

Foynes and Abbeyfeale

By HARRY GREENSMYTH

THE Markets Field in Limerick was the venue in 1907 and 1914, when Foynes and Abbeyfeale inscribed their names on the county senior football roll of honour for the first time, indeed to date Foynes have not advanced their record any further, while Abbeyfeale has claimed the title on seven occasions.

Abbeyfeale had been close on a few times prior to the initial win by Foynes.

It was on February 16 1908 when Foynes Smith O'Briens won the championship by defeating Commercials for 1907 honour. The team captain was John O'Connor and the team was completed by Tom Corbett, Michael O'Connor, Pat Sheehan, John Sheehan, Jim Kirwin, Jeweller Sheehy, Birdie Madden, Martin Fitzgerald, Ned Enright, Tom O'Brien, Ned Shanahan, Jack McCarthy, Dan Costello, Tom Hughes, Jimmy Walsh, Jimmy Braddish, Jim Hallett, Paddy Liston, Pat O'Shea. The Foynes men were relinquished of the crown the following year by Newcastlewest.

At Munster convention at Thurles, Limerick

were represented by P. O'Leary, M. Clifford and J. McSweeney. Limerick went down to Cork in football and the same county made it a double in hurling.

Munster and Leinster met in the Railway Shield hurling final with an all Tipperary and Kilkenny team representing the provinces. Michael Cusack was nearing his death coming up to the final and it was suggested that the match would be called off if it happened. Cusack intervened to allow the game to take place and he was buried on the day of the match. Kilkenny and Tipperary hurlers formed a guard of honour, carrying hurleys in the funeral procession from the Pro-Cathedral.

The death took place in 1907 of Rev. Fr. William Casey the P.P. in Abbeyfeale. Born in the shadow of the Galtees, he took an active role in the National Movement in Limerick and Land League was the crowning point in his life. The GAA club in the parish bears his name.

The death also occurred in 1907 of Rev. Timothy Lee, P.P., Croom. He was best remembered for organising the Thomond Feis in Limerick.

Limerick GAA was attempting to operate under two boards in 1907. Munster Council stepped in and eventually called a convention to settle matters.

In international news the new Shah of Persia was crowned in the Royal

Palace. A bill to build a channel tunnel was withdrawn. Rudyard Kipling awarded the Nobel prize for literature. Four civilians were killed when troops opened fire in Belfast. Finland the first to elect women to Parliament. Gandhi begins his disobedience campaign.

James Joyce published his first book. The Marconi wireless telegraph office was opened in Galway. Edward VII and Queen Alexandra visit Ireland. It was a State visit.

Once again it was Commercials who tasted defeat when Abbeyfeale won the senior football in 1914. It was in August of 1915 when the Fealesiders won 0-2 to 0-1. The Abbeyfeale Band played the teams in the parade before the start. Joe O'Connell was the winning captain. Other players were, John Cahill, C.C.O' Rourke, John O'Connell, William Horan, Patrick Collins, Michael Woulfe, Daniel Doody, Florence O'Connell, Michael Moloney, James Sheehan, Pat Curtin, Michael Enright, Peter Collins, Tom O'Connor, Patrick Hartnett, David O'Connor, Denis Collins, Michael O'Connell.

At Munster convention at Tipperary, Limerick delegates to attend were, J. Murphy, Ned Treacy, J. Herbert, J. Burke and P. Flaherty. Limerick played Cork at Mallow in the senior hurling after the match was switched from Limerick due to British troops occupying

the Limerick grounds who were mobilising for service in the First World War. The Munster final at Thurles between Clare and Cork was under the whistle of Tom Semple. Clare went on to win the All Ireland.

Elsewhere at home the Howth Gun Running was carried out and a consignment of arms taken from the Ashgard, owned by Erskine Childers. Thousands of young men joined the British Army for service in the War. King George V in his address at the opening of the Parliament in the House of Commons, expressed a desire to see a final solution to the question of Home Rule. Edward Carson backed Churchill's proposition to exclude Ulster from the plan.

Outside the shores of the homeland there was considerable activity in world affairs. Henry Ford announced that workers would share \$10,000,000 of the company's profits and will be paid \$5 for an eight day week rather than \$2.34 for a nine hour week. British actor Sir Alec Guinness born. Suffragette Movement steps up in campaign in England. Gregory Rasputin is stabbed and wounded. Germany declares war on France. Pope Pius X dies. General Paul von Hindenburgh is to become the commander in chief on the Eastern front. Thomas Edison's miners lamp is patented.

Both Foynes and Abbeyfeale saw many troublesome times dur-

ing the years they fin claimed Limerick seni football crowns. At hor they went through son important local happe ings and it may never l known what they real knew about world activ ties. Newspapers recor ed home and internatio al news, but how mar homes read them?

Gaelic football was lifeline to the people du ing these years. All alon the Shannon Estuary an on the banks of the Feal football was the socia life of the people. Wir ning a county title wa something to rejoice about and its nice to se this tradition alive an well in both districts t day.

Foynes under the ban ner of St. Senan's has to class officers in Paulin O'Flaherty, Vincent Kelly Michael Mullane, Joe Ryan, Jim Connolly and John McMahon to guide them in the years ahead.

Abbeyfeale under the banner of Fr. Casey's are directed by wise people which includes Billy Aherne, Niall Murphy, Liam Galvin, Joan O'Connell, Julie O'Brien, John Colbert and Margaret Murphy.

Billy O'Connor the life long worker for gaelic football in Abbeyfeale, may not be at this final, because of illness. He is a sore loss to the football debates at county board level. We wish him good luck and may he enjoy Sunday's decider

Royal blue and blue and yellow are the respec tive colours of Fr. Casey's and St Senan's.



Members of the St Senans GAA club Joe Ryan, PRO, Pauline O'Flaherty, David Naughton and Niamh Finucane pictured at a training session this week