

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	4 th Nov 2010
Location	T.F. Royal Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Moran
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Crimlin NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: Castlebar Vocational School, Co. Mayo
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 3 sons and 3 daughters
Club(s)	Parke
Occupation	Mechanic
Parents' Occupation	Farmer and Council Worker [Father]; Farmer [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Pioneers Association

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael O'Connor
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Parke NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: St. Gerald's, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers
Club(s)	Parke; Castlebar Mitchel's; Ballyvary
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmer and Labourer [Father]; Farmer [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Pioneer Association; Mayo Basketball Association; Church Reader

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Christy Murphy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1948 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Caurane NS, Co. Mayo
Family	Siblings: 1 brother and 5 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Parke; Breaffy
Occupation	Farmer; Truck driver with Connacht Gold
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Pioneer Association; Basketball

Date of Report	10 th July 2012
Period Covered	1950s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Mayo, Galway, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Alcohol, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Michael O'Connor, Christy Murphy and Michael Moran talk about their role in the GAA through the Parke GAA club. They discuss their earliest involvement in the GAA, travelling to McHale Park. They talk about the history of the Parke club and the club's colours. They discuss how before the formation of the club, the local villages would play matches against each other. They discuss their involvement in the club, from training underage teams to their various administrative roles over the years. Michael Moran talks about his work at underage level and the importance of having a good underage structure in the club. Michael O'Connor talks about the history of the club and highlights notable matches during his time involved with the club. He discusses the club's involvement in the Scór competition and the important role of the Irish language and culture within the GAA. Michael talks about the development of the club over the years and the important place it now holds in the community. Towards the end of the interview he outlines his hopes for the future of Parke GAA.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:52 (Michael O'C) Michael recalls his earliest GAA memories. Listening to Michael O'Hehir on the radio on Sundays and playing football in a field.</p> <p>02:46 (Christy) Talks about his earliest GAA memories. Playing football in his field and talking about their GAA heroes like Mick O'Connell, Paddy McCormack, Paddy Doherty and Sean O'Neill. Playing in Ross.</p>

	<p>05:00 (Michael M) Discusses his earliest GAA memories playing in a field in Ross called the 'gullet'. Remembers listening to Michael O'Hehir describing Meath's Jack Quinn. Talks about his role in administration.</p> <p>06:42 (Michael O'C) Talks about his GAA heroes in Mayo. Talks about John Morley and Joe Corcoran. Playing with plastic footballs or using socks stuffed with hay.</p> <p>09:29 (Michael O'C and Michael M) Talks about the pig's bladder football.</p> <p>10:18 (Michael O'C) Watching a programme presented by Liam Ó'Murchú on television on the eve of 1974 All-Ireland football final between Dublin and Galway. Mentions Paschal Spelman.</p> <p>11:24 (Christy) Recalls going to a match in McHale Park with his father on a bike to see Mayo play Leitrim. Mentions Packie McGarty, Cathal Flynn. Describes the crowd.</p> <p>12:06 (Michael M) Talks about going to his first match in McHale Park and seeing players like Mick Ruane, Willie McGee, Ray Prendergast.</p> <p>12:41 (Michael O'C) Discusses going to McHale Park to see Galway play Roscommon in the Connacht final. Recalls Aidan Brady pulling down the crossbar and Roscommon going on to win the match. Mentions Gerry O'Malley and John and Des Feeley.</p> <p>14:30 Recites a poem about Roscommon's victory over Cavan.</p> <p>17:30 Talks about how when the club won the county junior title Father Joe Quinn wrote anthem.</p> <p>18:26 (Michael M) Describes his family's involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>19:09 (Michael O'C) Discusses the history of the club and Father Michael Hennelly trying to organise the formation of a club. Father Michael Comber helping to set up the club. Help of the West Mayo board.</p> <p>21:16 Talks about the club's colours, black and amber and the club's first match against Breaffy in 1970.</p> <p>21:52 Playing against Louisburgh in a farmer's field in Turlough. Recalls how Derry was playing Mayo on the same day. Getting jerseys from a local draper.</p>
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	<p>23:50 Talks about the club's early matches. Winning a junior competition.</p> <p>24:27 Describes how people played with neighbouring clubs before the formation of the Parke club.</p> <p>25:10 (Christy) Recalls the local rivalries and villages playing each other.</p> <p>25:30 (Michael O'C) Talks about the different villages like Cashel and Parke. Mentions Joe Earley</p> <p>26:33 Discusses the name of the club. Why Parke was chosen.</p> <p>28:00 (Michael M) Recalls his administrative roles in the club. Holding a raffle for a new car for the new ground in 1983. Becoming treasurer.</p> <p>29:30 (Michael O'C) Talks about being secretary.</p> <p>29:54 (Michael M) Recalls the men in the club he worked with him. Mentions Johnny Howley, Michael McHale, Pauric Reilly, Christy and Willie Murphy.</p> <p>30:55 (Christy) Discusses his role in the club, training underage teams. Selling raffle tickets at the Galway races and at the Reek. Being chairman of the club.</p> <p>32:50 (Michael O'C) Talks about his various administrative roles in the club and the work he was involved with. Being treasurer and secretary. Recalls being on a historical committee with Dr Mick Loftus. Mentions Paddy Quinn.</p> <p>35:22 Discusses being on a committee that marked the centenary of Michael Davitt and the Land League. Holding a seven a side competition. Davitts from Armagh played.</p> <p>36:10 The type of administrative work he did. Using contacts in places like Achill and Belmullet. Recalls the type of fundraising they did.</p> <p>38:23 (Michael O'C and Christy) Recalls a story about fundraising and the 'mayor'.</p> <p>39:50 (Michael M) Tells a story about trying to organise a race night.</p> <p>41:30 (Michael O'C) Talks about playing against Castlebar Mitchels in McHale Park in 1974. Tells a story involving the referee and the club being fined.</p> <p>43:00 (Christy and Michael O'C) Discuss the underage</p>
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	<p>structure of the club. Success at underage level.</p> <p>44:19 (Michael M) Talks about success at underage level in 1989 and in the early 1990s. Coaching in Crimlin school. Mentions Derek Hopkins, Jimmy McHugh and Patrick Lynch.</p> <p>47:30 (Christy) Talks about Darren Durkan who they trained who is on the Mayo panel.</p> <p>48:11 (Michael O'C) Winning three consecutive West Mayo titles at under 14 level in 1982, 1983 and 1984.</p> <p>48:40 (Michael M) Talks about the importance of having a strong underage system. Recalls a story about Shane Corley.</p> <p>50:40 (Christy) Discusses their dedication to the GAA.</p> <p>51:15 (Michael O'C) Talks about the sense of identity within the GAA in the local area.</p> <p>51:42 (Christy) Recalls his best memory in the GAA. Winning underage competitions, notably Under 14 B three years in a row.</p> <p>52:55 (Michael M) Talks about his favourite memories in the GAA. Working with young people in the GAA and his work within the GAA.</p> <p>53:55 (Michael O'C) Recalls a junior match against Ballintubber in 1973. Livestock walking on the pitch.</p> <p>55:00 (Christy) Talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions 'the Terrible Twins' Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell, Packie McGarty, John Morley, Joe Langan, Joe Corcoran, John Gibbons, Joe Lennon, Sean O'Neill.</p> <p>56:00 (Michael M) Talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions Mick Ruane, Ray Predergast, Willie McGee, Jack Quinn, Kevin Heffernan, Pat Spillane, Seamus O'Dowd, Willie Joe Padden, Joe Corcoran.</p> <p>57:00 (Christy) Mentions other players he admired. Tony Boyle, Anthony Molloy, Declan Bonner.</p> <p>57:10 Talks about his favourite GAA team. The Kerry team that missed out on the five in a row. Mentions PJ McGrath.</p> <p>58:22 Discusses his biggest disappointment in the GAA. Not seeing a Mayo team winning the All-Ireland in his lifetime.</p> <p>58:55 (Michael M) Talks about his disappointment of not seeing Mayo win the All-Ireland.</p>
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	<p>59:35 (Christy) Describes what the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:00:08 (Michael M) Talks about the role of the GAA in his life. Making friends. Gives his opinion on the role of alcohol in the GAA.</p> <p>01:01:09 *** Michael Moran and Christy leave the interview ***</p> <p>01:01:12 (Michael O'C) Talks about the team in the 1970s in the West Mayo championship. Taking part in leagues and how they fared. Getting changed in cars and hedges.</p> <p>01:02:15 Recalls playing a match in April 1972 in Achill and how cold it was.</p> <p>01:03:26 Talks about playing in the West Mayo final 1975 against Ballintubber. Mentions Ger Feeney and Ray Prendergast. The finals in the following years against Castlebar and Claremorris.</p> <p>01:04:15 Beating Lahardane in 1976 to win the county final. Lifting the Pete McDonnell Cup. Talks about the clubs victories in the following years.</p> <p>01:05:05 Winning their first intermediate county title against Swinford. Becoming a senior club.</p> <p>01:06:40 Discusses how the club has done at Under 21 level over the years. Amalgamating with Castlebar. Playing teams like Westport, Crossmolina.</p> <p>01:08:45 Winning junior titles in 1990s. Playing Achill, Carramore, Islandeady.</p> <p>01:09:57 Talks about taking part in the Connacht championship in 1997. Playing against the Roscommon championships. Playing in St. Jude's in the All-Ireland Sevens.</p> <p>01:11:03 Discusses the type of celebrations the club have after victories.</p> <p>01:12:08 Recalls going to the West Mayo board meetings and what they were like. Having dinner dances. Social side of the GAA. Mentions Tommy Lyons.</p> <p>01:15:20 Talks about the club's involvement and success in the Scór competition, being PRO and promoting the Irish language and culture. Mentions Brenda Grealis.</p> <p>01:18:12 Taking part in the Tráth na gCeist.</p>
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	<p>01:18:38 Describes how the club is writing a history of the club.</p> <p>01:19:29 Talks about the role of Scór and Scór na nÓg in the GAA and in Mayo.</p> <p>01:21:58 Discusses the role of the clergy in the local GAA. Mentions Father Quinn, Paddy Quinn.</p> <p>01:23:30 Talks about the role of teachers in the local GAA. The GAA in Crimlin school in Castlebar.</p> <p>01:24:32 Recalls the reaction of other clubs to the opening of Parke club. Playing at the back of St. Mary's hospital, Castlebar. Getting grounds from the Land Commission. The opening of the ground marked by Mayo v Cork. Mentions PJ McGrath, Frank Murphy, Dave Barry, Anthony Davis.</p> <p>01:26:26 Talks about the opening of the ground and the venue today. Importance of a well-marked pitch. Opening of a new stand dedicated to Jimmy McHugh.</p> <p>01:28:13 Talks about how football is the only sport played in the club. Camogie was played in the area in the past.</p> <p>01:29:24 Discusses the role of women in the club. Mentions Pauline Murphy, Bernie Durkan, Beatrice Reilly.</p> <p>01:30:53 Talks about handball in the area. Handball committee and alley in the parish.</p> <p>01:31:55 Gives his opinion on the formation of the Ballyvary Hurling Club. People being loyal to their club.</p> <p>01:34:26 Discusses the development of the Parke club and his hopes for the future of the club.</p> <p>01:35:05 Talks about his best memory in the GAA. Winning titles with the club. His involvement in Scór and the friendships he has made through it.</p> <p>01:37:04 Discusses the role of the GAA in the community and what it means in his life. Talks about his favourite players. Mentions Mick O'Connell, Tony Davis, Declan Barron, John O'Keefe, Jack Quinn, Jimmy Keaveney, Tony McTeague, Paddy Doherty, Donal Monaghan, Pauric McShea, Andy Gallagher, Sean O'Connell, Jim McKeever, Mickey Kerins, Gerry O'Malley, John Morley, Joe Corcoran, John Carey, Willie Joe Padden, Tommy O'Malley.</p> <p>01:40:54 Talks about Mayo's All-Irelands disappointments over the years. Mentions Maurice Fitzgerald, Kieran Donaghy</p>
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	<p>and the games they played.</p> <p>01:42:40 Discusses his biggest disappointments in the GAA. Losing in the 1996 Connacht final in McHale Park Liam Salmon, Vincent Nally.</p> <p>01:44:00 Talks about what the GAA has meant to him over the years.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p>Michael Moran:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p>✓ Caterer ✓ Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Michael O'Connor:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p>✓ Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Christy:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p>✓ Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Michael Moran:</p> <p>Played 3 games</p> <p>Michael O'Connor:</p> <p>Played from 1966 to 1980 / 1981. Won a West Mayo Junior B in 1970</p> <p>Christy:</p> <p>Played from 1966 to 1984. Won a West Mayo Junior B with Breaffy 1966; a county title in 1966 and a Junior B with Parke</p>

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	in 1970.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Michael Moran: N/A</p> <p>Michael O'Connor: Club: Secretary for 24 years; Treasurer for 3 years; PRO for 25 years; Chairman for 6 months; Delegate to West Mayo Board and County Board</p> <p>West Mayo Board: 1st Under 21 Delegate from West Mayo to County Board; Treasurer (1980 – 1990); PRO (1977 – 1990); Honorary President 1999</p> <p>County Board: Michael Davitt Committee (1979); Historical Committee for 1985 Congress; Scór Committee, PRO (1980s – 1990s); Awarded a Green and Red Trust Fund Award (1995)</p> <p>Christy: N/A</p>
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:45:16
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: _____10/07/12_____