

Jim Fahey Of Galbally

(By "CAMAN")

SCATTERED among the hilly parts of Munster, where the Galtees and the Comeraghs reveal a hundred moods in light and colour, are the remnants of a hardy race.

Hill-side men who were champions all, they maintained a grand tradition in the once popular sport of jumping from a mark.

It is doubtful now if the like will ever be seen again — if another illustrious breed of Leahys, Bresnihans, Creedons and Faheys will spring up to bring back past lustre.

To Jim Fahey, of Galbally, belonged the distinction of being the last of the "old glory" line.

Jim's recent death, in far off Chicago, has severed a golden link with the great days of Irish athletics.

SAD MEMORIES

News of his passing revives sad memories, for it brings back to many an old admirer of the great men of other days the realisation of our present poverty contrasted with the plenty of the years when Fahey, the Leahys, the Ahearns, Shanahan, the Bresnihans, Flanagan, Real, Roche, Blackburne, Carey, the O'Gradys, Ryan, Coll, McMahon, Dinneen, Daly, Hayes, Creed, Lyons, Keyes, McNamara, the O'Neills, Condon, Hynan, Cussen, the Fitzgeralds, the O'Briens, Casey, Connery, Fenton, Hourigan, McCarthy, McGrath, O'Shea, O'Connell, Treahy, Rea, and the Walshs were some of the names that rang around the athletic world, as evidence of the pre-eminence of Limerick in the practice and performance of deeds that left an indelible mark in athletic story.

HAD NO EQUAL

It is a claim that has never been successfully challenged that in years around the turn of the century, Limerick boasted a glory band of athletes the equal of which were not to be found anywhere at the period.

In fact, it is doubtful if in any period since athletics were placed on an organised basis a like district—in area and population—ever produced anything even nearly approaching the glory line that were the pride of Limerick and the athletic world sixty years ago.

The old lover of our athletic pre-eminence will recite with loving pride the litany of the great names who put record after record to the credit of Limerick, but any such recitation must now be tinged with much sadness, when one recalls the very few who survive of that brilliant band who thrilled all with some wonderful deeds in days that cannot come again.

JIM FAHEY'S DEATH

Jim Fahey's death recalls nostalgic memories for many of the old timers, and many a silent tear was shed when the news flashed over the seas that the great Galbally man was no more.

I mourn his passing in a particular way, for Jim was a dear friend of mine of many years standing and the letters that passed between us over a lengthy spell would fill a good sized volume.

His writings were always deeply interesting and he kept me well posted on American athletic doings, with bits of boxing story often included. He had a great love for the homeland, and for Galbally in particular, and spoke in almost every letter in very affectionate terms of the great men he figured with on athletic fields at home and in exile during the full quarter of a century he adorned the arena.

TWO OTHER GREAT FIGURES

When we first got to know each other, there was with him in Chicago two other men of County Limerick birth and Gaelic blood, who with Jim were the peers of any in the world in the arena of field athletics with a marked partiality for jumping. They were Dan Ahearne of Athea, world's record holder in the running hop, step and jump, and two hops and jump; Paddy Leahy of Cregane, Irish high jump record holder and

past champion in innumerable events. Jim Fahey was, of course, the world's record holder in the three standing jumps.

It was many years since any of the trio stripped in a native arena, but the memory of their performances remained a cherished, vivid reflex of a wonderful era. Though all three had passed beyond the normal age of active performance, none of them need, even then shirk a challenge from the average first class exponent of his favourite test. Such was the calibre of such men, that a gage of contest could arouse even comparatively late in life almost all their pristine spirit of achievement. Each was a splendid embodiment of the fire and athletic instinct of the Gael, which neither exile nor circumstances could impair.

CHIEFS IN GREAT ATHLETIC ASSEMBLIES

The versatilities and victories of Ahearne and Leahy are too marked for casual discussion or recital on an occasion such as this. They were chiefs in great athletic assemblies and it is sufficient to say that they are entitled to the full tribute of the fame they brought to their country at home and abroad.

Jim Fahey outlived the great bulk of his contemporaries and I can say that he felt the passing of his old friends, as one by one they disappeared from the human scene. He wrote in feeling terms of many of them and it was evident that he enjoyed meeting the old timers and the animated talks that usually followed, recalling the glories of the past in Ireland's athletic story.

Jim revelled in discussing athletics and in speaking of men and events of the great years when a humble County Limerick athletic gathering was capable of producing competition and performances that might not be surpassed at an olympic meeting—high claim indeed, but proved in the hard school where figures are more eloquent than words.

CONTACTS IN RECENT YEARS RESTRICTED

My contacts with Jim Fahey were restricted unfortunately in recent years because of the fact that the old warrior found difficulty in writing, and some of the last communications I had from him, although as chatty and interesting as some of his best, bore evidence of the burden the years were placing on his once powerful frame and on the hands which he used in such characteristic fashion when making some of his finest jumps.

Then the letters ceased altogether, and it was only through the kindness of his son, Father Thomas Fahey, a Redemptorist, that I got any news of him. In his last letter Father Fahey said: "Dad is quite sick and upset after many months in bed. I think a line from you would make him feel great. I have to go downtown each week to try to get the 'Limerick Leader' and it is often hard to get."

Jim Fahey in his letters spoke of all the great athletes of his time but never mentioned his own great performances. The modesty of the man would not permit reference to himself with the result that I had to turn to others for the story of his grand career, with which I hope to deal next week.

PART I

GREAT LIMERICK SPORTSMEN

Jim Fahey Of Galbally

(CONTINUED)

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

THE world's record holder in the three standing jumps—James J. Fahey was perhaps one of the most paradoxical figures that ever loomed across the track of Ireland's athletic story.

Paradoxical in the sense that he attained athletic eminence without any severe athletic preparation. It was simply as a little friend of his once said that "He jumped, far, 'cas he had to jump."

I suppose he just had to jump, for he never went into training. He never dieted. He never departed from his ordinary day's routine, but when Sunday came, he just ambled away unconcernedly to some meeting where the three standing jumps were on the programme and jumped farther than anyone else.

If a fellow athlete continued on to beat Fahey's jump, well Jim just took another turn, and added on a foot or so to his last effort.

It was hardly ever the case of his having an "off" day. It was just that at some meeting, some fellow with a handicap made Jim go a few feet more—and he did it, and stopped for that particular day.

Perhaps it would be well to give some particulars of the life of this extraordinary athlete up to the time of his departure for America early in 1908.

HIS ORDINARY LIFE.

He lived with his aunt, on a splendid farm at Galbally, and he was in every sense of the word, his own boss. But he never in any way misused his powers. He lived the clean life of any of his friends around him and had nothing in appearance to distinguish him from hundreds in similar circumstances.

The only thing peculiar was his diet, and that was peculiar. I know I will hardly be believed when I state that previous to leaving Ireland he never used butter; practically no meat—just a rasher only, and that crisp and hard; very little milk; not much sugar; and no potatoes. He lived a tea diet and his record, certainly, is a strong argument against the meat eater.

Jim opened his jumping career in public in 1898, as a lad of 18, when he jumped without shoes against the then renowned soldier, Chandler, in Cork in the August of that year.

His performance that day was recorded as 37 ft. 4 ins., and there was scarcely a year until 1923 that he did not exceed these figures. His greatest feat—the wonderful three jumps of 40 ft. 3 ins. at Calumet Park in September, 1923, was the realisation of his athletic ambition, which he once said was to clear over forty feet in the three jumps.

A WORLD'S RECORD.

These figures are now accepted and allowed as a world's record. I append a list of jumps, and I give place, date and distance so that any doubting Thomas may have verification of these wonderful performances, extending from 1898 to 1923—a period of twenty-five years.

Some of the books of two years or more would be the years when he returned home to visit his native Glen; and the 1915 to 1921 break was his period of service in the American Army.

The event was the three jumps, standing, with weights, and here are his figures:

1898—June 29th, Cappawhite, 36' 5"; August 14th, Cork City Championship, 37' 4" (won by Chandler). 1899—October 17th, Aherlow, 35' 11½". 1900—August 15th, Carrick-on-Suir, 36' 4"; September 12th, Annacarty, 37' 1". 1903—September 20th, Templemore, 38' 1¼". 1904—September 13th, Templemore, 36' 4"; September 20th, Galbally, 37' 5". 1905—September 12th, Borrisokane, 37' 8½". 1906—July 20th, Mitchelstown, 36' 10". 1907—June 29th, Annacarty, 37' 11½"; July 28th, Thurles (All-Ireland Championship), 35' 9"; September 20th, Ballydavid, 36' 11¼".

PERFORMANCES IN U.S.A.

1908—August 15th, Milwaukee, 36' 9"; September 13th, Chicago, 37' 8"; October 13th, 36' 3", Chicago. 1909—July 10th, New Orleans, 38' 11¼"; September 13th, World's Fair, Chicago, 37' 11¼". 1911—September 14th, Chicago, 38' 5"; October 5th, Chicago, 38' 7". 1912—July 4th, Madison, Wisconsin, 38' 3"; July 18th, Louisville, Kentucky, 37' 6"; August 6th, Dayton, Ohio, 37' 4"; September 14th, Northwestern Field, Ill., 37' 9½"; September 20th, Green Bay, Wisconsin, 37' 6½". 1914—August 14th, Northwestern Field, Ill., 39' 2½"; September 1st, Gaelic Park, Chicago, 38' 7"; September 10th, Stagg Field, Chicago, 37' 4"; September 20th, De Paul University, Chicago, 37' 1". 1915—May 30th, River View Park, Chicago, 37' 0"; June 10th, Federal League Park, Chicago, 35' 11¼". 1919—American Army Sports, Oakland, California, 37' 4". 1921—September 11th, Calumet Grove, Blue Island, 37' 6½". 1922—August 15th, Chicago, 37' 10". 1923—June 17th, Calumet Grove, 37' 1"; September 2nd, Calumet Grove, 40' 3" (world's record); September 16th, River Park, Chicago, 38' 9"; September 23rd, Northwestern Field, Chicago, 38' 10¼".

SUSPENDED!

Jim Fahey was once suspended for professionalism in the States, under extraordinary circumstances. Joe Darby, the world's professional champion was jumping out West and Fahey, having no foeman worthy of his steel in the amateur side, conceived the idea of trying conclusions with Joe.

So Jim took a holiday and hiked out West, changed his name and met and licked the hitherto unbeaten Joe. Naturally the limelight was focussed on the incident, and those Yankee limelights are fierce and glaring; and Jim's little plot was discovered.

He had to stand down for a year; but when the darkie, Ben Irish, began to sweep the decks at the three standing jumps, the Yanks were not slow in restoring Fahey's amateur status.

I have only touched on the great career of a great friend, but I hope I have outlined enough to arouse interest in the doings of one who, though amongst the greatest Irish athletes, is after all not widely known.

It is only fitting to record that this fine performer would have made a world name for himself in other jumping events if he had not specialised at the three standing jumps.

IN OTHER EVENTS.

He won various prizes in the States at the running hop, step and jump, covering between 48 and 49 feet on many occasions. In addition, he was not far behind the world's record of Ben Irish in the standing high jump, being credited with 5 ft. 2½ inches several times. He was also a star performer at the standing hop, step and jump, having never been beaten in this particular event.

PART 2

GREAT LIMERICK SPORTSMEN

Jim Fahey Of Galbally

(CONTINUED)

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

THIS week I reproduce an appreciation of Jim Fahey, which was written by a dear friend of his, and of mine, many years ago:—

The career and character of James Fahey presents some fascinating features, and in its evidence of personal worth and Gaelic fealty commends our appreciation.

The standing jumps were the media through which he successfully essayed to express the traditional athleticism of the Celt. They were his forte, and in that choice we can discern the full compass of the athletic Gael.

Jumping from a stationary position is the instant transformation of concentrated power into harmonious dynamic action. Fahey has long been in the front rank of the few men who possessed this natural gift in perfection. Perhaps, his early environment explains this, else it were the aptly used endowment of a Higher Power.

HIS HOME IN IRELAND.

This hasty sketch of his athletic accomplishments must commence at home, beneath the shadows of the lordly Galtees, beside the storied recesses of dark Aherlow, where Keating laboured in safety at his "Forus Feasa ar Eireann," near the romantic and pleasant village of Galbally, on the border of Limerick and Tipperary Counties.

Thence he hails; and there, far from the "Windy City" on the shores of Lake Michigan, his heart still abides, though the living link of maternal attraction has been sundered, leaving a void that nothing else can fill.

It is a sad fact that many famed athletes, like authors, artists and others, who attain to distinction, grow cold of heart in exile and become indifferent to early impulses and ideals. Coldness and cynicism flourish out in the great wide places of the earth where supreme honours may be won, while the natural affinities and fundamental tenets of life can be discarded and forgotten.

REMAINED AN ARDENT GAEEL ABROAD.

This has been the barren tragedy of many an illustrious life. It can scarcely be so with the subject of this notice, for he remained an ardent, active, earnest Gael abroad, as he had learned to be at home.

The new world yielded him praise, pleasures and a competence, but the first emotions of his heart still manifest themselves in tenderness for Ireland and a jealous pride in all that appertains to her honour.

It is inspiring to find some still, like him, who acknowledged the domestic ties of race and fatherland as readily as the calls of kith and kindred or the unrequiting love of self. That is, I believe, the dominant, spiritual trait of Fahey's character. It asserts itself in every word he writes, and finds scope for congenial exercise in the ranks of the active Gaels in Chicago.

Let us now turn to his athletic upbringing and principal exploits, which will be instructive apart altogether from the personal subject in hand.

ASSOCIATION WITH THE SOUTH.

It is a rather remarkable thing that most of our best jumpers from a mark have come from South Limerick, South Tipperary and Waterford County. I cannot say that they have all been natives, but it is a fact that they found and developed their athletic bent thereabouts.

The same applied to all our foremost pole-vaulters of former times, and it is sad to relate that, with the decline of those fine old characteristic events there, they have practically disappeared from our native arenas.

I do not know if the veteran Dan Fraher, of Dungarvan, found

ded or revived the standing jumps, during his own magnificent manhood in this historic territory, to see them flourish during the early days of the Gaelic Athletic Association, and, fitfully, a little later.

The fact remains, anyhow, that our leading exponents of those arts came from the confines mentioned. Fraher, Barry, Keohane, Wall, Kirwan and Holloway, represented the earliest array of such talent; and, until the advent of Courtney and Chandler (not a native but one who found his jumping on Irish soil), the Leahys, Mehigan, and a few more, had been without equal in Europe in amateur ranks.

Amidst such surroundings and at a time when the earliest exponents flourished, it was only natural that Fahey became enamoured of their agility and fame. It was, therefore, as a standing jumper that he sought the competitive arena, and it was not long before his proficiency and mastery were recognised.

POPULARITY OF EVENTS BEGAN TO DECLINE.

The popularity of these events had begun to decline even in Munster. Year by year the programmes on which one or more of them appeared became fewer and fewer, and they were being quickly eliminated from the championship schedule. Opportunity did not come so often to Fahey as he could have wished, or as it might have done in earlier years. Wherever a chance of competition offered at all, it was mostly at rural meetings in adjoining districts, the accounts of which must be sought in the locality, if they are to be found at all.

He competed wherever possible and invariably with success. His heart was in these familiar tests of cultured vigour, and it is a cause of grief to him now that these old Gaelic contests, toe-to-toe, seem destined to fall into remorseless oblivion at home.

He has striven with success to maintain them in the sports arenas of the middle west of North America. His fellow exiles, Leahy and Aherne, being allied with him in old associations and happy recollections, co-operated towards the same honourable end, and the American Athletic Union gives a place of esteem to our distinctive jumps that is fast being denied them here.

America has thus secured additions to its world fame. All the records in these events "belong to Uncle Sam," like Bert Harte's Arctic fowl. To Jim Fahey we owe the credit of being able to claim one of them as our own.

RESTORED IN PROGRAMME OF TAILTEANN GAMES.

These jumps were restored in the programme of the Tailteann Games, but little has been heard of them since. Will it not be a disgrace if we allow them to perish? Yet we seem inclined to do so, in pursuit of a fatuous idea of a stereotyped internationalism that would rob all nations of distinctive pastimes and individual racial prestige.

Fahey sealed his proficiency by attaining championship status in 1907, when he won the standing hop, step and jump with 31 ft. 4 inches, and the three jumps with 35 ft. 2 ins. Exile was then to claim him. Amid new scenes, perhaps in response to a great inherent impulse, he was destined to raise his favoured feats in trans-Atlantic esteem, and to win for himself a place in the exclusive ranks of those who have accomplished a world's best effort.

It is impossible, for reasons already given, to trace the fortunes of the standing jumps through the career of Fahey himself. Even were it feasible, it

would not be any more instructive than a glimpse at his prowess in its zenith. His greatest and most enduring effort was not achieved until sixteen years after he had won his first Irish championship. What a tribute to the natural character of the event and the natural, healthy living of the man!

GREAT LIMERICK SPORTSMEN

Jim Fahey Of Galbally

(CONTINUED)

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

JIM FAHEY won the Munster Three Jumps Championship at Dungarvan in 1913 with a clearance of 34 ft. 9 ins., without weights. This is the last noteworthy performance of his we can find in an Irish arena. He returned to the United States soon after, and in August of 1914 we find him covering 36 ft. 2½ ins. in three jumps, again without weights. In the same year at Chicago he cleared 48 ft. 1½ ins. in the running hop, step and jump—a distance rarely accomplished outside specialist competition.

Thereafter he threw himself into the organisation of Gaelic games in Chicago, competing with increasing distinction at every meeting at which horizontal jumps were scheduled. He invariably competed with success, and before long Yankee sports-promoters, ever on the alert for a "star turn," were only too anxious to secure his appearance at their meets by putting one or more of the standing jumps on their programmes.

Thus, through his own merits, our champion proclaimed the merits of our native tests of muscular agile manhood. Later, Jim Fahey represented the Chicago Gaelic Club on the Governing Body of the Central Association of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States.

ZENITH OF HIS POWERS.

We must skip a recital of his performances, always consistent in each of the jumps, and wonderfully ascendant in the three leaps, until we reach the year in which he attained the zenith of his powers.

This was in 1923 when, in September at the Gaelic Games in Chicago, he covered 40 ft. 3 ins. in three standing jumps, with weights—an achievement which was officially recognised as an American and, incidentally, world's record for that event. We may, if possible, appreciate the worth of this feat the more when we are informed that on that day Fahey carried as many years as he jumped linear feet.

Less than a fortnight later he was in Buffalo. There he cleared 38 ft. 0 ins. with weights, and 35 ft. 10½ ins. without weights. The latter distance surpassed the accepted outdoor record of Ray Emery by 1½ ins., but has not, for some technical reason, been passed by the A.A.U. On the same day he accomplished 47 ft. 1½ ins. in the running hop, step and jump.

The pride of attaining record-holding status did not lessen Fahey's eagerness to popularise the events he admired and practised with such success. Up to the end of his competitive days he could win in the most select company. In October, 1925, he covered 38 ft. 2½ ins. in his favourite item; and, going out by special request in the running hop, step and jump, won with the fine measurement of over forty-seven feet.

NEVER ABOVE LEARNING.

Like all athletes who aspired to eminence in any event, he devoted time and study to it, but was no advocate of intensive or irrational methods. Like most honest men in this world, Fahey was a toiler; and a decent subsistence was his aim in life. Despite his early and continuous successes, he was never above learning, and freely admitted that he had been enabled to improve his performances by critical observation of the methods of other trans-Atlantic exponents of springing from a mark.

Fahey's zeal for all his pet tests and for the furtherance of all distinctive Gaelic games grew more enthusiastic as the period of his competitive activity neared a close. His letters home glowed with admiration for the old pas-

times and native customs, so salutary and soul-preserving in all their aspects.

THE CHICAGO GAELS.

The national pastime of hurling always figures at the big gatherings of the Chicago Gaels, and Jim often wrote of his delight at the visit of the Tipperary hurling team to Chicago in 1926, the exile's thrill at the sight of home scenes and boyhood places.

The Tipperary lads arrived in Chicago on Thursday, 3rd June, and from that until their departure, on the morning of Monday, 7th June, Jim was a very busy man.

He was one of the official welcoming party at the railway station and accompanied the team to the Auditorium Hotel, their headquarters during the stay.

That night he was present at the rousing reception attended by over two hundred exiles, and the banquet given in their honour by the Associated Irish Societies of Chicago.

On Friday the team and officials were received at the City Hall by Mayor William E. Dever, and Jim was again there, later arranging for the visit of individual members of the team to the houses of friends in the "Windy City."

AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY.

Sunday was an unforgettable day for the Gaels of Chicago. Over ten thousand spectators, mostly exiles or people of Irish descent, gathered at South Town Park for the game between Tipperary and the all-star Chicago selection, which the visitors won well after a most entertaining game.

That night the Tipperary lads were back at South Town Park for a dinner and celli; and there was no prouder man present than Jim Fahey. He saw the team off the following morning on a train journey that was to occupy four day and three nights before they disembarked at San Francisco—the only team, fresh from the old land, that ever travelled out so far West.

Tipperary were back in Chicago on the evening of Monday, 21st June, 1926, for the greatest week in the history of that great city. Some two million visitors were in the city for the twenty-eighth Eucharistic Congress, and the task of accommodating the Tipperary men fell to the Gaels of Chicago, who opened their homes in regal way and provided the height of hospitality for their guests.

AN ABIDING MEMORY.

It was one of Jim's abiding memories that week of the great Congress and the second stay of the Tipperary men. He even returned to the athletic arena and competed at the great Athletic Sports held at the stadium on Saturday, 26th June, and at which many world famous athletes competed. The Tipperary lads were present and wondered at the transformation in the place where a few evenings earlier they saw two hundred thousand candles glitter in one of the most spectacular events of the great Congress.

Tipperary's second match in Chicago was played in Gaelic Park and the spectators included Most Rev. Dr. Mannix, Archbishop of Melbourne, who was accorded a rousing reception. The visitors won again, but the game was only a secondary thing to the pleasure those exiles got from contact with the Tipperary men, and the stories they heard of the old land.

Jim Fahey brought renown by his athletic pre-eminence to his race and nation; and, in the constancy of his devotion to the ideals and aspirations which the best of that race and nation ever cherished, he represented a factor in the realisation or perpetuation of our hopes that cannot, under Providence, be denied success.

Jim Fahy Of Galbally

(CONCLUDED)

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

IN concluding this notice on the passing of my dear friend, Jim Fahy of Galbally, who died recently in Chicago, I reproduce a letter I got many years ago from another friend, Mick Long, also a resident in Chicago at the time, whom I wrote for the details of Jim's athletic career, which I could not draw from the Galbally man himself.

This is what Mick sent me:

Jim Fahy—the Irish kangaroo—first saw light in that valley famed in song and story, the Glen of Aherlow, a region that has produced some amazing athletes, many of whose performances were never recorded but were "handed down" by "word of mouth."

Each narrator added a little "naigishin" until, eventually, what was originally some performance above the average developed into a miraculous feat. Hence we hear of Canaon Maol, who in the native parlance, "fished the say west of Kerry wud a basket," and of that famous outlaw, the Breachallach O'Buachalla who jumped the Blackwater near Mallow.

Of course, like the Scotchman, "I hae me doots" about those performances, but I have no doubt as to the genuineness of Jim Fahy's jumps, as I have seen him regularly in competition both in Ireland and in the United States.

STARTED AT GALBALLY IN 1897.

Jim Started in active competition on September 13th, 1897, at Galbally, and got second to Sergeant Joe Chandler of the Munsters (world's record holder standing broad jump), who on that occasion did 38ft. 10 ins. in the three jumps. The following year he travelled to Cork for the All-Ireland Championships, but Chandler won again, Fahy running him a close second.

For some unaccountable reason the three standing jumps were not included in the Irish Championship programme for the next four years, and very rarely in the open meetings, so that standing jumping became almost a lost art, being kept alive by a few of the most prominent athletes simply to keep in shape. Jack Bresnihan, Paddy and Con Leahy, J. Barrett and Mick Creedon were amongst the principal exponents, as Joe Chandler had been transferred and Fahy had practically dropped from sight.

On July 28th, 1907, he re-appeared at Thurles for the Irish Championships, and won both the 3 jumps and standing hop, step and jump at 35 feet 2 inches and 31 feet 4 inches, respectively. He was lucky in the latter event, as his strongest opponent, P. D. Mehigan, was unfortunate enough to lose his jumping shoes and was unable to compete, but Mehigan won the standing hop the following year, and so was consoled.

CROSSED THE ATLANTIC IN 1908.

In 1908 Fahy crossed the Atlantic, making Chicago his adopted home, and won a number of jumps at fairly good distances. The Illinois Athletic Club, recognising his ability, had him join the Club, and under the benefit of good training he rapidly developed into a champion. As his performances are not well known I am giving some of the most outstanding.

At Milwaukee, Wis., in 1908, three jumps, 36 ft. 9 ins.; standing hop, 33 ft.; running hop, step and jump, 46 ft. 8½ ins. World's Fair Grounds, Chicago September 17th, 1909, three jumps, 37 feet; running hop, 47 ft. 7 ins.; standing hop, 33 ft. 5 ins. New Orleans, La., 1909, three jumps, 38 ft. 11½ ins. Federal League Park, Chicago, September 1st, 1912, three jumps, 36 feet 9 inches.

In 1913 Jim underwent a rather serious appendicitis operation, and was laid up for a considerable period. He returned to Ireland to recuperate. During his stay he attended the Munster Championships at Dungarvan. He took just one try at the three jumps, which he won at 34 ft. 9 ins.

BACK TO UNITED STATES.

In 1914 he returned to the United States and again started in competition—46th Kenzie Park, Chicago, August 23rd, 1914, three jumps at 38 ft. 7 ins.; August 30th, 1914, North West Field, Chicago, three jumps at 36 ft. 2½ ins., without weights, a world's record, which was disallowed; June 8th, 1919, at Gaelic Park, Chicago, three jumps, 37 ft. 2 ins.; July 4th, 1920, at Gaelic Park, Chicago, three jumps at 37 ft. 5 ins.; July 4th, 1921, Scotch Picnic, Elliott's Park, Ill., won the three jumps at 38 ft. 6½ ins., and the running hop at 46 ft. 10 ins.; Schlitz Park, Mil., 1921, three jumps, 37 ft. 8½ ins., and running hop at 47 ft.; August 17th, 1922, at Blue Island, Ill., three jumps at 37 ft. 10s ins.; three jumps without weights at 37 ft. 6½

ins. (a world's record which was not passed by the A.A.U.), and 5 ft. 1½ ins. in the standing high jump without weights.

On September 4th, 1923, at Calumet Grove, Chicago, Ill. Jim won the three jumps at 40 ft. 3 ins., and this time the ground was certified and a world's record passed by the A.A.U.

August 10th, 1924, at Pilsen Park, Chicago, three jumps at 38 ft. 5 ins.; July 4th, 1925, at South Town Park, Chicago, three jumps at 39 ft. 6 ins. (the writer measured these jumps and can vouch for them); August 2nd, 1925, at Desplains, Ill., three jumps at 36 ft., without weights, and running hop at 46 ft.

NO EQUAL AS A STANDING JUMPER.

The foregoing is but a synopsis of his many wins, and I have no hesitation in saying that he had no equal as a standing jumper, even when he had been thirty years in competition. His record of 40ft. 3 ins. is going to stand for many years, as it was one of the greatest performances in the history of athletics.

It was a treat to watch him in competition—most standing jumpers perform with very apparent effort, but not Jim. No preliminary swinging of the dumb-bells—simply a quick spring from the take-off, the upwork jerk of the bells, knees almost touching the chin, the great second spring, and then the mighty third when the bells are discarded without retarding the impetus gained, and the inimitable way he shot out his legs immediately before landing to gain that extra foot that made him the greatest standing jumper of all time.

Jim Fahy made five visits to Ireland—in 1912, 1913, 1922, 1939 and 1948, and enjoyed every moment of them. After his last visit he wrote me on his return saying how much he enjoyed the trip and how green dear old Galbally looked. "It always looks green at Christmas," he said, "and I wish it the top of the morn."

He came from Newcastle West on February 2nd, 1948, on the eve of his return, and had his throat blessed at the Monastery of the Redemptorist Fathers in Limerick—"grand priests: God Bless them!" he wrote afterwards. That was his last memory of the old land.

MICK CREED OF ELTON.

Mick Creed of Elton was a particular friend of his, and Jim often spoke of the enjoyment he got from the visit of the great jumper to Chicago. "We had a party every night when Mick was here," he related, and added: "He was a great man for his height. I slept with him one night in Nov., 1908; the following day was Thanksgiving Day holiday and he competed in Gaelic Park. It was snowing heavily, the temperature was below zero, and the frozen ground was hard as a rock, but Mick delighted a great crowd by doing 6 ft. 2 ins. in the high jump without even knocking a bar." Jim did not tell that he himself won the three leaps and both the standing and running hop, to make it a memorable day for Limerick athletics.

Jim took great pride in the fact that Archbishop Croke confirmed him at Galbally in 1891, and often mentioned this in his letters. He was almost eighty when he died, and was saddened in recent years by the passing of many of his greatest friends. He remarked several times on how he missed the old timers, who recalled for him such happy memories of the great days in Irish athletics.

OLD FRIENDS OF HIS

ATHLETIC DAYS.

He had a special affection for such as Frank Dinneen, of Ballylanders, who often remarked that a Gaelic Championship without the three jumps was like an egg without salt; Jack Blackburn of Galbally; Jack Holloway (Ban-sha), who died in Chicago, and who competed at St. Louis against Tom Kiely, Willie Drake and Dan Shanahan of Kilfinane; Billy Breen, the Annacarty coach builder; Mike Maher, Templemore tailor; Con and Paddy Leahy of Cregane; Dave O'Connell of Ardpatrick; Johnny and Patsy McDonnell, Kilfinane; Con Fitzgerald (Glin), John and Tom Flanagan of Kilmallock; the Ahernes of Athea; Pat Bermingham, Matt McGrath, Pat McDonald; Melvin Sheppard, "Padd" Pat McGrath (Anglesboro), Tim Carroll (Aherlow), Jim Shanahan of Adare, Jack Walsh, Knockarron, and George Gardiner of Lisdoonvarna, who died a few years ago, and after whose passing Jim wrote me: "All the old timers are dead but me."

RETIRED ON PENSION IN 1950.

Jim retired on pension in 1950 from the Chicago Transit Authority. He was very happy with this body for over forty years, and said they were grand to him always, and gave him every facility in his athletic days to attend a meeting anywhere he desired.

And now, dear Jim has gone to join all the other great Limerick men of a memorable era in Irish athletics. May God be good to them all.

His last letter to me was a farewell. It concluded:

"From old time friend, Jim Fahy. God bless you. Thanks for everything. Goodbye, Jim Fahy."