

TIPPERARY YEAR BOOK 1975



Luach 50p

Always the best...

"ROSCREA"



BACON and HAMS

"SPECIAL PORK FOODS"



THE ROSCREA BACON FACTORY LTD.
ROSCREA

TELEPHONES: Roscrea 6, 186 and 301
Livestock Mart: 145

TELEX 6620



Tipperary G.A.A.

Year Book

1975

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

By
'THE GUARDIAN',
SUMMERHILL, NENAGH

Editor
GERRY SLEVIN

CONTENTS

Reamhra le Tomas Oh Eadhra	2	An Club—Laidir no Lag by Seamus O Riain	49
Focal o'n Eagarthoir	3	Camogie by Patricia O'Brien	51
A Year of Missed Opportunities by Gerry Slevin	5	Scor 74 by Gerry Slevin	53
My Super Tipperary Team by John D. Hickey ...	7	The Best Laid Schemes by Sean O'Dea	55
Late James P. McGowan by Dr. Thomas Marsh ...	11	When All the World Was Young by Raymond Smith	57
Tipperary County Champions	15	Cliches on the Hurling Field by Patricia Feehily	63
Hurlers—Born or Made? by Tony Wall	19	The Leahys of Tubberadora by Phil Dwyer	65
Sarsfields Ride Again by Gerry Slevin	21	Football Playing Rules: 1884-1974 by Seamus O Riain	75
Things Were Never Better in the West by Bill O'Donnell	25	A Day of Terror in Croke Park by Seamus O Riain	77
Swan Are Back by Michael O'Meara	29	Let's Get Together by Gerry Slevin	81
Two Days in May by Gerry Slevin	33	Bord na nOg by Tom Kirby	83
From a Charity Act by Jim Kennedy	37	Templemore's Year on Colleges' Front by Seamus O'Donnacha	93
The Mid is Fast Regaining by Michael Dundon	41	The Heroes of Silvermines by J. G. S.	95
Winds of Change in the North by Gerry Slevin ...	45		
Fifty Years of Tipperary Handball by Ml. Tyrell ...	47		



REAMHRA

IS CUIS ATHAS MOR DOM, failte a chur ar on Bliániris seo arís. Is é seo an cuigiú eagraí agus ce nach raibh morán buaite againn ins an mhbliain ata caite, ta go leor le leamh agaibh as na himeachtaí a tharla i measc an condáe i rith an bliain so chaite. Cuireann se áthas mór orm buíochas óm chroí a thabairt do gach éinne a cabhraigh leis an tEagarthóir, Georóid Ó Sleibhin, chun a iris seo a chur amach. Obair an mhaith a dhein siad go leir agus ta suil againn go mbeidh eagraí eile an bliain seo chugainn.

No doubt we have had better years in Tipperary. Along with failing to take a provincial or All Ireland title on the hurling fields, we relinquished our grip on the minor title, when going under to Cork in the final replay.

But even at the worst of times, I am an incurable optimist, and though deprived of success during the year, there was still so much of note throughout 1974 within the county, so as to make me look to the future with increasing confidence. Sarsfields took over as our top senior hurling team and we all know what their past successes have meant to the county.

We also saw the crowning of new cham-

pions in three divisions, with Silvermines, Drom/Inch and Carrick Swan making the breakthrough. Then we had Cashel taking over as minor champions, showing that their excellent grounding in college competition is bearing fruit.

As the year draws to a close we see the renewed spirit of our senior hurlers as well as the adventure of the selectors who obviously realise that a fresh start has to be made, if the glories of the past are to be revived. One could not but be optimistic when considering all these and this Yearbook will revive for you in some tangible way the great memories that were part and parcel of 1974.

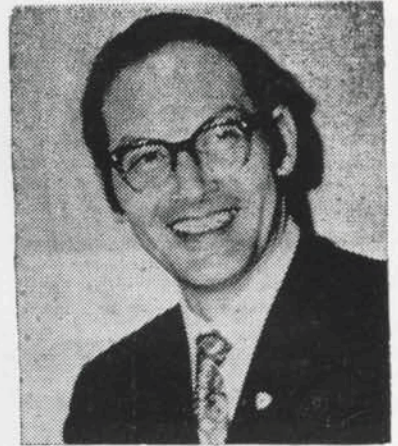
It isn't easy to keep a publication like a Year Book going. There can be a tendency to run out of ideas but I feel we can take pride in the fact that this is our fifth successive book and to all who are intimately connected with it, I tender my sincerest thanks and the thanks of the County Board.

Tomas Óh Eadhra,

Cahaoirleach,

CLG Tiobrad Arann

FOCAL ON EAGARTHOIR



NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that 1974 was a rather lean year for Tipperary, the amount of activity within the county itself and the enthusiasm generated throughout the county with the arrival on the scene of many new faces in the chase for titles, made it a year that will have lasting memories for many people.

From my own view point in my association with this publication, I can say that the interest among contributors was not lessened one whit by virtue of the fact that as a county we had little to shout about in the past year.

It is, I feel, this almost compulsion on the part of so many people to be associated with the Yearbook that continues to make my task a relatively easy one. As the fifth successive Yearbook now goes on the bookstalls, there is, I am convinced, a conviction in Tipperary hearts that we still have something to be very proud of, something which we can show the rest of the country. The Yearbook has become an integral part of the GAA in Tipperary and it is my dearest wish that it may always be so.

This year we are very proud to welcome among our contributors, two Tipperary men, who began their journalistic careers within the county before moving on to become two of the most respected and authoritative scribes in Irish sports journalism. John D. Hickey and Raymond Smith are men of whom Tipperary can be proud and that they have willingly consented to put some of their thoughts together for inclusion in this book, adds, I feel, to the status of the publication.

We are of course extremely grateful too to all others who gave their time and experi-

ence so enthusiastically to this cause; also photographers and advertisers.

Being a County Board publication, the Yearbook has certainly become the cherished baby of people like Tom O'Hara and Tommy Barrett whose continued interest throughout its preparation is indicative, I feel, of the mood of all Board members. My thanks goes out to both of them and as men so interested in the welfare of the GAA within the county, my only regret is that their efforts in so many ways throughout the year were not crowned with greater success for the wearers of the blue and gold.

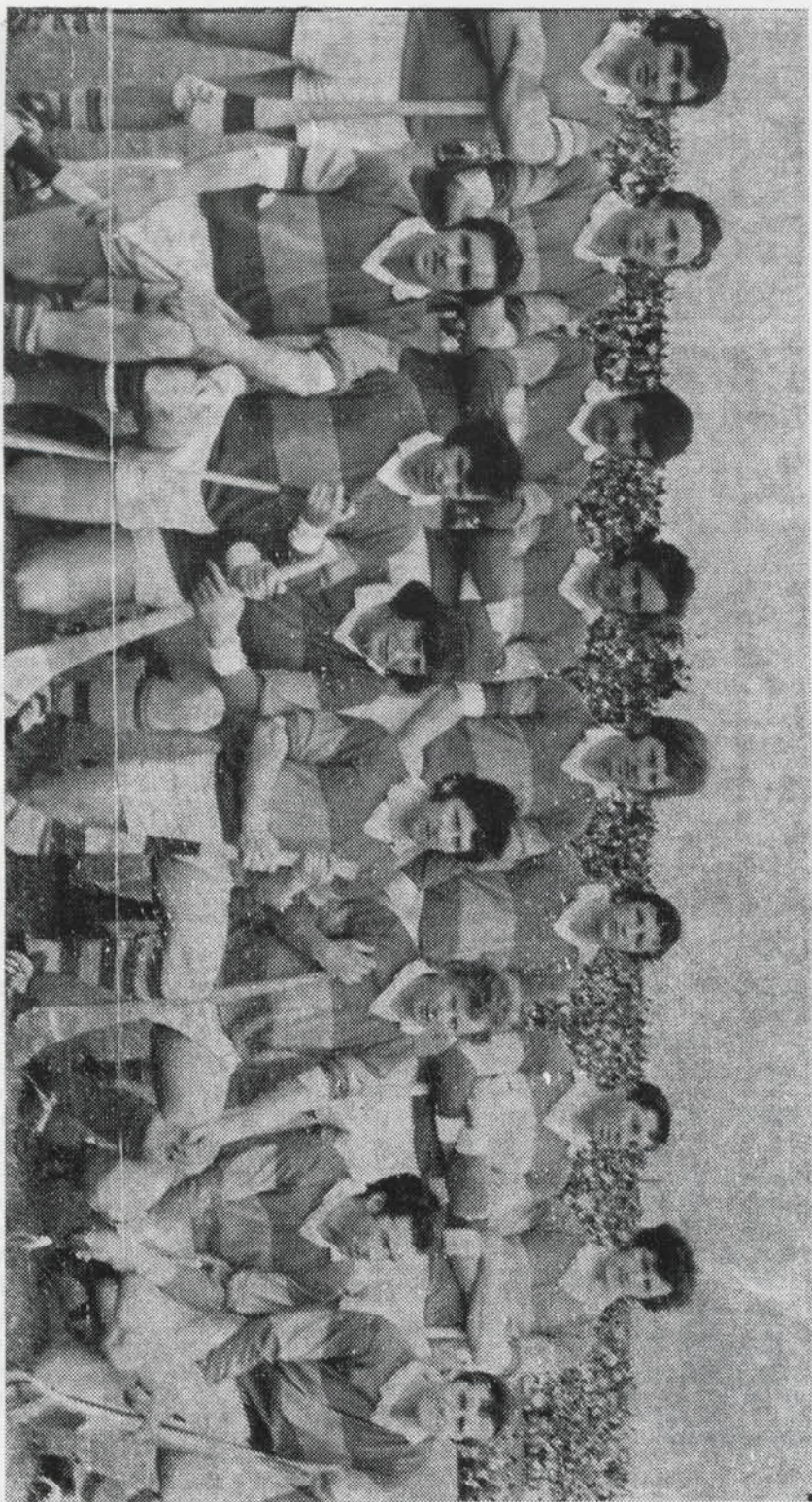
To Seamus O Riain, I owe a deep debt of personal gratitude too. Seamus is a man, like his successor, Tom O'Hara, who looks on the bright side all the time. He is an optimist and has a way about him that makes you want to give your very best in any project he may ask you to undertake. He has been my inspiration throughout my five years connected with this Yearbook and this encouragement as well as his own unstinting work have been among the more satisfactory aspects of my association with the publication.

Finally, my sincerest thanks to the Managing Director of 'The Guardian', Patrick Ryan, to the works foreman, Michael Moylan, and the staff of the paper whose co-operation at all times has been never less than first class.

I hope that you, readers, will find something to interest you in this year's edition. If so, then it will all have been well worth while.

Gearoid O Sleibhin

Aonach



The Tipperary team which lined out against Clare in their unsuccessful bid to reach the Munster SHC final. Standing, l. to r.: Liam Hackett, Jim Kehoe, Mick Roche, John Kelly, Noel O'Dwyer, Paul Byrne, Babs Keating, Seamus Hogan. Front, l. to r.: Liam King, P. J. Ryan, Roger Ryan, Tadgh O'Connor, John Flanagan, Francis Loughnane, Seamus Shinnors.

A YEAR OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

says GERRY SLEVIN

THERE ARE GOOD YEARS and there are bad years; there are years when everything, or nearly everything seems to go right and we can sit back and relax; there are other years—and it is the lot of every county from time to time—when we seem to get stuck in the mud and nothing goes right. 1974 was one of those years as far as Tipp was concerned on the inter county field.

It began promising enough. When the pre-Christmas portion of the League ended, we knew we had a fight on our hands to keep our interest there. You could say there was a determination to pull ourselves up into the top four. Waterford came to Thurles in early February and brought good credentials with them. We knew it wouldn't be easy to beat them. Nor was it. A palmed point from Roger Ryan in the closing minutes won the day but it was too narrow a victory from which to take any comfort. Still it was two valuable points amassed and we had a home game to come against Limerick.

On the last Sunday in February, over 15,000 people made their way into Semple Stadium, a magnificent tribute to the drawing power of the games two greatest opponents. We knew we had to win this one and win it we did when in a pulsating finish, Babs got the victory score to leave us but a point ahead of our rivals, thus continuing that great run of narrow margins that have been part and parcel of our meetings in recent years.

Now we could breath a sigh. What we had set out to do was done. Once again we had made our way to the semi-finals. There stood but Kildare, runners up in Division II, between us and yet another meeting with Limerick. The performance against the Lily Whites wasn't what one could call encouraging. Tipp did enough to win in the end in Thurles, an occasion that also saw the bottom knocked out of Waterford's hopes when they went down surprisingly to a rampant Dublin side.

The goal of reaching the semi-finals had been reached. We were now at the stage of the competition which brings in the money and while Limerick enjoyed the pleasures of San Francisco—with our own Francis Loughnane, Seamus Hogan and Jim Fogarty also on the trip—we waited for April 21st and a renewal of acquaintances with the All Ireland champions. The Gaelic Grounds was the venue and we waited in anticipation of another

stirring struggle. Nor were we disappointed. It was Limerick's hour, though. They caught us in the last quarter to score a two points victory and fair play to them, it was some achievement so soon after their return from the States.

The Munster championship draw had decreed a semi-final meeting with Clare on July 7th. Considering how Clare had fared towards the close of the league, it was a game we didn't have reason to feel complacent about. On the previous Sunday, Waterford, who had shocked Cork in the first round, almost won the day against Limerick too, and this should have been sufficient notice for our lads as they prepared to meet the Banner.

July 7th was also World Cup final day but as far as Tipperary is concerned it was a day that is best forgotten. We had the situation of the issuing of two line-outs to the press the previous week. We saw the return of Mick Roche to action and as we assembled in the Gaelic Grounds we felt that despite all our troubles, we should be good enough to account for Clare whose record against us had been anything but good in the past.

Tipp unceremoniously made their exit from the Munster championship that afternoon. Clare, young, ambitious and enthusiastic, could not be stopped and the Tipp attack for all the chances received, could not come to grips with a situation that was slowly but surely throwing our chances out the gate.

So, a year that began with some promise with our League games ended abruptly without even a Munster final place to look forward to.

Clare were also to put a halt to our gallop in the Under 21 grade and with a great last quarter display in Ennis dashed our hopes of revenge. But we still had the minors, hadn't we? We expected a lot from them, after their displays of the previous year allied to success by the North/West combination in the Munster special competition. Clare proved easy meat enough in the semi-final and we had the final wrapped up too against Cork only to allow complacency get the better of us with the result that at the long blast we were mighty lucky to be on level terms. It was down to Dungarvan for the replay and Cork made no mistake this time.

Our title had been lost and we found ourselves at the end of the provincial campaign with nothing to show for our efforts.

Yes, it was one those years alright. It is now past. Lets all hope it will be some time again before we have another like it.



It's a familiar scene, but one not often photographed. It's throw-in time in Semple Stadium, Thurles, as Tipperary seek a brace of NHL points. Over on the side opposite to the stand, substitutes, selectors and mentors prepare to view the game. Included are: Martin Loughnane, Roscrea; John Joe Maher, Roscrea; Sean Ryan, Toomevara; John Lanigan, Thurles; Jimmy Hennessy, Dundrum; Co. Board Secretary, Tommy Barrett; Ossie Bennett, Masseur; Donie Nealon, Trainer; as well as substitutes Martin Esmonde, Joe Kennedy, Joe Cunningham, Paul Byrne, Jim Keogh.

VISIT—

Jack & Mamie Sherlock

45 SUMMERHILL, NENAGH

**Before and after all social and business
occasions**

FOR BEST DRINKS

My Super Tipperary Team

By JOHN D. HICKEY

TIMES CHANGE and so do not only ideas but what had appeared to be immutable convictions. That revelation was brought home to me with telling effect when I sat down to comply with a request of the Editor to pick my super Tipperary team from the thirteen glorious sides I had seen with the all-Ireland senior hurling championship title for the Premier County between 1925 and 1971, inclusive.

In prospect the task seemed simplicity itself. I recalled having accepted a similar challenge some years ago and considered that all I had to do was to lay hands on a Tipperary Year Book of how many years ago I had no notion. The more I vainly searched, the deeper became my depression.

In despair I felt like contacting Editor and colleague Gerry Slevin to tell him of my dilemma and



JOHN DOYLE

crave his release. Picking what might be termed the all-time great Tipperary team without evidence of the side I had previously chosen could, it seemed to me, be tantamount to an act of utter folly.

If my team of today differed from the line-out I had previously nominated, I would be a cock-shot for every hurling man in Tipperary, and rightly so. That, naturally, was a frightening prospect that I did not relish.

I continued my search for the Year Book and after having invented dastardly swear words about

spring, or any other seasonal cleaning to which womanhood is addicted, and my own lack of system a ray of hope emerged. I was told that Joe Kelly, assistant Sports Editor of the "Evening Herald", was my man.

Three times I met Joe and we talked shop—it is an occupational hazard—and even about the weather! I was stark terrified to ask about the Year Book lest he might not know what I was talking about. Closeness of Gerry Slevin's dead-line eventually forced me to screw up the courage to make the inquiry. Eureka! Not only did he have it, he knew where it was.

Almost immediately the "priceless" book came into my possession my elation was deflated. I was shattered. Missing from that team that I had picked in 1965 were Pat Stakelum and Sean Kenny. I was aghast. It was a monstrosity, if not a hurling sacrilege.

The centre half-back berth I had given to Tony Wall and my midfielders were Tommy Treacy and Theo English. I bow to no hurling man in my esteem of Wall, Treacy and English, yet I could not absolve myself of the heinous crime of having omitted Stakelum and Kenny.

Here for the benefit of those who are as slipshod as I am in preserving worthy GAA productions is my Tipperary team of nine years ago:

Tony Reddan		
John Doyle	Mick Maher	Jim Lanigan
Jimmy Finn	Tony Wall	Phil Purcell
Theo English	Tommy Treacy	
Jimmy Doyle	Mick Ryan	Phil Cahill
Paddy Kenny	Martin Kennedy	Seamus Bannon

Fie for those who may mock me for my inconsistency in not standing four-square behind that selection. There would be little point, however, in my undertaking the task of now naming by best Tipperary team of all were I not truthful to myself, never mind readers. I could easily parade my 1965 side and defiantly stand by it, but the pose would be a damnable lie, a total misrepresentation of my present-day beliefs.

I am not so naive as to plead extenuating circumstances in naming Stakelum to replace Wall at centre half back and calling on Kenny to replace English as Treacy's midfield partner.

It must, however, be borne in mind by those who might now wish to tear me limb from limb, because of the alterations, that when I picked that side in 1965, Wall and English were members of an all-

Souvenirs-Fancy Goods

Minerals

**Bed - Breakfasts
Dinners - Teas**

**Newspapers
Magazines**

J. K. C.

25 Pearse St., Nenagh

Phone 391

Ireland winning team of that year and I was, no doubt, still living in the euphoria of that great triumph over Wexford.

Think of the havoc that Kenny and Treacy would wreak at midfield. Remember their deeds of valour far beyond the call of duty even in a county where they love their hurlers to be brave and those who



SEAN KENNY

might advocate my hanging will, I feel sure, hail my temerity in making the alteration at midfield.

Kenny, like Treacy, had an in-built defiance of opposition, and particularly when Cork were the mountain to be scaled, it was immeasurable. Remember the gritted teeth and how he seemed to relish punishment when the honour and glory of Tipperary were at stake. To me, as I am sure he was to many others, he seemed incomplete without a middle name. He should have been called Sean "Defiant" Kenny.

Looking back now, at a time when both men have gone out of circulation, and judgment, consequently, is more balanced, I have no hesitation in asserting that Pat Stakelum was a purer hurler than Tony Wall. Stakelum was a hurling artist in everything he essayed, carried his stick as if it were part of his anatomy and over-head he was far more accomplished than the great Wall. I am sorry for having supplanted Wall and English but I make no apology for having done so, and neither do I deem one necessary.

As was the case in 1965, I still rate Tony Reddan, Jimmy Finn and Mick Ryan as automatic selections. Let me add that Wall was included in that category nine years ago, but then he was part of the set-up.

Distance, it is said, lends enchantment to the view. The generalisation is not valid, as the proximity of Wall and English in 1965 unconsciously dimmed my view of Kenny and Stakelum.

Here then is my great Tipperary team drawn from the 1925-1971 years:

Tony Reddan		
John Doyle	Mick Maher	Jim Lanigan
Jimmy Finn	Pat Stakelum	Phil Purcell
Sean Kenny		Tommy Treacy
Jimmy Doyle	Mick Ryan	Phil Cahill
Paddy Kenny	Mtn. Kennedy	Seamus Bannon

A LEAGUE OF INTRIGUE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, saw the end of the pre-Christmas portion of the National Hurling League and it was quite an occasion for Tipperary too, because in collecting their first victory points, after three draws with Cork, Wexford and Dublin and a three point loss to All-Ireland champions, Kilkenny, Tipperary ended on a winning note with a fourteen point victory over Limerick in the Gaelic Grounds.

It was a most encouraging performance and one that puts us back into the reckoning. Clare come to Nenagh in February and Waterford cross the Suir and into Carrick for the last game of the series and victories here while being greatly appreciated would give us an excellent chance of getting back into the honours' list.

Clare are going great guns, with 8 points from four games, and are on top of the table along with Kilkenny who faltered to Cork—earlier victims of Clare. Wexford come next, and just a point ahead of Tipperary and they have two stiff away games to Cork and Kilkenny.

Tipperary's victory over Limerick was the first one for the seniors since they eliminated Division II runners-up, Kildare, from the 1973/74 league in April. Naturally, then, it was a victory to be relished and it must give us hope for better things in 1975.

Things have not gone well for our County champions in the provincial club championships. Sarsfields failed to Newmarket-on-Fergus in the semi-final of the hurling competition while Ardfinnan also had to bow the knee to Clare title holders, Doonbeg.

FOR FULL REPORTS
PREVIEWS

and

ALL UP TO DATE HAPPENINGS
in

THE G.A.A. WORLD

read

“THE GUARDIAN”

**We are happy to be associated with
this publication and extend good
wishes to the G. A. A. in Tipperary
in 1975**

**The “Nenagh Guardian” Ltd.
13 Summerhill, Nenagh
Co. Tipperary**

Phone 214, 674

LATE J. P. McGOWAN

A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON TIPPERARY FOOTBALL

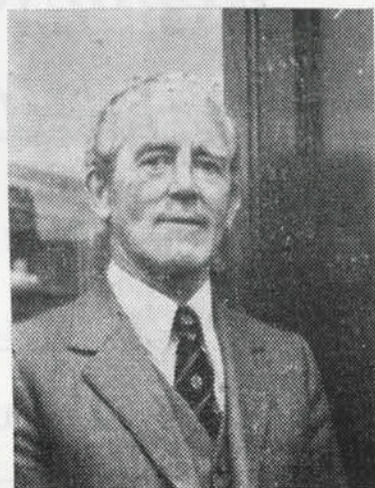
By REV. DR. THOMAS MARSH

JAMES P. McGOWAN was widely mourned in Co. Tipperary. County Engineer for the South Riding since 1960, he was well-known as an efficient, dedicated and forward-looking public official. Especially, he was deeply respected by all who had the privilege of meeting him as a true Christian gentleman. His interest in the life and affairs of his adopted county extended far wider than the area of his profession. His interests, indeed, were as large as life itself and the lines of the Roman poet were certainly true of him: *"I am a man: I regard nothing human as alien to me."*

Prominent among those interests was Gaelic football. Here his interest became active involvement when from 1970 to 1973 he acted as trainer and coach to the county football team. It was this association which gave players, officials and indeed the wide following of Tipperary football a deep sense of personal loss at his passing. It is in tribute to this generous service of James McGowan to Tipperary football that these lines are penned in grateful remembrance.

James McGowan's interest in Gaelic football was based on the best credentials. His own playing career had been mainly in the 1930s, a decade which saw a number of fine teams—Kerry, Cavan, Galway. But the great team of the 1930s was undoubtedly Mayo, All-Ireland Champions in 1936 and National League winners 1935/36, 1936/37, 1937/38, 1938/39 and 1940/41. This Mayo side ranks as one of the all-time greats in the history of Gaelic football. James McGowan was one of the great players of this team.

Following his distinguished playing career, he continued to be actively involved in football in his native county. It was soon apparent that in addition to being a great player he also had exceptional ability as a trainer and coach. The fine Mayo team of the early 1950s was concrete evidence of this. He was, in fact, one of the first of the modern trainer-coaches.



James McGowan

On coming to Tipperary in the 60s, James McGowan was soon impressed with the potential of Tipperary football. It was after Tipperary's fine display in Clonmel in 1969 against Mayo, then arguably the best team in the country, that he offered his services to the county team. This offer was swiftly and gratefully accepted. So began James McGowan's fruitful association with the Tipperary football team.

NEW FORCE

It was soon clear that a new force was at work in Tipperary football. With the players responding quickly and eagerly to his leadership, the standard of performance rose quickly and appreciably. Results were to prove his assessment of Tipperary football correct. Cork and Kerry were forced to treat Tipperary with new respect and one remembers in particular Joe Keohane's tribute in the Tipperary dressingroom after Kerry's narrow escape in

MAKE NENAGH'S . . .

HOTEL ORMOND

Your venue for

WEDDING RECEPTIONS,

BIRTHDAY PARTIES,

DINNER DANCES, ETC.

Personal supervision a speciality

**Hotel open for Dinner Dances on Sunday
and Friday Nights**

**Regular dance promotions in Scouts' Hall
Sundays & Fridays, featuring Ireland's top bands**

Phone Neangh 404

Tipperary in the 1972 League. Tipperary won the National League Division II 1971/72, the county's first national football title for a long, long time.

The system of training which produced these results was thorough and well thought out but it was the dynamism of the person directing it which really made the impact. The training was both physical and mental. Fitness, speed and stamina were to be the foundation of good performance, a set of adaptable tactics its actual execution on the field. These tactics called for the creation of space and clever movement off the ball to use that space. This kind of movement required split-second timing and one of the most novel aspects of the training were the exercises to produce this mental alertness.

James McGowan concentrated above all on the mental attitude of his players. He gave them status by putting the highest aims before them, he fired their ambition and gave them a realistic confidence in their ability to achieve it. He accomplished this by his rare ability to communicate with his players, to form a personal relationship with them individually and collectively. He was not a dictator commanding them but a partner working with them in the common enterprise. He thus enabled them to get from themselves the last ounce of endeavour. Those who were present at the last training session before the Cork game in 1971 will always vividly remember his quoting the following lines from Kipling's "If" as each player's personal motto for the game:

"If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the will which says to them: 'Hold on!'"

This was indeed the thrust of his training, to bring his players to this pitch of endeavour, having already laid the foundation of the necessary physical fitness and tactical skills.

James McGowan always insisted that he was not dealing simply with an isolated group of players, the county team. He maintained that the approach to football that these select players were learning would through them filter down into the clubs and influence football in the county generally. Those who know Tipperary football know he was right. The "McGowan approach" was soon to be seen operating at club level and a better approach to football became discernible in the county. An impact had been made, a seed had been planted. James McGowan was content to let time do the rest.

Tipperary football owes a debt of gratitude to James McGowan for the time and energy which he so generously and enthusiastically gave to it. The impact he made is an enduring one; the seed he planted was well sown. These lines are written in the conviction that the work he started will yet come to fruition. When that day does come, the name of James McGowan will not be forgotten by the followers of Tipperary football

For all your *Insurance needs*

Contact

John O'Donoghue

INSURANCE BROKER

AND CONSULTANT

73 MAIN STREET.,
TIPPERARY

Agent for the

**Educational Building
Society**

Phone 51464

LIAM BUCKLEY CAR SALES

MONEYGALL

*Buy where you get the best
deal in all Cars*

NEW AND USED

OPENING HOURS: 8 a.m.—9 p.m. daily

Phone Moneygall 49

TIPPERARY COUNTY CHAMPIONS

SENIOR HURLING

1887—Thurles
1888—Clonoulty
1889—Moycarkey
1890—Toomevara
1891-93—
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
1949-50—Borrisoleigh
1951—Hollycross
1952—Thurles Sarsfields
1953—Borrisoleigh
1954—Hollycross
1955-59—Thurles Sarsfields
1960—Toomevara
1961-65—Thurles Sarsfields
1966-67—Carrick Davins
1967-70—Roscrea
1971—Moyne/Templetuohy
1972-73—Roscrea
1974—Thurles Sarsfields

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
1934-36—Boherlahan
1937—Drom/Inch
1938—Solohead
1939—Shannon Rovers
1940—Borrisokane
1941—Hollycross
1942—Cappawhite
1946—Lorrha
1947—St. Marys, Nenagh
1948—Cappawhite
1949—Moneygall
1950—Coolmoynes
1951—Killenault
1952—13th Batt., Clonmel
1953—Cashel
1954—Moycarkey
1955-56—Thurles Sarsfields
1957—Newport
1958—Thurles Sarsfields
1959—Solohead
1960—Killenaule
1961—Moyne
1962—Thurles Kickhams
1963—Corrick-on-Suir
1964—Burgess
1965—Moyne/Templetuohy
1966—Sean Treacys
1967—Clonakenny
1968—Shannon Rovers
1969—Knockshegowna
1970—Drom/Inch
1971—Kildangan
1972—Silvermines
1973—Ballingarry
1974—Hollycross

MINOR HURLING

1931—South Selection
1932-34—Mid Selection
1935—Thurles C.B.S.
1938—Mid Selection
1939—North Selection
1940—Mid
1946-48—Mid

1953—Rahealty
1954-57—Thurles 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
1973—Sarsfields
1974—Cashel

UNDER 21 HURLING

1963-64—Roscrea
1965—Moyne/Templetuohy
1966—Lorrha
1967—Knockavilla Kickhams
1968—Roscrea
1969—Borrisoleigh
1970-71—Naomh Padraigh
(Burgess/Kildangan)
1972—Carrick Swan
1973—Kilruane
1974—Kilruane

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
1930—Kilsheelan
1931—Grangemockler
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



SILVERMINES—North SH Champions and County SHC runners-up. Standing (left to right): Pat Quinlan, John Sherlock, Jim Ryan, Jack Dunlea, Johnny Forde, Mick Hanley, Jim Keogh, Eamonn Dillon. Front (left to right): Mike Fitzgibbon, John Kennedy, Jim O'Brien (capt.), Michael Maher, Pat Dunlea, Maurice Daffey, Tom Kennedy.

1944—Clonmel Commercials
 1945—10th Batt., Clonmel
 1946—Loughmore/Castleiney
 1947—St. Patrick's
 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
 1968-69—Kilsheelan
 1969—Commercials
 1970—Ardfinnan
 1971—Commercials
 1972—Kilsheelan
 1973—Loughmore/Castleiney
 1974—Ardfinnan

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
 1937—Baile na d'Teact
 1938-39—Emly
 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
 1973—Mullinahone

MINOR FOOTBALL

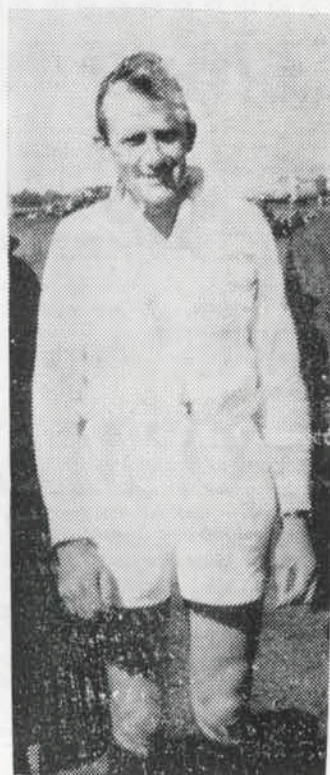
1932—South Selection
 1933—West Selection
 1934—Arravale Rovers
 1935-36—Clonmel
 1938—Clonmel
 1953—Cahir Slashers
 1954—St. Marys, Clonmel
 1955—Clonmel
 1956—Castleiney
 1957—Fethard
 1958—Cahir Slashers
 1959—Arravale Rovers
 1961-62—Ardfinnan
 1963—St. Patricks (West)
 1964—Loughmore/Castleiney
 1965—Clonmel
 1966—Arravale Rovers
 1967-68—Clonmel
 1969—Inane Rovers
 1970—Drangan
 1971—Ardfinnan
 1972—Arravale Rovers
 1973—Templemore
 1974—Cashel

UNDER 21 FOOTBALL

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

CASHEL'S UNIQUE DOUBLE

Cashel King Cormack's made Tipperary history this year. They became the first club to win county minor hurling and football honours in the same year. Tipperary salutes this great club and looks to it with confidence in the immediate years ahead. Cashel's success has proved that when a team is brought together at an early stage, as they were as far back as their under 12 days, the proper coaching, allied to a keen interest, will reap its rewards.



Well known referee, John Moloney, from Galtee Rovers, who was appointed to take charge of the only two major games to have eluded him in a long and illustrious career as a referee. He had charge of both the Munster SHC final and the All-Ireland SHC final in 1974.

MARTIN MOCKLER R.I.P.

His death in New York, in the early part of the year, removes a Two-Mile-Borris stalwart who rendered sterling service to his Club and County in the late teens and early twenties. After being a sub on the team beaten narrowly by Kilkenny in the '22 final (played in September '23) Martin played a man's part in winning the McCarthy Cup for the first time for Tipperary in 1925. He toured the States with the team in '26, and took part in the three games with Cork on returning. Soon after this he emigrated and played for several years with the Tipp team in New York.
 Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

BE WARM AND WELCOME

at

O'MEARA'S HOTEL

NENAGH

PROP.: MR L MAHER, LOUGHMORE

GRADE A., A.A., R.I.A.C., W.T.A.

RENOWNED FOR EXCELLENT CUISINE

Specialists in catering for

WEDDINGS, DINNERS, PARTIES

- ☐ CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN CARS AVAILABLE
- ☐ QUOTATIONS READILY AVAILABLE FOR GAA
CLUB DINNERS DANCES AND TEAM MEALS

PHONE NENAGH 266/411/412 FOR ALL RESERVATIONS

HURLERS—born or made?

asks TONY WALL

A JUBILANT JIMMY DOYLE was up in the stand with the new Dan Breen Cup. Around him the faces of the Thurles Sarsfields team, and supporters were radiant with excitement and joy. Beside me the quiet man from the Silvermines looked on rather sadly. "I knew the Sarsfields would produce something special for the final," he said. "They are all born hurlers."

The centre of the pitch in Thurles was not an ideal setting for an abstruse argument about the relative importance of heredity and environment, and so the matter was not pursued very far. And when one looked again at the Thurles team and saw the DoYLES and BYRNE and DWYER collecting medals which would be only additions to collections started by fathers, uncles and grandfathers, one realised that the case for heredity being the principal ingredient in the making of a hurler was very strong.

One has only to visit the homes of these families, however, to see that environment too plays a large part. On the way in from the gate one trips over a broken hurley, an old sliotar lies in the corner, there is an array of medals proudly on the wall, the conversation quickly gets around to this match or that player; the whole atmosphere reeks of hurling and one realises that identity and standing are in no small way bound up with hurling status.

In such an atmosphere hurling thrives and enough of it spills out around the neighbourhood to ensure that boys whose families may not have the same traditions are influenced by the hurling bug too. This hurling atmosphere becomes the dominant recreational influence of the whole area and there are

too many examples of boys without hurling forefathers who subsequently made top-class hurlers to doubt the dominant effect of environment.

If this were not so how could "blow-ins" to Thurles with names like WALL and REIDY ever become hurlers or a blow-in to Kilkenny with a name like KEHIR become the most prolific scorer that scoring county ever produced—or how could a young fellow with the Hungarian name of STIGLITZ wear a Tipperary jersey?

The hurling environment then is all important and if places like the Silvermines are to beat Thurles regularly or if counties like ANTRIM or WESTMEATH are to beat TIPPERARY or KILKENNY, a hurling atmosphere has to be nurtured and cultivated in these places.

The cultivation of such an atmosphere is obviously a complex social problem and bound up with all the other aspects of life in this island. It is also a problem I would like to duck here and go on a more mundane subject of the development of hurling.

I am more than ever convinced that, given a hurling environment, the most important single factor in the development of hurling skill is to ensure that from the earliest possible age the potential hurler has got the proper grip of his hurley.

To grip correctly, the hurley must be held with the dominant hand at the top of the handle i.e. the dominant hand must be farthest from the boss. The majority of people are right-handed and so the majority of people should grip the hurley with the right hand on top.

Why is this so? Hurling is a two-handed game. A top class player must have nearly equal facility at both left and right. He must be also able to deal with balls high up or low down and in all kinds of situations. To do this properly and without awkwardness

the hand at the top of the hurley must do most of the control work. This hand has got to be the more powerful and more skilful. It must be the right hand for the right-handed person. It should be the left hand for the ciotog. It does not matter in the very odd case when a person has equal skill in both hands.

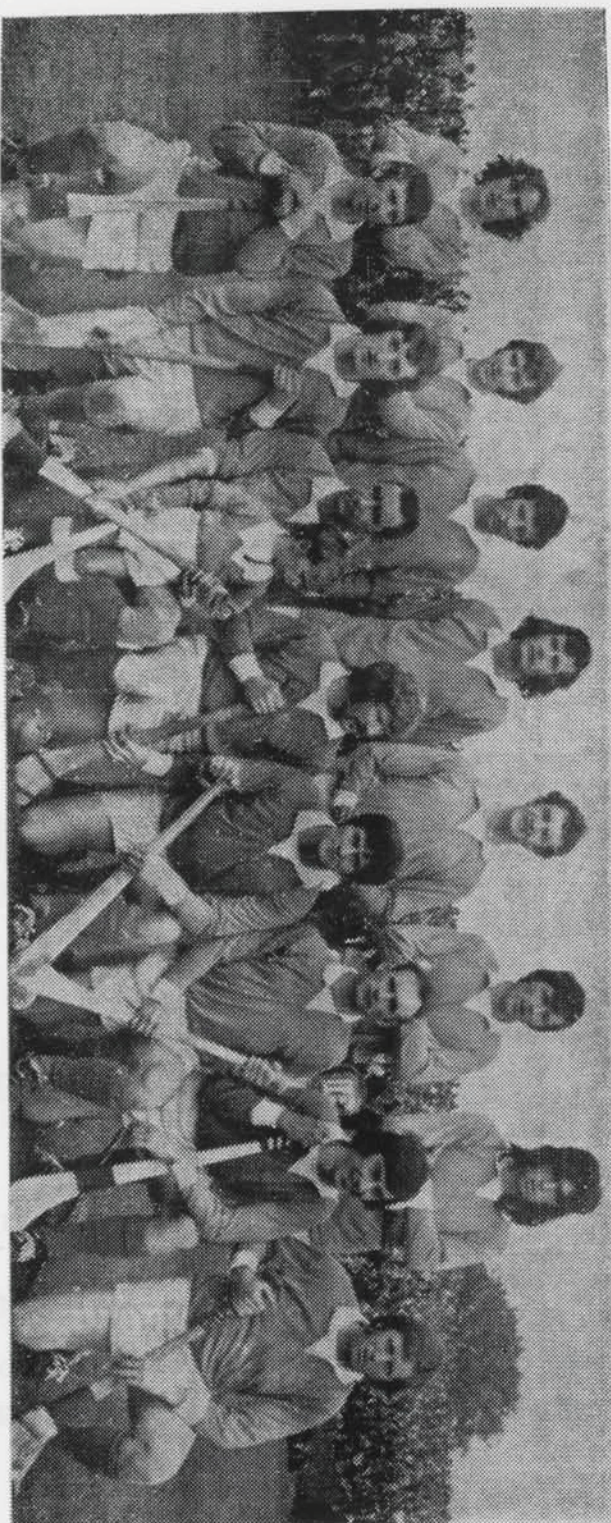
The trouble about getting a young boy to grip properly is that in very many cases the proper grip feels "wrong." Because it does feel wrong he is loathe to change and with every passing year the bad habit becomes more engrained and more difficult to correct.

This wrong grip normally causes faults in technique which plague a player all his life. In some cases this technical fault results in a player not being able to obtain a place on the club or county team. In the vast majority of cases it prevents a player from realising his full potential.

In this, as in most diseases, prevention is better than cure. The player who starts with a proper grip has an advantage which stays with him all his life and in my own case I am eternally grateful to TOMMY BUTLER, the Sarsfields goalkeeper of the thirties, for correcting my grip before it was too late to change.

A similar service could be rendered to many young players if only those with influence would scold, cajole, or coax them into acquiring the proper grip. And what a boon it would be to hurling if the "strong (or right) hand under" players were all eliminated before irreversible habits were formed with age.

So there you have my formula for the production of hurlers. Breed them if you can, but more important still, provide them with a hurling environment in their youth and ensure that they learn to grip the hurley with their more skilful hand at the top of the handle.



THURLES SARSFIELDS—County senior hurling champions for the first time since 1965. Front (left to right): Paddy Doyle, Johnny Dwyer, Jimmy Doyle (capt.) with mascot Aiden Murphy, son of team trainer Michael Murphy, Pat Leane, Francis Murphy, Sean McLoughlin, Tom Barry, Eddie Clancy. Standing (left to right): Jim Ryan, Jimmy Duggan, Paul Byrne, Johnny Burke, Jimmy Doyle, jr., Tossie Hayes, Pat McCormack.

Sarsfields ride again—and Jimmy shows the way

By GERRY SLEVIN

THE YEAR OF THE BIG RETURN. That was 1974 for Thurles Sarsfields who took their 28th senior title, and their first in nine years when they overcame the standard bearers from the North, Silvermines, in an October 13th decider that gave the Board its most lucrative county final ever at £2,636.

And just as there was delight when Dublin came back into the football big time, so too did Thurles hearts quicken as the present day representatives of the legendary Sarsfields club, led by the incomparable Jimmy Doyle, took over as the premier team in the premier county.

It was a good championship to win. The air of instability that hung over it for the past few years, was knocked aside when Roscrea, in search of their fifth title in seven years, fell to Sarsfields in the second round. Now the competition, in the words of a well known TV commentator, became a completely new ball game.

But even after their defeat of the champions, Sarsfields were not by any stretch of the imagination, home and dry. There was still a long way to go. But defeats of the champions, Sarsfields were not by any stretch of the imagination, home and dry. There was still a long way to go. But defeats of Moneygall and Toomevara saw them in serious contention for a title that has eluded them at the final stage, twice in the past nine years.

Yes, it was Sarsfields' year and they came up against worthy opponents when they took on Silvermines in Semple Stadium before 10,500 people. 'Mines, as can be seen in another article, took their first divisional title this year, and were in search of dual honours.

Sarsfields lost their Mid title to Drom/Inch on the same day, but rather than letting this upset them, they threw everything into the county championship and came up victorious.

Thirty-three teams in all lined out in the first round. The big surprise here was the defeat of Carrick Davins by Lorrha who in turn were to make a tame exit when facing Moneygall. Probably the best game of the opening round was the clash of Newport and Drom/Inch in Clonoulty. When it was all over, there was confusion as to the score. Referee Willie Hayes gave it to Newport by a point, but a recheck showed the scores to be level. Newport won the replay and followed that with a blistering

display which was too much for '73 runners-up, Kilruane.

In addition to Sarsfields, Moycarkey are keeping the Mid flag flying, but their colours were lowered by Silvermines in the quarter-final and 'Mines—just a week after their North final victory—earned a final place for themselves when they inflicted their second defeat of the season on Borris-Ileigh. Borris had knocked out Moyne/Templetuohy in the quarter-final, in a game that was to have serious repercussions at both Board and provincial council level in what became known as the Coen Case.

Even worse was to follow, when, for an invasion of the Council chamber, after an appeal in the Michael Coen case had been dismissed, the provincial body meted out suspension sentences to a group of Moyne men, ranging from two years to six months. The club was also fined £50.

But taking the year as a whole it was a successful one on the home front. Of course the open draw continues to have its opponents and it would appear that they are increasing in number year by year. But for Sarsfields it was a competition that will give them many happy hours reminiscing over.

THURLES CBS ON THE WAY BACK?

It is appropriate that in this Yearbook, when Raymond Smith looks back on the achievements of Thurles CBS in the past and the influence of this great nursery of Tipperary hurling, there should be a resurgence in this famed school as shown by the manner in which they dethroned All Ireland champions, Farrenferris, in the first round of the Dr. Harty Cup.

No doubt the honoured place Sarsfields now holds in Tipperary hurling has done much to stimulate interest among the students. Their comeback is welcomed and coupled with the advent of Cashel on the minor scene, there is every reason to look forward with enthusiasm to a return to prominence of Tipperary minor hurling and its consequent effects on the higher grades.

In Ireland ... Its Tipperary
in Tipperary...its Holycross

IN HOLYCROSS

visit

THE OLD

ABBEY

INN

Whether you win, lose or
draw you'll enjoy your
drink in this old world
atmosphere.

*Buy your presents in our interesting
GIFT SHOP in the shadows of
Holycross Abbey's lofty tower*

BUTLER
Refrigeration
Ltd.

TURTULLA,
THURLES

**Suppliers of Industrial
and Commercial
Refrigeration
Equipment**

SALES



SERVICE



SPARES

Telephone: Thurles 98 & 184



Twenty years exactly after Jimmy Doyle first hit the headlines, he again hit the headlines when leading Sarsfields to yet another County SHC victory. He is seen here receiving the Dan Breen Cup from County Board Chairman Tom O'Hara.

BEFORE AND AFTER THE MATCH

Call to

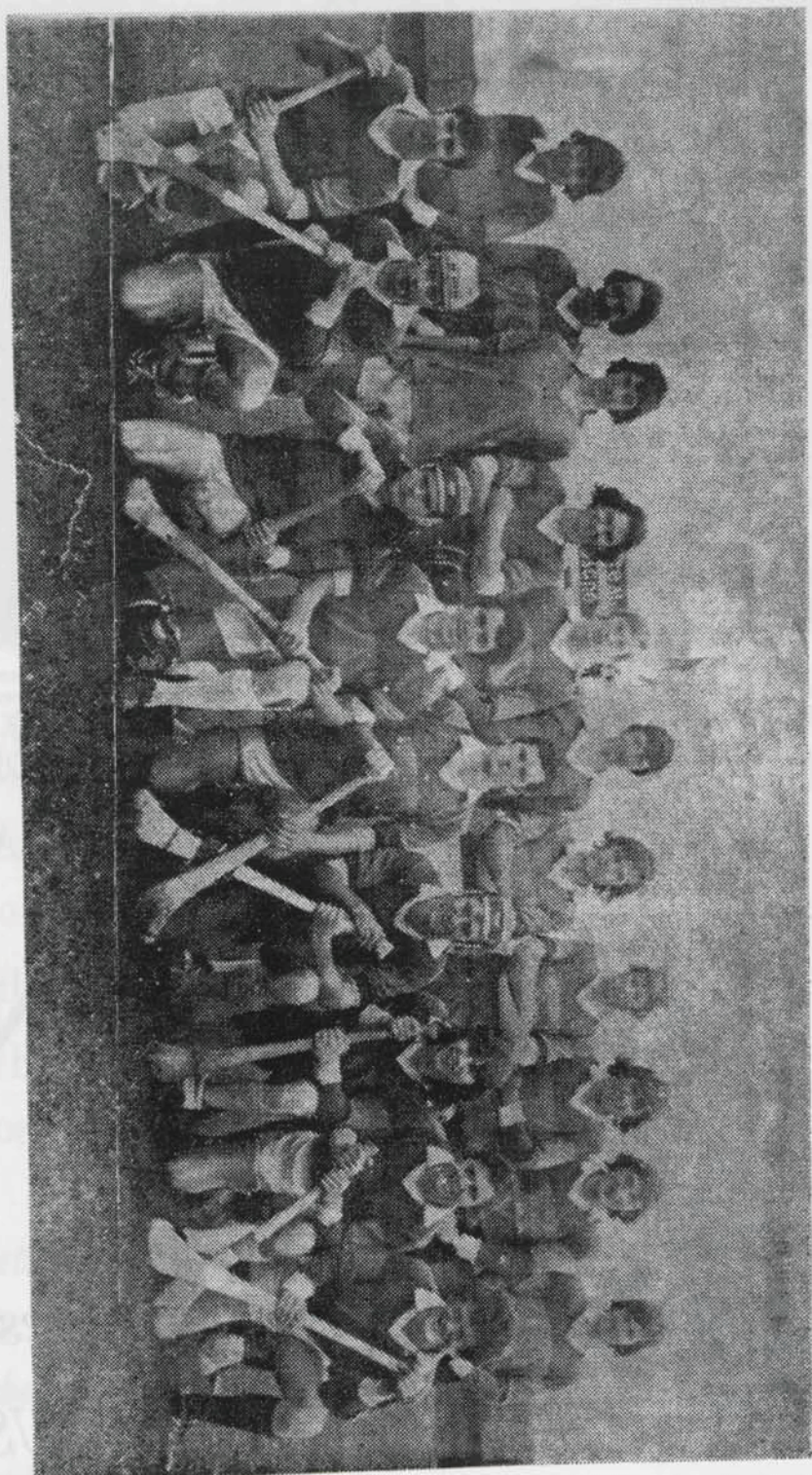
TOM BRERETON'S

LOUNGE & BAR

FOR FINEST DRINKS

Parnell Street — Thurles

THE SPORTMENS HOUSE



Members of the CASHEL minor hurlers and substitutes before going on to defeat Roscrea in the County MHC semi-final. Cashel later took the title and add the minor football title for good measure.

THINGS WERE NEVER BETTER IN THE WEST

By BILL O'DONNELL

SIXTY-FIVE DELEGATES to West Tipperary's Annual Convention in Mid-January confirmed Mick Frawley in his position as the Division's top executive. Gate receipts for the previous season, standing at £3,736, constituted a record, a state of affairs that reflected credit on Treasurer Jimmy Hennessy, who, because of pressure of work resigned from the post. Tributes to his work came from all and sundry, one delegate going so far as to call him "a human computer."

The voting for a successor produced a tie between Mortimer O'Connell of Golden and Brendan Ryan of the Clonoulty club. The Chairman gave his casting vote to the latter, who became the Division's youngest ever finance minister. Bill Hayes, the Board's longest serving officer, entered his fortieth year as Registrar.

Bids to revert to the knock-out system in senior football were defeated. The delegates put a by-law in the books that the senior hurling and football championships be completed before the end of October.

The Adjourned Convention held in mid February saw the fourteen clubs enter a total of no less than 73 teams in the various championships.

The hurling competitions attracted forty teams while we had seven less in the big ball games. Minor hurling opened the year's proceedings around Easter time and from an entry of nine, Cashel King Cormacs (holders) and Clonoulty Rossmore fought their way to a final, that after a fine start ended in a rather hefty defeat for the challengers. The champions went on to win the semi-final and then captured their first ever county title in the grade—a great achievement.

UNDER 21 HURLING

Under 21 hurling brought nine teams into contention for a crown worn for the past two successive seasons by an amalgam from the parishes of Anacarty and Clonoulty. A bright and lively bunch from the Cappawhite-Solohead area called a halt to their three-in-a-row aspirations and then proceeded to mop up Sean Treacys in the decider last September.

Galtee Rovers, holders of the No. 1 junior hurling title, having disposed of pretty strong challenges from Rockwell Rovers and Lattin Cullen were confidently expected to hold on to their title and enter

into the higher echelon next season. They met a fifteen too good for them however in Clonoulty-Rossmore who took the trophy by four points, thus reversing the decision obtaining in last season's decider.

Eight teams faced the started in the No. 2 junior hurling championship, a competition which caters for the overflow from clubs entering senior teams. Four teams remain in contention here and the Fixtures Committee have arranged for the two semi-finals to be played in Golden. The pairings are as follows: Clonoulty-Rossmore v Golden/Kilfeacle, Kickhams v Sean Treacys.

Senior football, which like senior hurling and junior football, is run hereabouts on the league system, was reduced to an entry of six this season. Multheen Rovers, a team which reached the senior semi-final last season, dropped in status, for a variety of reasons. Lattin-Cullen headed the qualifiers for the semi-finals, the other three being Solohead, Galtee Rovers and holders Arravale Rovers.

Solohead, by reason of a rousing point victory over the champions at wind-blown Emly, have qualified for the decider. Their opponents, at the time of writing, are not known for Lattin-Cullen and Galtee Rovers played a thrilling draw at Golden recently.

Kickhams, from an entry of ten, have come through to the final, beating Rockwell Rovers in the semi-final. They are awaiting opponents from the other semi-final between Multheen Rovers and Cashel King Cormacks, whose game has been delayed because of the latter's commitments in the County championships.

We had some fine games in the Under 21 football competitions. Favourites to come through to the decider were Cashel King Cormacks and a useful set up from Lattin and Emly parishes. Spanners, however, were thrown in the works by Golden-Rockwell's victory over Lattin-Emly and Galtee Rovers convincing win against warm favourites Cashel King Cormacks.

The Golden-Rockwell set-up was, however, no match for the lads from the Model Parish, who beat them by ten points at Sean Treacy Park.

MINOR DOUBLE

Cashel King Cormacks made it a minor double when they successfully held on to their title from a field of nine, decisively beating old rivals Arravale Rovers in the final. They then reached the County decider in which they defeated Inane Rovers. A remarkable feature of this dual success is the

CARPETS

UNBEATABLE PRICES

**Irish, English, Scottish,
Axminsters, Wiltons,
Foambacks**

**Personal Attention
Expert Fitting**

TIPPERARY CARPET CENTRE LTD.

Kingswell, Tipperary

LATE OPENING

Friday and Saturday to 9 p.m.

Closed Wednesday

Proprietary: THOMAS GREENE

MURRAY'S LOUNGE

**7 & 8 Main Street
TIPPERARY**

*

For Best Drinks

*

**TEA, COFFEE
SOUPS
SANDWICHES**

*

MICRO-WAVE FOODS

*

**CAR PARK
AT REAR**

Proprietor: J. J. McCORMACK
Phones: 51800, 51234

fact that both hurling and football teams are made up of practically the same personnel.

Last year's single grouping of the seven senior hurling teams increased to nine with Solohead and the combo Lattin-Cullen in for the experience. The Adjourned Convention grouped them as follows: 'A' Kickhams, Solohead, Eire Og, Lattin-Cullen and Cashel King Cormacs. 'B' Sean Treacys (champions), Golden Kilfeacle, Cappawhite and Arravale Rovers.

Group 'A' saw Kickhams go right through to the semi-finals without the loss of a game. They were closely followed home by Eire Og, beaten finalists of the previous year.

Things got a little bit complicated in the other group, where Sean Treacys, Cappawhite and Golden-Kilfeacle all finished on four points each. The league was then restarted with the three top teams. Treacys beat Cappawhite rather comfortably and were then pitted against Golden-Kilfeacle. A tremendous struggle ensued and when John Moloney blew for time the sides were locked together in a thrilling draw. A big crowd went to Sean Treacy Park to see the final game which Golden-Kilfeacle won by a few points. The stage was then set for the semi-finals. Treacys and Eire Og were sent out to do battle at Golden. The game was a somewhat tempestuous one, resulting in three players from each side being sent to swell the crowd of spectators. The champions proved the better side by far, as they led the challengers to almost every ball and ran out rather easy winners, thus reaching the decider for the second year in succession.

Golden-Kilfeacle and Kickhams went to Emly's fine pitch to settle their little argument. A numbing shower on a strong breeze fell all through the opening half, during which Kickhams played with its aid. Goalie Willie Blake saved Golden-Kilfeacle on many occasions and had the rain ceased there is no doubt but that Kickhams would have led handsomely instead of being on level terms at half-time. They played so well for a team having its first championship game in three months, that Golden-Kilfeacle, firm favourites, were glad to hear the final whistle when just two points ahead.

THE FINAL

The biggest crowd of the decade came to Dundrum for the final, which was played on October 20. The pitch was a little greasy following a few days' rain but happily no rain fell during the game. The champions lacked the services of their ace marksman P. J. Caplis and John Quigley and Pat Carey were other changes from the side that beat Eire Og.

This was expected to be a game to end all games. The teams had met three times during the season, with a win to each and a draw.

With advantage of the strong wind, which blew from the Railway end, Treacys attacked early but for a long time were badly inaccurate. Their rate of scoring all through most of the first half was slow but coming on for the short whistle they

● CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

MAKE

The Shamrock Lounge

KILROSS

Your venue for a night's entertainment

FOR

- BEST QUALITY DRINKS
- CABARET SESSIONS
- BALLAD SESSIONS
- DANCING

Prop.: R. Murphy

Phone Tipp. 55111



The CARRICK SWAN senior hurlers who defeated Carrick Davins to regain the South Tipperary SH title

Swan are back—with three titles

By MICHAEL O'MEARA

IN YEARS TO COME the catch cry "The Jacks are back" will no doubt linger in our minds as one of the great memories of 1974 but for many people in South Tipperary the call could well be "Swan are back," for not alone did the Carrick men recapture the senior hurling crown for the first time in eleven years but they went on to retain their under 21 hurling title and ended the year in a blaze of glory by winning the junior football championship, thus bridging a thirty year gap.

Swan's biggest achievement was their senior hurling success, a victory that was made all the sweeter by reason of the fact that the defeated finalists were the holders—their fellow townsmen and greatest rivals, Carrick-on-Suir, popularly known as the Davins. For the third successive year the decider was played at Davin Park and although weather conditions were miserable a large crowd was treated to an entertaining and sporting game which saw Swan get the upper hand in the closing stages for a surprise but deserved success.

Swan's key men were Sean and Tony Fitzpatrick (sons of the club's former celebrated full-forward, Paddy 'Butcher'), Pat Kirby (capt.), William Loneragan, Maurice Grace and Dave Power. The holders fielded ex-countymen in Mick Roche, P. J. Ryan, Jimmy Ryan and Joe Kennedy but even their best efforts could not contain a younger and more determined Swan fifteen.

Many of the Swan players won further honours in a thrilling under 21 final which saw a great Ballingarry effort fail by the narrowest of margins. Played at Fethard, this game ranked as one of the best seen in the Division during the year and many considered that the efforts of George and Sean Hayes, Dan Shelley, Pat Ivors and company deserved at least a draw for Ballingarry.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Swan's success story continued in junior football when, having accounted for Kilsheelan and Mullinahone, they surprised a fancied Moyle Rovers in the decider. The high standard of football in this game surprised many and Tony and Sean Fitzpatrick, Pat Kirby, Maurice and Michael Walsh and company

showed that they were just as adept at the big ball as with the camáns. Moyle Rovers, in getting to the final and accounting for Ardfinnan and Killenaule, with what could be termed their second team, showed that there is an abundance of talent in Powerstown/Lisronagh and players of the calibre of Steve Lennon, Michael and John Boland, Gerry McGrath and Noel Coyle will be heard of again in senior ranks.

Quite a few of the Rovers junior team will be in action for the Cahir/Moyle Rovers combination in the under 21 football final against Ardfinnan and judged on the semi-final display against Fethard-Kilsheelan their fifteen could be good enough to take the title, and bring compensation for that junior defeat. This under 21 final is the only championship game outstanding at the time of writing, having been held up by an objection from Ardfinnan to Commercials which has now been decided in Ardfinnan's favour.

Once again Ardfinnan proved the football team of the year by retaining the South title and going on to gain an overdue success in the County decider. Ardfinnan met and beat their great rivals Commercials in a sub-standard Divisional final, having accounted for Fr. Sheehys and Moyle Rovers en route. Eamonn O'Gorman was an inspiring Ardfinnan captain whilst Aidan O'Mahoney, Pete Savage, goalie Richie Boyle, Liam Myles and John Cummins all played their parts on a fifteen that was badly handicapped for much of the year by the absence through injury of Michael Keating.

An intermediate football championship was introduced in the Division this year and it proved a big success. Fittingly, the championship was won by a new team, Ballylooby-Castlegrace, who defeated Cahir in a keenly contested decider at Clogheen. The winners have some fine footballing talent in players like Pat Hanrahan, Mick and John Murphy, Tommy O'Dwyer, Davy Loneragan and Toby Moran. They accounted for junior champions Swan in the Divisional play-off and there are high hopes that the team will retain for the Division the County title won last year by Mullinahone.

CLOSE TUSSLE

Ballylooby-Castlegrace also qualified for the intermediate hurling decider but their hopes of a double success were thwarted by a keen Killenaule fifteen which took the title after a close tussle. Killenaule's



South Tipperary J.F. Champions—CARRICK SWAN

success stemmed mainly from the efforts of players like Donal McGettigan, Dick Maher, Tom Shelley, Jim Tierney, Pat Cleary and Michael Kelly. Killenaule's hopes of further progress were dashed, however, by lively junior champions Moyle Rovers who proved deserving winners of a most entertaining play-off.

Moyle Rovers had defeated newcomers Fr. Sheehys in a thrilling junior final and emerged as worthy Divisional representatives. Moyle Rovers had a number of very useful performers in Anthony Cahill, Cyril Darcy, Dick and Mick Looby, Tommy Harvey and Mick Ryan, whilst the defeated finalists, Fr. Sheehys, displayed a lot of talent and success should come their way in the coming year.

The minor hurling championship saw the return to the honours' list of St Marys whose young fifteen proved superior to holders Swan at Kilsheelan. The Clonmel side's success was a fitting reward for some splendid juvenile work over the last few years and was as much due to the efforts of secretary Billy Carroll and a hard working committee as to the hurling skills of promising players like Paudie O'Neill, Tommy Walsh, Timmy Guidera, Jimmy Ryan, and the Mullins brothers. With the vast majority of St. Mary's panel again eligible for next year the future looks bright for minor hurling in Clonmel.

Many of the St. Marys players enjoyed a double success when Commercial took the minor football title. The Clonmel side had quite a tough tussle however before disposing of a talented fifteen from St. Nicholas, Carrick, in a very entertaining final.

Leagues in five grades are in progress in the Division at the moment and these will ensure plenty of competition during the winter months.

SATISFACTORY

The past year can be regarded as a most satisfactory one for the Association in the Division. We had many fine games and a host of new champions. In general the sportsmanship and behaviour of our teams left little to be desired. Few players were suspended but we did have increased boardroom activity in the shape of a number of objections, happenings that were unknown in this Division for years past. Nobody likes objections but if the experiences of the past year can have the effect of making clubs and in particular club secretaries more fully aware of their responsibilities and duties these objections will have been of immense benefit to the future working of the Board.

Any review of the year would not be complete without a word of gratitude to our referees whose loyalty and dedication to duty was again so much in evidence.

RESULTS—FINALS

Senior Hurling: Carrick Swan 1-7, Carrick-on-Suir 0-7.

Senior Football: Ardfinnan 2-6, Commercial 0-9.

Intermediate Hurling: Killenaule 5-8, Ballylooby-Castlegrace 4-8.

Intermediate Football: Ballylooby-Castlegrace 2-4, Cahir 2-3.

Junior Hurling: Moyle Rovers 2-10, Fr Sheehys 2-8.

Junior Football: Carrick Swan 1-8, Moyle Rovers 1-3.

U. 21 Hurling: Carrick Swans 2-8, Ballingarry 0-11.

U. 21 Football: Cahir/Moyle Rovers.

Minor Hurling: St. Marys 3-7, Carrick Swan 1-3.

Minor Football: Commercial 1-8, St. Nicholas 0-6.

Special M.F. Final: Ballingarry 2-6, Ardfinnan 1-2.

Junior H.C. Play-off: Moyle Rovers 1-9, Killenaule 2-5.

Junior F.C. Play-off: Ballylooby-Castlegrace 3-8, Swan 2-3.

THINGS WERE NEVER BETTER IN THE WEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

rushed through a goal that gave them a seven point lead on the score: Treacys 1-6, Golden-Kilfeacle 0-2.

The standard of hurling was rather poor with the challengers but a pale shadow of the team they can be. At the break, everybody was agreed that were they to raise their game the smallest bit they were home and dried. They got no chance whatsoever of picking themselves up for inside half a dozen minutes Treacys had stretched their lead to twelve points with a goal and two points, devised, planned and executed by their ex-intercounty player, little Dinny Ryan, whose game this really was. The champions never let up, never allowed the challengers to wrest the initiative from them and in the end ran out worthy winners by a pretty tidy margin.

As well as Dinny, the winners had some fine hurlers in John Carey, Philip Ryan, John, Frank and Willie Berkery, Phil Ryan and their experienced full-back line of Jim Nolan, Christy O'Dwyer and Paddy Ryan. As stated, Golden-Kilfeacle were a big disappointment to their many followers and the only players to come out of the game with untarnished reputations were Ned O'Donnell, Liam Walsh and Christy Ryan.

TOURNAMENT

Early in the year a West Tipperary Selection travelled to Nenagh to take part in the Mogul tournament in which the other Divisions also took part. North had a runaway victory over the Mid Selection while West surprised most people by the quality of their hurling when accounting rather easily for a team from the South. The final still remains to be played.

By the time this magazine appears in print, the Division will have completed its mammoth programme, no mean achievement considering the number of teams taking part.

Cut Time and Costs with
BAILEY PLANT HIRE

Komastu/Bulldozers
Ford/Olema Hydraulic
Excavators
Rubber Tyred Diggers
Dumpers
Loading/Shovels
Compressors

Specialists in
DEMOLITION
SITE CLEARANCE
LAND RECLAMATION
PUBLIC WORKS

ALL WORK CARRIED OUT BY OUR
MODERN AND WELL MAINTAINED
EQUIPMENT

PERSONAL SUPERVISION ON ALL JOBS

CONTACT:

FRANCIS BAILEY
PLANT HIRE

BALLINAMORSOUGH, TIPPERARY

PHONE: 062—55119

TWO DAYS IN MAY BRING REWARDS TO NORTH TIPPERARY AND BORRISOKANE

By GERRY SLEVIN

WERE A PRIZE offered for consistency in hurling in Tipperary, high on the list of contenders would be the North Tipperary vocational schools, who in May won their 8th All-Ireland title when they accounted for Offaly in the final, played as a curtain-raiser to the National League final between Cork and Limerick in Limerick's Gaelic Grounds.

But consistency isn't the only hallmark of these remarkable lads. They have dedication in abundance as was well exemplified in their campaign, and indeed in all their campaigns over the years, and in a year in the wilderness, in all other grades, it's nice and indeed hopeful to see the young enthusiasts who attend the six vocational schools in the North Tipperary Riding, getting us into the honours list.

And what a year it was for the Borrisokane school. Not alone did they knock Roscrea from their pedestal as champions of the county, they moved on, in the initial year of the competition, to become the champion school in Munster with a big win over Ennis, the Clare representatives, in the decider.

The victories of Borrisokane and North Tipperary were accomplished within the space of a week, on two days in May, days that will be remembered with joy by all who were associated with such magnificent victories.

DIFFERENT PROCEDURE

The vocational school authorities decided on a different procedure in 1974 for the running of their competitions. The big change was that there was an open draw for the inter-county competition. Disbanded were the provincial championships with their automatic advance to the All-Ireland series. True, Leinster played their own inter-county competition but it ended just there, whereas in Munster it was decided to pay more attention to the individual schools, hence a competition between the champion school of each county, culminating in Borrisokane's victory.

North Tipperary's last success at All-Ireland level was in 1969. In 1971 and again in 1973 they reached the All-Ireland final, only to taste defeat as that in 1974 there was a rare determination to get back on the winning trail and in the first year of the open draw, to take the title. Incidentally, the

first All-Ireland champions in vocational schools' hurling were Limerick. They won the title back in 1961 when their captain was none other than their present senior sharp shooter, Richie Bennis.

En route to success in 1974, North Tipperary beat Clare 6-7 to 0-0 and then Limerick 9-11 to 2-3. After these came the confrontation with Kilkenny, the side that beat them in the '73 decider, and considering that Kilkenny had inflicted a 15-15 to 0-0 defeat on Cork this year, there was every reason to believe that they would be bent on retaining their title. But how North Tipperary sparkled against them. 6-8 to 1-0 was the final score, a scoreline that tells its own story and the scene was now set for a final meeting with Offaly, probably the unluckiest team in competition over the years and one that had suffered defeat on a few occasions at the hands of the blue and gold boys.

North Tipperary were led by Kevin Brady from Roscrea, a young player who was later in the year to figure prominently with his club's senior team, Kevin, along with Jim Maloughney from Borrisokane and Pat McCormack from Thurles, had tasted All-Ireland final defeat the previous year and were in fact on the team for their third successive year. In addition, the team was powered by Philip Ryan, Barney Loughnane and Denis Whelan, all members of the Tipperary North/West team which some time previously had won the Munster special minor hurling competition.

OFFALY'S LEADER

Ironically, Offaly were led by a Tipperary man, Tom Carroll from Lorrha, a student at Birr vocational school. Tom was later to exchange the green, white and gold of Offaly for the blue and gold of Tipperary when he assisted his native county in its unsuccessful bid to retain the Munster minor title.

The final with Offaly was something of a let down. Offaly were poor—despite the strong endeavours of Tom Carroll—and North Tipperary failed to lift their game either. The result was a disappointing game, but a convincing victory for North Tipperary nonetheless by 4-13 to 3-4, two of Offaly's goals coming in the closing two minutes.

Borrisokane school contributed six players to the victorious panel and for them it was the culmination of an historic week because on the Wednesday prior

Continued on Page 39



ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS—the North Tipperary Vocational School's hurlers.

BURNS FUEL STORES

Coal, Turf, Briquettes,
Anthracite and Phurnacite

PROMPT DELIVERIES—KEENEST PRICES

HANLEY'S PLACE, NENAGH

'Phone 914

BEFORE THE MATCH

AFTER THE MATCH

or

JUST ANY TIME

JOHN RYAN
51 SUMMERHILL, NENAGH

FOR

Best drinks in pleasant surroundings

Phone: NENAGH 928



ALL-IRELAND WINNERS: Frank Kenny, chairman of the Vocational Schools' Ard Comhairle, presenting the cup to Kevin Brady, captain of the North Tipperary team that won the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' hurling championship.

FROM A CHARITY ACT TO ALL-IRELAND HONOURS

By JIM KENNEDY

FROM WHAT could be termed a novelty act five years ago to All-Ireland honours in 1974, that has been the rise of ladies' football in Tipperary with history being made on Sunday, October 13th, when in the very first All-Ireland ladies football championship, Tipperary came out on top, defeating Offaly in the final in Durrrow, thus emulating the senior hurlers from the Premier County who took the initial title back in 1887, and the under 21 hurlers who won the first title in that grade in 1964.

Strange it is how something that really commenced as a laugh, as a means of raising money for charity, would blossom into a national competition, arousing keen interest in several counties, and culminating in those scenes of ecstatic joy in the Laois village.

While Thurles can rightly claim to be the home of hurling, it is also true to say that Clonmel is the home of ladies' football because it was in the South Tipperary capital in 1969 that it all began. The man responsible for its introduction was Dan O'Mahony from Bulmer's who organised a number of local teams to play for charity. The Post Office, Showerings, the County Council, and Schiessers entered teams but the game was looked upon more as a novelty and didn't take on in interest. Business pressure made Dan unavailable to pursue the game and in 1970 I was asked—in a joking kind of way—to train the Ardinnan ladies who were just starting off. I agreed and in the space of eight weeks, Ardinnan had won the Emly Festival competition, the Clonmel Festival, the Oola Festival and the Ardinnan Festival.

Interest was definitely heightening now and the following year we held a Convention in Clonmel. Committees were formed; rules were devised, in keeping with GAA rules as much as possible and a decision was taken to hold a championship in that year. Five teams participated, Newcastle, St Luke's, Powerstown, Ardinnan, and Killurney. In the final, Ardinnan beat Powerstown and invitations were extended to Waterford and Wexford to compete in inter county games. Tipp beat both teams. In 1972, Newcastle beat the champions

Ardinnan in the Tipp final and two inter county games with Waterford were played that year, both successful for Tipp. Our first defeat at inter county level came at the hands of Offaly, our ladies being badly hit by defections before the game in Mullinahone. This defeat, or rather the apparent lack of interest in the team seemed to sound the death knell for the game in the county and when 1974 came round, the Convention attracted a very poor attendance. Was ladies' football in Tipperary now about to die completely? It looked that way.

Still, we persevered and a further meeting held in Mullinahone attracted a great attendance and greater interest. In addition to the championship we ran a Number 2 and a Number 3 championship and following a meeting which was attended by two delegates from Offaly, it was decided to hold an All Ireland ladies' convention in Thurles. Present at this inaugural Convention were delegates from Galway, Roscommon, Offaly, Laois, Kerry, Cork, Waterford and Tipperary. I was elected chairman and a decision was taken to have an all Ireland championship.

In the first round, Offaly beat Galway, Kerry accounted for Cork, Laois received a walk over from Roscommon and Tipperary got the better of Waterford. In the semi-finals, Offaly defeated Laois and Tipp had Kerry's measure at Kilsheelin. So the scene was now set for the first all Ireland final. Durrrow was the venue and Brendan Martin, from Offaly, assistant treasurer, presented a trophy for the winners. It would have been nice had he the privilege of presenting it to his own county in the initial year of the competition, but Tipperary had no place for sentiment and in a thrilling game had a point to spare over their neighbours 2-3 to 2-2.

The team that brought the first football title to the county since 1920 was: Margaret Carroll (Ardinnan), Sally Clohessy (Moycarkey), Anne Croke (Mullinahone), Majella Sweeney (Newcastle), Ena Hassett (Moycarkey), Tina Flynn (Ardinnan), Betty Looby (Golden), Eileen Dudley (Cashel), Susan O'Gorman (Ardinnan), Josephine Keane (Mullinahone), Eleanor Carroll (Emly), Lillian Goery (St Bridgid's).

Subs.: Nora Moran (Newcastle), Mary Burke (Emly), Mary Lonergan (Emly), Alice Morris (Moycarkey), Cait O'Dwyer (Moycarkey), Marian



The only wearers of the blue and gold who brought All-Ireland honours to Tipperary in 1974, the members of the ladies' football team.

Byrne (Moycarkey), Anne Bryan Moycarkey), Ann Clohessy (Moycarkey), Katherine Keane (Muullinahone), Noreen Blake (Golden).

Apart from the team, there are quite a few others who have helped immeasurably in putting Tipperary ladies football on a firm footing, people like Fr Lucey, Ardinnan, Sean Geory, Drangan, Teddie Keane, Cloneen, Ned O'Gorman, Ardinnan, Willie Croke, Mullinahone, Jimsey Kelly, do., John Donovan, Killurney, Sean Connell, St Bridgid's, John Aylmer, Emly, Mr and Mrs Strappe, Golden, Kathleen Prendergast, Cashel, Mrs Denny, Mrs Power, Mrs Fitzgerald, all of Mullinahone, Derry Shanahan, Littleton, and John Lambert, Ardinnan.

While it is our ambition to retain the title next year, we would like to see more widespread interest in the game in the county. As can be readily seen from the list of players and people connected with the game, the south and west of the county is the main stronghold. So what about it, North and Mid?

TWO DAYS IN MAY

From page 33

to the All-Ireland final, the Lower Ormond lads became Munster school champions with a 10-3 to 3-3 victory over Ennis in Patrickswell.

A great year then for vocational schools' hurling with inter-schools' competitions at home in all grades producing plenty of fire and spirit.

All credit, too, to the mentors in the various schools who have spared nothing by way of time and effort in the interests of the game while the encouragement of the parent body, the Vocational Education Committee, has been nothing short of inspiring.

Yet, we can be proud of these young lads who have put Tipperary hurling in its rightful place and if things don't seem all that bright at the moment, we can rest assured that there is a bright ray just around the corner.

THE WATCH CENTRE, NENAGH

the watch that science built

Seiko is the watch that science built. Constructed by most sophisticated equipment to within the finest tolerances. The world's biggest-selling name in quality jewelled lever watches. You can afford a Seiko Watch. See the full range at your local jeweller.



SEIKO
Modern Masters of Time

SEIKO

SEIKO

For Watches, Clocks,
Rings, Jewellery,
Waterford Glass
Large selection of
Medals, Cups and
Trophies in stock.

Engraving a speciality

**25 MITCHEL ST.,
NENAGH**

Phone 067—913

GOLDEN VALE

Dundrum

Luxurious Lounges

BEST FOR

DRINKS, BALLAD SESSIONS,
ENTERTAINMENT

TOP-CLASS WEDDING RECEPTIONS
AND FUNCTIONS

DRESS AND DINNER DANCES,
PARTIES AND CONFERENCES



VISIT

The Golden Vale Ballroom

**Tipperary's Most Luxurious Up-to-date
Modern Ballroom**

Pitch and Putt Course available

(Props.: Mr. and Mrs. Austin Crowe)

Tel. Dundrum 17

JACKIE GRIFFIN

25 Liberty Square

THURLES

BEST FOR

FRESH FRUIT

SWEETS

CHOCOLATES

MAGAZINES

NEWSPAPERS

GREETING CARDS

THE MID IS FAST REGAINING ITS FORMER STATUS

By MICHAEL DUNDON

IF EVER A victory was sweet, the success of Drom-Inch in the Mid Tipperary senior hurling championship this year was, and for good reason. Firstly, the club had never before won the Johnny Leahy Cup, and they were naturally delighted at their initial triumph. But what must have pleased them even more was the manner in which they won the title.

Having gone to the final the year before, and, on the strength of a great run in the County championship, started firm favourites, they were deprived of the honour by a Jimmy Doyle inspired Thurles Sarsfields. This time, however, they made an early exit from the County championship, and many felt that their lack of competition consequently, would spoil their chances of success.

Add to that the fact that they went into the final minus the services of three of their regulars, Oliver Quinn and Pat Doherty, who were injured, and Jim Costelloe who had emigrated. Their absence was a big blow to Drom-Inch who had only a limited number of players at their disposal.

Sarsfields on the other hand were riding the crest of the wave. They had beaten all comers, both inside and outside the county, and were in the County semi-final. Few people gave Drom-Inch a chance, and the position of the previous year was reversed.

In the first round, Drom-Inch defeated Moyne-Templetuohy, and in the semi-final they accounted for Boherlahan-Dualla. Sarsfields recorded wins over Gortnahoe-Glengoole and Moycarkey-Borris on their way to the final, and the stage was set for what seemed a likely Thurles victory.

Such was not to be however, for on the day Drom-Inch recaptured the dedicated determination of the previous year's County championship run, and in the process made the County champions-elect look very mediocre indeed. Drom-Inch had an inspired display from captain and goalkeeper Johnny Dwyer, while Larry Doherty succeeded, where most people had failed all year, in keeping Sarsfields' schemer Jimmy Doyle in check.

DROM'S HEROES

There were many other heroes in the Drom-Inch team, as they fought tenaciously and skillfully to record a 3-9 to 3-6 win over the holders of the title. Eamon Butler's two goals kept the lads from The

Ragg going when things looked grim indeed, and there was a lot to recommend the style of Johnny Harkin who scored six points. But over all, it was a team effort, and it is this the Drom-Inch people will remember when the occasion is recalled in years to come.

Loughmore-Castleiney, whose senior footballers failed to retain the County championship, got a lot of encouragement from their minors, who brought the Mid minor hurling title to the parish for the first time ever, and like Drom-Inch, they did it in style.

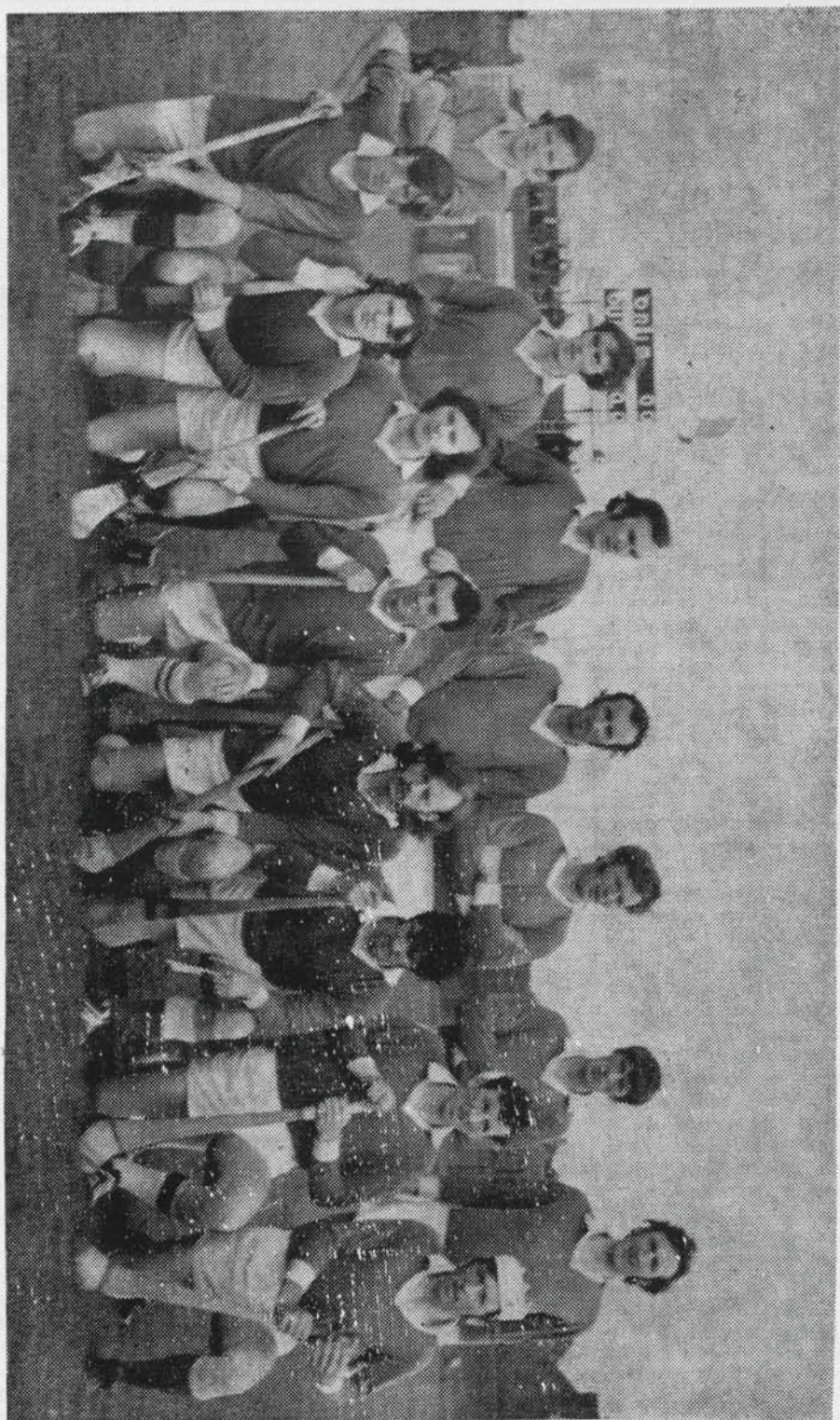
The Mid Division had exciting finals in all the hurling grades this year, but for sheer tension and enthusiasm, the minor decider between Loughmore-Castleiney and Holycross-Ballycahill would be hard to beat. In atrocious conditions, Holycross/Ballycahill, who eliminated the County champions, Sarsfields, in the first round, and who were hot favourites, led all the way, and though they let a good lead slip in the second half, they seemed certain champions leading by two points with seconds remaining.

However, in those dying seconds the spirit of Loughmore-Castleiney was never more evident. They had refused to capitulate throughout the hour when their cause seemed lost, and they still would not accept defeat. In a fine surge, Noel Russell got his stick to the ball near goal, to deflect a shot to the Holycross-Ballycahill net, and the cup was on its way to Loughmore-Castleiney.

LOUGHMORE'S HOUR

In an hour that will long be remembered in Loughmore-Castleiney, team captain Tom McGrath, a county minor, stood out head and shoulders above all others, and he was certainly the toast of the parish following the game. Martin Walshe, Jim Geehan, Tom Connell and Jim Maher were others to figure prominently.

Though naturally disappointed at their defeat, Holycross-Ballycahill had their moment of glory in the junior hurling final, when in a thriller they got the better of Upperchurch-Drombane by 5-4 to 2-10. Having been out of the honours for so long, it is good to see a club with such a great tradition back in the winners' enclosure, but it is a pity that it had to be at the expense of such gallant losers as Upperchurch-Drombane. The latter have been to the



FROM/INCH—Mid Tipperary SHC winners for the first time ever

fore in the grade for more than half a dozen years now, but always seem to fail at the last hurdle. On this occasion they looked likely winners at the three-quarter stage, but an injury to star forward Phil Lowry upset them immeasurably, and Holycross-Ballycahill took control in the end, for a fine win.

Moyne-Templetuohy club figured prominently in GAA activities during the year because of the controversial Coen case, but on the playing field their under 21 hurlers, holders of the title in the division, surrendered their crown to Sarsfields in a dour struggle at Holycross. The Thurles boys emerged victorious by five points to three, the low scoring emphasising the closeness of the issue, and how little there was between the teams.

Sarsfields had nine of the selection that brought them County senior honours in their side, and owed their victory to a tremendous defence that stood up heroically to persistent Moyne-Templetuohy pressure, particularly in the closing ten minutes. This was Sarsfields' second victory in this grade.

Loughmore-Castleiney also captured the minor

football title by defeating Holycross-Ballycahill in the final. The reigning champions, Templemore, lost to Thurles in the first round, and Loughmore-Castleiney in turn defeated Thurles.

At the time of writing, the senior, junior and under 21 football championships, and the No. 2 junior hurling competitions have not been completed.

All in all, the championships in the Mid division were run off with reasonable punctuality, though, at the time of writing, it is extremely doubtful if all will be completed by the end of the year. Once again, it boils down to clubs refusing to turn out in midweek in summer, and ending up having to play in the depths of winter. The choice lies with the clubs.

The division can also pride itself in the fact that the County senior and junior hurling championships were won by Sarsfields and Holycross-Ballycahill respectively, while Loughmore-Castleiney and Sarsfields contested the County finals in minor and under 21 hurling. This seems to indicate a return to the days when the Mid Division dominated the hurling scene in the county.

THE HOUSE FOR VALUE



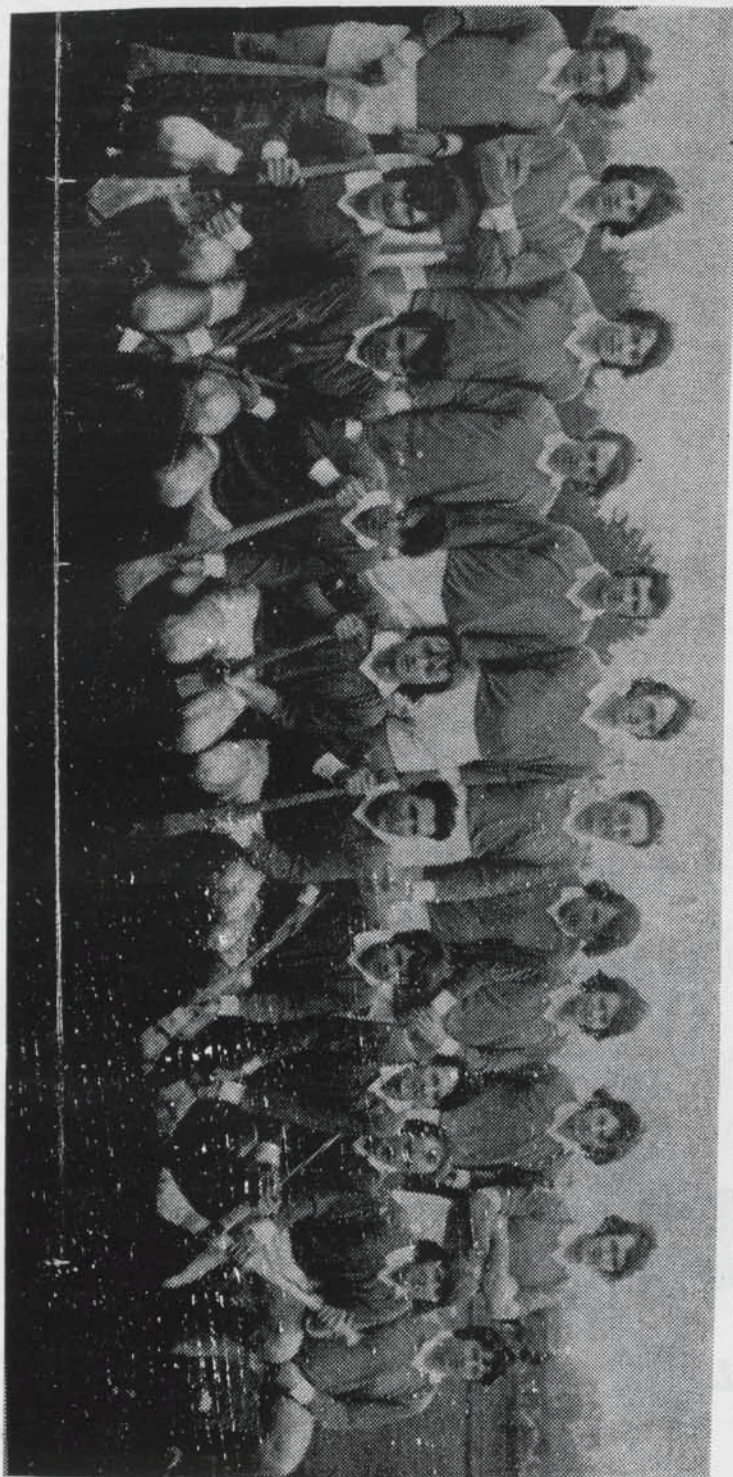
RYAN & HARTY

GENTS' OUTFITTERS

BOOTS & SHOES

Suits to measure a speciality

KENYON STREET, NENAGH



The HOLYCROSS junior hurlers, who by virtue of their success in that championship return to senior ranks after a long lapse.

WINDS OF CHANGE BLEW THROUGHOUT NORTH DIVISION

By GERRY SLEVIN

THE STATE OF HURLING in the North division at the moment, would probably provide enough 'talk' to keep the keenest of fans' tongues wagging for many a long hour. At the end of it all, no one would hardly be any the wiser as to the actual state of the game. It's one of those imponderables that just does not succeed in bringing up an answer that will satisfy. Still, in any discussion about the past year, one thing that must be said in favour of a healthy picture surrounding the game is that the winds of change blew throughout the various championships and new title holders came on the scene. And let me hastily add that this does not mean that standards have gone down.

New champions were crowned in the three major competitions, senior, intermediate and minor. In junior grade there was the return to the top of one of the all time great junior clubs. But pride of place surely goes to Silvermines who will remember Sunday, September 8th, 1974, as the day they struck gold. Silvermines' emergence as the top team in the division, was the freshest breeze to wend its way throughout the affairs of the Board in a long time. Even though it was only their second year in senior ranks, it hardly came as all that much of a surprise because in 1973 in their first year, they reached the semi-finals. The team that put paid to their hopes of further advancement were eventual champions, Borris-Ileagh, and somehow the Borris lads seemed to be putting the Indian sign on the enthusiastic 'Mines men.

This was even more emphasised when in their very first game of the 1974 championship, 'Mines fell miserably to Borris. Certainly not a good beginning to the season and one that would hardly hold out much hope for the events that were to follow. Borris were favourites to retain the title and bring it back home for the third year running and they were doing well until they faltered to Newport. That was a set back but, not an irretrievable one, but it was emphasised further when Borris met with another defeat, this time at the hands of Moneygall, a side that was soundly thrashed earlier on by Silvermines.

The race for honours in this particular section turned out to be a three way battle between Borris, 'Mines and Newport and when it seemed that 'Mines were all but in the semi-finals, they suffered their second defeat of the season, this time to Toomevara, who had their sights set on the county championship at this time, having lost interest in the divisional competition. Newport were through to the

semi-finals; Borris and the 'Mines had to resolve their differences and this was done in Cloughjordan when 'Mines laid that bogey that had nettled them for so long.

The other group did not provide the same air of uncertainty. From the start it became obvious that Kilruane and Roscrea were going to come out here and so they did. The semi-final pairings brought Newport and 'Mines into opposition as well as Roscrea and Kilruane, and there were convincing victories for both Roscrea and the 'Mines, a situation that brought about an unique final pairing.

Tradition, the flair for the big occasion all helped to make Roscrea the favourites but it was 'Mines' day. Two snap goals before half time went a long way towards knocking the heart from a Roscrea outfit that could not be compared with some of the teams that sported the red and white so proudly in recent years. Silvermines fans were delirious and who could blame them. They had witnessed history being made and the Frank McGrath Cup, proudly clutched by the captain Jim O'Brien, was now theirs to place alongside the legendary Silver Cup won by the parish back in 1887.

The past couple of years have shown a marked decline in the fate of Roscrea, although they have come back from failure at divisional level to win county honours. 1974 was not their year in senior ranks, but their minors showed that there is still a sparkle left there. They 'downed' champions Kilruane in the decider having had to go to a second hour before disposing of Borris-Ileagh in the semi-final.

There was a fall too in the intermediate championship. Borrisokane who went on to reach the county final in '73 and were hotly fancied to do well again this year, came acropper against neighbours Shannon Rovers in the decider, while junior specialists, Knockshegowna, dashed the hopes of Kilruane in the final, showing clearly how very wrong it is to underestimate these dashing heroes from 'the butt of the hill.'

The only teams to retain a title were Inane Rovers who took minor football honours with a handsome victory over Kilruane in the final, and Kilruane, who retained the under 21 hurling title and put paid to Sarsfields' double hopes in the County final.

From the Board room's point of view the most significant aspect of the season was the appointment of three GAA giants, Seamus Gardiner, Roddy Nealon, and Denis Costello to fill the coveted office of President of the Board in succession to the late Mick Moylan. The Board went further. It presented each of the men with gold medallions to mark their ascendancy to this high office, an office no men deserved more.



KNOCKSHEGOWNA—North Tipperary JHC winners who later went on to knock out Shannon Rovers in the play off only to succumb to Holy-cross in the County final. Standing (left to right): Donal Hanley, Ned Fogarty, Sean King, Paddy Doorley, Michael Kennedy, Eugene Hanley, Tadrig Stevin, Mick Bond, Stephen Liffey, Fonnise King, Michael Hough, Pat Cleary, Paddy Noonan, Andy Hogan, Paddy Hodgins, Jimmy Noonan, Willie McCoy, Paul Cleary. Front (left to right): Sean Carroll, Joe Dela-

Fifty years of Tipperary Handball

By MICHAEL TYRELL

LACK OF any notable success in more recent years—with the exception of the exploits of Connie Cleere and Paddy Hickey—might lead members of the younger generation towards the belief that handball hasn't been all that prominent in Tipperary over the years. Such is not the case of course as can be readily vouched for in the long list of successes that have come to the county in the long reign of the game.

It was in 1924 that the Irish Handball Council was formed to control and organise the game, a game that had heretofore been the responsibility of the GAA itself. Senior Softball singles and doubles as well as hardball singles were the first games to be played competitively in 1925, and in the following year hardball doubles was introduced. It wasn't until 1928 that junior competitions came into being and it was in this grade that Tipperary had its first success. J. Ryan, S. Ryan, S. McInerney, T. O'Keeffe and J. McCarthy were the men to first inscribe our name on the honours list.

Interest throughout the county was gradually increasing and in 1929 there came on the scene two handballers from the foot of the Knockmealdown mountains, the village of Ballyporeen. They were Paddy Ormone and the late C. Moloney who won the All-Ireland senior hardball doubles for Tipperary, a title they lost in 1930 but regained in 1931. That same year Joe Hassett was moving into the limelight and in partnership with his brother Eamon, four senior doubles and one junior hardball doubles titles were captured between 1934 and 1938. In 1937 Joe, partnered by the late Micksey O'Gorman won the junior hardball doubles after which he left his native Tipperary to reside in Kerry where he continued to bring honour to the game, to himself, and to his adopted county.

The winning of a senior singles title eluded him but in 1951, when partnered by J. O'Brien, he was back to take the doubles title, a title he had held 13 years previously. Certainly the years 1934-1951 was the era of the Hassetts but activity and indeed success was not confined to them.

In 1937 the late Joe Bergin partnered Micksey O'Gorman to win the junior softball doubles title, a success that was but the beginning of a splendid career in the game for Joe. It wasn't until 1947 that he took his first senior title though and in that year he took the honours to Sligo only to return to

his native Nenagh the following year and retain the title. Joe didn't make it in 1949, but atoned for his lapse here by teaming up with Jacksie Sweeney to win the doubles title. This title was retained in 1950, but in addition Joe recaptured his singles title and is in fact the only Tipp handballer to have won a senior softball singles title.

Ballina on the banks of the Shannon and literally a stone's throw from Co. Clare began to hit the headlines in '38, through the endeavours of the Collins brothers. They won the junior softball doubles title that year and in 1942 took senior honours. In 1941, another national title came to Tipp through S. Rice and E. McMahon who won junior softball doubles. Minor competition was later introduced and in 1940, P. Kennedy and J. Sweeney won the minor doubles award, a feat they repeated the following year. Micksey O'Gorman who had first hit the headlines when partnering Joe Bergin to take the junior softball doubles title in 1937, found himself the junior hardball singles champion of 1945 and four years later Paddy Kennedy won the junior hardball singles title. Paddy teamed up with D. Carey in doubles competition and this pair won no less than three junior softball titles.

Moving into the 50s, we come across a Tipp town pair, J. Kennedy and M. Heffernan teaming up to take doubles honours, and in 1958 Tom Doheny partnered by M. Shanahan won the junior hardball doubles title. Shanahan was again prominent in 1962 when partnering John Ryan from the Commons to win the senior hardball doubles title, a title that was coming back to Tipperary for the first time in 31 years.

Paddy Hickey was the next Tipp man to make his presence felt and in having won the junior hardball singles in 1962, he partnered Tom Brady for doubles success the same year. In 1966 Paddy captured his first senior title, hardball, and in 1968 his partnership with Connie Cleere commenced, a partnership that was to have such a profound effect on the state of handball in the county. They won the senior hardball doubles title in 1968 and again in 1972. Connie had been to the forefront as far back as 1959 when along with John Cleary he won minor doubles honours. John won the junior hardball singles title in 1961.

These are just some of the highlights in Tipperary handball over the years. Tipp has fared well and very well, and we can only hope that the next fifty years will see a further development of interest in the sport.



County Handball Board officials: Michael Tyrell (secretary), Sean Lee (chairman), and K. Conway (treasurer).

AN CLUB-LAIDIR

NO LAG

Le SEAMUS O RIAIN

AN CLUB a bhuann an chraobh, sin é an club a faigheann an phoibliocht. Tugann na páipéirí moladh dóibh, bíonn fleá agus féasta chun an bua a chomóradh, bíonn na h-imreoirí i mbéal an phobail nar laochra agus inscrítear ainm an chlub ar rolla na Laoch.

Club láidir a tugtar ar chlub dá leithéid agus is docha go mba cheart go mbeadh an scéal amhlaidh. Sé príomh ghnó an chlub ná cúram a dhéanamh de na cluichí agus barr maitheasa a shroichint ar pháirc na h-imeartha. Tagann an club chun barr spuaiche nuair a bheireann siad an craobh sinnsearach leo agus sin é an príomh chuspóir a bhíonn ag gach club. Nuair a dhéanann an pobal meas-tacháin ar club sé an caighdeán a bhíonn acu ná an mó uair a d'éirigh leo craobh an chontae a bhaint amach. Tá ciall agus réasún leis sin. Ach ní hé an scéal iomlán. Ní h-achmhuinn do gach club an barr sin a shroichint áfach is cuma cé chomh diograsach is a bhíonn siad mar nach mbíonn an bun-ábhar acu chuige.

Club beag is ea furmhór na clubanna atá ann mar nach bhfuil sa pharóiste ach liou beag daoine. Ní h-ionann san is a rá gur club lag gach ceann díobh. Ní dhéanann siad mór-éachta ar pháirc na h-imeartha, b'éidir go dtiteann siad go lua sa chomórtas iomána nó peile bliain in dhiaidh bliana. Ach is orthu siúd atá sláinte an chumainn ag brath. Ní foláir an club beag a bheith san iomaíocht chun go bhféadfadh an club láidir ard-ghradam a bhaint amach. Ní bheadh comórtas ceart ann gan iad.

Thairis sin tá caighdeán eile ann chun neart an chlub a mheas agus is minic a chruthaíonn an club beag a fheabhas de réir an chaighdeáin sin, agus go mbíonn siad céim chun tosaigh ar na clubanna go bhfuil a n-ainm in airde. Ní ar fhoireann amháin a bhíonn a n-aire, ná ar chluiche amháin, ach bíonn

iliomad gníomh idir lámh acu, mar ba chóir do chlub chun cuspóir leathan an chumainn a chomhlíonadh. Cuireann siad fóirne ar an bpáirc in gach grád idir peil is iomáint, idir óg agus fásta ní dhéanann siad failli sa liathróid láimhe agus tugann siad tacaíocht do camógaíocht. Tugann siad teagasc agus spreagadh do na daoine óga agus déanann siad cinnte dhe go bhfaigheann siad deis imeartha go rialta.

Taobh amuigh de sin tá páirc imeartha dá gcuid féin acu agus áiseanna oiriúnacha acu, mar seomraí feistithe agus áit a gcomhair chuinnithe agus ocaídi caidrimh i dtreo go mbíonn deis ag óg agus aosta áit a ghlacadh in imeachtaí an chlub. Ar an mbealach sin déanann an club seirbhís tábhachtach a thabhairt don chomhlúadar i gcoitinne.

Nilim a rá go ndéanann an club láidir failli sna gnótha sin i gcónaí ach tugtar faoi deara go mbíonn tús ag na clubanna beaga orthu go minic. Mar shampla féach mar a eagraíonn siad na comórtaisí "Scór" idir óg is fásta agus gur mhinic a bheireann siad an chraobh leo. Féach freisin ar tacaíocht iontach a thug siad don Scéim Creidmheasa agus dá thairbhe sin bhí Tiobrad Arann ar na contaetha ab fhearr a chuidigh leis an scéim sin chun cuspóirí an chumainn a chur chun cinn. Chomh maith céanna is furasta a aithint gurb iad na clubanna beaga go h-iondúil a thug an tacaíocht is mó do Chiste Chéitinn, an scéim a buiraiodh i mbliana chun cuidiú airgid a chur ar fáil i gcomhair foirbiú atá riachtanach don chumann na laetha seo.

Tríd is tríd ní mór aitheantas a thabhairt don chlub beag de bharr a bhfuil á dhéanamh ann. Is ansan atá neart an chumainn bunaithe go daingean. Tá an dearcadh leathan ann agus dá thoradh san tá na baell réidh agus sásta chun sár-iarracht a dhéanamh ar mhaithe leis an gcumann nuair a chuirtear in iúl go bhfuil gá leis. Moltar an club láidir mar is ceart. Tá a tréithe ionmholta féin ag an club beag a thuileann gradam ar leith ón bpobal.



Picture shows the presentation of the County Intermediate Cup to the St. Mary's Captain, Joan Ryan, by County Camogie Board Chairman Paddy Corrigan (4th from left). Also in the picture are Patricia O'Brien (Secretary, Co. Board, and Chairman of St. Mary's), Bridget O'Sullivan (Secretary, St. Mary's), and Billy Costelloe (Team Manager).



Some of the St. Mary's girls with the cup. Left to right: Terry O'Brien (Trainer), Kathleen Quigley, Geraldine Jones, Ann Roche, Patricia Quigley, Breda Corrigan, Josephine Quigley and Kathleen Harvey.

Camogie

With more interest and determination we can match the best

Says PATRICIA O'BRIEN

OVER THE PAST year or so, camogie in Tipperary seemed doomed with clubs breaking up all over the county. True, in approximately two years we have lost six clubs in the county. However, this year we had more clubs taking part in the Juvenile Competitions and this surely must be a good omen for camogie for it's here lie the foundation of our coming Tipperary county team.

Nowadays players just don't have the same interest in being selected to play for the county. The reason for this is very hard indeed to pinpoint. Recently we found it very difficult to field a senior team for our Munster championship game and had to rely on the majority of our junior players to make up the team. Thurles club has formed the backbone of our county senior team down the years and it seems the rest of the county are willing to leave it to them whereas in fact every club and individual should be fighting hard to obtain places on the county team. In the All-Ireland championship we lost to Kilkenny by 6 points and now Kilkenny are All-Ireland Champions. Surely this alone proves we are as good as any of the rest of the counties but again lacking the most important factors—interest and determination.

Our junior team also didn't have very much luck in this year's championship. We received a heavy defeat at the hands of Clare and here again the same situation arose with some clubs having no interest at all regarding the County Team. On that particular day we had to rely on the majority of the St. Mary's Club to field a team and while these players put up a gallant performance against their opponents, it is only fair in stating that its very hard for a local team to try and beat an all-county team which are now the current All-Ireland Junior Champions. Perhaps next year something may be done early in the year to try and remedy these conditions and bring to Tipperary its first ever All-Ireland.

Clubwise, we had five intermediate clubs affiliated to the County, Drom/Inch, St. Mary's (Newport-

Kilcommon), Portroe, McDonaghs (Cloughjordan) and St. Bernadettes (Roscrea). At the time of writing this script the championship really seems to be stepping up and three teams are almost together on points—Drom/Inch, McDonaghs and St. Mary's. Thurles await the winners for the right to play-off for the County Senior Championship. While all clubs can boast of having star players with county experience, whichever club reaches the final it promises to be a game well worth seeing. For the past two years St. Mary's have won this championship and are striving to make it three-in-a-row and although they are minus a few of their players from previous years, they should make a firm bid to be the first club to make it three-in-a-row.

Last year we had an All-Ireland victory in the Juvenile age group when a team from Roscrea won out the All-Ireland series in the Community Games at Butlins. This indeed was a remarkable achievement by this club and great credit is due to its officials. This year however they did not have the same luck and were beaten by yet another Tipperary team in this competition—Emly. Emly also took part in our Under 16 Championship even though their players were only in the 12 and 13 age group but put up a very good performance and certainly promises to be an up and coming team. The final stages are also set for this competition between Portroe, St. Bernadettes and Drom/Inch and the final stages should be worth seeing.

One of the saddest aspects of camogie is the bad turn out at matches throughout the county. Every match that is played the same few supporters seem to be attending them and here I would at least appeal to GAA clubs who have a camogia club in their parish to turn out and support the girls who always seem to be supporting them. Also perhaps something on the social side could be run to get more interested. Last year St. Mary's Club ran a very successful Irish Night in Newport with a Set Dancing Competition starting the night and followed by a Ceili. Perhaps something like this would bring more interest from the outsiders and perhaps entice the crowds to the games.

**GLENARA
GLOVE
CO.**

**BANSHA,
TIPPERARY**

- ★ SHEEPSKIN
- ★ LEATHER LINED
- and
- ★ UNLINED GLOVES

TRADE ONLY

Tel.: 062 - 54102

**THE GOLDEN THATCH
EMLY**



*Dinners, Socials
Wedding
Receptions*



**Write or Phone for
Quotations**



KEENEST PRICES

Proprietor: DES MUHALLY, EMLY
Phone Tipperary 57100

DONIE'S HEARTRENDING MOMENTS HAD A HAPPY ENDING

By GERRY SLEVIN

APRIL 21st, 1974, for most Tipperary people will be remembered as the day Limerick edged us out of the National hurling league semi-final in another breath-taking game at Gaelic Grounds. Imagine the feelings of the Tipperary team manager, Donie Nealon, in those last tense moments. While his charges were surging forward in an effort to snatch victory, he was quietly making his way from the grounds, not in disgust but because of another call on his many talents.

Donie had a date in the Olympia Theatre in Dublin that night. It was All Ireland Scor '74 night and he was question master for the quiz section of the evening. It must have been a heartrending walk for him as he made his way to his car, conveniently parked so as to allow minimal delay for his long trip to the capital. He didn't know whether Tipp had snatched victory or not and to make matters worse he had to wait until RTE gave a recording of the second half of the game before knowing how it eventually finished.

But that Dublin date had to be kept and his action in leaving the Gaelic Grounds at such a tense moment in the game, personified the interest that has come about in the Scor competitions. Would anyone blame him had he stayed on to see the game through? Would the organisers waiting in Dublin for the competitions to get under way have frowned had his arrival there been late? No. Yet, Donie had a commitment and he intended keeping it.

That night was to be another great one for Tipperary. Our first success at national level in Scor had come only the previous year when Clonmel lady, Josephine Barry, sang her way with her harp accompaniment into the hearts of the adjudicators. On the Olympia stage now was another Clonmel person, Mahon O'Keeffe, the sole finalist from the county. His performance in the recitation section with W. B. Yeats' "The Hosts of the Air" was a magnificent interpretation and in being awarded the honours he had the satisfaction of defeating the reigning champion, Oliver Kearney from Antrim.

It is appropriate to mention here also that in addition to Mahon, and Donie, Tipp's representation on All Ireland final night extended itself into the adjudicators panel, with Tom Gleeson from Ballinacough and Anthony Collins from Ballina, honoured in those responsible positions.

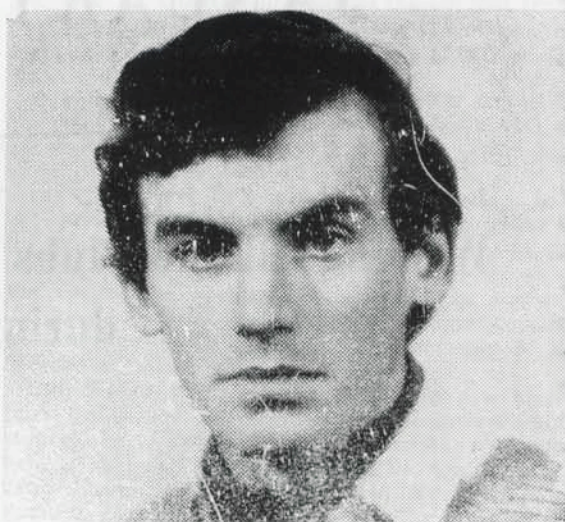
Scor na nOg saw the Holycross set dancers carry on where Moycarkey had left off the previous year

bringing yet another national title to the county.

But if All Ireland honours came the way of Mahon O'Keeffe and the Holycross dancers, it was only after a long hard campaign which began at club and divisional level within the county itself and which produced once more, competition of a rare standard, bringing to the halls of the county hundreds of excited people, all showing by their enthusiasm, just what a take these talent competitions have been.

The Scor competitions are about to enter another year, and interest is rising all the time. Each divisional board could boast of record attendances and once again, the Premier Hall in Thurles was at bursting point for the county finals. The same hall was also the venue for the Munster finals and so great was the attendance that the overflow was accommodated in the adjacent Confraternity Hall where a public address system brought some comfort to the disappointed hundreds who were unable to gain admission to the main venue.

We look forward to another winter season of competition, exposition of outstanding talent and big crowds with possibly an All-Ireland or two to show at the end of it. But even if national honours do not come the way, it doesn't really matter. Participation is the main thing, and Tipperary from the very start has given the lead in this respect.



Mahon O'Keeffe—All-Ireland Recitation winner in Scor '74

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

We take this opportunity of thanking our supporters for their kind patronage during 1974 and we look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

DATE TO NOTE:

COUNTY CONVENTION

SCOL AILBE, THURLES

JANUARY 26th, 1975

**Wishing all the Clubs the success they deserve
during 1975**

TOMAS O BAROID, Runai.

The best laid Schemes

By SEAN O DEA

IT WAS ALWAYS an accepted fact in Tipperary that to cut a young ash tree for hurleys was neither legally nor morally wrong. Permission was never refused. Mostly it was never asked. But there was sometimes the odd man out.

In this particular case he was a bachelor farmer living alone. In his young days he had played football for the local Coolmoynes team. He was so good that he was prevailed on to throw in his lot with the Clonmel Shamrocks, then football king-pins in Ireland. The Shamrocks had the dubious distinction of being the only club ever expelled from the GAA for suing the Association in the civil courts for travelling expenses. Maybe that was why he was not hurling-minded.

One of the finest specimens of a hurley ever seen in the locality was growing on the avenue leading to the house. It was a beauty in every way. Straight as a sapling, with a curving root or "boss," it was estimated it would make eight hurleys with the two outside slabs for juveniles. In vain the local club, Coolmoynes, had approached him. But he heeded neither cajolery nor cash award.

The fame of the hurley had spread abroad to the neighbouring parish (Killenaule). It was talked about at wakes and thrashings, but we studiously avoided showing any interest. Secretly we decided to do a sort of "Cuairt an Mhean Oiche" on the Coolmoynes hurlers. A plan was drawn up and a date set for its execution. It was code-named "MIDNIGHT."

Six of us made up the working party. The fathers

CAMAN

*Fashioned from ash
Root-toughened in the hungry earth
For lasting bas,
And supple-stemmed for handle spring,
The measured shape is spoke-shaved
By a craft of ancient lineage
For balanced swing.
The root is bedded in the Red Branch of Setanta,
And heart strings stretch in pride
When wedded to the wrists of Roche and Keher
The strokes of grace excite
to consciousness of heritage.*

Seamus O Riain

of two of them had won All-Ireland medals with a Boherlahan selection and were themselves good hurley-makers into the bargain. Our equipment consisted of a crosscut saw, a bushman saw, axe, spade and torch. Midnight was zero hour. During the count down we reconnoitred the immediate vicinity. To do this we had to approach the house through an orchard. To our astonishment the kitchen was brightly lit up with a wall lamp, a storm lantern and a glowing log fire. Seated on a sugan chair blowing the fire was the owner. On a bed of straw in front of the fire was a sow with a litter of bonhams. Knowing the custom of the time we felt it was going to be an all night vigil.

As our plans were laid, men and weapons assembled, it was a case of now or never. A bold surprise attack was called for. We quietly secured back and front doors from the outside with ploughing reins found in the stable. Then to work. First the top had to be sawn off with the bushman. This was a precaution in case the tree fell prematurely and damaged the precious root. Earth had to be scraped away with the spade and side roots trimmed with the axe. All good hurleys have their "boss" in the ground. Then the crosscut saw was brought to bear on the root. As it was a calm, frosty night the sawing could be heard half a mile off. And so it was!

The owner, finding the doors securely tied, made his way through a window. He sized up the situation accurately. His beautiful ash tree was being forcibly removed. He put on a show of outraged indignation, fired a warning shot in the air and promised dire penalties. In a matter of minutes the six foot trunk was lying across the avenue. By this time two sheep dogs were lending vocal support to the general uproar.

It was no time for dallying. Hastily collecting our gear, we hoisted the precious piece of timber on our shoulders and beat an orderly retreat. The dogs gave us a rousing send off. We took it in pairs to carry the hurley. It weighed a hundred and a half. We carried it three miles to the saw mills. News of the hurley's departure broke next morning at the local creamery. The owner angrily accused two of the Coolmoynes hurlers of the midnight robbery. Needless to say, they were completely dumbfounded if not secretly disappointed. Protestations of innocence were of no avail.

But the story did not end there. A few nights later the hurley disappeared in mysterious circumstances from the saw mills. When the following year Coolmoynes beat Killenaule in the senior hurling championship they openly boasted after the game that "it wasn't the hurlers but the hurleys that did it." Nemesis had overtaken us. "The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley."



The Tipperary minor hurlers seen here after defeating Clare in the Munster semi-final in July. They later lost their title to Cork in a replay, Cork going on to take All-Ireland honours.

THOSE DAYS WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS YOUNG...

By RAYMOND SMITH

IN 1945 ALL THE world was young for me as I stood at the back of the old covered stand in Thurles Sportsfield (Semple Stadium now) with some of my companions from the local Christian Brothers' School watching a brilliant Tipperary minor team take another step towards Croke Park and the seniors surprise Limerick in a rip-roaring Provincial decider.

Why does that day remain etched so clearly in my mind when days that followed of greater import and significance have become blurred with the passage of years? Perhaps it was that we had come to believe that Mick Mackey was invincible and in our puck-around matches we had slavishly tried to emulate the solo-run which was synonymous with his name. And here now he was being made to look human in the twilight of his career by a Tipperary team that looked great to our youthful eyes that day but which later we came to realise was but moderate when placed beside the 1949-'51 combination or the 1964-'65 side. Perhaps it was that stirring in our breasts was an initial appreciation of what a real Munster battle was all about, that we could sense something of the glory of it without really being able to articulate it.

DOWN SINCE '37

We were still in Second Year or was it Intermediate Class? The Blue and Gold had been down since 1937—if you accept the year of the "Foot and Mouth" when Cork were beaten in the Munster Final (1941), after the Leesiders had taken the All-Ireland crown (Tommy Doyle would say to me with a twinkle in his eye that Christy Ring should really have sent back that All-Ireland medal!).

The taste of victory is all the sweeter after a period in the wilderness. Eight years is a long time for Tipperary to be down.

There was something special about that evening in Thurles—a memory that lingers of the singing, of the joy among those sporting the Blue and Gold colours at being out of Munster at last and on the road to another All-Ireland (they hoped), the animated discussions around the Square that went on into the early hours and we youngsters hanging on every word from the lips of the past and present stars and Tommy Doyle walked so tall for us that evening that we thought that he was like some Roman Gladiator...

I remember Paddy Kenny ranging down one wing

and Jackie Harris of Thurles on the other. Why should I remember that most of all? Strange, Harris would not make it as a county senior but Kenny, of course, would go on to become one of the finest corner-forwards in the history of the game.

BEST EVER

They talked of the 1945 team before the All-Ireland as one of the best ever to represent the Premier County—and no one could see it fail. It seemed only a mere formality to go to Croke Park and beat Dublin in the Final. "Winter Green" in the "Tipperary Star", who had caught the mood of the season in no uncertain fashion, had already crowned them as champions to all intents and purposes...

But they fell and for those of us in Thurles CBS it was unkind even than the final dagger stroke that cut mighty Caesar down.

I can remember the sense of despair that fell over the school the following morning. We couldn't study. We couldn't concentrate. I remember Brother Hutton addressing the assembled classes—trying to cut through the web of rumour and counter-rumour. There had been stories that the team had lost their heads, stories of pillow-fights into the early hours of the morning when they should have been sleeping. No one contemplated for one moment that Dublin who had a fine team could be good enough to stop Tipperary.

That was heresy. That was to contemplate the unthinkable. We had to look for a reason why, to be given some valid explanation. "Tipperary's undoing was the fact that they had no real test in Munster," Pat Stakelum has explained since.

Emotion spilled over the room as Bro. Hutton spoke. I did not realise the true significance of that moment then. I do now. In effect hurling held such a place in the school and in the town generally and pride in the colours was so strong that a Brother we all deeply respected, thought it was his duty to address the classes on the defeat of a minor team. Later I would watch Tipperary minor teams fail—fail on occasions because of lack of spirit—and there would be no such concern and there came a day when even defeat in the Dr Harty Cup did not seem to have the same shattering effect in Thurles town as it had in the forties.

But in the mid-forties everyone was aware of the great battles between Thurles CBS and St Flannan's College (Ennis) in the Harty Cup. And you knew it in the school and in the town when the coach returned bringing back the defeated Thurles team—the flags hanging limply and the cheers muffled and muted. We were all only too aware of

**T. WESTON
& SONS**

**WATCHMAKERS
and**

JEWELLERS

**Large selection of
Engagement Rings**

Agents for

**LANCO, CERTINA,
CITIZEN WATCHES**

**Trophies for all sports
in stock**

**O'CONNELL STREET,
CLONMEL**

***ABBEY
TAVERN***

HOLYCROSS

**Music every Wednesday,
Friday, Saturday
and Sunday Nights**

**PUB GRUB
SNOOKER TABLES**

***COME AND ENJOY YOUR
DRINKS IN AN OLDE
WORLD E ATMOSPHERE***

**Proprietor: MICHAEL DWAN
Telephone Holy Cross 55**

the name of one "Jimmy Smith", who would later, of course, become a star in the Clare colours and he more than any other player prevented hurlers of the calibre of Paddy Kenny and Pat Stakelum adding a Harty Cup medal to their other honours (and they regretted that very much indeed).

PRECURSOR

St Flannan's won four-in-a-row (1944-'47) in the period of which I write and those battles with Flannans were a precursor in steeling key figures on the Tipperary 1949-'51 team to win the three-in-a-row in senior grade, just as the Harty Cup successes in the fifties presaged the run that began in 1958 and was carried on for a decade to defeat by Wexford in the 1968 All-Ireland.

There was a definite link in those days between the system that operated in the school and the fine minor teams Tipperary produced, especially in the late forties and between 1952 and 1959, and the success in senior grade. It was a system that blooded players of the calibre of John Doyle, Paddy Kenny, Seamus Bannon and Pat Stakelum.

You first made it to the Croke Cup team, then to the Dean Ryan team and by the time you were bidding for a place in the Harty Cup team, you had been fashioned into a hurler to whom the fundamentals came so naturally that they were executed without a thought. I remember a day when there were thirty players—maybe more—in the outside field at Thurles Sportsfield for a trial for one of the school teams and on the pitch were Jimmy Finn, Tony Wall and John O'Grady, later goalie on the 1958 All-Ireland winning team. I was left corner-forward on Tony Wall in the first half and was held scoreless and couldn't understand my failure to notch even one flag. Now I know why and I can appreciate only too well why I was replaced at the interval and why my career suffered such a summary ending!

I would go on to join the "Tipperary Star" to write about hurling and hurling men and for a whole decade — through the fifties — I was deeply involved in Tipperary GAA affairs. Initially I used travel, according to custom, in the bus with the Thurles CBS team to Harty Cup matches and saw Tony Wall make it step by step up the ladder to becoming one of the most effective and dominant centre-backs Tipperary, or any other county for that matter, could boast in senior grade, though there are those who will argue that for purity of stick-work, especially striking a ground ball from the hips, Pat Stakelum had the edge.

I travelled with Jimmy Doyle and the others in that memorable 1955-'56 season—the Year of Bro. Doody, you might call it. It was Bro. Doody who was responsible for changing Jimmy Doyle from goal (where he played in the 1954 Minor All-Ireland) to corner forward in a Dean Ryan Cup game against Nenagh. "I got a goal and three points and then he tried me at wing forward and that became my position," Jimmy recalls. "Bro. Doody was the

greatest trainer Thurles CBS ever had and immensely popular as Superior."

He did not live to see Thurles take the field against North Monastery CBS (holders) in the 1955-'56 Dr Harty Cup final in Limerick—although he had trained the team for the first match.

FOR BROTHER DOODY

"We were playing for Bro. Doody that day," said Jimmy Doyle, "and we went out determined that the name Thurles C.B.S. should be inscribed on the Cup in memory of a great man. No team would have beaten us I think."

Jimmy Doyle paid tribute to the part played in that success by Rev. Bro. Leahy who took over the training of the team after the death of Bro. Doody. "He kept the spirit alive when we might have lost heart."

I saw Tom Ryan of Killenaule play in a pulsating match against St Flannan's and I marked him down as a future minor and senior county player and he made the grade all right. There were others who were picked out too in those days and travelling in the bus and returning whether in victory or defeat; you realised that you were involved with one of the great nurseries—**THE** greatest nursery of Tipperary hurling in that period—and for that very reason you took care with every line you wrote.

The system that fashioned players through Croke Cup, Dean Ryan Cup and the Harty Cup into outstanding Tipperary minors ensured that each season in the fifties Tipperary had a nucleus of at least six players who formed the core of the side and around whom it was easy enough to build. Raw, well-built lads would come into the school from the rural areas with undoubted natural ability as hurlers but needing as it were to be refined in stick play and tutored in forward and defensive tactics. The system succeeded admirably and not alone did Tipperary minor teams benefit to the extent that six titles were won in the golden fifties to add to the two won in the late forties, but Thurles Sarsfields, of course, certainly felt the benefit in Tipperary club hurling and Holycross and Borris-Ileigh felt it also.

When I was at school in Thurles we were still I suppose in the era when there were not so many rival attractions and money was not as plentiful. Hurling had a singular place as the most important recreational activity in the town.

We would send over to Kilkenny for our hurleys at 4/6 (less than 25p in today's currency) a time and it was a great moment when you handled your new stick and you knew that if you were unlucky enough to have it broken first time of asking, you might have to make do with "any old hurley" until you painfully got together another 4/6 (the money perhaps from footing turf) ...

THE DECLINE

The decline in the fortunes of Thurles CBS in the Harty Cup saw Tipperary fall away sadly in minor grade to the extent that no minor All-Ireland



SHANNON ROVERS—who dethroned reigning champions, Borrisokane, in the North Tipperary Inter. final. Standing (left to right): Jim Burke, J. J. Starr, Paddy Fogarty, Sean Cahalan, Timothy Tierney, Seamushoran, Martin Horan, Tom Fox, Pa Hogan, Liam Horan, Martin Tierney, W. J. Hogan, Tony Ryan, John Tierney, Billy Hogan, Front (left to right): Vince McCarthy, Michael Tierney, Willie Hourigan, Martin Guest, George Ryan, Tony Hogan, Pat Malouhney, Finbarr Tierney, Anslan Walsh, Jim Malouhney, Colm Darcy.

title was won in the sixties or so far in the seventies. It is hard to believe it when you reflect on the dominance of the fifties. But the two facts are not unrelated.

As I write this article in the closing fortnight of October, looking through my study window at the fallen leaves of autumn. Thurles CBS have just toppled St Finbarr's (Farranferris) who were beginning their fifth successive Harty Cup.

Will it mark the beginning of a new spring-time of hope and a real resurgence in the fortunes of Thurles CBS and also Tipperary minor teams?

As Limerick's four-in-a-row Harty Cup successes in the sixties presaged the return of the seniors to take their first All-Ireland senior crown in thirty-three years in 1974, will this highly-significant success over St. Finbarr's—whatever else follows in



the competition—mark something worthwhile for Tipperary in senior grade later in this decade or does it indicate that we need not worry unduly about the eighties?

I do not know. But this much I do know—that Tipperary hurling needs a first-class Thurles CBS Harty Cup side, just as Cork have built on the strength of the school teams for recent minor and under-21 title wins, Kilkenny on St. Kieran's College and Wexford on St. Peter's. It was in Sexton Street CBS, incidentally, that Eamonn Cregan, Eamonn Grimes, Pat Hartigan and Sean Foley developed the kind of approach that made the Limerick senior team such an attractive all-out attacking side in 1971-'74.

Yes, without the schools and colleges hurling must be the poorer in the long run and, personally, I believe Tipperary hurling owes a deep debt to the Christian Brothers and, in particular, to the proud traditions Thurles CBS helped to create.

The spirit of Bro. Doody lives on.

TADHG O'FLYNN

WATCHMAKER and JEWELLER

Large selection of Cups and Trophies,
Plaques and Medals, always in stock.

**WATERFORD AND GALWAY
CRYSTAL**

All leading makes in Watches—first
class watch repairs

Wedding Rings, Engagement Rings, etc.

**1, MITCHEL ST.,
NENAGH
and
PORTUMNA**

FOR . . .

BEST QUALITY AND VALUE

SEAN RYAN

SELF SERVICE STORE

TOOMEVARA, CO. TIPPERARY

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 1975 will bring rewards in some shape or form to all clubs.

Cliches on the hurling field

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

THE NEAREST I ever came to solitude, and I mean the real solitude advocated by poets and philosophers, was on a hurling field once, when the game was lost, and everyone around me who hadn't gone home to milk the cows, was soaring aloft on cliches I had never been taught. I can hear them still, loudly acclaiming the "Trojan", who had left the enemy mesmerized, and renouncing bitterly the "string of misery", who *might* have got a goal if he had aimed at anything else on the field, yes, anything only the goalmouth.

They hurled it over and over again, in a language, as far beyond my comprehension, as the intricate movements of the game had been.

"He was good" I said of someone, whose name had been uttered more often than any other, and somebody there, kindly interpreted my comment.

"Good?" he shouted. "He was a wizard!"

But however cliché ridden the conversation might have been, there were flashes or originality that left me gaping. There was even poetry in some of it, like the man who had hurled as if he "hated the ball", and that other who had "an eye like a hawk". And there was a "Tower of strength" somewhere that nobody could knock, and a centre forward who had the unique distinction of arousing both anguish and joy in his emotion filled supporters.

"He had some brilliant flashes" said I, catching on a bit, but only the interpreter heard.

"He was erratic!" he said.

They were talking now about the goalie who had let the ball in between his legs, and who, it was suggested vehemently should be togged out in a Maxi skirt in future, and the centre forward, whom they would recommend to the Golf Club.

The most unkind remarks ever uttered were issuing from the mouths of those Christians, and it reminded me of the way I felt once, when the only horse I ever backed, hit a post and died immediately before the race was over, and that other time, when I voted for a Dail Candidate who lost his deposit.

"He never really got into yer man" one of them said mournfully, and with the greatest compliment an enemy could bestow, he added magnanimously: "Yer man was hungry for the ball."

They had gone away from me now, into a realm of their own, and my physical presence was more like an intrusion in their midst. Sometimes when a wave of inspiration hit me, I groped frantically for the right words, but I always failed.

Not only did they know exactly why the game was lost, they had also the happy ability to describe it.

Among them were men, who in everyday life, had from necessity kept their vocabularies strictly limited. One was my interpreter who insisted on substituting the word "Tenacious" from a colloquialism which I had condescendingly used. Another was a neighbour who would have put Homer to shame by his epic descriptions of a game, which he translated quite admirably into a battle.

"Where did they get them?" I asked bitterly.

"Get what?" he asked in return.

"Their way of putting things . . . their sayings" I faltered.

"Oh" he replied "That's what you call hurlin' talk."

"Maybe" I rejoined "They got them from the Local Newspaper, or maybe from the million and one hurling ballads that have been composed."

He looked at me then in surprise outrage.

"No" he replied, "'twas the other way round. The writers got the sayin's from us."

I went away feeling somewhat diminished, knowing only that the game had been lost, and according to the Postmortem, it had been lost because of a goalie who should have worn a skirt, and a hurler who had failed to get into yer man, and somebody on the other side who hated the ball enough to lash into it, and the wizard and the trojan, and all those others too numerous to mention.

'Twas long afterwards, when everyone had learned to hope again, that I found the answer to the enigma of the Hurling Postmortem. It lay in nothing more complex than glorious exaggeration. When you have acquired a proper sense of exaggeration, the words come naturally then, like the old ballad . . .

"There Kelly and Guilmartin, they never miss the ball,

And the Thurles boy Hugh Shelly, he'd hole a four foot wall . . .

Yes indeed, with a reputation like that, how could I even hope to add to his glory.



Members of the Tipperary North/West team and officials, victors over Limerick in the Munster 'special' MHC in April

The Leahys of Tubberadora

By PHIL DWYER

*"Oft at evening in Boherlahan round the cheery
kitchen fire,
Will be told the deeds of Leahys, of the Walshes
and Dwyers."*

This article, dealing with the Leahys, brings to our notice the only family in the county, and one of the very few in the whole country, which has produced four brothers, all winners of All-Ireland senior medals, as well as a fifth, who rose to the rank of Brigadier in the Anglo-Irish war.

Mike Leahy, their father, was a member of Captain Tom O'Grady's Moycarkey team which beat Cork Nationals (Blackrock) in August '86 at Cork, the year before County and All-Ireland Championships began. He also helped this combination (21-aside) to win the County Final of 1889. The townland of Tubberadora was in the parish of Moycarkey at this period and did not become part of Boherlahan till 1903. This explains why Johnny, Paddy, Jimmy and Mick were all baptized in Moycarkey.

When the famous Tubberadora Club was founded in 1895, Thomas Leahy of Tubberadora Mill, a brother of Mike's, became President, and later on wrote two songs in praise of the achievements of this immortal combination. Mike was a member of the committee. Only a "bounds ditch" separated the two brothers' farms and the Tubberadora (Mill) Stream ran through Mike's land to join the Suir. Mike married Miss Mary O'Callaghan from Knockalough (Upperchurch). We can well imagine how the young Leahys listened in their formative years to the praises of their famous neighbours, being told and sung, and of ambitions being formed that they too would emulate their deeds on the hurling fields of Ireland.

SCHOOL DAYS

In due course, the brothers went to school in Boherlahan, Johnny and Paddy at first, to be joined later by Mick and Jimmy. When Gaile school in Moycarkey opened in 1900 all the brothers switched from Boherlahan. This meant that they had to walk almost two miles across fields from home to school,

but they "shortened" the journey by hurling on the way, reminiscent of Setanta of old. Tommy, the youngest of the brothers, attended Boherlahan school first also, but switched to Gaile towards the close of his academic career, at a time when his elder brothers were winning fame for themselves, their club and their county. Tommy now farms at Marlhill, New Inn, next door to the famous Educational Establishment of Rockwell College, where his nephew Séamus, a son of Jimmy's, is a Professor.

After leaving school Johnny and Paddy remained on the family farm. At this period there was no hurling team (senior) in the parish of Boherlahan. Johnny assisted the Racecourse (Cashel) team to win a county championship (1910) only to lose it in the Boardroom on an objection. Johnny won his first Munster medal this year, when he was the only Boherlahan player on the Tipperary junior team which won the Munster championship. This was the inaugural year of the competition which was confined to the Province.

His first cousin, Tom, son of the Tubberadora President, was appointed hon. secretary. Paddy played with the Rapparees, a junior team in the Ballyine area of the parish. Finally, the historic decision was taken to form their own club, and Johnny was appointed captain from the outset. Some members thought the new club should bear the name of illustrious Tubberadora, but finally the name of the parish was adopted. Their jerseys, however, were those of Tubberadora.

1912 saw Johnny make his first appearance on the county senior team, when after beating Clare, they went down to Cork in Dungarvan. This was the last year of 17-aside teams.

FIRST SUCCESS

1913 was an important year for the young club. It brought success for the first time in the Mid Division, then only six years old, with victories over Two-Mile-Borris, Emly and Horse and Jockey. It saw also the arrival of the first All-Ireland medal in the Leahy homestead, when Paddy helped the Tipperary Juniors to Final honours. Arthur O'Donnell, Dick Walsh and Jack Power of Boherlahan won their first National Honours also as members of this

Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

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 1974, and extend best wishes to all for good fortune in 1975

HEARNS' HOTEL

CLONMEL

SPACIOUS FUNCTION ROOM

FOR

Dinner Dances
Conferences

PHONE 52—21611

historic team which brought the Premier County its first victory in this series. This junior competition had started only the previous year with Cork emerging victorious. 1913 has gone into Irish history as the year of the foundation of the Volunteers. Paddy joined the Boherlahan Company at the outset, and Johnny soon after. In the county semi-final, Boherlahan came up against Toomevara, then at the height of their fame, and after a ding dong struggle failed by four points. This was the first of the heart-warming encounters between two great teams in the 'teens of this century, and the County final between them each year was eagerly looked forward to by Gaels from Cork, Limerick and Kilkenny as well as from within the county.

Johnny was the sole Boherlahan representative on the Tipperary team which won the Croke Cup in 1913 and was sub on the Toomevara Selection which won the Croke Memorial from Kilkenny in "Dun-garvan town so fair."

Boherlahan retained the Mid title in 1914 with victories over Clodiagh Rangers, Thurles and Two-Mile-Borris. The game with the 'Blues in Cashel is still spoken of by old-timers as one of the greatest exhibitions of the code they ever witnessed. The match was preceded by a parade of the newly established Volunteers. There was no score at half-time and the final tally was Boherlahan 1-2, Blues 1-0. By their victory over Cashel (South champions), Boherlahan reached their first County final, only to fail to old rivals Toomevara. Johnny Leahy was unable to captain his side in this encounter, owing to illness. This year (1914) saw Mick and

Jimmy Leahy help Thurles Emmets win the Mid junior hurling title. The two brothers had gone to business in the Cathedral Town soon after leaving Gaile school. In Thurles they joined the local Company of Volunteers at its foundation. Before the year was over, Mike Leahy had passed to his heavenly reward. Johnny, along with Jack Doherty and Dick Walsh, were the Boherlahan representatives on the Toom Selection well beaten by Limerick in the Munster championship.

In 1915 Boherlahan affiliated in South Tipperary and the change brought luck. In the County final at Cashel they defeated Thurles (Mid champions) to bring the parish its first County title since Ballytarsna did likewise in 1901. This year saw two further All-Ireland medals added to the Leahy collection when Paddy and Mick helped Tipperary defeat Offaly by one point in the Junior Final, Mick as a member of the Thurles club and Paddy having Dick Walsh, Jack Power, Arthur O'Donnell and William O'Dwyer of Boherlahan to keep him company. The Tipperary senior team, beaten two points by Cork, included Johnny Leahy, Jack Power and Arthur O'Donnell.

IN 1916

The historic year of 1916 saw Boherlahan back in the Mid Division again. With victories over Two-Mile-Borris, Cashel and Thurles, they became the standard bearers of the Division once more. The County final against the "Greyhounds" was a low-scoring game, featured by magnificent hurling. Final score: Boherlahan 2-2, Toomevara nil. For the first time Boherlahan had the selection of the County



Advice from that prince of mentors, the late Paddy Leahy, to two of Tipperary's outstanding defenders, John Doyle and Michael Maher, before an important Croke Park engagement. On the right is another selector of that era and the greatest full-forward the game has ever known, Martin Kennedy.

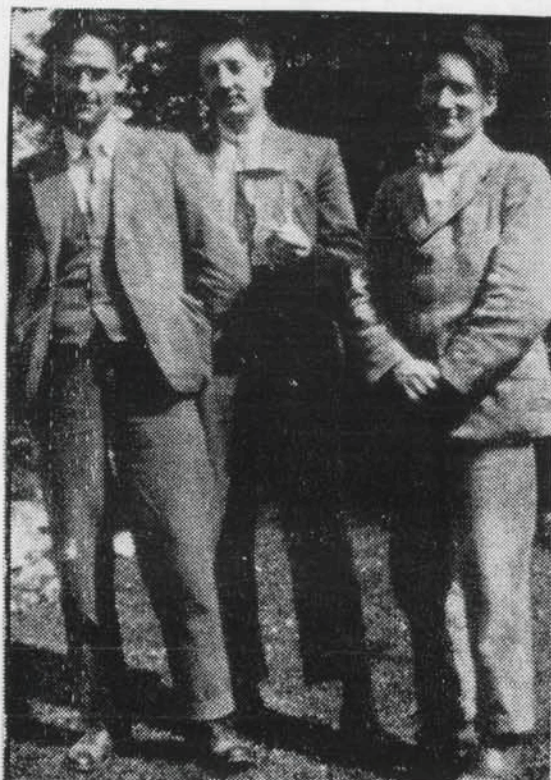
S.H. team and Johnny Leahy was skipper. In all their victories over Kerry, Limerick, Cork, Galway and Kilkenny they wore the old peaked caps of Tubberadora. The final against the Black and Ambers was delayed until January '17 when arrests and imprisonments were the order of the day. No trains were allowed, but still the crowds came. On the last two occasions in which the two counties had clashed in a final, the Noresiders had come out on top. Tipperary led at the break by 4 points but with ten minutes to go Kilkenny were 5 points ahead. Putting in a traditional finish, the men in the Blue and Gold pressed on to glorious victory on the score of 5-4 to 3-1. William O'Dwyer, still an official of the club, was presented with the new Railway Cup, as the captain had left the field in the excitement of victory. The team included six backs and three forwards from Boherlahan. Two of the team are still happily with us, Tom Dwan of Beakstown, Thurles, and Jack Power in New York. Three All-Ireland medals came to the Leahy homestead, because Mick was sub. with Johnny and Paddy playing. The team was: Tom Dwan (goal), J. Leahy, Jack Doherty. William O'Dwyer (Lisloran), A. O. Donnell, Jer Collison, Tom Shanahan, Joe Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Murphy, P. Leahy, Dick Walsh, Denis Walsh, Hugh Shelly. Denis Walsh had won his fifth National title just 20 years after winning his first with Tubberadora. This was the last Final in which the famous Sim Walton assisted Kilkenny. When the final whistle blew he remarked to the Tipperary captain: "We were better hurlers than ye, Lahy." "Ye were," quipped Johnny, "but we were the better men."

TWO MORE

After the Final Johnny jotted down in an old copy-book: "Now for two more," his ambition being to win three All-Irelands, in emulation of Tubberadora.

In January 1916 Jimmy Leahy became a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. When the Rising took place in Easter Week he was one of a group of Volunteers who mobilised at Meagher's of Annfield. He was later to marry Miss Josie Meagher. After the Rising he was active in organising the Volunteers in the Thurles area.

Boherlahan won the Mid final of 1917 by a thrilling victory over Thurles at Coolcro castle, Two-Mile-Borris. Mick Leahy, helping Thurles, had his collar-bone broken when he came in contact with his brother Johnny. Again the Boherlahan-Toom epic took place in Thurles Sportsfield, now Semple Stadium, and Ireland's new Anthem—The Soldier's Song—was sung for the first time in the historic old grounds. Another low-scoring game saw Boherlahan emerge victors on the score 2-2 to 1-1. In the County final at Cashel, Emly failed to halt the champions. Clare were beaten in the first round of the Munster championship, but a hard-fought Munster final against Limerick at Cork ended in a draw. Tipperary won well in the replay, and were hot



Brigadier Jimmy Leahy (right) along with Cmmdt. Ned O'Reilly and Brigadier Paddy Ryan (Lacken), taken in Toberadora in 1923 by Mary Leahy

favourites to overcome Dublin in the final. The Collegians' Selection, which included four Tipperary men, confounded the critics, running out winners by five points. For the first time, three Leahy brothers, Johnny, Paddy and Mick, assisted the county team in its fight for Munster and All-Ireland crowns. As they left for the final in October, news arrived of the arrest of Jimmy, who underwent hunger strike in Mountjoy until his release. Earlier in the year he was a member of the Guard of Honour at the funeral of that great Kerry patriot Thomas Ashe.

Boherlahan retained the Mid title in 1918 by beating Thurles. The County final between old rivals Boherlahan and Toomevara did not take place till the Spring of '19 when Toom surprised the Champions, mainly through the efforts of a youngster called Martin Kennedy, who was to become one

of Ireland's greatest forwards. There was a sequel to this game, when Boherlahan objected to the Moneygall section of the Toom team. The objection was upheld. In the Munster championship Limerick had revenge for the previous year, beating Tipperary in a replay by a goal.

Jimmy Leahy was imprisoned again in 1918, this time in Belfast Jail, where he took part in the great riot led by Austin Stack. The prisoners were overpowered after a week's fighting, when Jimmy was one of a group singled out for special attention. For ten days he was confined to his cell with his hands handcuffed behind him.

The three Leahy brothers were members of the Co. Board Selection defeated by Cork by one point in June 1919. The County final between Divisional teams from Mid and North was not played till June '22 when the Toom-powered men won by a single point. Jimmy Leahy played his only game for the County side, when he took part in a National Aid game against Dublin this year ('19). After a meeting of high-ranking IRA officers, he accompanied Michael Collins to Croke Park on a side-car. Later this year he was forced to go on the run.

No County championships were played in the glorious years 1920-21, but Tipperary went down to Limerick in August 1920 at Riverstown outside Cork City, as the Military would not allow the game to be played at the Athletic Grounds. It should be remembered that Tipperary hurlers were not allowed to take part in the Munster championship of 1921, because the Munster Council decided that the finalists of 1920, Cork and Limerick, should meet to decide who should represent the Province.

WITH THE ROCKIES

Mick Leahy moved to Cork in 1920. He was wounded when Crown Forces raided Wren's Hotel. Between that year and 1931 he helped the famous Rockies win seven county finals and collected two All-Ireland medals won by Cork.

The remote seclusion of the Leahy homestead made it an ideal refuge for "the Boys on the run," and an ideal venue for meetings of the IRA during the 'Troubles.' Pierce McCann was a regular visitor. Breen and Treacy stayed there after Soloheadbeg. Ernie O'Malley was no stranger. Neither was Liam Deasy with his Thompson gun. Brigade meetings took place. Officers of the 2nd Southern Division stayed there. One morning in 1921 Sim Walton arrived all the way from Tullaroan in a pony and trap with two prisoners who were after escaping from Kilkenny Jail. With Paddy and Jimmy on active service, Johnny had to hold the fort, with the house being used as a clearing house for despatches, but Tommy in his early teens played his part too. As O/C of the 2nd Tipperary Brigade, Jimmy took part in several engagements with the British Forces. A systematic campaign of attack was launched against RIC posts in the Brigade area, until at the time of The Truce only the larger centres had

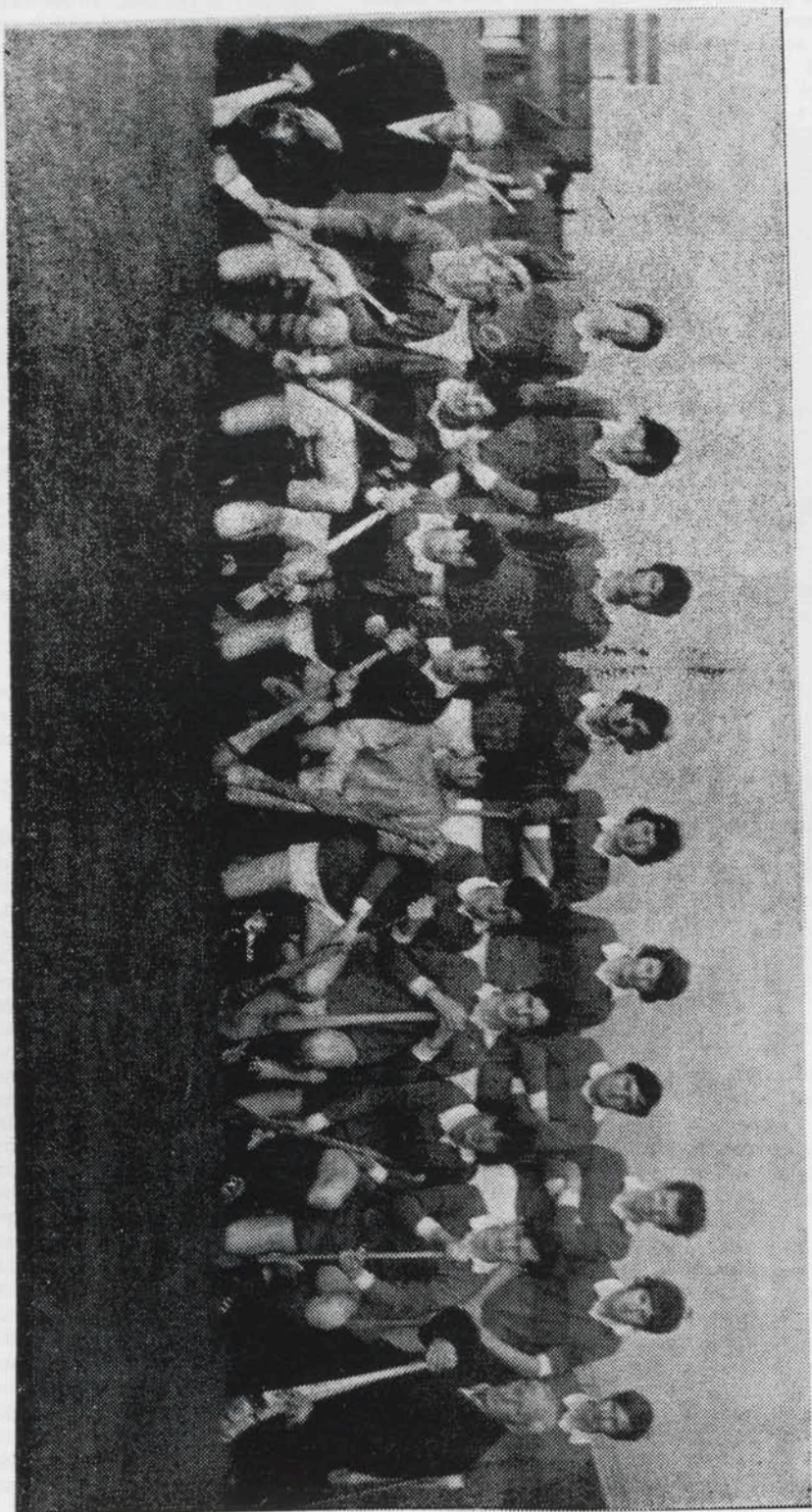
enemy personnel. In an engagement at Ballyboy he sustained a wound which cost him the loss of sight of an eye. He escaped from the RIC in Thurles on one occasion by jumping from the Suir Bridge into the river beneath. It was to him the British handed over the Military Barracks in Templemore after the Treaty. He was offered £1,000 and the position of Assistant Commissioner in the newly formed Garda force by Eoin O'Duffy if he would take the Treaty side but Jimmy's principles could not be bought.

Soon after the end of the Civil War the games resumed. The 1922 championships were disposed of first. Johnny Leahy captained a Mid Selection which beat North in the County final. Paddy was missing as he was still on the run. After wins over Cork and Limerick, Tipperary was in the final again, against old rivals Kilkenny. Scores were level at the interval. Ten minutes from full-time it looked like a Tipperary victory, but putting in a great finish, the Noreiders clinched the issue, winning by two points. This is still regarded as one of the great finals. To show the atmosphere of the time, it should be pointed out that Joe Nagle of Boherlahan was arrested the very week before the final, as he returned from training. Paddy Leahy was missing from the line-out too, for fear of being "picked up."

It was a pity that Jimmy's career as a hurler was cut short by the loss of his sight in one eye. Had he not been so engrossed with sterner duties he would probably have reached the heights attained by his brothers. No less an authority than the great Tom Semple used to say that Jimmy was the hardest of all the Leahys.

IN THE SOUTH

1924 saw Boherlahan in the South Division again. Again the County championship was played between Divisional teams. The South, powered by Boherlahan, defeated the Mid in the final at Fethard by a big score. With victories over Cork and Limerick, Tipperary were fancied to beat Galway, All-Ireland champions at the time, but went down by one point. Three Leahy brothers appeared on the Boherlahan team which won County honours in 1925, Tommy making his debut. Kerry, Cork, Waterford and Antrim were beaten to bring Tipperary and Galway face to face again. This time Tipperary had revenge to win the McCarthy Cup for the first time. It was the first year too that Tipperary teams wore the present style county jersey. Mick Leahy helped Cork defeat Limerick but did not play against his old comrades. It was truly a remarkable year for Johnny Leahy. As well as captaining his club to win County honours, and his County to win the McCarthy Cup for the first time, he was also Chairman of the County Board. I am not aware of another instance where a County Board Chairman led his senior county team to All-Ireland honours while still in office. But the Captain had more history to make. He was to lead his men in the first coast-to-coast tour of the US in '26. Paddy and Mick were on this tour also, which was organised by Paddy Cahill of Holycross, a brother of Phil, also



LOUGHMORE, with which club one usually associates football, made the break through in hurling during 1974 when they won the Mid MHC title.

a member of the party. On their return, it took three attempts to settle the Munster final, which Cork eventually won when Tipperary were reduced to 14 men. Tommy won an All-Ireland medal with Tipperary juniors this year ('26).

Johnny, Paddy and Tommy won two further County finals together in 1927 and '28, after losing the '26 final to Moycarkey. Johnny was appointed Co. Secretary in '27 and held this position standing game in this success was the game against Dublin, powered by the Garda, reigning All-Ireland champions at the time. It was played in Thurles and saw Johnny have one of his outstanding games. He stepped down from the captaincy of the Boherlahan club early in '28 but the honour was to remain in the family with the appointment of Tommy. for a record 21 years. It did not prevent him from leading Tipperary to its first success in the National League (1927-28), then in its infancy. The out-Johnny's last appearance with the county side was in Cork in 1929 when he went in as sub. against the Rebels in the Munster final. 1930 was Tipperary's Triple Crown Year, and brought Tommy Leahy a senior All-Ireland medal. Both Johnny and Paddy played in their last County final that year when Toom beat Boherlahan in the replay. Johnny was then only a couple of months away from his fortieth birthday and Paddy was a few months short of 39. Both had given 20 years' devoted service to club and county. Johnny toured the States again in 1931 as Manager of the Tipperary team. Tommy continued on to bring the last county medal to the Leahy household when helping to bring the Dan Breen Cup for the first and only time to the parish in 1941. He was well over forty when finally hanging up his camán.

COUNTY SECRETARY

During all his time as Co. Secretary and Munster Council delegate Johnny had no telephone facilities to help him. He had to cycle over eight long weary miles to and from Thurles to Co. Board meetings in all kinds of weather, but he was not the man to complain. During this period he played a leading part in securing playing fields for clubs all over the county from the Land Commission. While Johnny was chief executive Paddy remained in the background, but from 1949, the year of Johnny's death, until his own death in 1966, Paddy was a Tipperary selector and helped, in his own inimitable way, to bring no less than eight All-Irelands to the county. He succeeded his great friend Frank McGrath as representative on Central Council and retained this honour until his death.

In conclusion, I think it can be truly said that the Leahy brothers were the driving force behind the great Boherlahan teams of the teens and twenties. They were lucky to have great hurlers around them but they were great leaders and morale boosters whenever enthusiasm weakened. Johnny was a captain in every sense of the word, he trained his men, he met them after Mass to see that everything was ready for the fray, he placed them in the dressingroom and brought the blood coursing through their veins with his pep talk.

Johnny, Paddy and Jimmy lie in the family burial ground at Holycross Abbey; Mick lies in St. Finbar's cemetery, Cork.

Ní bheidh a leithéidí arís ann.



An interesting photograph of a Boherlahan selection that played in a tournament in Nenagh in May 1919 in aid of the Irish Volunteers Dependents' Fund. Their opponents were a Toomevara selection.

The names are: Back row—H. Browne (Killenaule), J. J. Hayes (Moycarkey-Two-Mile-Borris), J. Nagle (Boherlahan), M. Keane, goal (Killenaule), Joseph McDonagh, T.D., North Tipperary, T. Shanahan (Killenaule), M. Mockler (Moycarkey-Two-Mile-Borris), P. Power (Boherlahan), R. Dwyer (Boherlahan), P. Dwyer (Boherlahan).

Front row: J. Herbert, referee (Castleconnell), L. O'Brien (Boherlahan), J. Leahy, captain (Boherlahan), M. Maher, Boherlahan (father of former Tipperary full-back, Michael Maher), J. Fitzpatrick (Moycarkey-Two-Mile-Borris), Paddy Leahy (Boherlahan), Michael Leahy (Boherlahan), D. O'Brien (Boherlahan).

BEFORE AND AFTER THE GAME

Call to ...

JIM GLEESON'S

FOR BEST DRINKS

THE SPORTSMAN'S BAR

CLONMEL

PHONE 052—21350

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 1975

"WHEN A SCORE IS FLAGGED, IT IS FLAGGED"

says Len Gaynor

THE YEAR 1974 marked the publication of what could be Raymond Smith's last full-length



Len Gaynor

hurling history for quite a while and with the emphasis in the first 100 pages on Limerick's return to the top in 1973, it naturally deals at length with the memorable Munster Final of that season at Semple Stadium in which Tipperary were pipped by a point.

The author left open—for history to pass final judgment in years to come—the vexed question of whether the last stroke by Richie Bennis from a seventy on the call of time actually went over the bar. There was as much controversy afterwards, of course, as to whether Eamonn Grimes's shot that brought the crucial seventy was wide before Tadhg Murphy's hurley made contact with it.

Richie Bennis maintained that Murphy could not afford to take a chance, as the Tipperary goal was under extreme pressure at the time and he had to cover the ball. It hit off him and went over the line. As far as Richie could see, there was no doubt that it was a seventy.

But Noel O'Dwyer, who was marking Grimes, is adamant that the ball was wide before it made contact with Tadhg Murphy's hurley. "I am convinced that his hurley was at least six inches behind the line when he touched the ball," said O'Dwyer.

On the winning point, John Kelly said: "I thought it was a foot wide. I followed the flight of

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

the ball all the way. At first it was coming high for the centre of the posts but as it reached a point over the twenty-one yards line, it started to veer slightly to the right and definitely passed outside the post."

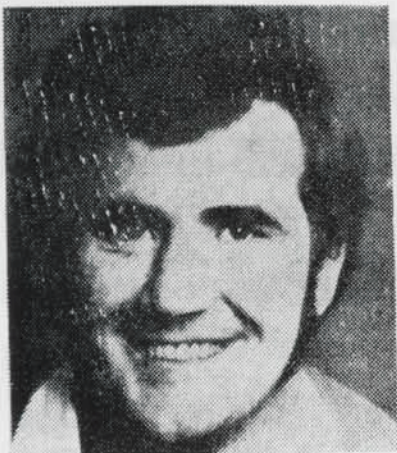
Jackie Power, the Limerick coach, is convinced that the point was a legitimate one.

The umpire, however, who stepped well back as the ball was coming in, had the final word and put up the white flag.

And perhaps Len Gaynor was right when he said: "I will not comment. When a score is flagged, it is flagged as far as I am concerned."

For years to come Limerick and Tipperary followers will go on arguing the pros and cons and it will shorten many a winter's evening—just as for twenty-five years now they have been debating "The Goal That Never Was," the famous incident in a Cork-Tipperary championship match in Limerick when Cork claimed that a shot by Mossie Riordan hit the wooden support at the back of the goal and bounced on Reddan's line and that the Lorrha man cleared it so fast that no one realised what had really happened (it was after that the Munster Council dispensed with the wooden supports). You get different versions of that incident, depending on whether you are a Tipperary or Cork follower—and it is covered also in the "Player's No. 6 Book of Hurling," as the famous "Advantage Rule" incidents of the fifties when Tipperary were denied victory more than once by Cork.

The "Player's No. 6 Book of Hurling" hit the best-seller's list soon after being published in June and most of the edition is now sold out. It brings the history of the game right up to 1974 and the invaluable Records Section has been completely updated. Considering that it will not be re-issued and that there may be no hurling book like it to follow for some years, this 350-page history represents the ideal Christmas gift. It can be got through any bookseller or direct from the publishers, Creative Press, Creation House, Botanic Road, Dublin 9, at £1 (post free).



Richie Bennis

LATE PAT KELLY, NEWCASTLE

The sudden death of Pat Kelly robbed Newcastle, and indeed in the GAA in general, of one of its most loyal servants.

Pat had served Newcastle for almost twenty years and during that time also assisted the Pierce McCans, Old Bridge and Ardfinnan clubs.

His first championship win was in 1949, when he helped Newcastle defeat Carrick Davins in the South Tipperary junior hurling final.

Pat was also to the fore eleven years later when Newcastle defeated Kilshelan to again win the South junior hurling title, as he was later that year when Newcastle won the junior football (No. 2) football title.

He was still there in 1963 when Newcastle failed to Davins, and although he then retired he never



The late Pat Kelly

lost interest and continued to attend the games almost every Sunday.

One of his greatest assets was his versatility. Whether as a tenacious back, a tireless midfielder or a scoring forward he never let his side down.

He captained Newcastle on several occasions, leading them to victory in the Dan Breen Cup and the Meagher Shield, among many other wins.

In football, as well as playing for his native parish he also played senior football with Ardfinnan and Old Bridge and proved equally adept with the bigger ball.

His many trophies include two hurling and one football championship medals with Newcastle, a Dollard Cup medal with Pierce McCanns, and many other hurling and football tournament awards.

May he rest in peace.

THE NEW PLAYING RULES FOR FOOTBALL—1884 and 1974

By SEAMUS O RIAIN

IT SEEMS that the experimental new rules in football are being quietly accepted. After the early days of controversy with claims that they were going too far and counter-claims that they were not going far enough to effect the necessary improvements, there is little enough talk now one way or the other. Conventions and Congress have yet to have their say and who knows what result will come out of their deliberations. It may be accepted, however, that the desire for change and the movement to effect it will continue the effort to improve the game as a spectacle and rid it of some objectionable features.

Few enough changes have been made in the rules since they were first drawn up by Maurice Davin ninety years ago. Before that time football was a rough and tumble affair with few if any restrictions or regulations, but the game was fairly popular throughout the country. The number of players on a side could vary from game to game, depending on circumstances, from as low as six or seven to as high as thirty to forty, and the entire field was the playing area, the ditches marking the boundary lines.

No standard was laid down, either about the size of the ball or the materials to be used in making it. The following description is taken from an old eighteenth century ballad and gives some idea of what the ball was like:

Three folds of bullock's hide
With leathern thongs bound fast
on every side;
A mass of finest hay concealed
from sight
Conspire at once to make it firm
and light.

For long periods during a game the ball might be altogether ignored while the players engaged in wrestling, each man taking on his opposite number and the one who scored a "fall" could then concentrate on getting the ball over the opposite ditch for victory.

Possibly the last game to be played under the old dispensation took place in the early days of 1884 between sides representing Waterford and Tipperary. The Waterford team was drawn mainly from the Rathgormack area and the Kilcash redoubtables carried the banner of Tipperary. Thirty-four players lined out on each side in a field owned by Bob Hurley of Glynn, which is about five miles from Carrick-on-Suir on the Waterford side of the river. After a hectic struggle the men from Kilcash overpowered their opponents and booted the ball in triumph over the ditch.

Maurice and Pat Davin were interested spectators at the game and on the way home the brothers discussed the need for restrictions which would eliminate some of the undesirable elements in the game. There and then they decided to draw up playing rules for both hurling and football which became the basis for the first rules adopted by the Gaelic Athletic Association at their second meeting which was held in the Victoria Hotel in Cork on Saturday, 27th December 1884.

Players did not immediately conform to the new rules; it was hard to restrain the exuberant from tackling in the old style and it was no easy matter to impose discipline on those who preferred the rough and tumble. After a year's experience a major revision of the rules was made in 1886. Wrestling was abolished completely and it was an offence to catch, trip or push an opponent from behind. Standard regulations were adopted for the number of



players on a team, the size of the playing area, the goal posts, the size and weight of the ball, and the duration of play and penalties were laid down for breaches of rules.

Over the years since then changes in the playing rules have been introduced from time to time to improve the game as a spectacle. It took courage and initiative to bring about those improvements because there are always those who object to changing what has been established for years. In this respect the most remarkable example of courageous decision was the reduction of the number on a team from seventeen to fifteen in 1913, considering the circumstances and spirit of the time.

The present period of experiment in rule changes has given an opportunity to assess the merits of the new proposals. It remains to be seen whether the Association has the courage to adopt them permanently.

KAVANAGHS

West Gate

Gladstone St.

Clonmel

For all your

SPORTING REQUIREMENTS

CLONMEL HOMES

SEE FOR YOURSELF OUR RANGE OF 5 BEAUTIFUL
BUNGALOWS, IN TWO, THREE OR FOUR BEDROOM DESIGN

TRADITIONALLY CONSTRUCTED IN 11"

CAVITY WALL

Erected Anywhere on Your Own Site

in from 6 to 10 weeks

12, Wolfe Tone Street, Clonmel

HONE: 052 — 21597

MICHAEL WALSH & SONS

A day of terror in Croke Park

By SEAMUS O RIAIN

A GROUP OF us stood at the back of the Hogan STAND in Croke Park reading the names on the plaque commemorating Bloody Sunday. It was All-Ireland final day and we were putting in the time waiting for the minor game to start.

Some young lads, their curiosity aroused by our concentrated attention, joined us, listening at first and then eager with questions. They knew very little about what happened in Croke Park on November 21st, 1920, but they were anxious to find out. "Could they read about it in any book?" "The Big Sycamore" was recommended to them since author was present on Bloody Sunday and he had written an eye-witness account of the terrible happenings of that day. They had not read the book, but they wondered if the story, or at least a summary of it, could be included in the next Tipperary Year Book. We agreed to see what could be done to meet their wish, and what follows here is a much abbreviated version of what is in the book.

"The Big Sycamore" is the story of a remarkable and highly distinguished Tipperary family, written by one of them who used "Joseph Brady" as a "nomme de plume." They were neighbours and close friends of the Hogans, played with them for the local club and were enthusiastic followers of the county team. Tipperary was one of the leading football counties in those days and the match with Dublin was expected to attract a big crowd to Croke Park. With Mick Hogan on the team were his club mates Jerry Shelly and Dick Lanigan. Mick Tobin who was also selected could not travel because of his father's illness.

"Joseph Brady" went by car to Dublin for the game to cheer on the county team. He was stopped at Portobello Bridge and warned by a police constable that he would enter the city at his own peril. Having parked the car he boarded a tram and arrived in Barry's Hotel just in time to wish the Tipperarymen good luck as they set out for Croke Park.

A PISTOL SHOT

He took a seat on the sideline just as the referee, Michael Sammon, was throwing in the ball. The game was not long in progress when there was a

sign of impending trouble as a British aeroplane swept low over the ground. A pistol shot rang out, as a signal for attack. A platoon of Black and Tans, using trench ladders, scaled the wall at the Canal End and immediately opened fire.

There was instant panic. Spectators and players fled for shelter. Some raced towards the Railway Wall, others made for the main exit to Jones' Road, and many threw themselves flat on the ground for protection. No one was injured in the first burst of firing and an official shouted to the players "Take it easy, they're only firing blanks. Accepting this assurance, Jerry Shelley raced across the field to recover his cap, but had a narrow escape as bullets struck the ground close to him. There was no further doubt about the nature of the firing or the intentions of the attackers. Bullets tore up the sod, ripped through the corrugated iron roof of the dressingrooms, and many were ruthlessly shot down. Confusion reigned as the firing continued with frightening intensity. Then it ceased.

The military invaded the pitch, questioning, searching and threatening, and even beating some to the ground with their rifle butts. The players in the Tipperary colours of green and white were picked out from the crowd and herded together on a hillock at the north end of the field. There were only twelve of them. One other, Jack Kickham of Mullinahone, had scaled the wall and jumped clear of the barbed wire, landing in the Belvedere ground to make his escape. Two other players were lying face downwards on the field. They lay motionless so that both were thought to be dead. Suddenly one of them stood upright and walked towards the group. It was Jim Egan. But Mick Hogan lay still, his life blood flowing from two bullet wounds, one under his left shoulder, the other at the back of his ear.

A SILENT PRAYER

His team-mates offered a silent prayer for him as they stood surrounded by Black and Tans with submachine guns, rifles and bayonets, threatening to shoot them all. They were relieved when a military officer came on the scene and took control of the situation, releasing them from the dire threat that hung over them. "These men are under my care," he said and he ordered them to go straight to their hotel where he would have them searched later. Grateful for his intervention, they made their way from the ground.



St. Mary's, Clonmel, South Tipperary Minor Hurling Champions. Back row (l. to r.): Jimmy Ryan, John O'Neill, Frank Nyhan, Anthony McDonagh, Michael Kelly, Tommy Lenane, Ben Coy, John O'Dwyer. Front row (l. to r.): Jimmy Kavanagh, Tony Cronin, P. J. O'Brien, Billy Lambe, Timmy Guidera (capt.), Paudie O'Neill, Tommy Walsh, Vincent Mullins. Missing when photograph was taken was Desmond Mullins.

In the meantime two priests, Fr. Denis Crotty, a native of Mullinahone, and Fr. Ned O'Brien of Cloneen, were attending to the dead and wounded. "Joseph Brady" also came on the field and they found Mick Hogan lying at the Railway End about 25 yards from the north corner of the pitch close to the cinder track which surrounded the playing area at that time. They administered the last anointing and recited the last prayers. A fawn overcoat had been respectfully placed over his body by a courageous lady from Dromore West, Co. Sligo, Miss Annie Burke.

Later in the evening the bodies of the dead were brought together and laid side by side on the grass. There were fourteen of them. When Mick Hogan's body was taken to Jervis St. Hospital "Joseph Brady" travelled in the ambulance and met Mick's

brother, Dan, who was Commandant of the IRA in the Monaghan area.

The other members of the team made their way from Croke Park, deeply saddened by the loss of their comrade, and sought a safe place to stay for the night among friends.

On the following day Dublin Castle issued the following official version of what happened in Croke Park:

"A number of men came to Dublin on Saturday under the guise of attending a football match between Tipperary and Dublin. But their real purpose was to act as gunmen. Learning on Sunday that a number of these gunmen were present in Croke Park, the Crown forces came to raid the field. It was the original intention that an officer would go to the centre of the field, and speaking from a megaphone, invite the assassins to come forward. But on their approach, armed pickets gave warning. Shots were fired to warn the wanted men, who caused a stampede and escaped in the confusion."

This stupid and rather crude attempt to explain the outrage committed by Crown Forces on Bloody Sunday calls for no further comment.

The majority of the Tipperary team of that day have passed to their eternal reward but the following are still hale and hearty:

Colonel Tommy Ryan, Willie Ryan, Mick Nolan, "Scout" Butler, Jim Doran, Mick Tobin.

- Joseph Brady, now in his 84th year, is Fr.



V. Rev. Maurice Power, PP, Ballymore Eustace, who under the nomme de plume "Joseph Brady," wrote "The Big Sycamore"

Maurice Browne, parish priest of Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare. Up to recent years he was a frequent visitor to Croke Park which held such poignant memories for him, but now he watches the games from his armchair.



The inter-school hurling champions from the South division were KILLENALE

LET'S GET TOGETHER FOR A RENEWED BASH AT TIPPERARYISM

Says GERRY SLEVIN

THERE WERE several times during the past year when County Chairman Tom O'Hara referred to what he considered too much parochialism and divisionalism within the county and insufficient Tipperaryism. One didn't have to snoop around in whispers to find out just what he meant because 1974 showed it up loud and clear in several instances, that things are not what they should be in the Premier County.

It's not a question of it having been a barren year trophy-wise. Indeed on reflection, I would have been very surprised had we won any major trophies, because of the lack of spirit that prevails within the county at the moment. This is true of all levels of the Association, from Board level right down to the supporters and unless a serious attempt is made to eradicate it then we cannot hope to succeed in the playing fields.

To say the past year has been a controversial year is putting it mildly. It has been and more, and 1974 will surely go down as the year of the big disagreements, of the stubbornness and childish behaviour that should not be associated with any organisation, not to mention one like the GAA in the home of the Association.

There was the lack lustre approach of the senior hurlers to the Clare game. There was the ridiculous situation of two selected teams being announced to the press. There was the apparent disregard for authority on the field itself in that Munster semi-final game. And when we move in-doors we recall the bickering and fighting that went on in the Boardroom. Seldom did a meeting take place when this distasteful behaviour was not a feature of the night's proceedings. We all remember quite well the Michael Coen issue; its aftermath when the Munster Council met in Tipperary Town; the refusal to grant a postponement sought by Silvermines in their County SFC semi-final because of the involvement of that same team in the County SHC final; the rows over the composition of the senior hurling selection committee.

In these latter two instances, divisionalism reared its ugly head with such force as to make a mockery of the Board.

It is not uncommon for us to be asked by people outside the county: What is wrong in Tipperary? Outsiders are nothing short of amazed that things should have reached such a low ebb and its remedy is something that has to be tackled by EVERYONE who has the interests of Tipperary's future at heart.

So much has been made of petty arguments and dissensions, they have been allowed to build themselves up beyond all reasonable proportions and one of the most sensible statements of the year came from John Doyle, who obviously fed up with all the moaning and complaining, didn't put a tooth in it at one particular Board meeting when he told us to grow up and try to realise just what it was all leading to. John, of course, was right, as was Tom O'Hara in his reference to insufficient, as he put it, Tipperaryism, within the county.

If Tipperary is to regain her place as a pillar of the Association, as a county to be looked up to as it has been in the past, then it's time all this carry on was cast aside quickly and permanently. The day for basking in the glory of past achievements is gone. We must look to the future and secure it. We must have people who are men enough to weed out these dissensions and banish them for good and all. We are inclined to be over critical, crouching like tigers to pounce on anything we can make an issue of, without ever giving a thought to the real victim of all this squabbling—Tipperary itself.

A new year is soon dawning. Let us earnestly hope things will improve. Goodness knows, they couldn't get much worse. But if they are to improve, it demands a concerted effort from everyone and a realisation that the GAA needs a flourishing and a thriving Tipperary.

Think about it. Forget about this constant bickering. Take a broader look instead and see that it is the county that really matters not just some stubborn wish to gain in oneupmanship. Success on the playing fields will naturally follow. But don't make the mistake that it is the other way around. If things are not healthy in every facet of the Association within the county, we cannot expect the men going out to represent us in the blue and gold jersey to really care. Can we?



ARDEINNAN—County Senior Football Champions. Front row (l. to r.): P. Savage, J. Browne, E. O'Gorman (capt.), C. Browne, Pete Savage, L. Myles, A. O'Mahoney. Standing (l. to r.): J. Healy, E. Prendergast, P. O'Brien, R. Boyle, J. Cummins, T. J. Walsh, P. Carroll, M. Keating.

Bord Na nOg's heavy programme presents problems

By TOM KIRBY

ONCE AGAIN our very heavy programme of games has caught up with us and for one reason or another we find ourselves playing under 14 football, under 16 hurling and under 16 football in cold, wet, wintery November conditions.

The Scor competitions proved an outstanding success with very creditable performances from all competitors. A special word of congratulations to Holycross, who won the All-Ireland Set Dance competition, thus retaining the title for Tipperary which was won last year by Moycarkey/Borris. This year's County Scor na nOg final takes place at the Premier Hall, Thurles, on Tuesday, 15th December.

Our first Annual Dinner Dance was an outstanding success. Guest of honour was Dr. Donal Keenan who was accompanied by his wife and son. Medals were presented to the minor hurlers and minor footballers, who won special Munster competitions. A suitable presentation was also made to Dr. Keenan by Board Chairman Liam O Riain.

The Board also organised for the first time a Silver Circle on a 50/50 basis with the clubs, which proved to be a financial success. It is hoped to have a second one early in 1975.

Cashel once again won the under 12 hurling county title with Clonmel Commercials taking the honours in the football. Speaking recently to some people who organise juvenile games, the view was expressed that it was a mistake to be playing under 12 to county stage and that perhaps these games should be organised by the schools.

The under 14 hurling rural competition was won by Ballingarry, who, in a thrilling final, just shaded Borrisoleigh. Eire Og (Nenagh) once again asserted their supremacy in the urban/rural hurling competition by defeating Ballingarry in the final. However, in the Turus na nOg play-off Eire Og were just lucky to hold off a great Ballingarry challenge. As

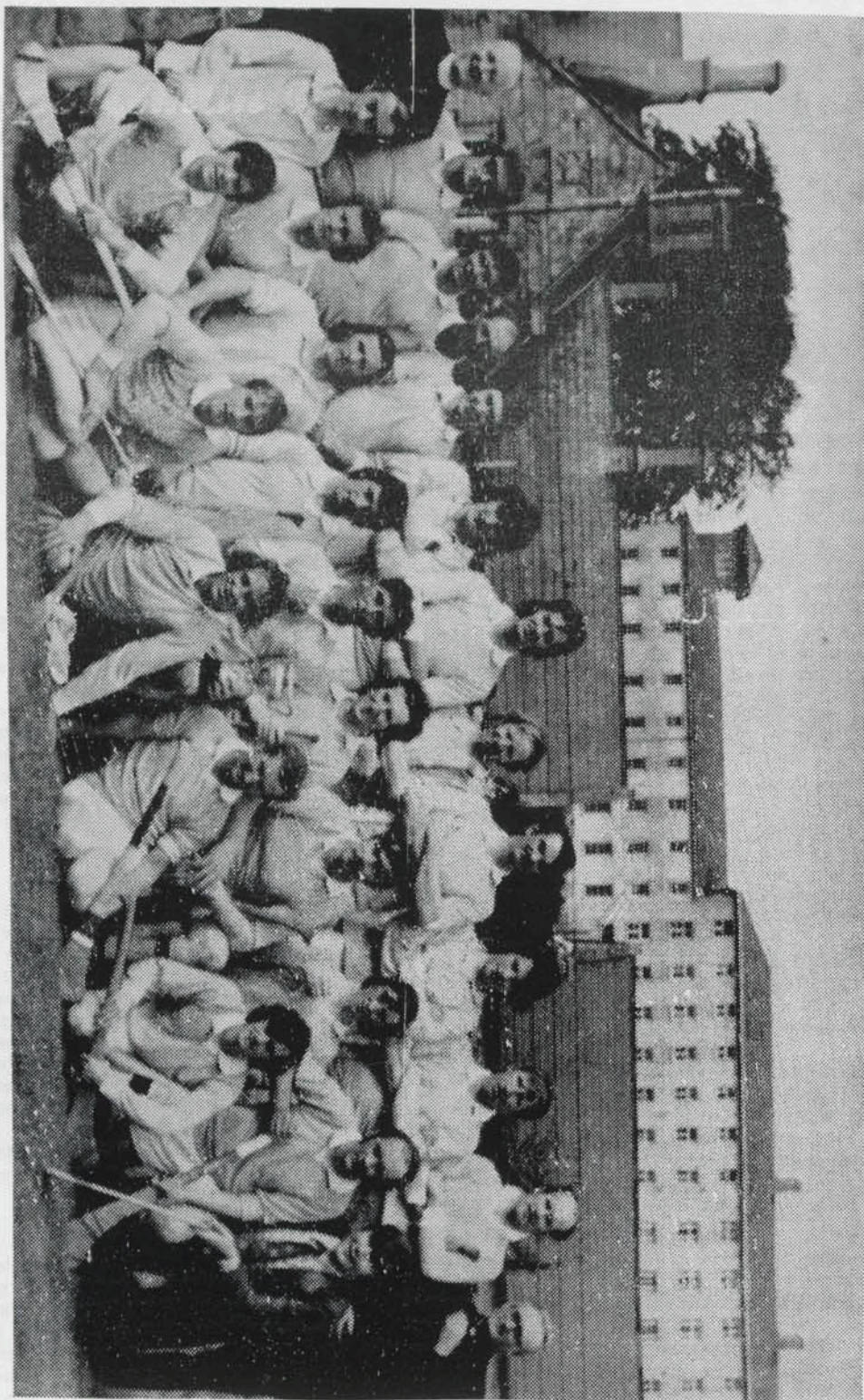
a result of this victory, Eire Og also represented this county in Feile na nGael in Limerick. The under 14 football rural was won by Loughmore who defeated Borrisokane in a replay. Clonmel Commercials retained the urban rural competition by defeating Loughmore.

COMPLIMENTS

Our juvenile teams, mentors, supporters, are to be complemented for the manner in which they are fostering our National Games. Are we with our very heavy programme of games killing the interest of our players at a young age and also placing a heavy burden on the shoulders of the few dedicated officials in each club? There are some players in our juvenile teams who have won as many trophies at the age of 14 as some adults have won in a lifetime of playing our games.

As we are promoting hurling at juvenile level, we feel very concerned at the failure of our minors to win an All-Ireland hurling title for the past 15 years. Granted we had a breakthrough last year by winning the Munster title but then we were unlucky to lose the title this year. Star players in juvenile games (with some exceptions) never seem to produce that same sparkling form when it comes to minor level and indeed some show little or no concern at being defeated. Is this lack of concern and loss of form attributed to being exposed to many games at juvenile level? I feel that a strong look will have to be taken at our juvenile structure before Convention this year.

Coisde Iomana hurling scheme is well supported in this county, with approximately 4,000 hurleys being ordered each year. We are delighted to see that Vocational, Secondary and National Schools are availing of this scheme. There is, however, an acute shortage of ash at the moment and this problem is being tackled at the present by the members of Lar Coisde Iomana.



Moyle Roovers, South Tipperary JH champions. Back row, l. to r.): V. Rev. T. Canon Fitzgerald, PP, Joe Boyle, T. Harvey, Ml. Cronin, P. Looby, C. Ryan, A. Cahill, H. McCarthy, J. Russell, B. Foley, J. McCarthy, J. Grace, Rev. Bro. O'Connor. Second row: J. Phelan, P. Woodcock, Michael Wall, P. Callaghan, P. Boyle (capt.), Matty Boyle, Ml. Looby, G. McCarthy, C. Darcy, Ml. Morrissey (secretary). Front row: Ml. Hunt, D. Looby, Ml. Ryan, Ml. Boyle, Ml. Ryan. Missing when photograph was taken—D. Hallinan, S. O'Connell.

YOUTH CONVENTION

In connection with the forthcoming County Youth Convention, clubs are reminded of the necessity to hold Club Conventions (Youth) and to elect two members (Rule 18 O.G.) to attend County Youth Convention. Age group 16 to 21 years. Club Convention should discuss on the lines as follows:

The Place of Youth in the Club at present.

Social Activity.

Games.

Youth Publications.

The part Youth could play in the Club if given the opportunity.

The discussion could also provide for suggestions for improvements on the policy for youth in general. Criticism, provided of course that it is constructive, should also form part of the night's discussion.

Clubs are also reminded of Rule 19 (a) O.G. where at least two members of the Club's Executive Committee shall be under 21 years of age. County Senior Board will, I'm sure, enforce this year Rule 34 O.G. to ensure that two of the representatives to Congress are under 21 years. Those two representatives could be nominated at County Youth Convention.

o—o—o—o

AROUND THE DIVISIONS

THE SOUTH

Juvenile games in South Tipperary have enjoyed another successful year. An entry of 104 teams was received for the eight competitions and hereunder are the winners and runners-up.

- 12 F.—Commercials. Runners-up—Fr Sheehy's
- 12 H.—Carrick Swan. Runners-up—St. Mary's
- 14 R/F.—Ballingarry. Runners-up—Grangemockler
- 14 R/H.—Ballingarry. Runners-up—Killenaule
- 14 U/R H.—Ballingarry. Runners-up—Ck.-on-Suir
- 14 U/R F.—Commercials. Runners-up—Ballingarry
- 16 F.—Commercials. Runners-up—St. Joseph's
- 16 H.—St. Mary's. Runners-up—Ballingarry.

The under 12 football and hurling was played on the league system, and as well as providing extra games it also proved an outstanding success. Ballingarry had a remarkable year, contesting five South finals, two County finals and the play-off for Turas na nOg and Feile na nGael. While the winning

of three divisional titles was an achievement in itself, the highlight was no doubt the winning of the County rural hurling title for the first time ever. Eire Og (Nenagh) deprived them of a great double in the Urban/Rural final and when the same two teams met in the play-off, Ballingarry had a great chance of turning the tables but failed to avail of first half chances. Commercials also took three divisional titles in football, retaining the U/R and under 16 championships and added the under 12 football County title to the South title.

Carrick Swan under 12 hurlers showed the way in their club by beating St. Mary's in a great final at Kilsheelan.

St. Mary's retained the under 16 hurling title at the expense of Ballingarry, who in the last ten minutes did everything possible to pull the game out of the fire.

The standard of play in the various competitions was as high as other years, pitches continue to be well prepared, with the shorter pitch in operation for the under 12 games. A special word of thanks to the referees and their officials for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

It is the opinion of many that there are too many competitions for our young players, and this at times is borne out when competitions are being rushed to meet inter-divisional deadlines. This problem can be overcome by proper spacing of the competitions and by giving priority to competitions such as Turas na nOg and Feile na Gael, thus making the games more enjoyable for players and officials alike.

THE WEST

Thirteen clubs took part in our competitions. Here are the winners:

- U 12 H—Cashel King Cormacks
- U 12 F—Cashel King Cormacks
- U 14 H U/R—Cappawhite
- U 14 H R—Cappawhite
- U 15 F U/R—Solohead
- U 15 F U/R—Solohead
- U 16 H—Cashel King Cormacks
- U 16 F—Cashel King Cormacks

Each of the finals was a thriller. John Moloney refereed the under 12 hurling West final between Cashel and Kickhams and was loud in his praise for all the players. "That was the best game I have seen this year," he said, and although it was a miserably wet evening he had only to blow for four fouls.

Under 12 football final: Cashel defeated Rockwell Rovers by 4 points.

Under 14 hurling: Cappawhite and Clonoulty clashed in both finals. In the first final "Cappa" had a runaway victory. The following week they clashed again and much to everyone's surprise Clonoulty led

***For your Self Drive Car
in Ireland***

Contact

**Tipperary
Self Drive**

Main Office:

**LIMERICK ROAD,
TIPPERARY**

Phone 51213 Telex 8258

Also at

SHANNON AIRPORT Phone 61532

DUBLIN AIRPORT Phone 377598

NEW YORK OFFICE Phone 212-937-5636

CHICAGO OFFICE Phone 289-2660-61

Your choice will be from 300 of the latest Ford models, ranging from Escorts to Granada GXL Automatic or Standard. Cars may be delivered or collected at any place in Ireland by arrangement

***SEAN CROWE
MOTORS***

TIPPERARY

SALES—SERVICE

FIAT

Main Dealer

LANCIA

SALES — SERVICE

PHONE 51219

RENT - A - CAR

SEAN CROWE

Car Rentals Limited

Limerick Road, Tipperary

DAY — WEEK — MONTH

Phone: 51218 office

55164 Night Service



COMMERCIALS—Under 12 Football County Champions. Kneeling (l. to r.): Derek Dilliam, Joe McNamara, Robert Denmead, Tomás Corbett. Seated (l. to r.): Michael Ryan, Seamus Mullins, John Donegan, Terry O'Neill (captain), Frannie Kelly, Michael Fitzgerald, James Norris. Standing (l. to r.): Robert Gaffey, Seán McMahon, Eddie Collins, Seán Lonergan, Billy Corbett, Robert Toomey, Peter Barry, John Laste, Adrian Furlong.

all the game and were most unfortunate to concede a late goal to Cappawhite.

Under 14 football: Solohead defeated Golden in both finals. Both games were played at Bansha and we had a scoreboard, umpires with white coats and, of course, John Moloney himself—all a credit to the hard-working club members.

Cashel defeated "Cappa" in the under 16 hurling final played at Clonoulty. With 10 minutes to go Cashel were 11 points ahead but "Cappa" had three late goals and only the whistle stopped them from winning.

Cashel and Rockwell Rovers clashed again in the Under 16 football final. Cashel won this by 7 points.

Bord na nOg men in the West are very satisfied with the high standard in all of these games. They have had the Under 12 County hurling champions (Cashel) for the past two years and they are confident that this trend will continue.

THE MID

The real activity of the Division in 1974 started at Clara, Co. Offaly, early in the New Year when the boys and girls from Holycross-Ballycahill represented their parish, the County and Munster in the All-Ireland Final of Scór na nOg. It is a great tribute to the standard of dancing among our young people that the trophy for Set-Dancing, which was

first won in 1973 by Moycarkey, was won in 1974 by Holycross-Ballycahill.

When activity started on the playing fields, Thurles Sarsfields fielded teams for the first time for a number of years, and we saw a new revival of under age hurling in Gortnahoe. The club, however, that had been making steady progress over the previous couple of years, showed how they really play in 1974. That club is Loughmore-Castleiney. A strong, interested group of boys have grown up together in the parish. Their victories extend from Under 12 level to Minor level.

They won Under 12 hurling and football, Under 14 rural football, Under 14 urban/rural hurling and football. Under 14 rural hurling was won by Boherlahan, Moycarkey-Borris are champions in Mid Tipperary in under 16 hurling. The Under 16 football competition has still to be finished.

All the teams from the Division acquitted themselves well when representing the Division in the County Championship.

A special word of thanks must go to all who played and took charge of the Juvenile Clubs in the Division during the year. The standard of friendship and sportsmanship generated in all matches was exemplary; we are quite sure all parents would be very glad to have their children taking part in such a manly way. The Officials of the Bord spared no effort during the year to see that all matches were

The Sportsman's

Super Store

**CLONMEL
SPORTS
CENTRE**

**6 MARY STREET,
CLONMEL**

✱

**10% DISCOUNT
TO ALL CLUBS**

Proprietors: Michael 'Babs' Keating, John O'Donoghue,
Patrick O'Leary

A Flying Start

—could mean an All-Ireland

—a must with EXIDE

EXIDE BATTERIES

for

**CARS, TRUCKS,
TRACTORS, ETC.**

Trade enquiries to :

***SEAN
O'DONOGHUE***

86 IRISHTOWN,

CLONMEL

PHONE: 052—21353

properly arranged and they received excellent co-operation from referees, playing field committees, and very many others. It must have proved a satisfying year for all involved. The one regret is that the championships are running so late in the year. Anybody closely involved in the organising of the games realises that there is no easy solution to this problem, if there is any solution, but it must receive serious consideration before the start of next year's championships.

THE NORTH

Early April saw the beginning of the eleven championships and after 114 games the honours were divided among six parishes. It was a long championship year but it was pleasant to note all our

games were finished in time for the interdivisional semi-finals. Once again it was a year free of investigations, objections and suspensions for the Board and a special word of praise must be paid to the various hardworking club secretaries and committees who gave so much of their leisure time to promote the games and instil in the youth of their respective parishes a sense of honesty when representing their clubs.

Eire Og once again had a successful year, retaining their under 12 f., under 14 h. urban/rural and under 14 f. urban/rural titles and also reaching the under 16 h. and under 16 f. finals.

Borrisoleigh also figured prominently among the medals, winning the under 16 h., under 14 h. rural and under 12 h. special titles. Roscrea, who last year failed to appear on the champions' list returned



Members of the Eire Og (Nenagh) under 12 hurling team, Tipperary's representatives in Feile na nGael with their captain, Jim O'Sullivan, kneeling in the foreground.



FETHARD—runners-up to Ardflinnan in the County SF Championship

to the winning enclosure, as it were, by winning the under 12 h. and under 16 f. titles. Borrisokane qualified to represent the division in under 14 rural football.

For the first time in many years Kilruane failed to win a title and in the only final they reached, under 16 hurling special, were beaten by a fine Lorrha fifteen. The under 14 h. special final was won by Silvermines.

The "special" competitions mentioned above were held in under 12, under 14 and under 16, hurling only, and were confined to teams who did not reach the semi-finals of the competitions proper.

Competitions	Winners	Losers
Under 12 H.	Roscrea	Silvermines
Under 12 F.	Eire Og	Inane Rovers
Under 14 H. Rural	Borrisoleigh	Toomevara
Under 14 H. U/R	Eire Og	Borrisoleigh
Under 14 F U/R	Eire Og	Borrisokane
Under 14 F. Rural	Borrisokane	—
U/16 H	Borrisoleigh	Eire Og
U/16 F.	Inane Rovers	Eire Og
Under 12 H. Special	Borrisoleigh	Burgess
Under 14 H. Special	Silvermines	Burgess
Under 16 H. Special	Lorrha	Kilruane



1974 saw a change in the Tipperary SH selectors. Pictured here are two of the outgoing men, chairman Sean Ryan from Toomevara, and Paddy Kenny, Carrick-on-Suir



One of the features of Feile na nGael, held in Limerick in July for the second successive year, was the carrying by relay of a bronze hurley from Hayes's Hotel in Thurles to the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick. The hurley was borne by juvenile hurlers from the county and a special ceremony to mark the occasion was held as the relay passed through Nenagh. In the picture are, left to right: Eamonn De Stafort, Regional Tourism Officer; Rev. Brother P. P. Guthrie, Feile Committee Chairman; Fr. O'Rourke, CC, Loughmare (Bord na nOg); Eire Og team captain, Jim O'Sullivan; County Bord na nOg Chairman, Willie Ryan; Paddy Moloney, Feili Committee Secretary; Jim Kirby, Feili member; Sean O'Grady, Feile member and prominent referee, and Martin O'Connor, Co. Board Trustee.



Three Tipperary hurlers were on the San Francisco party last March. Francis Loughnane was an automatic choice at left half forward and was selected on the Carrolls Allstars team for the third successive year. Seamus Hogan and Jim Fogarty were later nominated to fill two of the places on the team, vacated by members of the Limerick side for the game against the All-Ireland champions. All three are seen here with the rest of the party prior to embarking on what was yet another most successful trip.

TEMPLEMORE'S YEAR ON THE COLLEGES' FRONT

By SEAMUS O DONNACHU

ANY ACCOUNT of the College activities of Co. Tipperary would be incomplete without reference to the work of Bord na nOg. A vigorous, highly organised Board looks after the four Divisions and competitions in under 12, under 14, under 16 competitions in both hurling and football are provided and with almost every parish in the county taking part, the number of boys engaged is enormous.

An added incentive to the winners of the u/14 football is the "Turas na nOg" to the All-Ireland Hurling Final, with all expenses paid for by the Senior Board and the Division from which the winners come. The finals in the various grades have provided some wonderful games with a very high standard. A grant to each club, for each team taking part in the hurling competition from Munster Council helps to defray the cost of hurleys, but it falls far short in these times of inflation. Hence, it can be seen that Bord na nOg is providing a nursery for the schools and colleges of the county.

1973 was undoubtedly the year that saw Templemore CBS outstrip all the schools in Tipperary and take over the mantle worn by Cashel in '72. In the Corn Phadraig (u/19 hurling) they met a strong Midleton team, ably led by Cork minor John Fenton, in Cahir and after a thrilling game, the teams were level, thanks to a scoring spree for Templemore by Seamus Burke (Clonmore). After an equally great replay, Templemore advanced to meet the king team, Causeway. Hurling skill over hard, close tackling gave Templemore a good win, 4-6 to 1-2.

Old rivals Cashel were their next opponents, at rain-swept Holycross, with Liam Ryan an efficient referee. Great work by George D'Estelle Roe, Paddy Burke and Martin Butler gave Templemore a hard-won victory on the score 3-10 to 2-6. The final took place in Cashel on 27th November with Charleville providing the opposition and that great referee and servant of the GAA at all levels, in charge, John Moloney. Again Templemore triumphed, thanks again to John Burke, Upperchurch, the Burke brothers, Matt Shortt, Martin Butler, G. Ryan and Tom Lalor.

Now they had qualified for a tilt at the Harty Cup with Sullivan's Quay (Cork). Contrary to public

opinion, Templemore again advanced on the score 4-6 to 1-3. Again Seamus Burke was the marksman for the winners, netting 4-3. Next was the semi-final and here the Tipperary team met its Waterloo. But to go down to Farrenferris in the semi-final was no disgrace as the "Farrana" boys went on to win the Harty and All-Ireland trophies with a team that many considered as one of the best college teams of all time.

In under 18 hurling, Templemore again triumphed, putting away Rathluirc, Causeway and in the final a strong Nenagh side. It was only after a replay with Cashel that Templemore won the prestigious Canon Fitzgerald Cup, under 17 hurling.

In the under 15½ hurling final, a fine Midleton team beat Templemore in Cashel. The Rice Cup was also won by the boys from under the shade of the Devil's Bit, and again it was Cashel who provided the opposition. What a year for Templemore and congratulations to the good Brothers there and to John Costigan, former Tipperary hurler, who trained the teams.

It is very evident, reading through the account of Templemore's victories, that the next most successful school in the county was Cashel. They reached the semi-finals in the Senior Munster Colleges and the finals of the Fitzgerald and Rice Cups. The eclipse of Nenagh and Thurles, Tipperary CBS and Carrick CBS is noticeable. I do not refer to Clonmel High School as they specialise in football. Few schools, if any, have contributed more to the life of the GAA in its immediate vicinity as Clonmel High School. The boys in Red and Black are as well known as those of more famous nurseries, such as St. Brendan's, Killarney, or Farrenferris, Cork, and the year 1973 was a turning point in the schools football status.

After capturing three trophies in the Munster Colleges' B Championship in 1972, it was decided that the boys should enter for the A Competitions and so teams entered u/19 (Corn Uí Mhuiri), u/17 (Corn an Fhrunnaigh), u/15 (Corn Uí Mhoráin). Col. Iognaid Ris (Cork) were their first opponents and the Tipperary boys were unlucky losers, 2-5 to 9 points. St. Brendan's proved too good for them and against Col. Mhuire (Cork), the Clonmel boys put up a great fight before losing 1-9 to 1-8. St.

Flannan's (Ennis) and atrocious weather, saw Clonmel make an early exit from the Corn Ui Mhoráin Competition.

It was their u/17 team that proved that Clonmel was not out of its depth in A Competitions. They reached the Munster semi-final after victories over De La Salle (Waterford) and Tralee CBS. After a tremendous game they went down to St. Brendan's (Killarney). With dedicated Brothers and trainer Michael Forrestal, a break through by High School cannot be long delayed. However, Mr Forrestal feels that Post Primary Schools in the competition get very little recognition from the County GAA authorities. In 1972 two competitions were run by the Minor Football Board, u/17 and u/15 football. These competitions fell through in 1973 and when Mr. Forrestal approached the Minor Board officials on this matter he was informed that they were only interested in their own club competitions. Any lack of co-operation between our Minor Football Board and the schools and colleges would be deplored by all lovers of our native games.

In West Tipperary, Cashel have shown the most promise. The Abbey School, Tipperary, would seem to be still basking in the glory of their great Harty Cup win in 1959. But what a win it was for a small day-school—a feat that has not been accomplished by any school in the county since. The Abbey seems

to be given more to football in recent times. A good u/17 team this year was only beaten by Mitchelstown in a replay in the Munster Final at Emly. I feel that Tipperary CBS and The High School should concentrate on football and leave the hurling to the school in the established hurling areas.

One of the regrettable features of hurling in the county over the past years has been the eclipse of Rockwell College as a force in schools' competitions. Formerly one of the "Big Guns" of the Harty Cup, its significance in GAA affairs has steadily declined since the forties.

An echo of its former prowess was heard in 1969 when it won the Corn Phadraig (Munster Senior H.B.), but there has been no worthwhile effort since. During the last few years it has been consistently beaten in the early rounds of the Fitzgerald Cup and at the moment its chances of recapturing a place in the hurling limelight seem to be dim indeed.

The GAA in Tipperary owes a great debt to the many day schools for their work in fostering of Gaelic games. A Harty win or a Senior Football title would be a great boost to the game. It would be from such a success we could hope to again win a minor hurling or football national title. It will take dedication and first-class coaching, and I'm sure both qualities are not lacking in the Premier County.

THINKING OF HOME FURNISHING?

DON'T DECIDE FINALLY UNTIL YOU HAVE SEEN OUR FINE SELECTION OF QUALITY
FURNITURE, CARPETS and FLOORCOVERINGS

COURTEOUS SERVICE and GOOD WORKMANSHIP : SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
BEAUTIFUL SELECTION OF REPRODUCTION AND OCCASIONAL FURNITURE,
PICTURES AND PRINTS, BRASSWARE, LAMPS, etc., etc.

HAVE YOU GOT PROPERTY TO SELL?

WHY NOT CONTACT JOHN RYAN AUCTIONEER?

PERSONAL ATTENTION

ATTRACTIVE TERMS

FINE ART AUCTIONS HELD APPROXIMATELY EVERY TWO MONTHS

It's all Happening at 8/9 Parnell Street

RYANS

THE CARPET HOUSE

CLONMEL

Sole Prop.—JOHN RYAN

'Phone 22188



Sean O'Meara, Lorrha, who in 1974 put himself among the top flight of hurling referees with his appointment to take charge of many vital games. He also had charge of the North Tipperary SHC final as well as the County SFC final

**Please Support
our Advertisers**

THE HEROES OF SILVERMINES

On the 8th day of September 1974; history was made in Nenagh town to a devastating roar.

The chips were down; the fight was on; two sides would not give up.

And Silvermines it was, who won the title and the cup.

No sweeter victory than this one, could any team achieve; to beat Roscrea in a final—difficult to believe.

But spirit, strength and a will to win and a flair with these combines,

To make that day a signal one for the heroes from the 'Mines.

Just two years old as seniors, their task was great indeed.

They weathered set backs, braced themselves and to mentors gave their heed.

Borris, Burgess, Newport and the men from Moneygall, bowed the knee to these great lads and like sportsmen true did fall.

In lining out against Roscrea, those hurling giants to fear

They knew it would be difficult but of defeat they would not hear.

As flags and banners swayed around to the crowds exultant roars, The men from the 'Mines were doing their stuff and notching up the scores.

The blue and white was everywhere, the children came and cheered,

And women also, young and old, as those longed for moments neared.

And when the clock had just passed five, and the scoreboard told its tale.

The victory was proclaimed throughout in every hill and dale.

Tom Kennedy between the posts, as brave as any man;

With Michael Maher and Jim Keogh—nephew of the famous Dan.

And in the corner Jim O'Brien, the captain of the team;

He led his men to victory and achieved his life long dream.

Also Mike Fitzgibbon—yes, all heroes that great day.

Not to mention Jack and Pat, with the surname of Dunlea.

John Sherlock and Mick Hanley, like greyhounds at midfield,

As to an awe struck gathering, their prowess they revealed.

The Ros defence was thought to be as sturdy as a board,

But even it could not contain the wiles of Johnny Forde,

Also Eamonn Dillon, John Kennedy and Jim Ryan,

Pat Quinlan, Maurice Daffey—each one always tryin'.

"A team's as good as its subs," it's said; and togged out on the line,

Were men of equal standing, led by Mike O'Brien.

The brothers Quirke, Denis and John, all fit to last the pace,

As well as Eddie Kennedy, John and Danny Grace.

Paddy Collins guides the club and helped to pick the team.

Rody Kennedy, Paddy Quinlan, those knowing men supreme.

Not to mention proud Tom Gleeson, the pride of Ballinacough,

Four shrewd men, whose knowledge no one would dare to mock.

But players need more than hurling, they too need craft and guile.

And who better to supply it than the legendry John Doyle.

Presiding over all of them, the Canon staunch and true.

How proud he was to see the feats of the boys in white and blue.

They're celebrating in the village, in Dolla and Shallee,

In Lissenhall and Ballinacough, its such a sight to see.

And in future years when they recall the feats there were of yore,

They'll speak in awe and wonder of the 'Mines of '74.

J.G.S.

FOR SELECTION AND VALUE IN SPORTSWEAR AND EQUIPMENT

Agents for
Adidas, Gola Blackthorn
Football Boots
Road Shoes
Running Shoes

TRACK SUITS
Weather Tops
Training Tops
Togs

SUPPLIERS
TO
MANY
NATIONAL
TEAMS

Hurling Balls, Footballs, Badminton, Tennis and Squash Racquets, Shinguards, Jock
Tennis Shoes, Golf Shoes, Huge Selection of Football Socks

Straps, Tennis Shoes, Golf Shoes, Huge Selection of Football Socks

LARGEST AND BEST RANGE OF GENTS' SUITS IN MUNSTER

Gough, O'Keeffe & Naughton Ltd.

General Drapery, Boot & Shoe Warehouse & Furniture, Nenagh

Phone 306.

Salesmen Sports Department: Patrick Naughton and Donal Mackey

BARLOWS

(Barlo Farm Machines Ltd.)

Emmett Street

Dublin Road,

CLONMEL and KILKENNY

Farm Machinery Specialists

Importers of JONES BALERS

Manufacturers of BARLO GRAIN TANKS

Main dealers for

**CLAAS, DAVID BROWN, KIDD,
J.F., ALFA LAVAL, HOWARD**

Large stocks of used tractors,
balers, combine harvesters,
milking machines

Telephone: CLONMEL (052) 22633, (052) 22822 8 lines

SALES - SERVICE - SPARES



Great to have a round!



All over the
County from
Lorrha to Cahir

Look around you

DWANS
are there

Sample our wide
range of minerals

You'll be
refreshed

