

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	21 st Sept 2010
Location	Windgap, Co. Waterford.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Denis Fahey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1945 Home County: Waterford
Education (Optional)	Primary: Windgap NS, Co. Waterford Secondary: Carrick-on-Suir Technical School, Co .Waterford
Family	Siblings: 6 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife (Jo), 2 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Waterford New York GAA [Americas]; Conemara New York [Americas]; Kilkenny GFC New York [Americas]; Tipperary HC New York [Americas]; Laois GAA New York [Americas] Kerry GAA New York [Americas]; St Molleran's GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Retired Carpenter
Parents' Occupation	Labourer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Democratic Party (USA)
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jo Fahey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: Slatta NS; North Yeard NS, Co. Roscommon Secondary: Convent of Mercy Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Husband (Denis), 2 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	N/A
Occupation	Receptionist
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Dave Long
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1944 Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Portlaw NS, Co. Waterford
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Wife (Kay), 2 daughters & 1 son
Club(s)	Portlaw GAA [Waterford]; Dungarvan GAA [Waterford]; Waterford New York GAA [Americas]; Kilkenny New York GAA [Americas]
Occupation	Waterford Glass employee
Parents' Occupation	Labourer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kay Long
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Dungarvan NS, Co. Waterford Secondary: Convent of Mercy, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Husband (Dave), 2 daughters & 1 son
Club(s)	N/A
Occupation	Social Care worker
Parents' Occupation	Labourer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	21 st June 2012
Period Covered	1960s - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Waterford, Kilkenny, Australasia, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, India, Americas, USA, Europe, Italy
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Playing, Refereeing, Officials, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Religion, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Alcohol, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Denny Fahey and Jo Flynn Fahey have been friends with Dave and Kay Long since they met in New York in the 1960's. They describe how they met in Gaelic Park and the role the GAA played in their friendship. Denny and Jo still live in New York, and they discuss the changes they've witnessed in the football and hurling teams since the 1960's. They explain how the changing employment situation in New York has affected team numbers over the decades, and they describe their roles in accommodating visiting players from Ireland. Dave and Kay discuss their regret about returning to Ireland and compare their lives in both places. Both couples also reflect on issues of emigration, identity, and Irishness, and outline how Gaelic Park has changed since the 1960's. Finally, they consider the impact the GAA has had on their lives.</p> <p>00:42 Discussion about the origins of their friendship. Denny and Dave meeting in New York playing football with Waterford. Denny emigrating to New York in 1962, winning junior football championship in 1974.</p> <p>02:05 Dennis describes playing Under-16 hurling with St. Mollerans in Carrickbeg, Waterford. His siblings emigrating to New York before him. Emigrating aged 17.</p> <p>02:49 Jo recalls emigrating to New York in 1964, meeting Dennis. Playing goalkeeper with her brothers as a child in Ireland. Attending an All-Ireland final as a teenager. Hill 16. Friendship with GAA followers. Meeting in Irish bar, the Red Mill in New York. Irish people socialising in Gaelic Park, getting jobs from fellow Irish emigrants.</p> <p>04:19 Discussion of employment situation in New York from</p>

	<p>1960s to the present. Lack of young people in New York today, no jobs, less hurling teams. Now only Tipperary, Offaly, Galway senior teams. Teams dependent on students coming to New York for summer. Similarity between 1970s and now, economically.</p> <p>05:47 Dave discusses his playing career. Playing with Portlaw and Waterford minor team. Getting letter from John Phelan inviting him to New York. Phelan sending him return ticket for six months. Going to Dublin for first time, on train from Waterford in 1963. Staying at Wolfe Tone House. Shannon Airport to Kennedy Airport in New York, John Phelan meeting him. Playing hurling with Offaly in New York in final. Mentions Donal O'Brien on Tipperary team. Paid to play. Given new pair of boots for playing football game. Discomfort of heat. Meeting Kay in 1964. Mentions Johnny Buckley from Dungarvan who introduced them.</p> <p>10:16 Kay describes their meeting. Her lack of obsession with the GAA. Staying with elderly aunt. Brought to Gaelic Park to watch Waterford play. Dave on Waterford minor hurling team previously with John Moylan, Kay's brother. Playing for Waterford in New York for five years. Round-the-world trip with GAA in 1968. Explanation of how Kay's father, Christy Moylan, contacted hurling colleague Jack Lynch, who got Dave a job with Waterford Glass. Mentions Tom Healy in Waterford Glass. Dave and Kay moving back to Ireland in 1973.</p> <p>14:29 Dave reflects on the importance of hurling connection in his life. Mentions other Portlaw men Mattie Nolan and Ambrose Galvin. Staying next to Gaelic Park. Mentions Martin Franks from Offaly getting Dave bar work. Also mentions Martin Lavin and his brother Georgie. Also mentions Jack Loftus from Mayo who owned the bar Dave worked in. Playing hurling in Gaelic Park every week.</p> <p>17:25 Kay explains why she went to New York. Loneliness at the start. Her father lending her the fare. Working in telephone company then bank. Marrying Dave. They explain how they met Denny. Mentions Johnny Murphy working for the <i>Cork Examiner</i>. Meeting Denny and Jo at the Red Mill. Irish dancing every Saturday night. Also meeting at Gaelic Park on Sunday afternoons. No alcohol.</p> <p>22:04 Denny describes reaction of Americans to non-drinking Irish. Dave working in a bar. He explains the money he made in tips.</p> <p>23:30 Discussion of how Irish were treated in New York in</p>
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	<p>1960s. Bernadette Devlin speaking in the park. Crowds of 3,000 at matches in Gaelic Park. Jo describes sense of optimism in New York. Cans of Spam. Saving money for possible urgent trip home. Dave describes sending money home to mother.</p> <p>26:26 Kay recalls the excitement of her first pay cheque. Opening a bank account. Comparison of the money earned in New York to the lack of money in Ireland. Jo describes the help given to Irish people in New York. Discussion of how emigrants are treated in Ireland when they return. Mentions John Kearney from Longford.</p> <p>29:35 Denny describes the scarcity of players in New York in 1970s. Senior teams allowed to draft players from juniors. Playing football with Kilkenny first. Mentions Paddy Cummins and Tom Nulty at an Australian Rules match. Meeting people through GAA. Jo and Denny's children playing football. Going to Gaelic Park after mass. Entertainment, for example, Irish dancing, band. Children collecting cans for money. Their son Pat playing football with Des Bishop's brother. Meeting people from all counties. Support network among GAA members when Irish people ill. Fundraising.</p> <p>33:50 Denny refereeing. Paying for Waterford club's insurance when it had no money. Denny discusses his involvement with Laois. Mentions Bobby Miller, Laois and Leinster player, who played three summers New York. Also mentions Noel Power from Kerry playing.</p> <p>35:20 Dave recalls hurling for Kilkenny, playing against Wexford in final. Mentions Jackie Whelan, Frankie Whelan, John Kirwan, Martin Hickey, Mossy Whelan. Waterford players on a Kilkenny team. Also mentions Pa Dillon, Paddy Moran, Mick Brennan. Beaten by Wexford. Mentions the Quigleys on Wexford team.</p> <p>37:52 Explanation of how clubs paid for Irish players to come to New York from Ireland. Description of fundraising events held to bring people out. Discussion about players working illegally. Story about Jackie Whelan working on building the World Trade Centre, playing for Kilkenny in New York. Getting visas extended. Dave mentions Colm McDonald who got deported for working illegally.</p> <p>41:13 Discussion about lax approach to visas in the 1960s. How visa system worked, green cards. Chest x-rays. September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks changing the emigration process. Clampdown.</p>
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	<p>43:09 Dave compares close friendships made in New York, compared to friendships in Ireland. Discussion of various players Denny and Jo hosted in their New York home; for example, Frank Doherty from Carrick-on-Suir, Eamon Clery from Wexford, Tom Hunt, Bart O'Connor and his brother from Wexford.</p> <p>49:14 Dave describes bringing bacon and sausages through customs. Available in Irish shops in New York today. Story about Kay's mother coming out to visit them in New York. Greenhorns. Denny recalls bringing James O'Connor to wedding.</p> <p>51:21 They reflect on the lives of the Irish who emigrated to New York in the 1930s. The people Denny worked with in the Railway Express. Older emigrants losing contact with families. Loneliness. Mentions Johnny Curry from Dungarvan. Recount sad stories of lonely emigrants in New York. Description of poverty in Ireland in the 1930s. Jo's uncle's observations of racism against the Irish.</p> <p>54:45 Jo describes a shocked reaction at a party in Ireland in the 1960's to Jo's trousers and eye shadow. Description of dress code in Gaelic Park: suit and tie for men, nylons and dresses for women. Story of woman being turned away by John Kerry O'Donnell for wearing shorts in the 1960s.</p> <p>56:20 Description of John Kerry O'Donnell, owner of Gaelic Park. O'Donnell and his wife travelling on different planes in the event of an accident. O'Donnell's emphasis on football more than hurling.</p> <p>57:04 Denny recalls an incident in hospital in Connecticut involving Waterford footballer and hurler Tom Casey and John and Tom Curtain from Galway. Dave's lack of hurling injuries. Recalls Johnny Curry's injury in hurling match. Also mentions Tommy Hennessy playing football for Kerry, paralysed by an incident in Gaelic Park.</p> <p>01:00:37 Details of admission prices to Gaelic Park from 1968 program. Mentions Ken Croke, Seán Cuspy, Christy O'Donnell. Mentions Robert Kennedy coming to Gaelic Park in 1965. Admiration for the Kennedys at the time, their benefit to the Irish. Recollections of JFK's death. Denny recalls Robert Kennedy coming to the Bronx, Noel Hayes losing shoes.</p> <p>01:02:38 Denny and Dave discuss reasons for lack of Irish involvement in politics. Paul O'Dwyer's political role. Participation of Irish-Americans in political arena. Dennis</p>
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	<p>O'Donnell from Waterford in town council in Rockland county. Citizenship a requirement. Dave recounts the story of he and Kay becoming American citizens.</p> <p>01:06:14 Denny recalls his citizenship experience in White Plains.</p> <p>01:07:09 Description of Gaelic Park in 1960s. Dilapidated. Lack of grass. Dusty. Mass in Sacred Heart church in High Bridge, congregation mostly Irish. Denny mentions Seamus and TJ Collins from Kerry. Tea and rolls for breakfast. In Gaelic Park eating hot dogs, sandwiches, bacon and cabbage, soda, milk. Extreme attitude of Irish to alcohol.</p> <p>01:10:06 Description of entertainment at Gaelic Park: jiving, rock and roll, Elvis Presley. Comparison with entertainment in Ireland – step and set dancing. Involvement of Irish people in America in Irish dancing and music. Those people separate from GAA people. Failed attempt in 1980s by Roscommon native Ed Sheeran to build Irish cultural centre in Briarcliff Manor, Kings College. Tara Circle. Negative response of locals. Cost of legal fees for GAA. Fundraisers to raise money. Irish cultural centre in Aldercourt, Yonkers.</p> <p>01:14:47 Discussion about reasons for their GAA involvement. Socialising, getting jobs from Irish people in Gaelic Park. Importance of Irish identity, no class distinction, compared with Ireland. Kay reflects on the difficulty of settling back in Ireland. Their reasons for staying.</p> <p>01:19:56 Denny discusses the 1911 Census. His grandfather's two marriages.</p> <p>01:20:23 Jo and Denny discuss their hospitality to recently arrived Irish players. Comparison with young people coming from Ireland now, who don't mix as much with Irish. Discussion about their respective wedding celebrations. Counting the money from their wedding presents.</p> <p>01:23:55 Description of the jobs in the 1960s. For men: construction, carpentry, painting, bar work, police, Con Edison. Mentions Eamon Whelan working as carpenter. No training. Also Tom Hunt working as painter. Women working in telephone companies. Mentions Mary Collins, a telephone operator. Explanation of different employment situation today. Illegal Irish girls working as waitresses or nannies, despite university degrees. Difficulty of illegal workers returning home. Players who represent counties in New York getting two All-Ireland tickets.</p>
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	<p>01:30:10 Comparison of current visitors to Gaelic Park. Greater emphasis on alcohol. Wagner's Cider. Adoption of American way of life. Young people cohabiting and failing to attend mass. Ease of communication with Ireland now. Denny recalls living in boarding house Counihan family from Kerry. Mrs Counihan making him breakfast of orange juice with raw egg.</p> <p>01:33:51 Discussion of teams in New York in the 1960s. Galway and Clare's prominence in hurling. Kerry the only team in New York that had strictly footballers from their own county. The majority of emigrants from Mayo, Galway, Cavan, and Kerry in New York in the 1960s. Fewer east coast players. Clubs spending extra money to bring players from Ireland to win finals. Mentions players brought over for 1974 football Waterford team: Tom Gough, Pat Dunne, Bobby Miller, Micheál Driscoll, Noel Power. Weekend players. Mentions Jimmy Gleeson bringing players over to play for Wexford in the final. Also Mayo. Comparison with Manchester United today.</p> <p>01:37:02 They reflect on the main rivalries in that era. Desire to beat Kerry. Dave recalls accusations of being a traitor, playing for Kilkenny. Mentions Austin English, Stephen English's brother. Same rivalries as in Ireland.</p> <p>01:38:09 Description of fundraising: annual raffle and dinner dance. Donating money at meetings to bring Irish players to New York. Dave recalls playing for Offaly. Cases of beer, drinking in dressing rooms.</p> <p>01:40:44 Lack of animosity towards visiting players. Denny mentions Kilkenny's Henry Shefflin and Ken McGrath coming to play hurling for Waterford one year. Mentions Jimmy Duggan, Seamus Prendergast.</p> <p>01:42:22 Discussion about negative impact of reduction in emigrants on hurling teams. Dependence on students. Gear suppliers discussed; Azoury. Jo recounts story of meeting unknown Wexford player with hurley at airport. Mentions Dick Buggy. Lack of employment in New York now. Problem of working illegally.</p> <p>01:45:59 Denny recalls a Leitrim player getting arrested for joking about bomb in an airport. Jo describes commemoration of the 1947 All-Ireland Senior Football Final between Kerry and Cavan in the Polo Grounds, New York. Denny recalls umpiring game. A dance in Terrace on the Park, Queens. Mentions Irish politician John Wilson on 1947 Cavan team. Also mentions Vinny McDonnell, who worked with Liam</p>
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	<p>Mulvihill.</p> <p>01:48:35 Predominance of Irish players on teams. Exceptions include Kilkenny's goalkeeper Boxer Wagner, a German American; Kilkenny's Bobby Walsh, an Irish-American; Kerry's Brendan O'Donnell, brother of John Kerry O'Donnell'; Tommy St. John. More Irish-Americans today. Difficulty of Irish-Americans getting on team in the 1960s, with more Irish players.</p> <p>01:49:52 Jo and Denny's son Pat playing for Waterford. Coming to Ireland with New York minor team. Pat playing for first Under-14 Peile na n-Óg, with Mike Bishop, comedian Des Bishop's brother. Also mentions Mayo's Padraic Moyles dancing lead in Riverdance, also on that team. Also mention Welsley Orterro, Spanish player, on 1982 team Denny coached. Also Albanians playing football with the Rangers, their local team. Dr Malachy McHugh playing for Rangers' junior team Rangers. Johnny Phelan's role in Rangers.</p> <p>01:51:59 Denny mentions New York teams: Rangers, Celtic, Rockland. Playing from U-10 to U-21, championship every year. Mentions Tommy Lilly, from Cavan, whose son Kevin plays in Rangers. Denny mentions CJ Molloy who plays senior football for Donegal.</p> <p>01:53:35 They reflect on the significance of the GAA in their lives in New York. Denny's regular attendance at Gaelic Park. Socialising in Gaelic Park. Connection with Irish identity. Jo ponders lack of belonging as emigrants. Jo and Denny's lack of interest in living in Ireland full-time. Dave and Kay discuss difficulty of missing New York social life and ethnic food. Jo mentions Jackie Salmon, president of GAA New York in 1970s, living in Ireland now. His devotion to GAA and skill with accounts. Jo mentions friends in Ireland from New York, including John Power in Galway and Tom Hunt.</p> <p>02:00:30 Denny discusses going to pub on Sunday morning to watch Gaelic games live. Watch games on TG4 on computer. Listening to Billy McCarthy on radio on WLR on computer. Jo describes listening to All-Irelands in the 1960s, with Micheál O'Hehir commentating. Denny mentions John Fitzgerald from Mayo in New York showing game on big screen, before Setanta Sports. Dave recalls only football and hurling All-Ireland available. Games in Gaelic Park delayed due to All-Ireland.</p> <p>02:03:35 Dave discusses his experience of the hurling world tour in 1968: himself and Paddy Hennessy from Waterford. Six weeks flying to New Zealand, Australia, India, New York,</p>
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	<p>San Francisco, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Rome, Ireland. Meeting GAA teams everywhere. Nights out. Organised by John Kerry O'Donnell. Playing in Sydney. Sight-seeing. Taj Mahal.</p> <p>02:07:29 Discussion of what GAA meant to their lives. Dave credits the GAA for everything in his life. Denny describes close ties to GAA members. Kay reflects on her lack of fanaticism. Jo explains her interest in hurling, despite being from Roscommon.</p> <p>02:10:18 Jo discusses women's games. No Ladies Football in her time. Its rise today. Ladies Football drawing bigger crowds than men's. Denny mentions Mary O'Rourke from Waterford. Lots of young Irish-American girls playing in New York.</p> <p>02:12:03 They reflect on the future of the GAA. Jo mentions the contributions of John Phelan and Dennis Twoomey in New York GAA. Plenty of interest in Gaelic games. Role of employment in keeping teams. Decline of American players after minor level. Mention of Danny McKenna, involved at minor level. Also mention John Fitzpatrick. Denny mentions Johnny Murphy. Retired players' interest in golf.</p> <p>02:15:08 Dave and Kay discuss their time in New York. Denny mentions senior citizen discount to Gaelic Park. Bringing coffee, tea, muffins, socialising. Denny recalls sitting with The Gunner Brady's sister Rose White and her husband, Pat, John Clarke from Meath, Brigid and Andy Brady from Kerry. Pot of tea, currant cake. New group now including Mike O'Connor from Kerry. Also mentions Timmy Brosnan.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Denis:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Jo:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p>

	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Dave:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Kay:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Denis: Played junior football and hurling with Waterford New York; Played football with Conemara New York.</p> <p>Jo: N/A</p> <p>Dave: Played junior and senior hurling with Portlaw in the 1960s. Won 3 Waterford Senior Hurling Championships with Portlaw. Played minor hurling for Waterford. Played hurling and football with Waterford NY GAA in the late 1960s and 1970s, also played on New York hurling team. Played hurling with Dungarvan in late 1970s and won 1978 Waterford Intermediate Hurling Championship.</p> <p>Kay: N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Denis: Registrar and Treasurer of NY GAA for 2 years. Has been county board delegate for several clubs in the 1970s and 1980s.</p> <p>Jo: N/A</p> <p>Dave: Involved in coaching underage teams and also worked on stiles for the Munster Council for many years.</p> <p>Kay: N/A</p>

REFERENCE NO. AM/1/11

Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:20:13
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the GAA Oral History Project on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the GAA Oral History Project the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 21st June 2012