

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2010
<b>Location</b>	Jerry's home, near Moyvane, Co. Kerry
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jerry Brosnan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1928 <b>Home County:</b> Kerry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Murhur NS, Co. Kerry
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 1 son and 4 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Moyvane
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Army, Publican [Father]; Milliner [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fine Gael
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mike Joe Cronin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1942 <b>Home County:</b> Kerry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Lenamore NS, Co. Kerry
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with one daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Moyvane
<b>Occupation</b>	ESB Worker in Tarbert Power Station
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Postman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1900s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Kerry, Dublin, Americas, USA
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Jerry and Mike Joe discuss their involvement in Moyvane GAA Club and their support of the Kerry football team. They recall their earliest GAA memories, and Jerry describes the contributions of his father, Con, and his brothers, Jim and Micheál, to Kerry GAA. They also reflect on the impact of emigration on the club and its successes and failures over the years. They mention the role of Cormac O'Leary in the establishment of Kerry Supporters GAA Club and their participation in that club. In addition, they consider the roles of the clergy and teachers in the organisation, professionalism in the GAA, the ban on foreign games, Scór and Irish culture, and the rise of ladies football in the club.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:39 Recollections of earliest GAA memories. Jerry recalls his father playing for the Kerry team, winning All-Ireland senior football medals, then training team. Reflects on his first trip to Croke Park to see an All-Ireland final in 1938. Kerry playing in the All-Ireland final in America. Jerry describes travelling to America 50 years after that match. Mentions Moyvane club. Lack of underage competitions when he was growing up. Mentions his brothers Jim and Micheál playing for the Kerry minor team.</p> <p>02:54 Mentions Mick O'Connell. Explains why his brothers didn't play rugby, despite going to Rockwell College. Potential</p>

	<p>suspension from GAA. His father's opposition to rugby.</p> <p>04:38 Mike Joe recalls a football match in the 50s. Mentions Jim Brosnan and Paddy Bán Brosnan. First trip to Croke Park in 1959, National League final between Kerry and Derry. Lifelong interest in Kerry football.</p> <p>05:33 Jerry discusses the pitch they used to play on. Brosnan's land. Mentions Stack's field and Slade's Field. Fundraiser to purchase stand and facilities: carnival. Mentions Finuge GAA Club. Building community centre from carnival funds. Discusses progress of Moyvane GAA Club through various levels, successes and failures.</p> <p>08:30 Talks about the history of the club's song – The Boro and the Gleann. Sings the Song.</p> <p>13:38 Mike Joe discusses his father's interest in football.</p> <p>15:01 Jerry describes the involvement of his father, Con Brosnan, in the GAA. Con's involvement in fighting the Black and Tans. Mentions Professor O'Sullivan being sent down to Listowel. Mentions his father shooting O'Sullivan with Jackie Hearne, Danny Craigie, Jack Sheehan. The Black and Tans shooting Jack Sheehan, burning Con Brosnan's house. Con joining the Free State Army and playing football. Became Army Captain. He was a selector and trained the Kerry team.</p> <p>18:46 Recounts story featuring his father and John Joe Sheehy. Also mentions Joe Barrett. Mentions the North Kerry championship.</p> <p>20:28 Discusses his father's playing career. All-Irelands. Playing with Moyvane GAA Club. His brothers' playing careers. Recalls Kerry beating Armagh in the 1953 All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Mentions John Joe Sheehy, Páidí Sheehy. Also mentions Ned Roche. Jim Brosnan's career in America, GAA successes, chairman of the county board. Micheál's career in England, playing football with University College Cork. Mentions Jackie Ryan. Impact of Micheál's knee injury on his career. His father's GAA success.</p> <p>25:04 Discusses his father's trips to America with the Kerry team. Mentions the Tailteann Games.</p> <p>25:44 Mike Joe describes playing facilities when they were young. No dressing rooms. Jerry mentions locations the visiting teams togged out.</p> <p>26:50 Description of equipment. Rag ball. His brothers' training. Jerry recalls winning a 1958 North Kerry</p>
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	<p>championship medal with Moyvane. Mike Joe's underage playing career, ending at Under-14 level.</p> <p>29:14 Jerry recalls going to the 1938 All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Kerry drawing with Galway. Mentions Limerick referee Thomas Killane. Mode of transport to match. Hiring car. Recalls 1955 All-Ireland final, driving up Saturday evening, car crash. Rivalry between Kerry and Dublin, strength of Dublin team in the 50s.</p> <p>33:49 Mike Joe recalls travelling by bus to his first All-Ireland final, later by train. Jerry describes drinking in the bar on the train and missing a stop. Discussion about demise of ghost train in 60s, slow travel then.</p> <p>37:47 Jerry mentions neighbour Mick Scanlon getting land from the Land Commission in Saggart, Dublin. Staying with Mick. Also mentions Dublin player Joe Rogers. Also mentions Pat Scanlon. Recalls the car breaking down on the way to a match in Dublin.</p> <p>41:05 Jerry recounts a story involving travelling to an Australian Rules game between Ireland and Australia and the car breaking down again.</p> <p>42:32 Description of travelling to local matches: pony and cart, cycling.</p> <p>43:39 Discussion about history of Moyvane GAA Club. Playing 1917. Winning first North Kerry championship in 1925. Subsequent successes. Jerry describes winning 1958 championship against Tarbert, mentions Ben O'Callaghan, Thomas Mahony and John Flavin.</p> <p>44:55 Jerry describes his father's training methods, influenced by the army. Embrocation and Wintergreen. Training a Kerry team that won an All-Ireland final.</p> <p>46:54 Discussion about different names for Moyvane: Newtownsandies. Local English landlords Sandes. Reasons for club being called The Boro'.</p> <p>48:04 Jerry considers the significance of the club in the community. Facilities: basketball team, juvenile football teams.</p> <p>49:08 Discussion about local rivals: Listowel, Finuge (mentions Paul Galvin, Fitzmaurice), St. Senan's, Tarbert.</p> <p>49:56 No tradition of hurling locally. Mentions hurling in Ballyduff, Lixnaw, Kilmoyley. Mentions hurler Michael</p>
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	<p>Hennessy. Mentions Austin Stack's and Feale Rangers. Quality of pitch in Moyvane currently. All-weather pitch. Purchase of grounds from Jerry's family.</p> <p>54:31 Jerry outlines the development of the pitch: draining, erecting stand and dressing rooms, building all-weather pitch.</p> <p>55:42 Reflects on the arrival of Cormac O'Leary to Moyvane and his contribution to the local GAA. Mentions his wife, Ena, cousin of the footballers Colm, Bernie, and Thomas O'Callaghan. Skill of O'Leary as a player. Winning Con Brosnan Cup. Mike Joe mentions Thomas Stack.</p> <p>58:00 Jerry describes Cormac O'Leary's training of underage teams. Naming of pitch after Con Brosnan, who won 6 All-Ireland medals. Mentions contributions of Robbie Stack to Ballybunnion, Frank Sheehy to Kerry and Listowel, and James Sullivan to Finuge.</p> <p>59:55 Jerry ponders his father's administration roles in the club and in the county: chairman of the North Kerry board, Munster Council referee. His brother Jim's administration roles: chairman of county board, Central Council delegate. Jerry's role as president of Moyvane and the Supporters Club.</p> <p>01:01:03 Jerry discusses Jim's return to Ireland after playing with New York. Mentions the St. Brendan's Cup. Current state of Jim's health. His brother Micheál's education in Blackrock College, playing for the Irish rugby team. His brother Micheál's knee injury.</p> <p>01:05:13 They reflect on the ban on foreign games. Threat of suspension. Benefits of soccer: keeping GAA players fit over winter. Vigilante Committees: Jim Brosnan's suspension for attending a rugby game and subsequently being appointed to the vigilante committee. Mike Joe recounts a story about Mick Mackey attending rugby games in Thomond Park, he was also appointed to the vigilante committee.</p> <p>01:07:10 Discussion about role of priests in the GAA when they were young. Training underage teams. Mentions Fr. Lenihan, Fr. Galvin, Fr. Hanrahan, Fr. John Flaherty, the Sheehy's. Mentions Thomas Callaghan missing an All-Ireland final because he was not allowed out of priest college. Mike Joe describes ordained priests playing under different names. Mentions Kevin Connolly playing under different name.</p> <p>01:10:02 Discussion about role of teachers in the GAA: Cormac O'Leary, Tom Callaghan, Gabriel Fitzmaurice, Johnny Walsh, Frank Sheehy.</p>
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	<p>01:10:44 Impact of emigration on the area. Current exodus of players, also in the 50s, 70s, 80s. Lack of local employment. Rise of ladies football now. Winning county final. No camogie, handball, or rounders in Moyvane. No Protestants living locally, no Protestant participation in the GAA. Mentions Tommy Fleming in church for ordination.</p> <p>01:15:04 Description of fundraising efforts for club. Brendan Shine and Dickie Rock playing at carnival. Main fundraiser: lotto. Listowel Races. Door-to-door collections in parish.</p> <p>01:18:21 Club participation in Scór competitions. Reaching final this year. Singing. Scór na nÓg. Details of Scór wins. Mike Joe's daughter's involvement in Scór.</p> <p>01:20:33 Discussion about the setting up of the Kerry Supporters' Club. Cormac O'Leary's contribution. Remember a trip to Donegal and Brian McEniff's hotel in Bundoran. Success of the supporters club – trip to Tyrone Also mentions John Keane, Pat Keane</p> <p>01:22:57 Jerry explains the finances of the supporters' club. Travelling to matches nationwide.</p> <p>01:25:06 They reflect on the promotion of Irish language and culture through Scór. Jerry's daughters' involvement in the GAA and Irish language.</p> <p>01:26:26 Mike Joe recalls listening to his first match on the radio in the late 40s: Kerry being beaten by Mayo. Neighbour's house. Mentions Micheál Ó Hehir. No television until the 60s. Wet and dry battery for radio.</p> <p>01:27:51 Jerry recounts a story involving his daughter learning Irish, Páidí Ó Sé giving speech in Irish after winning the All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Mentions Sean Walsh. Importance of speaking Irish in positions within the GAA.</p> <p>01:30:43 Mike Joe describes his best memory of the GAA: Kerry winning the 1975 All-Ireland Senior Football Final against Dublin. Also his worst memory.</p> <p>***Mike Joe leaves the Interview***</p> <p>01:31:29 Jerry reflects on the issue of Pay-for-Play and professionalism for players. Importance of looking after players.</p> <p>01:32:33 Considers the importance of volunteers in the organisation. His own attendance at club meetings. Recalls the challenges of being a selector. Mentions Thomas</p>
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	<p>Callaghan.</p> <p>01:35:54 Reflects on his best memory of the GAA: collecting money in the parish.</p> <p>01:36:56 Mentions his GAA hero: Mick O'Connell. Mentions Jimmy Deenihan, Jack O'Shea, Darragh Ó Sé, Eamon O'Donoghue, Bernard O'Callaghan. Also mentions Kieran Donaghy's famous goal and those of Mikey Sheehy, the Bomber, and his brother Jim.</p> <p>01:41:12 Recalls visiting America to watch the Kerry team play. Travelling to Northern Ireland by bus to watch matches. Describes trip to America: hotels, banquet.</p> <p>01:43:40 Considers the absence of politics in the GAA. His father's advice to not talk about politics within the organisation.</p> <p>01:45:12 Discusses his enjoyment of Gaelic Games. Mentions Danny Doyle. The significance of the GAA in his life: camaraderie travelling to matches, socialising, singsong. Mentions Sean Walsh.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Jerry:</b></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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _President of Moyvane and President of Supporter's Club_____</p> <p><b>Mike Joe:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" 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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Jerry:</b></p> <p>Played from 1942 – 1961. Won a North Kerry Intermediate championship, 1944/1945 and a Senior championship in 1958.</p> <p><b>Mike Joe:</b></p>



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	Played for 3/4 years at school level.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<b>Gerry:</b> Has been involved in administration all his life. <b>Mike Joe:</b> Club member all his life.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:48:38
<b>Language</b>	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:      \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date:              \_\_\_\_\_08/08/12\_\_\_\_\_