

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

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| Name of Interviewer | Regina Fitzpatrick |
| Date of Interview | 19 th Jan 2011 |
| Location | Dean Maxwell Community Nursing Unit, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary |
| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Richard O'Shea; Patrick Maher; Kathleen Marks; Rita Fletcher; Ned Walsh; Maureen O'Riordan; Peter Fletcher; Simon Healy; Danny Gibson |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male and Female |
| Born | Year Born: N/A Home County: Tipperary |
| Education | N/A |
| Family | N/A |
| Club(s) | Roscrea GAA [Tipperary]; Kilruane-McDonaghs GAA [Tipperary] |
| Occupation | N/A |
| Parents' Occupation | N/A |
| Religion | N/A |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | N/A |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | N/A |

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| Date of Report | 20 th June 2012 |
| Period Covered | 1930s – 2011 |
| Counties/Countries Covered | Tipperary, Kilkenny, Dublin, Cork, England, Great Britain |
| Key Themes Covered | Travel, Supporting, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Celebrations, Material Culture, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Food and Drink, Socialising, Economy/Economics |
| Interview Summary | <p>Individuals in Dean Maxwell Community Nursing Unit, Roscrea, reflect on Tipperary's hurling tradition. They discuss the success of the county in All-Ireland hurling finals and recall listening to matches on the radio and attending the finals in Croke Park. They also describe going to matches in Tipperary by bicycle and in pony and traps. In addition, they discuss club rivalries in the area, the ban on foreign games and dances, the differences between hurling in the past and hurling today, and violence at matches.</p> <p>00:28 Discussion about where the interviewees are from: Roscrea, Cloughjordan. Recollections of playing camogie, badminton at various levels, including All-Ireland. Dan recalls playing hurling for Kilruane MacDonaghs GAA Club from 1951 to 1970. Training in local field in evenings, no pitch. Travelling to matches in Nenagh, Roscrea, Borrisokane by bicycle, hackney, walking. Few cars. Cycling 20 miles to Thurles. Mentions Mattie Horan. Also mentions Dinny Riney. Stories about attending matches.</p> <p>05:24 Maureen recounts story about man cycling from Roscrea to Dublin to watch match. Drinking pints. She recalls going to matches on crossbar of bicycles cycled by men. Rita Fletcher, née Cunningham, recalls her parents travelling to matches in Thurles and Nenagh in horse and cart. Mentions Roscrea club. Women at matches. Recollections of going to matches every Sunday. Team travelling by lorry to match.</p> <p>09:42 Discussion of changes in the GAA. Mentions John Joe Maher in Roscrea, also Mick Minogue. Recalls dancing on the bar after a match win. Recollection of her son's involvement with the Faughs in Dublin. Her mother washing jerseys.</p> <p>12:23 Description of family involvement in the GAA. Peg Cashin recalls her father, Ferncombe, playing for</p> |

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| | <p>Boherlahan/Dualla GAA Club. Her grandsons' involvement in hurling.</p> <p>13:50 Discussion of dances and social events associated with the GAA. Enthusiasm for the GAA in the past. Discussion about following Fianna Fáil. Danny Gibson shows his father's ticket to the 1939 All-Ireland final. Recalls his father taking him to Croke Park to the 1950 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final. Travelling by train. Comparison of Croke Park in 1950 with today. Packed train. Lots of flags. No tickets, paying at turnstiles. Cost of ticket: 2 shillings in 1950s. Bringing sandwiches and lemonade. Ned Walsh recalls going to match in Thurles by pony and trap, feeding the pony oats. Mentions Mrs Hynes's shop, buying biscuits after match. Getting into matches without paying. Also going to Birr and Nenagh.</p> <p>22:40 Pat Maher recalls going with Gerry Curran to Birr on horse and trap as a teenager in 1943/44. Mentions Christy Ring playing. Also mentions Dan Pick. Going to the Black Bull on the way home, lemonade and biscuits. Following Roscrea, its strength in North Tipperary then. Winning county finals. Mentions Jack, Dinny, and Michael Ryan, brothers who won 3 All-Ireland medals the same day in 1951 against Kilkenny. Roscrea hurlers. Success of Tipperary hurling team. Discussion of foot and mouth in the 1940s, restrictions on Tipperary playing. Mentions Cork, Laois hurlers.</p> <p>25:54 Description of packed train station in Roscrea on All-Ireland day. Buying ticket on train. Buying bottle of lemonade. First train 8:00. Mass near Kingsbridge (Heuston) station in Dublin.</p> <p>27:32 Recollections of celebrations after match wins. Crowds in Thurles. Musicians and hawkers around field in Thurles at matches. Mentions The Pecker Dunne. Mentions the Delaneys and Nevilles selling soft drinks, fruit, confectionery at matches. Mentions Jimmy Nevilles' story of his best day trading at Munster final in Killarney. Permits to sell around stand. Mentions Christy Nevilles.</p> <p>33:08: Discussion about pubs in Thurles that Roscrea supporters frequented. Hayes's Hotel, Micheál Mahers'. Simon recalls Delaneys and Nevilles running out of soft drinks at a Munster final in 1973 and selling bottles of tap water. Tipperary vs. Limerick, Joe McKenna scoring 6 goals, Limerick winning. Mentions hurlers Martin Loughnane, Paddy Rowland, the Ryans. Also mentions Jack Lynch, Francis Loughnane, Kieran Carey. Simon Healy explains how Francis Loughnane won 3 All-Ireland medals in one year. Beating</p> |
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| | <p>Mount Sion of Waterford.</p> <p>37:32 Peter Fletcher recalls the All-Ireland games he went to. Participating in Wembley Gaelic tournaments in mid-1960s, with the meat factory. Travelling by ship, drinking alcohol. Meeting Roscrea men who'd emigrated to England. Mentions Paddy Barry.</p> <p>40:18 Story of game played in Templemore, players drinking beforehand. Mentions hurler Joe Sheeran, Christy Sheeran. Story about disputed refereeing decision. Club rivalries: Kilruane, Nenagh, Kildangan.</p> <p>43:53 Discussion about violence at matches. Minor scuffles on field. No violence between supporters. Comparison with soccer. Differences between hurling in the past and today. Heavier ball in the past. Difference in style of hurling: faster now, less ground hurling.</p> <p>47:46 Story about Borrisoleigh and Boherlahan or Holycross in Tipperary final. Injury during match. Mentions Paddy Kenny. Change of ball.</p> <p>49:56 Recollections of listening to matches on radio. Charging wet batteries for the match. Jackie Bowers charging them. Michael O'Hehir commentating. Also Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh commentating. Newspaper coverage of GAA: <i>Irish Independent</i>, <i>Irish Press</i>, <i>Evening Herald</i>. Mentions journalist John D. Hickey. Railway Cup, parades.</p> <p>52:51 Local tournaments for suit-lengths, gold watch tournaments. Held in Roscrea. List of places tournaments were held.</p> <p>54:00 History of handball in the area. Handball alley, games on Sunday after mass. Not as popular as hurling. Mentions John Sweeney, Gilmartin.</p> <p>55:02 Discussion of ban on foreign games and dances. Roscrea and Nenagh the oldest rugby clubs in country, not allowed go to rugby dances. Mentions Dick Rafter, Tom Leamy, Dick Fitzgerald, Gerry Horan, Eddie Gilmartin. Mention of people who attended soccer and rugby matches and were banned from GAA. Also mentions Jimmy Togher. Discussion of location of rugby pitches in Roscrea. Mentions Jimmy Duggan.</p> <p>01:01:22 Story about Kilruane MacDonaghs playing Thurles Sarsfields in 1940 county final, mentions Jack Maher. Nora Maher attending hurling matches.</p> |
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| Involvement in GAA | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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) | N/A |
| Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for) | N/A |
| Format | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual |
| Duration | Length of Interview: 01:02:24 |
| Language | English |

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 30th June 2012