

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	19 th Nov 2008
Location	Interviewees home, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jim Hannigan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1917 Home County: Donegal
Education	Primary: Stranorlar National School Secondary: Finn College, Ballybofey (Jim was awarded scholarship)
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers and 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Carmel, 6 sons and 5 daughters
Club	Erin's Hope
Occupation	Salesman
Parents' Occupation	Carpenter [Father]; Milliner [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/2

Date of Report	5 th Nov 2009
Period Covered	1918 – 2008
Counties/Countries Covered	Donegal, Dublin, Tyrone, Derry
Key Themes Covered	Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Travel, Playing, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Purchase of Grounds, Material Culture, All-Ireland, Impact on Life, Club History, County History, Education, Religion, Sponsorship, Celebrations, Fundraising, Culture, Irish Language, Alcohol, Ban of Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Role of Clergy, Rivalries, Politics, Professionalism, Retirement, Irish History
Interview Summary	<p>Jim has lived all his life in Stranorlar, Co. Donegal. He started playing football at an early age and played until he injured his knee in a match at O'Donnell Park in Letterkenny. He travelled regularly to the All-Ireland Final until recently. He worked as a meat seller, travelling around Donegal and beyond selling bacon, cooked ham and sausages. Jim recalls his earliest memories of playing football at school and during holidays and the trouble they had keeping watch for local farmers while they were playing on their fields, the setting up of the local club, the purchasing of McCool Park in Ballybofey and it's evolution into the main county ground. Jim's interview gives excellent insights into changing modes of travel locally and nationally. He talks about people walking and cycling to matches, hiring cars and buses and travelling by train. He also talks about the playing kit and boots they wore and the shortage of jerseys. Jim lists all the places matches used to be played in the area and describes the split in the GAA in the Twin Towns. Jim's interview is excellent on the social side of the GAA. He describes going to céilís and dances after matches and meeting girls. He talks about the craic he and his friends had waiting on one another to come back from leaving a girl home, playing tricks on one another and the night they had to push their car home. Jim also describes his many trips to matches in Dublin and meeting his wife Carmel at a dance in Dublin when he was up for the Railway Cup, her family's involvement in the GAA and their children's involvement.</p> <p>0.00 Intro</p> <p>0.30 Jim worked as a meat seller – selling bacon, cooked ham and sausages around Donegal and beyond.</p>

	<p>1.10 Jim had four brothers and two sisters. His father was a carpenter and upholsterer at the railway station. His mother was from Ballybay, Co. Monaghan originally and she worked as a milliner in McGinty's draper shop in Ballybofey. His parents got married around 1910.</p> <p>1.55 Neither of his parents were actively involved in the GAA, his father was a spectator at special matches. Two of his uncles played with a local team in the area in the 1918 – 1920 period.</p> <p>2.50 'During our school days, whenever we got our holidays a group of school pals from the lower end of Stranorlar, we always met in some farmer's convenient piece of flat ground and we played all sorts of games from hurling, hockey, cricket, handball, anything at all that created an activity for us.'</p> <p>3.50 The children from Ballybofey had to go to school in Stranorlar and they would have been challenged to a match in some sport and the challenge was taken up on a Saturday. It would invariably end in a free for all and the Ballybofey boys were stoned back over the bridge. They returned the favour when the Stranorlar boys played in Ballybofey.</p> <p>4.40 They trespassed on fields and were often kicked out.</p> <p>4.45 During their holidays – 'Lift the Coats' – 'We occupied a field belonging to some person and we knew at that particular stage we were trespassing and we were always aware that that owner may pop over a fence somewhere and we had to scurry and the answer at that particular stage was to the rest of the boys 'lift the coats' ... we had no goal posts and we took off our jacket if we had one on and we put it down and some other person did the same and that was the designation of the goal posts ... if the landowner came to evacuate us the shout was lift the coats because if you didn't life the coat, the landlord lifted it and you had to go back and claim it off him later on in the evening and you were being chastised for trespassing on his field.'</p> <p>6.30 The two boys or girls in the goal area would have a view and would warn them about the landlord approaching.</p> <p>6.52 The girls played with them. There were two girls and a boy living in the gate lodge and they often played.</p> <p>7.25 When somebody went to a seaside resort e.g. Rossnowlagh they would have brought back a 'wind-ball'. Otherwise they used 'all-purpose' Tennis Balls – they went</p>
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	<p>looking for lost balls in the evening and used them for hurling, football, hockey and handball.</p> <p>8.45 They only played sports at lunch-time or early in the morning at school. They would have played free-for-all football, 'It was I suppose a bit of activity before we went into the school and something to do during the lunch hour for the people that stayed in the school for their lunch.'</p> <p>9.26 There is a dispute over the year the club was founded. Fr Gallagher, author and Donegal GAA historian has the date of the 1st club as 1918. It was known as the Éire Ógs Ballybofey. Later the Sarsfields of Stranorlar were formed.</p> <p>10.27 There wasn't any involvement from the senior committees in Ballybofey or Stranorlar to involve school pupils in the activities of the GAA. 'Sometime maybe round 1926 / 1927 a few of the senior lads called a meeting in a barn, behind Gallagher's Pub in Lower Main St, Stranorlar and formed a school pupils team known as Faugh-A-Ballagh in Stranorlar.' William McIntyre and Ben Griffin were prominent in the founding. Played a challenge match in Mountcharles (at that stage known as Tantallon).</p> <p>12.25 The first time Jim played a competitive match that he remembers was 1932 / 1933. He played against St. Eunan's in modern day Finn Park in Ballybofey. Joe Doyle, Proud McGinley and Joe Callaghan were on the Letterkenny team.</p> <p>13.10 'In 1926 or around that time there was a meeting called by the late Sean Mac Cumhaill and some other interested people for to amalgamate the two teams Éire Ógs and Sarsfields and it was formed as far as I remember in 1926 and it was known as Erin's Hope from that point on until the 1950s. And after the death of Sean MacCumhaill in the late 40s the Erin's Hope team was renamed the Sean MacCumhails.'</p> <p>14.05 McCool Park is also named after him.</p> <p>14.35 Jim discusses the locations and names of the fields that GAA was played in when he was young. 'They sub-let a field from local farmers who wouldn't be ploughing it that year or maybe next year.' The pitches were opposite St. Joseph's Hospital, on the far side of the railway line, on the site of modern day Finn Park and two pitches adjacent to the present McCools complex, there was a pitch on the Glenfinn Road and one in Upper Drumboe beside the 'ten acres'. The dividing fence was tumbled when the McCool club undertook</p>
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	<p>their development.</p> <p>16.20 They played in Drumboe Upper while the pitch on the Showfields in Stranorlar, where all the houses are now, was being prepared for an inter-county match with Fermanagh.</p> <p>17.00 The Showfield was the first place Jim saw Gaelic Football played in a Summer League. 'The driving force behind it was a person in the Garda, the newly arrived Garda to Ballybofey Garda Station, Sergeant Devalerie and he was one of the prime movers in the G double A in my young days.'</p> <p>17.50 'It would be the first attempt by any GAA club in the county of Donegal to purchase a field whenever the lease that they had at that particular stage had expired and the local people wished to buy the Showfield from the then landlord but he refused to sell it to them and this is why they diversified to Mullindrait, to Glenfinn Road, to what we commonly call Byrne's home and McGee's home and to Finn Park.'</p> <p>18.40 The Showfield ran along the flat of Stranorlar street and would have been central to the two towns.</p> <p>18.55 Jim talks about the Summer League. There was a very good team in Killygordon – Red Hughs, there were a lot of local people not involved in senior teams and they were accommodated in the Summer League. There were teams from Cloghan, Stranorlar (maybe 2) and Killygordon.</p> <p>20.05 One player got his leg broken during one of the matches.</p> <p>20.25 People engaged in the building of Glenfinn's new chapel - Matthew's from Co. Louth and a new garda sergeant in Brockagh – Garda Martin were prominent on the Cloghan team. Also the Brady's, Paddy Hannigan and the Bonner's of Killygordon.</p> <p>21.18 There was a natural boundary of trees that spectators were able to climb up and watch the match from.</p> <p>21.40 'The pitch was magnificent, a flat complete surface ... it was bounded on the upper side, on the Stranorlar side, by the present public house at that particular stage it was known as O'Donnell's pub and the other boundary on the western side was Drumboe Ave, and that would have entailed maybe anything up to 150 yards. It was bounded then on the other two sides by the main street of Stranorlar itself and that was where there was a corrugated iron fence along the entire length of the Showfield and on the other side there was a little</p>
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	<p>brook.'</p> <p>23.30 Playing kit – 'most of the players wore their soft cap and in some cases as the public would generally know that they would peak to the front of the cap, but quite a few of the footballers turned it reverse and the peak was at the back of their neck ... the togs ... they were extra long on some people would have referred to them as two pillow cases sewn together.'</p> <p>24.27 Football boots were very sturdy. He never heard of people getting injured while wearing 'hotspurs' – gave 'protection for the ankles and a proper hard toe-cap on the front'.</p> <p>25.18 He only ever played in boots like that 'with the hard toe cap and the upper came up round your ankles and in some cases there was solid pieces of leather both on the right and the left hand side of the opening of the boot to protect both sides of your ankle from hurt ... there was as far as I remember four studs on the sole of it and two studs on the heel of it.'</p> <p>26.10 'The last time possibly I did play football that was in the O'Donnell Park in Letterkenny, and the football boot I had on on my right foot, the quality wasn't the best, but the toe cap was broken off from the rest of the shoe and I played for another ten or fifteen minutes of the first half with one football shoe on and I threw the other half out to the umpire at the top of the O'Donnell park.'</p> <p>27.00 It was common for shoes to break, because you had the same pair for five or seven years.</p> <p>27.30 They'd often have been short jerseys. They might have 15 jerseys but subs didn't have jerseys and would have played in pullovers until they got the one from the person who was injured. 'They weren't numbered even for the inter-county teams, locally ... I think possibly Erin's Hope was the first team that played a club match with the numbers 1 – 15 on the jerseys ... and that would have been into the 1940s.'</p> <p>28.40 He doesn't remember sponsorship appearing on jerseys. Teams that were better off financially might have had their club name printed on their jerseys.</p> <p>29.30 When Jim began to compete actively the county was divided into divisions and he lists the areas included in each division South, South West, West, East and North.</p> <p>30.40 Fanad was actively involved in the GAA in the 1930s,</p>
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	<p>but they only played in the Eastern Division.</p> <p>31.20 In the early days it was only the team that travelled. Anybody who wished to travel to away matches would have went by bike, 'but the team would have been invariably hoisted into maybe two hackney cars and that would have been the mode of transport we'll say between Stranorlar and Letterkenny and vice versa and between Stranorlar and Lifford and Raphoe, any other places that you were going to out of your own area ... and the spectators went by bicycle. And even in some cases with the proximity of Stranorlar to Killygordon the people would have walked to Killygordon and they would have done what we used to call the circle, they went to Killygordon via the main road from Stranorlar to Killygordon and they returned via the crossroads to Dreenan to the village of Stranorlar. '</p> <p>32.45 Advent of bus companies – Robert's out of the city of Derry overnighted in Stranorlar. They took workers to and from Derry to their work. 'Occasionally that bus may have been hired for to take the team to an away match on a Sunday ... some people in the area had purchased flat bed lorries, or lorries with sides on them but no roof and in some cases like you know for maybe a trip to either Castlefinn, or to Killygordon or Convoy one of those old flat bed lorries or the ones with drop down sides on it might have hired those to take the passengers and the team down to matches.'</p> <p>34.30 More common in 30s to hire the buses from the people who had taken over from Robert's.</p> <p>35.20 Furthest Jim travelled within the county would have been Magheragallon, Kilcar and Carndonagh.</p> <p>36.05 Lists various areas County team played in. After 1937 Letterkenny was a popular place. In 1946 when a local group formed a committee to run a civic week they held two inter-county matches in McCool park. From that the local club bought Byrne's home, the current McCool park.</p> <p>37.40 Development of McCool park into county ground – whenever the local GAA club bought Byrne's home, competitions such as the Lagan Cup, McKenna Cup and National League were held in various venues around Donegal – Letterkenny, Donegal Town, Ballyshannon, Bundoran (who had a big say in early 30s for inter-county matches), Glenties, Magheragallon and Ardara. Jim believes a national league quarter final was played against Longford in Ardara in the late 1930s.</p>
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	<p>39.55 Jim thinks that the large attendances at McCool park and the fact that the outside counties e.g. Derry and Tyrone would have preferred to play in McCool Park because it was central, accessible and had good roads 'began the momentum to make Sean MacCumhaill park the venue for all inter-county matches in Donegal in the championship series.' Ballyshannon and Letterkenny would have got their choice of one of the home matches in the other series.</p> <p>41.55 Saved spectators the financial expense of further distance e.g. Ballyshannon chosen when playing e.g. Longford.</p> <p>42.33 He started going to local matches first – by bicycle. 'A very consistent group of enthusiasts we would have hired a car for ourselves especially, because if we played a match in Letterkenny and there was a function of some sort or other on in St Eunan's College, or the Literary Institute or the Devlin Hall we would have stopped over and attended that function during the night. So we were kind of a select group.'</p> <p>They were all the one age.</p> <p>43.50 The rest of the team might have hired a bus or a car.</p> <p>44.00 They were under the instructions of the committee to report for the match, but after the match they could do what they liked.</p> <p>44.40 There was one man on the Stranorlar team, known as 'The Posh Man', if he went down with the Erin's Hope team to Letterkenny 'he didn't mind what accommodation he got overnight in Letterkenny as long as he was going to have a good night with the Letterkenny boys.'</p> <p>46.00 'We would have stayed for a céilí ... a dance ... and things like that, but whatever time it was over we came home, because I have to say at that particular stage there wasn't any of that group of boys took a drink, they were all pioneers like you know, you wouldn't have any trouble with them at that stage, unless which was very possible, some of them strayed off with a lady, a girlfriend for the night, and they might have kept you waiting maybe for an hour before they reported to where the hackney car was.'</p> <p>46.40 They attended a camogie match between Antrim and Donegal in O'Donnell Park and there was a céilí afterwards (possibly 1946). Two of the boys 'got occupied with two girlfriends' and had to see them a little bit out of Letterkenny. The rest were sitting on a step, cursing the two boys, when an</p>
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	<p>upstairs window opened and the lady told them if they didn't stop talking they wouldn't go home dry.</p> <p>48.20 Jim tells a story about one night he left a girl home. His friends found out who the girl was and where she lived. They knew there was a goose in the yard and that the back door of the house was open for the girl, so they went over to the house and put the goose into the house.</p> <p>49.40 The day of the Antrim camogie match, was possibly 1946 and petrol rationing was still in operation. The car had gone to Derry that day with one of the lads who was playing hurling for the Donegal team against Antrim in Derry. When he came back, he knew the boys were waiting for the céilí. The fellow who was driving the car had only just qualified and he drove up and down the town a few times while he was waiting. One of the boys saw him and was worried that they'd run out of petrol – which they did.</p> <p>51.25 'In the middle of the Bullock Park ... one of the boys pulled the choke ... and the car started tugging ... so we pushed the car from the Bullock Park to the junction at Kilross, we free-wheeled down the hills and we pushed her up the wee inclines that were about and we sat at the Kellystown Crossroads and the buck that played the hurling, he was a County Clare man, he sang us the 'Darling girl from Clare' and various other of Percy French's songs at a crossroads in Kellystown for half an hour.'</p> <p>53.00 Jim talks about going to a céilí in Carndonagh – not for GAA purposes. It was in the early part of the war years, 7 of them went and they didn't leave Carndonagh until 7.30am and went straight to their work.</p> <p>55.15 When he started working in 1935 he had every intention of getting to an All-Ireland as his brother Jack had got to one in 1931.</p> <p>55.40 'We, as GAA people were so much interested in the G double A and listening to people that had gone to All-Ireland finals and told what it meant to be getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning in Glenties and getting on a railcar in Glenties, going down to Strabane on the railcar, picking up passengers en route in Stranorlar, Castlefinn, Killygordon and other places and getting onto the Great Northern in Strabane coming from Derry and arriving in Dublin just in time to get some sort of a mass in the Pro-Cathedral and then going to Woolworths in Henry St to the cafeteria where you served yourself and you took a snack and you landed back again in Amiens St for a 6 o'clock return to Strabane and you got on</p>
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	<p>your railbus in Strabane and headed to Glenties with stops in between.'</p> <p>56.45 Missed the 1936 All-Ireland because his sister got married on the Monday after the final.</p> <p>57.00 1937 was the first time he and his brother Paddy went to the City of Dublin. They went with his uncles and local people. 'It was frightening ... because at that particular stage the Cusack Stand was being developed and there was a strike in Dublin and we were flying on our mouth and nose and we were standing up as best we could to see the match in Croke Park between Cavan and Kerry and of course our uncles was taken care of us and the other people that was on the train along with us they were making sure the wee fellas were well looked after.'</p> <p>58.05 Match was a draw and they went for the replay. The builders strike still wasn't over – they were lying in an area in front of Hill 16. Michael Doyle (Kerry) and Jim Smyth (Cavan) were involved in a fracas. 'There was a bit of a you might say a small invasion of people onto the pitch and it scared myself and my brother a little bit.'</p> <p>59.20 From then on Jim attended All-Ireland finals, semi-finals, National League matches etc. until 1948. Missed 1949, 1950 and maybe 1951 and then back again until 1952. Jim doesn't think he missed an All-Ireland from 1952 – 1984. He was also there for challenge matches, the commemoration of Bloody Sunday and Oireachtas matches and he attended the 1947 hurling final because the football one was played in New York.</p> <p>1.00.40 In either 1940/41 himself and his brother Paddy got up at 5 o'clock on a Sunday morning and their mother made tea and sandwiches and they headed to Strabane for the Dublin train. They left their bikes in the station and got on the train.</p> <p>1.01.11 They went to mass in the Pro-Cathedral. The type of mass they got: 'We went in and the mass that was in progress at that particular stage was just coming to the elevation period of the mass and we joined the mass prior to the elevation at that stage, and masses was every half hour in the Pro-Cathedral at that time, and the next mass started immediately after and we stayed in the second mass until it came to prior to the elevation of that mass and we maintained that the two halves made one whole and we left the Pro-Cathedral and made a bee-line for Woolworths in Henry St and had a meal and we went out to Croke Park and we saw</p>
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	<p>three All-Ireland semi-finals.'</p> <p>1.02.10 They didn't see the end of the last match because they left Croke Park for Amiens St. They ran 15 minutes instead of walking 5 minutes but they didn't know that until later.</p> <p>1.02.45 'Cycled back home again and I had spent 16 shillings and the brother had spent 18. We had change out of a pound note.'</p> <p>1.03.15 Then there were the people who left the hinterlands of Glenties or Ardara and may not have seen anything to eat from mid-day on Sunday until they got back to Glenties at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning.</p> <p>1.04.00 Woolworths was a cafeteria and you wanted to get in before 1 o'clock. 'Croke Park was more interesting to us than the meal, but you had to eat.' The bar on the train didn't interest them because they were pioneers.</p> <p>1.04.40 The people who had to go back to Stranorlar would have been home at 12am they could have sat down to a meal, but to go to Glenties and then get on a bicycle to Ardara they would only have one meal.</p> <p>1.05.17 After 1938 Jim had two aunts and an uncle in Dundalk. They used to go up to stay with them on the Saturday before the All-Ireland and stay in Dundalk on the Sunday night and come home on Monday.</p> <p>1.05.50 When he worked for Shesgreen and Sons, Bacon Factory in Ballybofey, they sent four of them to Dublin. Jim, two brothers and another person working in the office were going to Dublin for the All-Ireland and they were getting off at dinnertime on Saturday. They were given a letter for the station-master in Stranorlar to charge four return tickets to Shesgreen and Sons and a letter for Moran's Hotel in Dublin to charge their accommodation until Monday to Shesgreen and Sons.</p> <p>1.07.10 We were interested and they were interested in the GAA.</p> <p>1.07.30 Talks about Shesgreen and Sons making sausages. The consideration they gave to Jim was exemplary and circumstances outside of their control tarnished the situation quite a bit.</p> <p>1.09.10 Jim talks about friends in Shesgreens and benefits of working there. He attended Dog Racing and Horse Racing at</p>
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	<p>their expense.</p> <p>1.10.40 Jim thinks that Shesgreens bought the first Mercedes Car that there was in Donegal.</p> <p>1.11.30 'We hired a bus to go to some matches that people would have shown an interest in if they only could get there.'</p> <p>1.11.55 Bus cost so much, divided cost among the spectators and they paid for the cost of the transport to the match.</p> <p>1.12.25 They were to be picked up at Johnsons' Corner: 'The pattern was at that stage that you put your two stockings, one into each football boot and you put the togs in along with them and you reversed the two football boots – toe one side and toe on the other side – and you tied them together with the tape that you had for the football and that was your rig and then you got your jersey if you were playing whenever the team was announced.'</p> <p>1.13.05 They got the lorry from Johnston's Corner, Stranorlar to O'Donnell Park. That was the day that Jim first played away from home on the senior team of Erin's Hope. The three 'cubs' that day were full forwards and Jim, the smallest of the three was the full forward on the square. His direct opponent was Frank (Boots) Larkin, Barney Crampsie was right full back and Joe Canavan (a Galway man) was left full back.</p> <p>1.14.55 Erin's Hope won the match. 'We gave Ballymacool a reception coming in. Because, they had said to us whenever we were going out to the park 'why didn't youse bring a lock of men with you' so the boys beat the men ... and we joined our lorry at the Oldtown pub and headed up the back road to Stranorlar. That was my first real involvement with the senior team Erin's Hope.'</p> <p>1.15.25 They played in Porthall, Convoy, Killygordan and Cloghan. Then the war years intervened and there was a strike in Shesgreens Bacon Factory and the GAA activities in the town were divided. There was no GAA until they started up Knock team in the Diocese of Derry part of Donegal.</p> <p>1.16.23 Jim won the Dr McGinley cup with Knock in 1940 and continued playing with Knock in the Eastern Division until 1942 or '43.</p> <p>1.17.00 'At that particular stage the land commission had divided the Drumboe Estate and they allocated what was known as the lawn attached to Drumboe Castle at that stage, they designated that for the local GAA club.' Jim played with Knock up until 1946 and the local team wasn't doing well. The</p>
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trustees of Drumboe park said that unless there was a team in the two towns they would sell the park. Knock and Erin's Hope resolved their differences. In 1946 Erin's Hope bought Byrnes Home, and the park was sold. It has now become St Mary's Graveyard.

1.18.45 When they were blessing the ground of the new graveyard the local priest asked him had he picked a plot. Jim said 'Where I was often buried before'. Jim explained that when the Gweedore team were playing they spoke Irish. When a fella was trying to attack a Gweedore player a spectator would shout 'Bury him' in Irish.

1.20.10 In 1947 Jim got injured playing in a match against St Eunan's in O'Donnell Park, he hurt his knee. He was taken to the county hospital run by Dr McGinley, he was given a bed, but told he wouldn't be examined until the following day. When his team mates arrived he asked to be discharged on condition that he would go to his own doctor in Stranorlar.

1.22.15 Dr McGlinchey said there were no bones broken but he may have muscle damage, and he's had muscular trouble since. He got no compensation from the club and has since had his knee replaced.

1.22.45 Jim met a man from Monaghan at Rosapenna who was introduced to him about his knee. Jim had played football with his uncle and had bought pigs from his people outside of the Crossroads. He had a metal insert, Jim suspects his is nylon.

1.23.45 'That finished me playing football in 1947, well then I got married in 1948 and that finished me doing a whole lot of things.'

1.24.00 During that time from 1940 Jim used to write out the team sheet because he had an English-Irish surname dictionary.

1.24.30 He would have attended the odd County Board meeting and convention, but he had no great interest in the county level, he was more interested in the Eastern Division.

1.25.00 There was a wonderful secretary Garda Pat Gill (from Dublin), he was originally based in Letterkenny, but he was posted to Dunfanaghy.

1.25.35 Pat went to the All-Irelands with Jim and Co. was a native of a northern suburb of Dublin and would cycle into Dublin, put the bike into the hotel and go round the town with

	<p>them.</p> <p>1.25.55 They used to go to the Theatre Royal on a Saturday night before the All-Ireland and then to the dogs at Shelbourne Park. They always left once the stage performance was over.</p> <p>1.26.10 Tells the story of the stage performance one year, when the performers were talking about the match and pretending to be from either team. One of the performers told the others that he'd show them how to take a penalty and when asked who he was he said he was Hannigan. Jim's friends all pointed to Jim and they had a great night.</p> <p>1.27.55 In 1944 they were up for the Railway Cup in St. Patrick's Day and went to the céilí in the Mansion House. They danced a group of girls for the night and one of the boys danced the whole night with one of the girls, her sister was Jim's future wife.</p> <p>1.29.20 The boy was still after the same girl on the Sunday night, and Jim and his friends decided that they'd make sure he would have to take the girl home. They needed to split her from her sister so Jim walked her sister down to get her bicycle, explained to her what they were doing, she was happy enough and he left her home. 'She asked us would we be back for the All-Ireland, we said we would, so I'm with her since.'</p> <p>1.30.50 His wife (Carmel) is a member of a great GAA family. Her brother won a senior All-Ireland football in 1942, her brothers won hurling competitions in Dublin, her father was chairman of the Junior Football Board in Dublin for the most of 30 years (he was a Tipperary native and hurling man). Two of the girls were All-Ireland Camogie players – one has eight medals the other two.</p> <p>1.31.55 Jim doesn't think the clergy had much involvement in the sporting activities of the Twin Towns. One of the Protestant clergy may have had involvement in cricket and some of them played tennis.</p> <p>1.33.00 Jim was sorry to see the removal of the ban on foreign games. He is worried that the GAA might become a semi-professional organisation. He talks about dealing with Alf Murray and Padraig MacNamee at various stages. They were the only members of central council that he ever had any dealings with.</p> <p>1.34.40 'I had no ambition to do it, I'd prefer to be on the</p>
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	<p>sideline, I got the time as I said that I was secretary of the Eastern division, I got it by default because there was no other body willing to take it and the fact that I had office accommodation ... for to do correspondence and write notices and things like that.'</p> <p>1.35.45 He got married in 1948 and he had responsibilities at that stage and 'the mere fact that I asked a city girl to come and live 3 miles in the countryside outside the village of Ballybofey and Stranorlar, no water, no electricity' he decided that he had to look after other things.</p> <p>1.37.15 Jim believes that there are a lot of people in the GAA for personal aplomb. He might have played on, but he got hurt and he had to give up.</p> <p>1.38.35 From 1927 to 1947 he was very much involved in local plays, but drama was secondary to the 'G double A'.</p> <p>1.40.10 Discusses the play in 1947 and the comments of the judges and spectators on the play. Out of a possible 200 marks, they got 197.</p> <p>1.41.55 'The greatest memory in the G double A would have to be 92. Ah god, I cried on the sideline and we gathered in groups and coming home like you know the next day.' Jim had been out late on Sunday night with his brother in law, he had won his medal in 1942 and he was honoured 50 years later. Jim was the only one in the family who had a programme from 1942.</p> <p>1.44.00 Jim replied to a man in a hotel in Ashbourne we have to get out of Ulster next year first.</p> <p>1.44.45 They didn't get home until 5am in the morning on the Monday night.</p> <p>1.45.05 'I bought ten programmes that day off the young lad whenever we were going in ... I wanted one for everyone of the family ... that they'll have an All-Ireland programme.'</p> <p>1.45.55 Meeting the girl I was going to marry in 1944 'If I hadn't been at the Patrick's Day, the Railway Cup matches in '44 and going to the matches I might never have met her, them things is all you know part and parcel of the thing.'</p> <p>1.46.25 He has some regrets and has a chip on his shoulder about many things, he says. He doesn't hold grudges, but he remembers. Jim elaborates a little more about some of these.</p> <p>1.49.30 Talks about selling Bacon from the Bacon Factory in</p>
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	<p>Letterkenny, getting his lunch / dinner in McTeigues or McCrossans after working in the Bacon Factory and then heading out round Donegal selling the bacon.</p> <p>1.52.05 All his family were involved in the GAA. Four of them played on one team – they were known as ‘the four fighting Hannigan’s’. Involvement of his children – Dermot played junior hurling for the county, football for the club, Carndonagh and the Aer Lingus team in Rome. Seamus played hurling but Jim asked him to give it up for safety of others ‘he was useless and reckless’, Finnian played football for a club in Dublin, Josh (Joss) played with a club in Dublin and Kildare, Rory played a wee bit of football but was more interested in ladies. Maura played a bit of camogie in the Civil Service in Dublin. Carmel played tennis in Dunfanaghy. None of the rest were involved. Jim thinks they went out in life too young.</p> <p>1.54.25 Josh (Joss) played for the local team McCools – he was the only one really.</p> <p>1.54.35 What the GAA means to him? Talks about the enjoyment football they played in the fields round the district – it was football not soccer or gaelic. The GAA also had a political connection for them. The school teachers educated them in a nationalist outlook.</p> <p>1.55.45 There was a political leaning in his family from his father’s family and maybe from his grandmother on his father’s side. She was a victim of the Glenveagh Evictions, not personally, but she was a native of Tirargus, outside Churchill. She came to the area to work as a servant.</p> <p>1.57.00 Talks a bit about his family tree – uncles were carpenters and builders and aunts were dressmakers. One of his aunts became a housekeeper for a parish priest.</p> <p>1.58.00 Jim’s family were on the republican side. His uncle James was interred in Ballykinlar with Sean D. McLaughlin, County Manager. His uncle became proficient in Irish at the Camp.</p> <p>1.59.20 His uncle Joe was the first director of elections for Fianna Fáil for Donegal when Blaney was first elected a TD.</p> <p>2.00.10 No man would abuse Jim on a football field. He was prepared to stand up for himself.</p> <p>2.01.00 Jim has travelled a lot through Western Europe, Asia, Australia, America and Canada. He never saw a Gaelic match anywhere he travelled, but he did go and see other</p>
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REFERENCE NO. DL/1/2

	sports. 2.02.47 He's been to every county in Ireland – lists all the places his family live and who they are married to.
Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Jim played from 1934 - 1948
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	He was Donegal Eastern Divisional Secretary
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 2hr 3min 53sec
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Date: __05/11/09_____

Signed: __Arlene Crampsie_____