

**GAA Oral History Project**  
**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Eileen McCallion
<b>Date of Interview</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mickey Loughran
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1929 <b>Home County:</b> Tyrone
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Straw McElhatton
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 Brother; 2 Sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Widower; 4 Sons; 1 Daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Kildress Wolfe Tones GAC [Tyrone]
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1931 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Tyrone
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Education, Religion, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Politics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Mickey talks about his lifetime of involvement with his local club, and more widely with the GAA in Tyrone. He recalls how his family introduced him to the games, and remembers the first match he went to. He talks about his involvement in the club, and the momentous moment when, after much effort and fundraising, the club bought its own pitch. He offers his views on the politics within his club, his arguments against professionalism and who he felt the best teams were. He is still fully involved in the GAA, having served on committees and consumed a lifetime of games live, on the radio and on television.</p> <p>00:00:30 Nick name Mickey Jimmy (Grandfather was called Jimmy)</p> <p>00:00:45 Kildress Wolfe Tones</p> <p>00:01:00 Earliest memory – watching football when he was 3 years old from a nearby field.</p> <p>00:01:26 Recalls the first match he attended in 1932 when he was visiting aunt and her family were all going to Dunamore v Cregan unofficial match. During the time of the match there was 2 men erecting an arch on “Cock of the North” for the Eucharist congress and that’s why he is sure that it was in 1932.</p> <p>00:02:35 Recalls in the 30’s there were lean times and sport wasn’t considered. When the war was finished few local teams started up their own unofficial teams: Dunamore, Murnells and Killeenan started a team in 50’s and just played</p>

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	<p>matches</p> <p>00:04:10 Recalls his team Dunamore playing Murnells in Callan's field and then went on bicycles to Sports field in Killeenan and played the Killeenan team. Team included Joe Dean (student), Mickey McNamee, Peter John Monaghan and the Heagneys, Johnnie Conway. Reminders of old team in 40's from St Mary's Donoughmore which Fr Murphy run – Charlie Loughran, Jack Quinn, Paddy Johnnie Monaghan and Dan Mallon</p> <p>00:05:37 Recalls how training consisted of just all arrive at the field and kicked the ball – no trainer or no organisation in games, just a matter of turning up and playing.</p> <p>00:06:00 Recalls because of no transport the parish had 3 very territorial teams. Fr James Quinn came to parish he convinced the teams to join together as one team in 1951. Meeting held in Donoughmore and between Fr Quinn, Mick Begley and Mickey himself they selected the first Wolfe Tones team</p> <p>00:08:00 Explains how the team obtained the name Wolfe Tones after listening to Jimmy Steele commemoration speech (Manchester murders) in Pomeroy about how Wolfe Tone was the father of republicanism.</p> <p>00:10:21 Recalls no field and having to depend on locals to give them a field to play on. Risk that some year there maybe no field.</p> <p>00:11:11 Recalls first field they were able to rent was from Frank Callan at Gortacladdy cross roads at £10 rent per year, but no guarantee that available every year.</p> <p>00:11:20 Recalls a committee being set up to look at feasibility of buying a field with Fr McHugh, John Joe Quinn, Peter Monaghan, Joe Small and Himself.</p> <p>00:13:00 Delight in 1965 when Packie McNally from Killeenan gave them field for £100 per acre. How they decided 9 acres was needed. In 1966 they set a target of collecting one pound per house and despite only 450 houses in parish they went further than the parish and managed to end up with £1100.</p>
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00:14:22 Recalls the work to level field and car park was undertaken by Stanley Bell at cost of £500 and how County Board and Headquarters both donated £100 each.

00:15:00 Recalls how at that time footballers provided their own boots and how John Joe Quinn organised a raffle some years earlier in order to buy jerseys. How John Joe Quinn and Mick Begley bought the jerseys in Athletic stores in Belfast and how Frank Nugent was first man to try on the Kildress Green white and gold hoop jersey.

00:16:50 How there was only one team in the club then and only one set of jerseys and possibly only one football in the club and how the jerseys were treated like gold dust how everyone washed their own jersey. Club started in 1952.

00:17:50 Recalls the players: John Joe Quinn, Johnnie Nugent, Joe Small, John McGurk, couple of Monaghan, Joe Deane, Francis Corey, Dan Mallon, Charlie Loughran, James Begley, Sean Grimes,

00:18:44 He himself played corner forward. Joe Deane was best player as was attending college and got training there, Francis Corey was away from home and playing for St Colman's in Newry and UCC but when he was home he would play for club.

00:19:30 No training, played local teams Galbally, Pomeroy etc. Windmill and Mountjoy were local rivals. Very little Management of teams and they just turned up and played

00:20:20 Can't recall many injuries.

00:20:46 Recalls Herron Bros in Draperstown building the club rooms in early 70's. Money was derived from céilé, raffles, collections.

00:21:50 Recalls that it didn't cost much to run club in those days as players didn't get expenses, they just turned up got their jersey and played. Hurling never figured in this area. Football Hero's Tyrone players and nationally Mick O'Connell.

	<p>00:23:00 Recalls how club didn't feature much in the life of the parish, only 15 –20 players who played a game every Sunday and went home and forgot about it. How it differs today. He marvels at under 8's going out to play with their sports bags and gear. Biggest change is the number of people involved and when he takes the grandchildren to the field there could be 150 young child train, 3 pitches and first class facilities.</p> <p>00:24:00 Recalls how women's only involvement was attending an odd match but today there are women teams in every club.</p> <p>00:24:29 Dispute over strands of republicanism in 50's though politics didn't enter the club much.</p> <p>00:26:00 Recalls how in the past the clergy especially Fr McHugh, Fr Hegarty all took an interest in the club though there doesn't appear to be as much involvement from clergy these days.</p> <p>00:26:07 Sponsorship by local businesses, different sponsorship supplies jerseys for each team with their names on the jerseys.</p> <p>00:26:35 Recalls how little travel was involved in playing football years ago and the football activity was defined by East and West Tyrone and how the club would only play teams from East Tyrone and the only time they would meet anyone from West Tyrone would be if they won the East Tyrone league</p> <p>00:27:00 St Mary's weren't successful because of transport was impossible and during the war they couldn't travel and therefore couldn't compete. Other clubs were closer together and we couldn't travel this distance.</p> <p>00:28:06 Explains how years ago celebrations were quiet and presentations were usually made at a céilí but little fuss was made.</p> <p>00:29:00 Remembers winning the championship in 1966 in</p>
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Dungannon. Dates and venues etc are detailed in the club history. Still goes to all the Kildress games away and home. Some of the fields early on were not fit for football games at all such as: Grimes field where a ditch was levelled and two fields put into one and how they changed behind a win bush. Travelled to and from matches by bicycle.

00:31:24 Supports Tyrone, local derby always against Derry. Used to travel to all county games but not as much these days. Travelled in his old car with few local fella's.

00:32:00 Recalls travelling to matches in Dublin taking 3 long hours and going for something to eat. Recalls in 1971 leaving Cookstown for a match in Dublin with Down and Offaly playing but car broke down and were late in getting to Dublin. That day 81,000 were in Croke Park and they still managed to get in. Queue half mile long, doors locked. He had ticket as was chairman of the club at the time but other fella's didn't have ticket, ran down entry and man there with ladder and paid him half a crown each to get up the ladder and get in that way. So there were more than 81 thousand that day!!

00:34:00 Enjoys thinking back on another occasion when going in through turnstile with ticket and how a man jumped in behind him in order to get in free. The man in the pay box shouted but it was no use as man had ran on in. Double parked in Clonliff road and when he came back after match there was a garda standing there and told him to get to hell out of there, nowadays the car would be towed away.

00:35:48 Recalls listening to matches on the radio with Michael O'Heir and how they were one of the few houses who could get RTE television reasonably well and how neighbours would come to watch the match.

00:36:00 How BBC initially wouldn't cover gaelic games and used the excuse that as the games were mostly played on a Sunday and they couldn't get anyone to work on a Sunday. Thinks the popularity of the game has changed that and the BBC coverage is now very good.

00:37:00 He feels that Gaelic is the National game and his allegiance is to Gaelic football. Gaelic games has most probably shaped his identity.

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	<p>00:37:00 Best memory would be Tyrone winning first all Ireland. Remembers sitting beside girl he didn't know from Donaghmore and when final whistle went and Brian Dooher fell to the ground, this girl threw her arms around him and how ecstatic everyone was. Odd disappointments in losing matches but generally no bad memories</p> <p>00:39:20 Feels Mick O' Dywer's Kerry team was one of the best teams. Kerry had some good players but then again so did Tyrone Peter Canavan.</p> <p>00:40:20 83 years old but still goes to the matches. Still vice president of the Kildress club and feels the club still keeps him involved because of his past records rather than what he does these days.</p> <p>00:41:45 Sorry that many of his friends didn't live to see Tyrone win the All Ireland , recalls a visit to a man in hospital in Omagh short time before he died, his biggest regret was that he would die before Tyrone would win the AI.</p> <p>00:41:45 Feels that years ago the GAA meant a lot because there was nothing else to do and now it's a good thing for community. In early days people from one townland would be rivals with those from the next and the football and credit union brought all people of Kildress together. Years ago they would have talked about the upper end of Kildress and the lower end but that's not mentioned these days.</p> <p>00:44:22 Totally against pay for play. Everything now laid on for footballers Used to be a good honour to play for your county but now they expect to get paid</p> <p>00:45:15 Was chairman of Kildress for 10 years and on the committee for over 40 years and Kildress delegate for County Board meetings.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<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>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played for Dunamore and Kildress Wolfe Tones
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Chairman of Kildress Wolfe Tones – 10 years Committee Member – 40 years Kildress County Delegate
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:48:00
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: Eileen McCallion

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2011