance of those of twenty or thirty years ago. The time, sweat and dedication which went into maintaining Galway for three years at the top of the tree, and the almost year-round regular schedule used by Down this year to reach and sustain a physical peak are indications of this.



John Purdy — a slick pass in the All-Ireland final.

The question arises, of course, in this progress by stages in proportion to the time and work-load of training put into it, of how far you can go within the traditional and hard-held concept of amateurism in the G.A.A. It has been always strongly adhered to as basic to the ideals of the Association that playing should be totally untainted by motives other than those of enjoyment and healthy emulation.

Indeed, just at the moment, we are probably within our rights in giving thanks for that strong continuous spirit in the G.A.A. All round we see the corrosion of sport by professionalism. There is a good meaning to professionalism — efficiency of the highest order — and we need that sort of efficiency as far as can be achieved in the G.A.A.

But, it seems to be a sad but inevitable progression in sports where material considerations have entered in and the sport itself has become overweighted in importance in comparison to the other things of ordinary everyday living, that the progression of enjoyment has been backward. Certainly, for the participants the old 'joie de vivre' has gone out of it; admittedly, its place has been taken by a job of work which the participant enjoys doing and does better than anything else, and this, in itself, is good, if one is willing to have the sport raised to the level of work.

For the G.A.A. there can never be any such total change-over for it would surely destroy the underlying idea of the participation of the player and the club officials and the followers in a unified experience; they take part in different degrees and at different levels, but the part of each group in the totality is clear enough when you see a club win a big game, or a county win an All-Ireland. The necessary identification of the player with the followers, and they with the players causes strength and courage to be drawn from each by the other.

And enjoyment, and the 'joie de vivre' is not lost by any party, nor are players reduced to the cynical attitude of the athlete in the Olympic Games who said blandly: "My goodness, this is not sport — this is hard

work, and I have never looked on it as a sport since I first reached good class competition." And when asked if he enjoyed his event any more, he was quite honest and straightforward: "Enjoy? No, I haven't had real enjoyment since I was a novice competing for pleasure. But, I certainly do gain satisfaction from it when I do well."

That is one attitude, but it is not for us; and I doubt whether there are more than a handful of Irish sports enthusiasts of whatever allegiance who would wish their game to become for them a serious and wearing job of work. Indeed, with the direction in which professional sport is tending, and with athletics of all kinds merely a step to advancement, at best, there is bound to be, sooner or later, a revulsion of feeling at the huge multi-ringed circus and a return to amateurism in our meaning of the word. We have never yielded, yet, in strictly holding our view that sport is a part of life, but essentially a recreational part and good for the body and the spirit.

Years ago Kerry were grieved that collective training was forbidden because it was always so necessary to them to bind their scattered players into a fit and coherent unit. Though they (and other counties) used the idea very sparingly, for All-Ireland finals usually, it was seen as the thin edge of a substantial wedge. No doubt, then, there is a ready-made limit to the extent of training time which may be availed of to turn out skilled teams in the future, and the economical use of the one or two evenings a week will decide between one team and another.

Hence the importance more than ever of first-class trainers and tacticians. But, more than an evening or two, except before the championship games, would seem to have too dehumanising an effect on players — cutting them off excessively from the social world about them, and by driving them too hard make of them a dull bunch, too strained to work well or play well. Seeking the happiest medium will be an important factor in the next steps forward to further horizons.

AN GUM

OINEACHLANN

10/6

Cnuasach nua gearrscéala le *Críostóir O Floinn*, cuid acu ina nduais-ghearrscéalta—i gcomórtais an Oireachtais agus i gComórtas Comórtha an Eirí Amach, 1966.

UAIMHEANNA NA SEALGAIRI MORA

7/6

Cuntas ar na huaimheanna i Lascaux na Fraince aistrithe ón mbunleabhar Gearmáinise le *Hans Baumann*. Macasamhla de chuid de na pictiúir chlúiteacha atá sna huaimheanna.

AINMHITHE ALLTA EIREANN

4/6

Cunta le *hAilbhe O Monacháin* ar na hainmhithe allta atá in Eirinn inniu agus orthusan a bhíodh sa tír fadó. Pictiúir.

Oifig Dhíolta Foilseacháin Rialtais,
An Stuara, Baile Atha Cliath, 1.

MOUNT BRANDON HOTEL

TRALEE, CO. KERRY

Tel. Tralee 700

*

All rooms with private bath and central heating.

*

First class Table d'Hote and A La Carte Menus

Cumann Luthchleas Gael

COISTE CONTAE LIATROMA

This opportunity is availed of to extend sincere wishes to our players, members and supporters for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

We also wish to thank all concerned for their loyal support in the past and hope to have it in the years ahead, so that our efforts may be successful.

IF YOU PLAY

BINGO

make sure you use

IRISH BINGO BOOKS

PROMOTERS SHOULD WRITE OR 'PHONE

SOLATHRAITHE BINGO NA hEIREANN

(IRISH BINGO SUPPLIERS)

58 HADDINGTON ROAD,
DUBLIN 4.

TELEPHONE 60271/9.



Wexford — All-Ireland camogie champions 1968

Camogie's year to be remembered

By AINE MEAGHER

FOR CAMOGIE, 1968 was a great year, a year that saw the great break-through in which Wexford won their first All-Ireland, when the first junior championship final was played, when the Central Council sanctioned an All-Ireland colleges' championship and when a special commission set to work to figure out how best the Camogie Association could re-plan its activities to ensure that the female game took its proper place in the life of the Nation.

Moreover, the idea of coaching courses, first seen in Belfast in the previous year, spread southward to very good effect and very successful get-togethers were held, first in Kilkenny and then in Longford.

Congress made only one change in the Association's officers — Miss Lil O'Grady (Cork), having completed her term as President, was succeeded by Mrs. Rosina McManus of Ulster.

It was an extremely busy and varied year on the playing fields. In the Spring, the Ashbourne inter-varsity Cup set the season really moving, and University College, Galway, just pipped University College, Dublin, in an exciting final.

The next event of note was the re-play of the 1967 All-Ireland club championship at Ballinasloe, where Dublin's Eoghan Ruadh scored an unexpectedly easy victory over Galway's Oranmore.

On colleges' fields, Holy Faith, Clontarf won the Leinster senior title by defeating Gilson School, Oldcastle, while Mercy Convent, Naas, sprang a surprise in the junior final by beating the well-fancied Presentation Convent, Kilkenny. In the North, St. Michael's Lurgan, got the better of Loreto, Coleraine, in both grades, while in the first-ever Munster colleges' series, St. Aloysius, Cork, sparked by Liz Garvan, her sister Deirdre and

JESUITS

(SOCIETY OF JESUS)

We need men like you to help us spread the Gospel in Zambia, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

We need men like you to help in Mission and Retreat Work and in teaching.

The desire to serve God, good health, and the normal success in your studies — these are the qualifications.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR LIFE ?

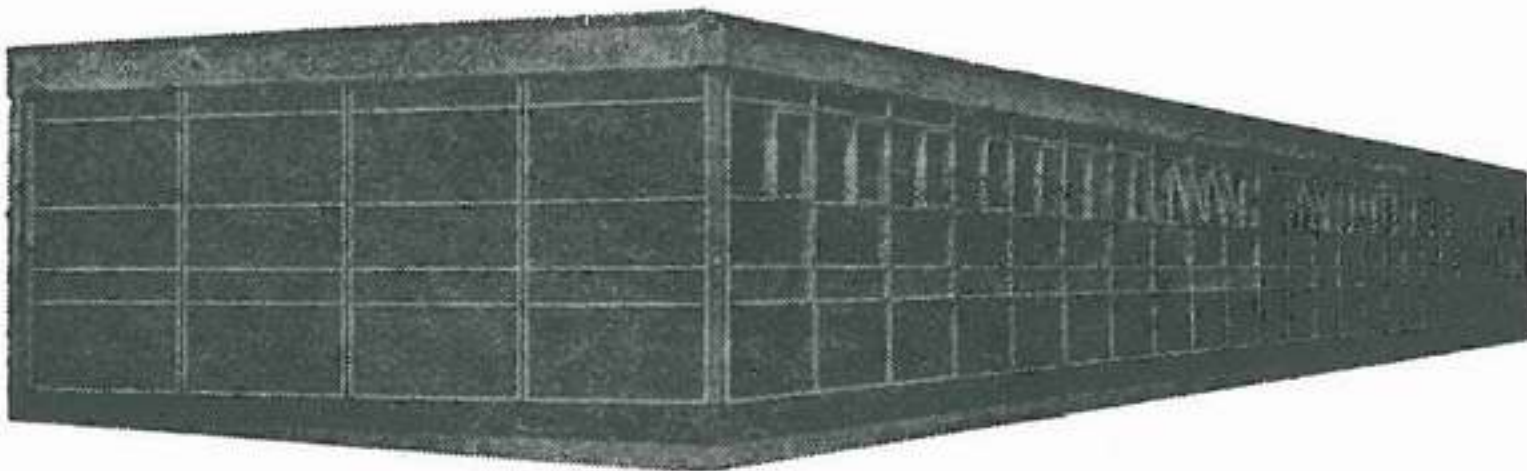
For further information please write to :

Very Rev. Fr. Provincial, S.J., 85 Eglinton Road, Dublin 4

DRESSING ROOMS

SPORTS PAVILIONS

RECREATION ROOMS



CONSULT

CARROLL SYSTEM BUILDINGS LIMITED

81 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. Tel.: 63172—62542

Honor Lynch, a niece of the Taoiseach, defeated Colaiste Mhuire, Ennis in a great final.

Later the Cork colleges showed their worth by defeating a Dublin colleges selection at Croke Park, while the colleges' season ended with an unofficial All-Ireland final at Croke Park, in which Leinster champions Holy Faith, Clontarf, just got the better of Ulster champions St. Michael's, Lurgan by a point.

As a preliminary to the intercounty championship, Dublin had a goal to spare over Antrim in an exhibition game at Magherafelt, but the championship itself opened on a quiet note.

In Munster, Cork had not very much to spare over Tipperary, but Limerick and Waterford had sweeping victories over Clare and Kerry respectively and, when these two counties met in the semi-final, Waterford won through, only to go down to Cork, after extra time, in the final at Tramore. On the same day, Cork made history by bringing off the first provincial double, as their juniors also beat Kerry.

Galway subsequently achieved a similar feat in the West, but Down took the junior title in the North where Antrim again met little more than token resistance in senior ranks.

But the first shocks came in Leinster, and there they came thick and fast. Dublin, after a preliminary victory over Offaly, came up against Kilkenny at their own Parnell Park, and were beaten, the Metropolitans' first defeat in Leinster since 1936. A fortnight later, Kilkenny met Wexford in the Leinster final and, to the amaze-

ment of the critics, were routed by a seven-goal margin. Wexford went on to complete the double by defeating Dublin in a Leinster junior final in which the standard of play was remarkably high.

For the All-Ireland semi-final Wexford made the long trip to Glenariff, and again confounded the critics by defeating the All-Ireland champions Antrim, and thus qualified to meet in the final, a Cork team that had readily accounted for Galway, in the other semi-final at Ballinasloe.

Cork were also through to the junior final in which their opponents were Down, who had shattered Wexford hopes of a double.

The experiment of playing both finals together proved successful. The attendance was the highest in a decade, and Wexford went on to make further history by winning well, although they never quite broke away from a very gallant Cork side that went down, battling every inch of the way. Nor had Cork any consolation in the junior game, for Down, also winning their first title, were far more convincing winners on the field than their five-point margin on the score-board showed.

Nor did this end the surprises. Ulster, who had won the interprovincial title for the first time in 1967, were hotly fancied to retain the Gael-Linn Cup, following a notable victory over Munster at Fermoy, but were very well beaten by Leinster in the Croke Park final.

This left only the All-Ireland club championship still to be decided and here again we had surprise finalists, St. Paul's (Kilkenny), who had beaten holders Eoghan Ruadh in Leinster, beating Ahane in the final.

Camogie Statistics 1968

ALL-IRELAND FINALS

Senior — Wexford 4-2; Cork 2-5.
Junior — Down 2-3; Cork 1-1.
Club — St. Pauls (Kilkenny) 7-2; Ahane (Limerick), 1-2.

LEINSTER

Senior — Wexford (Kilkenny)
Junior — Wexford (Dublin)

MUNSTER

Senior — Cork (Waterford)
Junior — Cork (Kerry)

ULSTER

Senior — Antrim (Derry)
Junior — Down (Fermanagh)

CONNACHT

Senior — Galway (Mayo)
Junior — Galway (Mayo)

INTERPROVINCIAL

Final — Leinster 7-0; Ulster (holders) 2-5.

COLLEGES

LEINSTER

Senior — Holy Faith, Clontarf (Gilson School Oldcastle).
Junior — Mercy Convent, Naas (Presentation, Kilkenny).

ULSTER

Senior — St. Michael's, Lurgan (Loreto, Coleraíne).
Junior — St. Michael's, Lurgan (Loreto, Coleraíne).

MUNSTER

Senior — St. Aloysius, Cork (Drishane Convent).

INTER-VARSITY

Ashbourne Cup — U. C. Galway (U. C. Dublin).

COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Dublin — Eoghan Ruadh
Kilkenny — St. Paul's
Louth — Kilkerley.
Kildare — Ardclough.
Cork — Glen Rovers.
Waterford — Gaultier.
Clare — Kilfenora.
Limerick — Ahane.
Kerry — Killarney.
Tipperary — Clonmel.
Antrim — Deirdre
Wexford — Adamstown.
Fermanagh — Roslea.
Monaghan — Monaghan Town.

ALL-IRELAND TEAMS

WEXFORD — T. Sheil; M. Sinnott; P. Kehoe, J. Murphy, C. Fortune; B. O'Connor, M. O'Leary, B. Doyle; J. Kehoe, M. Walsh (capt.), M. Doyle; M. Shannon.

DOWN — N. McKenna; P. McArdle; R. McCann, E. Coulter, N. Sands; R. Walsh, M. Caldwell (capt.), B. Sands; C. Reid, P. Crangle, A. M. Kelly, E. Turley.

LEINSTER — T. Sheil (Wexford); M. Houlihan (Kilkenny); C. O'Shea (Kilkenny), A. Hussey (Dublin), J. Murphy (Wexford); M. Sherlock (Dublin); M. O'Leary (Wexford), B. Kinsella (Kilkenny); K. Kehoe (Dublin), M. Walsh (Wexford, capt.), M. Doyle (Wexford), J. Doyle (Dublin).

ST. PAULS — J. Golden; M. Houlihan, J. Kelly, A. Phelan, B. Fennelly; M. Conway, C. O'Shea, L. Neary; M. Cassin, B. Cassin, T. Brennan; A. Carroll.

AHANE — H. Roche; B. Ryan, M. Hayes, M. Madden, K. Ryan; K. Richardson, C. Clancy, B. Leahy; T. Fennessy, J. Hayes, M. Barry, P. Duffy. Sub.: N. O'Sullivan.

Scoring Feats of 1968

By OWEN McCANN

THE unlikely and nowadays far from pulse-raising pairing of Wexford and Kilkenny, in football, in an O'Byrne Cup game at Gorey, on April 21 last, resulted in one of the best individual scoring achievements in the code in years. In that match, Wexford right full forward Jack Berry helped himself to a splendid total of 3-9 — all but three points of the score recorded by the Model County, and no fewer than eight points more than the total shot by the Noresiders!

Berry's total equalled the record score by a Leinster footballer in one game. In 1960, Johnny Joyce hit 18 points (5-3), when he set the championship record in the code, in a decisive Dublin win over Longford, at Mullingar.

However, two Ulster men, Frankie Donnelly (Tyrone) and Jim McCartan (Down), bettered this score. The Tyrone man, who won an All-Ireland junior championship medal in 1968, rocketed home a majestic 5-8 for his county in a win over Fermanagh at Pomeroy in September 1956, in a match in the now defunct Dr. Lagan Cup. Just about two years later in September 1958, again in the Lagan Cup, McCartan notched 5-4 for Down against Antrim at Newcastle.

Eamonn Goulding leads the Munster record with 6-0 — the goals scoring record also, by the way, in football — in a League win by Cork over Carlow at Cork in February 1957. In Connacht, Justin Henry collected 4-2 for Sligo in their victory over Kildare at Sligo last June in a Liam Hastings Memorial Trophy match.

Leading the way in hurling is 7-7. This superb total was chalked up by Nick Rackard in Wexford's win over Antrim in the 1956 All-Ireland semi-final. In 1968 the pace was set by Kilkenny-native Tommy Walsh who added up 3-5 for Waterford against Kilkenny in a 1968-'69 National League tie, at Waterford in October.

The best individual score in an All-Ireland final in the past year in all grades was 1-12. That was achieved by Cork right half forward Bernard Meade, in the Leesiders' win over Kilkenny at Waterford, for the Under-21 hurling crown.



Jimmy Doyle — nearing a thousand points

The All-Ireland senior hurling final was coloured by Jimmy Doyle's splendid feat in clinching the final leg of a brilliant scoring hat-trick in the past year. In the League play-off with Wexford at Croke Park in April, a splendid score of 0-11 swept the Thurles wizard to ranking as the first hurler or footballer to score 600 points, as distinct from goals and points combined. A week later he missed the League semi-final with Cork, at Limerick, because of an injury, but went into the "Home" final with Kilkenny needing only a single point to become the first player in either game to score 900 points combined. His score starting that match was 97 goals and 608 points from 146 outings as a senior. Doyle achieved the second leg of the hat-trick in right fine style by scoring 1-5.

In the All-Ireland final he needed only one goal to complete the big treble — his first century of goals, and only the second by any player then currently in the game. Donie Nealon was the first to bring his total of green flags to three figures with a goal against Offaly in a National League tie, at Thurles in October 1967.

It was fitting, then, that Nealon had a hand in Doyle's 100th goal. It came in the 24th minute when the Thurles sharpshooter sent a Nealon centre to the net to leave Tipperary ahead by 1-9 to 0-3. Doyle scored 1-5 in all in that game, to bring his figures as a senior to 100 goals and 643 points (943 points) in 152 engagements.

Mickey Kearins was another to bring off a tremendous hat-trick. In fact, he also smashed three outstanding football records in the process!

The year opened on an uninspiring note for the Sligo man at Charlestown in an early February challenge with Mayo. After a run of 53 scoring hours stretching back to October 1963, he failed to score in that game. However, totals like 2-6 against Mayo in another February challenge, that one at Sligo, and 0-11 against Civil Service (Dublin) at Croke Park in April, helped to boost Kearins to the position that he needed seven points in a challenge with Kerry at Tralee in June to become only



Mickey Kearins, top football marksman, with Kildare Tom Keogh about to tackle

the fourth footballer currently in the game to score 500 points in the top-bracket. He made it with a point to spare at 0-8 for a total of 16-453 from 93 matches.

Paddy Doherty, Cavan's Charlie Gallagher, and Galwayman Cyril Dunne were the 500 points-plus trend-setters.

When Kearins took his place against Antrim at Casement Park on August 25 in the Belfast four-county tournament, he was three points short of ranking as the first Connacht player to score a century of points in two separate years. He first reached three figures for a year's campaign in 1965, when he set the Connacht record at 4-104 (116 pts.) in 17 games. Kearins shot five minors in the tie to bring his 1968 score to 2-96 (102 pts.) in 18 games.

Kearins was back again on the record-making trail in another tilt with Antrim at Casement Park — the four-county final on September 29. Again he needed three points, white flags that would give him a new points scoring record, as distinct from goals and points combined. The record stood at 107 points — set-up by Charlie Gallagher in 1964. Gallagher had, a swell, six goals to his credit.

The Sligo man notched five points to bring his figures to 2-110 (116 pts.) from 21 games to equal his own Connacht record. Kearins smashed that Western record in no uncertain manner in his next game by pointing eleven times against Leitrim in the League at Sligo.

A fortnight later, on October 20, to be exact, Kearins completed the great hat-trick by scoring 0-10 in the League against Fermanagh at Irvinestown. That brought his total to 2-131 (137 pts.) in 23 games — a new All-Ireland record.

Previous to that the best score for one year was Paddy Doherty's 13-97 (136 pts.) in 24 games in 1960. The respective match averages are interesting: Kearins 5.95 points a match; Doherty 5.66 points a game.

On the way to that new high, Kearins failed to score in three games. The first was that challenge in February with Mayo, the second the Railway Cup semi-final with Ulster at Cavan, and the other a tie that, amazingly, for a county boasting such a marksman as Kearins, produced the lowest score by any county in senior games in hurling and football in 1968. The tie was a challenge at Sligo in March against Galway, and Sligo raised only one white flag!

The record score for football and hurling was established by Nick Rackard, when he hit a tremendous 35 goals and 50 points (155 points) in 19 games in 1956. His goals total that year is also the record total for both codes.

Paddy Doherty, of course, was again very prominent in the scoring returns. In fact this marksman supreme celebrated his come-back against Meath in the National League at Newry in January, by becoming the first footballer to score 800 points in the top bracket. He landed 0-2 in that game to bring his total to exactly eight centuries. His figures from 165 engagements were 62-614.

In view of all these scoring achievements it is surprising to find some long-standing records still to the good as another year dawns. For instance, no Cork forward in football has bettered 47 points since Niall Fitzgerald totaled 4-35 in 15 outings back in 1956 — a moderate enough target, surely! And, although Kerry hit the headlines in a big way with their spectacular long-range points scoring, the county's tops, another far from outstanding total, of 79 points (9-52) in 17 games by Bernie O'Callaghan in 1963, still was not really "shaken". Dublin had a particularly busy year in football — their mid-November National League engagement with Monaghan was their 21st intercounty game of the year — yet no member of the side came even remotely near the 5-86 (101 pts.) in 17 games in 1959, that gives Ollie Freaney the county football record.

It is also an indication of the decline of Galway as a hurling force that their county record of 11-19 (52 pts.) in 11 games by Paddy Egan in 1955, which already ranks as the longest-standing in my book, is still likely to remain for some years to come.

Finally, a particularly noteworthy date as far as scoring statistics are concerned during the past year is February 4. At Tullamore in a National League game, Offaly had one of the most clear cut wins in football, at 2-18 to 0-4 over Carlow—a winning margin of 20 points. The same afternoon at Ballinasloe, Clare hurlers finished a National League outing with 20 points to spare — 7-9 to 1-7 over Galway.

A 20 points winning margin, however, is still well down on the record in football and hurling in the period 1955-'68. Back in 1963, Carlow were also on the wrong end of another heavy defeat, when they lost by 33 points to Kildare in a League engagement at Athy in March. The score was 9-7 to 0-1. In hurling, Tipperary beat Kerry by 15-14 to 2-3, a winning margin of 50 points, in the League in March, 1958.

To be informed

you simply must read

Gaelic Weekly News

each week. It only costs 6d.

to know it all.



The Agricultural Credit Corporation Serves You

1. Deposits

Up to 6% (Tax not deducted) paid on deposits of £500 or more.

2. Farm Credit Bonds

5½% plus 2% (Tax Free) Capital Bonus on Maturity for even the smallest investor.

3. Loans

You can borrow long or short term — (unsecured loans granted in many cases). Very low interest rate — long term repayments.

4. Hire Purchase

Best Hire Purchase Terms available. Quick, efficient transactions — lowest ever interest rates.

*For full details of complete service
contact:*

THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT
CORPORATION LTD.,

(Corparaid an Chairde Thalmhaiochta Teo.).

Harcourt Street, Dublin 2.

Phone 53021

Cumann Luthchleas

Gael

*The games of the Gael
Were going
Men of the Pale
snug - burrowing
Seeds in fertile soil
On hill and vale.*

*Ireland stood
At the water-shed
In history
— Her glory fled —
Her stream of youth
Poisoned
At the source,
Wasting its splendid manhood
In the shallows.*

*Men of Ireland
Unashamed
Played pitch and toss
Or treasure - trove
At a loss
To find hurling - lore
Hidden on the grass,
Aping the foreigner,
Week - day and Sunday
Drear days
In their calendar.*

*Going
The lilt of laughter
The throwing of hammer
The thonging thud
Of leather
On the sod
Gone
The clash
Of ash on ash.*

*But seven men of Eire
Kindled a torch
In Durlas Eile
Hoisting it aloft
And from that height
The proud athlete
Took flight
And set this land
Alight
In flaming spirit.*

*Then came
Nineteen - eighteen
The fields were full
Of hurling men
And not a game!
Those hurls on the hills
And farm
Slope - arm
As rifles.*

*The G.A.A.
Had played its part;
Like Cuchulainn
In his day
It hurled a sliotar
On its way
To strike
And wound
And bend
The hound of history.*

Tadgh Ua Duinnín

Win a Prize — it's free

FEATURED on the next nine pages is a selection from the the hundreds of fine photographs published by GAELIC WEEKLY NEWS during 1968. We invite you to view these 13 photographs and from them choose, in order of merit, the five which most please you.

Please write out your selection on a sheet of paper, indicating the photographs with a brief description such as "Mick O'Connell"; "Jim Treacy and Claus Dunne"; "Seamus Leydon"; "Eddie Kelly and Jimmy Doyle" etc., etc. Remember to place the five photographs you have selected in order of merit. The colour photograph of the Wexford team on page 64 is not, of course, included.

Your selection should be forwarded to:

Photo Competition,
Gaelic Weekly News,
58 Haddington Road,
Dublin, 4.

and should arrive not later than Wednesday, January 29.

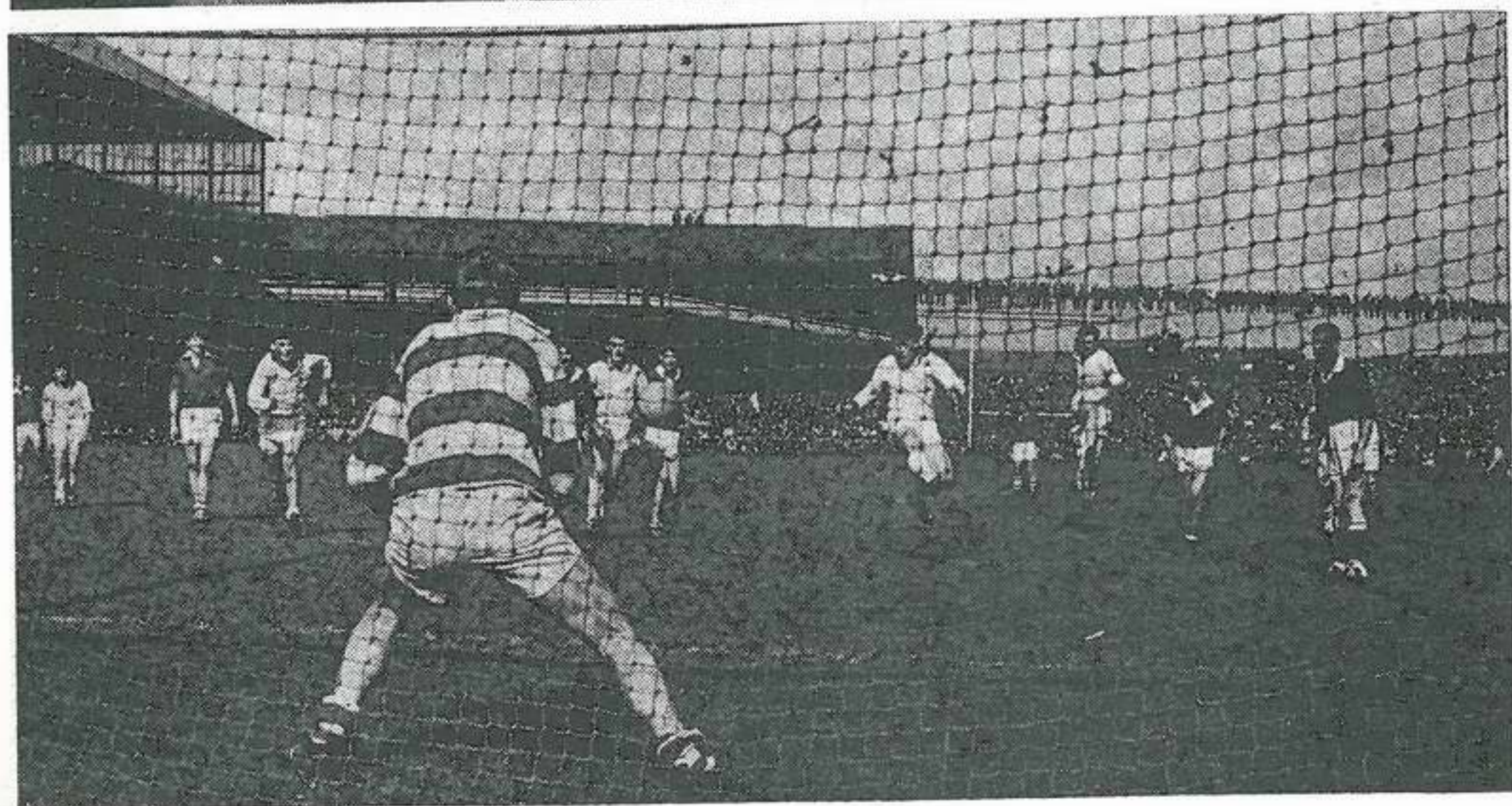
The five best photographs will be decided by the popular choice of the entries.

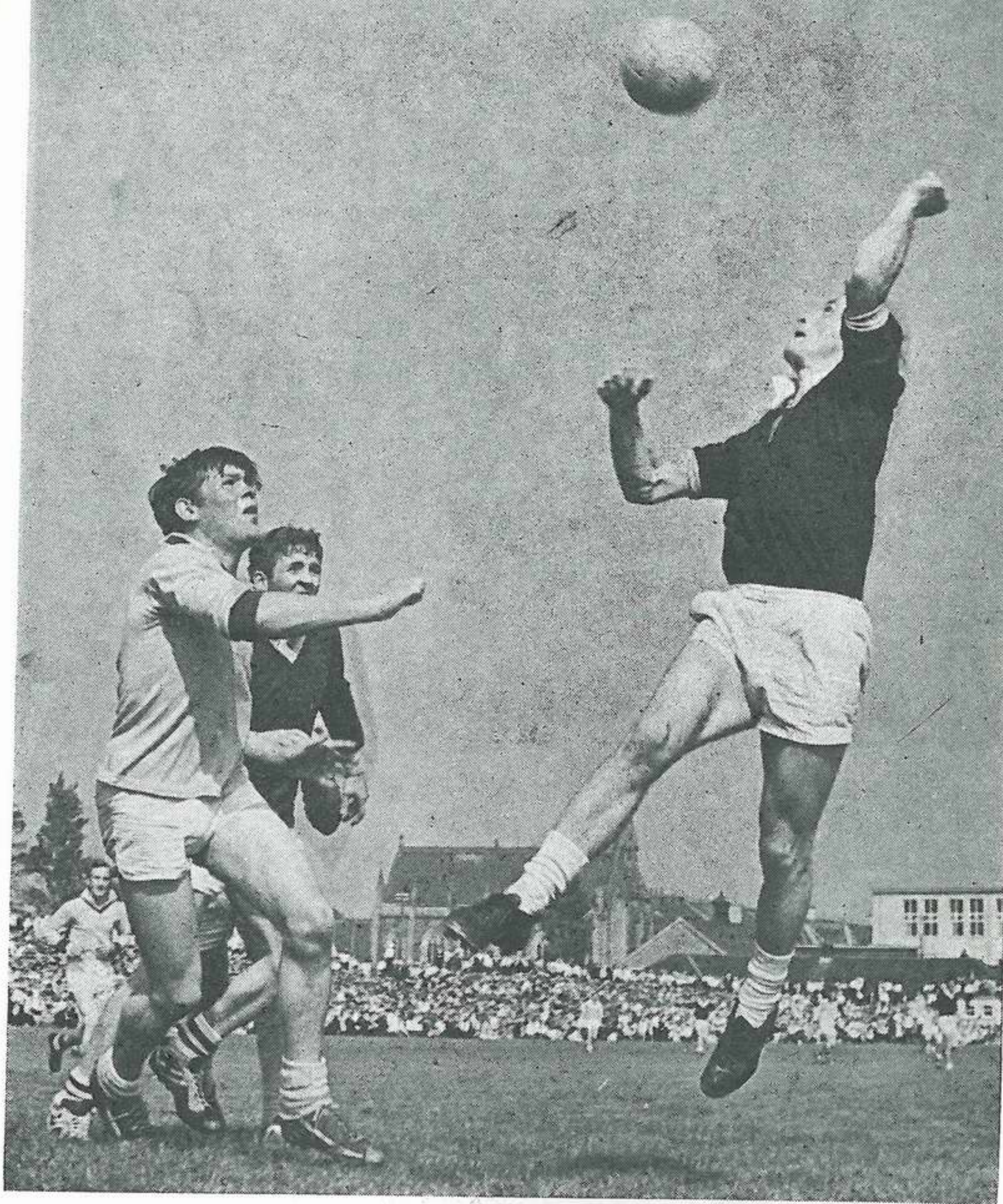
Six prizes of a year's subscription to GAELIC WEEKLY NEWS will be awarded to the correct entries. In the event of more than six correct entries the prizes will be drawn for from among the correct entries.



Great Photographs of 1968

Mick O'Connell in the rain. The sea was rough and it poured from the heavens, Mick O'Connell crossed from Valentia to the mainland in a motorboat and our camera caught him on the quay-side as he dashed for Mick O'Dwyer's car which was to bring him to Killarney and a training session prior to the All-Ireland final.



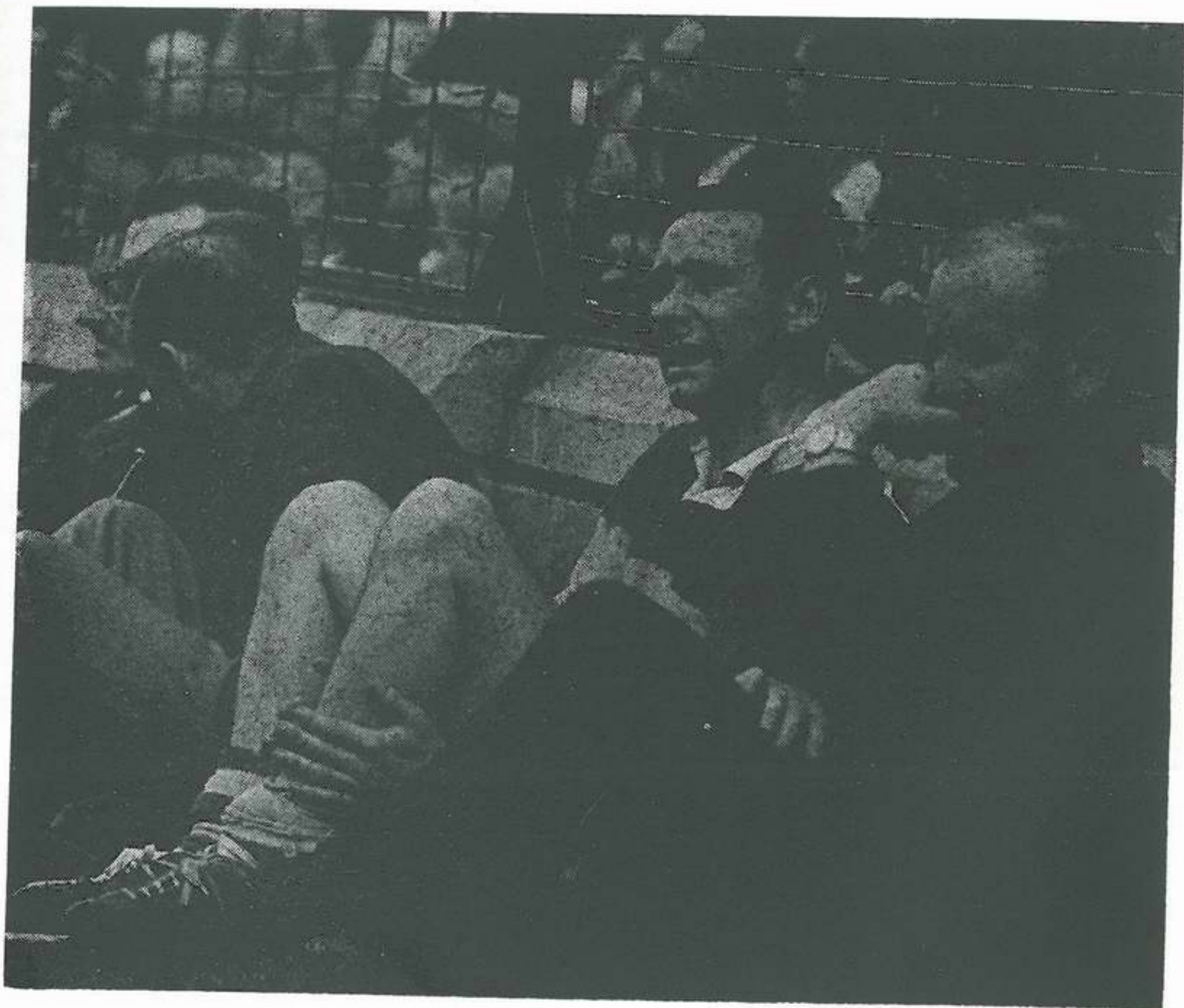


TOP LEFT: What were they watchin g— Jim Treacy, Claus Dunne and company? The rain. The occasion was St. Patrick's day and they were sheltering in a dugout from a downpour.

ABOVE: Seamus Leydon caught by the camera in a graceful movement as he punches goalwards against Roscommon in their drawn game at Ballinasloe in June.

LOWER LEFT: Sligo's Noel Kellagher about to crash a penalty to the net and past Cork's Declan O'Mahony in the All-Ireland minor final.

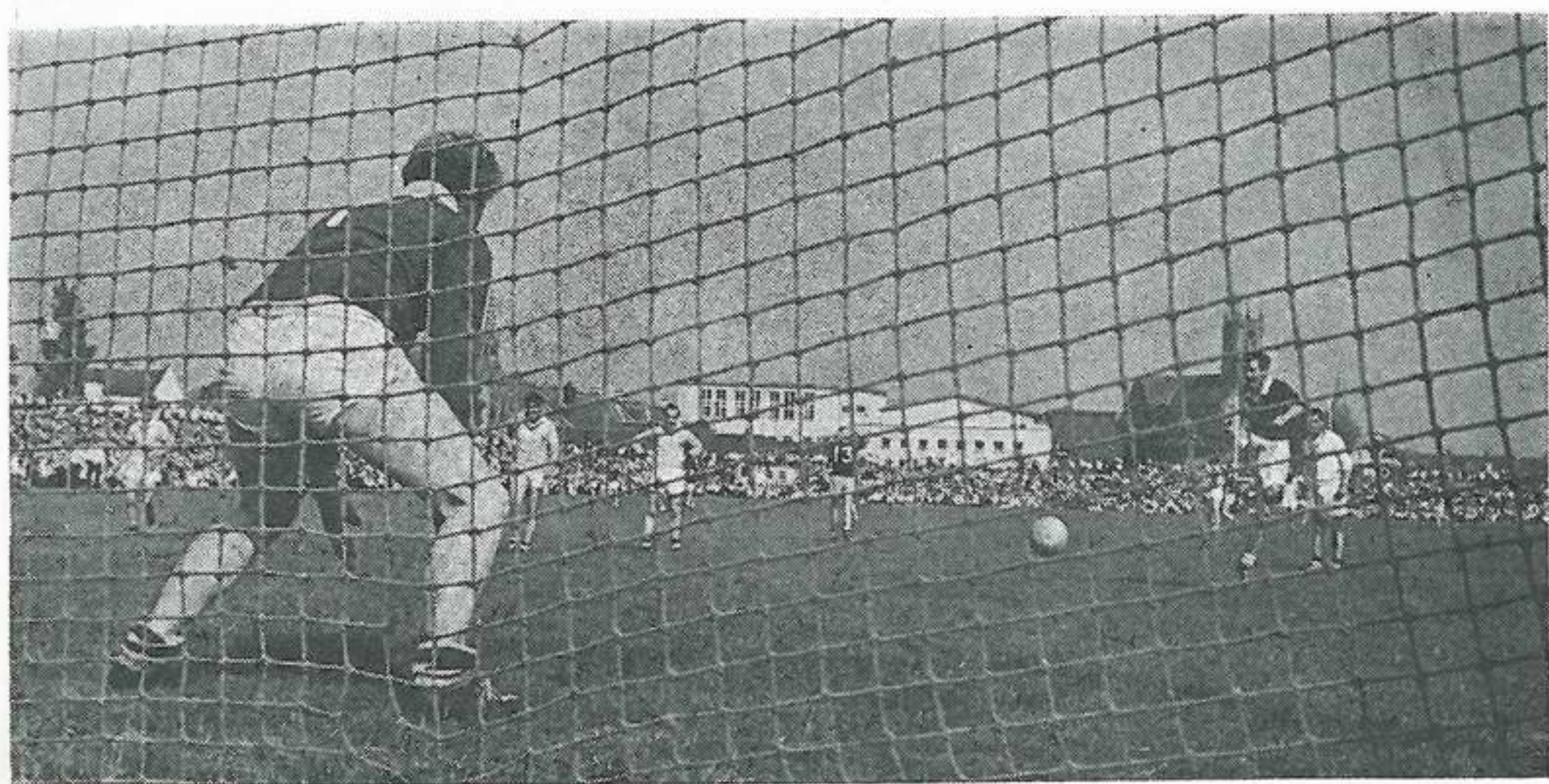


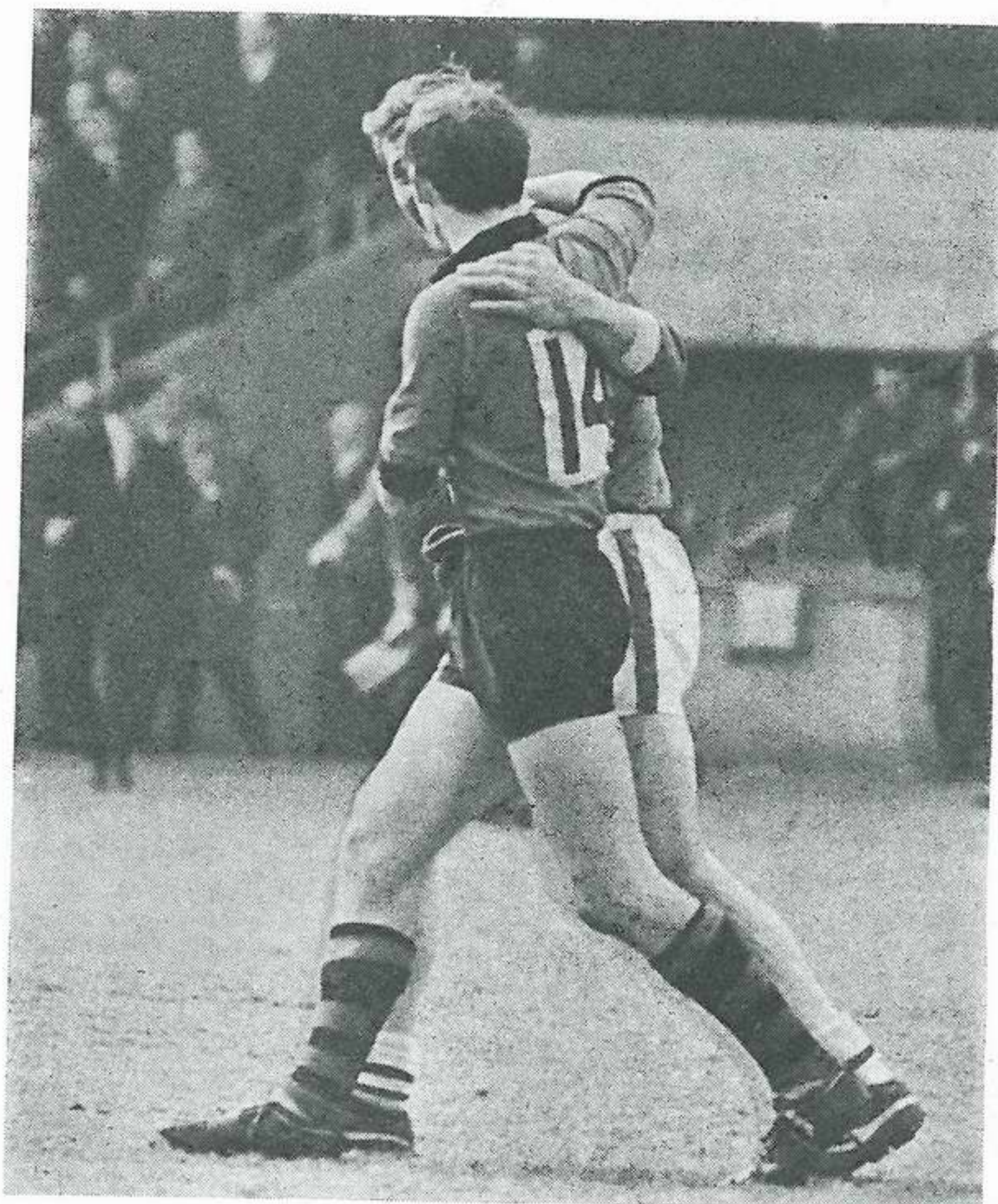


TOP LEFT: The Artane Boys in the informal setting of their band-room. A few weeks after this photograph was taken the news broke that the historic school was soon to be closed.

LOWER LEFT: The joy of the Kildare under-16 hurlers following their victory over Down in the All-Ireland final.

ABOVE: The agony of Jimmy Doyle moments after he had limped from the field in the All-Ireland final. Sitting with him is Diarmuid Mac Gabhann, Treasurer of the Cork County Board.





TOP LEFT: Kilkenny captain Jim Bennett congratulates Pat Nolan following the Leinster final. With the same gesture he is surrendering Kilkenny's All-Ireland crown.

LOWER LEFT: Cyril Dunne taking a penalty kick against Roscommon in their first championship encounter.

ABOVE: The photograph, taken early in the year, which spoke a plea for a season of sportsmanship — Sean O'Neill and Jack Quinn walking from the field at Croke Park following a hard-fought and decisive League encounter.