

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	17 th Aug 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Scotstown, Co. Monaghan
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tommy Moyna
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1929 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Urbleshanny NS, Co. Monaghan Secondary: St. Macartan's College, Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Sheila (RIP) with 6 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Scotstown St. Mary's
Occupation	Farmer and Publican
Parents' Occupation	General Merchants; Shopkeepers; Publicans (Both)
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	2 nd July 2012
Period Covered	1933 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Monaghan, Offaly
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, 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, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Tommy embarks on a trip back through the decades as he relates his various GAA experiences. He grew up in Monaghan while World War II was in effect and the GAA hindered as a result. Later he played with Scotstown and attended the famous St Macartan's College, which had impressive facilities and blooded many of the footballers of the future. He represented both Offaly and Monaghan at county level and went on to fill a host of administrative positions, playing a central role in the purchase of grounds for his club. He remembers the impact of the Troubles on Monaghan GAA, which in an indirect way was often positive. Monaghan has a proud record of supplying some of the GAA's finest administrators and he shares his views on their achievements. Tommy also remembers the great Cavan team of the 1940s and the Antrim team of the same period that might have won an All-Ireland had certain things not worked against them. He fondly recalls how he and his identical twin brother often confused opponents on the field of play in their younger days.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 Earliest GAA memory. Listening to Micheál O'Hehir commentating on the All-Ireland final on the radio.</p> <p>00:55 Is a twin and loved playing football with his brother. Where they played. No club in Scotstown, though there was</p>

	<p>one in 1933 that won a Dr Ward Cup. Who Dr Ward was. Club ended in 1943. Another formed in Tydavnet. Knockatallon and Ballinode also in the parish. Success of Tydavnet club in the 1930s.</p> <p>02:45 Soccer club formed in the parish in the 1930s. GAA revival during World War II in Knockatallon. People cutting turf together and playing football in the evening. New club called Knockatallon. Success in the 1940s.</p> <p>04:10 His own GAA interest developing. Cycling to Knockatallon for practice in 1944. His brother Mackey Moyna getting a game. Club's name changed to Scotstown in 1945. Himself and Mackey on the senior team at the age of 15.</p> <p>05:30 Reading about GAA in the Irish Press.</p> <p>05:45 Ulster playing Leinster in a Railway Cup game in Cavan in 1938. Cycling to Smithborough to get the train. Where they got the bike. Cavan contingent dominant on Ulster team. Wanting to see Armagh man Jim McCullough in action. What happened when they got home.</p> <p>08:25 1945 the last year of World War II. Monaghan entering a minor team for the Ulster championship. Getting players from St Macartan's College in Monaghan town, Christian Brothers school locally, St Mary's Dundalk, CBS Dundalk. How they fared in the minor championship.</p> <p>10:15 Mackey forbidden from playing football after a serious operation, then attending St. Mary's Dundalk. Playing for Louth minors.</p> <p>11:10 All-Ireland semi-final against Leitrim. Mentions Cavan playing Wexford. Sustaining an injury. Mackey playing illegally. Full-back Hugh McKearney smelling a rat.</p> <p>12:55 Uncle played with Corcaghan, near Threemilehouse. Cousin John Moyna a talented footballer, as were other cousins, the McCarvill's. Mentions Dr Paddy McCarvill a TD for Monaghan and a founding member of Fianna Fáil. Mother's and sisters' interest in football.</p> <p>15:45 Stories of GAA before he was born. 1933 Dr Ward Cup winning team. Going to St Macartan's secondary school to improve football.</p> <p>17:15 Jim Joe Casely playing for Macartan's. Scotstown sneaking him out for a game. His attributes.</p> <p>18:45 Jimmy Halpenny on 1933 team. He's a grandfather of</p>
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	<p>famous Cork hurling brothers the Ó hAilpíns. Jimmy emigrating.</p> <p>19:45 Uncle telling him of Larry Stanley of Kildare and John Joe Sheehy of Kerry, famous players who went before him.</p> <p>20:15 His uncle Pat playing with Corcaghan.</p> <p>20:30 Playing Ulster colleges football with Eddie and Jimmy Devlin of Tyrone, Iggy Jones, Jim McKeever of Derry, Pat and Gerry O'Neill.</p> <p>21:20 Master McKenna's interest in GAA in primary school. Lack of facilities and investment. Football boots not common amongst senior players.</p> <p>22:25 First impressions of St Macartan's and the facilities that they had. Scarcity of footballs. What they did to make do. Daily routine in Macartan's.</p> <p>24:00 His and Mackey's attributes as footballers.</p> <p>25:15 Páraic Duffy's father Mickey selecting him for the county team.</p> <p>26:25 Working for Lee Williams company in Tullamore. Playing for Offaly minors in 1947. How he got selected. Playing a Dublin team with Ollie Freeney and Kevin Heffernan. Tyrone a good team at the time.</p> <p>28:40 Mackey playing for Monaghan in 1947, year of Polo Grounds All-Ireland final. Meeting Cavan in Ulster. What happened. Mackey playing for Ulster in the Railway Cup. Selection process for provincial team at the time.</p> <p>30:35 Facilities at St Macartan's. Generating electricity. Supplying their own food. Shower on a Saturday night. Preferential treatment for GAA players. Fr Finnegan and his lack of interest. Frs Maguire, Molloy and McCormack keen on football. Travelling to games. Not so many colleges in Ulster at the time. Monaghan in diocese of Clogher. Tyrone people going to St Pat's of Armagh. St Colman's and CBS of Newry, St Pat's in Cavan, St Mary's Dundalk, St. Columb's in Derry all competing.</p> <p>35:25 Getting picked for the Ulster Colleges team and how that felt. Playing in Croke Park. Impressions of the stadium.</p> <p>37:00 Getting picked for the county minor team. Pat McGrane of Clones involved in minor set-up. Playing Killeevan and impressing McGrane.</p>
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	<p>38:25 First game he played in 1945 with the club was in a place called Latton. Travelling there by bike. Toggling out. War continuing in Middle East in 1945. Rations in Ireland.</p> <p>40:50 In 1945/46 England had scouts in Ireland looking for soccer players. Derby County, West Bromwich Albion and Arsenal scouts visiting. His mother reaction.</p> <p>42:35 What became of the soccer club in the area. Scotstown players they had. Ballinode contingent on the team. Religious breakdown of players.</p> <p>44:25 Club had no grounds when he started with Knockatallon. Renting a field from Leo Hamill. Returning from Offaly in 1950 and field that was being used unfit for purpose. Scotstown playing at junior level. Eamonn Murray chairman at the time. Meeting held. Decision to move from Showgrounds back to Hamill's field. Running a carnival and buying the ground. How much it cost. What was on the land. Going to the bank with Matt Caulfield. Striking a deal on payment structure with landowner.</p> <p>49:45 Approaching father for a loan. Sherry Brothers starting a factory and looking for land similar to theirs. Paddy McKeown of Castleblayney levelling the field for them. What he charged. Making money at the carnival.</p> <p>53:55 Next generation developing facilities. Sean McCague's foresight. Building a complex and a stand and improving in other areas. Quality of Scotstown's modern-day facilities.</p> <p>55:40 Emigration in 1950s and 1960s. Sherrys factory providing a lifeline. McCarvills, Ray McCarron, Gene Sherry, the Morgans, Connollys and McKennas all working at the factory.</p> <p>56:45 Winning a championship for the first time in 1960. Beating Donaghmoyne along the way. McCarron and McCrudden young players on the team. Belief growing. Monaghan's lack of belief at county level.</p> <p>59:20 Going to a dance in Ballinode when he was younger. Money made there. Money needed to run a club back then. Older generation staying in administrative positions too long. Need to distance oneself from administration once their children come into the reckoning at county level.</p> <p>01:01:20 Colours they wore for the club and how they changed over the years. Needing a new set of jerseys and being stuck for money. Monaghan colours when he played for them. Where they got the club jerseys from and what they</p>
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	<p>cost.</p> <p>01:05:00 Knockatallon and Tydavnet men joining in 1960. Leaving again in 1961. Club success in 1961 and reason for that. Celebrations after they won a championship in Ballybay the week before Christmas. Snowing during the game. Meal in the Oriel hotel. Bonfires.</p> <p>01:07:45 County team calling into Mrs McGrane in Ballybay for food. Different food served depending on whether they won or lost.</p> <p>01:08:55 County secretary Leo Burns ringing him at the post office from Castleblayney in 1945 and telling him to go to Emyvale to see a McCartan Donoghue man and tell him to be ready for a match. Few phones in the area.</p> <p>01:10:15 How they travelled to county games. Petrol rationed among taxi drivers.</p> <p>01:11:00 Monaghan settling on their modern-day colours. People making togs from flour bags in his time. Heart's Delight famous flour back then. Christian Brother Pat Hegarty telling him about uses for Heart's Delight bags.</p> <p>01:14:40. Making friends through the GAA. Armagh man Bill McCorry a good friend.</p> <p>01:15:40 Standard and style of football in Offaly. Evolution of playing style over the years. Facilities in Offaly.</p> <p>01:17:40 President Erskine Childers' relationship with Monaghan. His successor Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh called 'a thundering disgrace' in the Dáil.</p> <p>01:19:20 Friendship with Blaney family.</p> <p>01:20:05 Politics and the GAA. Friction in post-Civil War period. Political affiliation of footballers.</p> <p>01:22:10 Continuing county career after returning from Offaly. Playing Cavan in 1952 final. Dominating possession. Outcome. Lack of a proper managerial structure at the time.</p> <p>01:23:20 Ending his playing career. What he did then. Administrative roles. Telephone in his house. Other telephones in the location.</p> <p>01:26:25 Fr Terry Kirk going for chairman of county board against Mickey Duffy. Being nominated for Central Council. Lost the vote. Reason for that. Representing the club at county board meetings in Ballybay. What the meetings were</p>
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	<p>like. Paddy McGlynn's knowledge of the rules. Frank O'Brien flaunting the rules. Pantomime aspect of meetings.</p> <p>01:29:05 What club meetings were like what was discussed.</p> <p>01:30:00 Camogie in the area. Outsiders playing hurling in Monaghan Town.</p> <p>01:31:25 Role of the Clergy. Fr Jimmy Duffy involved. Retired bishop Joe Duffy's brother Ted Duffy involved.</p> <p>01:32:45 Role of teachers. Sean McCague imposing discipline and commanding respect. Páraic Duffy another respected figure. What it was like having figures like that within the club. McCague donating a kidney to his brother.</p> <p>01:36:55 Duffy's appointment as Director General. Duffy not appointing enough GAA people while at Macartan's school.</p> <p>01:37:50 The Ban. Hugh McKearney a good soccer player. Strength of the Ban in the 1940s. Going to a soccer game in London. Chelsea playing. His impressions of it. Appreciation for modern-day soccer. Disdain for Irish rugby anthem, Ireland's Call.</p> <p>01:40:10 Impact of the Troubles on football in the area. Ciaran Canavan playing locally. Travelling to Coaslisland for a competition. How they travelled. Being pulled over at a checkpoint on the way home from Irvinestown at Roslea.</p> <p>01:43:30 Going to Clogher in Tyrone with Seán Clerkin and Gerry Brennan. Those who played getting suspended. Fr Kirk chairman of Tyrone County Board and issuing suspensions.</p> <p>01:45:15 Monaghan a small county. Soccer popular in the towns. Reason for that.</p> <p>01:46:15 Ceasing GAA involvement as his family was growing. Working in the poultry business. Building houses.</p> <p>01:48:10 Songs about the club and the area. Some published in the local newspapers. Kerryman composing them. Athlete John Treacy being celebrated as his wife was from the village.</p> <p>01:49:20 Irish language and culture within the GAA. His own competence in Irish. What could be done to ensure that Irish is used more widely.</p> <p>01:50:55 Club's participation in Scór. Mackie Rooney and his wife Pauline involved.</p>
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	<p>01:51:45 GAA coverage in the media. Seán Ó Síocháin was secretary and seeking contributions for Croke Park. Donating money to that cause. 10-year tickets he buys. Lifting children over the fence at Croke Park.</p> <p>01:53:15 Early trips to Croke Park. How a typical day would pan out. Queuing to get on to the sideline.</p> <p>01:55:25 Ulster final day and what that was like. People travelling by train or bus during World War II. Antrim drawing big crowds in the 1940s.</p> <p>01:56:35 Antrim beating Cavan in the 1946 Ulster final. Many had been interned together. Harry O'Neill, Kevin Armstrong, Sean Gallagher all good players. Brand of football Antrim played. Playing Kerry in the semi-final. Kerry player going down injured. Kerry mentors rushing to his aid and introducing a substitute. Beafy McCorry playing for Antrim.</p> <p>02:03:10 Best GAA memory. Playing in 1952, the year he got engaged.</p> <p>02:04:35 Playing in a 7-a-side tournament in Ballinaheglish in Athlone. Prizes on offer. Playing in Thurles after Monaghan County Board chairman Jim Cahill arranged it.</p> <p>02:05:25 1947 brainwave of a priest to raise money. Concept of a 'Home All-Ireland' between Cork and Monaghan. Why those teams were selected. How the game went. Meeting Eamonn Young in Cork at a Nemo Rangers game. Talking about a goalkeeper jersey rule.</p> <p>02:08:05 Opinion on lifting of the Ban. Nationalistic outlook of the GAA of yesteryear. Peter Quinn coming up with ideas but wider Association not adopting. Lack of foresight in GAA.</p> <p>02:10:40 Admiration for Paddy O'Keefe, a secretary at their club. Admiration for Sean McCague and his predecessor Joe McDonagh. Contribution of everyday volunteers. Páraic Duffy's achievements.</p> <p>02:12:35 Disappointments. People hanging on to administrative positions. Problems of allocation of tickets to ex-footballers.</p> <p>02:14:35 What the GAA has meant to him.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person </p>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input 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 1945 – 1964 with the club and from 1946 – 1956 with the county. At club level he won 2 senior championships in 1960 and 1961 and at county level an Ulster Minor championship, Lagan Cup, McKenna Cup.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Tommy was a county delegate from 1951 until the 1970s.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:16:54
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: _____02/07/12_____