

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	16 th April 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, Omagh, Co. Tyrone
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Thady Turbett
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1929 Home County: Tyrone
Education	Primary: Culmore NS
Family	Siblings: 7 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Teresa with 2 sons and 2 girls
Club(s)	Omagh St. Enda's
Occupation	Panel Beater and Sports Hall Supervisor
Parents' Occupation	Plumber / Electrician [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Derry City FC

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Date of Report	15 th June 2012
Period Covered	1940s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Tyrone, Cavan, Down, Dublin, Great Britain, England, Americas, Australasia, Australia
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Celebrations, Material Culture, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Violence, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Thady discusses his football career from the 1940s to the 1960s in Tyrone. He describes playing for Omagh St. Enda's GAA Club and for his county, province, and country. He outlines his successes at various levels and recalls the excitement of playing for Ulster in Croke Park in his 20s. Thady also describes the celebrations surrounding the club's 1946 Tyrone Minor Championship title and discusses playing in New York's Polo Grounds and Gaelic Park during a trip to America in 1957. In addition, he considers the ban on foreign games and dances, the history of his club, and the different approach to training and playing nowadays.</p> <p>00:34 Recalls playing football for Under-18 team in 1947. Playing for Omagh St. Enda's senior team aged 19, then playing for Tyrone. Later playing for Ulster, then representing Ireland. Playing minor in goals. Playing on Omagh St. Enda's senior team from 1947 to 1963.</p> <p>02:55 Describes winning six county championships. Winning Ulster championship medals, league medals, Lagan Cup medal, Railway Cup medals, McKenna Cup, Gael Linn.</p> <p>04:02 Reflects on choosing between football and school aged 14. Seven brothers. Playing underage football, school football. No coaching.</p> <p>05:44 Recalls playing football at school. Being taken out of goals by a teacher. Describes facilities. Sheep on field, no nets, poor conditions around goals.</p> <p>08:17 Discusses St. Enda's use of Christian Brothers grounds. No barrier between spectators and pitch. Gravel</p>

	<p>surface. Difference between rules then and now.</p> <p>10:02 Explains why St. Enda's didn't use their own grounds. Christian Brothers' dressing room with pegs. Recalls meal of cold meat and lettuce after matches.</p> <p>11:25 Reflects on his father's involvement with the club. Describes playing soccer too. Explains where he and his brothers got their football: match coupons. His sons' involvement in sport. Saving up for his first pair of boots. Compares treatment of players today with that of players in his day. Getting taxis to matches. Mentions Mickey Harte.</p> <p>16:09 Discusses pride in playing for St. Enda's. Describes winning club's first senior championship. Playing snooker and billiards. Differences between goalkeepers today and in his playing days.</p> <p>17:55 Céilís in St. Patrick's Hall or The INF. Carnivals featuring football. Winning watches, suit lengths, and money at tournaments. No other pastimes. Camogie in club too.</p> <p>21:01 Discusses transition from club to county team. Difference between minor and senior football. Explains different grades, no Under-21 in his time. More spectators at matches nowadays.</p> <p>23:32 Describes physicality of matches in the past. Rougher. His dream to play in Croke Park, his granddaughter playing in Croke Park recently. Artane Boys' Band. Recalls excitement of playing in Croke Park for Ulster in his early 20s. Playing in goals. Fewer stands, spectators in terrace and on sidelines.</p> <p>28:18 Discusses his nerves the first time he played in Croke Park. Ulster vs. Munster. Mentions Down players Sean O'Neill and Paddy Doherty. Recalls the first Northern team winning an All-Ireland Senior Football final. Mentions Galway players Sean Purcell and Frankie Stockwell, also Dublin player Kevin Heffernan. Describes travelling with 5 players in taxi from Omagh to Croke Park.</p> <p>31:40 Reflects on playing at senior county level. Knowing many of the players. Describes controversies surrounding decisions by umpires and referees. Violent reactions to square balls. Difference between refereeing standards in the past and now.</p> <p>35:12 Recalls no preferential treatment in the club because he was a county player. Being president of the club.</p> <p>36:57 Describes getting a telegram notifying him of his</p>
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	<p>selection for the Ulster squad. Also when he played for Ireland. No television, no All-Star awards. Sending his jersey to Croke Park Museum. Outlines changes in St. Enda's facilities: showers, heating, doctor. Compares treatment of injuries today with that of his playing days.</p> <p>40:29 Discusses his playing injuries. Bruised ribs. Fluid in the knee. No interest in GAA committees.</p> <p>42:15 GAA providing physiotherapy for his knee, travel expenses.</p> <p>42:45 Describes travelling to America, playing in the Polo Grounds in New York. Mentions Cavan player Mick Higgins. Thady's trip to New York in 1957, from Shannon to Gander, Newfoundland. Playing in Philadelphia, Boston, Texas.</p> <p>45:20 Outlines itinerary in America. Meeting New York mayor Robert F. Wagner, police escort to City Hall, meeting Cardinal Spellman, visiting West Point, meeting Commissioner McEllroy, horse-racing in Belmont.</p> <p>47:17 Discusses playing for Ireland in Croke Park. Playing the Combined Universities. Mentions Frank Higgins of Queens. Precursor to the All-Stars. Also mentions Mick Mahon, Sean Boylan. Displays his Hall of Fame award from the <i>Ulster Herald</i>, among others.</p> <p>50:13 Describes playing minor in 1948. Too old to play county minor. Club winning minor in 1947 and 1948. Describes Tyrone winning first Ulster championship in 1946, beating Cavan.</p> <p>52:30 Lorry bringing team around Tyrone. Laments lack of motivation in Tyrone camp to win All-Ireland. Mentions Mickey Harte. Celebrations in 1946: flags, speeches, bands.</p> <p>55:36 Outlines training in the 1940s. Mentions trainer Gerry Browne. Intensity. No coaching for goalkeepers, self-taught. Fitness training: sprinting, playing football, no equipment, no showers. Differences in training today, players looked after more now.</p> <p>59:54 Pomeroy 15 miles away, where they trained. Driving to training sessions. No training for Ulster and Ireland teams. Discusses issue of money in Australian Rules Football. Australian players are professionals.</p> <p>01:02:55 Reflects on qualities required for goalkeeper: height, good relationship with full-back. Discusses hand injuries, no</p>
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	<p>physiotherapy in his time. Wintergreen ointment.</p> <p>01:05:50 Recalls playing in Polo Grounds and Gaelic Park in New York. Boxing tournaments in Polo Grounds, mentions Joe Lewis. Describes reception from Tyrone supporters in New York. Bands. Function in Hotel Edison, mayor's attendance. Mentions Charlie Hunter.</p> <p>01:08:27 Discusses playing soccer for Derry City. Reasons for giving it up and returning to the GAA: too much travelling. Suspended from the GAA for playing soccer. No negative reactions to his soccer playing.</p> <p>01:11:18 Recounts a story of an Ulster and Combined University player being seen by vigilantes at a rugby match in Lansdowne Road, suspended from playing Ulster match in Croke Park.</p> <p>01:13:24 Ponders the honour of playing for his province. Mostly Cavan players. Mentions Eddie Devlin from Tyrone.</p> <p>01:14:20 Mentions Dungannon as main club rival, Down the main county rival. Down beating Tyrone en route to All-Ireland glory.</p> <p>01:15:50 Gives his opinions on recent playing rule changes, doesn't think they should be changed so often. Discusses the square ball.</p> <p>01:18:20 Glad that the ban on foreign games and security forces have been lifted. Talks about people who joined the army from various parts of Ireland not being able to play Gaelic games.</p> <p>01:20:00 Knew people of different religions playing GAA. Talks about the ban on foreign dances.</p> <p>01:21:20 His best memory was playing in the Polo Grounds, New York with other St. Enda's players.</p> <p>01:22:20 Biggest disappointment – losing to Louth.</p> <p>01:23:20 His GAA hero is Sean Purcell. Played against him. Talks about his interest in dances. Mentions Peter Canavan.</p> <p>01:24:30 Discusses what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him. Meeting people</p> <p>01:25:30 Managed schoolboys teams. Mentions Donal Donnelly. Describes the responsibility involved. Finished his involvement then.</p>
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	01:27:35 Going to funerals of people he played with. Just watches matches on television now. Mentions playing carnival games. His dislike of the limelight.
Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Thady played from 1947 – 1963 at club, county and provincial level. He won 6 Tyrone Championships (including a 3-in-a-row 1952 – 1954), 2 Lagan Cups, 2 Ulster Championships, 1 McKenna Cup, 1 Gael Linn, 3 Railway Cups.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Manager of St. Enda's Youth Teams from 1963 – 1997 / 1998.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:30:05
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.

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Signed: _____ Arlene Crampsie _____

Date: _____ 15/06/12 _____

