

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	28 th May 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Loughrea, Co. Galway
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Philip Larkin
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1947 Home County: Galway
Education	Primary: Killimor NS Secondary: St Molaise's, Portumna
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters and 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Wife (Angela), 2 sons and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Killimor GAA; Loughrea GAA [Galway]
Occupation	Hurley-Maker and Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Hurley-Maker and Farmer
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers; North Kildare Quality Lamb Producers.

REFERENCE NO. GY/1/5

Date of Report	28 th May 2011
Period Covered	mid-1800s-2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Clare, Galway
Key Themes Covered	Supporting, Celebrations, Material Culture, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Philip talks about the hurley-making tradition that has been in his family for generations. Originally from Galway, he describes growing up in a household where hurleys were made. He also explains the process of making a hurley from beginning to end. Philip eventually set up his own workshop in Killimor, Co. Galway, and he talks about the work he does, the customers he serves and their preferences, and the changes he has seen in how hurleys are made over the years.</p> <p>00:15 Born in 1947. 00:30 Earliest memories. Hurleys always around the place. Family making hurleys since mid-1800s. Changes in how hurleys are made. Description of making hurleys by hand. 02:05 Getting the ash to make hurls. Learning how to make them. Living in a busy household. 03:35 Father was Frank Larkin. Granduncle making hurleys for first All-Ireland hurling final in 1888 between Tipperary and Galway in Birr. Hearing stories of that. 05:05 Working in Tynagh Mines and switching to making hurleys. Moving to Killimor. 06:20 Difference in how hurleys are made in 2010 compared to when he was young. Requirements of individual customers. 08:20 Selecting suitable trees for making hurleys. Role of Coillte. Cutting trees. Superstitions about cutting trees. 11:20 Quality of timber from Coillte. Going to Tipperary, Laois and Freshford, Kilkenny - to Richard Costello - for wood. 12:00 Process of going to get wood when he was young and what that experience was like. Manufacturing hurleys once wood was secured. 14:35 How players select a hurley. How players relate to their hurleys. 16:45 Distinguishing between Irish and foreign ash. Times when Irish ash became scarce and reasons for that. 18:25 Move to plant more Irish ash. 19:00 Why ash is suitable for hurleys. Opinion of synthetic</p>

REFERENCE NO. GY/1/5

	<p>hurleys. 20:30 Why he enjoys making hurleys. 22:10 Watching games where players are using his hurleys. Inter-county players calling to his workshop. Selling to players abroad. 23:05 Changes in style of hurley. Experimenting with changes. 26:00 Differences in hurleys from county to county. 27:15 Making final checks to a hurley he has made. 27:40 Spring in hurleys. 28:20 Playing hurling when he was young. Prominence of hurling in Killimor. Playing career. 29:25 Hurling heroes - Ned Dervan and John Connolly. 29:45 Memories of All-Ireland final in 1980 and 1975 League final in Limerick. Joe Connolly's speech. Joe McDonagh singing. Celebrations. 31:10 Economic difficulties in 1980s and getting his business established. Dealing with demand for hurleys. Labour-intensive nature of job. 33:00 Popularity and function of banding hurleys. Mending hurleys. 35:25 Role of GAA in his life. 36:20 People calling to his workshop. 36:55 Future of hurley making. Changes in popularity of hurling. Involvement of parents. 38:10 Involvement in Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers. 39:35 Cost of making hurleys. 40:35 Handmade and machine made hurleys. 41:15 Making hurleys for camogie players. 41:45 Other types of carpentry in his family. 42:45 Sliotar making in his family. Sliotar for first All-Ireland hurling final in 1888 made in Fitz's pub in Killimor. 45:25 Prospects for John McIntyre's Galway hurling team in 2010.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for Killimor for 20 years</p>

REFERENCE NO. GY/1/5

Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	On the Killimor GAA committee all of his adult life.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:45:10
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: 28th May 2012.