

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	10 th Feb 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermanagh
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Rita Traynor
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: St. Mary's PS, Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermanagh Secondary: Mount Lourdes Grammar School
Family	Siblings: 5 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Eddie (RIP) with 3 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	St. Mary's, Maguiresbridge [Fermanagh]; Newtownbutler First Fermanaghs GFC [Fermanagh]; Bellaghy Camogie Club [Derry]
Occupation	Nurse, Trained Tailor's Machinest, Hotel Work, Cotton Factory and Cheese Factory
Parents' Occupation	Road Worker [Father]; Handy Woman / Maid of All Work [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	SDLP
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Ancient Order of Hibernian's

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Date of Report	6 th August 2012
Period Covered	1933 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Fermanagh, Donegal, Monaghan, Antrim, Down, Derry, Armagh, Tyrone, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Culture, Volunteers, Rivalries, Media, Religion, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationships, Material Culture, Relationship with the Association, Politics, Socialising
Interview Summary	<p>Rita talks about her early days of playing football in Maguiresbridge with the local boys. She talks about the poor facilities in the club and cycling to watch matches. Rita discusses her introduction to camogie, playing with Newtownbutler, and her subsequent involvement in forming a camogie club in Maguiresbridge. Rita talks about her roles in administration within Camogie and the duties that were involved at County Board and Ulster Council level. She talks about her husband, Eddie Traynor, and how he got involved in the GAA initially. She recalls her refereeing career and talks about the sense of enjoyment at being involved in the GAA in her lifetime.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:23 Earliest memories of the GAA – recalls her father cycling to hurling training.</p> <p>01:31 Talks about her father’s passion for hurling. Notes that he supported football but did not have a big interest.</p> <p>02:38 Mentions her mother’s despair because she spent her time in the football field playing football.</p> <p>03:45 Talks about the facilities in the playing field. Notes that the field was not lined out.</p> <p>04:14 Discusses her interaction with the boys on the playing field. Recalls that she was treated like one of the boys.</p> <p>05:08 Recalls being drafted in to play for the Fermanagh hurling team in a match against Monaghan when they were short substitute players. Mentions Jimmy McPhillips.</p>

	<p>08:20 Describes John Beattie's field, the playing field in Maguiresbridge from her early playing days.</p> <p>09:15 Talks about the local priest, Father Wood's involvement in fundraising for the development of facilities in Maguiresbridge.</p> <p>10:56 Notes that Beattie's field was purchased by the club and work was carried out to develop the pitch.</p> <p>11:36 Discusses the arrival of Dr Reilly into Maguiresbridge and his subsequent efforts to fundraise for the development of facilities in the community in the 1960s. Recalls receiving a grant from the Ulster Council and a small donation from the County Board.</p> <p>15:13 Mentions JP Prunty's work on the field. Talks about the voluntary work involved in developing facilities.</p> <p>20:30 Talks about first aid duties in the club. Recalls having to fix a dislocated shoulder and deal with a broken leg.</p> <p>22:00 Mentions that it was uncommon to have first aiders at matches in those days.</p> <p>22:49 Recalls playing football alongside the boys. Mentions that jerseys and kits were scarce. Talks about the lack of facilities – recalls having to change in the corner of a field.</p> <p>24:00 Describes travelling by bicycle to watch matches. Recalls that the team travelled by bus.</p> <p>26:18 Recalls a family friend taking her to Newtownbutler to play camogie in her early teens.</p> <p>27:52 Discusses the formation of a camogie team in Maguiresbridge and other areas of Fermanagh in the 1960s and 1970s.</p> <p>28:18 Discusses her role as secretary on the Camogie County Board and secretary on the Ulster Council.</p> <p>28:36 Talks about her husband's involvement with the Maguiresbridge club as a player in his early 30s. Mentions that he had an interest in soccer from an early age.</p> <p>29:30 Discusses her family's participation in GAA – notes that her three sons were all dual players in their early playing days.</p> <p>29:53 Talks about the amalgamation of the Maguiresbridge and Killyrover to St. Mary's Maguiresbridge.</p>
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	<p>31:18 Describes the role of women in GAA at that time – washing the jerseys and making tea.</p> <p>32:15 Talks about characters within St. Mary's Maguiresbridge in the early playing days. Mentions James Breslin and Hugh McBrien.</p> <p>35:11 Discusses friendly rivalry with the neighbouring team Lisnaskea.</p> <p>36:03 Notes that a few players from Maguiresbridge were selected for the county minor team. Mentions Gerry Breslin and Justin Thompson.</p> <p>36:32 Talks about learning to drive and ferrying the players to matches. Mentions travelling to Casement Park and Newry.</p> <p>37:40 Discusses the issues in county selection for Fermanagh. Gives her opinion that a person's background and family distinction is key to being selected to play with Fermanagh.</p> <p>39:23 Talks about areas in Fermanagh – Enniskillen - that were more favoured in terms of recognition and selection to play on the county team.</p> <p>40:23 Gives her opinion on the mentality of Fermanagh GAA – talks about the influence of alcohol.</p> <p>41:50 Discusses training to be a nurse in her 40s and working on the Northern Board. Mentions that she was the first mature student that went into nursing in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>43:35 Talks about her introduction to camogie with Newtownbutler. Discusses her ability to play sports.</p> <p>44:49 Describes her early camogie matches. Notes that Newtownbutler played in a Monaghan league.</p> <p>46:25 Talks about refereeing camogie matches at club and county level. Recalls playing against Una Holmes of Rosslea.</p> <p>48:15 Discusses the weak tradition of camogie in Fermanagh. Talks about attempts by Fr McGuinness to promote camogie in the county.</p> <p>49:03 Discusses the low level of hurling played in Fermanagh. Notes that a lot of the players were dual players and opted eventually to play football. Mentions Lisbellaw, Lisnaskea, Enniskillen, Belleek and Knocks Grattans.</p> <p>50:43 Talks about her father's interest in hurling. Mentions</p>
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	<p>that he originated from Cooneen – talks about the Cooneen ghost.</p> <p>52:28 Describes the kit worn by the Newtownbutler camogie team in her playing days.</p> <p>53:42 Mentions that a good player on the camogie team would have been issued with a kit. Recalls that being from Maguiresbridge she was tolerated on the Newtownbutler team.</p> <p>53:58 Talks about the county camogie team at the time. Recalls that the team was made up of a lot of Newtownbutler players.</p> <p>55:04 Discusses the establishment of a camogie team in Maguiresbridge in the early 1970s. Talks about the decline of camogie in the area due to a lack of numbers.</p> <p>55:56 Talks about travelling to support Maguiresbridge in both camogie and football in earlier years. Recalls writing up team sheets as Gaeilge.</p> <p>56:44 Describes her duties as secretary to the club – writing up minutes of meetings, team sheets. Recalls her husband becoming treasurer for the club and later treasurer to the County Board.</p> <p>57:19 Talks about her husband developing an interest in the GAA. Recalls his enjoyment at playing football and friendships forged.</p> <p>59:15 Discusses her relationship with the young players on the team. Talks about the differences in young people then compared to nowadays.</p> <p>01:00:47 Recalls her step into an administrative position within the GAA through the Maguiresbridge club.</p> <p>01:01:40 Recalls taking a case against the County Board to the Ulster Council over an accusation against a club member. Mentions Malachy Mahon and John McElholm.</p> <p>01:05:10 Discusses the small involvement of women in administration at both club and county level in the late 1960s and 1970s. Mentions Garrison and Belleek.</p> <p>01:06:25 Recalls Donegal producing the first female county secretary. Discusses the breakthrough of this.</p> <p>01:07:31 Discusses the reaction from the Ulster Council at</p>
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	<p>her role in defending an accusation against a club member.</p> <p>01:07:50 Talks about her role as Ulster Secretary in camogie for ten years. Discusses her refereeing career within camogie. Recalls refereeing championship matches in Tyrone and Derry.</p> <p>01:10:13 Talks about abuse she was subjected to from supporters and players in her role as a camogie referee. Recalls an incident at an inter-county match.</p> <p>01:10:59 Discusses her inter-county refereeing career. Mentions Rosina McManus, Lily Spence and Belle O'Loughlin.</p> <p>01:13:24 Talks about the different administrative roles she held within camogie. Discusses her appetite for the GAA and the rules and laws governing the GAA.</p> <p>01:15:50 Discusses colleagues involved on the Fermanagh camogie board. Mentions Maurice and Helen Ferguson from Belcoo, Fr McGuinness and Anne Kearney.</p> <p>01:18:04 Talks about what the role of secretary on the Ulster Council involved. Mentions organising fixtures, venues, referees.</p> <p>01:19:33 Mentions that she had acquired a telephone at home and it was frequently used for Ulster Council work.</p> <p>01:20:30 Discusses travelling to Armagh for lengthy Ulster Council meetings. Notes her fear at travelling to the meetings as checkpoints were often on the roads.</p> <p>01:24:04 Talks about travelling to the Central Council meetings. Recalls the issues that were discussed at the meetings. Mentions that the Central Council meetings were tame in comparison to the Ulster Council meetings.</p> <p>01:25:33 Talks about delegates at Central Council level. Talks about friction between the Dublin delegates and other counties.</p> <p>01:29:55 Talks about Maureen Smith from Belfast, a former Secretary of the Ulster Council.</p> <p>01:31:10 Discusses stepping away from camogie to pursue a career in nursing.</p> <p>01:35:40 Talks about a camogie convention in Fermanagh during her tenure on the Ulster Council.</p>
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	<p>01:37:09 Mentions Elizabeth Crampsie, past Secretary of the Derry County Camogie Board.</p> <p>01:38:00 Talks about her regret at losing contact with a lot of her GAA friends due to the busy schedule that came with her nursing studying and career.</p> <p>01:39:14 Discusses her husband's involvement in the administrative side of the GAA and the impact of this on family life. Talks of her husband's admiration of Mickey Brewster. Discusses attending club dinners with her husband, but mentions her disinterest in attending big functions.</p> <p>01:42:18 Describes travelling to and attending matches on her own.</p> <p>01:46:35 Recalls her husband Eddie discussing issues after attending county board meetings.</p> <p>01:48:30 Reflects upon her best memories of being involved with the GAA – the enjoyment she got out of her involvement in Fermanagh, Derry and Monaghan. Mentions the sense of belonging that is attached to the GAA. Gives her opinion that the sense of family and belonging has died within the GAA in recent years.</p> <p>01:51:31 Talks about her GAA hero- Sean O'Neill from Down. Recalls watching him scoring a goal in a championship match. Mentions Brian Dooher and Iggy Jones of Tyrone and Paul Finlay and Dick Clerkin of Monaghan.</p> <p>01:56:38 Discusses her biggest disappointment with the GAA – Fermanagh's missed opportunity to win the Ulster Championship in 2008. Talks about her disappointment at Monaghan's performance in the championship in 2010.</p> <p>01:58:28 Gives her opinion that she does not think Fermanagh will win an Ulster title in her lifetime.</p> <p>01:59:10 Talks about what her involvement in Gaelic games has meant to her in her lifetime. Recalls that it was her social outlet.</p> <p>02:01:10 Discusses her hopes of success for the Maguiresbridge club in the future. Talks about the need for the development of facilities in the club.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played from the age of 13 to 16.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Got involved in administration when she was 14. Camogie Club: Secretary, Fixtures Camogie County: Chairperson, Secretary Camogie Ulster: Secretary (10 years); Delegate to Central Council
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:02:40
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.

Signed: _____ Arlene Crampsie _____

Date: _____ 06/08/12 _____