# **GAA Oral History Project**

# **Interview Report Form**

Name of	Arlene Crampsie
Interviewer	
Date of Interview	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2011
Location	Pat Casey's home, near Cromane, Co. Kerry
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat Casey
<u> </u>	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1956
	Home County: Kerry
Education	Primary: Realt Mara NS, Cromane, Co. Kerry
	Secondary: Killorglin, Co. Kerry
Family	Siblings: 1 sister
	Current Family if Different: Married to Jane with 3 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Cromane
Occupation	Fisherman
Parents' Occupation	Fisherman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Cromane Rowing Club, Cromane CC

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Riordan	
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Male	
Born	Year Born: 1932	
	Home County: Kerry	
Education	Primary: Curraheen, Glenbeigh and Cromane NS, Co. Kerry	
Family	Siblings: 1 sister	
	Current Family if Different: Married with 2 sons and 3 daughters	
Club(s)	Glenbeigh, Cromane, Laune Rangers, Killorglin	
Occupation	Fisherman, Small Farmer, Used to emigrate to England for the Beet Harvest	
Parents' Occupation	Small Farmer, Fisherman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Group Water Scheme	

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat O'Shea	
Biographical Summary of Interviewee		
Gender	Male	
Born	Year Born: 1936	
	Home County: Kerry	
Education	Primary: Cromane NS, Co. Kerry	
	Secondary: Killorglin Carnegie, Co. Kerry	
	Third Level: UCC	
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 3 sisters	
	Current Family if Different: Married with 5 sons and 1 daughter	
Club(s)	Laune Rangers [Kerry]; Cromane [Kerry]; UCC [Cork]; Ennistymon [Clare]; Glenbeigh [Kerry]	
Occupation	Creamery Manager; Dairy Dept Kerry Group	
Parents' Occupation	Builder [Father]; Boarding House Owner [Mother]	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	St. Vincent de Paul; Meals on Wheels; Pioneers; Group Water Schemes	

Date of Report	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
Period Covered	1850s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Kerry
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, 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, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	Pat O'Shea, Michael and Pat Casey tell the story of the GAA in their part of the world, Cromane. Located close to Killorglin in Kerry, they had problems setting up a club of their own due to a combination of economic factors, population issues and reluctance at county board level. They recall playing challenge games against other clubs and participating in local leagues. Although they did get a club together in the 1950s, it did not last long as economic hardship forced many to leave the area. Another effort was made to establish a Cromane club in the 1980s and, despite considerable difficulty initially, their efforts eventually paid off. They soon had their own grounds and facilities along with the support of a close-knit community. Although some other clubs did not take them seriously as a footballing force they did make an impact on the Kerry scene, winning the occasional title and providing a successful Kerry side with two talented players in Seán O' Sullivan and Donnchadh Walsh. Their achievements at intercounty level brought great joy to the community and spurred on a new generation of young aspiring players. Pat O'Shea was also a Kerry selector for 13 years. He shares his memories of those times, and revisits the famous day in 1982 when an Offaly goal denied Kerry the five-in-a-row in a dramatic All-Ireland final.  00:00 Introduction  00:55 (Pat O) Earliest memory. His grandmother's home a meeting point at night. What was discussed. Beliefs they held. Discussing GAA players. Researching history of Laune

Rangers years later and realising what they were talking about when they spoke of playing football in the bogs. People playing rugby near River Laune. Laune Rangers captained by JP O'Sullivan, father of famous Kerry trainer Dr Eamon O'Sullivan. Old game of football played in a bog west of the Laune in Cromane area near Killorglin on Sundays. Ball they used. Aim of the game. His uncle, Jerry O'Leary, telling him a story about Martin Clifford swimming across a lake — Loughiganavane - to get a ball. Matches played in Re na gCat. Games played in the time before establishment of the GAA.

03:55 (Pat O) Settlers came from Glencar after the Famine. Why that was. How they lived and what they ate. Taxes paid based on number of windows in a bothán.

05:00 (Michael) Earliest memory. Rambling house. Cardplaying. What was talked about. Going to Glenbeigh matches with his father. Starting their own club in the 1950s. Emigration affecting the area. Club breaking up. Joining up with Killorglin.

06:30 (Pat O) Killorglin players joining Killarney Rugby Club in late 1950s. Rule 27 in force. Parish rule introduced. Kerins brothers of Callinafercy affected. Seán Gill transferring to Waterville. Brendan Mangan transferring to Kickhams in Dublin. Killorglin and Cromane both struggling. Highland fair held in the 1940s and 1950s. People finishing school early and then lining up outside O'Brien's pub to be inspected by prospective employers. Fishing and turf a source of income.

08:50 (Pat O) No club until 1954 but Cromane played challenge matches from 1900-1948 against Glenbeigh and Killorglin. Local leagues. Dr O'Driscoll from Cork setting up Glenbeigh club in 1942. Six Cromane players joining Glenbeigh. Success they had. Impact of World War II at the time.

10:20 (Michael) Going to Killorglin and Glenbeigh on the donkey and cart to watch games.

10:40 (Pat C) Earliest memories. Watching Kerry play in the 1960s. Playing with his friends on a Sunday. Listening to Micheál Ó Hehir on the radio. Televisions in the area.

11:35 (Pat C) Forming a club in the 1980s. Two players on the Kerry team in 2010. Seven All-Ireland medals between them. Donnchadh Walsh and Seán Sullivan the Kerry players.

12:55 (Pat O) Lucey brothers - Jimmy and Noel - also

talented players who lived in the coast guard station. Brothers in school in Cromane in 1944 and playing in the 1962 All-Ireland.

13:50 (Pat O) 1944 All-Ireland final. His father Mick O'Shea and uncle Michael O'Foley cycling to games in Tralee. Father cycling to see Kerry play Dublin in Tralee in 1932. John Joe Sheehey and Joe Barrett playing for Kerry. Murt Kelly from Killorglin and a Fitzgerald from Derrynane on the Dublin team. Johnny Mangan the principal in Cromane school at time of 1944 final when Kerry lost to Roscommon.

15:40 Kerry playing Roscommon in 1946 final. Going to Dan Joe Teehan's to listen to the game. What that was like. Derry Burke's brother scoring a goal. Replay held in October. People back to listen to the game.

17:00 (Michael) 1947 All-Ireland final between Kerry and Cavan in New York. Going to Dan Joe Teehan's to listen to the game. Dry battery not working. Going to Maher Teehan's. How the game panned out. O'Neill the referee.

18:15 (Pat O) Going to William Griffin's to listen to the 1946 All-Ireland semi-final. Bill Casey of Lispole sent off along with Armstrong, whose son played for Northern Ireland in a World Cup final.

18:55 (Michael) Listening to a game between Kerry and Roscommon in 1962 on the radio. Gerry Riordan of Glenbeigh playing.

19:25 (Michael) Playing football at school when he was young. Master Sugrue involved.

19:55 (Pat O) John Sugrue playing with Laune Rangers in 1914-1918. Mentions a place called 'The Piper's Stone'.

20:40 (Pat O) Killorglin area playing in East Kerry Championships. Divisional boards set up in 1927. First primary schools competition in 1927. Cromane and Douglas combining for that. Playing Listry in the first round. John Sugrue driving the Cromane players to the game. How the game went. Six Cromane players playing in their bare feet. One of the full-backs wearing hobnail boots and injuring his father. Game played in Buttersfield. Councillor James O'Regan - grandfather of Kerry player Billy O'Shea - giving the players a treat after the game.

23:20 (Pat O) No field when they started in the 1950s. Playing in Killorglin Vocational School's field. Training in the meadow owned by Dan Teehan. What they used for goals. Men trying

to field the ball. Youngsters watching. Style of play. Change in skills over the years. Negative tactics. Need to combat that. Mick O'Connell fielding the ball for Kerry when he was in his prime. Talking to former Kerry player Jack O'Shea about how to play the game.

26:20 (Michael) Training after mass on a Sunday and in the summer in Teehan's field.

26:40 (Pat O) Not training on a Saturday evening. Fasting. Hours spent playing in the meadow.

27:45 (Pat C) Social events around games. Dances and socials. Buying land in the 1980s. Fundraising. Support of local people. Facilities they have in 2011. Club lotto.

28:55 (Pat O) Money received from National Lottery. Trying to get a field in Cromane. Developing a field and problems with that. Swapping land with neighbours. First lotto in 1982. Figures involved. How much the land cost. Number of acres.

30:50 (Pat C) Training in Rossbeigh and Killorglin before they had a field. Playing Derrynane in their first county league game in 1983. Playing in Rossbeigh and tide coming in. Coping with that.

31:45 (Pat C) What led up to re-establishing the club. Certain players unhappy with Killorglin.

32:15 (Pat O) Schools league in Killorglin. Success they had. 1950s players involved with different teams before Cromane. Many players languishing without a club and wanting to set one up.

33:20 (Pat C) Over 40 players involved in 1982. John Joe Reilly first chairman. John O'Keefe secretary.

34:05 (Pat O) Playing with Laune Rangers in 1953 as he was going to the Carnegie school in Killorglin. Challenge games with vocational school. Not much competition for minor team in Mid-Kerry. Playing with minors in Killarney in 1953. Making Kerry minor team same year. Playing for Mid-Kerry seniors against Killarney in 1953 aged 16. Donal Clifford kicking an equalising point. Certain players arriving after having consumed alcohol at the Towers Hotel. Enjoying their football. Michael and Nicky Teehan playing with Glenbeigh at the time. Deciding to join Cromane. 1954 and 1955 teams. Losing a Kerry championship semi-final to Keel. Going to UCC and playing less football with Cromane.

38:15 (Pat O) Laune Rangers and Cromane unable to field

teams in 1957. Agreement on amalgamation. Winning a Mid-Kerry Championship. Success in 1958 and Cromane representation on that team. Reilly brothers reinstated after playing rugby in Killarney.

39:50 (Pat O) Playing with the county minors in 1953. Fr Jack White from east of Rathmore playing under an assumed name and training the Cork minor team. White refereeing a Cork minor match played at the Mardyke. Encouraging the Cork players even though he was referee. Overtime he played during the game and result of that. Kerry objecting to the result. Colm Kennelly's father, Maurice Fitzgerald's father Ned, Tom Long all on that Kerry team. Meeting the referee in San Diego in 1976 when he was a selector with Mick O'Dwyer's Kerry team. Mick O'Dwyer introducing them.

43:05 (Pat O) Playing a challenge match for Kerry seniors against Cork. Paddy Harrington marking him.

43:20 (Michael) Playing with Michael Teehan at Glenbeigh. Losing to Milltown in a final. Joining Cromane.

44:45 (Pat O) Michael playing with Mid-Kerry seniors. Works as a Mid-Kerry trainer, and selector for Kerry team under Mick O'Dwyer and Ógie Moran. What Moran lacked as a manager. Flak he got from critics. Standard of Kerry team he was managing. Moran bringing Darragh Ó Sé, Dara Ó Cinnéide, Liam Hassett into Kerry senior team. Darragh Ó Sé's attributes as a player.

46:35 (Michael) Enjoying playing with his own club Cromane the most.

47:00 (Pat O) Caraghbridge players Paddy Clifford and John Scott joining Laune Rangers. Glenbeigh a focal point for them.

48:15 (Pat O) Certain people looking down their noses at Cromane players.

49:10 (Pat O) Caragh Lake putting a team together in 1962. Cromane players joining. Michael playing with them. Team disbanding after a year.

49:50 (Pat C) Not much organised football in Cromane when he was growing up in the 1960s. Playing in parish leagues. Playing in Michael Shea's field. Involvement in fishing.

51:25 (Pat C) Being treasurer and chairman with the Cromane club formed in the 1980s. Winning the Novice B Championship in 1992 and 1994. Winning the Novice County

final in 2007. Playing at intermediate level. Running St Mary's of Cahirciveen close. Missing Seán O'Sullivan for that game. O'Sullivan getting married with a broken ankle. Winning Munster Junior B in 2007 after defeating St Oliver Plunkett's of Cork. Progress being made by the club on the field.

53:45 (Pat O) Nature of local league games. Games in 1952. League played in November/December. Age range of participants. Cromane Lower against Cromane Upper. Pat Moore refereeing a game. Patrick O'Sullivan a 15-year-old who had impressed in a game. Another man grabbing the whistle from the referee and issuing a challenge to the players.

56:00 (Pat C) Frank King county board chairman when they first tried to set up the club in 1952. Persevering. Paying for the field. Playing challenge matches against Churchill, Ballymac, Glenbeigh. Reapplying to county board. Michael O'Connor of Dr Crokes in Killarney advising an appeal to the Munster Council. Meeting in Mallow. Resolution. Second meeting in the Three Lakes Hotel in Killarney. Writing to Canon Keane in Killorglin. Being confined to Station districts. Back before the county board for approval.

58:25 (Pat C) Problems through the years about players transferring. Cromane players not asked to play for Laune Rangers in county championships. Applying to play with Mid-Kerry in 1992. Trying to get original agreement changed. Outcome of that. Problems with transfers in 2010 when a player wanted to transfer from Laune Rangers to Cromane. Going to county board meetings. Appealing to Munster Council. Result of that. Gaining advantage through a loophole. Renard, St Michael's Foilmore and St Mary's in Cahirciveen. Tralee and Killarney have numerous teams.

01:02:24 (Pat O) Milltown and Keel under remit of their district board and able to pick players from Kiltalla parish.

01:02:40 (Pat C) Proposing to bring forward the transfer deadline. County board adopting that.

01:03:30 (Pat O) Reason talented Laune Rangers players would not be inclined to play with Cromane.

01:04:00 (Pat C) Several Cromane players winning county championships with Mid-Kerry at minor level. Mid-Kerry winning county championship in 1992. Brian O'Sullivan man of the match in 1992 final. Donnchadh Walsh man of the match in the 2007 final.

01:05:00 Years Mid-Kerry won the county championship. Paul Lacey of Dooks a talented player. Further success he had with Austin Stacks.

01:06:00 (Pat C) Biggest milestone for the club. Getting their own pitch. Getting players on to Kerry honours providing a great boost.

01:06:50 (Pat O) Juvenile training every Sunday morning. Turnout they get at that. Community coming together. Parents deciding to raise funds for the juveniles. Morgan O'Sullivan chairman of the juvenile board. How it all worked out. Fashion show held in Jack's. Getting clothes from shops in Killarney. Money they raised and how it was distributed.

01:09:00 (Pat C) Women organising themselves to play Gaelic games.

01:09:15 (Pat O) Female secretary at he cub. Born na nÓg secretary a female. Other females involved in the club. Positive contribution they make.

01:10:10 (Pat C) Females enthusiastic when they get involved.

01:10:50 (Pat O) Women doing costing and budgeting for the juvenile teams. Getting sponsorship. What it costs to run the junior club. Sources of funding. Economic climate and need for clubs to be careful with their money. Payments to outside coaches.

01:14:45 (Pat O) Pay-for-play and opinions on that.

01:15:15 (Pat C) Donnchadh Walsh working hard for club and county. Expenses he gets.

01:15:45 (Pat O) Need for managers to be conscious of economic climate. Difficult for players to get time off during working hours. How a more positive playing style could ease training pressures on players. Burnout. John O'Keefe and Seán Walsh playing for Kerry much longer than modern-day Kerry footballer Darragh Ó Sé.

01:17:45 (Michael) Pay-for-play and what he thinks of that.

01:18:05 (Pat O) Impact of professionalism on rugby.

01:19:15 (Pat C) Attempts to establish ladies football at the club.

01:19:30 (Pat O) Girls playing with the boys up to Under-12.

01:19:55 (Pat C) Attempts to get ladies football going in Glenbeigh. Laune Rangers ladies football team.

01:20:20 (Pat C) Celebrations in the community. Bonfires. Stopping in Killorglin en route. Food in Jack's Bar. Visiting schools in Caragh Lake, Cromane and Douglas. Victory social delayed. Reason for that. Séamus Moynihan, Peter Twiss, Willie O'Connor attending.

01:22:20 (Pat O) Taking juveniles to take-aways as a reward. Parents supervising. Goodwill that that generates.

01:23:30 (Pat C) Registration day for underage players. Serving refreshments at that. Underage parish league and success of that. Their county players promoting the game to children. Ireland playing International Rules in Limerick and taking people to see that. Parents delighted with the initiative.

01:24:50 (Pat O) What trip to Limerick cost those who went on the trip.

01:25:30 (Pat C) Best GAA memory is seeing club players make the county team. Seán O'Sullivan playing for Kerry minors against Waterford in Dungarvan. Getting a bus to the game. Boost that that gave the club. O'Sullivan a pioneer.

01:26:30 (Michael) Best GAA memory. Getting the field and developing it in later years.

01:27:05 (Pat O) Best GAA memory. Getting their own field. Building a stand and dressing-rooms. County senior championship matches played on their pitch and how that made him felt.

01:28:25 (Pat C) Mick O'Connell his GAA hero.

01:28:35 (Michael) His GAA hero – Jack O'Shea.

01:28:40 (Pat O) His GAA heroes. Being close to many Kerry players. Kerry's four-in-a-row team. Admiration for Mick O'Connell. Playing with him at UCC and how that made him feel. O'Connell's attributes. Playing Lees of Cork with UCC. O'Connell marking Neilly Duggan. Cahill of Tipperary scoring four goals. Four Mid-Kerry players on UCC team in 1957 - John Burke of Milltown, Eamon Horan of Milltown, Liam Coughlan along with himself. Neilly Duggan giving them a lift in his car after the game and praising Mick O'Connell. What Mick O'Connell brought to the game.

01:32:40 (Pat O) Kerry failing to win the five-in-a-row in the 1982 All-Ireland final against Offaly. How that made him feel.

Why they did not win. Matt O'Connor taking his points well for Offaly. Jack O'Shea moving back the pitch. Other players dropping back and making mistakes. Seamus Darby's crucial goal for Offaly. Being pleased for Matt O'Connor in hindsight. Reason for that.

01:36:05 (Pat O) His role as selector with Kerry and what that involved. Scouts they had. Discussing prospects with then Kerry manger Mick O'Dwyer. Respect for Mick O'Dwyer. Type of manager he was. O'Dwyer managing Wicklow, Kildare and Laois in later years. What he achieved there.

01:39:35 (Michael) 1982 All-Ireland loss to Offaly. John Egan Kerry captain. Disappointment that he did not get to lift Sam Maguire.

01:40:10 (Pat O) John Egan losing his brother not long after 1982 final. Politics surrounding appointment of the Kerry captain at the time.

01:40:55 (Pat C) Disappointment when Cromane was left in the wilderness as they were trying to set up the club in the 1980s. Denis Conroy of Cork assisting them.

01:41:40 (Pat C) Need for referees to use more common sense.

01:42:20 (Michael) Need for refereeing standards to improve.

01:42:40 (Pat O) His thoughts on referees. Need for more former inter-county players to get involved in officiating. Speaking to an inter-county referee about Meath's goal against Louth in the 2010 Leinster final. Down goal against Kildare in the 2010 All-Ireland semi-final. Need to pay intercounty referees. Why that would change things for the better.

01:45:45 (Pat C) Need for umpires and linesmen to be given more power.

01:46:00 (Pat O) Many umpires too old to do a competent job.

01:46:55 (Pat C) What his GAA involvement has meant to him. Positive aspects of GAA involvement.

01:47:40 (Michael) Enjoying his GAA involvement.

01:48:00 (Pat O) Involvement with juvenile players. Training them on weekend mornings. Satisfaction he took from that. Former county board chairman Dr Jim Brosnan forming Bord na nÓg in 1967. Chairing the Mid-Kerry Bord na nÓg and later being vice-chair of county Bord na nÓg. Gerald McKenna requesting he be a county selector in 1974. Mick

	O'Dwyer beating him for top position. Making friends through his involvement. Being a Kerry selector helping him in his job with Kerry Co-Op. Feeling a duty to be a good example for others. Friendship and respect within the GAA.
Involvement in	Pat C:
GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward
	✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person
	☐ Caterer ☐ Jersey Washer ☐ Referee ☐ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
	Michael:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach ✓ Steward
	☐ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
	Pat O:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward
	✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person
	☐ Caterer ✓ Jersey Washer ✓ Referee ☐ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length	Pat C: Played for 7/8 years.
of time played)	Michael: Played for 10 years. Won a mid-Kerry senior championship with Laune Rangers.
	Pat O: Played from 1952 – 1971. Won county championship, towns cup championship, 6 Mid-Kerry O'Sullivan Cups and Leagues with Laune Rangers
Record as an	Pat C:
Administrator	Club chairman for 20 years.
(Positions held; how	Michael:

long for)	Has been involved from administration since 1982.
	Club: Field Development Committee, President.
	Pat O: Has been involved in administration since 1969.
	Club: Laune Rangers Vice-chairman, Treasurer; Cromane Chairman of Field Committee and Vice President
	Mid-Kerry: Chairman of Bord na nÓg, Treasurer, Chairman
	County: Vice-chairman of Bord na nÓg.
Format	✓ Audio □ Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:54:03
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:	Arlene Crampsie
Date:	06/08/12