

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	2 nd Sept 2009
Location	Glenageary, Co. Dublin
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Fr Peter Quinn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1924 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Behy NS, Ballina, Co. Mayo Secondary: St Mureadachs, Ballina, Co. Mayo Third Level: St Columban's College, Dalgan Park, Co. Meath
Family	Siblings: 7 brothers & 2 sisters
Club(s)	Ballina Stephenites; Ardnaree Street League Team
Occupation	Priest
Parents' Occupation	Farmers of 50 acres
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A

Date of Report	12 th June 2012
Period Covered	1930s – 2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Mayo, Asia, Philippines, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Politics, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Fr Peter looks back on his life in the GAA, starting out when he was young, listening to games on the radio and playing with his friends in school and in street leagues. He played for the Ardnaree club in Mayo and attended St Muredach's College before later going to Dalgan Seminary and playing on their team against other schools. A talented footballer, he played for the Mayo senior team and won All-Irelands in 1950 and 1951. After he was ordained he spent time in the Philippines and later the United States where he was involved with the North American Board. Fr Peter reflects on the simplicity of life when he was a boy playing football and the great love he and his contemporaries had for all things GAA, forging a strong bond as they battled on the field together. He describes the build-up to the All-Ireland finals for the Mayo players and supporters, and recalls his difficulties in obtaining permission from the bishop to take part in Mayo's All-Ireland campaign. He offers his opinions on how the game has changed over the years, and shares some personal anecdotes from his long involvement with the Association.</p> <p>00:15 He has more than one name, but was baptised Peter Quinn.</p> <p>01:55 Earliest GAA memory. Listening to an All-Ireland that Mayo won in 1936 and Micheál Ó hÉithir doing the commentary.</p> <p>04:25 Playing with Ballina Quay at underage level and</p>

	<p>winning a tournament.</p> <p>05:35 Going to St Muredach's College in Ballina. Not having any gear to play in.</p> <p>06:50 Buying a pair of football boots from a friend. His friend's greyhounds coming into contact with the boots.</p> <p>09:35 Getting a pair of shorts from a friend who went to St Joseph's in Ballinasloe.</p> <p>11:55 Playing football at school. Many teams competing.</p> <p>12:25 Priests coaching the teams.</p> <p>13:00 Playing for Ardnaree.</p> <p>13:20 Gerald Courell, Seán Duffy promoting GAA in the area.</p> <p>14:20 Footballs they used, which were made using a pig's bladder.</p> <p>16:35 Going to the Philippines when he was 25. Being interviewed on RTÉ about his experiences.</p> <p>18:25 Ten children in his family. His sister becoming a nun.</p> <p>19:55 Street leagues in Ballina.</p> <p>20:35 Involvement with Conradh na Gaeilge. Céilís in the town.</p> <p>21:10 How the street leagues worked. John Ford and other future county footballers playing.</p> <p>22:35 County board making them play as a club - Ardnaree against Killala.</p> <p>22:50 Playing in local fields.</p> <p>23:35 Farmer in Louisburg warning them not to dirty his field.</p> <p>24:30 Love they had for the game.</p> <p>25:50 Going to the Dalgan seminary and playing on college teams. Being captain of a team. Playing UCD, St Jarlath's of Tuam and other teams in football, hurling and rugby.</p>
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	<p>26:25 Praying that he would win an All-Ireland before he was ordained.</p> <p>27:00 The Ban in effect at the time.</p> <p>27:55 Students at the seminary not allowed by the bishops of Ireland to take part in 'violent games'. Reason for that.</p> <p>31:55 Best players from street leagues taking on teams from Castlebar, Westport and Ballycastle. County board officials watching the games and monitoring players.</p> <p>33:35 Better players being brought in for county team training with John Maughan and John O'Mahony.</p> <p>34:50 Training they did and relationship between players.</p> <p>36:35 Merchant marine doing some training with the Mayo team in 1947 and early physiotherapy attempts.</p> <p>39:35 Going to see Mayo train before a big game.</p> <p>40:15 Crowds watching the Mayo team train when he was a player.</p> <p>41:15 Being grateful that he was able to play for Mayo before he was ordained.</p> <p>41:50 Making sure the bishop didn't stop him playing in the 1950 All-Ireland final.</p> <p>43:35 Clashes in club games in Dublin.</p> <p>44:30 Going straight back to Dalgan after the All-Ireland final in 1950.</p> <p>45:00 Homecoming after the 1951 All-Ireland final, his last game. His brothers being allowed to stand in for the team photograph.</p> <p>47:00 Celebrations back in Mayo. Team travelling around in a lorry.</p> <p>48:05 Going to Rossport and meeting a man who knew who he was.</p> <p>48:40 Changes in the GAA over the years.</p>
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	<p>49:25 Prospect of professionalism.</p> <p>50:15 Arriving back to Mayo with the Sam Maguire.</p> <p>51:40 Gerald Courell and Jackie Carney, former All-Ireland winners, training them.</p> <p>52:15 Mayo losing many All-Irelands by narrow margins in subsequent decades.</p> <p>54:45 Seminary in Maynooth run by bishops. Priests not allowed to play county football and reason for that.</p> <p>56:45 Seán Flanagan TD, Padraic Carney, Eamon Mongey and others pleading his case with the bishop. Decision to come up with an alternative name for him to play under.</p> <p>01:01:15 Players on Dalgan team all played on their county teams.</p> <p>01:02:05 Seán Purcell, Frankie Stockwell of Galway, Frankie Byrne of Louth, Peter McDermott were some of the best players he came up against.</p> <p>01:02:35 As a student he wasn't allowed play as many games as others were.</p> <p>01:04:25 Relations within the Mayo camp when he was playing. How they got on with the county board.</p> <p>01:06:20 Some of the players familiar with the county board members who selected the team.</p> <p>01:07:40 Travelling to Dublin for the All-Ireland final by car.</p> <p>01:08:45 Father driving him to the seminary by ass and cart when he first entered.</p> <p>01:09:55 County board meeting to select the All-Ireland team. Selection published in papers.</p> <p>01:10: Some of their better players were Seán Flanagan, Eamon Mongey and Padraic Carney. The three sitting down to discuss the team they were up against and compiling a dossier.</p> <p>01:14:55 Staying in Barry's Hotel in Dublin before the All-Ireland. Mayo supporters visiting.</p>
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	<p>01:16:05 Going to mass before training in advance of the final. Going for walks.</p> <p>01:18:00 Tommy Murphy from Castlebar saying Mass.</p> <p>01:20:35 Mayo teams worrying about getting a fair referee.</p> <p>01:21:20 Hopes he had as a player before the final.</p> <p>01:22:50 Climbing a mountain when he was in the Philippines to cut wood for goalposts.</p> <p>01:24:10 Colm Ó hAilpín from Donegal in a parish next to him in the Philippines and visiting him every Sunday.</p> <p>01:25:50 Leaving the Philippines in 1969.</p> <p>01:26:15 Being told by his superiors that he would have to do commercial work and collect money.</p> <p>01:26:55 Delegates sent from North America to a Central Council meeting. Problems relating to John Kerry. Issues over how the GAA was run in North America.</p> <p>01:31:20 How he got involved in the North America Board.</p> <p>01:36:10 Role played by the GAA in his life when he was in North America.</p> <p>01:38:20 Down winning the All-Ireland and visiting North America. Fr Peter picking the team to play them.</p> <p>01:40:15 Worst GAA experience.</p> <p>01:41:15 Importance of volunteers to the GAA.</p> <p>01:41:55 First game he played for Bonnicolnlon. Cycling to Tourlestrane.</p> <p>01:44:45 Changes he has seen in the GAA in his lifetime.</p> <p>01:46:30 Changes in how the game is played.</p> <p>01:47:00 Media coverage.</p> <p>01:49:55 Budget for Ireland very small in the 1920s.</p>
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	<p>01:50:45 Religious dedication of the players when he was playing.</p> <p>01:51:35 Football they played at St Muredach's College and the talented players there – the Mulderry brothers, Johnny McCamper, Big Pat, Paddy Byrne, Willie Rutlins.</p> <p>01:53:10 St Muredach's College taken out of the championship by the bishop for 13 years.</p> <p>01:54:05 His sister asking to go to a football match in Croke Park. His sister recognising some of the players from a former encounter.</p> <p>01:58:15 His sister's funeral in Cork.</p> <p>01:59:55 Administrative work on the North American Board.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> 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>Fr Peter played for 45 years in total. He played with several Mayo teams including Ardnaree and Bonnicconlon. He played with the Ballina Quay Team between the ages of 13 and 25 when he went to the Philippines. Before he left he played for the Mayo team which won the All-Ireland in 1951. He also played in the United States and Canada.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Chairman of the North American Board</p> <p>North American Board Delegate to Central Council</p>
Format	<p>✓ Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 02:02:25</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

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: _____12/06/12_____