

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	16 th Feb 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Dermot Gannon
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1944 Home County: Leitrim
Education	Primary: Ballinamore Boys PS, Co. Leitrim Secondary: St. Mel's, Longford
Family	Siblings: 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 girls and 1 son (RIP)
Club(s)	Seán O'Heslins, Ballinamore
Occupation	Retired Wholesale Tobacconist Business
Parents' Occupation	Teachers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Golf Club Captain and President

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Date of Report	13 th August 2012
Period Covered	1920 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Leitrim, Longford, Dublin, Mayo, Galway, Louth, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Education, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Alcohol, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Dermot talks about his involvement in the GAA throughout his life. He also briefly discusses his father Tom Gannon and his GAA career which included playing in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday in 1920. He describes what life was like in St. Mel's College in Longford and discusses his playing career there, with Ballinamore, Castlebar Mitchells, Civil Service, Oliver Plunketts in Drogheda, on the Leitrim county team and on the Connacht Railway Cup team. He recalls the conflict between his home club, Ballinamore, and the Leitrim County Board and how this led to a difficult dynamic on the county team. He highlights his loyalty to Ballinamore and stresses the importance of the relationships he made through the club.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 Remembers going to games with his father (Tom Gannon). Describes the road to Cavan. Mentions travelling by car.</p> <p>01:30 Talks about his father's career as a national school teacher. Recalls playing Under 14 for Ballinamore.</p> <p>02:20 Discusses his father's and uncle's involvement in the 1927 Leitrim team. Describes how they prepared for games and travelled to matches. Mentions John Joe Sheehy. Mentions Erin's Hope GAA, St Pat's Drumcondra and Mícheál O'Hehir's father.</p> <p>04:40 Tells of his father playing in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday. Mentions Michael Collins.</p> <p>05:40 Describes his father's character. Talks about how his</p>

	<p>father was regarded. Gives a brief overview of his father's life and career in the GAA. Mentions Connacht Council. Refers to the drinking culture.</p> <p>07:33 Remembers playing football when he was growing up.</p> <p>08:50 Recalls the role of the GAA in his school, St. Mel's College, Longford. Talks about his daily routine and describes the training. Refers to the team's success. Mentions St. Patrick's College, Cavan.</p> <p>12:29 Talks about the attitude of the teachers and the treatment of the footballers in school compared to the other students. Mentions Fr Jimmy McKeown.</p> <p>14:50 Remembers what the other students thought about football. Refers to the footballing tradition in Leitrim, Longford and Offaly.</p> <p>15:41 Describes how they travelled to and prepared for matches. Getting massaged with hot olive oil before matches. Talks about the support they had at games. Tells of an incident that happened the year after he left. Mentions Tommy O'Brien from Longford County Board.</p> <p>18:16 Describes the celebrations in the school when they won an All-Ireland.</p> <p>19:30 Recalls the facilities in St. Mel's. Remembers leaving St. Mel's and playing with Ballinamore. Talks of successes and disappointments in the 1960s.</p> <p>22:05 Talks about playing for Castlebar Mitchells and the Civil Service in Dublin. Refers to trouble with the Leitrim County Board.</p> <p>23:10 Explains how Ballinamore got disqualified from the county championships while he was in Dublin. Describes the relationship Ballinamore had with the County Board and with the other clubs in Leitrim. Refers to the dynamic on the county team.</p> <p>25:27 Tells of an incident that led to him retiring from the county team for a few years. Mentions Packie McGarty, Joe Leyden, Ben Rinn. Referred to divided loyalty between club and county.</p> <p>28:30 Discusses the attitude of the County Board at the time. Tells of Ben Rinn being dropped from the county team.</p> <p>29:28 Remembers going back to the county team and becoming player manager in 1975. Tells of his frustration with</p>
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	<p>the selection process. Mentions Tony McGowan. Mentions the Slieve Anierin Hotel.</p> <p>31:20 Recalls his early involvement with the county team in the early 1960s. Tells of playing Galway in the Connacht Final in Castlebar in 1963. Mentions Martin Newell.</p> <p>34:03 Talks about his experience with the Connacht Railway Cup team. Tells of his disappointment missing out on a final.</p> <p>35:15 Refers to his son Barry's involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>35:43 Discusses his time with Castlebar Mitchells and Oliver Plunketts in Drogheda. Refers to the social element of the GAA. Talks about the Civil Service team in Dublin. Mentions St. Vincents GAA. Mentions the Foleys and Mickey Whelan.</p> <p>37:49 Highlights the difference between playing in other parishes and playing for your home club. Remembers the celebrations in Ballinamore.</p> <p>38:45 Tells of playing in Northern Ireland. Mentions the Dromore Tournament. Refers to the Troubles. Mentions Down, Antrim and Tyrone.</p> <p>40:25 Tells of a particular incident involving the UDR travelling from Fermanagh. Mentions Michael Martin.</p> <p>41:32 Gives a brief overview of the club's history. Remembers the big club players when he was young. Mentions Columba Cryan, Briain Sweeney and Paddy Dolan.</p> <p>43:10 Discusses his hurling career. Refers to winning the County Championships.</p> <p>44:14 Talks about the difficulty the club has in getting numbers to play. Refers to his son.</p> <p>45:02 Talks about the social aspect of the GAA. Mentions dinner dances.</p> <p>46:14 Describes the role the club has played in the community. Refers to other organisations in the town. Mentions golf.</p> <p>47:48 Discusses the influence teachers have in promoting Gaelic games. Mentions his father, Tommy Moran, Gerry Mahon. Talks about the effort city clubs are making to attract young players. Mentions Kilmacud.</p> <p>50:08 Refers to the involvement of the clergy at club and county level. Mentions Fr Manning, Fr Gene Cox. Mentions</p>
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	<p>St. Mel's.</p> <p>51:07 Recalls the involvement of the teacher in the Technical School, Christy Gallogly. Mentions travelling by car. Mentions Fr Dan Gallogly. Mentions St. Felims.</p> <p>52:47 Talks about club rivalries with Aughavas GAA, Allen Gaels GAA, Gortletteragh GAA and Carrick-on-Shannon GAA.</p> <p>54:33 Tells of the rivalry with Galway at county level. Refers to the 1963 Connacht Championships. Refers to the population of Leitrim.</p> <p>56:28 Explains his attitude towards rule changes in football. Mentions Aussie Rules and rugby.</p> <p>58:29 Discusses his interest in rugby. Refers to the ban on foreign games. Talks about the opening of Croke Park. Also tells of his father's attitude to these issues. Mentions soccer.</p> <p>1:02:44 Talks about professionalism in the association. Refers to the players' dedication.</p> <p>1:05:35 Recalls travelling to America with Civil Service GAA in 1966. Mentions Boston, Chicago, New York, New Haven. Mentions Mick Kennedy, John F Kennedy and Teddy Kennedy.</p> <p>1:06:54 Talks about Seán Purcell, Packie McGarty and Jack O'Shea. Mentions Mick O'Connell and Stockwell. Refers to the Team of the Millenium.</p> <p>1:08:20 Remembers the best match he ever saw. Mentions Dublin and Kerry. Mentions Bernard Brogan and Sean Walsh.</p> <p>1:09:00 Discusses his favourite memories of the GAA. Mentions the All-Ireland Colleges Championships. Mentions Martin O'Neill.</p> <p>1:09:30 Regrets not winning a Connacht title with Leitrim.</p> <p>1:10.00 Explains what the GAA has meant to him in his life. Refers to the social aspect. Mentions golf.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input 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>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played from 1955 to 1979. Won an Under 14 championship, 4 minor championships medals, 3/4 minor league medals, 7 county senior championships with Ballinamore, 4/5 County Leagues with Ballinamore, junior county championship with Aughnasheelin (1963), runners up medal in Mayo county championship (1965) and an All-Ireland Colleges in 1962.
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: 01:11:38
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____13/08/12_____