

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

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| Name of Interviewer | Regina Fitzpatrick |
| Date of Interview | 18 th Feb 2010 |
| Location | Interviewee's home, near Enniskeen, Co. Cork |
| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | John Joe McCarthy |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male |
| Born | Year Born: 1926 Home County: Cork |
| Education | Primary: Ahiohill NS |
| Family | Siblings: 3 brothers and 1 sister Current Family if Different: Wife (Hannah) and 1 son |
| Club(s) | Kilmurry GAA [Cork]; Barryroe GAA [Cork] ; St Mary's Enniskeen [Cork] |
| Occupation | Farmer, Auctioneer |
| Parents' Occupation | Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother] |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | Fianna Fáil |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | FCA, LDA, Pioneers Total Abstinence Association |

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/13

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| Date of Report | 22 nd May 2012 |
| Period Covered | 1926-2010 |
| Counties/Countries Covered | Cork |
| Key Themes Covered | Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish, History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Sacrifices, Violence, The Troubles, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Economy / Economics |
| Interview Summary | <p>00:20 Born in 1926 in Ballinascarthy, Clonakilty.</p> <p>00:45 Grew up on a farm.</p> <p>01:25 Granduncle lived nearby. Trouble with him being in the pub after 11.</p> <p>03:40 Family's GAA involvement.</p> <p>03:50 Mother from Ballinspittle and her brother involved in the War of Independence.</p> <p>04:05 Father's involvement. in the Troubles.</p> <p>04:25 Tom Barry staying in his house.</p> <p>04:40 His aunt in Cumann na mBan.</p> <p>05:10 Moving to a bigger farm.</p> <p>05:20 Moving out on his own and then moving to Killeen in east Cork.</p> <p>05:35 Getting married in Newcestown.</p> <p>05:45 Moving to Tipperary in 1978.</p> <p>05:55 Wife dying and his son going to college.</p> <p>06:45 Son emigrating to the United States.</p> <p>07:10 Earliest GAA memories.</p> |

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| | <p>07:30 Bowling on the roads.</p> <p>08:20 Walking to Clonakilty to watch them play Beara.</p> <p>09:25 No clubs in the country villages for a while.</p> <p>09:40 Enniskeen parish comprising three villages and three clubs.</p> <p>10:20 Club starting up in his village and neighbouring clubs being unhappy about that.</p> <p>11:10 All-Ireland final of 1945 and Cork playing Cavan. Cork captain Tadhg having words with a Cavan player.</p> <p>11:55 Club starting in 1945/1946. Cycling to games. What they wore.</p> <p>12:40 Supporters on the pitch when games were being played, affecting players' visibility. Ropes being introduced to keep supporters back.</p> <p>14:05 Lack of protection for goalkeepers.</p> <p>14:20 John Mackey of Limerick targeting goalkeepers.</p> <p>14:55 Watching Christy Ring playing.</p> <p>15:30 Travelling to Dublin for a game in 1954. Cycling to the train station. Taking the train to Cork City and then Dublin.</p> <p>17:00 Arriving in Dublin and going to Croke Park.</p> <p>17:30 Christy Ring playing on Bobby Rackard. Ring hitting a ball and a player getting injured.</p> <p>18:15 Willie Rackard also playing and being marked by Cork's John Lyons.</p> <p>19:00 Johnny Clifford scoring the winning goal.</p> <p>19:25 Going home after the game.</p> <p>20:15 Playing a minor game in Macroom and travelling by car.</p> <p>21:55 Mick Burke of Galway holding Christy Ring scoreless in</p> |
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| | <p>an All-Ireland final in Tipperary and getting a special medal.</p> <p>22:15 Jim Young a talented player for Cork. His father winning an All-Ireland medal in 1911.</p> <p>23:10 Eamon Young the only Cork man on a Munster team.</p> <p>23:35 Enniskeen jersey colours changing and reason for that.</p> <p>24:10 Ballineen and Enniskeen falling out over a club name.</p> <p>24:35 Hurling club starting up in 1952. Footballers playing with Kilmeen, hurlers playing with Balineen.</p> <p>25:00 Balineen going by the name Béal Átha Fhinín and reason for that.</p> <p>25:50 St Mary's club later formed and jersey colours changing.</p> <p>26:25 Cycling to a minor game in Bantry.</p> <p>27:25 Danny McCarthy, a minor player for Cork, refereeing the game. McCarthy able to play overage as he had a young-looking face.</p> <p>28:20 Playing in Ballincollig and the opposing captain asking the referee to ask a player his age.</p> <p>29:20 Being able to have players under false names in 1946 because people did not know each other.</p> <p>30:05 Playing in a game and a substitute being introduced under a false name.</p> <p>30:40 Playing for different teams under false names and an objection being made about this.</p> <p>32:20 Money scarce in the 1940s. People making their own gear with flour bags.</p> <p>33:35 Being at a club meeting and a discussion about the brands on the flour bags.</p> <p>35:45 Playing a hurling match in 1952 and Con McCarthy unhappy with the referee.</p> <p>36:50 Winning hurling and football titles in 1952.</p> |
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| | <p>37:10 Clashing with a player who had been kicking him.</p> <p>38:25 Playing bowling when he was young and how that worked.</p> <p>39:10 Iron ball being found near Cashel and people unsure what it was.</p> <p>40:10 Where bowling is played in Cork. Money that is bet on it.</p> <p>41:10 Betting on hurling and football games and what he thinks of that.</p> <p>41:50 What it was like playing for his club.</p> <p>42:00 Travelling in lorries and cattle trucks.</p> <p>42:40 Doing a lot of manual work when he was young and fitness benefits of that. Less need for formal training.</p> <p>44:25 Plane landing in Clonakilty in 1943 and having to build a runway so that it could take off again. Monkey on board. Excitement when the plane landed.</p> <p>46:15 Listening to games on the radio. Wet and dry batteries.</p> <p>46:55 Person in nearby village had a radio. Micheál Ó hÉithir broadcasting.</p> <p>47:45 Celebrations after winning.</p> <p>48:25 Dinner dances.</p> <p>50:30 Cork playing Cavan in the 1935 All-Ireland football final. Excitement when they won.</p> <p>51:10 Benefits of children playing sports from a young age.</p> <p>51:50 Non-GAA sports that were played.</p> <p>52:50 Social life around the GAA.</p> <p>53:50 Team breaking up in 1949 because of people emigrating.</p> <p>56:15 Changes in the role of women within the Association.</p> |
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| | <p>57:45 Family's involvement in camogie.</p> <p>59:10 Changes he has seen in the GAA.</p> <p>01:20:20 Prospect of falling attendances.</p> <p>01:01:10 Amateurism in the GAA and threats to that.</p> <p>01:04:35 Limerick hurler Tony Herbert not passing to Mick Mackey in a game and the two falling out.</p> <p>01:05:05 Jim Young, Tommy Doyle, John Doyle involved in clashes on the field.</p> <p>01:05:45 Roughness of the game when he was playing.</p> <p>01:05:50 Indiscipline of Kerry players Tadhg Kennelly and Paul Galvin.</p> <p>01:06:55 Cork and Wexford in the 1976 All-Ireland final. Wexford's Tony Doran and Cork's Martin Doherty playing. Mick Jacob marking Gerald McCarthy the year before and the two clashing.</p> <p>01:08:10 Little to separate the spectators from the players when he was younger.</p> <p>01:09:10 Cork County Board chairman Denis Conroy at an All-Ireland final and asked what he thought of the GAA.</p> <p>01:10:15 Less catch-and-kick in football.</p> <p>01:11:30 How he feels about changes to the game.</p> <p>01:12:25 Brother involved in administration.</p> <p>01:13:10 What the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:14:20 Lieutenant Simon Deignan playing for Cavan in the 1940s.</p> <p>01:15:00 Hurling as 'true training for football'.</p> <p>01:16:20 Reads from documents on the GAA in the early years.</p> <p>01:18:35 Founding of the GAA.</p> |
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| | 01:20:25 Reads a song about the GAA. |
| Involvement in GAA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" 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) | N/A |
| Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for) | N/A |
| Format | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual |
| Duration | Length of Interview: 01:22:35 |
| 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: 22nd May 2012

REFERENCE NO. (OFFICE USE ONLY): CK/1/13

Date: 22nd May 2012



P.S.
 Enclosed
 Photos,
 Hoping you
 will enjoy
 yourself.

May 10 - 2010

Dear friend Regina,

I have given you to the best of my
 knowledge since your very welcome
 visit here there was a new
 GAA grounds opened in Clonabilla
 recently cost 8.5m.
 In the old GAA grounds there was
 Kate Grotter R.P. & myself walked
 7 miles to Clonabilla & 7 miles
 home again in 1938 to
 see a Sunday football match
 between Clonabilla & Bega.
 Next came your Bantam, those
 were the days Regina,

It was barely seeing you
 but the time was too short.
 What a loving kind friend to
 have to call to our house.
 Would care if you could call
 again there is always some
 else things I think of that could
 be very beneficial to you Regina.
 on the good work you are doing re
 the pumping of the GAA history

Thank you so much for your recent
 card contents Nabel, Michael Regan &
 John & Mc Carthy

11/5/2010

Dear Regina

More information for you re founding
of the G.A.A.

P1

a disputed score was registered as
a disputed score.

Teams consisted of 21 players which
included 1 goalie, 8 Backs
6 Midfield + 6 forwards

Two outside goal posts (similar to
top compromise Rules) were used
which were for registering point
scoring + the cross bar was
10½ feet high. Up to 1892, a goal
was greater than any number
of Points.

In that year its value was
reduced to 5 points.

The Point Posts were not
abolished until 1910 when
when the '50' in football + the
'70' in hurling were also
introduced as were goal nets.
In 1896 a goal was made equal
to 3 pts. but it was 1913 before
team strengths were reduced
from seventeen to fifteen players
In those days, linesmen were, were
known as field champions. In those
days referees did the job on horse back
No respect for referees or Rules.