

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	14 th April 2011
Location	Brosna Lodge, Banagher, Co. Offaly.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Emily Horan (Née Gorman)
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1920 Home County: Offaly
Education	Primary: Banagher NS, Co. Offaly Secondary: Banagher Technical College, Co. Offaly
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 11 sisters Current Family if Different: 2 daughters & 1 son
Club(s)	St Rynagh's GAA [Offaly]; Shannon Rovers GAA [Offaly]
Occupation	Retired Clerical Worker
Parents' Occupation	Head Gardener in Birr Castle
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	18 th July 2012
Period Covered	1920 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Offaly
Key Themes Covered	Playing, Training, Managing, Emigration, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Role of Women, Identity, Rivalries
Interview Summary	<p>Emily talks about her camogie days in Offaly. She grew up in the parish of Banagher and discusses her involvement in playing camogie from the age of eleven, to training the local camogie teams at a later stage. Emily discusses the effects that marriage and emigration brought to camogie in the area. She talks about her involvement in the Social Activities Committee and recalls travelling the length and breadth of the country to attend matches.</p> <p>00:42 Discusses the strength of hurling for both the men and women in the community growing up. Recalls women giving up camogie to get married.</p> <p>01:19 Recalls her father playing handball. They had no handball alley, used a meeting room.</p> <p>01:52 Earliest GAA memory – Emily and her cousin were the first 2 girls to be picked for Shannon Rovers (now St. Rynagh's) camogie team.</p> <p>02:54 Discusses the injuries she received in the camogie and her worry about going home to her mother injured.</p> <p>03:41 Recalls the local boys making hurls for the girls, cutting ash to make them.</p> <p>03:52 Discusses her brother playing hurling with the Senior team but then moving to England to get married.</p> <p>04:20 Recalls dreading playing Lisnagh as they were a rough team and “cut the shins of them”.</p> <p>04:40 Recalls beating Lisnagh and the Lisnagh team following them over the bridge to show their authority.</p> <p>05:05 Discusses starting to play camogie at eleven, being trained by their manager Garda Carraig and his wife. Recalls that they played hurling on the road.</p> <p>06:30 Discusses her love of hurling and how she followed the</p>

	<p>Offaly teams around the country.</p> <p>07:00 Recalls listening to matches on the wireless.</p> <p>07:25 Recalls her days as a trainer for the camogie teams and “jealousy” amongst the players and parents about team selection.</p> <p>07:50 Discusses the decline of camogie in Banagher due to marriage and how years later she revived it and trained the team.</p> <p>09:15 Discusses being on the Social Activities Committee.</p> <p>09:27 The revival of camogie in the 1930s</p> <p>10:00 Discusses being Life President of St Rynagh’s Club and her love of hurling.</p> <p>10:34 Discusses the local teams she played, Crinkle, Lisnagh.</p> <p>11:15 Discusses her family involvement in playing GAA and being the youngest of fifteen children.</p> <p>11:50 Recalls the older siblings working and settling in England. Talks about her love of Banagher and not wanting to leave the community.</p> <p>12:33 Discusses her father’s job as a gardener at Birr Castle.</p> <p>13:13 Talks of her love of dancing and céilís as a young girl. Recalls dancing a set on the Lisnagh bridge at Christmas.</p> <p>14:16 Discusses her love of camogie, how she trained the Banagher girls, the uniform they wore at the time.</p> <p>15:02 Recalls the good condition of the local fields and how they are still used today.</p> <p>15:23 Discusses the development of camogie in the community and the hurling men helping out.</p> <p>15:45 Talks about her approach to training the camogie team.</p> <p>16:13 Discusses the effect that marriage and emigration had on the local teams.</p> <p>17:09 Talks about the Offaly County team and being beaten in a Leinster Final by a team from Roscrea.</p> <p>17:55 Discusses being part of St Rynagh’s Club, travelling to local communities for games, Lisnagh, Crinkle, Birr.</p>
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	<p>18:51 Recalls being left-wing forward and being called to take frees for the games.</p> <p>19:21 Recalls only having eleven players on the team at that time.</p> <p>19:40 Discusses the lack of camogie in school.</p> <p>20:30 Discusses her involvement in the Social Activities Committee alongside John Dowling and Brother Sylvester. Talks about having céilís and dances to raise money for the local clubs.</p> <p>21:30 Talks about herself and Marian McKellehan being the only women involved in the Social Activities Committee.</p> <p>22:10 Discusses fundraising – selling tickets for the camogie teams. Talks about lack of transport - travelling to matches and meetings on the backs of bicycles.</p> <p>22:55 Recalls not enjoying marking players when she played camogie, just getting on with the game.</p> <p>23:18 Talks about her son Patrick, a former hurling referee.</p> <p>23:32 Discusses her children and husband and how they didn't play hurling or camogie.</p> <p>24:11 Talks about Garda Carraig and Ciaran Adling training the camogie team.</p> <p>22:43 Talks about parents supporting their daughters in camogie and mothers being disgruntled if their daughters weren't picked to play on the team.</p> <p>25:15 Recalls still having the whistle that she used to train the girls.</p> <p>25:32 Talks about the camogie players she admired, Birdie Donoghue, Annie Hynes. Recalls having a book at home "The Review" that has all the teams.</p> <p>26:30 Talks of her love of hurling and listening to the matches on the radio or watching it on television, regardless of which team is playing.</p> <p>27:04 Discusses her lack of interest in football and that she didn't follow it at all. Recalls that ladies football didn't impact on the camogie in the area.</p> <p>27:45 Talks about the uniform the girls wore while playing camogie, the tennis shoes they wore instead of boots and the</p>
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	<p>local boys making the hurls.</p> <p>28:40 Discusses the injuries she received while playing camogie and her doctor not approving of women playing the sport.</p> <p>29:00 Recalls a rival camogie player having tin on her hurling stick and causing injuries to her with it.</p> <p>30:00 Recalls getting concussion during a game and being carried into a house in Crinkle.</p> <p>30:07 Talks about her mum's disapproval of her playing hurling but recalls that her dad didn't mind.</p> <p>30:30 Talks about attending the technical school in Banagher and doing a secretarial course. Discusses doing secretarial work for the GAA locally.</p> <p>31:13 Discusses being approached to start camogie back up in Banagher.</p> <p>31:33 Recalls how she met her husband, a local Banagher man. Tells how she was more interested in camogie than men at the time!</p> <p>32:10 Tells how the current camogie ladies called to her house last year when they won the cup and had pictures taken for "The Review".</p> <p>32:50 Discusses how the current camogie ladies go to her son Patrick's hotel for food when they are playing. Tells how he gave up refereeing matches when he bought the hotel.</p> <p>33:15 Recalls putting up flags for Offaly when they were in the All Ireland. Discusses buying material and dyeing the material to the Offaly colours.</p> <p>33:51 Recalls her favourite hurlers – Ciaran Adlin, Paddy Maher</p> <p>34:58 Talks about her involvement in the Social Activities Committee and her enjoyment of being involved.</p> <p>35:21 Recalls going to Croke Park for matches and getting tickets from John Dowling.</p> <p>36:18 Discusses the lack of transport in the area when she was younger and having to walk to the sports field.</p> <p>37:20 Talks about marriage and work in England causing a decline in camogie in the area.</p>
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	<p>37:36 Talks about Mrs Carraig, the manager's wife keeping and cleaning the uniform for the girls.</p> <p>38:10 Recalls the team being supplied with hurling sticks.</p> <p>38:59 Talks about Kilkenny hurling and how they dreaded playing them when they were younger.</p> <p>39:30 Recalls a woman visiting her house and asking her to switch off the match on the wireless.</p> <p>Interview ends.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<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 type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played camogie from 11yrs until her early 20s.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	County Offaly GAA Social Activities Committee
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:40:11
Language	English

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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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 18th July 2012