

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	23 rd Sept 2009
Location	Interviewee's home, near Ballina, Co. Mayo
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Terry Reilly
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1943 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Ballina NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: St. Muiredach's College, Co. Mayo Third Level: Leicester
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Mary with 1 son and 4 daughters
Club(s)	Ballina Stephenites
Occupation	Media Consultant
Parents' Occupation	FÁS Storeroom Supervisor [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A

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Date of Report	20 th August 2012
Period Covered	1847 – 2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Mayo, Dublin, Galway, Antrim, Australasia, Australia, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Media, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Emigration, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Earliest Memories, 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>Terry talks of supporting Mayo all his life but not playing a lot of football as a boy. He tells of his family involvement in the club. He speaks of the impact of the media on the GAA and talks of fundraising for the club. He then gives some more history of the club. He gives details of the various positions he held within the club and the GAA and of the committees he served on. He then recalls the problem of being a reporter and having to view both sides of the issues. Talks of various tournaments over the years and the involvement of players from all over the world. Compromised rules and travelling to Belfast during the Troubles are also discussed along with the opening of Croke Park. The interview ends with Terry's best and worst memories.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:18 Terry talks of seeing the Mayo team return after the 1951 All-Ireland win. Mentions a game in James Stephens Park and Prendergast, John Forde, Sean Wynn, Pdraig Carney and John Langan.</p> <p>01:15 Speaks of the curse on the team being an urban myth.</p> <p>02:03 Tells of Michael O'Hehir's commentary. Mentions the Cardinal Cushing Games in Gaelic Park New York. What it was like to be around for Mayo's successes in the early 1950s and getting to meet his heroes. Also mentions his career in journalism and Paddy Moclair, Gerald Courell and Jackie Carney.</p> <p>04:54 Talks of playing very little football in his youth. Mentions Terence Devere of the Western People, his great grandfather, a founding member of the Ballina Stephenites club. Also mentions his uncle playing in one of the first All-Ireland minor</p>

	<p>games to be played in Croke Park in 1930.</p> <p>06:31 Talks of the family history with the club. Mentions Larry Doolan the pen name for James Wallace Melvin, born in 1847 and the founder of the club. Also mentions the successes of the club over the years and his family background. Mentions the Croke Cup.</p> <p>11:36 Speaks of the fundraising that took place. Mentions Jackie Carney going to America to raise funds.</p> <p>12:40 Talks of travelling to matches by bus, train or car. Mentions his first All-Ireland final in 1962 between Galway and Dublin. Also mentions travelling in a van to the match as a journalist with a photographer and other staff. Mentions that the media were all friendly and if they were told something in confidence they would keep it as such.</p> <p>17:03 Talks about the media changing in their attitude towards the GAA. Mentions John D Hickey, Paddy Downey, Sean Purcell, Mick Dunne, Michael O'Hehir and Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh. Also mentions the way soccer might impact on the way things are reported.</p> <p>20:00 Speaks about the games being tougher in the past.</p> <p>21:19 Talks of the most unusual GAA story he covered as a journalist. Mentions Brian McDonald and the 1992 Mayo team. Also mentions his varied training methods and Liam Horan.</p> <p>24:43 Tells of the Mayo team doing something similar in 1947 when they objected to the County Board. Mentions they went on a winning spree after this which the 1992 team did not manage to do.</p> <p>26:22 Talks of John Morley and covering the story of his death while working as a garda detective. Mentions Henry Byrne and their funerals.</p> <p>28:43 Tells of the difficulty for a reporter in keeping their own bias out of the stories. Mentions not being a player himself so not comparing players to himself. Also mentions the difficulty of being a journalist reporting on the county board while being a member of the county board.</p> <p>32:38 Speaks of his involvement in the club. Mentions Gerald Courell a 1936 All-Ireland winner a friend of the family. Also mentions the McCabe Cup and four teams coming together to play in one team and the difficulties this brought about.</p>
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	<p>37:15 Talks of the club holding meetings in the Grovedale Hotel in Ballina. Mentions it being a GAA base for many years. Also mentions the club building their own buildings in the 1970's.</p> <p>39:42 Speaks of why the club decided to build their own facilities. Mentions Knox Gore and the camp field which is so named because the Connaught Rangers camped there at one time.</p> <p>43:32 Talks of the opening of the facilities and the various events that were organised around it. Mentions the All-Ireland winners being invited and how they coached the young players. Also mentions Joe Lennon, Dermot Earley, Mickey Kerins, the Keenans and weekend exchange tournaments.</p> <p>46:18 Talks of the tradition of hurling in Ballina. Mentions Seamus Brown of Tipperary, TJ Tyrell of Galway and players from Kilkenny.</p> <p>48:46 Speaks of becoming chairman in the 1970's. Talks of the club bringing the community together and the volunteers who came to the fore. Mentions Éire Óg, Carlow, Portlaoise and their facilities. Also mentions the formation of clubs in Dublin. Talks of business acumen not being brought to bear on the club scene.</p> <p>54:39 Talks of sponsorship of the club over the years coming from former Mayo players who were members of the club, as well as others. Mentions Gerald Courell, Shannon Medals, Paddy Moclair, Walter Corcoran, Jackie Clarke and his collection. Also mentions being chairman for four years and hoping that others would follow and not stay on for too long.</p> <p>01:01:09 Tells of getting involved with the teams after this as manager. Mentions Kevin McStay, Jimmy Brown, Oliver Murphy, Barry McLoughlin, Niall Heffernan and Eddie Melvin. Also mentions the impact of other sports on the GAA and nurturing the players.</p> <p>01:04:47 Talks of the senior level players and how different the scene is. Mentions taking over management of this team.</p> <p>01:05:32 Talks of 1984 and the welcome home games with teams from Australia, America, Ireland, New Zealand and Britain playing in Ballina. Mentions a procession with a flame and the Wolf Tones, De Dannan and Michael O'Hehir. Also mentions having hosted a couple of congresses.</p> <p>01:08:22 Speaks of the reasons for making the move from administration to management. Mentions returning to</p>
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	<p>administration and organising a coaching council and Eugene McGee and John Kenny. Also mentions FÁS funding the scheme.</p> <p>01:11:02 Tells of his three years on the Connacht Council. Mentions being on a number of Croke Park Committees, including Australian Rules and Media with Peter McDermott, Tony O’Keefe, Kerry and Dan McCartan, Down. Also mentions Peter Quinn.</p> <p>01:15:43 Speaks of not going to Australia for the compromise rules games.</p> <p>01:16:11 Talks of the reasons behind the compromise rules being formed. Mentions how it helped spread the idea of Gaelic games and to allow players to wear their national jersey and to promote the GAA as an amateur organisation that was professional enough to organise tournaments on the world stage. Also mentions the role of the media in opening up the awareness of the GAA.</p> <p>01:19:49 Talks of furthering the GAA around the world which was a change to the insular views of the GAA in the past. Mentions only one All-Ireland final being played outside Ireland in 1947 in the Polo Grounds in New York when Cavan played Kerry. Also mentions 1989 when local radio began to impact on local communities, Gaelic games were to the fore and how this was in contrast to the days when Michael O’Hehir was the only commentator.</p> <p>01:24:18 Talks of Croke Park being marketed as an entity on its own. Mentions Sean Kelly and the opening of Croke Park to other sports. Also mentions Peter Quinn.</p> <p>01:27:12 Speaks of the 1961 All-Ireland being the first to be televised and how this changed the game for people. Describes being at the games and contrasting the BBC presentations of the FA Cup with the All-Ireland. Mentions future developments and the use of social media.</p> <p>01:31:50 Talks of being in favour of the opening of Croke Park. Mentions the figures being borrowed being such that the park had to be opened to other sports.</p> <p>01:36:14 Speaks of getting involved in the Connacht Programmes in the 1980’s. Mentions Jack Mahon and Mattie McDonagh who were on the Galway team that won the All-Ireland in 1956. Also mentions John Benson and Tommy Moran.</p> <p>01:39:44 Tells of the club going to America in 1980 for a</p>
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	<p>month and visiting New York, Philadelphia and Hartford. Mentions making connections with the Diaspora. Also mentions the Ballina people in New York erecting a monument to the founder of the club.</p> <p>01:43:19 Speaks of many clubs doing similar trips to friends and relations abroad.</p> <p>01:43:39 Talks of travelling to the North to watch matches during the Troubles. Mentions Casement Park in 1971 when Mayo played Antrim and getting a puncture near a checkpoint and being directed to the park by a policeman.</p> <p>01:46:30 Talks of Congress being held in Belfast and the attitude of some who attended.</p> <p>01:47:37 Talks of visiting Stormont recently and having tea with Ian Paisley. Mentions Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness.</p> <p>01:49:22 Speak of his best and worse memories throughout his involvement in the GAA. Mentions 1996 All-Ireland final between Mayo and Meath in Croke Park. Also mentions Donegal and Fermanagh.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" 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>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:54:41</p>
<p>Language</p>	<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_____