

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	10 th June 2010
Location	Ned's home, near Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Ned Mann
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1920 Home County: Westmeath
Education	Primary: Ardnagrath NS, Co. Westmeath Secondary: CBS Athlone, Co. Westmeath
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife (Úna), 1 son & 2 daughters
Club(s)	Drumraney GAA [Westmeath]; Walderstown GAA [Westmeath]; St Lomans GAA [Westmeath]
Occupation	Charge Nurse, St Loman's Hospital
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	21 st June 2012
Period Covered	1920 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Westmeath
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Celebrations, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising
Interview Summary	<p>Ned talks about his days playing GAA in Westmeath. As a boy he played football and hurling informally with his friends in Walderstown. He became involved with the Drumraney club and they enjoyed some success together. At secondary schools they played against rival schools and often cycled to play and watch games. When he was older Ned got on the Westmeath football teams and recalls going on a two-week training camp one year as the team had reached the Leinster final. Ned later worked at St Loman's hospital and played football with them, and he talks about what that experience was like. He remembers some of the many great players he has seen in action during the years, and expresses concern over some of the changes in the way the game is played.</p> <p>00:30 Ned born in 1920</p> <p>00:55 Ned born at home in Walderstown near Athlone. There was a Donnington estate nearby which provided people with employment in the 1920s. The house belonged to Dr Gray. A Gleeson family from Tipperary later bought it. William Gleeson's wife was a cousin of former Taoiseach WT Cosgrave, who attended Mr Gleeson's funeral.</p> <p>04:20 History of the GAA in that area. Patsie Norton promoting hurling. Drumraney winning a senior championship in 1923. Football being played on Sundays. Hearing stories of the Downes' Nortons and Wards who were good hurlers. Jack Donegan was a talented player. Good footballers in Drumraney ended up playing for Rosemount so in 1936 they started a senior football team and got those players back - Jack Conlon, Paddy Conlon, Jim Hopkins, Tom Cashel - a schoolteacher in Tang.</p> <p>06:50 Ned playing senior football at 16. Losing to Kilbeggan</p>

	<p>in a championship semi-final. Playing a county final against Milltown.</p> <p>07:45 Family involvement in GAA before Ned got involved. Musical tradition in family.</p> <p>08:40 Neds's earliest GAA memories. Admiring Larry Stanley of Kildare and Lawrie Maher of Kilkenny in the early 1930s. Practicing on Sunday evenings. Going to St Loman's and playing against George Ormsby, who was from Mayo and played with Coralstown. Playing on a junior team in the early 1940s against Longford. Getting injured in a clash with Jimmy Greene of Edgerstown. Returning to the game after some months out. Being treated by a brother of Kevin O'Higgins, who organised a sports and social club in St Loman's. Details of Ned's injury.</p> <p>14:30 Playing until 1947. Playing with Snoopy Connell against Meath. Paddy O'Brien was also playing. Frankie Byrne was a Meath forward. Ned having to leave the field. Getting suspended after an incident against Carlow.</p> <p>17:45 GAA in schools when he was young - St Finian's, St Mel's, Christian Brothers in Athlone. Playing at break-time whilst at national school. Hurls they used to play with and how they got them. Scarcity of footballs.</p> <p>20:25 Parish priest taking a long time to say Mass. A Fr McCullogh from Louth arriving and saying Mass much faster.</p> <p>21:15 Repairing footballs that they used.</p> <p>21:40 Field they used to play in Drumraney was owned by a Dylan man from Castlebar.</p> <p>22:15 Cycling to watch GAA games in Athlone. Travelling in a lorry owned by McNeill's in Athlone to Mullingar to play teams like Castlepollard and Brownstone's.</p> <p>23:30 GAA at secondary school. Brother Hubert's involvement in the GAA. Playing against other schools - Tang, Drumraney and Ardnagrath all played each other.</p> <p>25:20 Athletics days they had and different events held there.</p> <p>26:10 Competitions at secondary school level. Playing Moate. Tubberclair and Calry competing for the McCrann Cup in Athlone. Attendance at the games. Terry Fennelly a talented</p>
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	<p>player who featured in the games. Cup was named after a draper in Athlone.</p> <p>29:15 Admiration for Mick Higgins of Cavan, Jimmy Murray, and Gerry O'Malley of Roscommon. Cycling to Dublin for the 1943 All-Ireland final. Teams traditionally invited to the Theatre Royal. Ned attending. Jimmy Murray there and Tom Reilly of Cavan with him. Playing against Peter McDermott, Paddy O'Brien, Paddy Prendergast of Mayo. Seeing Tom Langan play for Mayo. Paddy Kennedy of Kerry, Tommy Murphy of Laois, Jack O'Shea of Kerry, Dr Kearney of Mayo, Seán Purcell of Galway, Darragh Ó Sé of Kerry are all players he has admired through the years.</p> <p>33:30 Dislike of hand-passing in Gaelic football.</p> <p>35:15 Training sessions they used to have. Training in Multyfarnham with Westmeath for two weeks before a 1949 Leinster final. Sergeant Dick Kerins training them. The Dunnes of Kinnegad - 'Touchy', 'Psycho', Harry and Francie - played against him. Getting sent off after some of their duels.</p> <p>38:30 Being paid by the county board whilst away training. Brendan Welsh, county secretary, interviewing the players about their wages before going to Multyfarnham. Staying in a dormitory. Superintendent O'Sullivan warning them not to go drinking. Peter Molloy had a pub in Athlone and played soccer in England. Returning to play football and drinking often.</p> <p>42:45 Awareness of diet when they were training. Eating what they were given. Daily routine at training camp. Peter Molloy not liking the regime. Food they ate.</p> <p>47:40 Significance of Leinster final. Locals getting excited about the game. Players feeling nervous before the game in Croke Park. Supporters going to the game.</p> <p>50:15 Opening of Cusack Park and the ball being thrown in from an airplane.</p> <p>51:10 People coming from England to watch Westmeath in the Leinster final.</p> <p>51:50 Regular training they used to do with their clubs.</p> <p>52:55 Training in 1948 with Sergeant Barden at St Loman's.</p>
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	<p>54:40 Changes at St Loman's and new staff being brought in. Paddy McCabe, Billy Murtagh and Joe Geraghty also good hurlers. Organising a hurling team and enjoying success. Football team starting up. Johnny Lyng playing for them. Brother Hogan organising a team in Mullingar in the early 1940s featuring Arthur Duncan, Johnny Lyng, Peter Lynch, Johnny Lynch, Billy Hassy marking Bill Jackson, who played with Athlone and Roscommon.</p> <p>58:45 Staff at St Loman's. Patients from Ballinasloe coming in during World War II years. Jimmy Stack, a patient, playing on the team. Stephen Hegarty, who was in the army, playing on the team. Athlone playing Tummerclair in Mounttemple and Ned noticing that Stephen was playing for Athlone. Sleeping in the hospital.</p> <p>01:03:10 1949 county final and Peter Molloy kicking frees. Ned reminded of Jimmy Keavney when watching Peter.</p> <p>01:03:50 Needing to be from Westmeath, Longford or Meath to work in the hospital. Nature of work at the hospital. Doing occupational therapy with patients. Playing different sports. A Hickey man being fanatical about football. Getting time off to play football. Main rivals - Kinnegad, Milltown, Rosemount, Rochfortbridge, Gibbonstown.</p> <p>01:08:55 St Loman's not being a popular team. Going to clinics with Dr Fitzgerald, who asked him why he didn't play golf.</p> <p>01:11:30 A Maher man training the Downes team.</p> <p>01:12:15 Women working at the hospital playing football.</p> <p>01:13:00 Stopping playing football in 1951/1952. Marking Jim McDonnell in a game against Louth in his last game. Getting married in 1952. Tradition of players retiring when they got married.</p> <p>01:15:50 Full back kicking the ball out when he was young. Throw-ins. Teams lining out in the centre of the field. Increased use of hand-pass. Watching Tommy Murphy of Laois play. Prominence of tactics.</p> <p>01:19:55 Ways in which he would change the rules of a game.</p> <p>01:22:15 Nationalism and the GAA in his time. How he felt</p>
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REFERENCE NO. WH/1/7

	<p>about that.</p> <p>01:23:00 Best GAA memory. Success on the field and celebrations afterwards. His friend Dinny Hughes playing music.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p> <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 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): _____ </p>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played on Westmeath Minor Football team in 1939; Played also on Westmeath Senior Football team. Won Westmeath Junior Hurling Championship in 1938 playing with Drumraney; Won Westmeath Junior Football Championship playing with St Loman's.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Member of Westmeath County Board in the Mid 1940s; selector for various Westmeath teams.</p>
Format	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual </p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 01:25:51</p>
Language	<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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 21st June 2012