

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	24 th Sept 2009
Location	Muldoon's Insurance Offices, Westport, Co. Mayo
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paddy Muldoon
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1941 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Aughagower NS and Westport CBS, Co. Mayo Secondary: Westport CBS, Co. Mayo; St. Jarlath's, Tuam, Co. Galway
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Judy with 2 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Islandeedy; St. Patrick's, Westport
Occupation	Insurance Broker and Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Publicans
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil

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Date of Report	20 th August 2012
Period Covered	1880s – 2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Mayo, Offaly, Down, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Career, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Professionalism, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Paddy talks of his time in the GAA in Mayo and how history has shaped attitudes within the GAA. He tells of the fundraising for the pitch and the work of the volunteers. Talks of various social events within the club. He then talks of his playing career and his time as a manager. He talks of his All-Ireland match day routine. His time on Central council and various committees is also covered as is his involvement in Scór. The Troubles and the opening of Croke Park are discussed as is the ban on foreign games and dances. The interview ends with a look at media and technological changes and his best and worst memories.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:22 Talks of his earliest memory of the GAA being national school in Westport and Secondary school. Mentions playing for Islandeady.</p> <p>01:08 Speaks of playing football those days and only having one ball for the season. Mentions Sean Moylett who looked after the club and bought the ball. Also mentions playing in tournaments and being given a medal and a half crown.</p> <p>02:08 Talks of times changing in the mid 60's with more clubs and amalgamations. Mentions playing Castlebar Mitchels with an amalgamation of nearly all the clubs in West Mayo, Louisburg, Achill, Ballintubber, Westport, Islandeady, Balla and Breaffy. Also mentions being suspended for twelve months for verbally abusing the referee in a match. Talks of Johnny Mulvey who described Paddy as the most active suspended player ever.</p>

	<p>06:02 Tells of never playing again but getting involved with various teams and becoming a selector on the Mayo minor and senior teams.</p> <p>06:20 Talks of the transition from Islandeady to Westport. Mentions soccer and rugby being as old in the town as Gaelic football and hurling. Also mentions the history of Westport GAA and Major John McBride bringing hurling to Westport for military purposes which led to his internment. Names the clubs within the parish areas; the Quay, Ait Aris, Derrygorman and Aughagower.</p> <p>10:47 Speaks of the parish rule not being as tight as it could be.</p> <p>11:00 Tells of the club being formed in 1884 and being active under various names as they were playing in a garrison town. Mentions people paying to travel to Ballina to play a game. Also mentions the Christian Brothers being helpful with regard to playing football.</p> <p>13:12 Speaks of the present GAA pitch being on the site of a former cricket field where the soldiers garrisoned in the town played.</p> <p>13:50 Talks of Coyne's Field and Munster's Field where the games were played before the present location. Mentions the games being played in any field the players found. Also mentions the current pitch being taken over in 1935.</p> <p>15:20 Speaks of the players cycling 30 or 40 miles to games and sometimes using horse and trap. Once known as Croke Patrick's. Talks of the problems in the club with the occupational forces. Mentions one of the places where they played football and its connection with Daniel O'Connell. Also mentions the first footballs being bought from proceeds of the Wren boys.</p> <p>18:10 Tells of two Walshs from Derrygorman who were prosecuted for playing football in someone's field. Mentions the importance of knowing your history with regard to the future.</p> <p>19:14 Speaks of Islandeady football not being as old and not knowing much of their history. Mentions Ballina, Westport, Balla, Lacken and Ballycastle. Also mentions Purty Kelly who played for Connacht before he played for Mayo and his achievement along with the Kennys and the Morans.</p> <p>20:39 Talks of the trip to America taking six weeks and</p>
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	<p>someone kicking their only ball overboard.</p> <p>21:22 Speaks of Westport getting their own grounds in about 1935 and the developments to today.</p> <p>22:26 Talks about the fundraising for the grounds. Mentions the voluntary work that is carried out not only in Westport but all around the country. Also mentions the role played by the clergy within the GAA as well as in other things.</p> <p>25:13 Tells of many Christian Brothers doing great work in Westport. Mentions Brothers Flaherty, Hayes and McKeown. Also mentions Jack Kenny.</p> <p>27:21 Talks of the Brothers and Priests who played for the club over the years. Mentions Fr John Cosgrove.</p> <p>28:25 Speaks of the social events around the GAA in the community. Mentions the late night Sunday dances and card games. Also mentions the women becoming more involved in the club from the 1960's and the recent resurgence of camogie.</p> <p>31:07 Talks of the history of hurling in Westport. Mentions clubs in Tooreen, Ballyhaunis, Ballina and Castlebar.</p> <p>32:10 Speaks of his own playing career and his move into administration. Mentions seven Connacht titles and two All-Irelands. Also mentions his involvement with the senior team and his time as Chairman of the County Board and on Central Council.</p> <p>34:25 Talks of the difference between being a manager and a player.</p> <p>36:26 Tells what it takes to be a good player.</p> <p>37:24 Speaks of his biggest successes as a manager. Mentions managers coming to the fore in the mid '80's.</p> <p>38:57 Talks of taking the team to the All-Ireland and all it entailed. Mentions the long bus journey and staying in a monastery. Also mentions there being no drink involved at the time.</p> <p>41:15 Speaks of the importance of having people playing games even if they are not playing Gaelic games.</p> <p>42:19 Tells of the morning of the All-Ireland and keeping the nerves down. Mentions Austin Garvin, the trainer. Also mentions watching the senior game from under the Nally</p>
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	<p>stand.</p> <p>43:35 Speaks of being collected by Johnny Mulvey to go to a minor match and being afraid to speak.</p> <p>44:17 Talks of his trip to Croke Park to watch an All-Ireland match in 1960 when Offaly played Down. Mentions getting two tickets from Islandeady for the match.</p> <p>45:56 Speaks of the changes to All-Ireland day over the years. Mentions not being in favour of spending large amounts of money on Croke Park developments.</p> <p>47:18 Tells of walking into Croke Park when 91,000 were in attendance. Mentions it being the first Sam Maguire to go north of the border.</p> <p>48:19 Talks of the emigrants in America and his involvement with a club in New York.</p> <p>49:55 Speaks of his All-Ireland finals day routine. Mentions mass on the way and conversations about the football. Also mentions parking the car along the quay and going for something to eat.</p> <p>52:30 Tells of what he wore to the matches. Mentions carrying the flags. Also mentions travelling with two spare wheels and some travelling by train for over five hours.</p> <p>54:45 Talks of how he became involved with the administrative side of the club. Mentions it being a seven days a week job. Also mentions coming from a match with Christy Loftus and being very late home.</p> <p>58:05 Talks of travelling all over the country with the job and the pressure to be back for matches etc.</p> <p>58:53 Tells of his wife's interest in the GAA and of her brothers playing. Mentions his children playing hurling and football and of one of his sons winning an All-Ireland hurling medal.</p> <p>01:00:12 Speaks of making the move from club to county administration and the work involved.</p> <p>01:02:16 Tells of being elected to Central Council on the day he stepped down from the county board replacing Fr. Leo Morahan. Mentions Johnny Mulvey, Con Murphy, Paddy Buggy, Paddy MacFlynn, John Dowling, Joe McDonagh, Sean McCague and Christy Cooney.</p> <p>01:05:00 Tells of having to address two players who had</p>
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	<p>played illegally in England.</p> <p>01:05:54 Talks of going to his first Central Council meeting in Bundoran. Mentions funding and how it was used for the development of Celtic Park. Also mentions getting five million for Castlebar.</p> <p>01:07:43 Speaks about the different committees he sat on while in Central Council. Mentions Scór and being a flute player.</p> <p>01:10:05 Talks of how his business has not benefitted from his involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:11:07 Talks about his time on the Development Committee and looking at club pitches.</p> <p>01:13:32 Talks of his work on the Scór Committee and how the clubs did most of the work. Mentions the fortieth anniversary of Scór. Also mentions rounders and Connacht handball and the McNallys winning All-Irelands. Talks of Westport and Swinford and a sixty five pound bet.</p> <p>01:17:47 Speaks of the importance of Scór, Irish Language and Culture to the GAA and what the GAA should be doing to retain them. Mentions the 1890's and how the language was used against the authorities.</p> <p>01:21:10 Talks about the Insurance Committee and the work they carry out. Tells of every property being insured under one scheme. Mentions national liability and the players' injury scheme which costs eleven million euro that is funded from the gate receipts. Also mentions Dessie Farrell who looked for a better scheme but couldn't find one.</p> <p>01:26:55 Talks of the biggest decisions he was involved in while on Central Council. Mentions Peter Quinn and the development of Croke Park. Also mentions Frank Dineen who bought Croke Park.</p> <p>01:29:03 Speaks of the decision to open Croke Park and how it divided some counties. Mentions the decision being a commercial one and promoting other games.</p> <p>01:31:30 Talks of the ban on foreign games and how it affected Westport. Mentions it being debated at length.</p> <p>01:33:57 Tells of travelling in the North on GAA business during the Troubles. Mentions a number of incidents that took place over the years.</p> <p>01:37:47 Talks of the impact of the Troubles on the GAA and</p>
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	<p>speaks of the occupation of Crossmaglen. Mentions some incidents and the insurance requirements.</p> <p>01:39:59 Speaks of the biggest difficulties faced by the GAA over the years nationally. Mentions the opposition to moving to a professional organisation.</p> <p>01:41:51 Talks of the people he worked with on Central Council. Mentions Mayo and Meath and a refereeing decision that was not popular in Mayo.</p> <p>01:43:46 Talks of the setting up of the Child Abuse committee and how Danny Lynch headed it up for a number of years. Mentions most of the cases being about physical rather than sexual abuse. Also mentions two young players being left fifteen miles from home having been late returning to their lift after going for a takeaway and this amounting to abuse.</p> <p>01:45:46 Tells of the accused having to step aside and how this can give an appearance of being guilty.</p> <p>01:46:44 Talks of the changes in media and technology and how they have impacted on the GAA.</p> <p>01:47:48 Speaks of the first match he heard on the radio and the first he watched on TV. Mentions Michael O'Hehir. Also mentions the influence that the media now try to bring to bear on the games.</p> <p>01:50:20 Talks of the furthest away place he has ever watched a match. Mentions New York, San Francisco both with the GAA and on his own and any town that had a match on when he was passing through. Also mentions the All Stars and Mick O'Dwyer and Michael Ó Muircheartaigh who played golf at Myrtle Beach.</p> <p>01:52:21 Talks of the Down v Offaly match in 1960 being the best match he ever watched.</p> <p>01:53:15 Speaks of his GAA heroes. Mentions Johnny Mulvey, Fr Leo Morahan and Dr Mickey Loftus.</p> <p>01:54:46 Tells of not wanting to pick the best President of the GAA as each had their own traits. Mentions Joe McDonagh, John Dowling, Peter Quinn, Con Murphy, Christy Cooney and Nickey Brennan. Also mentions collective responsibility.</p> <p>01:56:09 Speaks of his best memory in the GAA being when he was elected Chairman of the county board.</p> <p>01:57:50 Tells of his suspension from play being his biggest</p>
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	<p>disappointment.</p> <p>01:58:20 Talks of what the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:58:52 Speaks of National politics and how they do not play a part in the GAA.</p> <p>02:00:21 Tells how his sense of local, county and national identity have been effected by his involvement in the GAA.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played from 12 to 30. Won a Western Division junior and senior title.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1965.</p> <p>Club: Chairman</p> <p>County: Chairman Minor Board, Chairman (1980 – 88), Delegate to Central Council since 1988.</p> <p>Central Committees: Insurance, Development, Scór, Child Abuse and Management Committee.</p> <p>Chairman Mayo Supporters Club.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 02:01:53</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

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: _____20/08/12_____