

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	13 th April 2011
Location	Castlegregory Clubhouse, Co. Kerry
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mossie Spillane
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1948 Home County: Kerry
Education	Primary: Ballyduff NS, Co. Kerry Secondary: Vocational School, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters and 1 brother Current Family if Different: Married with 2 daughters and 1 son
Club(s)	Castlegregory
Occupation	Telecom Eireann
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Joe Wrenn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1941 Home County: Kerry
Education	Primary: Aughnacasla NS, Co. Kerry Secondary: Tuam Vocational School, Co. Galway
Family	Siblings: 4 sisters & 7 brothers Current Family if Different: Married with 3 daughters
Club(s)	Castlegregory [Kerry]; Tuam Stars [Galway]
Occupation	Motor Mechanic
Parents' Occupation	Labourer, Builder [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tim Dennehy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1949 Home County: Kerry
Education	Primary: Castlegregory NS, Co. Kerry
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters & 1 brother Current Family if Different: Married with 4 daughters and 1 son
Club(s)	Castlegregory
Occupation	Bus Driver
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	17 th August 2012
Period Covered	1900s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Kerry, Galway, Americas, USA, Dublin, Great Britain, England
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Career, Opening of Croke Park, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	<p>Tim, Mossie and Joe recall their earliest memories of the GAA. They discuss facilities when they were growing up, and recall their careers, both playing and administrative, with the club. They discuss their family involvement with the Association, and recall their happiest days in the GAA. Joe and Mossie discuss the history of Gaelic football in the Castlegregory area, and explain the intricacies of how the game is organised in the area. They recall their first trips to Croke Park, and debate the role of volunteers within the Association. They conclude by explaining what their involvement in the GAA has meant to them.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:45 Tim recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. Recalls parish finals in Castlegregory. Mentions attending Kerry matches.</p> <p>01:28 Tim recalls GAA facilities in Castlegregory when growing up. Mentions Fitzgerald Stadium in Killarney and Austin Stack Park in Tralee.</p> <p>02:07 Tim discusses playing with Castlegregory and successes achieved.</p> <p>02:43 Tim explains how he became involved with Castlegregory.</p> <p>03:26 Tim discusses his coaching career with Castlegregory. Mentions Mossie Spillane and Joe Wrenn.</p> <p>03:47 Tim discusses his administrative career with Castlegregory.</p> <p>04:12 Tim recalls his best achievement of his involvement</p>

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	<p>with the GAA. Mentions club successes at county and All-Ireland level. Recalls celebrations.</p> <p>05:20 Tim discusses his biggest disappointment with the GAA. Discusses price of tickets to matches.</p> <p>06:02 Tim describes what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>06:27 Mossie recalls his earliest memory of the GAA. Mentions Vocational School team in Tralee and 1965 Vocational School Final at Croke Park against Galway. Mentions various successes with Castlegregory, including club junior All-Ireland in Croke Park.</p> <p>08:08 Joe recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. Mentions parish finals. Mentions former club president Michael O'Donnell. Mentions successes, and recalls playing for Tuam Stars, winning a Galway minor county championship medal with them.</p> <p>09:33 Joe mentions highlights of his involvement in the GAA – the development of a new field for Castlegregory in the 1990s.</p> <p>09:51 Joe mentions his administrative roles with the club.</p> <p>10:25 Joe discusses his playing days in Tuam. Mentions Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell. Recalls playing illegally for two clubs in the one summer.</p> <p>11:55 Joe describes the Castlegregory pitch when he was growing up. Recalls how the new pitch was acquired. Mentions Paddy Healy and Michael O'Donnell. Recalls establishment of committee in America by Timmy Brosnan to raise funds for the new pitch development. Mentions official opening in 2003 with an exhibition match between Kerry and Mayo, opened by County Board Chairman Sean Walsh.</p> <p>14:18 Joe recalls his family's involvement in the GAA. Describes the organisation of teams and training in earlier times.</p> <p>15:03 Joe mentions former Castlegregory and Kerry player, Pat "Aeroplane" O'Shea. Mentions his role in the purchase of Croke Park through Croke Cup games against Louth. Recalls various medals that have been won by players from the club.</p> <p>16:03 Tim recalls his family's involvement in the GAA. Mentions Jimmy and Kevin Maunsell.</p> <p>16:37 Mossie recalls his family's involvement in the GAA.</p>
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	<p>Explains where he got his interest in the GAA from.</p> <p>17:41 Mossie and Joe recall training methods in their younger days. Joe mentions Mick Moriarty and his first organised training session, refers to the different lifestyle in his younger days.</p> <p>19:15 Joe discusses the history of GAA clubs in Castlegregory – mentions previous clubs from Cloghane, Castlegregory, Baile Dubh, Stradbally, Magharees and Aughacasla. Mentions the first team ever from Castlegregory playing in 1900. Discusses effects of emigration.</p> <p>20:36 Joe discusses the founding of Castlegregory GAA club. Mentions Dr Teehan, Spillanes, Bolands and Moores. Recalls successes of the club. Recalls finish to 2010 All-Ireland Junior Club Final.</p> <p>22:12 Mossie recalls the GAA in his school days. Mentions playing in Croke Park and friendships made.</p> <p>22:49 Joe recalls the GAA in his school days in the Technical School in Tuam. Mentions St. Jarlath's in Tuam and St. Vincent's in Dublin and players such as Kevin Heffernan, Ollie Freeney and Jim Crowley. Recalls the strength of Tuam Stars in the fifties. Mentions soccer and rugby in modern times competing with GAA.</p> <p>24:10 Joe and Mossie discuss the history of hurling in Castlegregory. They mention the influence of schoolteacher Gerald Whyte. They also mention camogie. Mention North Kerry as being the stronghold of hurling in the county.</p> <p>26:10 Mossie discusses the role of the GAA club in the community. Mentions St Patrick's Day parade. Joe describes the facilities that are available at the club – mentions Boy Scouts from Roscrea. Quotes Jackie Healy Rea regarding the beauty of the area.</p> <p>29:18 Joe recalls some of the characters in the club. Mentions former PRO and Secretary David Fitzgerald. They discuss his weekly column of club notes for The Kerryman. Joe mentions Mick O'Donnell and Paddy Healy. Mentions melodeon playing during matches. Mossie recalls John Kenny in Magharees and Gerry Flynn.</p> <p>31:47 Joe discusses a handball alley in Cloghane, near Brandon and also in Aughacasla School.</p> <p>32:30 Mossie recalls songs written about the club. Mentions "The Kickers of Lios na Caol Bhuidhe". They discuss the</p>
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	<p>origins of the song.</p> <p>33:25 Joe discusses the club's involvement in Scór.</p> <p>35:05 Joe discusses the involvement of teachers and clergy in the club. Mentions Fr Denis Curtin from Knocknagoshel and the purchase of pitch from the land commission. Mentions Con McGrath, Guard from Cork, whose son Paul McGrath played with Cork in 1990s. Mentions teacher Marie Burke and teachers generally in Cloghane and Aughacasla.</p> <p>37:00 Joe recalls where the club played matches before the purchase of the field in 1947. Mentions funds from local carnival.</p> <p>37:55 Mossie discusses his playing career. Recalls successes achieved. Discusses administrative roles with the club. Recalls his favourite role with the club.</p> <p>39:50 Joe recalls his career with Castlegregory and West Kerry. Remembers playing with players such as Sean Murphy, Tom Long and Seamus Murphy. Discusses his administrative roles with the club. Recalls club's Junior All-Ireland victory in Croke Park – mentions Sean Kelly. Mentions his favourite role with the club.</p> <p>42:24 Joe explains the importance of Castlegregory's All-Ireland Junior Championship win to the club. Mossie recalls supporters coming from San Francisco, Boston, New York and England. They discuss the celebrations after the win. Mention meal with Kiltimagh and celebrations at the Citywest hotel. Mention Sean Kelly opening up Croke Park for junior and intermediate club finals.</p> <p>45:37 They discuss the commitment of inter-county players.</p> <p>46:44 They discuss their first trips to Croke Park. Joe mentions 1959 All-Ireland Football Final between Kerry and Galway. Mentions Sean Murphy. Recalls being in the Nally Stand. Mossie mentions 1968 All-Ireland Football Final between Kerry and Down. Mentions the journey to Dublin.</p> <p>48:42 Mossie describes travelling to local matches.</p> <p>49:27 Mossie discusses the area that Castlegregory GAA club covers. Mentions Conor Pass and Brandon. Joe explains the intricacies of the Gaelic football structure in Castlegregory. Mentions Maharees, Stradbally and Aughacasla.</p> <p>51:20 Joe discusses club rivalry. Mossie mentions clubs such</p>
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	<p>as Annascaul, Lispole, Dingle and An Ghaeltacht.</p> <p>52:30 Joe discusses fundraising in the club. Mossie recalls a fundraiser ahead of the 2010 All-Ireland Junior Club Final. Mentions Maurice Spillane running club lotto. Mentions Micheál Lynch of Spar being the main club sponsor.</p> <p>55:54 Joe discusses the role of volunteers within the GAA. Mossie describes the role that they currently play in the club.</p> <p>57:39 Mossie recalls how the role of women within the club has changed over time. Mentions secretary of the club, Gert Spillane.</p> <p>58:36 Joe discusses the banning of pitch invasions at Croke Park. Joe and Mossie also make brief reference to the opening of Croke Park to other sports, mention Sean Kelly.</p> <p>01:00:29 Mossie and Joe describe their best memories of their involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:02:16 Mossie recalls his GAA hero – John Egan. Also mentions Darragh Ó Sé. Joe discusses his hero Mick O’Connell, recalls commentaries of Micheál O’Hehir. Mentions 1969 All-Ireland Football Final, Kerry v Offaly.</p> <p>01:03:52 Mossie and Joe discuss the enjoyment they have got from the GAA.</p> <p>01:04:47 Mossie recalls playing in Gaelic Park, New York - recalls trip with Killorglin in 1972. Recalls playing with Seamus Bonner and Donal Monaghan from Donegal. Describes playing under floodlights. Joe recalls playing in Tuam Stadium and Connemara. Mentions match he played in Lispole for Aughacasla. Mentions the Galvins who played for Lispole, also mentions Dingle.</p> <p>01:08:17 Mossie and Joe explain what their involvement in the GAA has meant to them.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Mossie:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Joe:</p>

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	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Tim:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Mossie: Played for 20/25 years. Won a county junior and intermediate, 3 West Kerry senior championships and 2 West Kerry senior leagues.</p> <p>Joe: Played from 1954 to 1971. Won a West Kerry senior championship, 2 West Kerry leagues, 1 West Kerry minor and a Galway Technical Schools and County Championship.</p> <p>Tim: Played for 20 years. Won 2 West Kerry Intermediate championships and a junior championship and a County junior and intermediate league.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Mossie: Has been involved in administration since the early 1980s.</p> <p>Club: Vice-chairman, Treasurer, Chairman, West Kerry Board Delegate and County Board Delegate</p> <p>West Kerry: Vice-chairman (10 years).</p> <p>Joe: Has been involved in administration since 1988.</p> <p>Club: Vice-chairman, Chairman, Bord na nÓg, West Kerry Delegate and County Board Delegate</p> <p>West Kerry: Development Officer</p> <p>Tim:</p>

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	Has been involved in administration since 1967. Club: Vice-chairman, West Kerry Delegate West Kerry: Referees Co-ordinator.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:09:43
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: _____ 17/08/12 _____