

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
<b>Location</b>	County Board Offices, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eugene Gallagher
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1948 <b>Home County:</b> Donegal
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Mary's NS, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal <b>Secondary:</b> Stranorlar Vocational School, Co. Donegal
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Helen with 2 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	MacCumhalls
<b>Occupation</b>	Irwin Electrical
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Painter [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fine Gael
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Eucharistic Minister

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<b>Date of Report</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1950s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Donegal, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Americas, USA
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Eugene talks about his involvement in the GAA over the years. He talks about growing up in Donegal and playing with the Sean MacCumhail's club. He describes the facilities during that period and how they were developed over time. He discusses his playing career with the club and with the Donegal senior team. Eugene talks about becoming treasurer of the club, a position he has held for nearly 40 years. He describes what the role involves and how the club has changed during his involvement. He discusses the current state of the club and the high costs involved in running a GAA club. He talks about running a county ground and how this impacts on the club. Towards the end of the interview, Eugene discusses the role the GAA has played in his life and recalls the various trips the club has taken over the years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 Eugene talks about his earliest GAA memory, playing in schoolboy leagues. Playing with the seniors and winning a senior championship in 1971. Getting involved in administration.</p> <p>01:40 Describes the type of facilities available when he was growing up. Talks about the development of the club and the club's colours.</p> <p>02:22 Talks about travelling to matches. Playing tournaments in Northern Ireland.</p>

	<p>03:50 Discusses the club's rivals in the past.</p> <p>04:30 Talks about playing with the senior team and his family's involvement. How he became involved in the GAA. Mentions Gerry Griffin. Playing for the county team. Talks about his father's interest in soccer. Living beside Finn Park.</p> <p>05:50 Talks about the people involved in the Sean MacCumhaill's club – Frankie McFeely, John Dan McMenamin, Tommy McMenamin, Andy Curran, John Bradley, Dan McCool, Michael McMenamin. The facilities available in the past and today. Discusses the type of training they did. Mentions Gerry Griffin.</p> <p>07:20 Describes what playing for the county was like then and talks about the people involved during that period – Pauric McShea, Brian McEniff, Martin Carney. Recalls his first inter-county match, a league match against Louth.</p> <p>08:54 Discusses his different administrative roles with the club. Becoming treasurer. Highlights the price of insurance today.</p> <p>09:55 Talks about his role as treasurer and fundraising. Describes how the role has changed over the years and the benefit of having a county ground in MacCumhaill Park. Dealing with the expense of the club and developing the ground.</p> <p>14:48 Describes the relationship between the club and the county board.</p> <p>16:20 Talks about what his role during match day involves.</p> <p>17:55 Discusses the building of the club's social centre. Talks about running a lotto for the club and the different fundraising they do.</p> <p>19:33 Talks about the building of the bar in the club.</p> <p>20:23 Discusses the issue of keeping the club's facilities modern. Talks about insurance prices and the different costs the club pay.</p> <p>22:45 Talks about why he became involved in administration. His family's interest in the GAA.</p> <p>24:00 Describes the size of the club and the amount of teams. Talks about ladies football in the club and efforts to start camogie in the club. Having hurling and football in the club and winning a senior hurling title in 2010.</p>
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	<p>25:50 Talks about his best memories from the GAA. Winning a senior championship with the club.</p> <p>26:30 Recalls travelling to America with the club and playing matches in Philadelphia and New York. Talks about the trip and to the different places they have travelled to.</p> <p>28:33 Discusses his GAA heroes. Mentions Frankie McFeely, Michael McMenamin, Andy Curran and John Bradley.</p> <p>29:05 Talks about travelling to the North during the Troubles.</p> <p>29:30 Highlights his biggest disappointments in the GAA, losing county finals as captain.</p> <p>29:57 Talks about the role of the GAA in his life.</p> <p>30:37 Recalls the different chairmen he has worked with during his time as treasurer and the role of clergy and teachers in the club. Mentions Willie McIntyre, Father Kerr, Brian McDermott, Charlie Faulkner, Brendan Dunnion, Terry Reilly.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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 checked="" 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>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from the age of 12 to 24. Won 1 senior championship, an underage title, several tournament wins.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1970.</p> <p>Club: Secretary, Treasurer (1975 – 2011), Delegate to County Board, Delegate to County Convention</p> <p>Award: Presidents Award for Years Service to Club, 2009.</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:31:36</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_01/08/12\_\_\_\_\_