

# Young Ireland Hurling Club.

## Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Young Ireland Hurling Club was held in the Clubrooms, Thomas St., Limerick.

The Chairman, Mr. M. Fitzgibbon, welcoming the members, said he was delighted to see such a splendid gathering present. Reviewing the year's activities he regretted that the senior team had fared none too well in the championship. He pointed out, however, that in the autumn the team had acquitted itself splendidly in a tournament match against Glen Rovers, Cork. With the material available in the Club at present, he was fully confident that they would make a bold bid for championship honours in the coming season.

Mr. J. C. Duggan, Secretary of the special committee formed to look after the club's finances, produced a balance sheet showing the club to be in a good financial position.

Mr. Tom Hayes warmly complimented Mr. Duggan and the other members of the committee on their splendid work for the Club.

Mr. J. C. Duggan was unanimously elected Chairman for 1937. Having thanked the members, the new Chairman urged all present to work enthusiastically in the club's interests for the coming year. He remarked that the club would be celebrating its golden jubilee in 1938. He felt sure that the club would take its place once more as the leading G.A.A. Club in Limerick.

Officers for 1937 were elected as follows: Chairman, Mr. J. C. Duggan; Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Cusack; Sec., Mr. J. Cremin. Committee: Messrs. P. O'Shaughnessy, D. Lanigan, E. Houlihan, T. Hayes; Captain, Senior Hurling team, Mr. C. Aherne; Vice-Captain, Mr. P. Hayes; Representative on Co. Board, Mr. J. Cremin.

## Gerry Kelly Of Limerick

Timber merchant and shop-keeper, whose Gaelic club has been Civil Service in the capital; Limerick man, whose best work for the G.A.A. has been as an efficient, fearless hurling referee in Dublin—that's GERRY KELLY, back in action with the whistle at Croke Park recently.

Gerry was a Civil Service star more than 20 years ago and played for his adopted county as a junior in the Leinster and All-Ireland championships.

### Brothers

When his playing career ended he started to represent his club on the Dublin G.A.A. Board and to referee "needles" like the Eoghan Ruadhs v. Faughs games.

He has also been on the Central Council's All-Ireland and Railway Inter-Provincial Cup panels.

Two brothers of the businessman have also done good work for the G.A.A. Sean has been prominent in Gaelic circles down by the Shannon-side, and teacher Tadhg starred for Rockwell College (Tipperary) and Erin's Hopes (St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra).

## Sporting Personalities—6

# A GREAT HURLING REFEREE

## BILL DONOGHUE

One of the outstanding hurling referees of the present day is unquestionably Limerick's Bill O'Donoghue. Bill, as he is popularly known, has made his mark as a Knight of the Whistle by his splendid handling of the Cork-Waterford Munster championship tie at Thurles this year and also, the All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final between Galway and Tipperary. His work in these games has won for him the highest of praise from the national press with the result that he has received several invitations to referee championship games in other counties.

### CLEAR JUDGMENT.

The secret behind Bill's success as a referee is that he keeps himself as fit as a fiddle and he is always up with the play to whistle the less noticed infringement. His clear interpretation of the rules of hurling is unequalled and is respected by hurlers and followers alike.

### PLAYED WITH YOUNG IRELANDS.

Bill is a former hurler of note and started his hurling career with Mungret H.C. His brilliance on the hurling field was soon noted and he was invited to play on the Young Ireland team who were going great guns in the early 30's. With them he won a Limerick county senior hurling championship medal and helped them to win the Sweet Afton Cup when that cup was confined to inter-county teams.

### IN ALL-IRELAND FINAL.

He appeared on the Limerick county team on countless occasions in those days and was on the Limerick team who were beaten by Kilkenny in the 1935 All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

The O'Donoghue family have done great work for the G.A.A. throughout the years. No fewer

than four of his brothers have played for Mungret and helped them to win the county junior hurling championship. Johnsie O'Donoghue is perhaps the better known of the brothers, having figured on Limerick county teams since 1942.

There is no finer or popular sportsman in the county than Bill and here's wishing him further success as a referee and I hope he attains his ambition to referee an All Ireland senior hurling final.

## LATE MR. JOHN KELLY. BALLINACURRA.

The death occurred at his residence, Ballinacurra, Limerick, on Monday, of Mr. John Kelly, former principal of Monaleen National School. Deceased, who had reached an advanced age, was father of Rev. M. Kelly, C.C., who was recently appointed curate at Newcastle West in succession to Rev. M. Quinn, who was promoted parish priest of Templeglantine. The late Mr. Kelly was also father of Rev. Peadar Kelly, S.S.Sp., and of Sister Mary Ita, and Sister Mary Lelia, Holy Rosary Community. A man of outstanding personality and endearing disposition, deceased enjoyed the highest esteem and regard of his colleagues in the teaching profession and all sections of the community, and the news of his death occasioned widespread sympathy and regret amongst a wide circle of relatives and a host of friends and acquaintances.

The late Mr. Kelly, it may be mentioned, took a life-long and active interest in athletics and was a prominent figure in the sporting arena for half a century. He was chairman of the Limerick County Board of the G.A.A. thirty years ago and for a period was Chairman of the Munster Council of the N.A. and C.A. His work on behalf of both organisations in his early years was productive of much good in developing and propagating Gaelic Athletics and by none will his passing be more deeply mourned than by the Gaels and athletes of the city and county.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1954

## A TRULY GRAND OLD MAN OF LIMERICK SPORT

**O**NE of the grand old men of Limerick sport, Michael Hartigan, secretary of the Shannon Rowing Club for the past thirty-one years, has resigned on his eightieth birthday. By doing so he breaks a fifty-one years link as an officer of that famous old club.

In 1903 Mr. Hartigan was elected vice-captain, a position which he held until he was elected captain and trainer two years later, remaining for eight consecutive years, having replaced the famous professional trainer, Moe Gibson, from London.

"Mick" Hartigan joined Shannon at the time of the Boer War, and rowed his first race in the blue and white colours fifty-four years ago, at the time when Shannon turned out fours that knew no peers.

### CAPTAINED THE FAMOUS FOUR.

When John Hall went away to sea in 1902, Mick took over the four that rowed in the famous race at the Cork International Exhibition against the noted Berlin Rowing Club and Leander for Lord O'Brien's (Peter the Packer) Cup. It was following this race that the present Leander trophy was presented by the famous London club. It was under Michael Hartigan's captaincy that the famous Shannon four of Healy, Shanahan, Hall and O'Brien held supreme all over Ireland. In those days the captain never rowed, and Hartigan had to remain on the bank.

### FAMOUS IN OTHER BRANCHES OF SPORT.

Apart from rowing, which was his favourite pastime, he was foremost in many branches of sport. From 1893, for twelve years, he played rugby with the Limerick Club, Lansdowne, winning the Transfield Cup on two occasions. During some of this period, when games were played for the sport sake, he also played hurling for ten years with the famous Young Ireland Club.

Boxing also came within his orbit, and he travelled all over the world to witness the sport after hanging up the gloves. He saw some famous fights in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, and in 1929 in the United States. He was regarded as one of the best authorities in the country on the game, and still keeps in touch, and has all the records on the tips of his fingers. Nobody dared interrupt while the old secretary listened to a big fight on the Club radio, and his advice was often sought to settle a discussion on facts of the ring. Frequently he would sit silently smiling to himself as a boxing argument ensued, but never offering the information that would settle the matter until his opinion was sought.

### HOW HE KEPT FIT.

Keeping fit was his motto, and for twenty consecutive seasons he was a member of the Catholic Institute gymnasium class, seven years of which were spent as instructor. His Sunday walk was the

twenty odd miles to Foynes, and then walk back in the evening.

"Pictures and dance halls are ruining sport to-day," he said, when asked about present day youth. He added that this was particularly so in the case of rowing. Oarsmen of to-day, he said, with a few exceptions, do not last more than a few seasons, whereas in his days a man stayed rowing for ten or twelve seasons.

### IN FAVOUR OF SCHOOLBOY ROWING.

Mick Hartigan described Shannon Rowing Club's reintroduction of schoolboy rowing as the greatest thing that has been done for the sport for many years. "It did my heart good," he said, "to see that grand little crew with two Irish Rowing Union trophies this year in the blue and white of Shannon. This is a unique distinction never before achieved in Irish rowing." He added that his only regret was that his feet would not take him across the river to see the grand race.

### TESTIMONIAL OPENED.

Although confined to the house on doctor's orders, Michael still takes a lively interest in the affairs of the Club, of which he is an honorary life member. A Michael Hartigan testimonial has been opened to give members and Limerick sportsmen an opportunity to pay tribute to this great old sportsman, who in his day never stinted himself on river, ring or on the field. Already contributions are coming in from present and past members all over Ireland.

## 1955 'Little Cork'

One of the most prominent Irishmen in the Essex town of Dagenham—a place sometimes referred to as "London's Little Cork," is Alderman Denis Dwyer. He is chairman of the Limerick Men's Association in London, president of the MacCurtain Hurling and Football Club, a trustee of the local G.A.A. ground as well as being a member of the Borough Council in the Labour interest since 1945.

Next week, Alderman Dwyer will be a candidate in the Council elections. With him, as fellow-candidate, he will have an Englishman, Councillor Blackburn, who is vice-president of the MacCurtain Club, which, incidentally, is one of the strongest G.A.A. clubs in London.

Both men have safe seats on the Council with the support of the very large Irish population in the area, and should have no trouble in being re-elected.

## He Heard The Match All The Same!

Mr. Tom Hayes, the famous hurler of the Young Ireland team up in its days of glory, and the equally famous referee of that time, is at present in hospital and his many friends not only in Limerick city and county but all over the country cordially wish him a speedy and complete return to good health.

Our special G.A.A. contributor "Camán," writes:—

Tom Hayes, the veteran Limerick Gael, was unable to be at the Gaelic Grounds on Sunday as he is at present in hospital. He had a special radio set installed, however, for the match, and heard the good wishes of Gaeldom for his speedy recovery from the commentator, Miceal O Hehir.



DENIS O'DWYER

March  
27, 1959

## LONDON Through Our Private Wire

Office Fleet  
House, 53,  
Fleet Street

## LETTER

Thursday Night.

### The "Barrs" Visit

THERE is much interest in G.A.A. circles in the London area in the visit of St. Finbarrs Hurling and Football Club to Old Dagenham Park arena on Sunday, when they will give exhibitions in both hurling and football. The "Barrs" will be staying in private homes of members of the Thomas MacCurtain Club of Dagenham which will be their opponents in football. They will meet the Sean McDermotts of London in hurling. The matches will be followed on Easter Sunday night by a grant welcome dance at the Leys Hall. This belongs to the Dagenham Borough Council and is one of the most modern in England. The "Barrs" are being entertained to tea on Saturday afternoon at St. Peter's Church, Gorsebrook Road. It is hoped to make this an annual Easter affair in Dagenham, and next year there are plans to organise an Easter parade there as well, in which it is hoped that the large Irish population in Essex will take part.

### Blackrock Bord Chairman

THE MacCurtain Club is one of the oldest in the London G.A.A. and has a senior hurling and junior hurling and football teams. Its chairman is Mr. David Lenihan of Blackrock, Cork, the President being Alderman Denis O'Dwyer, who comes from Limerick city. He has been Chairman since 1951 of the Dagenham Education Committee which has a budget of £1 million a year. Alderman O'Dwyer came to Dagenham 28 years ago and has taken a prominent part in the trade union and labour party movements. His wife is the former Miss May Dempsey, daughter of Mr. Frank Dempsey, who was chairman of the Mallow U.D.C. The Dagenham Education Committee caters for over 20,000 children and has a staff of 750 teachers. No fewer than seven new schools have been built in the area since the end of the war. They include the Bishop Ward School, costing £220,000. This superb secondary school for 680 boys and girls has eight acres of playing fields.

# Young Ireland's social outstanding success

19.12.64

"The G.A.A. Pools is the answer to the high costs of expenditure on clubs and helps them to provide proper playing facilities necessary for all players of our national games," stated Mr. Jerry Power, when he stressed the need for all clubs to avail of this new scheme at the annual dinner-dance of Young Ireland hurling club held in the Gentworth Hotel, Limerick, this week.

Eighty members and guests attended the function which was an outstanding success.

Mr. D. Hickey, Chairman, welcoming the guests, paid tribute to the wonderful work done by Messrs. Seamus O Ceallaigh, Denis Lanigan and Denis Moran for the Young Ireland club.

Mr. Denis Lanigan, President, stated that the club appreciated the big turn-out by the members at the dinner. "After a long spell out of the limelight, Young Ireland—one of the greatest clubs in the city—is very much alive at the moment," he added.

He said that the game of hurling was a thrilling sport,

and had high hopes that Young Ireland would regain her former strength in the near future.

Mr. C. McGrath, joint-secretary, stated that after a long slump, Young Ireland were on the way back to regaining lost prestige. "With an increased membership, better training facilities and improved social activities in the club, I am looking forward anxiously when the new light of glory will be enkindled," he said.

Referring to Ciste Banban, he stated that this new organisation contributed largely to the finances of the club over the past year. They were collecting over 200 subscriptions (1/- per person) in the week, which brought in £5 to the club per week. He appealed to all the members to take an active interest in the promotion of these pools for the club, in the coming year.

He congratulated Young Irelands and Limerick Commercials (football) for their fine service on the playing field during the season, and wished them every success in 1965.

Seamus O Ceallaigh said that

he had high hopes that Young Ireland, one of the oldest clubs in Limerick, would re-establish itself similar to the great teams of the 30's and 40's.

### LACK OF PLAYING FACILITIES.

He wished the club every success in the coming season.

Mr. Denis Moran, said that he was glad to see this famous club making a great comeback after a lapse of several years.

He expressed deep concern at the lack of playing facilities in the city, and said that there was only one ground—Gaelic Grounds. He hoped that Young Ireland, with the aid of the Ciste na Banba Pools, would be able to provide a pitch in the near future.

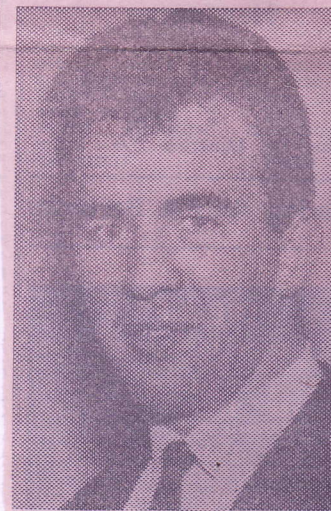
Mr. Jerry Power praised Young Ireland for setting a headline for the other clubs in the city. Within eight weeks, the club had over 269 subscribers a week, which brought in £5 towards the finance kitty every week.

With the invaluable work of Michael Heelan, Limerick organiser, many clubs in the city and county had availed of the scheme in recent weeks. They were established in twelve other counties.

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### DEATH OF HURLING STAR

It is with regret we announce the death of that well-known hurling star of some forty years ago, Mr. Robert McConkey, which occurred unexpectedly at his residence, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick, on Wednesday night. He played in four All-Ireland senior hurling finals for Limerick and was on the losing side only once. He was a member of the Newcastle West selection that beat Wexford in the 1918 decider by 9-5 to 1-3. In 1921 when the All-Ireland final was played at Croke Park he captained Limerick who beat Dublin 7-3 to 4-5. He was a member of the Limerick team beaten by Galway in the 1922 final which was played a year later but when aged 40 he shone for Limerick in the drawn final against Dublin but was unable to play in the replay which Limerick won.



Mr. Tom Gleeson, treasurer of the Fedamore G.A.A. Club, was M.C. at their annual dinner and social, held in the Glentworth Hotel.



# He Had A Hunch; Pursued It, And Started A Sports Revolution

**J**OHAN McAULIFFE put a hurling ball into an oven to bake and started a minor revolution in sport. For the ball that came out was the first ever white hurling ball and its development led to other sports changing over to the colour.

McAuliffe, 64-year-old ex-hurler, experimented for thirty years in his workshop in Thomas Street, Limerick, before producing the snow white hurling ball that all Gaeldom wanted.

The first white ball was baked in 1948, after years of experiment with pigments and powders. It took Mr. McAuliffe six years more to get the perfect snow-white article.

## Tried Everything

"People told me you could not get a ball that would stay white, because the green dye from wet grass would ruin it," said Mr. McAuliffe, as he stamped his name on a pile of snow-white balls destined to flash round dusty pitches under the African sun.

"They said mud and the battering from hurling sticks would knock off the white colour no matter how it was applied. But I kept on because I knew that hurling must have a white ball to make it easier for spectators to follow the play. I tried everything and everything failed. Then I just started all over again with a new idea."

So it went on for over 20 years, until Mr. McAuliffe hit upon a white mixture that seemed foolproof. But it would not last through the hour's play. Then he baked the ball.

## Disappointment!

One day in 1948 the white ball was tried out in a Munster Junior Championship game between Limerick and Cork at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.

"It stood up to the test," said Mr. McAuliffe. "Willie Hough persuaded me to send it on to Mr. Paddy O'Keeffe (General Secretary of the G.A.A.), and it was tried out in an All-Ireland semi-final. I thought I had succeeded at last, but it was condemned, and I had to start again."

Mr. McAuliffe decided he must use chrome leather, but found it was not manufactured anywhere in Ireland. A Dublin tannery chief came to his aid and got snow-white chrome hide made in England.

"It was the first white chrome ever made," he says. "Of course the hide is available to everyone now, and in England a soccer referee can call for a white ball if he considers it necessary."



**JOHN McAULIFFE . . .** though comparatively unknown, his work is recognised in the far corners of the earth.

## Boon to Hurling

"Other games have adopted the white ball, but it will prove the greatest boon to hurling, because the ball is so small and travels so fast."

Who started it all?

"Jim Barry of Cork," answered Mr. McAuliffe. "Away back in 1924 he saw me repairing sliothars for the lads and persuaded me to chuck my job and give all my time to making hurling balls."

Since then the McAuliffe production has been chosen for All-Ireland and Munster finals and exported by the gross to Australia, Nigeria, America and Britain.

## DEATH OF <sup>May '60</sup> MR. JOHN McAULIFFE

With deep regret we record the death on Saturday last of Mr. John McAuliffe, Thomas Street, Limerick. Well-known in G.A.A. circles, the late Mr. McAuliffe was regarded as the inventor of the hurling white ball, now used with great success on Gaelic sports-fields throughout the country. He was so interested in producing what might well be described as the perfect sliotar or hurling ball—waterproof and easily visible in flight—that this hobby developed into a business which helped the promotion of the national game. That business is now carried on equally successfully by his son.

The esteem in which the late Mr. McAuliffe was held was illustrated by the attendance at the removal of the remains and funeral. The Gaels of Limerick City and County were there to pay him the final tribute of respect to his memory. The Limerick County Board, G.A.A., was represented by the Chairman, Mr. Pat O'Reilly; the Treasurer, Mr. M. Fitzgibbon; and the Secretary, Mr. Sean O'Connell.

Of a kindly nature, highly regarded by the many who knew him, the deceased was in every way a gentleman of many fine qualities which won him enduring friendships.



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## Young Ireland win New Ireland Shield

It used be said of a famous old Dublin team of the long ago that victory upset them. They were one of those sides that got the utmost enjoyment from playing the game, and they were happy when they had a good match.

The Young Ireland and Commercial lads of recent years remind me very much of that lovable Liffeside combination. They play the games for the love of the thing, and are not bothered by defeat. They could not be, for until last Sunday no trophy had come their way since 1959. That's a long spell, even in the life of two of our oldest clubs, and I don't think anyone could grudge them the success they gained on Sunday when they captured the New Ireland Assurance Co. Shield at the expense of Treaty-Sarsfields. It was a well merited win and an encouragement to the fine young lads now figuring with such promise in the under-age ranks with the clubs.

It is a tribute to the Young Ireland and Commercial clubs that without the glamour of playing field victories they remain, as always, very active units of the G.A.A., and are at present planning the development of a first-class club grounds as a worthy memorial to one of their greatest members—the late Denny Lanigan—one of the most outstanding Gaels Limerick has produced.

Young Ireland is one of Limerick's leading clubs with a very proud record in Gaelic ranks. They have not had it so good in recent years but the club is once more on a very solid foundation and financially strong mainly due to very enthusiastic participation in Ciste na mBanban over the past year. This has helped them in developing the fine new playing pitch and in many other ways, whilst club teams are now planning a visit to London at the end of August, where a full programme of games is laid on.

The club records will be of interest, particularly to those who remember the blue and gold lads of the club's heyday. Here they are:— All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions, 1921; National Hurling League champions, 1933; Munster Senior Hurling champions, 1911, 1921, 1923, 1933; County Senior Hurling champions, 1902, 1910, 1920, 1922, 1923, 1930, 1932; County Junior Hurling champions, 1920; County Juvenile Hurling champions, 1904, 1938, 1939; County Juvenile Football champions, 1938.

Senior Hurling team—Winners of the Daly Cup, 1912; Murphy Cup, 1919; Croom tournament, 1927; Emly Cup, 1929; St. Patrick's Church tournament, 1929; Handball Cup, 1930; Hospital Church tournament, 1931; Plassy Drowning Fund tournament, 1931; Croom Cup, 1931; Sweet Afton Cup and Limerick Development Association tournament, 1932; Duggan Cup, 1945.

Junior Hurling team—Winners of City League, 1919, 1942; New Ireland Assurance Co. Shield, 1959.

Minor Hurling team — City champions, 1945.

Junior Football team — East Limerick champions, 1931.

C.L.C.G.  
WEST BOARD G.A.A.  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22  
At BALLINGARRY  
Junior Hurling Final—  
KNOCKADERRY v.  
GRANAGH  
2.30.  
21 Hurling Final—  
NEWCASTLE WEST v.  
ST. MARY'S



# Tribute to great Gael

Many younger Gaels may not know it, but Very Rev. Charles Moriarty, P.P., Athea, who died recently, was one of the most active Gaelic workers in the county almost 40 years ago (writes "Caman").

The winner of a college gold medal in athletics, it was during his curacy in Bruff that he became deeply immersed in G.A.A. affairs.

A native of Croom, where his brother, Jim, was one of the leading figures in the establishment of a venue that was for several years the only worthwhile one in the county, Father Charles was the spearhead in bringing Bruff hurling to one of its highest planes as serious challengers for the Senior County crown.

The South Board, as we know it to-day, was formed at a meeting on June 1, 1962, and in its initial year ran one competition, a hurling league, which was won by Bruff, who defeated Kilfinane 6-6 to 3-0 in the final.

The first annual convention of this Board was held at Kilmallock on January 24, 1926, at which Rev. C. Moriarty, C.C., was appointed Chairman. He led a good team, which included Johnny Guerin, as Vice-Chairman; John Lucey, of Kilfinane, Treasurer; and R. C. O'Donnell, Grange, as Secretary. This Board organised Championships in both hurling and football and both went to Bruff Parish; Camogie Rovers collecting in the caman code and Bruff winning with the big ball.

Nearing the end of the season, Father Moriarty was transferred to the city parish of St. Michael's, but so popular had he become in the South that he had to return the following April at the request of the County Board and preside at a special Convention, at which the South Board was put on the solid foundation it has maintained ever since. A dispute had arisen following the second annual Convention and he played a major part in settling the differences then apparent.

Immediately on arrival in the city, Fr. Moriarty became interested in the Young Ireland Club and at the annual general meeting on January 9, 1927, he was elected Chairman. Clem Garvey, N.T., was Vice-Chairman; the late Johnny McInerney was Treasurer; the late Bob McConkey was captain of the senior hurling team, and Gerry Kelly, now active in the establishment of an Old Gaels' Association, Cumann na Sean nGael, was junior team captain. Seamus O Ceallaigh was Secretary.

Fr. Moriarty was no figurehead but actively associated himself with every aspect of club management and development. At his suggestion the Irish translation of the club title "Cumann Eire Og" was stressed. He urged a more aggressive approach in the training of club teams and a big drive for members was initiated. A social side was introduced for the first time and a weekly

dance organised to which admittance was strictly by invitation, so ensuring a homely and friendly atmosphere.

The cementing influence of these moves was soon evident, and so when Young Ireland met and defeated their old rivals, Claughaun (who were county champions at the time), for the first occasion in several seasons, the road opened to some memorable days. Three times Fedamore and Young Ireland met at Croom in the East Limerick senior hurling final. On October 16 they drew 3-1 each; on November 13 the score was 3-2 all, and on the following March 11, in snow, hail and bitter cold, Fedamore won the greatest series in Limerick hurling by a solitary point, 3-2 to 2-4, and went on to capture the county crown.

Young Ireland nearly went out at the first bid in 1928. They caught a right tartar in a lively Kilfinane team, at Croom, and the south boys were in the lead with barely a minute left for play. Mickey Fitzgibbon saved that day with a superhuman effort; a strong Army side were beaten, 9-5 to 2-5, in the semi-final, and it was Fedamore once more in the east decider at Croom. There was no mistake this time and Young Ireland won, 5-1 to 1-3. They later beat Rathkeale, at Croom, to take county honours.

## THE "GREATS"

Sad to say that five of the leading figures of that success—Tom Hayes, Bob McConkey, Gerry Markham, Paddy O'Shaughnessy and Jimmy Fitzgerald—are dead, as are all too many of others who shone on club teams during this and subsequent years. Two of that 1928 Young Ireland champion side are respected Parish Priests in Limerick diocese now—Very Rev. Michael Kelly, Cappagh, and Very Rev. John Godfrey, Kildimo; whilst Denny Lanigan is now Young Ireland Club president—a golden link with two great club spells—the 1918 to 1923 period and again the years from 1927 to 1932.

Young Ireland celebrated their 1928 win with a banquet at Cruise's Hotel and were the first G.A.A. club to do so. They also broke new ground when they opened their own club rooms in Thomas Street. This, too, was a brainchild of Father Moriarty, who led a team of members in decorating the premises. It remained a pleasant hosting place for many a day and holds many a happy memory for old club members.

All these developments extended the influence of Young Ireland to a remarkable extent, membership grew immensely, a fact best illustrated by subsequent events. For instance, on September 9, 1928, we find the club senior hurling side playing Erin's Own at Waterford, whilst the juniors were playing South Liberties in the first game ever at Limerick Gaelic Grounds. In the second match there which followed, Ahane played Fedamore and introduced to the hurling public

the great Mick Mackey.

Young Ireland played everywhere they were invited. In a great double senter engagement at Buttevant, the hurlers played Blackrock and the footballers took on Duhallow. They inaugurated the Whit-Sunday games at Killarney when the hurlers met Cork Glen Rovers and the big ball boys played Killarney Crokes.

On a memorable Easter Sunday, Young Ireland fielded two senior hurling teams in games in aid of Padraig Pearse's old college, St. Enda's.

One team played St. Finbarr's at Cork, the other faced Cappamore (1929 county finalists) at Cappamore. Most remarkable feat, and an unprecedented one, was that of November 2, 1930. On that day the Young Ireland senior hurlers beat Ahane, at Croom, 5-4 to 5-2, in a great east final. At the same time, at Hospital, the club senior footballers drew with Knockane, 4-3 all, in what was also an east final.

## IN DEMAND

Young Ireland frequently travelled to Ennis to play Clare County selections and they were often popular visitors to Tralee to take on "Kingdom" teams preparing for Munster Championship engagements. Matches with the great Cork sides—Blackrock, St. Finbarr's and Glen Rovers—were regular features, with Thurles Blues, Boherlahan and Toomevara the sides they most often encountered in Tipperary.

Erin's Own (Waterford), Dicksboro' (Kilkenny) and Army Metro, Faughs and Young Ireland were others who provided sterling encounters on occasions, but the toughest struggle of all was, possibly, the first Sweet Afton Cup final, in which a terrific Newmarket-on-Fergus opposition was overcome.

Young Ireland, of course, also won the county finals of 1930 and 1932, in both of which they beat Newcastle West—the 1930 success coming only on a replay, with the drawn tussle one of the greatest in the long line of Limerick championship encounters.

These are memories recalled by the passing of Fr. Moriarty, who proved in a few short years' connection with the club that earnest leadership, given enthusiastic support, can overcome almost every obstacle. Increasing duties elsewhere eventually forced him relinquish the club chairmanship, for he could not do things by halves—and so he was lost to the G.A.A., for I cannot recollect further close association on his part with the movement.

Our paths did not cross in such intimate way again, but I cannot let the occasion of his untimely death pass without some tribute to great and pioneer work in days when the G.A.A. was still struggling for recognition in many quarters.

Slán agus beannacht De agaibh go leir, a chairde Gaedheal!

## Young Ireland win New Ireland Shield

It used be said of a famous old Dublin team of the long ago that victory upset them. They were one of those sides that got the utmost enjoyment from playing the game, and they were happy when they had a good match.

The Young Ireland and Commercial lads of recent years remind me very much of that lovable Liffeside combination. They play the games for the love of the thing, and are not bothered by defeat. They could not be, for until last Sunday no trophy had come their way since 1959. That's a long spell, even in the life of two of our oldest clubs, and I don't think anyone could grudge them the success they gained on Sunday when they captured the New Ireland Assurance Co. Shield at the expense of Treaty-Sarsfields. It was a well merited win and an encouragement to the fine young lads now figuring with such promise in the under-age ranks with the clubs.

It is a tribute to the Young Ireland and Commercial clubs that without the glamour of playing field victories they remain, as always, very active units of the G.A.A., and are at present planning the development of a first-class club grounds as a worthy memorial to one of their greatest members—the late Denny Lanigan—one of the most outstanding Gaels Limerick has produced.





Mr. Michael Fitzgibbon, Vice-President Young Ireland G.A.A. Club, with some of the players who were made club awards in 1968—D. Graham, J. Ryan, P. O'Neill, Noel Ryan and M. McNamara.

#### YOUNG IRELAND DEFEAT DOON

Young Ireland ..... 3-6  
Doon ..... 2-4

This S.H. Cup tie originally fixed for Caherconlish finally got under way at Bruff — 40 minutes late due to the late arrival of the Doon team. As it was the could only muster 14 players for the start and consequently paid the penalty as they were in arrears, 3-2 to 0-2, at half-time. Jim Allis, the inter-county full-back, arrived on the scene in the second half for Doon and lined out at centre-back. He later shot a great goal from a 21 yards free but to no avail as Young Ireland were hurling as if inspired and held on for a deserved win which augurs well for their championship clash with Feohanagh at Bruff on Sunday next. Their best player was Noel Noonan who had a great game at centre-forward, ably assisted by Jim O'Connor, Brian Long, Christy Forde, Martin Berkery, Gerry Fitzgibbon and veteran John McDermott in goal. J. Ryan, J. Walshe, J. Allis, D. Anderson, M. Butler and W. Moore were most in the picture for Doon.

#### Double for Patrickswell.

Patrickswell hurlers scored a notable double over the weekend. At the Gaelic Grounds their under 21 squad overcame Ballybrown 5-4 to 2-3 after a thrilling hour in the City Board League while at Adare on Fri-

#### MCDUGGAN CUP S.H. 1968

Claughton, 3-2; Y. Ireland, 2-5  
Young Irelands turned in their best performance for many a day when finishing level, 3-2 to 2-5, with an under-strength Claughton after a close and interesting hour. Liam Hogan, in his first outing after his recent illness; Jim Hogan (goal), John Hehir, Mick Graham, John McCarthy and Pat Phelan were most in the picture for Claughton, while Brian Long, Jim O'Connor, Joe Dalton, Keith Lancaster, Gerry Fitzgibbon and Brendan Jones were best of a lively Young Irelands fifteen.



# PROMISING ATHLETE

**FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD** athlete Noel Ryan has had a very successful innings with Limerick Athletic Club so far this season, and has proved himself one of the city's most promising competitors in his class in the 880 yards event.

Since he commenced his athletic career three years ago with Limerick C.B.S. under the guidance of Brother Kelly and Brother Dunne, Noel has won 27 medals, two cups and one plaque. He made his successful debut at Caherdavin, when he finished in front of Stephen McNamara in a cross-country race, and followed this with a third place in a road race at Corbally.

After competing successfully in an under-12 cross-country event at Knockalisheen, he travelled to Croom with the C.B.S. Club and came first in the half-mile. Later, in Askatoon, he won the 880 yards under-12 and finished third in the long jump.

Again in the under-12 group the following year he registered another success in the 880 yards at Knockalisheen and won team prize with the C.B.S. Other well-known athletes running with him were Joe Adams and Eugene O'Shea.

But, strangely enough, a winning race did not bring him his biggest thrill; it came when he finished third in the 880 yards in the Munster Colleges' Sports at Donoghmore, County Cork. He put up a tremendous performance but was beaten by clubmate Martin Sheehan.

In city sports, Noel has also been successful over his favourite distance, the 880 yards and in the Munster cross-

country at Liskennett he took third in the three-quarter mile race. Last year, while a student at Ballingearry Irish College, he won several prizes, and rounded off a satisfactory season by finishing first in the Limerick round-the-houses race, under - 13 grade.

About three months ago Noel joined Limerick A.C. and to date he won three medals and a plaque with his new club. The plaque he took at Granagh for the mile race and, with Joe Waters, Tom Laffin, Mick Ryan, Jim Halpin and Brendan O'Brien, he also won team prize.

He also competed in the recent Munster Colleges' cross-country event at Tipperary and was a member of the C.B.S. team that finished third in the team award.

He is looking forward to competing in the Munster secondary colleges' sports this year. His other interests are swimming, cycling and finishing, and he is a member of Young Irelands G.A.A. Club.

Noel is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Ryan, 15 Elm Place, Rathbane, and is a pupil of Limerick C.B.S. He has two brothers: John, aged 21, who is studying accountancy, and Gerard, aged 11, who is attending the C.B.S. His sisters, Peggy and Ann, have won some 50 medals for Irish dancing with the Daly School.

March 1967



PAT O'NEILL (Young Irelands), one of the most promising young hurlers in Limerick City. He scored 1-5 of his team's total in their re-

## Commercials -

### Young Ireland

2-5-70

"Nothing succeeds like success", so they say, and it looks like Limerick's oldest football club has found a new lease of life and is on the threshold of greatness. The Co. Juvenile title won by the club last year has had a wonderful effect and another Co. Juvenile win is definitely on the cards.

The minor football team is undefeated in the minor league, and a very difficult task faces the selectors when they sit down to pick the team for the championship. Denis Keehan, Tony Considine, Noel Earlie, Ger Noonan, Tony McKernan are well in line for places on the County minor team, if not this year, next year.

The junior football team, aided by some up and coming minors, had a good win recently in the Kerryman Cup against St. Patrick's.

On the hurling side things have not been encouraging. The club is very worried by the lack of interest shown by the boys in hurling. Teams have been only scraped together, and the standard shown is very poor indeed. The chairman of the club, Con McGrath, feels that the standard in the city is deplorably low, and that something drastic needs to be done.

Injuries to players, especially young players, has caused the club to give deep thought to provision of headgear and steps are being taken to procure some helmets.

The senior hurling team, after a fair start against Cappamore and Ballybrown in the Co. Cup, took a nose dive last Sunday at Monaleen, Ballybrown having the easiest of wins. However, training sessions are in progress at Westfields in the evenings and the club hopes to step up on this form when they meet Pallas, last year's County finalists, on May 17.

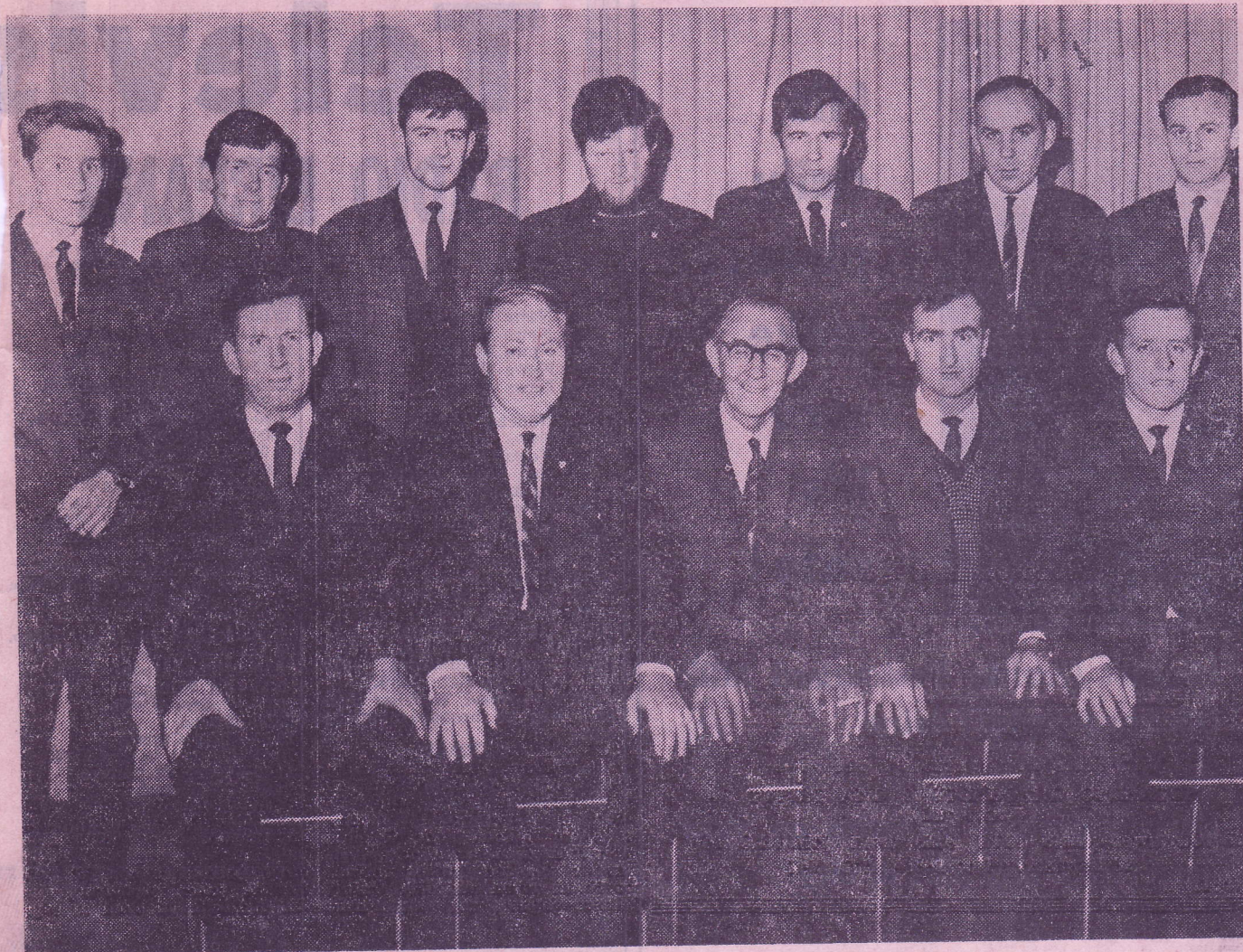
During the Easter holidays the juvenile footballers provided Colaiste Iognaid Jesuit College, Galway, with a friendly 13-a-side. Star of the club team was Ogy Moran, youngest son of the late Denis Moran, a student in Gormanstown College. Joe Lennon's coaching is evident in his dashing style. Yet only fourteen years, he is hoping Commercials will get over the opening rounds of the Championship without him.

Michael Foley, of the Shannon Arms, goalkeeper on Gormanstown senior hurling team, will also be in the club's colours this year.

Through the "Lanigan Memorial Park Committee", the club has entered the credit scheme and hopes are high that the club will soon find a permanent abode at Westfields, where they have been for so long.

Jim O'Connor, club secretary, Secretary of Bord na n-Og, referee and player, is no doubt the busiest official in the city and is doing a wonderful job. The club is proud of the fact that its Chairman, Con McGrath, and Dan Hickey, are Chairmen of the Juvenile and City Board, respectively. Liam Ryan, a senior player, is also refereeing many juvenile matches.





The Committee of Young Ireland-Commercials Club. Back row (l. to r.)—Tony Fitzgibbon, Sean Shaw, L. Ryan, C. Forde, Ger Fitzgibbon, Des Mansfield and J. O'Connor. Front row—Dan Hickey, P.R.O.; C. McGrath (Chairman), Michael Fitzgibbon (Vice-President), R. O'Shea and Brian Long.



6. Limerick Chronicle, Saturday, Jan. 17, 1970.

## G.A.A. PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK



**CON McGRATH**  
(Commercials - Young Irelands)

Con McGrath (Commercials-Young Irelands), who will be elected unopposed as chairman of Bord na nOg at their forthcoming convention. One of the best-known G.A.A. officials in the city, he is present chairman of his club after serving as hon. secretary for many

years. He was outgoing vice-chairman of Bord na nOg. He devotes much of his leisure time to promoting Gaelic games amongst the youth of Limerick City and achieved a cherished ambition last year when he trained Commercials to win the county juvenile football championship. It was Commercials first title win in 41 years.

## The late *Feb 1970* Mr. Edward Reidy

THE unexpected death of Mr. Edward (Ned) Reidy, which occurred at his residence, 2 Athlunkard Villas, Athlunkard Street, removed from our midst the last surviving male member of a well-known "Parish" family.

Deceased, a shoe-maker (in Rutland Street), was in his early youth associated with the G.A.A., playing hurling with the old St. Patrick's Club and Young Irelands and holding executive posts with the City Board.

Among the first to join the Irish Volunteers, with his brothers, James (Mossy), Dick and Tom. He was a co-founder of the Sinn Fein Band, with which he performed at the funeral obsequies of Ireland's first hunger-striker, Thomas Ashe, in Glasnevin Cemetery, September, 1917.

During the interim between the signing of the Truce, July 11, 1921, and the formation of the Garda Síochána, early in the following year, Ned was a member of the Limerick City Police (unpaid) which preserved law and order, often at great personal risk.

He was for over half-a-century a devoted member of the Arch-Confraternity of the Holy Family.

Many mourners followed the remains to St. Mary's Church and Mount St. Laurence Cemetery subsequently, attended by the local and other clergy.

To his wife, son, Stephen; daughters, Mrs. Maire Carroll and Mrs. Catherine O'Keefe, and other relatives, deepest sympathy is extended.

## *Jan 1968* FOLLOWING IN FATHERS' FOOTSTEPS

SONS of famous fathers helped Young Ireland's win their first hurling trophy for eight seasons at Limerick Gaelic Grounds on Sunday. By co-incidence, the last trophy won by the club was the same as that in which they succeeded last Sunday, the New Ireland Shield for junior hurling.

At full-forward on the side was John "Greg" Mackey, whose father, Mick, blazed a trail of glory in the mid-1930s and early '40s. In his great career, Mick won three All-Ireland medals, five National League titles, five Munster championship medals and figured on nine successful Railway Cup teams and won an Oireachtas final as well. On the local front, he gained 15 county hurling championship medals and five football championship medals. He was rated one of the greatest forwards of all time. His son, Greg, may be taking up where he left off.

Right half back on the same team was Tony Fitzgibbon, whose father, Mick Fitzgibbon, was a star Limerick defender in the years immediately preceding Mackey's arrival on the scene. He won a couple of Munster championship medals and captained Limerick in an unsuccessful All-Ireland final, but helped Munster win a couple of Railway Cups.



# 7 2 70 YOUNG IRELAND- COMMERCIALS A.G.M., 1970

The annual general meeting of Young Irelands/Commercial G.A.A. club was held at the Shannon Arms Hotel on Tuesday, January 20. One of the most successful years in the history of the sister clubs was reported to an overflow attendance. An inspiring address by chairman, Con McGrath, an eloquent and detailed report by secretary, Brian Long, and a very healthy financial statement from treasurer, Vincent Byrne, were the highlights of this enthusiastic meeting.

Reports showed that all teams had acquitted themselves reasonably well during 1969, particularly the juvenile footballers, who won county championship honours.

Defeated finalists in the grade—Herbertstown—were paid a well deserved tribute, by the chairman for the very fine sportsmanship of both players, officials and supporters, in accepting in such a sporting manner, what for them must have been a bitter experience, their second Co. final defeat in a matter of weeks. They gained more in defeat than many another side does in victory.

In a comprehensive and detailed report Brian Long covered all aspects of club activity during 1969. He emphasized particularly the necessity for developing club grounds at Westfields during 1970. It was agreed that this matter should get priority attention from the incoming committee.

A financial statement showing a total income of £600 for the year with a credit balance of £120 speaks volumes for the good financial husbandry of treasurer, Vincent Byrnes.

Decisions taken included the appointment of a trainer for senior hurling team and an under-age secretary. The meeting was addressed by All-Ireland medal holders, James Clancy, Mick Fitzgibbon and Tommy O'Brien, all of whom were of the unanimous viewpoint that this was one of the best and most progressive meetings the club has ever had.

The officers and committee for 1970 comprise a good blend of youth and experience, and were elected as follows:—

President, James Cleary; vice-presidents, M. Fitzgibbon, T. O'Brien, T. Humphreys, P. Mc-

Inerney, J. Lanigan, S. O Ceallaigh, T. Ryan; Chairman, Con McGrath; vice-chairman, Vincent Byrne; secretary, J. O'Connor; assistant sec., Brian Long; treas., Noel Noonan; assistant treas., Liam Ryan; P.R.O., Dan Hickey.

General committee: J. Hogan, M. Berkerry, R. O'Shea, A. Fitzgibbon, G. Forde, J. Keogh, A. McKiernan, P. O'Riordan, E. Jones, D. Mansfield.

Under age sec., Michael McNamara.

Team captains:—

Senior hurling: Martin Berkerry (vice-capt., J. Hogan).

Junior Hurling: Dick O'Shea (P. Sheehan).

Minor Hurling: J. J. Noonan (J. O'Riordan).

Junior Football: Gerry Forde (G. J. Noonan).

Minor Football: Tony Considine (Noel Early).

Senior Hurling Selection Committee: Con McGrath, Vincent Byrne, Pat Ryan.

## BORD NA nOG 30/5/70 SPOTLIGHT

Most followers of hurling in Limerick have at some time had a hurley shaped to their liking by Paddy O'Neill. Paddy was a man who always emphasised the skill of hurling and held that a hurler without brains was not of much value to a team.

Pat junior, who plays with Young Ireland, is perhaps one of the most skilful young hurlers in Limerick today. Possessing tremendous energy, he roams the field, always probing. When opposed, he invariably, by his cuteness, succeeds in winning possession and seeks the open spaces. His uncanny control of the ball takes him out of many difficulties and his long-range points from frees and play are a treat to watch.

This is Pat's fourth year with Young Ireland and he has been the club's outstanding hurler

for a long time. He has the wonderful gift of infusing confidence in his team-mates, and his latest effort is to take over the training of his team for the semi-final of the juvenile championship. His best display to date was against Ballybrown, a team comprised of about seven of last year's team which was unlucky to be beaten by Ballingarry, later county champions. In this game he scored 2-4 out of his side's 3-4.

A member of Sexton Street Rice Cup team three years ago, of the school under 15 team last year, Pat was a sub on this year's Dean Ryan team. A very useful footballer, he was a sub on Commercial's team of last year and a very useful member this year. His ambition is to lead Young Ireland to a city juvenile title and if enthusiasm counts for anything he will.

## Commercial's - Young Ireland

The under age teams have been very active in the last fortnight. The juvenile football team reversed the league result with Old Christians in the first round of the championship, winning 4-8 to 1 pt. Four nights later, however, they failed to Treaty-Sarsfields, last year's u-15 league winners, a very fine team that will take beating not only in city but county. The score, 2-4 to 1 pt., did not give a true picture of this game. Treaty led by 1 pt. to nil at half-time after having missed some scores. The score stood at 4 pts. to 1 pt. in Treaty's favour with three minutes to go and then a gallant back line succumbed to constant pressure.

It is difficult to win two juvenile championships in a row and great credit is due to the lads for making such a great fight of it. Pat Chesser, Ger O'Brien and Gene Pratt were all unavoidably absent and may have made some difference without hardly toppling Treaty. Our stars were goalkeeper Pat Madigan, Kieran Moloney, A. McNamara, Jimmy Keogh and Michael Sadlier; John Garrett, a nephew of a former great Cork hurler, Georgie Garrett.

A meeting of the same two teams on next Monday night in the 3rd round of this year's league promises to be a thriller.

If our footballers went out our hurlers have really made the other teams sit up and take notice.

Defeating Ballybrown at any time is no mean feat but defeating a Ballybrown team with about seven of last year's championship winning team on it is something to feel proud about. Hero of this win was Pat O'Neill, who roamed at will and scored 2-4 of his side's 3-4. This player was very much in line for a sports star award last year. Others to impress in this two points win were Greg Claffey, Dermot Graham, Liam Lenihan and Jimmy Keogh.

Last Friday night they defeated St. Brendan's by 3-2 to 2-2 in another exciting game, the defence holding out in great style. Pat Byrne, 1 goal; P. O'Neill, 1-2; D. Graham, 1 goal, were the

is son of Paddy O'Neill, the well known hurley maker, and Liam Lenihan is nephew of Ned Sheehan of Treaty Sarsfields.

Our junior football team had two outings recently, losing both to Garda and St. Brendan's, respectively.

Young Ireland's senior hurling team looked like creating a surprise against Pallas, last year's finalists, when matching score for score they were only two points behind at the interval. However, with the loss of one of the team's best defenders in T. McGrath with a nasty face injury, the back division became disorganised and Pallas ran out the easiest of winners.

For the second successive year the club finds itself out of the championship before the end of May.

The long undefeated run of last year's county juvenile football winning team has come to an end. The 1969 City League Final was decided on Monday night last with Treaty Sarsfields victorious, 1-6 to 3 pts. Commercial's led 1 pt. to nil at the interval having played with the wind. They increased it to two points on the resumption. An all-out effort by Treaty brought 4 pts. in a row. Try as Commercial's would, they could not regain the initiative and Treaty ran out deserving winners of a great game.

Tom Halpin deserves a special word of praise for his wonderful handling of this game and the many juvenile games he has refereed this year.

B70





Christy Murphy, Chairman of the City G.A.A. Board, congratulates the Wee Tiddlers Group, representing Eire Og, who won the balled group competition at the City G.A.A. Talent Finals. From left: Terence O'Reilly, Gerry Goodwin and Neil Foley.

## CITY G.A.A. NEWS

### Two finals fixed for Monaleen

Sunday next, April 25th, will be a particularly busy one for the sister clubs Young Ireland's /Commercials. At the well appointed Monaleen venue, Commercials take on Copsewood College in the 1970 Minor Football League final at 2.30 and Young Ireland's contest the New Ireland Shield junior hurling final of the same year against old rivals Ballybrown at 3.45.

Young Ireland's record in this competition is a fairly imposing one and as a result of some recent good performances, are looking forward to Sunday's game with confidence. Experienced players such as Brian Long, John Loneragan, Brendan Jones, Jim O'Connor, Joe Dalton, Des Mansfield, Liam Ryan, Tony Fitzgibbon, Willie Breen and Dick O'Shea will form the backbone of Young Ireland's Ballybrown are holders of the trophy and proved their worth when drawing with fancied Patrickswell recently. They will have the services of Sean Benis, Frank Hanly, Kieran McCarthy, Paddy Carroll, Martin Hayes, Noel Lyons and Mike Fogarty and will make a bold bid to retain the coveted shield. Bro. Mannix (Copsewood College) will referee.

Copsewood College caused a major surprise recently when ousting county minor football champions, Treaty Sarsfields, and will prove worthy opponents for a talented Commercials side in the minor football league final. This is Commercials first ever appearance in a city minor final. They will have the bulk of their 1969 county juvenile team in action and such stalwarts as county goalie Denis Keehan, Tony Considine, Pat Keogh, Tony McKiernan, Ger O'Driscoll, J.J. Noonan, Noel Earlie, John O'Grady and Michael McLoughlin in the line-up they should annex their first

## JUNIOR FINAL

Monaleen, the holders, and Eire Og will line out at 2.15, with Paddy O'Dwyer as referee to decide the destiny of the city junior hurling championship.

Monaleen, as holders, must be fancied to retain their crown but they were far from impressive in the semi-final and will have to show vast improvement. However, such talented hurlers as Eddie Franklin, Noel Bridge-man, Mick Fitzgibbon, J. J. Fitzpatrick, Tony McMahon and Donal Coffey are capable of better things and will, no doubt, will prove it on this occasion.

Eire Og, after a long sojourn without success in the senior ranks opted down to the lower grade and confident of breaking their losing sequence. They have accomplished caman wielders in Noel Noonan, Pat O'Neill, Brendan Jones, Jim O'Connor, Sean Killeen, Brian Long, Pat Keogh and goalie, Michael Foley, and could well upset the form chart.

## CITY J.H.C.

### Eire Og too crafty for Na Piarsaigh

Eire Og ..... 4-10  
Na Piarsaigh ..... 1-5

Eire Og qualified for the second round of the City Junior Hurling Championship when they defeated newcomers Na Piarsaigh 4-10 to 1-5 at the Gaelic Grounds. This was a keenly contested and at times a robust game. Na Piarsaigh, making their debut in junior ranks, tried very hard, but the greater craft and experience of the opposition proved too much for them.

Eire Og led 2-5 to 1-2 at the interval after a close and exciting opening moiety. In the second half Eire Og gradually exerted their always apparent superiority and finished deserv-

## Mr. Joseph C. Duggan

One of Limerick's best-known citizens, Mr. Joseph C. Duggan, "Iveragh", Summerville Avenue, South Circular Road, has died after a short illness. Aged 76, the deceased was a prominent figure in Limerick insurance circles, having carried on an insurance brokerage business in Cecil Street for close on twenty years. Prior to that, he worked with the Sun Life of Canada Assurance Company for many years.

The late Mr. Duggan, a man with a gentle, unassuming personality, was widely connected with various voluntary bodies and organisations in the City. He was a member of the Limerick Arch - Confraternity at Mount St. Alophonsus all his life, and was honoured by the conferring of the title of Oblate for his outstanding service to the Redemptorist Order. He was also prominently associated with the Limerick Choral Union, the Limerick Symphony Concerts Society, and the Limerick Diocesan Boys' Scouts of which he had the honour of being Commissioner for some years.

The deceased was also a man well-known for his charitable works including his association with St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was adjutant of the 49th Battalion during the Emergency (L.D.F.).

He is survived by his wife, Moira; sons, Colm, Bernard; daughters, Sister Miriam (Maura), Uganda; Aine, Eithne, and Sheila; brothers, Tom, Mick; sisters, Mrs. Nellie Martin; Ciss, Bessie, Bea, Sister Statia, Malaysia, and other relatives.

## Eire Og reach City J.H. Final

EIRE OG ..... 0-9  
BALLYBROWN ..... 2-2

Eire Og reached their first city hurling final for many years when their junior fifteen overcame a strong Ballybrown team 0-9 to 2-2 in the semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds on Sunday.

This was a close exciting contest throughout, between two evenly matched sides. Eire Og jumped an early four point lead but a great goal by Timmy McCormack reduced the defeat to Ballybrown who eventually trailed 0-5 to 1-1 at the interval.

Ballybrown had much of the play in the second half but missed numerous chances. On the other hand Eire Og picked off four points to leave them leading 0-9 to 1-2 with time running out. Then came a Ballybrown goal which placed victory within their grasp but Eire Og survived the rally to win by the minimum margin.

Scorers: Eire Og—P. O'Neill 0-5; J. O'Connor 0-3; D. O'Shea 0-1.

Ballybrown—T. McCormack 1-0; M. Gavin 1-0 each, T. O'Leary 0-2.

Best for Eire Og were Sean Killeen, Brendan Jones, Brian Long, Pat Keogh, playing his second game of the day, Pat O'Neill, and Jim O'Connor while Ted O'Leary, Michael Gavin, Noel Fitzgerald, Paddy O'Reilly, Seamus Coughlan and James Coughlan were most in the picture for Ballybrown.

The teams lined out:  
Eire Og—M. Foley, B. Jones, S. Killeen, W. Breen, J. Dunphy, B. Long, J. Meade, P. Keogh, K. Lancaster, P. O'Neill, L. Ryan, J. O'Connor, D. Hickey, P. Phelan, D. O'Shea.

Ballybrown—W. Ryan, B. Graham, P. O'Reilly, A. Cusack, N. Fitzgerald, S. Coughlan, T. Byrne, J. Nash, J. Coughlan, R. Burke, R. Kennedy, T. O'Leary, M. Gavin, F. Hanly, M. Meskeill, Sub.: T. McCormack for R. Burke.

Referee—P. O'Dwyer (Cloughaun).

## EIRE OG QUALIFY

Eire Og qualified for their first junior championship final in many years when eliminating a dour Ballybrown side by a one point margin.

This was a ding-dong struggle all the way between two evenly matched sides. Eire Og jumped into an early lead and led by 4 points after 12 minutes play but a great goal by Timmy McCormack left Ballybrown only a point in arrears 0-5 to 1-1 at the interval.

Eire Og again took up the initiative on resuming and edged to the front by a four point margin but a Ballybrown goal just before the final whistle again threatened their position but they survived the final onslaught for a deserved win.

Scorers: Eire Og—P. O'Neill 0-5, J. O'Connor 0-3, D. O'Shea 0-1.

Ballybrown—T. McCormack 1-0; M. Gavin 1-0 each, T. O'Leary 0-2.

ing winners. They had prominent players in young Pat O'Neill, Sean Killeen, Keith Lancaster, Pat Keogh, Dan Hickey, Noel Noonan, Brian Long, Jim O'Connor and Dick O'Shea; while Tom Tobin, Tom McInerney, Larry Murray, Tom Browne, Gerry Carey, Sean Horgan and Jim O'Sullivan were best for Na Piarsaigh.



# YOUNG IRELAND-COMMERCIALS NEWS

It was with a sense of great sadness that members of the club heard the news recently of the untimely death at a young age of one of their most loyal colleagues, John Byrne, RLP.

Since he first came to the club about twelve years ago John played his part both on the field and off it. Secretary of the club at one stage, John gave unstintingly of his time always to club affairs both fieldwise and on the social side. Patrons at the Gaelic Grounds will miss his familiar figure where he regularly officiated as a steward and referee. Young Ireland Club has lost a very fine club man and Limerick Gaeldom has lost a loyal worker.

To his wife and family the club extends its deepest sympathy on their great loss and also to his brother Vinnie, his sister and mother.

The results of the Leaving Cert Examination out recently showed that studies and playing activities can go hand in hand together successfully. We extend the club's congratulations and best wishes in their future careers to Michael McNamara, Jimmy Keogh, Tony McKernan, Gene Pratt, Noel Earlie, Pat O'Neill, Michael Foley, Joe O'Riordan who all did excellently.

The defeat of the minor football team by Treaty Sarsfields brought to an end the championship engagements of this age

group in the club. This team has really shown great loyalty down through the years since they were first recruited to the Commercial colours, four years ago. Even though ousted this year they should form the nucleus of a good football club in the years ahead. The club appreciates very much their fine efforts.

The Junior Hurling team disappointed in the City final and was beaten convincingly by Monaleen. The form shown was too bad to be true. However, a few new players could transform the side as certain sections of the team were quite capable. The New Ireland Shield won in '58 and '68 is still within the club's grasp after good wins over St. Patrick's and Cloughaun.

On the social side the club intends to have its Annual Social before Christmas and it is expected to be bigger and better than ever. Further details will be given later.

The club is very anxious to acquire some new blood especially in hurling and welcomes any new members who are particularly interested in the game. It is said that Lime-rick has never won an All-Ireland without a Young Ireland player on the panel. The only connection at the moment is Dan Hickey among the Hurling Selectors, to whom we offer our congratulations both on his re-election and a job well done this year.

## YOUNG IRELAND-COMMERCIALS NEWS:

# Great display by junior footballers

Commercials displayed their best football in the junior championship game versus Treaty Sarsfields at Cloughaun Field recently. To run Treaty Sarsfields to 5 pts. (14 pts. to 1-6) in a splendidly contested game augurs well for the team's chances in the championship.

In a further round of the same championship Commercials beat Ballybrown at Kildimo last Monday night on the score 2-7 to 6 pts. Dermot Smalle, Willie O'Halloran and Tom Byrnes excelled. The lineup was: P. Madigan, J. O'Neill, C. McCarthy, B. Long, T. Lyons, M. Timmons, G. O'Mahony, W. O'Halloran, T. Byrnes, J. O'Halloran, D. Smalle, T. Coughlan, W. McElligott, P. Hogan, J. Shaw.

Young Irelands and Cloughaun played a friendly game in junior hurling last Thursday night when the appointed referee failed to turn up. Cloughaun won by 5 pts.

### Club's Junior Hurling and Football Tournaments:

Last Friday evening saw the first semi-final in the hurling tournament. Glenroe v. Ballybricken: After a keenly contested game, refereed by Peter Bennis, Glenroe beat Ballybricken by 6-8 to 2-6.

Parteen and Meelick meet in the other semi-final and the final is fixed for Friday, June 27.

In a very fine football semi-final Mungret defeated Monaleen, 14 pts. to 3-4.

Best for Mungret were Liam

day, 24th, at 3.00 p.m.: Sexton Street v. St. Kieran's C.B.S. O'Donoghue and the Keating twins, and for Monaleen, David Fitzpatrick and Noel Bridgeman. Referee was Tom Bennis.

### NA PIARSAIGH v. SOUTHILL STARS

This was also an excellent game. Final score: Na Piarasigh, 3-4; Southill Stars, 1-5.

Best for Na Piarasigh were: Tom Fox, P. Dowling, Tom Tobin, Pat Tiernan and minor Paul Coady, and for a very useful Southill team, Pa Aherne, Paddy Koyce, Stephen Cusack, Billy Power (goal). Brian Thompson and Clem Mason. Referee, Tom Bennis.

### Supper Social at Caherconlish.

On June 27th, the night of the hurling final, the presentation of plaques to the winners of both tournaments will take place at the Big Three, Caherconlish. Tickets available from Des Mansfield, hon. secretary, c/o Moran's, 58 William Street.

Commercials entertain Meelick in a friendly football challenge on Sunday, June 22nd, at 11.15 a.m. All interested are asked to attend.



The Eire Og team, winners of the Question Time Competition in the "Scor 71" G.A.A. talent contest, receive their award from Christy Murphy, Chairman, City G.A.A. Board. The winning trio were, l. to r.: Brian Long, Dan Hickey and Liam Ryan. Eire Og have once again qualified for this year's final of the question time in company with Na Piarasigh, St. Patrick's and Old Christians. The finals of "Scor 72" will take place at the Parkway Motor Inn on next Tuesday, January 11th, at 7.30.

## Young Ireland's A.G.M. Jan 73

A full to capacity crowd—in fact an overflow one—turned up to the recent revival meeting of the Young Ireland and Commercials Clubs, and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed. The outcome was the unanimous decision to field teams in junior and under 21 grades in both hurling and football in the 1973 championships.

The support promised was overwhelming, and it was evident that plenty of playing material will be available. The preparation and training of the teams was discussed and arrangements made for a club grounds.

The annual general meeting of the joint clubs was then arranged for the Gaelic League Hall, 18 Thomas Street, Lime-rick, on Tuesday, January 23, at 8 p.m., when another big muster is expected. The organisers stress that they are still open to accept new members, and any who are unattached and would like to join the G.A.A., either as players or associate members, will be very welcome indeed to that meeting.



## Young Ireland- Commercials GAA Club

At the annual general meeting officers elected for 1978 were: President, Mr. Jim Cleary; vice-presidents: Seamus O'Ceallaigh, Tommy O'Brien, Paddy McInerney, Ned Fitzgibbon, Con McGrath, Des Mansfield, Con McCarthy. Chairman, John Shaw; vice-chairman, Brian Long; hon. sec., Timmie O'Shea; team sec., T. Byrnes; hon. treas., Ollie Power, assistant treasurer, Jim O'Reilly. General committee: Maurice Egan, Dermot Smalle, Martin Kennedy, Jim McMahon, Don Kelly, Tom Breen, Tony Lyons. P.R.O.: Con McGrath.

Next meeting: Thursday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m., Gaelic League Hall, Thomas St. New members are most cordially invited to attend. The hurling side of this old club is vitally in need of new blood.

## Death of Jim Sadlier

The death has occurred of a former well-known GAA figure, Mr. Jim Sadlier, proprietor of Sadliers poultry shop, in Roches Street, Limerick. The late Mr. Sadlier, a native of Buttevant, Co. Cork, played hurling with Young Ireland and with Limerick, and was a prominent referee in Munster championship matches in the 'fifties. The funeral takes place this Thursday evening, from his home at 6 Rhebog Avenue, Corbally, to St. Mary's Church, at 7 p.m. Burial takes place in Mungret Cemetery, this Friday, after 2 o'clock Mass. He is survived by his wife, Susie; sons, Tony, Jimmy, Donal, John and Gerard; daughters, Georgina and Mary, and by his father, sisters, relatives and friends.

14.1.84

# A Limerickman's Diary

Edited by PADDY MORONEY

## He trained Mick Mackey's heroes

THE EVE of the All-Ireland Hurling Final '78 coincided with the Curraghgow Boat Club's recent autumn social at the Ark Tavern, Corbally, and one of the patrons at the enjoyable Curraghgow function, Mrs. Maureen O'Mahony, recalled how she helped to train the Limerick hurling team which won several All-Irelands in the 1930s, writes Seamus O' Cinneide.

Mrs. O'Mahony, wife of Mr. Frank O'Mahony, fruit merchant and boating enthusiast, reminiscing about Limerick's Golden Hurling Years, said her father, the late Mr. Christy ("Lefty") O'Brien, was one of the training aides to Limerick hurling teams in those triumphant years.

### Native

"Lefty" O'Brien, a native of Mungret Street, was a well-known city G.A.A. personality. Young Miss Maureen O'Brien was as enthusiastic a G.A.A. fan as her father and always accompanied him to see the Limerick team training for Munster and All-Ireland championships as Pairc na nGael, Ennis Road.

The late Sergeant-Major Browne (who resided at Benfal Terrace) was the Limerick team's physical culture coach, she recalled.

Part of the training sessions were a few fast runs around the stadium's pitch. "As I was a very energetic runner, I was selected to not

those golden years were all superb stylists, though John Mackey (a brother of captain Mick Mackey) was her favourite for his blend of great hurling and showmanship.

In the 1930s, she played camogie with St. Brigid's—a team from the Park-Singland area. A Miss Ryan was captain. Other fellow St. Brigid's players were Josie Hannan, Bridie Egan and Ita Conway. St. Brigid's were trained by "Spatters" Hannan of Park.

### Favourites

A favourite dancing venue of the camogie team was "The Hop"—a dance hall run by Mrs. McMahon—a versatile musician, who played the pipes—at Groody, on the Dublin Road.

The St. Brigid's girls were celebrities all over the Park-Singland area. When they'd arrive at "The Hop", Mrs. McMahon used to greet them with: "Make way for the camogie team!"

In later years, they graduated to ceilis run by St. Patrick's G.A.A. Club at St. John's Pavilion.

As a young girl, Maureen O'Mahony was introduced to boating at Plassey by her father, "Lefty" O'Brien.

There was a boat club near McMahon's at the Head of the Old Canal in the 1930s.

"Lefty" O'Brien, Jim McMahon and his family, Dave Ringrose and

Plassey and picking mushrooms in the fields along its shores," Mrs. O'Mahony recalled.

### Expert

Her husband, Frank O'Mahony, is an expert and versatile boatman and angler. He sails and fishes at Kilkee.

This summer, himself and fellow Curraghgow boatman, Johnny Goggin, caught so many mackerel, they kept a scout troop camping at Kilkee supplied with fish for a fortnight.

Frank and Johnny sail and fish on Lough Derg—the largest of the Shannon lakes. They regard it as the most scenic and peaceful resort in the world.

The cruise across the lake between old world villages like Mountshannon and Dromineer and Garrykennedy and praise the friendliness experienced in those lakeside villages.

Mr. Pat O'Shea, secretary of Curraghgow Boat Club, is an expert sailor on the Shannon Estuary and a helpful friend of all boating enthusiasts at Curraghgow Boat Club.

His son, Phillip (a gifted artist, whose paintings sensitively depict Old Limerick scenes) is married to the former Miss Mary O'Mara, whose grandfather, the late Mr. Christopher O'Mara (Mungret St.) was the first president of the now defunct St. John's Boat Club which was based at Curraghgow for many years.

### Damaged

In the 1950s, Pat O'Shea's cruiser, "Seamew", was severely

"The Coney Island people were very hospitable—particularly the local lady schoolteacher," Pat recalls.

With Pat on that dramatic trip were Davy McNamara, the late Ned Collins, Tom Bernard and Teddy McLoughlin.

The island people found the late Ned Collins' and Davy McNamara's stories so entertaining, it was all hours before the nightly gatherings in the island houses broke up, Pat added.

After some days, the storm subsided and Pat and the other marooned Curraghgow men were able to return by road to Limerick.

A few days later, Pat, with the assistance of one of the Hassetts of Thomondgate, landed on Coney Island, sealed the "Seamew's" broken stem with concrete and sailed her back to Curraghgow. She is still sailing the estuary.

The Curraghgow autumn social was enhanced by songs by Mrs. Teresa O'Dwyer, Eamonn O'Flynn, Christy O'Halloran, Frank O'Flynn and other artistes.

The dance music was excellently supplied by the Louis McMahon Trio. With Louis in the trio are his brother, Jim McMahon, and Liam Ahearne.

Louis' and Jim's father, Mr. Kevin McMahon, is a well-known artiste with St. Mary's Prize Band. The Louis McMahon Trio is a favourite ensemble with the patrons of the Old Tyme Dance sessions on Sunday nights at the Parkway Motor Inn.

The Louis McMahon Trio, at the



## COUNTY SAYS FAREWELL TO CON McGRATH

THE unexpected death of Cllr. Con McGrath, Vice Principal of Sexton Street C.B.S., produced emotional scenes among the huge crowds which attended the removal and funeral this week.

And in a sombre session, the County Council bade farewell to their respected colleague.

The County Chairman, Mr. Liam Hickey spoke of Mr. McGrath's sincerity and dedication. The Fine Gael leader, Deputy Willie O'Brien, referred to Mr McGrath's contribution to public life, and the sense of loss which the county feels.

Deputy Noonan (West), said that Mr McGrath never allowed party politics to enter his life, a view which was echoed by the leader of the council, Mr Martin Carroll. Deputy Noonan (East) recalled Mr McGrath's service to his

trade union, and said that it had been an honour to serve with him.

Mr Paddy Sheehy recalled the long-standing friendship which he treasured with the late councillor - a friendship which predated either of their elections to the council. Duirt Cllr Sean Broderick go raibh bron air go bhfuil an tUas McGrath imithe as an Comhairle. Cllr Michael Collins said that he had never met a harder-working councillor.

Councillor Paddy Hourigan said that Mr McGrath's seat would be hard to fill.

"He was honourable, courteous and dependable", said Cllr John McCoy. "In times of dubious standards and of public cynicism, it was heartening to know that one knew where one stood with him".

## Young Irelands- Commercias G.A.A. Club 1970 Juvenile dinner

Commercials, juvenile football champions, 1969, were entertained to dinner by the club at the Parkway Motel on Sunday night, March 1st. Thirty boys, all of whom were on the panel during the season, were presented with city and county championship trophies.

The medals and trophies were presented by Dan Hickey, chairman, City Board, who had earlier addressed the gathering. During the course of his remarks he exhorted the boys to remain with the club and to continue to play Gaelic games.

He predicted a bright future for many of these boys if they were prepared to concentrate on hurling and football. He went on to stress the necessity for fitness and dedication, and expressed the hope that with the majority of the team that won in '69 again available, that the club would go all out to retain the juvenile football championship in 1970.

Glowing tributes were paid to Mr. Con McGrath for his untiring efforts in propagating Gaelic games among the youth of the city, and particularly for the manner in which he coached and trained Commercials to success in 1969.

A very enjoyable sing song concluded the evening's activities.

## Young Ireland

19.3.83

The annual general meeting of the club was held on Tuesday, February 22nd, with a very small number of members present. After long discussion on the happenings of the club over the past number of lean years, it was decided and agreed that members would make a very special effort during the coming weeks and months to put the club back in the limelight for the coming year.

Officers for coming season: President, J. Cleary; vice-presidents, S. O Ceallaigh, T. O'Brien, E. Fitzgibbon, P. Ryan, D. Mansfield, C. McCarthy; chairman, Timothy O'Shea; vice-chairman, John Shaw; secretary, Maurice Egan; asst. secretary, Brian Long; treasurer, Oliver Power; P.R.O., Jim O'Connor.

Committee: Joe O'Connell, Martin Kennedy, Tom Lyons, John Casey.

It was decided to field the following teams. Junior football, League and championship; junior hurling - championship only.

Captains will be selected at the first meeting of the panel of players. It is hoped to have a few challenge games arranged during the coming weeks.

Membership cards for coming season, £2. It was decided that the club is to invest in Ciste Gael Draw.

First meeting of the club will

## Huge attendance at funeral of Mr. M. Kennedy

17  
5  
77

ONE of the biggest, and most representative, attendances for years attended the removal of the remains last night, and the funeral to-day, of the late Mr. Michael Kennedy, O'Connell Avenue.

Last night His Lordship the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Newman, received the remains on arrival at a crowded St. Joseph's Church.

The attendance included the Mayor, Senator Ted Russell; the Minister for the Gaeltacht, Mr. Tom O'Donnell; Deputy Steve Coughlan and several members of the city council, of which the late Mr. Kennedy was a former member.

Mr. J. P. Liddy, chairman of the Limerick City Comhairle Ceanntair of Fianna Fail, led his party representation.

Several star hurlers of the past were amongst those present last night and again to-day and many G.A.A. officials, including the treasurer of the

tary of Limerick County Board, Mr. Tom Boland.

Many of the present Limerick hurling team also attended.

## Captained

The late Mr. Kennedy captained Limerick to win a National League title and he played on four other winning teams. He also won three senior All-Ireland medals.

The late Mr. Kennedy was an extremely popular and gentle man and the attendance at the removal of remains and the funeral was fitting tribute to the high degree of popularity which he enjoyed.

He is survived by his wife, three sons and three daughters.



## Club awards winners

**Pat O'Neill**—14-year-old Pat, although small in stature, possesses speed and all the artistry of the seasoned hurler. His long-range points in the under-15 hurling competition were a treat to see. A member of the Rice Cup team in Sexton Street for two years, he has starred this year in all three juvenile grades in hurling and football. He is son of the well-known hurley-maker Paddy O'Neill and possesses a great love for the game.

**Seanie Ryan**—Seanie, aged 14, is in his first year with the club and has excelled in hurling and football as a forward. His cool, skilful style makes him very dangerous. Loyalty was the quality which won him his trophy. Young Ireland is sorry to be losing him and his three brothers as his family have now moved from the city to near Newport.

**Noel Ryan**—Noel is with the club for four years and this very loyal member has never missed an engagement in the full-back line in hurling and football where he excelled. Another great interest of Noel's is athletics. Aged 16, he has won three cups, plaques and almost sixty medals. The 880 yards (track) event for schools is his aim for '69. Interested also in swimming, Noel has played a big part in promoting pools within the club and as an organiser.

**Joe O'Riordan**—This 15-year-old, who has been three years with the club, has improved out of all recognition and is now the sheet-anchor of the defence at centre-half in hurling. He is a daring and skilful defender who seldom makes a mistake and has a bright future. Possessing a fine sense of humour, Joe could be said to be the Bob McConkey of present-day Young Ireland lads.

**Michael McNamara**—Standing about 6 feet, and aged 15, Michael is one of the tallest boys in the club. Ever reliable, he always gives of his best in hurling and football and is with the club three years. He and his brother Aidan are also good organisers and help out in all club activities.

**Dermot Graham**—Aged 14 and a native of Coonagh, Dermot is a relation of Michael Graham, county hurler, who also played juvenile with Young Ireland. Dermot was a valuable forward on the Sexton Street Rice Cup team in '68. He gave many fine displays in under-14 and under-15 competitions. A good striker and possessing good ball control, Dermot should make a mark for himself in Limerick hurling in the not too distant future. He has never failed to turn up for engagements,

## HE MAKES CAMANS

Mr. Patrick O'Neill, of Thomas Street, Limerick, has been making hurleys for many years and his fame as a caman manufacturer has spread to England and the U.S.A. Last week he got an order for fifty hurleys from former Limerick All-Ireland hurler Tom McCarthy of Kilfinane. Tom, it will be remembered, was a member of the famous Limerick team of the 30's. He knows that a hurler requires the very best stick and is helped in this by the fact that his knowledge of the game is widespread and he has been at this type of work for the past thirty years. Mr. O'Neill takes a keen interest in his work and in his spare time he can be found at venues all over the county, watching his favourite game, which is, curiously enough, hurling.

## Young Ireland-Commercials G.A.A. Club

The junior hurling and football tournaments, organised by the club, were successfully concluded last Friday evening.

### GLENROE v. MEELICK

After an evenly contested first half, Glenroe were the complete masters on the turn over, and well deserved their victory. The committee wish to congratulate them and thank them for their complete co-operation considering the long journey they had to make. Well done to Meelick also, who put up a fine show. An interested spectator at the final was Andy Scannell, who is now in partnership in the bus hiring business. He renewed acquaintances with Brian Long and Con McGrath, two teammates when a very young Young Ireland team defeated Cappamore in the championship, around 1958.

### MUNGRET v. NA PIARSAIGH

As one spectator put it, "the best 20p's worth he ever got." In a thrill a minute game, which ended in a draw at full-time, and a draw at half-time in the extra time, Mungret held on to win by 2 points and showed that they are a coming force in the City Division.

### PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

At the Big Tree, Caherconlish, the winners were presented with their plaques.

Tom Bennis, who refereed all tournament games, was presented with a beautiful referee's statuette, and thanked sincerely for his efforts.

### WEDDING PRESENTATION

Henry Cooney (treasurer), was presented with a silver dish on the occasion of his marriage.

### JUNIOR FOOTBALL C'SHIP

Commercials footballers had a great victory over Mungret, recent conquerors of Monaleen and Na Piarraigh. The team lined out:—

P. Madigan; B. Long, J. O'Neill, S. Ryan; J. Nugent, Joe O'Mahony, M. Timmons; W. O'Halloran, T. Byrnes; T. Coughlan, D. Smalle, F. Timmons, J. Shaw, J. O'Halloran. Best were T. Coughlan, John and Willie O'Halloran, Joe O'Mahoney and the Timmons brothers. Final score, Commercials 1-10, Mungret 2-5.

number of cattle treated in Co. Wexford was the highest in Ireland. About 115,000 of an estimated total of 150,000 cattle were treated in all.

## Young Ireland's social

A writer in a daily newspaper a short time ago, referring to old time hurling in Limerick lamented the fact that both the Croom and Young Ireland Clubs were now defunct. The Croom lads have nailed that error fairly impressively and anybody who was present at the recent Young Ireland social at the Glentworth Hotel, Limerick, could have little doubt but that the famed blue and gold combination is far from a spent force in Limerick G.A.A. ranks.

Young Ireland provided captains for three Limerick All-Ireland final teams—1921 (Bob McConkey), 1923 (Paddy McInerney) and 1932 (Micky Fitzgibbon); whilst Mick Kennedy skippered the side which brought first National Hurling League honours to the County. In addition, the Club pioneered many things that have become commonplace now, and still hold second place jointly with their old rivals, Claughaun, in the County Senior Hurling Championship Roll of Honour.

The announcement at their dinner that they are likely to be the first Limerick club team to play in England has aroused quite a stir, and on further enquiries I learned that negotiations are fairly well advanced for a tour there next Whit.

LIMERICK CATTLE MARKET  
WEEKLY MARKET, THURS-  
DAY DECEMBER 24



## Death Of All-Ireland Hurling Star

MR. BOB McCONKEY

It is with regret that we announce the death of that well-known All-Ireland hurling star of some 40 years ago, Mr. Robert McConkey, which occurred unexpectedly at his residence, O'Connell Avenue, last Wednesday night.

"Bob," as he was popularly known, played in four All-Ireland senior hurling finals for Limerick and was on the losing side only once. He was on the Newcastle West Selection that defeated Wexford 9-5 to 1-3 in the 1918 decider; in 1923, when the 1921 All-Ireland Final was played at Croke Park, Bob captained Limerick, and chiefly because of his brilliant full-forward play the County again had a resounding win, this time over Dublin by 7-3 to 4-5.

The following year, when the '23 final was played, Limerick went under to Galway by 7-3 to 4-5.

Eleven years later, 1934, Bob also played for Limerick at Croke Park, and even at 40 years of age he was able to shine in the drawn game (2-7 to 3-4) against Dublin. He missed the re-play, which Limerick (led by Timmy Ryan) won by 5-2 to 3-6.

With the arrival of Tipperary's Martin Kennedy on the scene, Bob was rated easily best full-forward in the country. He won five Co. senior championship medals with Young Ireland in 1920, '22, '28, '30 and '32.

Another great Limerick Gael, Mr. Denis Lanigan, who played many a great game with Bob, said of him: "He was one of the best of my time; from any angle he could score and he knew no danger."

And yet, Bob was only 11 st. in his All-Ireland days. Old-timers who saw him play claim that he was as daring and dashing as they ever saw.

After residing some years in Kilaloe, where he was born, Bob came to Limerick and first played for St. Patrick's. But it was with Young Ire and, like many more great hurlers, that he made his name.

Extremely popular and kind-hearted, he was an authority on hurling and Gaelic football. To his widow, brother, sisters and other relatives we extend sympathy.

Following Requiem Mass this morning at 11.30 a.m., the funeral took place at 3 p.m. to Mount St. Laurence Cemetery.

"Irish Independent" London Reporter

FEW Papal awards have been more generously merited than the Knighthood of St. Gregory which the Pontiff has bestowed on Denis O'Dwyer.

Mr. O'Dwyer is well known in Catholic and Irish circles in London. A native of Limerick City and a former pupil of the C.B.S., Sexton Street, he was the first Catholic to be elected to the Dagenham Borough Council more than 20 years ago.

He has not yet, as far as I can recall, served as chairman of the council, although I am well aware that he refused this honour on more than one occasion.

To list his many achievements on behalf of his fellow Catholics would be too great a tax on the space at my disposal. I recall, however, his fight against Essex County Council Education Authority some years ago when that body attempted to channel Catholic students into empty places in non-Catholic grammar schools.

Denis O'Dwyer has been equally active on the Irish front. He has been closely associated with the G.A.A. and with furthering the interests of our games in Dagenham in particular and in the London area in general.

He is also closely allied with the Limerick Association, of which he is president and who, I feel sure, will be happy to receive a little at least of the reflected honour which has been bestowed on the compatriot.

## Surprise win for Young Irelands

by "S.M."

Young Irelands surprised even their most ardent supporters when they defeated Croom 4-5 to 3-4 in their County Cup S.H. tie at the Gaelic Grounds yesterday.

It was Young Irelands first major win in senior competition in 11 years—since they defeated Cappamore in the first round of the S.H. Championship in 1958.

But they certainly deserved yesterday's success. They were trailing by only a single point, 2-2 to 1-4, at the interval after facing a storm in the opening moiety. Their hopes received a jolt on the resumption when Croom raised a green flag. Then followed an exchange of points, which put the scoreboard reading 3-3 to 1-5 in Croom's favour after 14 minutes. A goal by full-forward, Noel Noonan, gave Young Irelands a new lease of life, but a Croom point by Con Shannahan left two points between the sides. Then came the turning point of the game. Young Irelands were awarded a 21-yards free and City Board Chairman, Dan Hickey, blasted it to the net to put his side in front. In an exciting finish, Paddy Healy clinched the issue when he finished a Noel Noonan centre to the net.

Best for Young Irelands were Gerry and Tony Fitzgibbon, who defended in the full-back line; Brian Long, Christy Forde and Liam Ryan at centre-field; Jim O'Connor, Noel Noonan, Jimmy Meade and Dan Hickey. While Con Shannahan, D. Carroll, D. Cagney, C. Lucey, Stephen Moloney, Sean Quilty, Plunket Hayes and Tommy Lynch tried hard for Croom.



Patrick's hurling team (on top), who defeated Young Ireland in the semi-final of the County Cup, and the Young Ireland team (at bottom).



## G.A.A. PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK



Jim O'Connor (Young Irelands)

ONE of the stars of the Young Ireland hurling team which recorded their first major success in senior competition in over eleven years at the Gaelic Grounds on Sunday last when they defeated Croom 4-5 to 3-4 in the County Cup competition, was Jim O'Connor, who lined out at left-half-forward.

Jim, a native of Newcastle West, was educated at Courtenay N.S. and St. Ita's Secondary School. He joined Newcastle West G.A.A. Club at an early age and won a juvenile football medal with the "Magpies" in 1955. He later won a West Limerick M.H.C. (1960) and Western and County junior football in 1961. He was also an active member of the Irish Red Cross Society for nine years and the dramatic society in his native town.

Jim transferred to Young Ireland in 1966 and helped the club to win the New Ireland Shield (J.H.) in 1967. He is at present assistant secretary of his club. His other sporting interests are pitch and putt and badminton, which he plays with Limerick Badminton Club.

sion, but, although he enjoys being "the man in the middle," he feels the governing bodies do not give referees the protection they deserve.

"Culprits who are reported for serious misbehaviour should be given the maximum penalty," he told me. "This is the only way to clean up our games. In this regard, I think linesmen and umpires should be given power to inform the referees of incidents which they do not notice."

Any rule you would like to see changed in the present G.A.A. set-up? I asked the genial clerk recently. "Not really," Jim replied, but added: "I would like to see a close season introduced between December and March."

Jim is a staunch club member who believes Young Ireland have a great future if they take the right approach to training and club procedure. He would like to see more facilities for players, and showers and dressing rooms at all venues.

Jim is son of Mr. and Mrs. Denis O'Connor, Newcastle West, and is employed as a clerk with the Department of

## Limerick Man Victim Of Road Tragedy

The tragic death of Mr. Michael J. Murphy, a former well-known Limerick Gael, is sincerely regretted in his native City of Limerick, and far outside its confines. The late Mr. Murphy was Branch Manager of Irish Shell Ltd., Sligo, where he resided, and was killed on Tuesday when his car was in collision with a lorry at Barna, near Galway.

Of fine physique, the deceased was over 6 feet, and in his youth played with the Limerick St. Patrick's junior team, the nursery of many inter-county hurlers. He afterwards assisted the famous Young Ireland Club and played in goal in many stern encounters, and won several county championship and tournament trophies with them. He played during the troubled period of the War of Independence, and in 1918 and 1921 won All-Ireland medals in the Limerick colours. He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters, and we extend our sympathy to them and his sisters in their sad loss.

To-day's race meeting at Southwell was abandoned because of fog and frost.

## Late Mr. Patrick McSweeney

The death of Mr. Patrick McSweeney, 6 Sir Harry's Mall, Limerick, which took place on Friday last, evoked feelings of deep regret amongst all sections of the community, by whom he was held in honoured esteem.

A brush-maker by trade, he belonged to an old-established Limerick family which, for generations, carried on this now defunct art at their premises in Mungret Street.

Widely and popularly known as Paddy Sweeney, "the quiet man," he was a founder-member of Na Fianna Eireann almost 50 years ago in his native city, and was its first Commandant.

An ardent and devoted Republican to the time of his death, he paid dearly for his love of Faith and Motherland, being one of the first of the local Volunteers to be thrown into prison after the 1916 Rising. His devotion to duty, however, never once flagged, and it is on record that after the 1917 Amnesty, before, during and after the Anglo-Irish War, and again in the unfortunate Civil War, his emaciated body bore all the marks of half-a-dozen hunger strikes, endured on plank beds in English and Irish rat-infested gaols and camps.

In private life as well as in business dealings Paddy was the refined gentleman, exemplified in one steeped in honest trading, native culture, nationality and, by no means least, religious devotion, since, whenever improved health permitted, he was a daily Communicant.

It is a striking, maybe ironic, fact that on the removal of his remains from the City Hospital to St. Mary's Church on Friday last, the occasion coincided with the 40th anniversary of the release from Ballykinlar Camp of Paddy, his late brother, Johnny, and the late Jack Larkin — a trinity of heroes, as the welcoming-home scenes at the railway station in December, 1921, typified.

Paddy Sweeney has now passed to his just reward; a soldier's funeral was a striking tribute. Draped with the Fianna Flag, the coffin was escorted by a guard-of-honour of Old Fianna comrades from the church to his last resting place in Mount St. Laurence Cemetery where, after the prayers at the graveside had been recited by his parish clergy, three volleys were fired and the Last Post sounded.

To his bereaved widow (nee Rebecca Moloney, of the old Cumann na mBann) and son, Rev. Brother P. A. MacSweeney, C.B.S., Westland Row, Dublin, the sympathy of the citizens is tendered.

—W.W.G.

## ALDERMAN O'DWYER.

A Limerickman—Alderman Denis O'Dwyer—has been re-elected for the fifth year in succession Chairman of the Dagenham Education Committee, a body that has the spending of £1,000,000 per year. The Alderman lived with his parents in Upper William Street before going to London close on twenty years ago. He takes a great interest in G.A.A. affairs—the family originated in a great hurling district—Caherline. It is rumoured, by the way, that he may issue, in certain circumstances, an invitation to the Limerick team to visit London before the summer is out. Mrs. O'Dwyer is the former Miss May Dempsey, daughter of Mr. Frank Dempsey, who was Chairman of the Mallow U.D.C. The Essex education authorities are among the most go-ahead in Britain, and during the past year a big step forward has been taken towards their target of having in the libraries one book per head of the county's population. There are now 857,000 books in the school libraries, an increase of 70,000 on the previous year.



Continuing the story this week of the united clubs, Commercials and Young Ireland, James Cleary the club's President, and Seamus O Ceallaigh, the well-known authority on Gaelic sports, recall some of the men who made Young Ireland famous and who made hurling and football history.

James says "I am very glad to sound the praises of the club where I spent so many happy days," and he modestly claims that he was fortunate to strike a peak period "when our senior team had Denny Lanigan, Bob McConkey, Paddy McInerney and Mick Murphy on the All-Ireland winning team of 1921 and Willie Murphy, Gerry Markham, Jimmy Fitzgerald and myself as subs."

## Training

The Club were senior champions in his time in 1922 and 1923. Recalling the great years, he says "perhaps the attractions in those days were not so great as they are today but I will say we took training more seriously and every Sunday morning and on the half-day, Thursday we were to be seen in big numbers at the Markets Field our then training ground.

I would say the present hurlers do not take it as serious and do not give the necessary attention to training.

Our biggest opposition at that

time were the present Co. Champions (Cloughaun), and we broke about even.

## Team-mates

I played right full back on our team for eight years and had as fellow players over the years—Tommy Ryan, Tommy O'Brien, John Noonan, Paddy Hartigan, Martin O'Shea, Johnny McAuliffe, Jack O'Shea, Tommy Reidy, Willie Hurley, Ned Houlihan, J. Butler, M. Rahilly, Jack Ryan, Tom Hayes, John Joe Kinnane, Neddy Ryan, Jack Morrison and Mick Noonan.

Our Club is steeped in tradition and was started before the turn of the Century in 1898, and is I understand, the oldest club in the City. I am happy to be the one who was asked to try and follow in the footsteps of the late Denny Lanigan as president of Y.I.H.C.

Now that the playing pitch at Westfield has improved it is my earnest hope that we will soon get back into winning vein again.

## Suggestions

James Cleary makes two suggestions which, he says, should be very seriously considered.

In the first, he remarks: "Doing away with the full-back and full-forward, having only 14 on the team. This would open up the play a lot more and

do away with much unnecessary pulling, etc., around the goal."

In suggestion number two he says that while "all players might still declare for the county they should play ordinary county championship games where they reside."

And his closing wish is: "May the proud record of our club and of the G.A.A. go on and on and on with increasing vigour and success."

## Club History

The following interesting story of the Young Ireland Club is specially contributed for this occasion by Seamus O Ceallaigh, the prominent Gaelic sports writer.

It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure to write about a club as ancient and as honourable as Young Ireland—one of the great clubs of the G.A.A.—of that have no doubt.

We celebrate its 70th birthday this year, but through the shamrocks from which it sprung it is much older, for Shamrocks played in the first match played in Limerick under G.A.A. rules. They were champions in 1898, and many of that famous side were with the Young Ireland seventeen that first wrote their name in the Garryowen honours roll in 1902—a seventeen that also included T. Flynn and T. Brazzil, who won in 1897 with Kilfinane the first All-Ireland hurling title to come Shannonwards.

In 1910, 1920, 1922, 1928, 1930 and 1932 the Blue and Gold also triumphed, and until the advent of Ahane they were Limerick hurling leaders and one of the best-known club teams in Ireland.

To recite the names of the many grand figures that graced the Gaelic arena in Young Ireland colours is almost to recall the story of Limerick hurling through many eventful years including the inter-county triumphs of 1910, 1918, 1921, 1923, the 'thirties and early 'forties. They were All-Ireland title holders in 1921; National League champions in 1923, and bearers of the Munster standard in 1921, 1923 and 1933.

Old Gaels assert, and I have never met any to deny, that whatever nationality their generation of Limerickmen boasted sprung from the Young Ireland Society, where men like the late Johnny Sweeney worked in season and out, during dark and evil days, for the cause of Ireland a nation. The years following the "Parnell Split" found things national at a low ebb but the great work of the Young Irelanders prepared the road for the Volunteers and the glorious chapter of Easter Week.

## The Name

The present century was first dawning when Young Ireland Club was founded and it derived its name from the Young Ireland movement of the period. The early meetings of the club were held at the Young Ireland Society Rooms, 55 Thomas St.

The club founder was Johnny Sweeney and associated with him in those early days were Michael McInerney, Davis St.; James Fitzgerald of Guinness'; Jack Murphy, Mungret Street (who won the 1896 All Ireland senior football championship with Commercials); Pat Cowhey, Athlunkard Street, and Jim Gleeson, O'Connell Street.

Young Ireland made Gaelic records in the years that have gone to history, and its name is respected and enshrined in the hearts of many great hurling enthusiasts, be they active participants with the club, opponents who treasured the memory of some unforgettable clashes with the boys in Blue and Gold, or spectators who can say that Young Ireland always gave them their money's worth.

On an occasion such as this I need not recall the great games that illumine the years or mention any of the teams with whom Young Ireland played some never to be forgotten games.

## Personalities

I must, however, pay tribute to the wonderful men of Young Ireland, and say that I know of no club in any sphere of sport that ever had more loyal members.

Some like Tom Hayes, Timmy O'Brien, Denny Lanigan, Paddy McInerney, Mick Murphy, Bob McConkey, Jim Cleary, Micky Fitzgibbon, Bill O'Donoghue and Mick Kennedy hit the headlines in All-Ireland finals; others, like Jim Flanagan, Johnny Creamer, Paddy Hartigan, Tommy O'Brien, the Kellys, Martin and Johnny O'Shea, Clem Garvey, Tommy Ford, Jimmy Fitzgerald, Gerry Markham, Paddy Fahy, Ned Houlihan, Willie Hurley, John Noonan, John O'Dowd, Tom and Jim Mullane, Tommy Ryan, Paddy Kennedy, Paddy O'Shaughnessy and Timmy Murphy, found renown in our club colours against teams that were always worthy opponents; whilst others still rarely or never got on our teams but did tremendous work for the club, many helping in the past as they are today to keep the old colours to the fore. We are proud of them, as they are proud of Young Ireland.

## Memories

The celebration of the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the club brings back for me and for very many others the memory of some of the happiest days of our lives. I am confident that were they to live their lives all over again they would, as I certainly would, choose the same path and the same grand comrades, for none better could be found anywhere.

We miss some, long in exile, but have ample evidence that their hearts are still with their old club. They played their part for Young Ireland and we look forward to meeting them again, le congnamh De, for our pleasures are not all that numerous that we can afford to miss such a pleasant re-union.

They are all too many, however, we will not meet again in this world, and we must not forget them. The colleagues we have loved and lost will be in the minds of many Young Ireland members at this time—may God be good to them.

I have exceeded my space and yet have not said half of what I would wish in tribute to the past of a club with whom it is one of the great pleasures of my life to have been so actively associated.

## Premier

In the 'twenties and well into the 'thirties we were Limerick's premier club, leaders in the senior hurling championship table, and one of the most active units in the entire Association.

I am happy from what I saw during the past year that the great days of Young Ireland are returning. We have grand material and a great club spirit again. The traditions of old are safe in the keeping of a new generation, and with all the old members standing four square behind them, as they always did in the past, we can face the future with real confidence.

The glories of the past could be revived—and that is what I, and I know all old associates, wish the Blue and Gold.

## Club Record

The club record of Young Ireland is as follows:

All-Ireland senior hurling champions—1921.

National Hurling League holders—1933.

Munster senior hurling champions—1911, 1921, 1923, 1933.

Thomond Feis winners—1922, 1933.

County senior hurling champions—1902, 1910, 1920, 1922, 1928, 1930, 1932.

County junior hurling champions—1920.

County juvenile hurling champions—1904, 1938, 1939.

County juvenile football champions—1938.

Senior hurling team—Winners of the Daly Cup, 1912; Murphy Cup, 1919; Croom Tournament, 1927; Emly Cup, 1929; St. Patrick's Church Tournament, 1929; Handball Cup, 1930; Hospital Church Tournament, 1931; Plassy Drowning Fund Tournament, 1931; Croom Cup, 1931; Sweet Afton Cup and Limerick Development Association Tournament, 1932; Duggan Cup, 1945.

Junior hurling team—Winners of City League—1919 and 1942.

New Ireland Shield—1959 and 1967.

Minor hurling team—City champions, 1945.

Junior football team—East Limerick champions, 1931.

*January 25th 1969*



The year just passed marked the 80th anniversary of an immortal achievement by Commercial G.A.A. Club: the winning of the first All-Ireland football championship. The present year marks the seventieth birthday of Young Ireland G.A.A. Club.

Commercial's victory in the first All-Ireland Championship—it was, in fact, the 1887 title decided in 1888—was followed with a similar success in 1896.

In county senior football the club had an impressive record too, winning the title in 1887, '88, '89, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, 1902.

'04, '05, '10, '11, '19, '20 and '27. The total, 16 in all, is a proud and wonderful achievement.

County junior hurling titles were annexed in 1908, 1910 and 1911, and city junior football titles in 1952, 1953 and 1954.

The club was always closely connected with Young Ireland hurling except for brief periods when the two fielded hurling and football teams.

## Notable

In 1927 Commercial's split up, and its three city titles in

junior football were following its revival. In this period the names of many well-known sportsmen spring to mind. They include Michael Redican, Harry Murnane (one of the old team), Con Crowley, now closely connected with the Pearse Stadium in Galway; Sean O'Connell, John Stack, Martin Ryan, Martin Griffin, Denis Kelleher, Tom Glynn and Joe (Chappie) O'Connell.

Since 1957 Young Ireland and Commercial's are one and the same group, the former concentrating on hurling, the latter on

football. And so together into the 1970's go two very old city clubs.

During the 1968 season, Young Ireland and Commercial's played a total of 25 matches in underage competitions, with the following results:—

**Under-15 Hurling**—Beaten by Old Christians in a replay in the final.

**Under-14 Football**—Beaten by St. Patrick's in semi-final. St. Patrick's later drew with the ultimate winners, Treaty-Sars fields.

**Under-16 Football**—Lost by only 2 pts. to St. Brendan's in league. St. Brendan's won the City juvenile championship.

**Under-16 Hurling**—Lost in a sectional play-off with St. Brendan's.

## Chairman

The Chairman of Young Ireland, Mr. Con McGrath, is a native of Kilkenny but has strong Clare connections. He is a secondary teacher at Sexton Street C.B.S., and has been with the club since 1952.

For ten years he filled the office of Secretary of Young Ireland, and in this capacity, too, he helped Limerick inter-firm in its early years. Two years ago he was vice-chairman of Bord na nOg, Limerick. He has looked after the interests of Sexton Street C.B.S. under-14 teams since they entered Rice Cup competitions about five years ago.

## Views

He has some interesting views. While the Young Ireland and Commercial teams of old were mostly made up of outsiders working in Limerick, Con feels that those days are

the asking any more. Every country club needs all its players.

He says, "Unless the city club is prepared to build up its own reserve of talent it cannot hope to succeed. To entice the youth of Limerick to play our games we must be able to give them the same facilities which other sporting organisations can provide."

He feels an All-Ireland victory could do immense good in a county with the hurling background which Limerick has. "It took Wexford thirty-four years to defeat Kilkenny in the Leinster Championship and since they did so, hurling has improved by leaps and bounds there."

He thinks that juvenile boards have a most important role to play in the Association.

"Unless they ruthlessly and strictly deal with all known cases of bad conduct on the field, they are not fulfilling their duty and are doing more harm than good. The juveniles of today are the juniors and seniors of tomorrow, and too often we see that the offenders in these latter grades have had a rather long history. We must educate our young players to be sportsmen above all else."

## Future

What of the future of the club? Con says:—

"We feel we are on the right road and now that most of our longest and most loyal members since Young Ireland was revived in '57 are settled down in Limerick, there is every hope that within five years the club will be back again at the top."

"We hope to develop our grounds at N.C.R.D., where we have been for about seventeen years and which our esteemed Vice-President, Mr. Jack Lanigan, has so kindly placed at our disposal."

This field will be called the Lanigan Memorial Park, as the late Denis Lanigan, former President, won the respect of club and county alike.

## Recent years

Last season ('67) the club was undefeated in the New Ireland Shield. They won this trophy in 1953.

The '68 senior hurling team was regarded by many shrewd judges to have been rather un-

lucky to have lost to St. Patrick's in the first round of the senior hurling championship. The progress of St. Patrick's would suggest that Young Ireland would have advanced further if there had been a losers' group.

Con says: "It has always been a policy of the club to treat the young lads to an annual outing. We have gone to Cork, Galway and last year to Dublin."

"All this needs money. The club sponsors the Ciste na Banban Pools and is endeavouring to build up membership."

And he adds what well may be a controversial point:— "Other sporting organisations run very successful weekly dances which are their main income, but in promoting céili dancing we have failed to make it a source of some income for the club."

"I feel the Association would receive the thanks of most of its members if it removed the rule which governs foreign dances."

"There is no member of the Association who has not broken it or could avoid doing so. The committee now sitting on the question of the Ban may make some such recommendation."

He adds: "No club can hope to survive in the future without a playing field and a pavilion."

## Noted members since 1952

Sean O'Connell, G.P.O., secretary of Commercial's during their three city junior titles—'52, '53 and '54.

Con Crowley, chairman, now in Galway.

The late Denis Moran, whom the club remembered in presenting Corn Uí Mhóráin to the Munster Colleges under 15½ football three years ago.

Willie Hogan, chairman when club won New Ireland Shield in '58; now manager of Besco Supermarket.

Pat Ryan, former treasurer—Manager Wines and Spirits, Parkway Motel.

Dan Hickey—Former chairman for some years. Chairman of City Board for two different terms.

The late John Joe Noonan, former chairman, whose son, Noel, plays with the club.

Brian Long, club secretary; works with C.I.E. Brian, since he took over office three years ago, is a very hard-working official, and is a prominent player with the club since his juvenile days.

No mention of the club would be complete without a word of appreciation of the kindness and generosity of the Lanigan brothers the late Denny and

Jack, the latter who still takes a very lively interest in the club's affairs.

## 1969 officers

### YOUNG IRELAND—COMMERCIALS

President—J. Cleary.

Vice-Presidents—S. O Ceallaigh, J. Lanigan, M. Fitzgibbon, T. Humphries, P. McInerney, T. O'Brien, T. Ryan.

Chairman—Con McGrath.

Vice-Chairman—Tony Fitzgibbon.

Hon. Sec.—Brian Long.

Asst. Sec.—Jim O'Connor.

Treasurer—Vincent Byrne.

Asst. Treasurer—Pat Ryan.

P.R.O.—Dan Hickey.

General Committee—C. McGrath, T. Fitzgibbon, B. Long, J. O'Connor, V. Byrne, P. Ryan, D. Hickey.

Minor Committee—Jim O'Connor, T. Fitzgibbon, F. Murphy.

Juvenile Committee—C. McGrath, R. O'Shea, J. Dalton, J. McDermott, D. Mansfield, P. Glynn.

## New week

In next Saturday's "Chronicle," Young Ireland President, Jim Cleary, Dromcollogher, writes on some prominent players of his day, and gives his opinion on how the sport might be improved. The well-known Gaelic sports writer, Seamus O Ceallaigh, will contribute a special feature on the club.

*January 18th 1969.*



## DICKSBORO'S HARD LUCK

### Drawn Game in Limerick Tournament

#### ENJOYABLE OUTING AND EXCELLENT HURLING

The Dicksboro' hurling team visited Limerick on Sunday to take part in a tournament in aid of the Limerick Development Association. With Joe Dunne in command, a start was made from the Parade shortly after 9 o'clock, and a jolly party filled the L.O.C. bus. We picked up Paddy Byrne, the popular captain, at "this side" of Cuffesgrange, and our next stop was Callan to embark on Fitzpatrick. From Callan to Limerick City is a nice stretch of country and the miles were ticked off at a good pace except when an occasional bunch of cattle necessitated the use of the brakes. A discussion on old and new times started at Ninemilehouse, but the subject was too wintry for such an occasion, and the company broke out to song, led by Johnny Reilly with his old-time gusto. The full back "Pete"—also contributed, but Paddy Geoghegan sang "The Rose of Tralee" in such fine style that solos were abandoned and community singing resorted to. Arrived at Limerick it was discovered that our clocks were doing two hours, and the hotel people were preparing for Mass instead of preparing for dinners. However, there was no

thing for it but to visit the ball alley, where Lucas and Brennan were engaged in the semi-final of the All-Ireland Hard Ball Championship. Here we found a similar mix-up and those with watches began demonstrating their usefulness and the necessity for putting them "on" and "back" according to law and within the meaning of the Act. We had two hours to spare. The handball poster said "1.30 sharp." Our timepieces said it was 12.30 prompt (Saturday's time). And the hurling match was fixed for 2.30 p.m. (winter time). Back to the hotel again and wait—or rather call the waiter—that was all we could do then!

The local man to meet Lucas could not be found anywhere until he thought well of it, and the Dicksboro' hurlers were unable to see the handball match.

#### WHAT IT WAS FOR.

The tournament was for the "Sweet Afton" Cup (presented by Messrs P. J. Carroll & Co. Ltd., Dundalk) and the Limerick Development Association Gold Medals. The teams engaged were Dicksboro' v. Young Irelands (Limerick), and Blackrock (Cork) v. Erin's Own (Waterford). The winners of these matches to meet in final on October 23.

Good weather favoured the fixture and several thousand spectators attended. St. John's Brass and Reed Band enlivened the proceedings, and when the National Anthem was played the crowd stood to attention.

#### A VIGOROUS GAME.

Mr. James Ware (Waterford) was referee, and the match opened up at a brisk pace. It was the finest exhibition of hurling witnessed in Limerick for

many years, the 60 minutes being punctuated by frequent thrills. Dicksboro' had a strong team, including a few juniors, who gave a creditable display. From the start Dicksboro' forced the pace, aided by a favouring breeze. P. Geoghegan and P. Dowling made a formidable centre-field pair, and initiated several slashing attacks on Young Irelands' citadel. Holohan and Donohue had some hectic duels with the Boro' centres, and the spectators relished every bout. Holohan sent down a long drive to the Limerick forwards, and O'Shea and McConkey were making it hot for the visitors. A vigorous onslaught on the Boro' posts brought the spectators to their feet in wild excitement, but Peter O'Reilly and 'Sledger' Purcell defied their best efforts to break through. Following a lengthy delivery by O'Connell, Geoghegan sent up a beauty, and Gleeson converted for a grand point for Dicksboro'. Young Irelands raced away per Holohan, but P. Byrne smashed them back, and Paddy Dowling and Donohue had a nice set-to in which the Kilkenny lad came off best and sent the sphere flying towards the Limerick goal. The attack was short-lived, however, as Sean Kelly cleared and Fitzgibbons drove well up for Young Irelands to take the offensive. O'Shaughnessy passed Carroll and centred nicely, but McConkey was beaten for possession by O'Reilly and play was transferred to midfield, where Treahy was giving a good account of himself and drove well up for J. Shortall to get possession and bang in a goal. Dicksboro' were having the better of the ensuing exchanges, and Martin Treahy sent direct between the posts but no flag was raised. Both sides were

hurling in determined fashion, close tackling being the order. Dowling put in some great work for the Boro', and Paddy Byrne, Carroll, and Tyrrell were having an anxious time. Determined forwards swept to the attack at either end, only to be frustrated by an equally determined, but more efficient, back line. Up and down play was the order, and ash met ash to be splintered in vigorous conflict. With perfect combination the Boro' forwards converged on the Young Irelands' defence, and after a brief but exciting mix-up M. Gleeson sent in a rasper to give the visitors' a seven points lead at the interval, when the scores stood—

DICKSBORO'—2 goals 1 point.

YOUNG IRELANDS—Nil.

#### A THRILLING FINISH.

Young Irelands resumed in flying fashion and the Boro' defence was hard pressed. O'Connell saved from McConkey, but the attack developed and the spectators cheered vociferously as the full strength of the Boro' defence was called into action. Purcell was giving a great display on the right, and Carroll and Tyrrell were kept going hard and fast on the left; in the centre 'Podge' Byrne, M. Treahy, and P. Dowling had their hands full. It was hurling at its best, and the Dicksboro' men contested every inch of the ground against the swift assaults of the Young Irelands. O'Reilly cleared from McConkey, but O'Donohue stopped the progress of the ball and with a low shot gave O'Connell no chance between the posts. Powerful hurling ensued on the delivery, and when Geoghegan hit the goal post with a grand shot Dicks-

boro' hopes of victory were dwindling. Young Irelands rushed down on the opposing defence, and P. Byrne was injured but resumed in a moment, but in the meantime Limerick had scored a point per Holohan. Excitement was at fever pitch when Holohan and Donohue had a point each in as many minutes, but the Boro' fought back stubbornly and had several wides, the forwards failing when close in. Two '70's' were fruitless, and a shot from Geoghegan just missed the posts. The Young Irelands launched another attack, and O'Connell saved his charge, for Purcell to clear, but O'Shaughnessy drove in a long high shot that raised a flag for the equaliser. With a lengthy delivery, Dowling caught the ball and sent well up for Shortall to have hard luck in missing the posts. Dicksboro' continued to press for a winning score, but the forwards were well held and the Limerick backs held their ground until the final whistle sounded with the game a draw.

DICKSBORO'—2 goals 1 point.

YOUNG IRELANDS—1 goal 4 pts.

The replay has been fixed for Oct. 23, but we understand Dicksboro' have insisted on neutral umpires and a competent referee. The match is eagerly awaited in Limerick.

Erin's Own defeated Blackrock by 8 points after a disappointing game that had none of the sparkle of the first contest.

In the evening the hurlers and handballers foregathered at the Imperial Hotel, where the genial proprietor left nothing undone to cater for them. An early start was made for home after an enjoyable day's outing.

1932



## A GAME OF THRILLS

There are many adjectives which might describe Sunday's hurling final for the "Sweet Afton" Cup, the trophy presented by the great tobacco and cigarette manufacturing firm, Messrs. Carroll, Durdalk, to the Limerick Development Association for their first Civic Carnival.

Vivid, spectacular, hectic, breathless, are a few of them. None of them gives even a vague impression of this tremendous clash.

The game resulted in a complete surprise from the standpoint of the Newmarket-on-Fergus supporters and Claremen generally and even from the preconceived ideas of most followers of the game in Limerick city and county.

The betting before the teams entered the field was two to one on Newmarket. When the team changed ends, in spite of the fact that the scores were level and that Young Irelands had given just as good as they got until that stage, the odds were the same. Only in the closing ten minutes, when the city team were quite obviously in the ascendant, did the backers of the Clare men lose the confidence complex.

Good hurling judges in the vicinity of the Press table were, however, prophesying a city victory at half-time. Young Ireland, obviously trained to the minute, and playing from flag-fall with the determination to win the hurling trophy at Limerick's first Civic Carnival, were always travelling well within themselves. When the Claremen attempted to pull out after the interval the Blue Brigade came away stride by stride with them. The Clare big intensive push crashed around an unbeatable Limerick defence and thereafter Young Ireland owned the field.

No disparagement is intended to the Newmarket side in this account of the game. They hurled every yard of the ground until the final whistle but, somehow, one got the impression that following their failure to stampede the city men immediately after the interval the sting was taken out of their attack. It was a rare spectacle for hurling followers to see the great all-Ireland man, J. J. Doyle, practically impotent in centre-field, boxed in, frustrated by blue-clad lads whose names have never figured outside local games.

Generally, it may be said that this "Sweet Afton" Cup final was one of the most tense struggles ever witnessed at the Gaelic Grounds. Young Ireland won handsomely and deservedly on this outing, their victory being one of the spirit as well as of the flesh. It's not often Newmarket goes down either in Limerick or elsewhere and it's a sure thing that they will live to fight another day. Notwithstanding some incidents that arose in the course of the play, intelligible in view of the pace of the display, and the "needle" element that always enters when Clare meets Limerick on a sporting pitch it was a case of "let bye-gones be bye-gones" when the teams left the field. There'll be another merry meeting between them again, one hopes, possibly at the next Limerick Civic Carnival. No one who witnessed Sunday's clash will miss that game.

It was a good thing to see how the lads shook hands with each other after the game, all in the best sporting spirit. Hurling is a game which would ruffle the plumage of love birds but it is to the credit of the exponents of our national game that no malice remains once the final whistle calls the heated protagonists off.

## THE ATTENDANCE.

A huge crowd came along in the beautiful autumn weather conditions to view the game. The Limerick Development Association have done well in several of their enterprises during Carnival fortnight and they will admit that the hurling tournament was not the least successful, financially or in any other way, of the fortnight's diversions. The enterprise of Messrs. Carroll in putting up such a magnificent trophy as the "Sweet Afton" Cup, which is valued at about a hundred guineas, is gratefully recognised by the members of the Development Association, and by the citizens generally. On all sides it is

The teams were played on the field, amidst general applause, by the Boherbuoy Brass and Reed Band.

The sides lined out as follows:—

Young Ireland—Martin O'Shea (captain), James Fitzgerald (goal), Sean Kelly, John O'Dowd, James Mullane, P. Kennedy, T. Mullane, T. O'Brien, J. O'Shea, W. O'Donohue, G. Markham, Bob McConkey, P. O'Shaughnessy and M. Kennedy.

Newmarket-on-Fergus—J. J. Doyle (captain), G. O'Dea (goal), Michael Purcell, J. McMahon, T. McNamara, M. McMahon, J. Moroney, M. Murphy, M. Conry, J. O'Flanagan, P. McNamara, M. Malone, T. Arthur, and M. O'Rourke.

Young Ireland attacked immediately following the call to action and following a clearance in Clare territory O'Rourke got possession and sent wide narrowly. From the puck-out Young Ireland developed a movement on their right wing, but Purcell put paid to the offensive. Keeping up the pressure, the Young Ireland men missed narrowly on a couple of occasions, Doyle, for the visitors, holding the fort when all seemed lost but honour. The Kennedy brace on the Limerick team were prominent at this stage, playing a steady and confident game in their respective positions. The City men continued to operate in Clare territory and McConkey, the inimitable, getting possession, sent home a major, with O'Dea, the Newmarket goalie, beaten all ends up. It certainly was not the goal-keeper's fault. The Young Ireland pressure, for so far, had been insistent and sustained, and they were good value for this score.

In passing, one would like to know on how many occasions in encounters of the past, Bob McConkey has registered Young Ireland's first score. Certainly, he seems to have a flair for opening their scoring account.

One thing became evident at this stage—the City men were playing a sounder positional game. They always seemed to be in the spot where they were wanted, and were putting their supporters in transports by their display. One of the outstanding figures in a sterling defence was Sean Kelly, whose hurling fireworks in the back-line intrigued the crowd immensely.

The Clare men, slightly outclassed up to this point, now got into their stride and, following a fine attack, drew level through a beautiful goal scored from a ruck.

The half-time score certainly did not flatter Young Ireland, but at the same time was a quite appropriate interval. It was:—

Young Ireland—1 goal

Newmarket—1 goal

At the interval the St. Mary's Boy Scouts Piper Band played an enjoyable selection of Irish airs.

The game was not long in progress, following the resumption, when Young Ireland proceeded to stage the better hurling. The visiting side had occasional intervals of aggressiveness, in which that dainty hurler, Flannigan, was prominent, but the Limerick defence, with Sean Kelly, an outstanding figure, negated their every effort and always gave the impression that they had the mastery. Before the game was very long in progress, subsequent to the teams turning over, Bob McConkey again did the needful, slamming home a goal amidst applause from all quarters of the arena.

Newmarket replied with a point, after which Young Ireland, through McConkey, registered a point, followed by a point each by O'Shaughnessy and Mullane.

In the closing stages feelings developed in the game, a few regrettable incidents occurring.

The final score was—

Young Ireland—2 goals 3 points

Newmarket-on-Fergus—1 goal 2 points.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Grounds, Ennis Road, between Young Ireland and Newmarket-on-Fergus (the County Clare champions) was one of the most thrilling encounters witnessed in Limerick for many years. From start to finish the game was a gruelling one, both sides extending themselves to annex the coveted trophy, the Sweet Afton Cup.

The Clare men were the favourites at the start, but five minutes had scarcely elapsed when the home combination revealed to the great gathering of spectators the stuff they were made of.

The pace at which the game opened was really remarkable, but what was more remarkable still was the fact that the pace—fast though it was—was maintained to the end. In that connection the home team displayed greater stamina, for towards the close the Banner County men were beaten in the all important matter of speed and cohesion. But in saying that it must not be assumed that the victors had an easy finish. Far from it. The last 15 minutes of the game was, perhaps, the hardest part of the hour for the players and the most exciting for the spectators. In a supreme and gallant effort to retrieve their lost fortunes the visitors strained every muscle to equalise, but the Young Ireland defence was magnificent and Sean Kelly, as full back, deserves a crown for his brilliant performance.

Thrills there were in plenty, excitement ran high, everyone was doing his best, the ball was going from one danger point to another. In these circumstances it was not to be wondered at that the referee, Mr. Tom Mangan, should have an anxious time, but he was well able to command the situation, and so to the very end the wielders of the caman fought a gruelling game. Young Ireland won the match. They won on their merits, but it is safe to assume that the battle of Sunday was the hardest one they fought in their long and brilliant career.

It would be invidious to single out the names of individual players, but a word of praise is due to the Limerick goalie, Jim Fitzgerald, to their full back, Sean Kelly, and to Bob McConkey, in the forward division, who scored two goals for his side.

## PRESENTATION OF CUP.

Following the match the "Sweet Afton" Cup was handed to the Mayor of Limerick (Ald. P. J. Donnellan) by Mr. M. F. O'Connor (representative of Messrs. P. J. Carroll and Co., Ltd., Dundalk) for presentation to the captain of the victorious team.

The Mayor, in making the presentation to Mr. Martin O'Shea, captain of the Young Ireland team, congratulated the two teams on the thrilling display of hurling which they had given.

Mr. O'Shea, replying, thanked the Mayor, Messrs. Carroll, and the Limerick Development Association for the magnificent trophy, the winning of which by the Young Ireland Club had been made possible by the holding of the Limerick Civic Carnival. He hoped that at the next Limerick Civic Carnival, to be held next year, the Young Ireland team would repeat their victory of that day.

Mr. O'Shea then called for cheers for Messrs. Carroll, donors of the "Sweet Afton" Cup, and the Newmarket team.

The call was heartily responded to by the large attendance present.

Subsequently, the Young Ireland team was entertained by the Limerick Development As-

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Presently the pitch is cleared and the players take the field. Thirty stalwart hurlers, they were, the cream of the city and county, all ready to give of their best for their respective teams. There is an hour's hard work before them, and the Co. Championship is at stake. The teams are lined up by Mr. Willie Gleeson, of Fedamore, himself an inter-county hurler of high distinction, and one of the ablest and most impartial of referees. At four o'clock, precisely the appointed hour, Mr. Gleeson puts the game in motion, and there is a momentary hush in the crowd. Preliminary bouts follow in the centrefield before Newcastle get away with the ball, and almost before we realised what has happened Joe Ambrose has drawn first blood with a lovely point for Newcastle. A regular outburst of cheering follows, and almost before it has died down Young Ireland are vigorously invading the Newcastle territory. The defence is taken by surprise, but Monahan, Newcastle's brilliant, custodian, rises to the occasion and clears. But the danger is not yet over. In a skirmish twenty yards out the leather comes into the possession of McConkey, that veteran old player of a hundred gallant games. Bob is always dangerous, but when he gets an opening of this kind, he is especially so. With customary precision, he quickly steadies himself, and before we realise what has taken place the ball is in the net. It was one of Bob's characteristic scores—and Young Ireland are a goal up. The supporters of the city boys give vigorous expression to their feelings, and presently the ball is in motion again. The game has been in progress only five minutes, but excitement is at its highest pitch. Young Ireland are on the offensive again, and things look dangerous for Newcastlewest, but Geary, that brilliant young back for Newcastle, comes to the rescue with a fine clearance, and Joe Ambrose puts the western men attacking again. Honours are fairly evenly divided during the ensuing minutes, and Newcastle resume the offensive again. It looks as if there is going to be a score—but no, the ball goes wide by inches, and from the puck-out Young Ireland force a 70. The penalty is taken by Jim Mullane, who, with admirable precision, drops a beautiful point for Young Ireland. And thus the game goes on. There is a succession of midfield exchanges, and both territories are invaded without effect, before Geary, one of the stalwarts of the Newcastle defence, was injured in the head, and it looked as if he would have to retire. Much to the relief of the Newcastle supporters, however, he is able to resume, with his head heavily bandaged. When the game was resumed, O'Shea, taking a free for Young Ireland, misses the Newcastle objective by inches. The delivery leads to a vigorous Newcastle offensive, and the Young Ireland backs are forced to concede a 70. There is a murmured expression of hope as M. Murphy prepared to take the

penalty. Mick, who is a Cork man, by the way, is notorious for his deadly frees, and he very rarely fails in his efforts. There is a stiff breeze against him now, however, and his puck falls short of the objective, to be speedily returned to midfield by Sean Kelly, the sturdy Young Ireland full back. Overs followed at both ends before Mullane initiated a vehement Young Ireland attack, but Murphy, with the co-operation of Dermody and Twomey, effected one of his many brilliant clearances. Thrills were now the order of the day, and the standard of the game reached a pitch rarely excelled in inter-county hurling. Within seven minutes of the interval Markham put Young Ireland attacking again, and following a very clever piece of combination O'Shea shot a great goal. Henceforward for the remainder of the first moiety the game was for the most part a defensive one, and the backs at both ends acquitted themselves brilliantly. In the Newcastle defence you had Dermody, Twomey, Geary and Murphy—perhaps the most formidable quartet ever fielded by Newcastle, while in the centrefield Joe Ambrose, Raleigh and Fox were nothing if not brilliant. The Cregan brothers and O'Keeffe were working like trajans in the forward line, but were up against an almost impenetrable Young Ireland defence, in which the most conspicuous figures were Kelly, O'Shea and the two Mullanes. For the remainder of the first moiety the game was one of those fast, stirring encounters, which provide little scope for description. Eventually, with scarcely seven minutes to go, Young Ireland were engaged in one of a series of concentrated attacks when J. O'Shea got possession and banged in a fine goal. At the interval Young Ireland enjoyed the advantage of two goals and two points to a point for Newcastle.

#### "DOUBTFUL ISSUE."

In this only interval of relaxation excitement tends to become more feverish than ever. The issue is still very much in doubt—and the County Championship is at stake. Groups of enthusiasts crowd in around the pitch, and freely discuss the possibilities. Everywhere one hears such observations as "Will Young Ireland hold it?" or "I think Newcastle will beat them!" The players themselves seem to be the least concerned as they adjourn to the pavilion for a brief interval. Already they show apparent signs of the hard, gruelling half hour which they have been through, but determination seems to be the outstanding feature in every one of their faces; and when they are called on to resume they look as fresh and vigorous as ever.

Houlihan was outstanding for the city team in the early part of the second moiety, but the Newcastle defence was now playing with a vigour and determination which completely outclassed the opposing forwards, and after a series of Young Ireland invasions had failed to produce any effect, the play swung to the other end. At this stage of the game the Newcastle men were unquestionably having the best of matters. Ambrose, Raleigh and Fox were a perpetual source of worry to the Young Ireland defence, while the Cregan bro-

penetrate the city territory. Had not the Young Ireland back line been so brilliant, the subsequent outcome of the game might have been far different. The inevitable did eventually happen, when Coral Cregan, receiving a long shot from Ambrose, shot a fine goal for Newcastle. Not many minutes after a free enabled Murphy to add another point for Newcastle. From a beautifully directed shot from thirty yards out, Ambrose dropped another minor for Newcastle, and this was supplemented by yet another point a few minutes later when Murphy scored from a free. **YOUNG IRELAND'S LEAD WAS THUS REDUCED TO THE NARROW MARGIN OF ONE POINT,** and the Newcastle supporters literally went mad with excitement. There was a sequence of tense, exciting moments as the Newcastle men fought desperately to equalise. Time after time they concentrated all their forces in invading the Young Ireland territory. It

looked as if the scales were turned when Coral Cregan, from a close in shot, missed the objective by the narrowest of margins. Here mention should be made of the brilliant exhibition of Fitzgerald, the Young Ireland custodian, who, as the last line of defence, saved his side on numerous occasions. The minutes were fast slipping by, and to Newcastle at this stage time was very precious, so precious, indeed, that every moment counted. At last the great chance came when Newcastle forced a touch within ten yards of the Young Ireland goal line. Fox took the penalty, and his delivery was so fast that nobody seemed to know exactly what happened. Somebody shouted "a point," and the announcement was greeted with a decisive outburst of applause from the Newcastle supporters. But the jubilation was shortlived, as the umpire declared the ball "over." This was destined to be Newcastle's last chance—and they had lost it. Things happened very quickly in the few remaining minutes of the game. In the brief interval Newcastle lost the services of two of their sturdiest players, Pat Cregan and Willie Raleigh, both of whom had to retire. After this the organisation of the West Limerick men seemed to fall to pieces, and as if aware of this advantage Young Ireland banged in two last minute goals, thus setting a final and defiant seal upon their victory. Then the long whistle sounded, and the rest was confusion. In the mass of jubilant voices and surging crowds, one could see the Young Ireland players receiving hectic congratulations from their supporters. McConkey appeared to be the hero of the hour. One could see, too, opposing players shaking hands in a true, friendly fashion. What a delightful spirit, so characteristic of the traditions of the game. But above all the confusion and consternation, one thing stood out clearly and irrefutably: