

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	28 th April 2011
Location	Seán Duggan's home, Galway City.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seán Duggan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1922 Home County: Galway
Education	Primary: Patrician Brothers, Lombard Street, Galway
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 2 sisters
Club(s)	Liam Mellows GAA [Galway]
Occupation	ESB worker
Parents' Occupation	Builder's Foreman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimmy Duggan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1930 Home County: Galway
Education	Primary: Patrician Brothers, Lombard Street, Galway
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife (Anne); 2 sons & 2 daughters
Club(s)	Liam Mellows GAA [Galway]; St Kieran's Football Club [Galway]
Occupation	Printer
Parents' Occupation	Builder's Foreman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1892 - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Galway, USA, Americas
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, 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, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Seán and Jimmy reflect on the experiences that have made them into Galway GAA legends. Coming from a family that had strong hurling traditions it was only natural that they would take up the sport themselves - first in their own locality, then in school and later with the Liam Mellows club. They recall what playing was like in those early days and how they got their hands on their first hurls. Both represented their club and county, with Jimmy going on to have a varied career within the Association. Seán was older and played on a legendary Galway team which went so far as to contest a National Hurling League final in New York. Both men have been honoured numerous times for their GAA achievements by the GAA and the wider Galway community. Yet Seán and Jimmy take it all in their stride, eschewing self-congratulation in favour of expressing their gratitude to an Association that has brought them boundless happiness over many, many years.</p> <p>00:15 (Seán) Born in 1922.</p> <p>00:25 (Jimmy) Born in 1930.</p> <p>00:50 (Seán) Growing up on College Road. Playing hurling on the street. What Galway was like in the 1930s. Community spirit.</p> <p>02:20 (Seán) Uncle Patrick playing hurling for Galway.</p> <p>02:45 (Jimmy) College Road Stars winning a Galway County Championship in 1892/1893. Granduncle on the team.</p>

	<p>03:30 (Seán) Granduncle emigrating to Australia with hurls and sliotars.</p> <p>03:55 (Jimmy) Former Galway administrator Canon O'Dea in early 1900s. Popularity of hurling in Bóthar Mór, Claddagh, College Road and Wood Quay. People later switching to football.</p> <p>05:00 (Jimmy) Liam Mellows winning first county title in 1935. Bóthar Mór representation on the team. Club formed in 1932. Origin of name.</p> <p>06:00 (Seán) Strength of GAA in Galway. Land that club have. Salthill-Knocknacarra, Ragoon-Newcastle, Ranmore, Mervue, Father Griffins all active in the city.</p> <p>07:10 (Jimmy) Memories of playing at St Patrick's CBS. Playing Salthill team, St Mary's, St Joseph's, Jesuits College. University team strong in Sigerson and Fitzgibbon cups.</p> <p>08:15 (Jimmy) Barracks team and their success. Jim Fyffes, Vincent Baston, Jimmy Brophy, Dick Quinn, Ned Condon all playing. Joe Keohane and Tadhg McCarthy of Kerry also there.</p> <p>09:45 (Jimmy) Joe Young, Billy O'Neill, Jimmy Brophy all arriving from outside Galway and playing with the county team. How they were received.</p> <p>10:40 (Jimmy) Make-up of Liam Mellows team.</p> <p>11:20 (Jimmy) League he played in in 1947. Training they got from the Brothers. Rivalries.</p> <p>12:30 (Seán) Playing hurling on the road growing up. Coming home from Patrician Brothers school and playing on Ayre Square. What they did for goalposts.</p> <p>13:25 (Jimmy) Playing against neighbouring areas in games they organised themselves. Rivalries.</p> <p>14:05 (Jimmy) Minor team he was on in 1947 and where those players came from.</p> <p>14:50 (Jimmy) Castlegar a strong team when they were growing up. Ardrahan, Gort, Loughrea, Ballinasloe also strong hurling teams.</p> <p>15:10 (Seán) Clubs purchasing their own grounds and importance of that.</p> <p>15:35 (Jimmy) Athenry, Turlochmore and Portumna not</p>
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	<p>senior teams when they were younger. Success they later enjoyed. Clubs defying emigration through loyalty and volunteerism.</p> <p>17:25 (Jimmy) Listening to games on the radio growing up. Mcheál Ó Heiher broadcasting. Liam Mellows sports gear kept in their house.</p> <p>19:10 (Seán) Mick King a local hurler he looked up to. Mick Gill also a talented hurler, as was Tommie Fleming and Paddy O'Connor.</p> <p>20:05 (Jimmy) Admiring players they heard about on the radio. Imitating them in games after a big match they had listened to.</p> <p>21:35 (Seán) Playing with Liam Mellows in the early days and what that was like.</p> <p>22:15 (Seán) Playing in Clifden with the ESB. Opening Casement Park with the Galway hurlers. Playing in Hawaii.</p> <p>22:55 (Jimmy) Skills they worked on when they were young. What has happened to those skills within the modern-day game.</p> <p>24:05 (Jimmy) First hurl he got was from Eddie Moore of Claddagh, a Galway hurler himself. Eddie delivering bread on a horse and cart.</p> <p>25:00 (Seán) Getting hurls from a Dowling man in Kilkenny Kilkenny. Randles in Wexford also made them, as did Hobbs in Cork.</p> <p>24:40 (Jimmy) Repairing broken hurls.</p> <p>26:10 (Seán) Training they did. Need to improve skills of modern-day players. Hurler as artist.</p> <p>27:40 (Jimmy) People that used to train the teams. Lack of managers and medical experts within clubs.</p> <p>29:50 (Jimmy) Masseur they had at Liam Mellows, Wlateral Kelly. What he used.</p> <p>31:00 (Seán) Attitude to games and opponents. Playing for its own sake. Building named after him. Stamp issued in his name. Issues with a seat in Salthill by Lions Club. How that makes him feel.</p> <p>32:35 (Jimmy) Seán's accolades and what they mean to his family and to the club. Effort Seán has put into the game.</p>
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	<p>34:15 (Seán) Honorary degrees they both received from NUI Galway. Irish President in attendance.</p> <p>35:05 (Jimmy) What it means for his efforts to be appreciated. Support they have received from family, club and county.</p> <p>37:15 (Seán) Being selected for Galway and what that was like. Playing his first minor match in Roscrea against Kilkenny. Coming back home in a car. Conversation that was held and how that affected him.</p> <p>38:50 (Jimmy) Memories of his playing games. Friendships he has made all over Ireland.</p> <p>40:00 (Jimmy) Playing Ardrahan in a 1968 county hurling final. Seán in charge of team. Advice he passed on to him. Gerry Mahony of Cork taking an important free. Reacting to that. Mike Howley challenging him.</p> <p>42:30 (Jimmy) Collective training system. Paddy Fahy in charge of the team.</p> <p>43:20 (Jimmy) Playing Kilkenny in a 1953 All-Ireland semi-final. Jimmy Langton taking an important free for Kilkenny. Collective training ahead of that game. Training in Renmore Barracks. Taking time off from work.</p> <p>45:10 (Seán) Schedule when he was an inter-county player. Self-discipline.</p> <p>46:00 (Jimmy) Training alone to become more competitive. What he would do. Brother, Paddy, sometimes joining him. Looking up to Seán and his teammates when they were in their pomp. Watching them train.</p> <p>48:10 (Jimmy) Seán's team in a final the week after the Galway Races. Fr Paddy Dee training the team and what he asked of them. His own impressions of that.</p> <p>49:30 (Seán) Playing a National Hurling League final in New York. Refuelling in Newfoundland. How they were treated in New York. Meeting Cardinal Spellman. Playing in the Polo Grounds. Exhibition match in Boston.</p> <p>51:25 (Jimmy) Transatlantic liner, the New Amsterdam, arriving into Cork. Reception they were given in Cork and Galway. Going to Royal Hotel in Eyre Square. Céilí that night.</p> <p>53:00 (Seán) Meath Gaelic footballers with them on the trip.</p> <p>53:35 (Seán) Greatest memory.</p>
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	54:30 (Jimmy) Personal highlights of his GAA involvement.
Involvement in GAA	<p>Seán Duggan:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Jimmy Duggan:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ 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 ✓ 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>Seán:</p> <p>Liam Mellows GAA: Played from age 15 – 50yrs. Won 6 Galway Senior Hurling Championships (1962-47; 54).</p> <p>UCG: Won 2 Fitzgibbon Cup medals as a guest.</p> <p>ESB: Played in inter-firm matches</p> <p>Galway: Played Minor and Senior with Galway (1939 – 53); won National Hurling League (1953, 53); Won Oireachtas medal (1952, 53)</p> <p>Connaught: Won Railway Cup medal (1947)</p> <p>Jimmy:</p> <p>St Kieran's Football Club; Played 1946/7 and won Galway Minor Football Championship</p> <p>Liam Mellows GAA: Played Senior Hurling (1949 – 79); won 4 Galway Senior Hurling Championships (1954, 55, 68, 70)</p> <p>Galway: Played Senior Hurling (1949 – 79); Won National League medal (1951); Oireachtas medal (1958); Cardinal Cushing Games (1955)</p> <p>Connaught: Played minor hurling and football for Connaught.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how	<p>Seán:</p> <p>Managed Galway Senior Hurling Team (1960s); Member of Galway County Board (1960s); Delegate to the Connaught</p>

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long for)	<p>Council.</p> <p>Jimmy:</p> <p>Trained teams for Liam Mellows; Kinvra; Moycullen for many years.</p> <p>Galway: Member of Galway County Board; Chairman of West Galway Board; President of Galway County Board (1960s); President of Galway Hurling Board (2011-)</p> <p>Connaught: Member of Connaught Council.</p> <p>Also refereed.</p>
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:56:54
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 12th July 2012