
1973 — TIPPERARY G.A.A.

Y E A R B O O K



FRANCIS LOUGHNANE
(ROSCREA)

CARROLLS ALL STAR
HURLER 1971-72

Luach 30p.



Tipperary G.A.A. Year Book 1973

Published on behalf of the
TIPPERARY COUNTY G.A.A. BOARD

By
"THE GUARDIAN,"
SUMMERHILL,
NENAGH.

Editor
GERRY SLEVIN

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COVER PHOTOS

On our front cover this year we feature Francis Loughnane from Roscrea, Tipperary's sole representative on the Carrols All Stars 1972 team. It is by courtesy of Photographic P.R. Services, Dublin.

The photograph of the young Tipperary supporter on the back cover is by courtesy of Bord Failte.

Can anyone name the young enthusiast?



Reamhra



Seamus O Riain,
Cathaoirleach,
Coisde Cho. Thiobrad Arann,
C.L.G.
Nollag '72.

Gan dóithin litríochta a bheith ar fáil ar chúrsaí Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, sin ceann de na lochta is mó atá le clos le fada an lá maidir leis an t-easnamh ba ghéire a bhí ann le támall anuas go bhfuiltear ag cur chuige chun an scéal d'athrú. Tá leabhra iomráiteacha curtha amach ag Raymond Smith; is breá ar fad é "Gaelic Sport" idir crot agus ábhar, tá áit ar leith á fháil ag "An Cúl," iris nua atá á cur amach go ráithiúil. B'é an gCumann. Ach tá fianaise ann ná iris thaithneamhach a bheadh oiriúnach do dhaoine óga. Tá ard-mholadh tuilte dá bhrí sin ag "Solo," iris nua don aos óg atá dathúil, suimiúil agus cuirimid fáilte ar leith roimhe. Chomh maith leis sin go léir, tá méadú ar líon na gContae go bhfuil Bliainiris á fhoillsiú acu agus ní h-ionadh go bhfuil bród orainne go rabhamar go luath sa rás agus gurb é seo an triú eagrán atá á cur amach.

This third number of our Year Book is produced through the continued support and co-operation of our contributors and advertisers and on behalf of the County Board it is my

pleasure to record here our deep appreciation to everyone who had a part in what has proved to be a successful venture, under the energetic and capable editor, Gerry Slevin.

An outstanding feature of the year in the county has been a change of champions in every grade decided so far. This is a healthy sign although when we apply this criterion to the All-Ireland scene we had to submit to the loss of our senior hurling title. However, there is the exception in the case of our intermediate hurlers who retained the All-Ireland title in remarkable fashion, and it was good to see our under 21 team regain the Munster title although failing to gain the highest honour. The county handballers maintained our traditional place among the title winners, and the close of the year was marked by a fine run of successes by our footballers in their division of the League and a significant victory by our hurlers in the Oireachtas final.

This Year Book records those events and others which have been part of the Tipperary GAA scene in 1972.

FOCAL

O'N

EAGARTHOIR



"THAT THE PRODUCTION of County Year-Books be extended to more counties and that Central Office provide assistance and advice." R.4.22 Report of the Commission on the G.A.A.

By the time the Tipperary Year Book 1973 gets into the shops, this recommendation will either have been accepted or rejected by the Special Congress called to look into the Report. No doubt it will receive a very favourable hearing from the delegates, and rightly so, because we must face up to the fact that there is a great need for such publications in every county, and we in Tipperary are delighted with the response our previous two publications have received.

Getting a Year Book together is not by any means an easy job, but for my part I must place on record the wonderful assistance I received from so many people in compiling the contents. We are proud of the fact that Tipperary was one of the first counties to see the need for a Year Book and this is our third successive attempt at bringing to the Gaels of the county, and indeed to anyone who cares to read it, a feeling of what the G.A.A. means to Tipperary and the happenings surrounding the various events within the county.

One could describe this Year Book as a near total Tipperary production. Most of our contributors are Tipperary natives, but we have sought the assistance of a few people outside the county to discuss matters, which, though of a national nature, have a particular local interest, and to these, as to all other contributors, photographers, advertisers, we are deeply grateful. Thanks is also due to the co-operation of my fellow employees in "The Guardian" under Michael Moylan, works foreman.

For my own part, I feel very proud to be associated with the Year Book, but my task has been made extremely easy because of the co-operation and ever-present assistance of the members of the County Board under the inspired leadership of its Chairman, Seamus Ryan, N.T.

Is mór an áthas dúinn, an Bliainiris seo a chur amach. Istigh, léifidh sibh tracht ar an himeachtaí in dTiobraid Arann i rith an bhliain atá ag teacht chun deire agus tá súil againn go mbainfidh sibh taithneamh mór as.

GEAROID O'SLEIBHIN,
Eagarthoir.

THE INTER-COUNTY YEAR

The loss of a ten point lead and an All-Ireland crown

By JOHN O'GRADY

THE YEAR takes its colour and its character from what happened to the seniors. If they win, the year's number bears forever a golden halo in the hurling-lover's mind, another addition to the assembly-line of All-Ireland success.

The seniors did not win the All-Ireland. Worse still, they lost and surrendered possession of it. This always leaves an empty feeling, rather worse than if someone else had owned the crown at the year's start. A crumb of consolation was provided by Kilkenny, who prevented Cork from joining Tipperary on twenty-two titles. Viewed another way, of course, the All-Ireland result shoved us a step further down the grading as our conquerors were themselves conquered.

Luck perhaps evened out on us this year. We won the 1971 All-Ireland when we might have lost; in 1972, with a team no worse, we failed. Which is another way of saying that we—and no other county—currently has a team powerful enough to be logical winners over everyone else, given an even break of fortune. Play the thing more than once and you get a different winner. It was not so in, say, 1964-65, when Tipp had only to hurl with normal competence to be automatic victors.

The League established the pattern and forewarned that this was to be Cork's year, psychologically, over Tipp. Their presence in the semi-final at Limerick was a miracle of revival. At one time in danger of relegation; then happy enough to avoid that indignity; next back with a chance of a qualifying spot, Cork carried the recovery all the way to outright triumph.

The shape of that Limerick game was to prove sadly ominous: Tipp away to a bright start, then hauled back to a bad half-time position. Brave resistance followed, but in the last ten minutes Cummins and company rapped in the two goals that flattened us.

Came the championship. Any Tipp-man, looking

back on those two games in the Munster semi-final—the virtual final, anyway, as things turned out, will return in sorrow and bewilderment, to the high-water mark of Tipp achievement—a ten-point lead with less than half the game to go. Over and over the question has been asked: "how did we lose so great a lead"?

It really was a position more like luxury than mere security. From the first moments, when Johnny Flanagan and Roger Ryan used to the full those Cork slip-ups, matters went beautifully our way on the scoreboard. Even Roche's uneasiness at centreback and Cummins' goal off a half-cleared free seemed minor worries when Noel O'Dwyer had a fast point to restart the scoring in the second half. Incredibly, we were to score no more. There were chances, God knows, of the few extra points that would have put the matter beyond question. But Tipp had tasted blood and green flags and had too little use for minor scores. If only Keating could break free of Maher his contribution would have settled it, too. But he remained tangled in the 'Barrs man's ungentle toils for this day, and for one more. Cork took Charlie McCarthy off Gleeson and onto veteran Gaynor. Deftness and speed told for Charlie. Inside him the direct plunges of Malone were too strong for the artistic but over-strained Roche. Cork came—and came—helped unforgivably on their way by Tipp backs' complacent lack of alertness when Charlie short-passed a free to O'Leary. The lead vanished and we were perhaps lucky not to do worse than a draw. Our scoring innings had closed too soon. Without a major contribution from the much-feared Cummins and with a lacklustre midfield Cork had come from way behind. The odds for round two were surely on them.

THE REPLAY

P. J. Ryan was a midweek defection before the replay. What would we do about that? The likeliest move was thought to be Roche to midfield in view of his unhappiness at centreback the first day, with O'Connor to his Roscrea place at centreback, and Moyne's Esmonde on at wing-back. There was strong talk of, and good logic in, a second possibility: O'Dwyer to centreback. Neither alternative was chosen. Indeed, the Limerick P.A. informed us that Loughnane would be Hogan's partner at midfield. Events made this the most-condemned move of the year. Nor was it popular in the immediate moments between announcement and throw-in. Few could see what benefit Loughnane's absence from the attack could be. He was rated our best individual attacker, valuable as scorer and defence-

upsetter, and master of Con Roche in the drawn game.

Playing with the wind, the move made less sense still. It was quite another situation from that in which Loughnane did good defensive midfield work late in the first match. Tipp again got an early break, Hogan's line-cut beating Barry for openers. But a good seventy per cent of play got Tipp little further success barring Coen's goal. Keating was not able to reverse things with Maher, showing less flexibility in ideas than might have been hoped for. Flanagan's change to the wing did not help our inside attack. Only O'Dwyer really played to form in the offensive zone. So Roche's re-discovery of form in the first period went for very little. With sad inevitability Cork drew ahead when they got the breeze's benefit. Switches and substitutions helped us little and there we were, onlookers on the rest of the year's parade.

As the year comes near its end, experimentation and player-seeking is the order of the day. The future of Mick Roche seems in doubt. Will his winter rest turn into definite retirement at a relatively

early age? At least a few effective new forwards are being sought, and a midfielder of merit would be welcome, too, as P. J. Ryan comes near the close of his career. Murphy may bid strongly for O'Sullivan's place in goal.

Still, Tipp must be in anyone's top three along with Kilkenny and Cork. That puts us firmly in the fight at any rate. One hopeful, if unreliable omen: Kilkenny have never taken the second successive senior title since 1932-33! And Cork's September lapse proves that they haven't turned their large store of champion minors and under-21's into an unbeatable team, so far.

Our 1972 fate in the other grades ran as follows: Minors recipients of a depressing drubbing from Cork after months of intensive build-up; Under-21's winners of Munster after Cork fell early to Clare, but later beaten against the odds at home against Galway; Intermediate team our solitary collectors of All-Ireland honours and due great credit for doing so as a completely new team after the previous year's success.

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FOOTBALL SLUMP SEEMS ONLY A TEMPORARY ONE

By MICHAEL O'MEARA

FOLLOWING THEIR SUCCESS in Division 2 of the National Football League twelve months previously, Tipperary footballers were confident of holding their place in the premier Division last year, but despite a good win over Dublin and most commendable displays against Offaly and Kerry, they faced the task of beating both Waterford and Cork in order to avoid relegation.

Templemore was the unexpected venue for the clash against Waterford and there was bitter disappointment as Tipperary displayed their worst form for many a day to go under to their neighbours. The Cork game at Clonmel was then a mere formality and the Leesiders rubbed salt into the wounds by scoring a ready win.

With League interest ended, it was decided to hold a county trial on Easter Sunday. The trial was used as a basis for selection of junior and senior championship panels.

The juniors were first into the fray, against Clare at Lahinch, and they scored an impressive win which boosted hopes of ousting holders Cork in the semi-final. This game was played in Clonmel, and proved an anti-climax as a faster and more skilful Cork team went on to a comfortable win over a disjointed Tipperary fifteen.

Following this game the selectors sat down to pick the senior side to face Clare in the opening round of the championship. Limerick was the venue and after a slow start, Tipperary settled down to give quite a useful performance. Clare were beaten by a seven point margin and impressive performances were given by Noel Byrne, who was man of the match, dual goal scorer Liam Myles, Vincent O'Donnell, Michael Keating, Christy McElwee, Pat O'Donoghue, Jim Kehoe and Sean Kearney.

June 11th was the date set aside for the Munster semi-final against Kerry. With Clonmel named as venue, hopes were high that the Premier County's 44 year wait for the scalp of Kerry in a Munster championship, might at last be ended. The team trained on two evenings per week and the response from the players to training was most encouraging.

Enthusiasm grew and though a disappointing display in a tournament against Kildare proved a setback, the team still took the field against the Kingdom in confident mood.

For fifteen minutes the men in blue and gold tore into Kerry, who with their celebrated midfield pairing of O'Connell and O'Keeffe playing second fiddle to Kearney and O'Donnell, were mighty lucky to be only one point behind entering the second quarter. Tipperary had had cruel luck when Jim Kehoe struck the crossbar from the edge of the square in the first five minutes and a few more good chances had gone astray as the forwards laid siege to the Kerry goal. Then, in the last ten minutes of the half, with Tipperary still playing confidently, tragedy struck. Pat Moroney overplayed a ball, lost possession, and Kerry, taking advantage, goaled. Five minutes later Michael Keating missed a penalty and Kerry went to the dressingrooms with a 1-6 to 0-4 lead which did little justice to Tipperary's first-half efforts.

The second half saw a brave Tipperary fight but the odds proved too much and Kerry went on to win by 1-12 to 0-9. The Tipperary players won many friends for their whole-hearted display and players like Michael Keating, Jimmy Harney, Jim Kehoe, Sean Kearney, Vincent O'Donnell, Pat O'Donoghue, Christy McElwee, Dinny Burke, and Noel Byrne all added to their reputations.

Vincent O'Donnell, Jimmy Harney and Jim Kehoe were eligible for the under 21 side which following a fighting first round win over Waterford, made the long journey to Killorglin to face Kerry. Tragically both Harney and Kehoe were prevented from lining out and their loss proved too much for the team who met Kerry in rampant mood.

The National League campaign opened again in late October and Tipperary were paired with Waterford, Wexford, Carlow, Wicklow, Limerick, Kilkenny and Clare. Club calls and injuries forced the selectors to field a very experimental team in the opening game against Wicklow at Aughrim. Short seven of the side which did duty against Kerry, Tipperary scored an encouraging 3-5 to 1-4 win, a result which indicated that the county's reserve strength is quite formidable. With victories over Clare, Wexford, Kilkenny quickly added, the road back to Division 1 looks assured.

RESULTS

Seniors:

N.F.L.—Tipperary	0-6
Waterford	1-5
N.F.L.—Tipperary	0-5
Cork	1-10
S.F.C.—Tipperary	2-10
Clare	1-6
S.F.C.—Tipperary	0-9
Kerry	1-12
S.F. Chall.—Tipp	0-10
Kildare	1-14
N.F.L.—Tipperary	3-5
Wicklow	1-4

Junior:

J.F.C.—Tipperary	1-11
Clare	0-5
J.F.C.—Tipperary	3-4
Cork	1-18

Under 21:

Tipperary	1-9
Waterford	2-5
Tipperary	0-5
Kerry	6-13

The impossible dream

By GERRY SLEVIN

THAT SEPTEMBER EVENING in Kilkenny's

Nowlan Park in 1971 had a joyous ring about it that only comes with the winning of an All-Ireland title. The Intermediate side had just emulated the feat of their seniors of two weeks previous, but in all the excitement and joy of the occasion, there must have been feelings that this was a victory to be savoured because it would be a long time before Tipperary would be celebrating another Intermediate success. Taking that on its face value, it would seem to be something of an unfair statement, but the plain fact is that consequent to that success Tipp would be forced to field a completely new team the following year.

A lot has been said and written about the feat of the Offaly footballers in taking the 1972 All-Ireland title under heartbreaking circumstances, but spare a thought for the Tipp Intermediate hurlers who had impossible hurdles to contend with and still came through to take national honours for the second successive year. Having to turn round and assemble an entirely new panel was a tall order, but bad as it was there was worse to follow in the shape of some serious injuries to a number of the players, and ironically they were in the main from the champion junior club, Kildangan.

Kildangan provided the backbone to this side and with its captain, Paddy Kelly, leading the side, he had team mates in Willie Moloney, Nicky Flannery, John Darcy, Terry Moloney, Ollie Killeen, Noel Seymour, and Jim Egan. Slowly but surely that complement was drastically reduced. Kelly was injured, so too were Willie Moloney, Flannery and Darcy—and still Tipp won the All-Ireland final.

What can one say about a victory in such circumstances except that here surely was the realisation of the impossible dream. The odds were stacked heavily against Tipp for every encounter, and that, despite the fact that all the games in the Munster championship were played at Tipp venues. According to those who profess to know better, Tipp just couldn't win.

Clare provided the first opposition on a beautiful summer evening in Cloughjordan and with a number of men on the side that was later to send Lime-

rick reeling from the senior championship, the Banner men were filled with confidence of success. They failed, by seven points, and Tipp had booked their passage to the semi-final. Fate again decreed that there be a home venue. Tipp town it was, and on another mid-week evening, the might of Cork fell to a splendid Tipp performance that had to be seen to be believed.

So came the game everyone was waiting for, another chance to show that the Tralee victory over Kerry the previous year could again be emulated and how it was. Tipp were Munster champions for the second year running and feeling was now high in the county that another All-Ireland could be won.

It was soon after that disaster struck. Out went the captain, Paddy Kelly, as well as several more colleagues. Injuries in club games decreed that they would play no more part in the remainder of the campaign. Now surely, the risen phoenix must fall heavily and never arise. It is an everlasting tribute to the men in charge who put their faith in replacements and to the wealth of talent there is in the county that adequate men were found to fill those gaps so well. Dublin were the next opponents, over in Kilkenny, and while this was probably the least impressive performance of all, it was sufficient to see the Premier County into their only All-Ireland hurling final appearance for the year.

Sunday, September 17th, was the date. St. Brendan's Park, Birr, was the venue, and Galway were the opponents, Galway who a few weeks before had shattered the high hopes of London in New Eltham. Noel Seymour now took over the captaincy from Paddy Kelly and led his men with all the fire and spirit that is Tipperary hurling. Galway had no answer to it and the impossible dream had become a reality.

There may be some who feel that with too many competitions in present-day hurling, there is no room for the junior or intermediate men. Tipperary folk would protest loudly at that and with good reason. These grades have received a wonderful uplift over the past two years and there are more and more players there only too anxious to carry on the good work that has been fashioned with such brilliance and such determination in 1971 and 1972.



Two of the men who led Tipp through their victorious Intermediate campaign join hands on receipt from Rev. Edmund Vaughan, CC, President of the Offaly GAA Board, of the All-Ireland trophy after their win over Galway in Birt in September. Noel Seymour (centre) was captain for the final, his club mate Paddy Kelly from Kildangan (left) being out of action because of injury.

Jim of Loughmore

By SEAMUS RYAN
(County Board Chairman)

I FIRST MET Jim of Loughmore in the summer of 1939, shortly after his return from New York where he had spent about eleven years. He had just turned forty at the time but he neither looked nor felt his age. He was of medium height but his physique was splendidly proportioned with powerful chest and shoulders topped with a magnificent head which along with his springing step pointed to great energy and vitality.

We were training in Clonmel for the Munster Junior Football Final of that year and he was in the camp. We were aware of his fame as a footballer and as an all-round performer and naturally we were in awe of the man. But he was rather kind to our shortcomings in the game and he put the main emphasis on the spirit of pride in wearing the county "sweater," which demanded the best from every man. This was the formula which he applied to himself and which brought such remarkable achievements over a long span of years.

As I got to know him better and we became firm friends I came to appreciate his fierce attachment to his club and county and his deep feeling of loyalty to Gaelic games. His enthusiasm gripped those around him and acted as a spur to greater efforts, so that he was a major influence in the successes achieved by his club and county during his long career.

Jim was born in Barronstown, Loughmore, the eldest of three sons. Football was the popular game in Loughmore at that time, as it is today, and he developed his great natural talents at an early age, so that he was only sixteen when he gained his place on the Loughmore senior team. The merit of this unique achievement is fully realised when it is remembered that the status of Tipperary football ranked amongst the highest in the country around that time and that Loughmore was one of the leading clubs in the county.

Taking up employment with the G.S.R. Company he played with Templemore from 1914 to 1925 and figured prominently in the stirring championship games with Fethard during that period when he had as teammates the great county stars, Arthur Carroll and Bill Grant.

By the time he was nineteen he had secured his place on the county senior football team in 1916 and retained it up to his departure for New York in 1927.

This was a period of high achievements by Tipperary footballers when they more than held their own with renowned teams such as Wexford, Kerry and Dublin, and carved an honoured place for Tip-

perary among the elite of Gaelic football.

Here are some of the notable games they played:

1918 Beaten by Wexford in the All-Ireland final 5 pts. to 4 pts.

1919 Beaten by Kerry in the Munster Final, 1-3 to 1-2.

1920 Final played in June 1922. Beat Dublin 1-6 to 1-2.

1922 Beaten by Sligo in All-Ireland Semi-Final, 1-8 to 0-7.

From 1923 to 1926 the might of Kerry stood between the Tippmen and Munster or higher honours, but Jim Ryan had secured an All-Ireland medal and three Munster senior medals. Before he left for New York he won another coveted trophy when Templemore captured the county title in 1925.

He often talked of those days and of the great players and exciting games of that remarkable era,



of the team." Yet one could feel that he was quietly proud of having been there at that time.

BLOODY SUNDAY

Nearest to his heart, however, was the memory of Bloody Sunday 1920 in Croke Park. Joined with the sadness associated with that tragic day was power. He would dismiss that with "Sure I was one but never claimed any personal credit for the great part he played in establishing Tipperary's football

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his pride in being a player on the Tipperary team when the G.A.A. was irrevocably and intimately united with the cause of Irish freedom.

His family was closely connected with the struggle for that cause. His brothers Mick and Tommy and his brothers-in-law, Tom McGrath and Commandant Ned McGrath were on the run, and his licensed premises in Loughmore was subjected to several raids by the R.I.C. and the Black and Tans.

With many other noted footballers and hurlers from Tipperary he sailed for New York in 1927. During his eleven years in exile he played with the Tipperary Club in New York and helped to win football championships in 1927, 1928 and 1929, and hurling championships in 1934, 1937 and 1938.

There was a wealth of talent in those Tipperary teams. Amongst the footballers were Bill Barrett of Clonmel; Ned O'Shea, Ned Cummins and Mick Gunn from Fethard; Pete and Paddy Landy from Grangemockler; Tommy Armitage, Paddy Shelly and Mike Spillane of Templemore.

The hurlers included Jim Smee of Thurles; Martin Mockler and Dick Purcell of Moycarkey; Jack Power, Paddy Power, Martin Flanagan, Jack Moylan and Johnny Maher, all from Boherlahan; Stephen Hackett and Jim O'Meara from Toomevara, and Mike Doughan from Roscrea.

Jim returned home in 1938 and took up employment with the Sugar Company in Thurles. He had won all the honours that football offered on both sides of the Atlantic, but he had one cherished ambition, to help to bring a senior title to his native Loughmore.

The local club was weak in organisation and he set about giving the necessary leadership and inspiration to the young men of the parish. The response was a tribute to his magnetic personality and he led a very youthful team to the county junior final of 1939. The following year his ambition was realised. Playing full-forward and directing operations, he guided Loughmore to the senior county title, the first since 1914. The club was revived and has remained in senior ranks since then, gaining three more senior titles. He was chairman from 1939 up to his retirement in 1960 when the club conferred on him the honour of President, which he retained until his death in August of this year.

His administrative activities were not confined to his club. The county called him into service and he gave unstintingly of his time and abilities. He was elected as Mid representative on the County Board from 1943 until 1959 and from 1942 up to 1962 he was a senior football selector.

ADVISING THE YOUNG

A return to prominence and dominance by the county football team was what he desired and planned for most of all. Seeking out young players, advising them and trying to transfer to them his knowledge and his own enthusiasm for the game, he always gave the impression that he was con-

fident the break-through would come with an extra effort. He was to Tipperary football in his time, what Paddy Leahy was to the hurlers, but without achieving the reward of success. But he was no "one-game-man." He was a good hurler and an excellent handball player. He urged young fellows to spend more time in the alley and he was regularly there himself. He had remarkable prowess at the game and seemed to get an amount of enjoyment out of handball. He was in his element in the court and he was ready to take on the top-notchers in the game at the drop of a hat, and make them earn every ace. His duels with the Hassetts and Michael O'Gorman of Nenagh are still talked about by the old-timers who witnessed them.

He was very sociable and a wonderful man in company. He joined what was known then as the L.D.F. in the war years and he was Group Leader in Loughmore. There was serious talk of an imminent invasion and he was ready to serve. On training courses in Youghal his boundless energy and enthusiasm made him a dominant figure, and in the evenings he was the life of the party, lifting the morale and leading with a yarn and a song.

Some time after the All-Ireland hurling victory of 1958 the County Board organised an entertainment for Tipperary men and women from New York who had come home for the final. For the majority it was their first visit home since emigrating in the twenties and thirties. It was a fine gathering of notable people, and the night was gay with old friendships renewed and past connections recalled. Jim Ryan and Paddy Leahy led the entertainment in style, the two maestros of football and hurling in Tipperary doing the honours for the visiting exiles. As the night moved to a close it was clear that partings would soon be made. Jim Ryan moved to the centre and in his fine rich voice he sang "Memories." The whole company joined in and the memories came crowding in for them, memories of war and troubles shared together, memories of gay times and victories, of hopes and fears, memories of a people rising to a new dawn of freedom. The recollection brought many a tear to the eyes of men and women in the party. Jim had shown his intense feeling for an occasion and he had struck the appropriate note. It was an unforgettable scene.

Jim of Loughmore has left us many memories. He shared the richness of his personality lavishly and unselfishly. He will remain an inspiration to the youth of Loughmore and of the county. His unachieved ambition to restore Tipperary football to the top flight remains a challenge which calls for that extra effort which he always demanded and gave so readily himself.

Acknowledgment

[A special word of thanks is due to Jim Ryan's son-in-law, Seán Ryan, Mid Division Secretary, who supplied many of the facts included in this tribute].

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wonders about declining standards and looks at SOME STARS OF THE PAST

WHENEVER SPORT enthusiasts settle down to have a ramble down memory lane, two questions invariably arise: who was the greatest, and have standards declined or improved?

This most pleasurable exercise provides hours of enjoyable reminiscence and profound statements, all of which, in the end, leave the solution farther away than ever.

It is possibly a little more easy to discuss handball in this light, because over the years the game has not changed much basically, 'nor indeed have the facilities.

Also, when embarking on this journey, the danger of overdramatisation is ever-present. For some reason or other, when one is recounting his favourite moment of sport, the event begins to take on an unreal image, to the listeners that is, as the narrator bounds along, oft-times recounting what he would have liked to have seen rather than what he actually saw.

My own memories go back to the early 'fifties, when Wexford's John Ryan, Kerry's Paddy Downey and Jimmy O'Brien, the Delaney brothers from Kilkenny, and the late Dr. Des Dillion were household names in the handball world.

Joe Bergin of Tipperary, J. J. Gillmartin of Kilkenny, Larry Roe and Austin Clarke of Dublin had just relinquished the scene. However, I was fortunate enough to see most of them playing in exhibitions.

My one regret is that I never had the opportunity of seeing J. J.



Connie Cleere, Nenagh, who with Paddy Hickey, Clogheen, won the All-Ireland Senior Handball Doubles title.

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Gillmartin in action. Almost all old-timers place the Kilkenny man at the top of their list as the greatest player in both hardball and softball, the game has seen.

Essentially, as the records show, Gillman was a hardball specialist. Of his twenty-four senior titles, all but six were in the hardball code. He reigned supreme on the handball scene from 1936 to 1948.

Joe Bergin had won the last of his titles in 1950 and Larry Rowe won his last in 1951.

The remainder of this decade was dominated by John Ryan of Wexford, in my opinion the greatest ball player of the last twenty years.

Competition in the 'fifties was razor keen and the standard of play was of the highest order.

In this period, when covered courts were still a dream, capacity crowds were flocking to see such stars as Ryan, the Delaneys, Downey and O'Brien, Mick Griffin and the late Fintan Confrey from Louth.

John Ryan won sixteen senior All-Irelands plus two Gael-Linn titles in this era and might well have gone on to win additional honours had not an unfortunate accident put an untimely end to his playing career.

In partnership with the ever-dependable John Doyle, Ryan had many classic clashes with Downey and O'Brien. Moreover, the most vivid memories I have of Ryan were in singles matches. Both of these matches saw the Wexford men come desperately near to defeat.

The first occasion was in a S.S.B.S. final against Mick Griffin, who was then playing for Cork, a game which was in later years to become known as the "big wash-out."

In those days an All-Ireland final consisted of a rubber of five games, today it's three. That day Ryan had gone into a two-love lead only to be pulled back to two-all by Griffin.

If a flaw was to be found in Ryan's make-up, it was his failure to attain full fitness. In all his matches he relied on his great natural talents to see him through, which they almost always did.

But back to the Griffin match, with the games level at two each, Ryan was obviously running out of steam and seemed booked for certain defeat when Griffin led 18-3 in the final game.

Then disaster struck for Mick Griffin, there was a sudden cloud-burst as a result of which the court was declared unplayable and the match was postponed. Not without protest. It was later re-fixed for the same venue with the shock ruling that it was to start from scratch.

In this second meeting Ryan made no mistake and won three-love. It was in this match that Ryan gave the greatest exhibition of handball skills I have ever seen.

That match, which was played in Ballypatrick, attracted the then record attendance of 1,500.

The decision of Central Council

caused terrific controversy and was, I imagine, responsible for the ruling which followed some years later, i.e., that all finals be played in covered courts.

And so to my second most outstanding recollection, a Gael-Linn Cup final in which Ryan came up against a young man from Clare, the present-day world champion, Pat Kirby.

The Gael-Linn Cup at that time was played over half-an-hour with the player reaching the highest score in that time being the winner. In the event of a tie at the end of the thirty minutes there was a five-minute break and then a further five minutes' play. As in the first match with Mick Griffin, Ryan went into an early lead but Kirby pulled him back ace by ace to draw level just on the stroke of time. The trend of the game indicated that Kirby must surely have won had play continued for one more minute.

Following the interval Ryan emerged looking as fresh as ever, thanks to the magic bottle, and gave Kirby no chance in the extra five minutes.

The 'fifties was an era when Paddy Downey and Jimmy O'Brien formed a doubles pairing which is classed as the best there was. This combination dominated the S.S.B.D. scene up to 1964, to be succeeded by another Kerry pairing, the McEllistrim brothers.

The untimely end to Ryan's career introduced another star, Fintan Confrey from Louth, who in his short playing career looked set to take up where Ryan left off.

Dominance in the senior singles switched from county to county for a year or two, to be taken up by another Louthman, Joe Maher.

Maher played most of his handball in Canada and it was while representing that country that he won the world championship in 1967.

He then returned to Ireland and since then he has won eleven senior titles and, though still active, he appears to have passed his zenith in the courts. Joe, however, is very much involved in coaching at present.

While Maher did dominate hand-



Paddy Hickey

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ball for the last five years, he somehow or other never gripped the imagination as Ryan did. His greatest asset was complete fitness and a powerful shot with either hand.

Other personalities of the latter 'sixties and present-day include Peter McGee from Mayo, Paddy Hickey from Tipperary, and R. Lyng, formerly with Wexford and now playing with Waterford.

Comparing the players of the 'fifties with those of the 'sixties and up to the present, one is left with the impression that the standard is dropping. Quite honestly 'sixties, the size of softball game to compare with some of those I saw in the 'fifties.

The ability to "kill" a shot with absolute certainty is now nonexistent, the only player capable of doing this in present-day handball is Paddy Hickey in hardball, when he hits one of his better days.

While accepting this, one must take into account that when in the early 'sixties, the size of hofball was increased, it made a tremendous difference and was, in my opinion, directly responsible for a lowering of standards.

Previous to this, softball was played with the "Elephant Ball" and a smaller version of the present-day Dunlop ball, these were small enough to be enclosed in one's closed fist and were much easier to direct.

The present-day ball, because of its size, is much harder to direct and many players tend to use their closed fist to strike the ball. This is especially so with juveniles and minors.

Pat Kirby fully agrees with this and told me that unless the size of ball is decreased and juveniles encouraged to use their open palms the standard will continue to drop.



Christy Pratt and Michael Kennedy from Newport, winners of the All-Ireland Under 12 Doubles handball title.

All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Champions



The Intermediate Hurlers who brought the second-in-a-row and fourth All-Ireland title to Tipperary. Standing, left to right: Sean Cahalan, Mick Ryan, Jim Keogh, Joe Connors, Sean Fitzpatrick, Terry Moloney, Willie Moloney, Nicky Flannery, Ollie Killeen, John Darcy, Jim Egan, John Costigan. Kneeling, left to right: Jim Keogh, Seamus Mackey, Mick Morris, John Kennedy, Jack Seymour, Noel Seymour, Bilsie Ferricombe, Jim Keane, Michael Fitzpatrick, Paddy Kelly, Pat Coffey.

Is there an All-Ireland Scor title on the way?

By GERRY SLEVIN

TIPPERARY HAS BEEN NOTED for getting in quickly on the act in G.A.A. affairs. We won the first All-Ireland senior hurling title; the first county to have its name inscribed on the Under 21 hurling trophy was Tipperary, while Roscrea became the first club to take national honours in the recently inaugurated inter-club championship. As yet, though, we have failed to take a national championship in the Scor competitions, notwithstanding the fact that our competitions at home have been highly successful and we have won a total of five Munster senior titles since Scor came into being three years ago.

Success in these winter talent competitions is, of course, not measured in All-Ireland victories, and while it would be nice to get in on the act here, the principal concern is that the competitions have become extremely well established throughout the county and the interest that has resulted from county final level right down to within-the-club competitions has been truly astonishing.

It is to Tipperary's credit, and particularly to that energetic body, Bord na nOg, that the idea for an extension of these competitions to cater for those in the under 16 age group has received such widespread favour and this year sees the first national finals for the Under 16's.

Last year the Munster Council in its wisdom and influenced greatly by the interest of our own representatives on that august body, Donie Nealon and Mick Frawley, decided to promote an Under 16 Scor, at provincial level, and it was an outstanding success. For the previous year, each county had been running its own Under 16 Competitions, but that was as far as it went, but this year the ultimate step is being taken, with a national final taking place.

It may seem rather strange, but the plain fact is that the Under 16 competitions, or Scor na nOg, are out pointing the adult competitions in interest and enthusiasm. The standard of competition among the juveniles would also seem to be higher and when one considers that of our seven representatives in the inaugural Scor na nOg Munster final held in Thurles last April, five took top awards, two getting a runner-up prize, then we can hope for even greater success than heretofore as the competitions progress.

Yes, five Scor na nOg titles, certainly a wonderful achievement, and these young people from all

over the county must surely be rueing the fact that the Central Authority did not see fit to have a national competition last season. Had this decision been taken, and judging by the high standard of our competitors, Tipperary must surely have got in the honours list. Still there is always the future.

Take, for instance, 13-year-old Marie Kelly from Roscrea. Marie, almost a 'veteran' at Scor competitions over the past three years, took provincial honours in solo ballad singing. Just to show how versatile a young lady she is, Marie has competed in recitation and motion speaking too with considerable success. Teresa Slater from Clonmel is another lady with considerable promise. She won the motion speaking section, while the Cappawhite quiz sharks led by Joan Delaney swept the boards in the question time competition.

The sheer artistry of Alan Callanan from Moycarkey/Borris was shown at its very best in the solo dancing, and rounding off a great night for Tipperary, the Portroe balladeers, the Dillon family, took the top award. Young Phil Murray from Upperchurch/Drombane was placed second in the instrumental music category, with the Thurles figure dancers also runners-up.

These were just the people who acquitted themselves in the Munster final. There were others in the grades up along, all of whom contributed so handsomely to many nights of delightful entertainment. All were not winners but in their own right they were, because in the portrayal of so many facets of Irish culture they were lending expression to much of what we cherish and hold dear in our Irish way of life.



Marie Kelly



Silvermines—they won the North Tipperary Intermediate hurling championship after a lapse of 24 years: Standing, left to right, Pat Quinlan, Sean Forde, Jim Ryan, Maurice Daffey, John Forde, Jim O'Brien, Jack Dunlea, Michael O'Brien. Front, left to right, John Kennedy, Michael Fitzgibbon, Tom Kennedy, Liam Gleeson, Jim Keogh (capt.), John Sherlock, John Forde, John Hogan, Pat Dunlea.

THE McNAMEE REPORT

(Some thoughts on the Commission of the G.A.A.)

"For a number of years past we have been saying that we should look at ourselves, examine ourselves, and prepare for the future. Here is the opportunity now to look at ourselves and to prepare for the future.

This is a time of change. Paddy McDermott said that we are living on a structure that was created 70 years ago. Are we content with a structure for the Association as we have it at the present time? I don't know, but this Commission if it is set up would look at it. But one thing I do say—that we are a very very loose Association so far as clubs are concerned.

So, Mr. President, rather than continue on, I propose this motion because I think it is a very important motion. In the past the Association has served this country well. I want to see it serving it well in the future, but the only way it will serve it is by planning, by discipline, and by going and preparing."

With those few words at Congress in Dublin at Easter 1969, Seán McGettigan on behalf of the Antrim County Committee put in train the setting up of the Commission to investigate all aspects of the affairs of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The motion was passed unanimously.

The members of the Commission were nominated by the then President, Seamus O Riain, and approved by the Central Council. The first meeting was held on 15th August 1969. The printed Report was announced on 1st December 1971.



By MUIRIS DE PRIONBHIOL
Secretary to the Commission
on the G.A.A.

Muiris de Prionbhiol has been Secretary of the National Savings Committee since 1962, and was previously with the Departments of Defence and Finance. He is from Cork and is married with three children.

He has had wide experience of work with Irish language and youth organisations. A former Cork and Dublin inter-county hurler, he is active in the GAA, and was Secretary of the Commission on the GAA.

WHY A COMMISSION?

One may ask why it was necessary to set up a Commission to examine the affairs of the G.A.A. Perhaps a look at Commissions generally may help. Commissions are usually ad hoc advisory bodies set up by Government with authority to investigate certain matters and to take evidence from interested parties. Experience has shown that they are a valuable

aid to policy-making. They are set up for a variety of reasons, sometimes as a response to the fact that something has gone wrong; or to settle a dispute; or to resolve a conflict of interest; or, more generally, to survey a general area, identify problems and recommend future policy.

The value of a Commission set up to examine an existing organisation is that its members are free from internal constraints and can therefore more easily reconsider policy from the ground up. Those involved in day to day operational duties have no time to spare from coping with immediate crises to tackle broader issues. Also it might often be difficult for existing management, leadership or staff to be entirely objective in their evaluation of problems.

The composition of Commissions is important. They vary in size, ranging from three to about eighteen members; eight is a general average. Members can be representative or random; expert or amateur; radical or conservative; outsider or insider; or a mixture of all.

Most important Commissions are staffed by a full-time Secretary, possibly with clerical staff as well and with all the resources of Government Departments to call on.

How did the G.A.A. Commission compare with Government Commissions? I have no doubt that the idea of a Commission on the G.A.A. was the right approach. I believe also that a classic balance was struck in selecting the members. The personnel of the Commission was chosen as a blend of active G.A.A. officials familiar with the day to day working of the Association, in addition to others "outside" the G.A.A. who possessed special qualifications in business management and community affairs. They were selected as individuals and did not represent any sectional or vested interest; this was to prove a great

boon.

I suppose it was in the tradition of the G.A.A. that the Secretary was not a full-time professional. But the members who devoted so much of their spare time to studying mountains of memoranda and attending meetings could not have moved at any faster pace than they did even if they had a full-time officer. They were never short of work!

The G.A.A. Commission had one great advantage. All its members were proved dedicated men with a common objective—the overall good of the Gaelic Athletic Association. And this common bond became more evident to me as the work progressed and important decisions had to be taken on matters where varying views were often firmly held. I was constantly amazed at the way they worked in committee—prepared to discuss and argue but also ready to listen to each other and to be flexible enough to be persuaded by force of reasonable debate to change views.

There was therefore a general measure of unanimity in their recommendations; only very rarely was it necessary to take a vote to reach majority decisions. It is greatly to the credit of Seamus O Riain that he selected such men of commonsense soundness who could see things in perspective and with a freshness and flexibility of mind. It was fortunate too that the Commission had the good sense to ask for the co-option to its ranks of Seamus himself.

A very special tribute must be paid to Pádraig McNamee. His courtesy, his sense of humour, his openmindedness and his tireless energy—all combined to make him an ideal chairman. Let us hope that the fate of the Commission's Report will crown a lifetime of work for Gaelic ideals.

HOW THE COMMISSION OPERATED

The material on which the Commission's discussions were based was obtained from a number of sources, such as:

- Written submissions made by individuals.
- Personal interviews with a

number of people; of particular value here were the meetings with Sports Editors, with the Head of Sport in RTE, and with Gaelic Games journalists.

- Visits to County Committees by members of the Commission.
- Articles from Gaelic games magazines. Past issues of such magazines were researched and articles and comment dealing with matters likely to be dealt with by the Commission were extracted, copied, and distributed to the members.
- Articles extracted from newspapers and financial magazines; this applied particularly to Sponsorship.
- Surveys. We commissioned a management survey and an Organisation and Methods survey on Central Office; a survey on the attitude of youth to games; and a survey on attendance trends.

However, it is only fair to the members of the Commission to state that notwithstanding the usefulness of the submissions, interviews and surveys, the greatest contribution was made by the members themselves because of their wide range of experience and expertise. Members submitted memoranda on matters in which they were particularly qualified or interested. I made some submissions also.

THE PLAN OF WORK

It was agreed that each chapter of the Report would deal with one of the specific terms of reference. The outline format of the Report was also decided. The work plan then went as follows:

Step 1: Accumulation of relevant information and views under each heading of the Terms of Reference.

Step 2: Preparation of a Memorandum by the Secretary summarising such information.

Step 3: Preliminary discussion by Commission and general formulation of recommendations.

Step 4: Preparation by Secretary of draft text of each chapter, including special recommendations.

Step 5: Discussions by Commission and re-drafting as necessary.

At first, meetings were held monthly on a Friday night. They were then extended to include Saturday morning also. Subsequently it became necessary to meet once a fortnight and eventually once a week. In addition, Sub-Committees worked on such matters as the Youth Survey, Finance and on the format and presentation of the Report.

Every effort was made to dovetail discussions and to organise matters so as to ensure fairly equal progress on all sections of the Report. A deadline (October 1971) was set for the submission of the Report and in December 1970 a detailed work programme or timetable for ten months ahead was worked out. This timetable was updated from time to time. By June 1971 a considerable amount of the Report was in rough draft form and members spent a weekend in the peace and quiet of Donamon Castle, Roscommon, where they worked long hours on the Report; we made great progress that week-end.

Around this time too it was the general feeling that, while our specific terms of reference did not include the Games, no report would be complete if it did not deal with the games. We were satisfied that improvements in structure or organisation would be of little use unless the games could be made more attractive. Accordingly, we planned for the Coaching Workshop at Gormans-ton in August 1971. Jim McKeever, a member of the Commission, acted as Director of it and I took a week's annual leave to record the proceedings. It was a very worthwhile exercise.

In August 1971 compilation of the Report in Irish was begun—a formidable task.

The pace was now becoming quite hectic. Estimates were sought for the printing of the Report and a printer selected. Consideration was given to the production of an abridged version but this was rejected by the Commission.

It was agreed that the Report should be well designed and printed without being ostentatious and that the paper and board should be of Irish manufacture. I

should like to record here my deep appreciation of the co-operation I received from the printers, John Augustine & Co., Dublin. They worked under severe pressure and were most helpful in every way.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

The date for the presentation of the Report was finally settled for the 1st December 1971 and arrangements were made for the distribution of the Report and for a Press Conference. We had hoped that a Public Relations firm could be employed to help with this work but this did not materialise so that this work also was done by the Commission with assistance from Central Office. A detailed schedule was drawn up for the launch of the Report. Distribution of complimentary copies of the Report was decided upon as follows:

- President and General Secretary.
- The Executive, Central Council, Provincial Councils, ex-Presidents, Patrons and the Chairman and Secretary of each County Committee.
- Those who made a submission to or assisted the Commission in any way.
- Members of COSAC.
- All TDs and Senators.
- Heads of National Organisations.
- Press and TV.

Arrangements were made for the sale of the Report to clubs, to public libraries and through bookshops.

Press Releases were drafted—five in all—and press kits organised. Appropriate releases with copies of the Report (over 200 in all) were issued to all national newspapers (Editors, Sports Editors, Art Editors and Sports journalists); Provincial papers including those in the Six Counties; a wide range of selected magazines; selected English Sunday and daily newspapers; RTE, UTV, and BBC.

The advance issue of the Press kit and Reports to press and television had to be carefully timed as the main Press Release contained an embargo on publication until after the Press Conference. All this work was done from my own home with the ready co-operation and assistance of my wife and family! (It will be appreciated that Press Releases and the Report were 'confidential matter' up to the time of the Press Conference).

The Press Conference held in the Gresham Hotel on Wednesday, 1st December 1971, was one of the largest events of its kind ever held in Dublin; it was very successful.

The Report received massive publicity in all the media and this continued for many weeks. There can be little doubt that, whatever about the merits or demerits of the Commission's specific recommendations, the production and general presentation of the Report itself helped to create a new favourable image of the G.A.A.

NO LEAKS

In retrospect, it is rather re-

markable that notwithstanding the number of people outside the Commission who had access to the Report before its publication—including typists, translators, designer, printer, etc.—no leaks occurred. It is indeed a tribute to the integrity of all concerned with the Report.

WHAT NOW?

This is not the place to deal with the findings of the Report or with the fate of its recommendations. I believe that whatever the immediate decisions of the Association, the G.A.A. will never be the same again. But there will be no basic change. The recommendations of the Commission were based on the belief that the unique value of the G.A.A. is that it is a **voluntary** organisation and an organisation with strong national ideals. This does not mean that the organisation must follow exactly the same pattern as in the past. It must be flexible enough to meet change and to provide the resources to work more efficiently. The keynote of the Report therefore is quite clear in that the aims of the Association can be carried out only by a voluntary organisation supported by adequate professional staff.

The new organisation which will result if the Report is implemented will enable the G.A.A. to be increasingly effective in the contribution it has to make to the wellbeing of the nation.

That is what the Commission was all about.



Five men who have guided the GAA over a long number of years—all past Presidents—pictured with the present office holder, Mr. Pat Fanning, at the press conference in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, to announce details of the Commission's report.

Left to right: Mr. Hugh Byrne, Wicklow (1961-64), Dr. J. J. Stuart, Dublin (1958-61), Mr. Padraig MacConmidhe, Antrim (1938-43)—chairman of the Commission, Mr. Fanning, Mr. Seamus Ryan, Tipperary (1967-70) and Mr. Alf Murray, Armagh (1964-67).

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TIPP CAMOGIE

TOO FEW CLUBS AND TOO MANY AMALGAMATIONS

By REV. LIAM MURRAY

"THE WEAK will get weaker, the strong grow stronger"—St. Malachy's prophecy? An EEC forecast? A summary of Camogie trends in Tipperary?

With the acquisition of two further county players—Deirdre Lane (Lorrha), Breda Heffernan (Ballytarsna)—Thurles camogie team can be truly described—all stars. Munster club champions and All-Ireland finalists (1971), undisputed and unchallenged county champions (1972), with ten representatives on the senior county team that went under to Cork, in the Munster Final, their enjoyable, history-making American tour was a fitting climax to a very successful year.

The anti-climax on Sports News Tonight (29th October)—Thurles surprisingly and decisively beaten, in the first round of the Munster club championship, by the very youthful Eire Og (Ennis).

Ballingarry and Drom-and-Inch are the only other surviving clubs in the Mid division. The fall-out of Ballytarsna has made their position so much more difficult. Two may be company, but it takes at least three to have any worthwhile competition. In fairness they cannot be linked in competition with Thurles. They would be so outclassed that the old triangle would jangle more than jingle!

The dissolution of Lorrha and Knockshegowna has been a heavy blow to camogie in the North. Their passing has strengthened St. Mary's and St. Bernadettes, floored a depleted McDonaghs, and frosted a budding Portroe. As could be anticipated, St. Marys and St. Bernadettes met in the final on 5th November.

North Board's decision to amalgamate the under 16 players was, to my way of thinking, an unfortunate mistake. There is no future in amalgamations. The competition lacked purpose and life. Since no team could field a full twelve, it would have been far better to retain the four club units in a nine-a-side or seven-a-side tournament.

The reception given by both Boards, to McDonaghs' motion, "that an under-eighteen competition be inaugurated" was discouraging as well as disappointing—especially as there is a Munster competition for this age group for the past two years.

Let's hope the club delegates will bring fresh and forward thinking to next convention.

How about a lady for the chair? Or rather two

ladies for two chairs? (Nothing against the men who have chaired except that they are men!). The foreword to the present Camogie Association Rule Book says, "The times are long past when Ireland's destiny could be controlled by men only." It goes without saying, the times are long past when camogie meetings could be chaired by men only.

Full Marks: To North Tipp G.A.A. and Camogie Boards for their successful Dinner Social.

No Marks: To Camogie County Board for failing to send a delegate to Munster Convention 1972.



Though knocked from their pedestal as County champions by the side they defeated in the 1971 County SHC final, Roscrea, Moyne/Templetuohy had some compensation for their year's efforts by regaining the Mid SHC title at the expense of Moycarkey-Borris and there to lead them to victory was JIM FOGARTY (above) whose great performances throughout the year earned for him due recognition from the county selectors.

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Personal reminiscences of the San Francisco tour

By SEAMUS O'RIAIN

IT WAS DARK when we came over San Francisco. Beneath us the whole bay area was sparkling with the glittering lights of many cities, and the dull grey water mass of the bay was dotted here and there with the lights of slow-moving water-craft. Thus we had an owl's eye view of our destination after the long 6,000 miles flight. Circling and dropping slowly we hit the runway gently in a perfect landing.

Eager welcoming faces crowded round. It seemed that all the Irish in San Francisco had turned out to receive us, calling out their names by way of introduction since few of them were known to us. The Consul-General, Bernard McHugh, was giving greetings in Irish to each of us. The organising committee had done their home work efficiently. Every member of the party was given an envelope which gave the entire tour schedule and a list of the homes where we were to stay and their phone numbers as well as the numbers we were to call if any problem should arise. We were to learn afterwards how useful this information was and it was a pleasure to call Mary Casey or Shiela Brosnan and to find them so helpful in solving whatever difficulties we had.

Father Dillon was busy seeing that everyone was fixed up and gradually the various hosts claimed their charges and took them in hand. Jim Fogarty, Michael Jones and myself were looked after by Father John Ryan, a young priest but two years on the mission who played with Seán Treacys in the West

Division and won a championship medal with them a few years ago. Fr. Ryan ministers in the parish of San Rafael in Marin County about twenty miles from the Airport, and he and his pastor, Fr. Tom Kennedy, had kindly agreed that I should stay with them for the duration of the tour. So while the main party went on to the civic reception at the City Hall, we set out on our first trip over the Golden Gate Bridge for San Rafael.

Fr. Ryan had also arranged that Jim Fogarty and Michael Jones would be staying with Jim Bradley and his wife Pat, who have a lovely home on sloping ground not far from San Rafael. We got a warm welcome from this wonderful couple when we called to instal the two boys who were cared for as members of the family during their stay.

It was late when we got to the Mission of San Rafael on Fifth Avenue. The Presbytery is alongside the Church which is of splendid design and proportions, and near the entrance is the old Mission Church which was one of the first erected here by the pioneering missionaries and is now preserved as a historic place of interest. Completing the complex is the Grade School which includes a Community Centre.

I was very comfortably accommodated in the Presbytery, being afforded the rug of the place, even having a key so that I could come and go as it suited. Fr. Ryan made sure that I was never short of transport, either driving me himself or arranging for one of his parishioners to do it whenever his duties did not allow him.

The morning after our arrival he drove me to San Francisco to the Hotel Richelieu on Van Ness Avenue, which was more or less the tour headquarters as Jack Conroy, the Central Council's representative, was staying there, as were the Press and RTE representatives. Pat Heneghan from Carrolls Company, and his wife, were also staying in the Hotel, as well as Brid Ní Mhuirheartaigh of the Croke Park staff; Muiris De Prionbhiail and his wife, and Osmond Bennett, so that this was the place to call at any time for a chat and to see what was afoot.

A party set out on a shopping expedition headed by Osmond Bennett. I know no one to equal his knowledge of foreign cities, so we had a reliable guide who brought us to the best stores on Market Street, where we purchased whatever articles we wished to take home. That evening we were all invited to Harrington's establishment on Jones Street, where there was musical entertainment and we were treated to a "traditional" Irish meal of corn beef and cabbage.

Not far away is the new Hilton Hotel on Mason Street, and along with Fr. Michael Cleary from New Inn we took the lift to the top floor and through its glass wall we had a magnificent view of the city by night, a sight never to be forgotten.

We were quite excited heading for Balboa Stadium for the games



Clonmel Commercial—South Tipperary SFC champions—:Standing, left to right, John McNamara, K. Loneragan, T. Ryan, D. Boyle, M. Ryan, M. Walsh, M. Egan, B. O'Keeffe, P. Butler, T. J. Corby, B. O'Callaghan, T. Pollard. Kneeling, left to right, J. Ryan, L. Kane, F. Kenny, J. Hewitt, P. O'Connell, P. Sullivan, S. Fitzgerald, P. Donoghue, Joe McNamara.

on Sunday and our excitement was increased as we met the eager crowds and the colourful bands. We were agreeably surprised with the pitch, which is larger than we had been led to believe and has a grand surface.

Another surprise was to find Fr. Richard O'Keeffe in the dressing-room before us, having flown in from Arizona to lend his support to the team. But we also had the disappointing news that John Gleeson had received an urgent call from home and had returned there with his wife that morning. We missed John on the remainder of the tour, but we were glad to learn later on that things had turned out all right for him.

We had a very interesting and lively match and there was little between the teams at the end of the day and we set out in good spirits for the official banquet at the University of San Francisco. Everybody was there and we met hosts of people who were enquiring about friends at home, the prospects for the coming year and what were the likely developments in the North.

ARRANGING OUTINGS

Our hosts were busy arranging various outings to places of special interest in the State for the following day. One group was heading off to Lake Tahoe on the Nevada border which is a popular play resort. Others were going south to Los Angeles. A few of us were taken to the State capital, Sacramento, by Tom O'Dwyer. Tom is a son of Willie O'Dwyer of Boherlahan and has his home in Burlingawe in South San Francisco. We motored through the wine and apple country and he took us on a conducted tour of the Capitol. As we came out from the State Building we came upon a group of demonstrators with placards. They were teachers who were protesting against the large number of children per class in the schools and the reluctance of the State to grant more finance to improve the situation. They were members of the California Teachers' Association and their President, Mr L. Gordon Bittle, who was with them, explained to me

that the Association caters for all teachers from kindergarten to university and he was very proud of this integration of all grades of teacher in the one body. Unfortunately I was unable to avail of his invitation to visit the Association's head-offices in Burlingawe.

That night Mrs O'Dwyer entertained a party in their home, where we met their three fine sons who are as interested in the Tipperary hurling team as if they were back home in Boherlahan. The following day Tom was our guide again on a tour round the city. Down at Fisherman's Wharf we went quickly through the numerous stalls. It is dangerous to linger there because of the temptation to go on a buying spree when confronted with the very attractive looking articles, especially those fashioned from unusual sea shells. But even in a swift run through we managed to

purchase a few souvenirs to bring home as proof that we had been there.

We boarded one of the Red and White harbour fleet for a tour round the extensive bay area. We sailed out under the Golden Gates suspension bridge to the edge of the Pacific and came back quite close to the notorious island of Alcatraz, the former Federal Penitentiary which now basks innocently in the centre of the bay. From the boat there is a splendid view of the city's many hills topped by imposing buildings. Coming back towards the Wharf we got a close-up view of the magnificent Oakland Bay Bridge which stretches for over eight miles over the water, joining San Francisco with its sister city, Oakland, on the other side of the Bay.

Any visitor to San Francisco must take this trip to put himself right of the geography of the city,



All Star Michael Keating receives a memento of the San Francisco trip from Pat Heneghan, PRO, Carrols

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and the commentary given by the courier will give him the historical background. From there we went on to Chinatown in the heart of the city, which is the most populous Chinese colony outside of China itself. We strolled up the narrow Giant Avenue between lines of Oriental stores and Chinese restaurants with the pagoda-styled roofs and exotic signs. The stores displayed glittering trinkets and artistically worked ornaments in teak and porcelain, as well as brilliantly patterned silks.

We climbed back to the Hotel Richelieu on the cable car, an antique relic of bygone days which is very popular with the tourists, and is treated with affection by the people of San Francisco.

SPLENDID BANQUET

Jim Cummins from Cork, a very successful business man here, had a group of us brought to the World Trade Centre where he and his wife did the honours at a splendid banquet. Another very distinguished San Francisco Irishman whom we met there was Tom Cahill, the former Chief of Police, who comes from Callan and has connections with Tipperary. Tom and his wife are very popular in Irish societies.

An impromptu concert followed the meal and everyone contributed to the fun, even many from outside our party who were attracted sphere.

For once Fr. Ryan was spared the chore of driving in from San Rafael as transport was provided by Arthur Latno, who is vice-president of the Telegraph and Telephone Company.

Tommy Barrett and Paul Byrne stayed with Mr and Mrs Jim Madden on Monterey Boulevard. Jim is one of the last survivors of the San Francisco team that played against Johnny Leahy's touring side in 1926 and right proud he is of that distinction. A native of Ahane, he had played with Limerick C.B.S. and with Commercial in Dublin before emigrating in the early twenties. His wife is a splendid hostess and the soul of hospitality.

We spent a night up north in



Mick Roche gets his memento from Pat Heneghan

Jim's "hide-out" in wooded country by the Russian River. On a delightful sunny day he drove us up through Sonoma County on to the Redwood country, where we went through State forests with magnificent ancient trees, towering over 200 feet high. The largest one we saw is the Colonel Armstrong tree of immense girth, but as Mrs Madden pointed out, it is small in comparison to the General Sherman tree further north, which reaches a height of 272 ft. and is reputed to be between three and four thousand years old.

We came to the delightful little town of Guerneville and we were very interested to see an open air church in a little grove outside the town, which is used during the hot summer season when it is preferable to be in the cool of the grove than to go into a church.

North of Guerneville we went by a narrow roadway close to the river where Jim has half a dozen chalets. We spent a very pleasant time there and the following day we returned to San Francisco.

Bud Duggan and his wife had issued an open invitation to all the

Tipperary party to a barbecue in his home at Woodside. Bud's people came from Gortnahoe and he has been back there on many occasions. Everybody enjoyed the evening at Woodside, swimming in the garden pool, playing basketball and tennis and partaking of the general hospitality served up by Bud Duggan and his family.

RACE MEETING

John Kealy, a Kilkenny man who has a fine business in Oakland, invited all the party to his place for Friday evening. John is a member of the Turf Club in Oakland and he brought some of us along to a race meeting beforehand, at the Oakland Race Track. Everything there seemed to be organised on computer lines and we felt like "innocents abroad." However, our host had a runner in the last race very appropriately named "Erin's Pride." Having received some encouragement we placed our bets and cheered him home, a good winner which salvaged both pride and purse as far as we were concerned.

That put us in good humour for the lavish Chinese meal which

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John had served up for the hungry travellers that evening.

We were then brought to Oakland Stadium to view an Ice Hockey game between the local stars and a Canadian team. It certainly is a fierce and fast game but it becomes a bit monotonous if goals don't come, and on this night the forwards were off form and no goals came until near the end. Again the stamp of super-efficiency was on all the organisation; in fact one might get the impression of artificiality in the proceedings but for the excited involvement of the fans.

That night I stayed at the home of Mr and Mrs Pat Hogan in Alameda, close to Oakland. Pat comes from Castlerock in my own parish and he is a brother of Dan Hogan, Castlerock, former T.D. and Senator, and Tom Hogan, the Chairman of C.I.E. He played hurling and football at home and with the Tipperary Club in New York, where he spent a few years before moving West. There he took up tennis and became a champion in California and he can still give a lesson to most of the younger players in a State where the standard of play is very high.

Next day we went on a long tour through Santa Clara and Santa Cruz, south to Monterey by rolling hills browned by the sun and drought and brightened here and there by clusters of the Golden Poppy, which is the State flower. Monterey is a quaint historic place on a fine harbour. It was one of the early Spanish settlements and a Franciscan mission post which became a busy trading port. The port museum is well stocked with early 19th century articles of trade and is most interesting. Nearby is a little building like a village hall which was California's first theatre, and not far from there is the house where Robert Louis Stevenson lived for a time when he was writing "Treasure Island." All these places are excellently preserved and publicised with illustrated brochures and guides.

COAST DRIVE

We did the seventeen mile Pacific Coast drive round Mon-

terey Peninsula past Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach. Sea lions basked on rocks close by and the shoreline displayed a red and pink carpet of wildflower and ice plant. Before turning north we stopped at Carmel, a peacefully little town of unspoiled beauty.

Back in San Francisco two fine Tipperary friends, John Moylan and Tom Flynn, set up a magnificent night's entertainment for the Tipperary group which was a real "at home" party.

The following day we were back at Balboa Stadium for the concluding games, which were exciting exhibitions that aroused the enthusiasm of a colourful crowd. As a curtain-raiser, two teams of schoolboys from San Francisco played a game of Gaelic football and it was clear that they had been well coached because they had mastered the basic skills and movements.

The farewell banquet was held in the great hall of the University of San Francisco, which was packed to capacity with people from the city and from places as far apart as San Diego and Salt Lake City. Presentations were made and there were farewell speeches from the notabilities at the top table, with assurances that the tour was successful from every point of view and was firmly established for the future. Fr. Dillon of St. Patrick's Missions, who was deeply concerned with the organisation, said he was deeply satisfied with every aspect of the tour and expressed his thanks for the co-operation given on all sides.

One could not meet everyone who was there, but a number of Tipperary priests were easily picked out in the crowd: Fr. Michael Cleary, New Inn; Fr. Flynn, Silvermines; Fr. Tom Meagher, Knocka; Fr. Mick Cooney, Moneygall; Fr. Doherty, Gortnahoe, and Fr. William Kinane, Drombane; and, of course, my host, Fr. John Ryan, who again waited patiently to provide me with transport to San Rafael when the night's festivities were over.

We were early a-stir on Monday morning and heading for the Airport, where there was a big

crowd to see us off, many of them people we had not known before this tour but who were now our firm friends.

There was a certain feeling of regret at leaving because we had been given a most enjoyable time and we felt that we owed a lot to the people who had made it possible. We had found San Francisco to be a beautiful and charming city and its people to be friendly and courteous and we had found that our fellow countrymen had achieved a status of distinction here as in many other cities. We are proud of that status and proud also that, while playing a prominent role in various aspects of city life, they maintain their Irish identity and express it through Irish music, dancing and games.

This is my personal tribute to them, which is necessarily limited to some of my own experiences. Every member of the touring party could add to it his own tribute and thanks to people such as Kevin Dowley, Pat Brosnan, Dan Cronin, Jim McCormack and many more who contributed so much to make the tour an abiding happy memory.

County Champions 1972

- Senior Hurling: Roscrea.
runners-up: Borrisoleigh.
- Senior Football: Kilsheelin.
R-up: Ardfinnan.
- Junior Hurling: Not completed.
Silvermines v. Gortnahoe/
Glengoole.
- Junior Football: Templemore.
R-up: Toomevara.
- Minor Hurling: Moycarkey/Borris.
R-up: Kilruane McDonagh.
- Minor Football: Arravale Rovers.
R-up: Fethard.
- Under 21 Hurling: Not completed.
Carrig Swans v. Kilruane
or Eire Og/Clonoulty.
- Under 21 Football: Not completed.



Kilsheelin—Tipperary county SFC champions: Front, left to right, Cyril Robinson, Jim Cahill, John Dempsey, Sean Nugent, Phil O'Halloran, Mick Morrissey, Richard O'Gorman, Tom Larkin (trainer). Standing, left to right: Jonathan Moriarty, Liam Murphy, Martin O'Gorman, James Houlihan, Richard Strang, John O'Driscoll, John O'Halloran, Jim Kehoe.

SEAMUS GARDINER

One of Tipperary's greatest adopted sons

By GERRY SLEVIN

CONVENTIONS, BE THEY DIVISIONAL or county, generally have an air of expectancy about them. The election of officers, especially if it is known beforehand that there is to be a contest, brings a sense of tension and excitement to the occasion. When the results are revealed, there is joy in some quarters, disappointment in others, but overall, what matters most is that the full support of all clubs is willingly given to those elected to serve.

The North Tipperary Convention last January was no exception. There was a three-way contest for the chair, Hubie Hogan from Lorrha being challenged by his two vice-chairmen, the late Pat Hogan and Martin O'Connor. This contest in itself was sufficient to engender that special air of tension and expectancy, a tension that was so visible among the delegates and equally visible as it abated when Hubie came out on top.

The remainder of the elections were proceeded with. The Board's Treasurer arose and said he was not going forward again. He would prefer to see some younger man have the post. He sat down, his request granted and due tributes were paid to his service over the years. The Convention continued and while it was my duty to report what was happening for my paper, my heart wasn't really in tune with the events of the day. Time and again my mind kept reverting to what had just happened. Seamus Gardiner had bowed out of active participation in the administrative affairs of the G.A.A., and somehow I felt sad. Here was a bit of history in the making; here was a link being severed, a link that was steadfast and true for more years than the oldest person in that Convention hall cared to remember.



To many of to-day's hurlers and footballers the name Seamus Gardiner may mean very little. To me, though a member of the younger brigade, it means a lot. It's a name that stands for so much in the G.A.A. and I will always deem it an honoured privilege to have been taught in the boys' national school in Borrisokane by this man, who from 1943 to 1946 was President of the G.A.A. and who has given a life-time of service to the Association, its ideals and its all round welfare.

Seamus came from Lisdoonvarna, in North Clare, a fine footballing traditional area and he was a member of a family that did Clare proud on the football field. On going to U.C.D., he took up football more seriously and soon became one of the most promising members of the team, although he himself is quick to say that it was chance that led him to fame in the college games, going on to lead U.C.D. in Sigerson Cup competitions.

"The trouble in the University was that you couldn't be sure of fellows, whether they would turn up or not, and I remember the man in charge coming up to me, because they were short for a particular game. He asked me if I'd play, so I did." That is how Seamus describes his initiation into colleges' football.

NORTH BOARD CHAIRMAN

In 1924 he took up a teaching post in Borrisokane—an event that was to start a distinguished career in the administrative affairs of the G.A.A.—and in 1927 he became Chairman of the North Tipperary Board, succeeding Frank McGrath and Rody Nealon. His worth was soon recognised at higher level and after a spell as one of Tipperary's delegates to the

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Munster Council, he became its Vice-Chairman in 1938 and then its Chairman.

In 1943 he became President of the G.A.A., defeating the man who was later to succeed him, the late Dan O'Keeffe. On the question of his selection as a candidate for the Presidency, Seamus gives the credit to the late Msgr. Hamilton, his fellow county man and at the time Clare's representative on the Provincial Council.

From 1943 to 1946 he ruled the affairs of the Association with dignity and honour. It was the era of Cork's record breaking four-in-a-row All-Ireland hurling titles; it was the era of the great Roscommon footballers and the All-Ireland hurling final of 1945 gave him one of his greatest thrills when he presented the McCarthy Cup to John Maher, who led Tipperary to victory over Kilkenny.

The duties of a President in those war years could hardly compare with those of to-day's men in office. Transport was a major problem and the bus was the most frequent mode of transport for Seamus in his travels to Dublin for meetings and to other parts of the country.

During his term as President, a friendship that had gone back for many years with the Ard Runai, the late Padraig O Caoimh, became stronger and they worked hand in hand throughout his term. Seamus is unstinting in his admiration of the late Runai. "A fine fellow, his finger was always on the pulse and his dedication and enthusiasm were boundless" is how Seamus describes him.

On the completion of his three years in office Seamus returned to the North Tipperary Board to which he was elected Treasurer, a post which received the same dedication and interest from him as those on higher bodies. Each year he was unanimously re-elected and the Board is very much in his debt for the excellence of his work and his diligent efforts at all times for the promotion of its success.

Yes, indeed. History was made at the Convention last January. Forty-four years of dedicated service came to an end and the Board honoured him by unanimously electing him a life member.

However, the Gardiner connection with the G.A.A. has not been broken. His son, Fr. Seamus, a teacher in St. Flannan's College, Ennis, was this year elected as the colleges representative on the Munster Council, thereby ensuring that the spirit and the enthusiasm, so ably given for so many years, will continue in G.A.A. circles for many years to come.

JOHN O'DONOGHUE— the killer of many a hopeful attack

By JOHN O'GRADY

IN THE LATE SUMMER OF 1972, John O'Donoghue retired. Never one for dramatics by personality or temperament, he made no big deal out of the announcement. Just a quiet word to the selectors, and John was gone.

To anyone with a reflective turn of mind it is always just a little sad when one of the regulars says he's giving it up at top level. The more so when you can remember quite well the retiring veteran when he was a fresh-featured minor with large possibilities all in front of him—a poignant hint that we're all getting older.

John ought not be let recede in the ranks of the retired without it being marked by appreciative words. We won't try the futile and inconclusive course of attempting to allot him a ranking among the long litany of Tipperary goalkeepers. Honour enough to say, without flattery, that he was of first-rate standard in all the precarious arts of the profession. The length and security of his career proves it sufficiently. He won his place in '64, weathered a few tremors in the first two League games and was never challenged for the position until Peter O'Sullivan was substituted for him in the second half against Cork in the 1970 Munster Final. That is a career of above average duration—roughly similar to that of the unequalled, marvellous Reddan, who came to it, of course, considerably older.

O'Donoghue won everything of value and prestige. The first thing he won might be regarded as of small importance. One wouldn't wonder if, looking back, he isn't more pleased with it than with All-Irelands, Leagues or Railway Cups. It was the Dr. Harty Cup of 1959, won incredibly—and more or less unrepeatably—by the Abbey C.B.S., Tipperary. The feat is roughly equal, in unlikelihood, to Kerry winning a senior hurling All-Ireland. The

school doesn't even enter for it nowadays and, in the years preceding, had never made any impact to speak of.

The first day this writer ever saw John in goal arose out of that Harty win. They met St. Kierans, Kilkenny, in Thurles, in the interprovincial round. Beaten and fairly well beaten, of course. But one could see something about the slim black-headed goal-keeper's calm attitude and impressive sureness.

Naturally, he graduated to Tipp minors for 1959. It's a year we have small trouble remembering in a minor context because it was the end of fat, prosperous, successful years and the start of a spell that is still there to depress us. When Tom Ryan of Killenaule rapped home a late free, Tipp had the minor crown and O'Donoghue had his first national medal. He was to have two more, of the maximum size.

That same year Tipp were starting on a remarkable sequence of goalkeepers from the West. Terry Moloney began the string, Donal O'Brien carried it on, playing the two winning All-Irelands of 1961 and 1962. When he emigrated, Roger Mounsey of Toomevara had a year in office, the luckless one of 1963 when Waterford were our masters in League and championship.

DEBUT DELAYED

In the 1960-63 period O'Donoghue was in Cork. He played some superb games with U.C.C. in the Fitzgibbon Cup but is best remembered for one absolute blinder against Glen Rovers in the championship. Thereby hangs a tale, for out of the game came a Board investigation of the College team. Result: a general suspension which delayed John's Tipperary debut. He had played in a county trial early in 1963 but the Cork blow fell soon afterwards.

His first appearance was not made at an ideal venue or against charitable opposition, Kilkenny at Nowlan Park, avid for victory and eager to capitalise on Tipp's recent presence in their group. They scored several goals, and beat us. The tone of the judgments on the new 'keeper was sharp enough, not enough weight given to his exposure by ill-timed defensive moves in front. He got another chance—and perilously near his last. It was at Nenagh against Limerick in an N.H.L. semi-final. The visitors had a goal before lots of people had got their eyes rightly focussed on the play. It came from about forty yards. Tipp, people see no goal-keeping merits in goals from forty yards. John committed another fault, due to very natural anxiety to play safe: he went down on his knees a few times. There was talk that he "wouldn't do."

Well, of course, he "did," and handsomely. In 1964 and 1965 the automatic line of Doyle, Maher and Carey was backed by a goalkeeper of grace and certainty as the team, perhaps our smoothest group of any era, took the All-Irelands with thrilling ease over Kilkenny and Wexford. These, coming

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at the start of his career, proved to be its most successful moments. There were others in League and Oireachtas. Championship troubles appeared in 1966 when we fell to Limerick and Wexford in successive seasons. It is a measure of O'Donoghue's class that he was one of the brightest stars even with a quintet of green flags from Doran and the rest in 1968.

He played hundreds of games at all levels. There's no shred of doubt which was his absolute best. Classic goalkeeping displays can stir the blood years afterwards. There's a quality of heroism about the lone individual defying everyone and everything from outright blazing drive to point-blank handpass. Each save becomes a new climax. And when the inspired goalkeeper has the good fortune to win it for his side, that's the crowning touch. John O'Donoghue reached those heights, and achieved that result, on a dull, heavy November day at Thurles against Cork in the Oireachtas of 1969. His saves had the quantity and the quality that few goalkeepers ever reach, except in self-flattering daydreams.

Nobody finishes up as good as he used to be. Cork beat us in the championships of 1969 and 1970. There were those who felt some of the sharpness was going from John in the former year as Cork got three fast goals. But he still manner the familiar place in 1970—or did so for a while. After a couple of second-half goals, notably one from Cullinane, we saw Peter O'Sullivan introduced and O'Donoghue lying on the sideline grass. Some said it was a harsh move. Peter played superbly—and it was the beginning of the end of John. He accepted with patience the role of sub. for over a year as Tipp won the 1971 All-Ireland. Then young Tadhg Murphy was being brought on as Peter's understudy. That was the actual end.

PERSONALITY

Goalkeeping is a great revealer of personality. One of the nicest things about O'Donoghue was that he never acted the martyr or made bids for sideline sympathy—the "poor defenceless 'keeper at the mercy of big bullying forwards" routine. He never took instant offence at being charged or felt he had to resent the forwards following up an attack. Thus he was seldom, if ever, in trouble.

Technically he had a fine talent for the catch and sideways escape method. One very individual touch: he often caught with his right hand while holding the stick half-way down the handle with his left. Then he would throw up the ball, re-grip with his right and clear away in normal style.

Not a word has been said, so far, of his other and parallel career as a footballer with Tipp, in goal or out the field. Nor of his skill at badminton. Nor of his quick progress at golf. Nor of all his service to Arravale Rovers. We just haven't the space. In any event, John O'Donoghue's prime and precious gift was in the way of halting the progress of a leather-clad missile with stick or hand. He has our sincere thanks for the honours he won us and the pleasure he gave us in doing so.

BRINGING THE EXILES A LITTLE BIT OF HOME

By GERRY SLEVIN

"A RUGGED GAME played by Irishmen" was how an ITV continuity man described hurling, when on the afternoon of Sunday, May 28th, he introduced to British television viewers a recording of part of the highlights of the previous day's Wembley game between Tipperary and Limerick.

In the company of members of the Tipp team and officials, I sat in the Atlantic Hotel in Queen's Garden and viewed what was to follow. Less than twenty-four hours before, I had watched the game live in Wembley's famed stadium as Tipp and Limerick battled out in true sporting fashion for the right to become holders of the Galtymore Cup. Hurling a rugged game? Our TV friend may have had such ideas before viewing the recording, but in true typical British fashion, his comments when the twenty minute recording ended were—the highest individual score of the afternoon was seventeen stitches—.

I needn't relate the things that were said in the comfort of the Atlantic Hotel when these words were uttered! And they were not said out of pique but because of a genuine feeling that here was a game for the he-man, a game in which expert knowledge is essential and a game which does not shun bodily contact but thrives in sound, but clean tackling that gives rise to shouts of delight and admiration from the legion of fans who follow the game.

15,000 or so, Irish people in Britain, thrilled to the feats of Tipp and Limerick in Wembley last May. For Tipp it was probably their best performance of the year, a performance that gave rise to hopes of another All-Ireland success, hopes, alas, that were to prove unfounded some weeks later. Still, on the turf that has become probably the most famous of all sporting arenas, Tipp hurled in truly magnificent style to crush Limerick 8-7 to 4-12.

The game of course was only a part of the entire scene, a vital part though, but still one that showed that the primary aim of the week-end's festivities, that of winning, was not forgotten by the players. It was a truly memorable week-end all round and no praise is high enough for the members of the

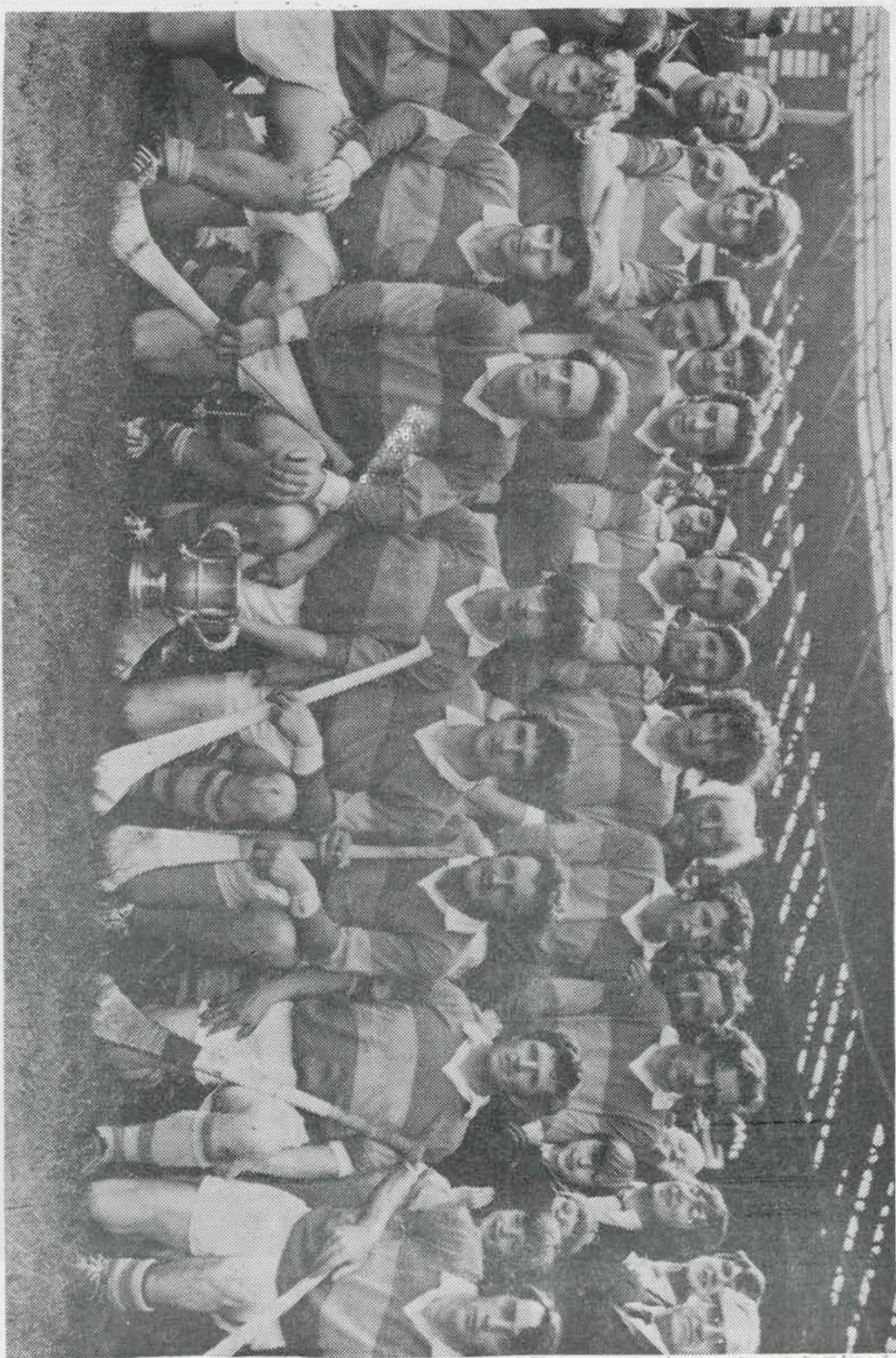
Tipp Association in London under the president, Michael McCormack; chairman Dick Butler; and secretary, Jimmy Keating (brother of 'Babs') for lengths they went to, to ensure our stay was a happy and unforgettable one.

Tipp people came in their hundreds both to the game and to the hotel to meet the players. This was their week-end and in the words of Co. Board Chairman, Seamus Ryan, at the banquet in the Gresham Ballroom in Holloway Road, "it is my wish that Tipp will be returning often again and that, in our own way, we will be able to help the G.A.A. in London through fine games, thereby providing enjoyment for our many emigrants, being fully conscious of what the G.A.A. means to the exiles in London."

There was genuine regret when the time for departure came. Friendships had been renewed, cemented, and new friends were made, and the overall feeling of the visitors was that in some small way, they had helped to bring Ireland and its hurling a little bit nearer to those who love the game so well but by circumstances are forced to live away from it.



A typical Roger Ryan dash as he prepares to score Tipperary's 5th goal against Limerick in the Wembley Whit tournament.



Surrounded by a happy group of exiles, members of the Tipp team complete with the Garryowen Cup pose after their thrilling victory over Limerick in the Wembley Tournament in May.

Back row, left to right: Gerry Doyle, Jim Fogarty, Francis Loughane, Noel Lane, Seamus Hogan, Paul Byrne, John Kelly. Front, left to right: John Flanagan, Tadhg O'Connor, Liam King, Martin Esmonde (capt.), John Gleeson, Peter O'Sullivan, Dinny Ryan, Michael Coad.

Absent when the photo was taken were Mick Roche, Michael Keating, John O'Donoghue, Noel O'Dwyer, and Roger Ryan.

Roscrea are back on top

FOR THE FOURTH TIME in five years, Roscrea are county senior hurling champions, an honour that is as richly deserved as their win over Borrisoleigh in the final at Semple Stadium, Thurles, was convincing. And at this stage all will hope that the club's reign at the helm will be as successful as the last time, when Tadhg O'Connor led Tipperary to their twenty-second All-Ireland title.

once more

By MICHAEL DUNDON, "Tipperary Star"

But yet, one has reservations. Roscrea are champions of the county, but not of their division. To an outsider, it sounds crazy, but it is one of the things that can happen under the present system in Tipperary where divisional and county championships are separate competitions, with no connection whatsoever. In fact, Roscrea didn't even get to the North final this year.

At county convention next January, there is certain to be a lot of talk about the present system. Biggest argument against it is the fact that it has reduced the divisional championships to second rate competitions. Previously, to qualify for the county quarter-finals, a club had to at least get to the final in its own division. This naturally gave added importance to the divisional championship, and a team that came through its division was generally well worth its place in the latter stages of the county competition.

Under the present system, a club can get right to the final with soft draws all along the way. Moyne-Templetuohy got this kind of break last year, and made the most of it. On top of that, the early games in the county championship are completely devoid of atmosphere, and the argument that the pairing of clubs from the different divisions would make for attractive fixtures for both players and spectators is shot down by the sparse attendances at first and second round games, and the indifference of many clubs at this stage. On the other hand, under the divisional

system, we would not have such worthy champions, as Roscrea—so, as the man said, you pay your money and take your chance.

Having sampled the open draw for three years, however, it is time to return to the old system.

All this does not take from Roscrea's achievement however, and, had Francis Loughnane been available for their North semi-final against Lorrha, there is a strong possibility that Roscrea would have the divisional as well as the county pennant now. No one can deny that they are the best club side in the county at present, and it will take a really good team to dislodge them from their place at the top of the Tipperary hurling ladder.

31 TEAMS

Thirty-one teams entered for this year's competition, and in the first round, the reigning champions, Moyne-Templetuohy, were given a bye, which left fifteen games, with fifteen winners and Moyne/Templetuohy making it convenient for the running of the rest of the championship.

Thirty teams facing the starter conjures up visions of a hurling Grand National, and sure enough, one of the favourites came a cropper at the first hurdle, Thurles Sarsfields falling heavily before Carrick Davins at rain-soaked Cashel. All the other favourites steered clear of trouble, Roscrea getting the better of Carrick Swans, and Borris-Ileigh routing Wild Rovers, the Cahir-Burncourt combination from

South Tipperary.

On then to the second round, and here too we had a notable faller, Moycarkey-Borris being eliminated by Lorrha. Borris-Ileigh repeated an earlier win over Newport here, and Roscrea, minus Francis Loughnane who was winning an international cap in the shinty international in Scotland, accounted for Drom-Inch.

This narrowed things down considerably, leaving only eight teams in contention, and at last the champions began to take shape. The quarter-finals produced the following pairings: Roscrea v. Moyne-Templetuohy, a repeat of the '71 final; Borris-Ileigh v. Carrick Davins; Moneygall v. Kilruane, and Lorrha v. Toomevara. Things were certainly warming up, and all four games held promise.

The repeat of last year's final looked the most attractive, and Moyne had Roscrea in a lot of trouble, but the failure of the Moyne attack to take their chances proved fatal, and Roscrea moved on to the semi-finals, gaining some compensation for the previous year's defeat on the way. Borris-Ileigh had Carrick Davins well-beaten when casualness crept into their play, and the South Tipperary side very nearly caught them in an exciting finish. Moneygall showed great promise at Nenagh against Kilruane and won convincingly, while Lorrha won quite readily over Toomevara.

There were raised eyebrows in some quarters at the all North division semi-finals, and not surprisingly, the venue for the games

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was Nenagh. Roscrea atoned for their defeat in the North championship by defeating Lorrha, but Borrisoleigh had a close shave before getting the better of a gallant Moneygall.

THE SHOWPIECE

And so to the showpiece of the year, and despite a considerable time lapse between the semi-finals and the final, the prospect of a Roscrea v. Borris-Ileigh final aroused great interest. Borris-Ileigh won great support by the manner in which they disposed of Lorrha in the North final, while awaiting the county final, but Roscrea were a very solid looking side, and there was always Francis Loughnane.

The great day dawned at last, but it was one of the wettest days of the year. Rain lashed down all Saturday night and Sunday morning. An inspection of the ground on Sunday morning by county secretary, Tommy Barrett, and Thurles Sportsfield official, Tom Max, was encouraging. The pitch was standing up magnificently to the deluge, but as a precaution, the minor final between Kilruane McDonagh and Moycarkey-Borris was postponed.

Before one of the smallest crowds ever, 3,000 approx., Roscrea and Borris-Ileigh took the field, with the Moycarkey pipers trying to dispel some of the gloom with their selections. The rain stayed coming down in bucketfuls, and before ever the ball was thrown in by Sean Moloney of Bansha, the players were soaked to the skin. Undaunted, they set to their task, Roscrea, appearing in their sixth successive final, obviously much less affected by nerves. Joe Tynan had an early goal for them, and Jimmy Crampton's sideline cut ten minutes later, was brought down by Owen Walshe in the Borris goal, but he could not prevent the ball slipping across the line into the net.

Between these goals, Noel O'Dwyer shot a free to the Roscrea net to give Borris encouragement, but before the interval, Jody Spooner had Roscrea's third goal; leaving them 3-5 to 1-2 in front.

The situation was indeed grim for Borris-Ileigh and promising for Roscrea. The resumption saw Bor-

ris go about their job with great determination. They forced three twenty-one yards frees in a row, but on each occasion their efforts for a goal were beaten out. They narrowed the gap with points, and then young Brendan Kenny had all Borrisoleigh roaring their heads off when he made a magnificent run down the left flank, before squaring for Liam Carroll to finish the ball to the Roscrea net.

Only a goal behind, and playing with the wind and rain, Borris-Ileigh's chances had brightened considerably, but then, in a minute, disaster for them. First, Joe Cunningham netted from Joe Tynan's centre, and almost from the puck-out, Francis Loughnane shot to the net from forty yards. It was all over—Roscrea were the champions—and bravely though Borris-Ileigh tried in the remaining fourteen minutes, the likelihood of them bridging the gap was remote.

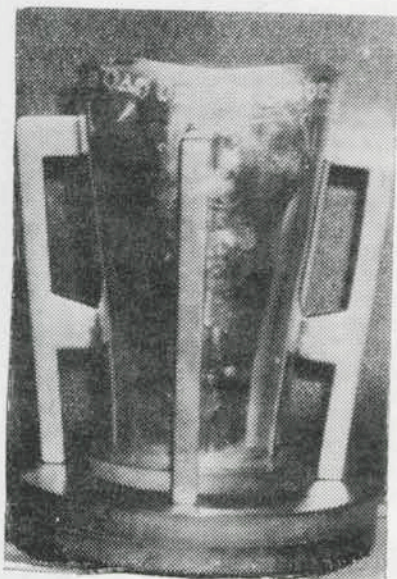
GREAT SERVICE

Roscrea are worthy champions, and as a club have given great service to the county. The bulk of their players have represented the county at some level, and at the present time Tadhg Murphy, Tadhg O'Connor and Francis Laughnane are regulars on the county senior side. Players like Jimmy Crampton, Joe Cunningham and Joe Tynan should come in for consideration in the near future. The veterans of the team, Mick Hogan and Mick Minogue, had a hand in all their four championship successes, and can be very pleased with themselves. Patsy Roland too showed what a great club player he is, but above all, Roscrea's triumph was a victory for team work.

Borris-Ileigh contributed generously to making it a successful championship and most people would have liked to see them recapture the title they last held in 1953, but that was not to be.

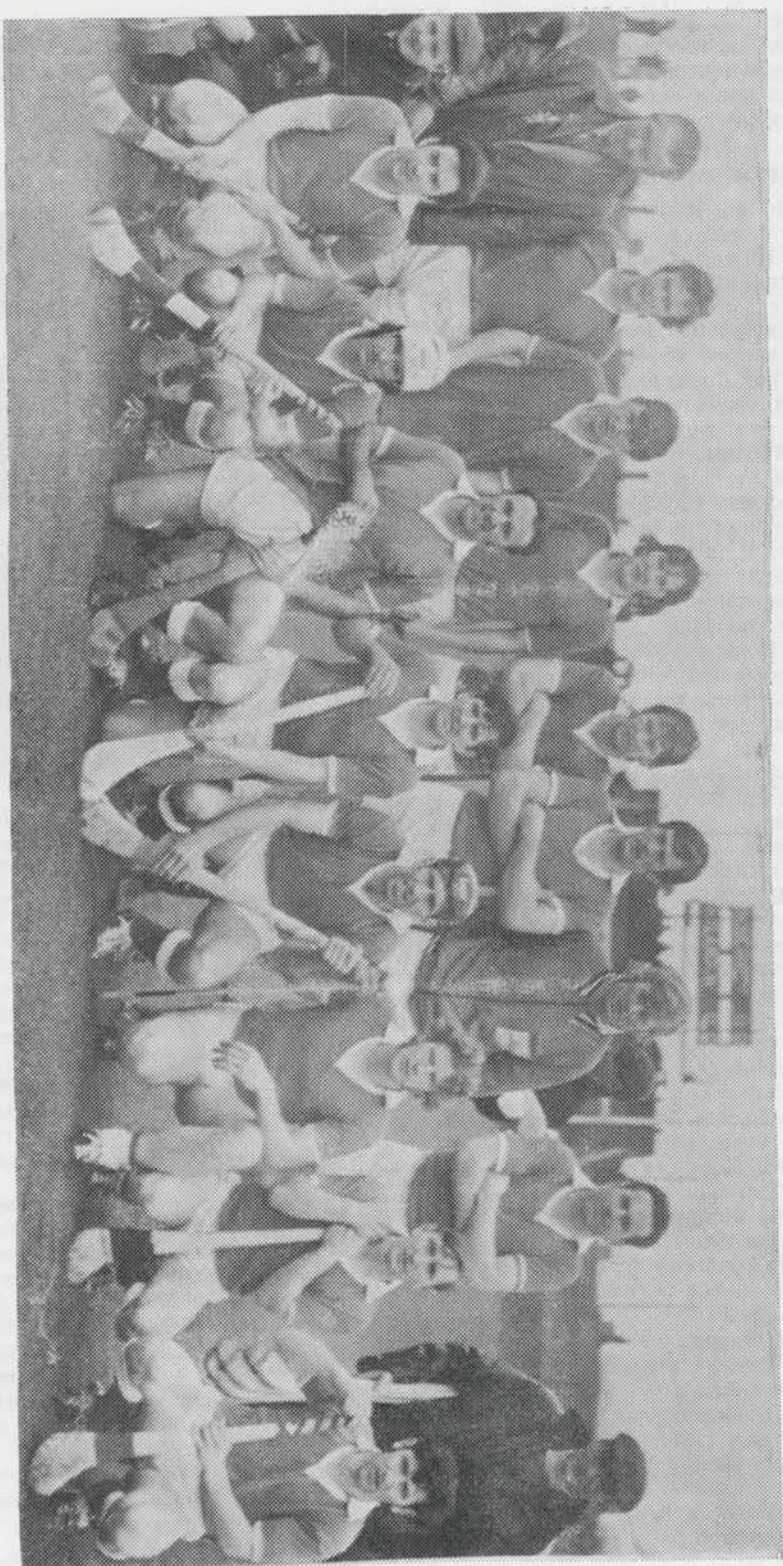
And so it's all over for another year. Many clubs will have very different memories of the championship, what might have been if . . . but be that as it may be, 1972 was Roscrea's year, and now Roscrea-Borrisoleigh final aroused to '73.

THE NEW DAN BREEN CUP



The Roscrea and Borrisoleigh senior hurlers who took the field for the county SHC final had an added incentive in that there was a new trophy for the competition this year. The wear and tear of victory celebrations over the past number of years saw to it that the Dan Breen Cup, in existence since 1931, had come to the end of its days, and the Dan Breen Memorial Committee presented to the County Board a new trophy which now finds its first home in Roscrea.

The new Dan Breen Cup, with the design of an ancient Irish drinking vessel—the Mether—is similar to, though slightly smaller than, the Liam McCarthy Cup for the All-Ireland championship. It is of solid silver with an unique base in that the conventional type base is abandoned and in its place is a two-tiered mahogany plinth manufactured specially by a Moneygall craftsman.



Tipp's top hurling team, Roscrea, who recaptured the county SHC title by defeating Borrisoleigh in the decider: Standing, left to right, John Joe Maher (secretary), Jimmy Crampton, Tom Tynan, Jody Spooner, Billy Stapleton, Jackie Hannon (capt.), Tadhg Murphy, Mick Minogue, Martin Loughnane (trainer). Front, left to right, Willie O'Reilly, (chairman), Francis Loughnane, Joe Cunningham, Mick Hogan, Donie Moloney, Patsy Roland, Brendan Maher, Joe Tynan, Tadhg O'Connor.

ON TOUR WITH THE STARS

—San Francisco

1972

LAST MARCH one of the most significant tours ever undertaken by G.A.A. players took the All-Ireland hurling and football champions, plus the two Carrolls All Star teams, on a thirteen thousand mile trip to San Francisco. To most of us in that party of over one hundred and thirty, 'Frisco was somewhere beyond the horizon, often seen in the films with Tony Bennett adding the lyrics. The hurlers were to play two games, likewise the footballers, and the RTE film crew, of which I was a member, was to cover the action as well as pick up other stories for Sport in Action or Sports Special along the way.

For me at least it was a labour of love. Tipperary were All-Ireland hurling champions and Offaly were wearers of the football crown. I had connections and indeed friends in both camps. After all, I had gained recognition as a Tippman since I learned my hurling in Dunkerrin, while at the same time I can never escape the fact that I was born in the County Hospital, Tullamore.

With Mick Dunne as reporter, Liam Campbell as commentator, Eileen Good (née Walshe of Templemore) as Production Assistant, and the camera crew we joined the flight at Dublin Airport. The place was buzzing with excitement and natty blazered Offaly men. Shannon was even more pulsating a few hours later as we were joined by more All Star players and the full Tipperary contingent. Wives and sweethearts were kissed goodbye, rivals of yesterday were greeted with a smile and handshakes, and, after a short period of stocking up with duty-free goods, we were winging our way across the Atlantic for what was to turn out to be the greatest twelve days in the lives of many on board.

The journey to San Francisco was memorable for two things. At Pittsburgh the customs people took all my bacon and sausages because they were not properly sealed. (Served me right since I did not get them in Roscrea!) The other item was Peter O'Sullivan's singing, while Noel O'Dwyer, Roger Ryan and others were playing cards. Of course, as is now customary on long distance flights, there were filmshows and plenty to eat. The fourteen

Michael O'Carroll, Producer/Director with Radio Telefís Éireann Sports Department, was born thirty-six years ago near Dunkerrin. He attended Dunkerrin N.S. under the guidance of Seamus O'Riain who coached him for a County Council scholarship which he took at Mount Saint Joseph's College, Roscrea. It was while at Dunkerrin school that he developed a love of sports, particularly hurling, and it was this interest that eventually took him to his present position in RTE. Both in 1971 and this year he was responsible for directing the All-Ireland Hurling Final live on RTE Television.

By MICHAEL O'CARROLL

hours' flying time soon passed and we were greeted at San Francisco Airport on Thursday night by an enthusiastic group of exiles. Next day most people rested while we had to go to work. The complete RTE crew flew to Los Angeles because on Saturday we had an appointment to meet at Santa Anita track the Curragh-born racehorse trainer John Canty, who is recognised as one of the top trainers on the West Coast. John turned out to be a real gentleman, a good talker, and to make matters lucrative for us at least, he produced two winners that afternoon including the exiled Irish favourite Nor. With a Sport In Action feature now in the can we flew back to San Francisco.

Sunday was action day at Balboa Stadium where Tipperary won the hurling game and Offaly were to fail by a point against the All Star footballers. The crowd was not as thick on the terraces as one would like and the games themselves were by no means earth shattering. But to be fair to the players it was difficult for them to acclimatise to a pitch that was much shorter than normal.

PLENTY TO SEE

During the next week there was plenty to see in and around the beautiful city of San Francisco. Cablecars, Golden Gate Bridge, Chinatown, Broadway and elsewhere had visits from the players. Some like Francis Loughnane and Mick Keating went visiting relations in other parts of California while Paul Byrne, Noel O'Dwyer, John Flanagan and Peter O'Sullivan availed of the empty space in our camera car to go sight-seeing and also to ice hockey across the bay in Oakland. Everywhere we went the hospitality was embarrassing. It was plain to be seen that Irishmen living in San Francisco were prepared to put themselves to great inconvenience to make the visiting group feel at home. One man—John Kealy from Kilkenny—even arranged that his horse, Erin's Wind, won at the local track and paid something like 5 to 1. The lads from Kilkenny cleaned up on that one, I am sure! But the Tippmen (some of them at least) also had a flutter.

Apart from the sights of the sunkissed and

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friendly city, I was most impressed by what I saw when I visited on a film trip the Olympia Club. Here was a club for men that had a membership of over 4,000. There were facilities for squash, swimming, track and field, wrestling, golf, boxing, weightlifting and handball. The five handball courts were on the first floor and of the membership some 650 were active handballers. Some as young as 12, others as young as 75. Our Irish game of handball is big in the United States with some 10 million players. The Olympic Club think it important enough to have a full-time handball coach employed. Perhaps there is a pointer here to those organising other tours to California. Why not take along some of our top handballers to challenge the champions on the West Coast of America? Believe me, it would prove popular and perhaps interest a great many people of other national origins in our Gaelic games apart altogether from handball. Many of the handballers at the Olympic Club are past the competition age. Yet they continue to play on a regular basis for enjoyment and health reasons alone and this is an element that sadly we have neglected here in Ireland.

But, back to the tour. On the second Sunday the Tipperary men went down to a rampant All Star team. The week's festivities, late nights and the travelling had taken its toll on the wearers of the Blue and Gold. Offaly on the other hand avenged

their defeat of the previous Sunday and sadly the crowd was even smaller still. It was Easter Sunday and many San Franciscans were out of town for a long weekend. However, in future it is hoped that not alone the Irish and Irish-Americans can be enticed to attend the games, but also the other national groups. Why should not the Chinese, the Italians and the others enjoy our games? Hurling, in particular, should be sold to the American public in as big a way as possible prior to the tour. The San Francisco based organisers should strive to publicise the games through every medium open to them long before arrival day and then perhaps they might get much nearer to packing Balboa Stadium. Because, it must be remembered, that in San Francisco and the surrounding area there are only 15,000 Irish and Irish-Americans in all. So, unlike New York, there is no ready-made crowd.

However, the tour was a complete success. All players to a man would go back again and let's hope that such tours continue to be run. I feel it gives players something to play for in their championship games back home. And, in the eyes of the public at large, it gives our Gaelic games a certain status. On a personal note I have long forgiven the U.S. customs official at Pittsburg for being over-officious by dumping my rashers in the trash can. Next time all my prime pork will be properly sealed, I need not tell you.

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Second winners of the Canon Fitzgerald Cup (post primary schools' hurling) were Cashel CBS, who, having ousted the holders, Borrisokane VS in the semi-final, defeated Thurles CBS in the decider, 2-8 to 3-4. Standing, left to right: Rev. Bro. Malone (trainer), C. Ryan, J. Whyte, J. J. Kennedy, L. Shanahan, J. Grogan, J. Ryan, T. Slattery, P. Hayes, M. O'Byrne, T. O'Grady, J. Minogue. Front, left to right: P. Leamy, G. Mulligan, J. Gleeson, J. J. O'Dwyer, J. Ryan, M. Murphy, T. Morrissey, J. Sheehy, L. O'Dwyer, L. O'Neill.

FOOTBALL FLOURISHED IN KILRUANE BEFORE 1884

IN MODERN TIMES Kilruane has been noted for its hurlers rather than as a football area, and it is known that in the early days of the G.A.A. 85 years ago this district boasted many hurling clubs. It will therefore come as a surprise to learn that some years before the foundation of the Association in 1884 several football clubs flourished there.

The source of this information is a notebook in the National Library in Dublin belonging to Kilruane Football Club between 1876 and 1880. Described by its anonymous compiler as an account book, it gives mostly financial data about this club; but from these it is possible to get a general picture of activities over a three-year period.

For three years there are lists of members—55 in 1876, 50 in 1877, and 42 in 1879-80. That for 1876 is given below; so are the names of new members for the other years. That a few Protestants (presumably Unionist in outlook) were in the club need not cause surprise, for outside of Dublin and the other cities and big towns, athletics were participated in during the 1860s and 1870s without regard to political or religious differences, in a spirit of harmony unknown to class-ridden Dublin, Cork and Belfast.

Who did the footballers of Kilruane play against 95 odd years ago? This account book gives the answer; it shows that similar clubs flourished in Nenagh, Carrigatoher and Killeen, although the first two usually played only cricket—a game that, to the dismay of leading nationalist athletes like Michael Cusack and P. W. Nally, was then widely sponsored in rural Ireland by well-meaning landlords who assumed that native games were extinct. But the men of the nearby 53rd Regiment, many of them Irish, had no time for England's national game, and much preferred 25-a-side football against the men of Kilruane.

Nowadays the necessity of every G.A.A. club-member having to pay an annual subscription is recognised; 95 years ago to join Kilruane club you had to pay half-a-crown a year—and it rose to 3s. 6d. in 1877. However, 50 half-crowns went far in those days. In 1876 two balls were purchased at 12s. 6d. and 13s. 5d.—and the second only after the bladder of the first had been repaired for one shilling! In addition, 16 yards of green tape cost 1s. 8d., one yard of white tape 3d., and an unspeci-

fied number of caps 16s. 4d. From accounts of games elsewhere at this period we know that this tape was cut into long ribbons and attached to each player's cap to distinguish one team from another; perhaps the white ribbon was for the captain or the goal-keeper?

Kilruane club of the 1870s had its social events, and we get a glimpse of these too. In 1876 2½ barrels of porter were bought for £1 10s. and 4 gallons of ale at 8/-. By 1877 inflation had set in, and the same quantity of porter came to £1 14s. The footballers of Kilruane had increased their capacity too, for in 1877 they also bought 2½ gallons of whisky for 21s. 3d.; there were some teetotallers also, who polished off 2/- worth of lemonade that year. But the next year the whisky-drinkers had to fall back on a gallon of malt (at a cost to their club of 17/-), while their more abstemious teammates doubled their intake of lemonade for the bargain-price of 3s. 4d. That year too no less than 12/- worth of bread was bought; so perhaps it was as well that in 1877 a travelling-bag had been invested in for 2s. 9d.

By now some readers, anxious about Kilruane's loyalty to native games, will be asking what proof there is that the game Kilruane Football Club played a century ago was Irish at all. To this query it must be admitted that no firm answer can be given, mainly because no record of scores has survived. But one can make an intelligent guess. Most significant is the mention of "Rev. Fr. Marinan" heading the list for 1877. A few minutes' search in the Catholic Directory for 1880 establishes that this was Fr. William Marinan, a curate in the parish of Kilbarron near Borrisokane in Killaloe diocese. Since such men were not given to playing 'foreign games' in rural Ireland of the 1870s, and as Fr. Marinan was probably from across the Shannon, it looks as if what Kilruane was playing eight years before the G.A.A. began was a type of native football.

We can go a little further. Since association football had not then penetrated so far South, the only other brand of football was rugby, which did then enjoy some limited support in garrison towns. And since this account book records that in two games against Nenagh Cricket Club in January and February 1878 the teams were of 15-a-side, it is not out of the question that some form of hybrid football was played on these two occasions, either as a friendly gesture or by way of compromise.

But against Killeen, Carrigatoher and the 53rd Regiment the teams fielded were of either 20 or 25-a-side, and this can only have been for the type of native football then known in many parts of the country. However, to solve this mystery properly we should have to inspect the "book on football" purchased in 1876 for 7d.; but this is missing. Is it perhaps still lying around—hidden in some press or drawer in Kilruane?

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Kilruane's Membership 1876-'80

1876

Michael Spain
Edward Flannery
William Spain
Joseph Minogue
Thomas Spain
Patrick Minogue
Thomas Duane
James Peters
Patrick Minogue
James Minogue
William Martin
William Hayes
Patrick Gleeson
Thomas Meara
John Scully
Patrick Keogh
Michael Gleeson
Stephen Meagher
Patrick Flannery

Edward Wall
Michael Spain
Patrick Spain
John Spain
James Kelly
John Hogan
Michael Flannery
John Flannery
Patrick Hogan
Michael Gleeson
Frank Flannery
John Gaynor
John Flannery
Patrick Meara
Matt Whaley
Patrick Nolan
Rody Nolan
William Kennedy
Con Keogh
Francis Flannery

Daniel Gleeson
William Morkane
Kennedy Brien
James Flannery
William Delaney
John Flaherty
James Kelly
John Hogan
George O'Leary
R. Spain
E. O'Meara
P. Ryan
William Parker
Michael Gaynor
Batt Kennedy
James Kennedy

1877 (new)

N. Moloney
P. Cahill

T. McDonagh
P. White

1878 (new)

John Hearn
Thomas O'Brien
William Morkane
James Morkane
Thomas Blackwell
Darby Ryan
James Tierney
Edward O'Leary
Patrick Moloughney
Con McDonagh
John Moloughney

1879-80 (new)

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THE SCREAMS OF TIPPERARY'S TRADITION

By GERRY SLEVIN

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Pat Fanning's faith

GA.A. PRESIDENT, Pat Fanning, isn't a man who is flippant with words. There is scarcely a man in public life in Ireland from whom words flow so freely. Journalists dread it when he gets up to speak, because he seldom if ever carries a script with him, and he proceeds to utter his message with such a depth of feeling and with such an extensive vocabulary that one can be prepared for quite a long sitting when this top man in the Association arises to address a gathering.

Pat is a man imbued with the ideals of the Association; a man not easily moved, but there was one occasion in the summer of 1972, when Pat was genuinely moved and it took the young boys and girls from the primary schools of Tipperary to cause this expression of genuine emotion. It was the opening of Feil na nGael in Thurles on July 21st and as the President addressed the large gathering in the main hall of Scoil Ailbe, his main concern was not so much for the audience that listened attentively to his free flowing words but for what he described as "the effect of a tradition screaming out at them" in the shape of a series of projects on the history of the G.A.A. in the various parishes of Tipperary, researched and compiled by the young boys and girls of many primary schools throughout the county.

The main 'sideshow' during the inaugural Feile in 1971 had been a museum in the self-same room



GAA President Pat Fanning pictured at the Press Conference in Dublin to announce details for Tipperary's second Feile na nGael along with members of the organising committee: Front, left to right, Tom Kirby (Feile Secretary), Mr. Fanning, William Corbett, NT., Eamon de Stafort. Behind, left to right, Pat Ryan, Martin O'Connor, Peadar Cummins, Michael Prior.

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in Scoil Ailbe at which was gathered numerous items of historic interest—old hurleys, trophies, books, photographs etc. The value of this museum is reflected in the fact that when closing time came on the Sunday of Feile '71, there were still many people clamouring to get in and view the exhibits. Then came the decision to stage the Feile again, but for obvious reasons an assembly of these many treasured items once more, would be out of the question. What would replace it? Could anything be found to sustain the same enthusiasm and interest that was so manifest the previous year?

A project competition was decided upon and with Allied Irish Banks chipping in with prize money, the organisers set about their task, more hopeful than confident that what was now to replace the museum, would meet with at least the same general approval of the discerning public. The theme of the project looked a simple one—the history of the G.A.A. in one's parish. Fourteen centres decided to have a go and their efforts were there for all to see when the Feile opened on Friday night, July 21st.

It was no wonder that President Pat was moved. How could anyone fail to be moved as the effects of a great tradition, expertly compiled and presented by the pupils of the schools under the guidance and diligence of their teachers, adorned the walls of the spacious hall? The work that had gone into each project was unbelievable. Old hurlers and footballers had been contacted by the pupils; old photographs and trophies unearthed and with a wealth of information, so tastefully and expertly presented, the history of these parishes in relation to the G.A.A. was unfolded enthrallingly, giving adjudicator Matt Ryan, from Ballyfin, many hours of bewilderment before he eventually came up with

his verdict.

To the combined efforts of the Borrisokane Boys' N.S., the Convent N.S., and Aglish N.S., went the first prize of £50 and the reason which Matt gave as being the deciding factor in making the award was that in the Borrisokane effort was "the mighty strength of three educational establishments, pooling their resources, and this is community effort really in action."

Runner-up was Moneygall/Dunkerrin, with a tie for third place between Kilruane McDonaghs (Cloughjordan N.S.) and Gortnahoe/Glengoose (Gortnahoe N.S.)

The entries from Boherlahan, Burgess, Holycross/Ballycahill, Thurles C.B.S. (6a class), Cappawhite, Barnane, Killenaule, Kilsheelin, Birdhill, and Ursuline Convent, Thurles, did not go unrewarded either—all receiving consolation prizes. From that Friday night until the Feile closed on the following Sunday night, people from many parts came along and viewed the projects, going away as Pat Fanning did, "strengthened in their faith in the young people of Ireland."

Pat's own words sum it all up aptly. "It is said of the young people, and repeated ad nauseam, that they offer nothing, that they are not thinking things that are important. Here, you involve, and when you involve, they re-act and their response screams out at us from these walls. When I see here the strength of a county represented in the work of young people, I recognise that we can reach our young people and as long as we are doing that there is no fear for the future. The future of our hurling is in their hands and with our hurling, the future of the Association and the very future of our country, and the type of country we would fashion for ourselves and for our people."



John Ryan (left) and Eddie Farrell, both of St. Mary's, Clonmel, winners of the Tailteann Under 21 Doubles hardball title.



The Borrisoleigh team which won the North Tipperary SHC after a 17-year lapse and were runners up to Roscrea in the County final. Standing, left to right: Tom Tierney, Owen Walsh, Ned Ryan, Liam Devaney, Matt Stapleton, Mick Stapleton, Pat Maher, Tommy O'Dwyer, Timmy Ryan, Noel O'Dwyer (capt.). Kneeling: Seamus Hynes, Brendan Kenny, T. F. Stapleton, Noel Maher, Timmy Delaney, Eddie Loughmane, Liam Carroll, Pat Tynan. In front is the club's long-serving Hon. Secretary, Philly Ryan.

A Post-Primary Schools essay competition was one of the highlights of Feile na nGael in Thurles in July.

First prize winner was SHEILA O'DEA, 78 Irishtown, Clonmel, and here is the winning essay:

It is difficult to judge anything in a present or future context without first taking a brief look at the past. In the case of the G.A.A., the past is vital in forming a judgement of the present and visualising the future. In a rapidly changing world it is important that we, as a distinct race of people, know something about our past, our culture, our heritage, and our games. Without being slaves to the past we must learn the lessons it has to offer and examine its ideals in the cold light of this atomic age.

For my part, I still find the ideals of the founders of the Association not only acceptable but entirely satisfying. Michael Cusack, Maurice Davin, Dr. Croke, and the other founders, confronted problems similar to those facing us today. Indeed, Dr. Croke, in his letter accepting patronage of the new movement, referred to the "degenerative dandies" of his day who smirked at everything native. We are not short of "degenerate dandies" today.

If the sacrifices of our fathers have banished what Dr. Croke referred to as "England's bloody red" from the greater part of our soil, we are still being subjected to assaults from all the insidious forces of an alien culture.

But the G.A.A. is a mighty bulwark against foreign influences. Alone of sporting organisations it is in the vanguard to preserve our Irish way of life. It has ever been true to its ideals, pride in our games, pride in our rich heritage of music, song and dance. And above all, pride in our native language. It is the kind of pride we associate with Matt the Thrasher and "the honour of the little village." The cynics sneer at us for insisting on Irish notepaper, ignoring the reason for this, to keep Irish workers in Irish jobs. Next to the Government, it is the biggest contributor to the Gaelic League. It subsidises thousands of children to holidays in the Gaeltacht each year to improve their Irish.

For the past three years it has contributed thousands of pounds to Northern relief. Alone, it has organised regular contributions on a county basis. The G.A.A. President was not afraid to speak out when a G.A.A. Park was being used by British troops. It is a de facto 32-county organisation. It makes no concessions about flags or anthems nor does it accept a 26-county status for the sake of expediency. In short it stands for an Ireland "not only free but Gaelic as well."

It is true that in the past recognition was given to mature adults only. But over the years vast changes have taken place within the Association. For many years the importance of youth has been recognised. To this end a whole new concept has

THE G.A.A. —PRESENT AND FUTURE

emerged. Juvenile Boards have been established in all areas. All the progressive clubs are catering for youth through Bord na nOg. All age groups from under 12 to 18 are adequately provided for in hurling and football competitions. Hurleys are made available at cheap rates and coaching and training willingly given by the adults. Most counties recognise the importance of encouragement by a subsidised Turus na nOg for the winners on All-Ireland day.

Apart from the playing of the games, the G.A.A. emphasis on all things Irish is well exemplified in the Scor competitions. This involves the club and the parish, people of all ages and sexes involving themselves in singing, dancing, and traditional music to packed halls. It involves parish, county and interprovincial rivalry. It is freely admitted the juvenile competitions had a higher standard and created equal attention. The G.A.A.'s commitment to youth is shown by the first ever Youth Congress held last year. And to crown a memorable year in Tipperary the first ever Feile na nGael was held in Thurles in which over a thousand young hurlers from every county in Ireland showed that the game of hurling is alive and vibrant.

Vast changes are taking place all over the country. Community Halls are becoming a necessary adjunct to the playing pitches to provide healthy enjoyment for young and old. In a few short months over a quarter million pounds was subscribed mainly by G.A.A. Clubs for a Club Development Scheme.

The G.A.A. will continue to expand its scope, especially among the very young. To this end a well designed magazine featuring our hurlers and footballers is promised to off-set the flood of cross-Channel publications. We must re-activate the enthusiasm for all things Gaelic which was the guiding lights of the Association founders. Children must be taught how to play hurling, not just because it is the finest field game in the world but because, like the language, it is one of the few things that is completely our own.

The schools, though doing much, must do more. Camogie must be encouraged and promoted by the Association. For the cailini of today will be the mothers of tomorrow and "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." Give them a realisation of their part in the making of a new Ireland. We are at a cultural cross-roads and in the schools will be

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decided whether we abandon our remaining Christian and Gaelic traditions in the new Europe we are about to enter.

The G.A.A. must show leadership to all who want to rally behind the old values. In the coming years we must ensure that the G.A.A. does for coming generations what Pearse said of the Gaelic League, "to bring them into a fuller communion with what is most racy of the past, that Ireland is their's and they are Ireland's." To do this effectively we must make people realise that native games are not merely games but an expression of what is best in the cultural and national life of our people. Only in this way will we make the Association worthy of the high hopes and aspirations of its founding fathers.



Recognition of outstanding service—Having acted as gate-checker with the South Tipperary Board for over 40 years, Jack O'Brien has gone into a well-deserved retirement and Board Chairman, Phil O'Shea, is pictured here presenting him with an inscribed clock on behalf of the Board.

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NEW LOOK AGE GROUPS

ANOTHER YEAR has been completed and again 1972 has been a successful one, if we are to gauge success on the number of competitions organised and completed. 1972 was also the trial year, for the reorganised competitions — from under 13 years, 15 years and 17 years, to under 12 years, 14 years and 16 years. Feile na nGael was again held in Tipperary and was again an outstanding success. Scor '72 talent competitions were organised by the Divisional Boards for under 16 grades and were a glorious success. There was a very high standard of play in all our competitions and all games were played in true sportsmanship.

UNDER 12 HURLING AND FOOTBALL

The first of the new look age groups to be played, the under 12 competition, was an outstanding success and the tender age of the competitors in no way deterred the contestants from displaying a surprising knowledge of the skills of hurling and football. The under 12 hurling semi-finals were contested by Ballingarry v Eire Og Nenagh, and Thurles A v Cashel. After two excellent games—Cashel faced Eire Og, Nenagh, for the final, at Holycross, and on a cold blustery evening the Eir Og defence proved to be too strong for the Cashel forwards, who were so destructive against Thurles, and Eire Og emerged winners by three goals.

In the under 12 football, Eire Og, Nenagh, again featured in the honours by defeating Leugh/Rahealty in a fine game in Holycross, 2-3 to 1 goal 1 point Leugh/Rahealty caused a major upset by defeating a fancied Clonmel Commercial side in the other semi-finals. To reach the final, Eire Og defeated Emly.

SUCCEED FOR BORD NA nOG

By TOM KIRBY

Looking at this age competition it was undoubtedly a success, as it produces excellent games at division and county level but the under 12 group does appear to favour the urban teams, as we had five urban teams contesting the finals of both hurling and football, and the urban teams do appear to be more organised, due to the active schools competitions, being run by such schools as the Irish Christian Brothers. Again congratulations to Eire Og on completing the double and sincere thanks to all clubs taking part.

UNDER 14 HURLING (URBAN and RURAL)

This competition produced a high standard of hurling and with the added prize this year for Turas na nOg to the hurling All-Ireland. In the rural competition, Moycarkey defeated Ballingarry and Borrisoleigh defeated Cappawhite but only at the second attempt. The drawn game between these two teams was a thrilling one, with Borrisoleigh getting the opportunity to win with a last-second free, but they elected to try for a goal instead of a point. The replay of this game was again a close affair with Borrisoleigh emerging victorious. All was set for what promised to be a thriller with both clubs carrying with them a fine tradition for Gaelic games. Moycarkey won this title because they adopted direct methods, which paid dividends under the greasy conditions. A great display was served up by both teams despite a heavy mist which fell continuously for the hour. Full

marks to both teams and congratulations to Moycarkey on a well-deserved win.

In the urban competition Eire Og, Nenagh, easily defeated Thurles A, while in the other semi-final Cappawhite, after a great game, defeated Carrick Davins by a goal. Eire Og emerged winners after a hard fought game and added a third county title to their under 12 victories. Hard luck, Cappawhite, after a great dual attempt.

TURUS NA nOG

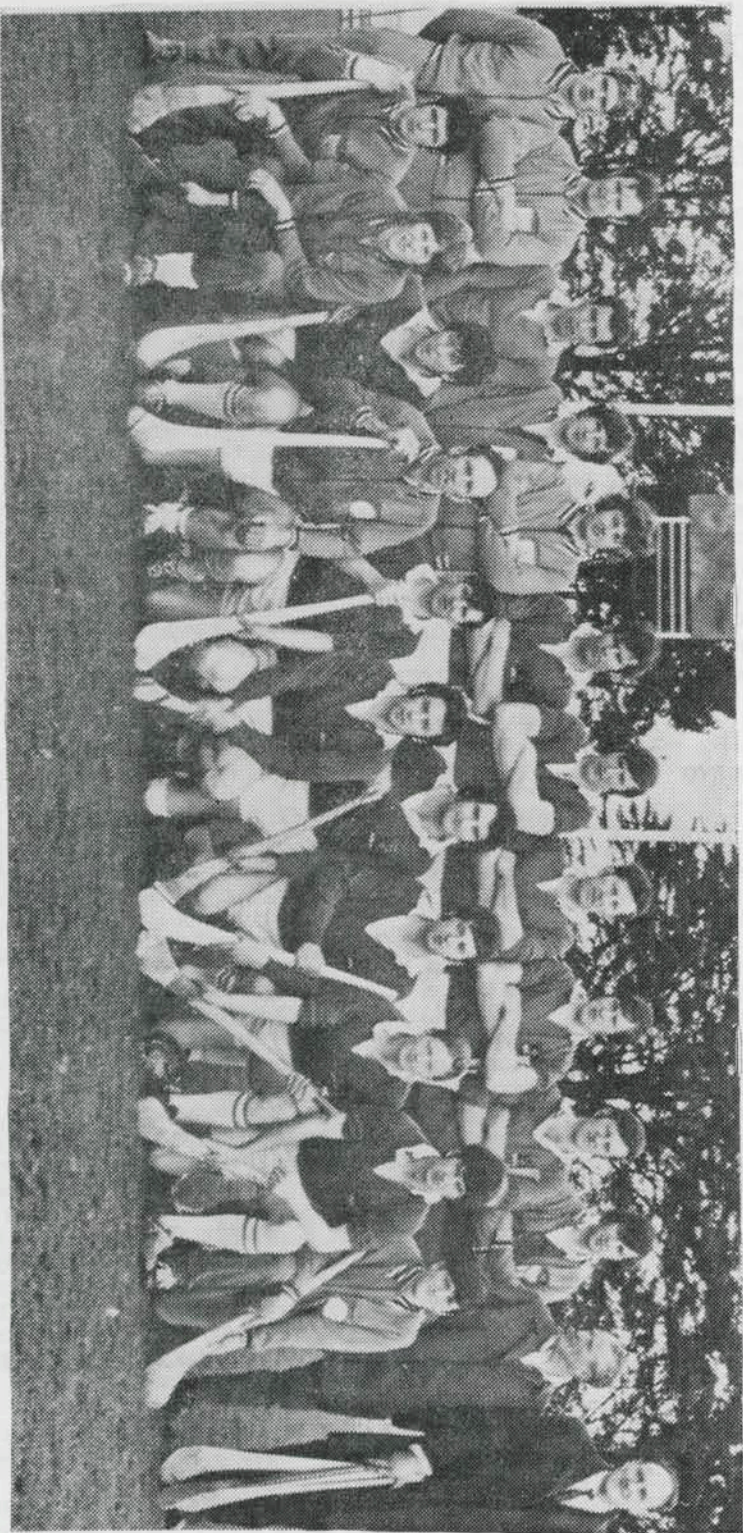
The prize for Turus na nOg each year is 23 All-Ireland final tickets (supplied free by County Senior Board) plus transport and meals (dinner and tea) supplied by Bord na nOg. A prize well worth winning indeed. After a keenly contested game Eire Og emerged winners, over a gallant Moycarkey team which contested every ball.

UNDER 14 FOOTBALL (URBAN and RURAL)

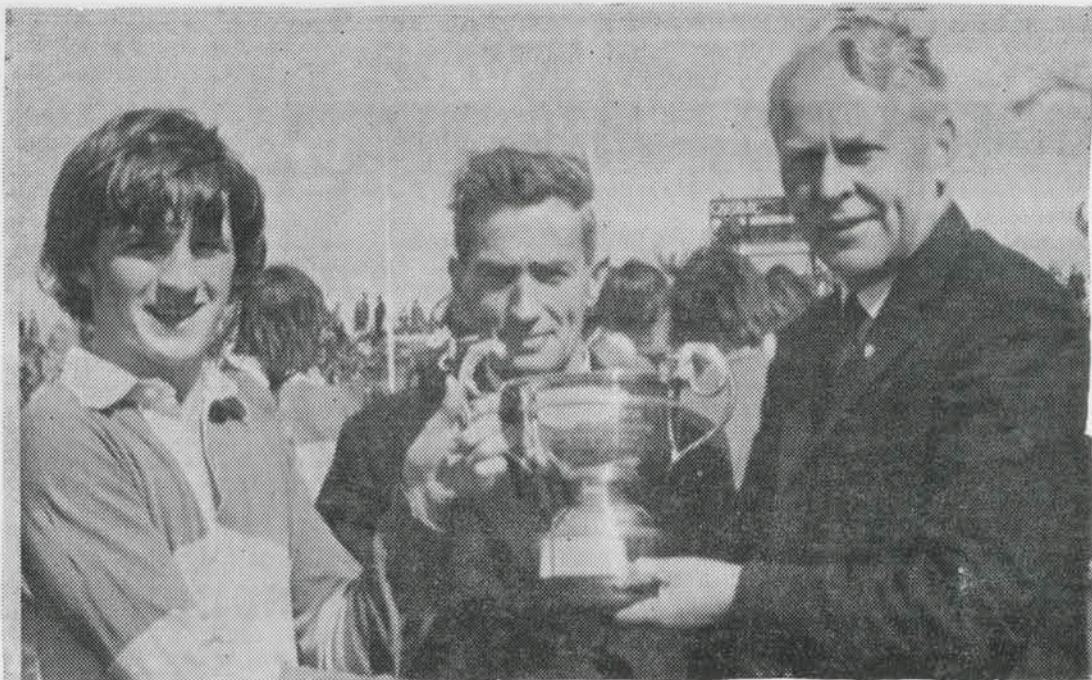
Emly, 1971 under 13 champions, emerged winners in both urban and rural competitions. In the rural semi-finals, Ballyporeen defeated Loughmore / Castleiney, and Emly received a walk-over from Burgess. In the final, Emly defeated Ballyporeen after a good game. In the urban/rural competition Emly defeated Eire Og, Nenagh, in the semi-final, and Clonmel Commercial defeated Loughmore / Castleiney in the other. Here again Emly produced excellent football and added a second title.

All in all, the under 14 competitions were very successful and

ALL-IRELAND INTER-FACTORY CHAMPIONS



Roscrea Bacon Factory became All-Ireland Inter-Factories Champions for 1971 in April by beating the National Board and Paper Factory, Gramagh, in the decider in Noulan Park, Kilkenny. As a reward for their achievement, the team was treated by the management to a week-end in London at Whit and played the London Intermediate team in a challenge at New Eltham.



County Board Chairman, Seamus Ryan, presents the Canon Fitzgerald Cup to J. Ryan (capt.) after the victory of Cashel CBS over Thurles CBS in May. In the centre is Rev. Bro. Malone, trainer of the winning team.

this success augurs well for the future of this age group.

UNDER 16 COMPETITIONS: HURLING

This is the age group that may need some serious re-thinking in the coming year—taking into consideration the bad showing of our minor hurling this year.

In the semi-finals Leugh/Rahealty defeated Carrick Swans and Cashel accounted for Eire Og, Nenagh. Leugh/Rahealty were appearing in the second county final, but in a great first half, and in the first ten minutes of the second half, were unlucky not to score. However, in the last quarter, Cashel's forward power proved decisive and they ran out easy winners.

UNDER 16 FOOTBALL

The under 16 semi-finals proved easy victories for Cashel, who defeated Thurles and Clommel Commercial, who accounted for Inane Rovers. The final now takes place on 19th November

SEE NEXT FEW LINES

FINANCE

Gate receipts have improved considerably this year and it would appear that the new age groups were a good attraction for followers, together with the increased admission for final. The County Senior Board also granted the sum of £150 again this year for the purchase of trophies for the competitions. The raffle at the Senior Board Scor '72 Co. Final was given to Bord na nOg and showed a good profit. It is expected that the raffle for Scor '73 will again be given to Bord na nOg.

A Flag Day, held in Thurles in March for the week-end, was organised for the Co. Board by Mid Bord na nOg and yielded a small income—we were unlucky with the inclement weather for the week-end. Our sincere thanks to all who co-operated in the collection of gates at county level and to all field committees for placing fields at our disposal.

PURCHASE OF HURLEYS

This year a total of 2,086 hurleys have been distributed throughout the county, as compared with 1,777 for last year. However, all clubs do not avail of this scheme, which is a pity. Set out hereunder are current prices:

28", 17½p; 30", 17½p; 32", 22½p; 34", 27½p; and 36", 35p.

Last year we ordered 12 Riverdale hurleys on a trial basis and distributed three each to the four divisions.

MINOR HURLING

This time last year, this Board embarked on a scheme to improve minor hurling in the county. It entailed the bringing together of players in each division to, first of all, a social gathering which was addressed by well-known hurlers, and then the holding of many trials both at divisional and inter-divisional level. This scheme was approached by the Divisions with great fervour, and, after several

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trials, a final panel of players was formed by Minor Selectors. Enough has been said of the display of the minor hurlers this year and what we must now look to is the future and what it holds in store for Tipperary minor hurling.

When we had good minor hurling teams we had Thurles C.B.S. and St. Flannan's College, Ennis, producing excellent teams. A remedy will have to be found, and quickly, to restore Tipperary to the pedestal it once enjoyed in minor hurling. At a recent Bord na nOg meeting several ideas were put forward and I set out hereunder some of these:

(A) The replacement of the present minor grade (under 18) by an under 17 competition.

(B) The appointment of a County Coach to look after the county at large.

(C) The formation of a Minor Hurling Board, like the Minor Football Board already formed.

(D) Too many medals, etc. being won at an early age by many of our players, resulting in a lack of incentive and spirit at Minor age.

(E) Overloading of juvenile competition; comparison was made with the 1950's, when we were successful, with very little juvenile competitions, and the present, with eight county championships plus special competitions in some Divisions.

(F) Failure at club level in some cases to provide proper coaching in the skills of the game.

(G) Complete disinterest by our inter-county players (except in isolated cases) in our under age teams—these players should be passing on the expertise they have acquired in their years of hurling.

Surely an interesting list of suggestions that shows how anxious this Board is for the future of minor hurling, and in conclusion I would quote from the address of Pádraig Uas. O'Fáinín, at 1971 Feile na nGael and address this quotation to all our minor hurlers:—

"In your hands lies the future of hurling as well as the future of our country. It's a wonderful responsibility to put on young people and a great chal-

lenge—let that challenge create the opportunity, let you grasp it."

FEILE NA nGAEL

This year's Feile na nGael was an outstanding success—again the "Homes of Tipperary" were open for the week-end as in 1971, to the visiting teams from other counties, numbering 31 clubs in all. The weather was very kind to us and this was a very important factor, due to the large programme of games. Our sincere thanks to all who co-operated in the successful running of the games. A special word of thanks to the clubs, whose members warmed the hearts of the visitors with overwhelming hospitality. Six other clubs also played an important part in the Feile—two to make up a Section and the remaining four had volunteered to be hosts to the extra 100 boys from Derry and Belfast, who, it was thought in the early stages, would be coming for the week-end also. Many friends were again made this year in the Feile and already visits have been made by Tipperary clubs to other counties (Borrisokane's recent visit to Ardee, Co. Louth, to mention one). Feile na nGael may not have had any injection worthwhile for Tipperary hurling or our clubs, but, what was far more important, Tipperary imparted on visiting teams some of the hurling tradition that is our proud boast and that here in Tipperary we played the principal part in a very successful and new drive to promote hurling.

Feile 1973 venue is Limerick. As Tipperary will now be the visitors (one team from the county) it will be necessary to run a separate competition or else to finish our U/14 competitions earlier.

CROKE CUP, CUSACK CUP

Congratulations to Templemore who this year again won the Croke Cup. It is hoped in 1973 to re-start the competition for the Cusack Cup.

HISTORY—BORD NA nOG

It is intended in the next few months to commence the writing of the History of Bord na nOg in this county. It is hoped to make

contact with various people who helped with the formation of Bord na nOg some years ago and to then trace the working of the Boards (Divisional and County) right up to the present. It is intended to have this printed in book form and to include in this book other items of interest concerning the G.A.A. and in particular Bord na nOg in this county. From information received to date it commenced in or around 1929 as Primary Schools, was revised in 1940, and in 1945 became known as the Rural Schools. Anyone who feels he can contribute to this book can do so by submitting details and photographs direct to:

Tomás O Ciarba, Baile Mhic Aodha, Aonach

Micheál O Briain, Baile Atha Gabhain, Aonach.

Liam O Duibhir, Newtown, Donohill, Tipperary.

Micheál Mac Cartaigh, Moin Ruadh, Cluain Meale.

Sean O Riain, 44 Sean Treacy Avenue, Thurles.

All information will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

To conclude, the past year has been most successful. However we must look to our competitions and see if they are promoting our juvenile games, as they are laid out to do. Often, we can be overcome with meeting dates and deadlines, and forget the true purpose of our formation. Are we having too many competitions these last few years? Are we burning up the enthusiasm of our young players with overlapping competitions? These are some of the questions that may need to be answered in the very near future.

The bringing together of the players, for Minor functions that were held in conjunction with the Minor hurling revival, was so successful that I feel it should be continued, on a scale that we could present our medals to the winning teams, at a function held each year around Christmas time.



St Marys, Clonmel—Intermediate hurling champions of the South Division: Front row, left to right, John Shanahan, Seamus O'Doherty, Mick Ryan (capt.), Billy Boyle, Connie Carroll, Sean Walsh, Frank Kenny, Mick Tyrrell. Back, left to right, Jimmy O'Connell, Paddy O'Loughlin, Brian O'Shea, Paudie Butler, T. J. Looby, Jimmy Hewitt, John Aylward, Philip Fahy.

The performance of our minor hurlers reached an all time low level with a pathetic display against Cork in the Munster semi-final. What is wrong with our minors?

County Board Secretary TOMMY BARRETT has tried to assess the situation and comes up with some startling revelations.

IS WEARING THE COUNTY JERSEY

NO LONGER AN HONOUR?

THERE WAS A TIME, not so very long ago, when the cry among the hurling fraternity was—What has happened to all the Tipp minors—so few of them seem to make the grade in senior ranks? Our minors are still in the news, but not for the same reason. Now, the question being asked is—What has happened minor hurling in Tipperary?

I must admit it is something that has me worried and I think back to what a very sincere Tipperary Gael said to me as we left Limerick after that humiliating defeat by Cork in July. "Where did ye get 'em?" was his comment, and, you know, it stung me.

Of course there is something wrong, but just what is the kernel of the trouble? We could all spend hours talking about it and it would achieve precious little. To try to get some answers to the burning question, I decided to talk to some players and officials of the past decade or so. I asked a number of pertinent questions and I must say the replies I received were rather revealing.

Pat Quinlan is a young man from Silvermines who played for four years on the minor team, 1967-'70. He won an All-Ireland intermediate medal in 1971. Pat told me that as far as he could recollect he never had to take an interest in hurling because the game was a major pastime in his area. He was fortunate in that his father always made a hurley for him whenever he needed it and he feels this was a major factor in maintaining his interest in the game.

Pat also feels that the fact that he was taken to many inter-county games when he was young and saw such players as John Doyle, Tony Wall, Liam Devaney and the likes in their heyday aroused an even greater desire within him to play the game.

With regard to the actual skills of the game, Pat says that from seeing others hurl and his readiness

to take advice on certain aspects of the game, his own game benefitted greatly and that while training with his club mates was the sum total of his exertions in this regard, he did spend a lot of time trying to develop some aspects of the game at which he was weak.

What of his selection on the county minor team? Pat was quick to say that this was an honour he very much appreciated but he was critical of the system of holding trials too close to an actual game because players did not get an opportunity of learning to play with each other.

Apart from this, the effort put in by the selected players was satisfactory and with a little luck they



Tommy Barrett (Co. Secretary)

might have captured two Munster titles in 1969 and 1970. Cork won the All-Ireland both years and hadn't all that much to spare over Tipperary.

AMAZED

Pat expressed his deep disappointment at the performance of the minors in 1971 and 1972. He was more amazed than disappointed at the 1972 showing because the men behind the team couldn't have done any more than they did. It was his opinion that the required talent is not there and while the minor club

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championship at home was of a high standard enough, there was a big difference in the requirements for inter-county competition.

It is Pat's belief that with the decline of colleges' hurling in Tipperary colleges, particularly in Thurles C.B.S., the county generally has suffered greatly and he draws a parallel between the great college teams in Cork and the fine successes their inter-county teams have had.

This last point is also made by Liam O Duighir, a member of the selection committee since 1959, but he goes a bit farther in stating that when Thurles C.B.S. were tops in the 40's and 50's, there was a very high standard in Mid Tipperary, from which division the C.B.S. drew most of its material.

Liam says it is significant that since Thurles won the minor title in 1957, only three Mid clubs have taken county honours in this grade.

He also points to the vast number of juvenile competitions being run in the county and says it might well be that young players are overburdened with competitions. As compared with 1960, when there were but two for the under 15 boys, now there are eight—under 12, 14, 16, hurling and football as well as rural and urban/rural competitions for the under 14's.

Liam is very confident that as much is being done by the selectors and the Boards as was done in the

for a team to find success, it needs one or two "lead" players, particularly in attack. Players like Jimmy Doyle, Sean McLoughlin, Liam Devaney, Paddy Kenny were potential match winners on their own.

We get a new angle on our ailments from Michael O'Brien, Silvermines—a minor selector for the past few years. Michael lays the blame squarely on the school free transport system to vocational



John Flanagan (Moycarkey/Borris)



Pat Quinlan (Silvermines)

50's but he feels that young players do not seem to care as much now and the wearing of the county jersey has no longer the same appeal.

He does point to our fine record over the years which put us on top of the honours list, with 12 titles, one ahead of Cork, and is hopeful that if the honour attached to the selection on the county team is fully appreciated, the players in turn will strive to become worthy wearers of the blue-and-gold.

This lack of appreciation is also referred to by present senior forward John Flanagan from Moycarkey, a minor in 1964 and 1965, and he adds that

and secondary schools. When Tipperary was producing teams worthy of wearing the blue and gold, lads went to schools on bicycles. When asked to train, they freely did so and cycled home again. The present system does not allow this, says Michael. Pupils must be at a pick-up point at some fixed time or else they must walk home. There is little time for training and this has lowered the standard in our post primary schools which in turn affects the county minor team.

INDIFFERENCE

Allied to this, says Michael, there appears to be an air of indifference among our minors to what county representation should mean. He adds that it is a fallacy that a good 16 year old has a less chance than a bad 18 year old.

Never was more done to get out a good team than in 1972 and the results were most frustrating. Next season the selectors will have as a backbone for their team about ten of the 1972 panel. Such was not the case in 1971 and 1972 and it may make all the difference next year.

So much for the views of these men. I do feel that a letter written by Mick Roche to a meeting in Clonmel earlier this year in connection with minor hurling is worthy of reference. Mick was unable to attend the meeting and in a letter of apology he mentioned some valuable suggestions. He said that people like himself who had been fortunate enough

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to be selected for the county teams, were rightly expected to make practical suggestions to remedy what could be described as a crisis situation in the county. Desperate diseases needed desperate remedies and his wish would be for the appointment of a coach for the county minors, a man who would not only command the respect of the underage players but would also imbue them with faith, spirit and ambition so desperately needed.

The basic skills of hurling might be rather quickly learned but young players especially must remember that it is in the silence of the training field, the deafening victory roar of Croke Park is born and this was precisely why a player must be dedicated.

The Carrick man sets out three qualifications any player wishing to play for his county must have: (1) interest; (2) dedication, and (3) courage. Armed with these, a young lad would not be prevented from making the grade, and he cites Theo English as the perfect example in this context.

My own views? Well, while not optimistic at the moment, I am confident that 1974 will see our first break through. Those in the 16-18 age group at the moment are challenged by a new society which they find entertaining and they have a certain amount of

selection the following year.

Others may have more ideas and possibly better ones and it would be a pity if they were to lie under a bushel. Tell people about them and you can be sure that if at all feasible they will be acted upon, because, as Mick Roche says, desperate diseases need desperate remedies.

At the same time a very relevant adage would be no harm to keep in mind—*Mol an oige agus tío chaidh siad.*



Mick Roche (Carrick Davins)

indifference towards games generally. Again, at the 19 age stage, becoming more mature, they realise what they have missed and return to the games with a new spirit.

Yes, as Liam O Duibhir says, there are too many competitions at juvenile level and the appetite is lost by the time players are fit for minor grade. I would hope that Bord na nOg could do something about lightening the load, but they too are being pressed for more games with the result that they have over-loaded even themselves.

My final remark, and one I mentioned in my report to Convention some years ago, is to reduce the age limit in our own minor championships by one year. In this way, all players would be eligible for county



Regarded as one of the greatest goalkeepers of all time, Tony Reddan from Lorrha, now resident in Banagher, returned to his former club this year to train them in their bid for divisional and county honours. Lorrha reached the North senior final, knocking out five-in-a-row champions, Roscrea, in the semi-final and were then defeated by Borris-Ileigh in the decider. Lorrha also reached the County semi-final, where Roscrea exacted revenge for that previous defeat.

Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Thuaidh)

A very sincere thanks to our Clubs, players, referees, adjudicators, officials, park committees gate men, stewards, and of course our supporters for your co-operation and goodwill during the past year.

We hope that 1973 will bring rewards in some shape or form to all clubs.

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CHEERING, singing, shouting, excitement, hats, flags, thrills and spills have ever been part and parcel of school-life in many of our cities. So, why not in Tipperary—yes, why not? Now, after four years, we can truly say that the Premier County is no exception; for, in the autumn of 1968, a number of our primary teachers, Bros. P. J. McDonald, B. Allen, C. O'Connor, A. Kent, to mention but a few, decided that it was high time something was done to give Primary Games a much-needed boost.

Consequently, in 1968-'69 seven of the larger schools within the county, Thurles, Nenagh, Tipperary, Cashel, Carrick-on-Suir, St. Mary's, Clonmel; Ss. Peter & Paul, Clonmel, took part in an inter-school football and hurling league—Under 13 age group. Medals and a cup were presented to the winning teams. The same procedure was adopted for 1969-'70. Then, in the autumn of 1970 a motion was proposed and accepted to have two age groups: U/13 as before, plus U/11. Now, more boys could play the games and not merely the highest classes as was the case previous to this. This meant, of course, providing two more trophies and extra medals. In 1971 a further step was taken, when it was agreed upon to arrange the two Divisions within the league according to ability where hurling was concerned. Henceforth, the Divisions for hurling would be: Division 1: Thurles, Nenagh, Cashel, Carrick-on-Suir. Division 2: Ss. Peter & Paul, Clonmel, St. Mary's, Clonmel; Tipperary.

The Divisions for football remained the same with the addition of teams from Fethard.

North: Thurles, Nenagh, Cashel, Tipperary.

South: Ss. Peter & Paul, Clonmel; St. Marys, Clonmel; Carrick-on-Suir; Fethard.

Fethard have since shown their ability in the Football League and have certainly contributed to the ever-rising standard within the league.

In that same year it was unani-

THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS' LEAGUE

By BROTHER S. D. MOSELY

mously agreed upon to grant a trophy and a set of medals to the winning team in Division 2 of the Hurling League, while still allowing the team and the runners-up to participate in the League semi-finals with the top teams of Division 1.

Thus, the League has progressed since 1968, and now there are six perpetual trophies available. These trophies along with the medals, are quite expensive, and were it not for the willing generosity of the Tipperary Co. Board of the G.A.A. during the past years it would have been nigh impossible to have kept these necessary leagues alive. I would like to take this opportunity of once again expressing our sincerest gratitude to the same Tipperary County Board for their continuous support and much-needed financial assistance.

Yes, Tipperary can be proud of this Primary League and more than proud of the exciting entertainment in both hurling and football which the boys of the competing schools have given us. Naturally, it was to be expected that the standard of the games in the beginning would not be great. But, at present we can honestly say that there has been a steady improvement to the extent that the standards now reached are terrific. To witness these boys play so capably and so eagerly would fill your heart with joy and banish from your mind any ideas that our Gaelic games are being gradually thrown by the wayside; and, if you are one of those who firmly believe that such is the situation you can rest assured that the blame does not lie entirely on the shoulders of children. If we pro-

vide the games, they will gladly participate. Their interest in their own school leagues and in the inter-school leagues is very encouraging. Proof of this can be seen in the fact that in the inter-school competitions of last year 30 games were played in football involving 320 boys (16 teams); and in the hurling 30 games were also played, involving 280 boys (14 teams). These young players are eager and enthusiastic, and give of their best at all times, not only so that they can acquire a place on their school team but to make sure they maintain their position. Their efforts to try so hard—both as players and as sportsmen—are even greater when they realise that adults are looking on; and, those parents and others who have come out to watch the lads playing are to be highly congratulated, for, at a time when there are so many other attractions awaiting the young, it is our duty as adults to show them, in even the simplest of ways, that we are interested in them for their sake.

THE FUTURE

What does the future have in store? Well, the 1972-'73 games are being run on similar lines to those of the previous year, with Thurles, Cashel, Tipperary, St. Marys, Clonmel; Ss. Peter & Paul, Clonmel; Fethard; and Carrick-on-Suir taking part in the football. The hurling has yet to be discussed at our second meeting of the year in the spring. We look forward to more primary schools and teams participating. This is what is wanted; this is what is needed—as many as is practicably possible taking part.

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N.B.—SPECIAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR G.A.A. GROUPS

Congratulations to the Tipperary Co. Board on their initiative in the production of this book

Apart from all other considerations and advantages it is good for children to meet, mix and play with others of their own age. In the not too distant future many of these boys will vie with each other for a place on the county team, provided that they are steadily coached and encouraged throughout the years between now and then. It is vital that this League expand, and that it be kept strictly for primary school children. One man sows, another man reaps: we are now enjoying the fruits of the work of those who initiated the League. Surely it is our responsibility—ever keeping in mind the needs of the young—to continue sowing so that those in the years ahead may

reap even greater fruits. Will the day arrive when Primary School Leagues will no longer be a county affair alone, but a Munster affair also, with inter-school competitions throughout the Province, or, possibly a brief competition between the six county champions? The children are eager and willing: God grant that we may satisfy their appetite for play.

Here are the winning teams since the commencement of the Leagues:

1968-'69:

Peil U/13: St. Marys, Clonmel.

Iomanaíocht U/13: Nenagh.

1969-'70:

Peil U/13: Ss. Peter & Paul, Clonmel.

Iomanaíocht U/13: Nenagh.

1970-'71:

Peil U/11: Ss. Peter & Paul.

Iomanaíocht U/11: Nenagh.

Peil U/13: Carrick-on-Suir.

Iomanaíocht U/13: Nenagh.

1971-'72:

Peil U/11: Nenagh.

Iomanaíocht U/11: Nenagh.

Peil U/13: Nenagh.

Iomanaíocht U/13: Nenagh.

The winners of Division 2 in the

U/11: St. Marys, Clonmel.

U/13: St. Marys, Clonmel.

MUNSTER UNDER 21 CHAMPIONS



With victories over Waterford, Limerick and Clare, Tipperary captured the Munster Under 21 hurling title, before going under to the eventual All-Ireland champions, Galway, in the All-Ireland semi-final. Back, left to right: Pat Quinlan, Jim Kehoe, Jim Keogh, John Darcy, Sean Fitzpatrick, Mattie Brennan, Gilbert Williams, Tom Fogarty, Liam Hogan, Willie Blake, Seamus Dunne, Tadhg Murphy. Front, left to right: Gerry Doyle, Michael Kennedy, Garry Howard, Pat Doherty, Jim Keane, Nicky Flannery, Willie Ryan (capt.), Tommy Butler, Tony Fitzpatrick, Seamus Power, Joe Cunningham.

**Coiste Contae Tiobrad Arann CLG
Tipperary County Board G.A.A.**

We take this opportunity of thanking our supporters for their kind patronage during 1972 and we look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

DATE TO NOTE:

COUNTY CONVENTION

SCOL AILBE, THURLES

JANUARY 28th, 1973

**Wishing all the Clubs the success they deserve
during 1973**

TOMAS O BAROID, Runai.

TIPPERARY'S ALL-IRELAND ROLE OF HONOUR

Since winning the first ever All Ireland senior hurling final for 1887, Tipperary teams have gone on to win a staggering total of 52 All Ireland finals, standing, at the moment, second only to Cork's grand total of 57.

Hereunder we list the 52 teams that brought these national honours to the county, starting with senior hurling in which Tipp still reigns supreme with 22 titles won.

S.H. (22)

1887: J. Stapleton (capt.), M. Maher, A. Maher, T. Burke, M. McNamara, E. Murphy, J. Dwyer, T. Stapleton, N. Bowe, T. Healy, D. Ryan, J. Ryan, P. Leahy, T. Dwyer, J. Mockler, J. Dunne, T. Carroll, J. Leahy, M. Carroll, P. Lambie.

1895: M. Maher (capt.), E. Maher, P. Byrne, W. Kerwick, J. Maher, D. Walsh, J. Walsh, P. Maher, T. Flanagan, J. Flanagan, P. Riordan, J. Gleeson, F. Moriarty, J. Connolly, J. Maher, E. Brennan, W. Devane.

1896: M. Maher (capt.), J. Maher, P. Byrne, W. Devane, M. Wall, J. Maher, E. Brennan, J. Walsh, T. Condon, J. Connolly, J. Flanagan, T. Ryan, P. Scanlon, T. Flanagan, E. Ryan, P. Doherty, D. Walsh.

1898: M. Maher (capt.), E. Maher, E. Brennan, J. Walsh, J. Connolly, T. Ryan, J. Ryan, W. Devane, E. Ryan, J. Ryan, P. Byrne, W. Dunne, T. Condon, J. O'Keeffe, J. Maher, D. Walsh, T. Flanagan.

1899: T. Condon (capt.), J. O'Keeffe, W. Gleeson, J. Gleeson, R. O'Keeffe, James O'Keeffe, D. Walsh, M. Maher, J. Walsh, J. Flanagan, J. Ryan, M. Wall, W. Dunne, P. Byrne, J. Maher, B.

Gleeson, T. Ryan.

1900: E. Hayes (capt.), P. Hayes, M. Ryan, M. Purcell, T. Allen, P. Maher, W. Maher, M. Maher, J. Walsh, T. Ryan, E. Maher, W. Gleeson (2), J. O'Keeffe, M. Wall, T. Semple.

1906: T. Semple (capt.), J. O'Brien, P. Burke, M. O'Brien, T. Kerwick, P. Brolan, H. Shelley, J. Mockler, T. Kenna, P. Riordan, T. Allen, P. Maher, J. Burke, J. Gleeson, J. O'Keeffe, T. Gleeson.

1908: T. Semple (capt.), T. Kerwick, J. Mockler, J. O'Brien, H. Shelley, A. Carew, J. Mooney, T. Kenna, P. Burke, P. Brolan, J. Maloughney, J. Burke, T. Gleeson, M. Dwyer, J. Fitzgerald, P. Fitzgerald.

1916: J. Leahy (capt.), T. Dwan, J. Doherty, W. Dwyer, T. Shanahan, J. Power, J. Fitzpatrick, J. Collison, P. Leahy, H. Shelley, J. Murphy, R. Walsh, D. Walsh, W. O'Dwyer, A. O'Donnell.

1925: J. Leahy (capt.), A. O'Donnell, M. Mockler, M. Darcy, J. J. Hayes, M. Kennedy, S. Hackett, J. Power, P. Leahy, P. Cahill, T. Duffy, J. Darcy, W. Ryan, P. Power, P. O'Dwyer.

1930: J. J. Callanan (capt.), J. O'Loughlin, J. Maher, M. Ryan, J. Harney, J. Lanigan, T. O'Meara, M. Kennedy, P. McKenna, P. Purcell, P. Cahill, M. F. Cronin, T. Butler, T. Leahy, T. Treacy.

1937: J. Lanigan (capt.), T. Butler, D. O'Gorman, G. Cornally, J. Ryan, J. Maher, W. Wall, J. Cooney, J. Gleeson, J. Coffey, T. Treacy, T. Doyle, W. O'Donnell, D. Murphy, P. 'Sweeper' Ryan.

1945: John Maher (capt.), Jimmy Maher, J. Devitt, G. Cornally, F. Coffey, M. Murphy, T. Purcell, H. Goldsboro, T. Wall, 'Mutt' Ryan, T. Doyle, E. Gleeson, J. Coffey, A. Brennan, P.

'Sweeper' Ryan.

1949: P. Stakelum (capt.), A. Reddan, J. Doyle, A. Brennan, M. Byrne, F. Coffey, T. Doyle, S. Kenny, P. Shanahan, Tommy Ryan, Mick Ryan, J. Kennedy, Jack Ryan, 'Sonny' Maher, S. Bannon.

1950: S. Kenny (capt.), A. Reddan, M. Byrne, A. Brennan, J. Doyle, J. Finn, P. Stakelum, T. Doyle, S. Bannon, P. Shanahan, E. Ryan, M. Ryan, P. Kenny, 'Sonny' Maher, J. Kennedy.

1951: J. Finn (capt.), A. Reddan, M. Byrne, A. Brennan, J. Doyle, P. Stakelum, T. Doyle, P. Shanahan, J. Hough, E. Ryan, M. Ryan, Tim Ryan, P. Kenny, 'Sonny' Maher, S. Bannon.

1958: A. Wall (capt.), J. O'Grady, M. Byrne, M. Maher, K. Carey, J. Finn, John Doyle, J. Hough, T. English, D. Nealon, T. Larkin, Jimmy Doyle, L. Keane, L. Devaney, L. Connolly.

1961: M. Hassett (capt.), D. O'Brien, M. Maher, K. Carey, M. Burns, A. Wall, John Doyle, M. O'Gara, T. English, T. Ryan, Jimmy Doyle, L. Devaney, D. Nealon, L. Connolly, W. Maloughney, S. McLoughlin.

1961: Jimmy Doyle (capt.), D. O'Brien, John Doyle, M. Maher, K. Carey, M. O'Gara, A. Wall, B. Burns, T. English, L. Devaney, J. McKenna, T. Ryan, D. Nealon, T. Maloughney, S. McLoughlin.

1964: M. Murphy (capt.), J. O'Donoghue, John Doyle, M. Maher, K. Carey, M. Burns, A. Wall, T. English, M. Roche, Jimmy Doyle, L. Kiely, M. Keating, D. Nealon, J. McKenna, S. McLoughlin.

1965: Jimmy Doyle (capt.), J. O'Donoghue, John Doyle, M. Maher, K. Carey, M. Burns, A. Wall, L. Gaynor, T. English, M. Roche, L. Kiely, L. Devaney, D. Nealon, J. McKenna, S. McLoughlin.

1971: T. O'Connor (capt.), P. O'Sullivan, L. King, J. Kelly, J. Gleeson, M. Roche, L. Gaynor, P. J. Ryan, S. Hogan, F. Loughnane, N. O'Dwyer, D. Ryan, J. Flanagan, R. Ryan, M. Keating.

J.H. (7)

1913: J. Ryan (capt.), T. Ryan, D. Delaney, J. Hammond, T.

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Mean)

We wish to take this opportunity of expressing our deepest gratitude to all who helped the Board in the successful running of its affairs during 1972, and extend best wishes to all for good fortune in 1973

John O'Donoghue

73 Main Street, Tipperary

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Dwyer, T. Dwan, P. Purcell, M. Hammond, N. McGrath, P. Leahy, A. O'Donnell, D. Walsh, J. Power, J. Fitzpatrick, T. Shanahan, J. Murphy, T. Shanahan, P. Dargan.

1915 (panel): T. Dwan (captain); M. Leahy, B. Quinn, D. Walsh, J. Power, P. Leahy, A. O'Donnell, W. Dwyer, J. Fitzpatrick, J. Campbell, M. Leahy, T. Shanahan, J. Murphy, J. and M. Hammond, J. and T. Ryan, J. Collison, J. Kennedy, J. Maher, F. Cronin.

1924: P. Purcell (capt.), W. O'Brien, J. O'Loughlin, S. Dwan, J. Costello, J. Gleeson, T. O'Meara, M. Flanagan, J. Hickey, M. Ryan, T. F. Meagher, P. Kennedy, B. O'Meara, M. Kennedy, R. Nealon, M. Aherne.

1926: M. Ryan, T. Leahy, J. Moylan, T. Crowe, J. Hayes, N. Browne, D. Carey, J. Gorman, T. Butler, N. Walsh, T. Treacy, M. Ryan, A. Cleary, P. Hogan, M. Cronin.

1930: P. Harty (capt.), T. Harty, W. Ryan, T. Connolly, M. McGann, M. Browne, N. Wade, T. Rainey, J. Dwyer, M. Ryan, D. Looby, P. Furlong, W. Gorman, J. Fletcher, S. Harington.

1933: D. and W. Roche, P. Mahony, M. O'Toole, J. Cooney, N. Wade, P. O'Keeffe, D. Looby, D. Hayes, J. Tynan, J. Duggan, D. Gorman, D. Murphy, W. Ryan, D. Gleeson.

1953: M. Kenny (capt.), M. Fogarty, T. Kennedy, M. Doheny, S. Kelly, J. Callanan, S. Organ, T. Sweeney, J. Ryan, M. Conway, T. English, J. Hannon, T. Foran, E. Hayes, F. McKenna.

Inter. H. (4)

1963: J. Lanigan (capt.), P. O'Sullivan, T. Burke, M. Barry, P. Crampton, B. Boyle, G. Gleeson, P. Dawson, M. Roche, J. Fogarty, M. Kearns, J. Collison, M. Keating, T. Flynn, T. Larkin.

1966: S. Shinnors, P. Kennedy, N. Ryan, A. Burke, J. Drohan, N. O'Gorman, P. Dawson, M. O'Grady, J. Fogarty, S. Kenny, M. O'Grady, M. Jones, L. Connolly, S. Noonan, T. Brennan.

1971: E. Butler (capt.), W. Barnaville, J. Dunlea, P. Kennedy, G. Keogh, T. Crowe, P. Quinn, B. Teehan, J. P. McDonnell, O. Quinn, S. Power, J. Noonan, M.

Brennan, P. Lowry, J. Barry.
1972: N. Seymour (capt.), S. Cahalan, J. Costigan, J. Keogh, S. Fitzpatrick, M. Fitzgibbon, J. Keane, B. Ferncombe, T. Moloney, J. Connors, J. Kennedy, M. Ryan, O. Killeen, J. Seymour, S. Mackey.

Under 21 H. (2)

1964: F. Loughnane (capt.), P. O'Sullivan, W. Smith, N. O'Gorman, M. O'Meara, O. Killoran, C. Fogarty, N. Lane, M. Keating, J. Dillon, T. J. Butler, T. Brennan.

1937: P. J. Ryan (capt.); H. Condron, S. Ryan, J. Kelly, D. O'Grady, M. Esmonde, T. O'Connor, S. Hogan, J. Ryan, C. Davitt, N. O'Dwyer, J. Walsh, P. O'Connor, P. Lowry, J. Flanagan.

M.H. (12)

1930: J. Russell (capt.), L. Burke, J. Lanigan, T. Harney, J. Semple, G. Heavey, N. Wade, N. Maher, J. Quinlan, P. Ryan, J. Dunne, W. O'Neill, James and John Coffey, J. Close.

1932: D. Gorman (capt.), J. Maher, T. O'Keeffe, J. Looby, J. O'Dwyer, M. Burke, P. Leahy, C. Downes, J. Cooney, P. Bowe, N. Barry, P. Purcell, T. Burke, J. Fletcher, W. Nolan.

1934: C. Maher (capt.), T. Lanigan, J. Noonan, J. Mooney, J. Moloney, P. Dwyer, J. Coffey, D. Ryan, T. English, A. Brennan, P. O'Neill, P. Callaghan, M. Loughnane, M. Mockler, T. Cawley.

1947: J. O'Grady, J. Doyle, J. J. McCormack, B. Mockler, C. Keane, J. Ryan, S. Twomey, M. Ryan, J. Farrell, D. Butler, D. McNulty, P. Kenny, T. O'Meara, M. Butler, S. McDonnell.

1949: J. O'Grady (capt.), J. Moloney, S. Browne, D. Maher, J. Finn, W. Perkins, A. McDonnell, L. Keane, J. Doyle, M. Maher, J. Moloney, S. McGrath, R. Holden, T. Aherne, M. Buckley.

1952: T. Wall (capt.), E. Maloughney, D. Quinn, E. McGrath, E. Burke, F. Dwyer, W. Hayes, L. Quinn, P. Hennessy, B. Quinn, L. Devaney, J. McLoughlin, M. Butler, J. Browne, P. Cleary.

1953: B. Quinn (capt.), T. McCormack, M. Cleary, T. Kelly, P. Barry, L. Quinn, R. Reidy, S. Kenny, M. Kennedy, L. Devaney, S. Murphy, J. McLoughlin, S. Cor-

coran, M. Stapleton, L. Connolly.
1955: R. Reidy (capt.), S. Ryan, T. Gleeson, R. O'Donnell, M. Craddock, D. Ryan, S. Warren, C. Foyle, M. Burns, J. Doyle, A. Leahy, M. Gilmartin, L. O'Grady, P. Ryan, P. Dorney.

1956: P. Ryan (capt.), A. Tierney, T. Gleeson, M. Dorney, B. Maher, M. Craddock, P. Reynolds, J. Mullooly, S. Warren, S. Mackey, J. Doyle, W. O'Grady, T. Flynn, J. Scott, S. Dalton.

1957: J. Doyle (capt.), T. Moloney, M. Craddock, M. Lonergan, P. Kearns, M. Stapleton, D. Reynolds, A. Croke, M. Murphy, P. Kennedy, S. Ryan, L. Kiely, P. Butler, M. Hogan, P. Doyle.

1959: L. Kiely (capt.), J. O'Donoghue, P. Griffin, G. Kinnane, W. Lonergan, J. Carroll, A. Croke, R. Slevin, T. Ryan (Killenaule), T. Ryan (Toomevara), P. Doyle, B. Carey, M. Duggan, M. Nolan, J. Ryan.

S.F. (4)

1889: G. Kavanagh (capt.), J. Cranley, P. Glasheen, T. Dwyer, P. Finn, W. O'Shea, P. Buckley, D. Whelan, J. Daly, J. Ronan, P. Hall, J. Carey, M. Wade, B. O'Brien, L. Fox, W. Ryan, Joe Ryan, Jack Ryan, Wm. Ryan, P. Ryan.

1895: P. Finn (capt.), W. Ryan, B. Quane, J. Riordan, M. Finn, P. Glasheen, M. McInerney, J. Carew, M. Conroy, J. Carey, D. Butler, W. P. Ryan, J. Heffernan, P. Daly, J. O'Brien, B. Finn, P. Dwyer.

1900: J. Tobin (capt.), P. Moloney, W. McNeil, J. Dwan, D. Myres, M. Walsh, J. O'Brien, R. Quane, R. Hourigan, P. Wall, W. O'Toole, D. Harney, J. O'Shea, J. Cooney, D. Smyth, P. Cox, J. Hayes.

1920: N. O'Shea (capt.), A. Carroll, J. McNamara, G. Lanigan, James Ryan, J. Shelly, W. Grant, M. Barrett, M. Tobin, J. Ryan, J. Doran, G. McCarthy, V. Vaughan, M. Arrigan, T. Powell.

M.F. (1)

1934: A. Greensmith (capt.), J. O'Connor, W. Griffin, W. Power, M. Byrne, H. O'Donnell, J. Hickey, M. Lalor, H. McGrath, T. Kenny, C. Dillon, M. Galvin, J. Maher, M. Power, P. Blanchfield, E. O'Toole, O'Dwyer, L. Gaynor, M. Roche, J.



Stars of to-morrow from Nenagh—The Five Og Under 14 hurlers, Divisional and County Champions.

Tipperary County Champions

SENIOR HURLING

1887—Thurles
1888—Clonoulty
1889—Moycarkey
1890—Toomevara
1890-93—
1894—Drombane
1895-96—Tubberadora
1897—Suir View
1898—Tubberadora
1899—Horse and Jockey
1900—Two-mile-Borris
1901—Ballytarsna
1902—Nenagh De Wets
1903—Two-mile-Borris
1904—Thurles
1905—Two-mile-Borris
1906-09—Thurles
1910—Toomevara
1911—Thurles
1912-14—Toomevara
1915-18—Boherlahan
1919—Toomevara
1920-21—
1922—Boherlahan
1923—Toomevara
1924-25—Boherlahan
1926—Moycarkey
1927-28—Boherlahan
1929—Thurles
1930-31—Toomevara
1932-34—Moycarkey/Borris
1935-36—Thurles
1937—Moycarkey/Borris
1938-39—Thurles
1940—Moycarkey/Borris
1941—Boherlahan
1942—Thurles
1943—Eire Og, Annacarty
1944-46—Thurles Sarsfields
1947—Carrick Swans
1948—Hollycross
1949—Borrisoleigh
1950—Borrisoleigh
1951—Hollycross
1952—Thurles Sarsfields
1953—Borrisoleigh
1954—Hollycross
1955-59—Sarsfields
1960—Toomevara
1961-65—Sarsfields
1966—Carrick Davins

1967—Carrick Davins
1967-70—Roscrea
1971—Moyne/Templetuohy
1972—Roscrea

JUNIOR HURLING

1910—Borrisoleigh
1913—Toomevara
1914—De Wets
1916—Boherlahan
1919—Mid Selection
1922—Tipperary O'Learys
1923-25—Mid Selection
1926—North Selection
1927—Killenaule
1928—South Selection
1929-30—North
1931-32—South
1933—Borrisoleigh
1934—Boherlahan
1935-36—Boherlahan
1937—Drum/Inch
1938—Solohead
1939—Shannon Rovers
1940—Borrisokane
1941—Hollycross
1942—Cappawhite
1946—Lorrha
1947—St. Marys, Nenagh
1948—Cappawhite
1949—Moneygall
1950—Coolmoyne
1951—Killenaule
1952—13th Batt., Clonmel
1953—Cashel
1954—Moycarkey
1955-56—Sarsfields
1957—Newport
1958—Sarsfields
1959—Solohead
1960—Killenaule
1961—Moyne
1962—Thurles Kickhams
1963—Carrick-on-Suir
1964—Burgess
1965—Moyne/Templetuohy
1966—Sean Treacys
1967—Clonakenny
1968—Shannon Rovers
1969—Knockshegowna
1970—Drom/Inch
1971—Kildangan
1972—

MINOR HURLING

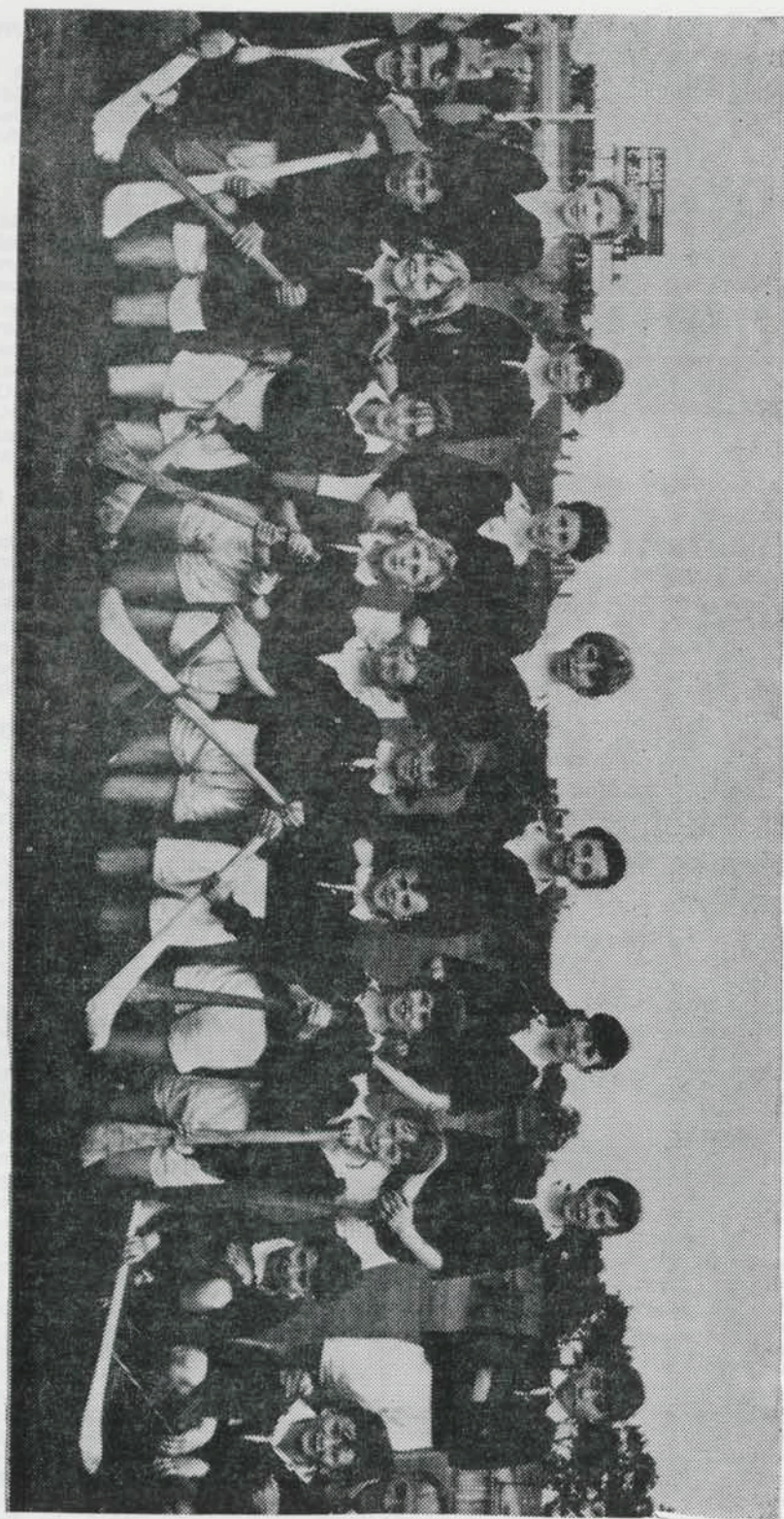
1931—South Selection
1932-34—Mid Selection
1935—Thurles C.B.S.
1938—Mid Selection
1939—North Selection
1940—Mid
1946—Mid
1947-48—Mid
1953—Rahealty
1954-57—Sarsfields
1958-63—Roscrea
1964—Moyne/Templetuohy
1965—Cappawhite
1966-67—Roscrea
1968—Moycarkey
1969—Eire Og, Nenagh
1970—Boherlahan
1971—Kilruane
1972—Moycarkey/Borris

UNDER 21 HURLING

1963-64—Roscrea
1965—Moyne/Templetuohy
1966—Lorrha
1967—Knockavilla Kickhams
1968—Roscrea
1969—Borrisoleigh
1970-71—Naomh Padraig
(Burgess/Kildangan)

SENIOR FOOTBALL

1887—Fethard
1888-89—Bohercrowe
1894-96—Arravale Rovers
1897-98—Clonmel Shamrocks
1899—Arravale
1900-01—Clonmel
1902—Tipperary Town
1903-07—Grangemockler
1908—Cloneen
1909—Grangemockler
1910—Tipperary O'Learys
1911—Nenagh
1912-13—Mullinahone
1914—Castleiney
1915—Nenagh
1917-25—Templemore
1926—Mullinahone
1927-28—Fethard
1929—Mullinahone
1931—Grangemockler
1930—Kilsheelan
1932—Kilsheelan
1933-34—Clonmel Shamrocks
1935—Ardfinnan
1936—Templemore
1937—Clonmel Shamrocks
1938—Fethard
1939—Ardfinnan
1940—Castleiney/Loughmore
1941—Arravale Rovers
1942—Fethard
1943—10th Batt., Clonmel
1944—Clonmel Commercials
1945—10th Batt., Clonmel
1946—Loughmore/Castleiney
1947—St. Patricks



Every picture tells its story and here the Under 14 hurlers from Borris-Ileigh cannot hide their pleasure at having won their group during Feile na mGael in July.

1948—Clonmel
 1949-50—Galtee Rovers
 1951—Ballingarry
 1952—Old Bridge
 1953—St. Patricks
 1954—Fethard
 1955—Loughmore
 1956—Clonmel
 1957—Fethard
 1958—North Selection
 1959—Inane Rovers
 1960—Thurles Crokes
 1961—St. Flannans (North)
 1962-64—Ardfinnan
 1965-67—Commercials
 1968—Kilsheelan
 1969—Kilsheelan
 1969—Commercials
 1970—Ardfinnan
 1971—Commercials
 1972—Kilsheelan

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

1914—Nenagh
 1915—Commons
 1916—Mullinahone
 1923—Fethard
 1924-25—Kilsheelan
 1926—South
 1927—Carrick-on-Suir
 1928-29—South
 1930—Old Bridge
 1931-32—South
 1933—Mohober
 1934—Ardfinnan

1935—Drangan
 1936—Ballyneale
 1938-39—Emly
 1937—Baile na dTeact
 1940—Clonmel
 1941—Swan and Faugheen
 1942—Kilsheelan
 1946—Galtee Rovers/St. Pecauns
 1947—Rockwell Rovers
 1948—Burncourt
 1949—Old Bridge
 1950—Kilsheelan
 1951—Boherlahan
 1952—Cahir Slashers
 1953—Drangan
 1954—Ardfinnan
 1955—Cahir Slashers
 1956—Killusty
 1957—Templemore
 1958—Cahir Slashers
 1959—Moyle Rovers
 1960—Burncourt/Clogheen
 1961—Inane Rovers
 1962—Grangemockler
 1963—Rockwell Rovers
 1964—Moneygall
 1965—Newport
 1966—Clonakenny
 1967—St. Patricks
 1968—Emly
 1969—Clonoulty/Rossmore
 1970—Newport
 1971—Lorrha
 1972—Templemore

MINOR FOOTBALL

1932—South Selection
 1933—West Selection
 1934—Arravale Rovers
 1935-36—Clonmel
 1938—Clonmel
 1953—Cahir Slashers
 1954—St. Marys, Clonmel
 1955—Clonmel
 1956—Castleiney
 1957—Fethard
 1958—Cahir Slashers
 1959—Arravale Rovers
 1960—Clonmel
 1961—Ardfinnan
 1962—Ardfinnan
 1963—St. Patricks (West)
 1964—Loughmore/Castleiney
 1965—Clonmel
 1966—Arravale Rovers
 1969—Inane Rovers
 1967-68—Clonmel
 1970—Drangan
 1971—Ardfinnan
 1972—Arravale Rovers

UNDER 21 FOOTBALL

1963—Ardfinnan
 1964—Loughmore/Castleiney
 1965—Moneygall
 1966-68—Fethard
 1969—Clonmel
 1970—Loughmore/Castleiney
 1971—Clonmel

Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Thiar)

It is our pleasure to thank everyone associated with the successful promotion of our games within the division during the past year. Your loyal and generous support has been deeply appreciated and here's wishing you all you deserve during 1973.

Cumann Luith Chleas Gale

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Thiar)

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Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Theas)

The above Board through this medium extends to all players, referees, members and supporters sincerest thanks for loyal support and help in the past.

With sincerest wishes to all for success in the New Year

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