

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010
<b>Location</b>	John's home, near Araglen, Co. Tipperary
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Donovan (also present John's wife Nellie)
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1931 <b>Home County:</b> Tipperary
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ballyheady NS
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Nellie), 3 sons & 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Araglen GAA [Cork]; St Michael's Football Club [Cork]
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Muintir na Tíre; Araglen Carnival Committee

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<b>Date of Report</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1900 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Tipperary, Cork
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, 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, Irish, History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Violence, Politics, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>John talks about growing up in Araglen in Tipperary and his memories of those times. Hurling was prominent in the area and he remembers stories his father had told him about the GAA there in the early 1900s. During the Troubles there was much strife and it was common for people who were on the run to hide out in Araglen. John played with the club and won a North Cork championship, of which he is immensely proud. He talks all about what they wore during games and what their facilities and preparations were like. He also recalls trips to Croke Park to see big games. Araglen was a hive of social activity and John and Nellie share their fond memories of the dances that were held in the area and the bands that would entertain them. Although much has changed in the Association since John was young, it has given him great pleasure over the years and he has remained a committed GAA man through the ongoing process of its modernisation.</p> <p>00:20 Born in 1931.</p> <p>00:30 Brother played with the local club and was chairman.</p> <p>00:45 Araglen and what kind of place it was in the past.</p> <p>01:20 Going to dances in houses. Priests opposed to dances. Paddy Crowley playing music.</p> <p>02:45 Johnny Murphy and his steam engine in 1936.</p> <p>03:25 Names of dances they did.</p>

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	<p>04:10 First club in the area in 1900. Football played without a referee. His uncle, Tom Ledee playing. Jim Fleming in goals wearing a waistcoat.</p> <p>05:05 That team cycling to games.</p> <p>05:15 Jack Riordan taking teams to games on his horse and cart.</p> <p>05:30 Going to Doneraile in a lorry in 1948 when Araglen won the North Cork Championship. Length of time that took.</p> <p>06:00 Hobnail boots they wore.</p> <p>06:35 Earliest memories - Araglen formed in 1944. Ger O'Mahony and Mossie Hyland cycling to Dungarvan to a meeting to form a club. Playing in Dungarvan before they moved the club to Cork.</p> <p>07:20 Araglen bordering three counties. People from different parishes and dioceses at church.</p> <p>08:35 Carnival club started up in the 1950s - hurling club, St Michael's football club, Muintir na Tíre and the hunt club starting that up. What they did.</p> <p>09:30 Playing hurling and football.</p> <p>09:45 Playing at school. Teacher, Pat O'Neill training them.</p> <p>09:50 Winning a tournament in Ballyduff in 1949.</p> <p>10:30 Gaelic games at the school. Differences between then and later years.</p> <p>11:00 Basic facilities they had when he was young.</p> <p>11:40 People who were members of both Araglen and St Micheal's.</p> <p>12:00 Training in the evenings and on Sundays.</p> <p>13:05 Players joining other clubs.</p> <p>13:35 Araglen winning a championship in 1959 and players from Waterford, Cork and Tipperary featuring.</p>
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	<p>14:00 Role of the GAA in the community.</p> <p>14:20 Travelling to games in a lorry. Trying not to get caught by the guards.</p> <p>15:30 Food on match days.</p> <p>16:45 Listening to games on the radio. Micheál Ó hÉithir. His neighbour, John Hyland, having a radio. Listening to Munster finals there.</p> <p>18:20 Women on the road he lives on following Cork. Men from Tipperary.</p> <p>19:20 (Nellie) How they first met.</p> <p>20:10 Hall built in 1948. How that came to be. Dances that were held there.</p> <p>22:15 (Nellie) GAA dances that were held.</p> <p>22:45 Using tilley lamps at the dances. No slow waltzes as a result.</p> <p>23:15 Bands that played at the hall - White Heather, Donal Shennicks band, Billy O'Donnell, Christy Murphy, Mickey Masterson, the Bennetts, the Roches.</p> <p>24:25 (Nellie) Traditional dances only at GAA dances.</p> <p>24:50 (Nellie) No alcohol served at dances.</p> <p>25:20 (Nellie) Parents' involvement in the Troubles.</p> <p>25:25 His uncle, Con interred in England. His father involved. General Liam Lynch staying at his house.</p> <p>26:00 (Nellie) Her mother in Cumann na mBan.</p> <p>26:30 Having the key to the Araglen barracks, David Kent's revolver and a whistler from the Troubles.</p> <p>27:55 (Nellie) Music in their household.</p> <p>38:35 (Nellie) Traditional music in the area.</p> <p>29:30 Scór in the area.</p>
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	<p>30:20 (Nellie) Her family not involved in the GAA.</p> <p>30:35 (Nellie) What happened at Scór.</p> <p>30:55 Gerry Goan starting Scór in the area.</p> <p>31:10 (Nellie) Being asked to take part in Scór. First night there.</p> <p>32:50 (Nellie) Nugents and O'Briens rivals of theirs.</p> <p>33:20 His playing career. Training they did.</p> <p>34:05 What they wore.</p> <p>34:25 What it was like to play on the parish team.</p> <p>34:40 (Nellie) Supporting Araglen against Kilbert.</p> <p>35:00 Celebrations. Bonfires.</p> <p>35:50 What the games were like back then.</p> <p>36:25 (Nellie) Rules of hurling changing.</p> <p>36:40 (Nellie) Seeing the boys practicing every Sunday.</p> <p>37:20 Going by car to games in Thurles. Neighbours cycling to Thurles and to Killarney for games.</p> <p>37:55 What it was like in Thurles on match days.</p> <p>38:25 Taking a boat on the River Lee to games.</p> <p>39:05 Going to Croke Park in 1959 when Waterford won the All-Ireland.</p> <p>39:15 Going to Croke Park with Fr Wall by car. Tom McHugh with them.</p> <p>40:00 Impressions of Croke Park. Price of admission.</p> <p>40:15 Watching games in Fermoy in 1945. Jimmy Maher, a dwarf, in goals For Tipperary. Jim Weir in goals for Waterford.</p> <p>41:00 Christy Ring, John and Jimmy Doyle, Liam Deveney players he admired.</p>
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	<p>41:40 Reading The Cork Examiner and The Irish Press for match reports.</p> <p>42:25 Changes he has seen in the GAA over the years.</p> <p>43:05 (Nellie) People bringing their own food to games. Going to Mass before the match.</p> <p>43:35 Going to a Munster final. Priest from Tipperary shaking hands with Cork people.</p> <p>44:05 Fr Kelleher in the parish and playing Gaelic games.</p> <p>44:30 Role of teachers.</p> <p>45:20 Adrian Power, Waterford goalkeeper in 2010, from the area. Pat Carney playing with Waterford.</p> <p>45:50 What it means when a local player gets on the county team.</p> <p>46:05 (Nellie) What the GAA meant to people in Araglen.</p> <p>47:25 (Nellie) Changes in women's involvement over the years.</p> <p>48:05 Picture of 1959 Araglen team that won the North Cork championship.</p> <p>49:00 GAA President Nicky Brennan attending a reunion for the team he was on.</p> <p>50:25 Stopping playing and reasons for that.</p> <p>51:30 Arguments at games against local teams.</p> <p>52:05 Protestants in the area.</p> <p>52:20 Politics in the area.</p> <p>52:35 What the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>53:05 Opening of Croke Park.</p> <p>53:35 The GAA and his sense of identity.</p> <p>54:00 Player disputes with county boards.</p>
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	<p>54:40 Importance of amateurism in the GAA.</p> <p>55:25 Hopes for the future.</p> <p>55:50 Picture from Araglen Carnival.</p> <p>57:50 Araglen's success in 1973, 1999 and 2005. Celebrations.</p> <p>59:05 Camogie in the area.</p> <p>59:25 Men attending camogie matches.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Won schools tournaments in the 1940s; played for 24 years with Araglen. Won North Cork medal in 1959.</p>
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>N/A</p>
<b>Format</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:00:33</p>
<b>Language</b>	<p>English</p>

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**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012