

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Tommy McCann
Date of Interview	10 th Nov 2010
Location	N/A
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Larry Geraghty
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Collon National School
Family	Siblings: 4 Brothers; 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 5 children
Club(s)	Mattock Rangers GFC [Louth]
Occupation	Retired Hairdresser
Parents' Occupation	Tailor [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	16 th July 2012
Period Covered	1950s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth, Meath, Kerry
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family, Involvement, Childhood, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Liam Geraghty discusses his introduction to Gaelic football, including making his adult debut for his club at the age of 15. As well as charting the progress of his lengthy playing career, highlighting milestones in the Mattock Rangers club history along the way, he touches on the influence of radio and television in the promotion of Gaelic games, the role of women within the club and the openness of the club to new members as the area's population grew. Geraghty also discusses Louth's controversial 2010 Leinster final and its implications for the use of technology in the GAA and offers a eulogy to a deceased friend and club member.</p> <p>00:00:05 Larry Geraghty introduces himself as a member of Mattock Rangers GAA club.</p> <p>00:00:22 Earliest memories – listening to games on radio. Trying to picture what was happening. Tells a story of listening to a Meath game on radio with Michael O'Hehir commentating.</p> <p>00:01:18 Paucity of underage football when growing up – refers to playing in O'Duffy cup and to playing only 3 or 4 games a year.</p> <p>00:01:50 First competitive game, played adult football in 1955, aged 15. Describes playing and winning tournament, but not getting medal.</p> <p>00:03:06 Remarks on being 20 when winning first medal and comments on the increased opportunities for young people in win medals subsequently.</p> <p>00:03:50 First game in Croke Park, getting train from Drogheda to watch Meath V Wexford.</p> <p>00:04:55 Favourite Louth players – names some of the St.</p>

	<p>Mary's players and tells story of seeing carload of Louth players pass in Drogheda and telling his mother.</p> <p>00:05:25 Admiration for Kerry's Mick O'Connell.</p> <p>00:05:55 Longevity of playing career: from first game in 1955 to 1981.</p> <p>00:06:40 Charts changes in approaches to training – believes he was 'never really fit'.</p> <p>00:07:40 Discusses the professionalism of modern training and the impact on game.</p> <p>00:08:20 Considers the state of Gaelic football and laments the decline of long range point taking.</p> <p>00:09:25 Highpoint of playing career: winning second division championship medal in 1960. Describes also the loss of 1962 senior championship to Newtown Blues, the size of the crowd and the quality of the Newtown opposition. Mentions seeing the pen picture of Gerry O'Reilly on the first televised All-Ireland final coverage on RTE - O'Reilly was a Garda who played for Newtown Blues.</p> <p>00:11:30 Refers to meeting Gerry O'Reilly at a function for old players run by the Newtown Blues.</p> <p>00:12:06 Mentions other low-points: defeats in county finals of 1973 and 1976.</p> <p>00:12:18 Refers to playing for Louth 'when they were stuck'.</p> <p>00:12:37 Superiority of current Mattock Rangers team to that of 1960s and 70s – describes them as 'much fitter' and 'more skilful'.</p> <p>00:13:25 Relationship between club and church. Reference to involvement of priests as players in 1950s and 60s and 'behind the scenes'.</p> <p>00:14:15 Participation of women in club. Reflects on the absence of women in the past, the roles occupied by women in the present and aspiration that more women might become involved.</p> <p>00:14:50 Openness of club to new settlers in the area and reference to the potential influence of children in smoothing the involvement of adults.</p> <p>00:15:30 Economic recession and fear of youth emigration.</p> <p>00:16:12 Reflection on Louth's controversial loss of 2010</p>
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	<p>Leinster senior football final. Comments on poor quality of refereeing and officialdom on that occasion.</p> <p>00:17:16 Discussion Louth's future prospects with reference to competition from soccer in Drogheda and Dundalk and to the pride of having Mattock players involved with county team.</p> <p>00:17:55 Introduction of technology to assist in officiating big games and need for Croke Park to get its 'act right'.</p> <p>00:18:35 Eulogy for Damien Reid, a deceased former player with the Mattock Rangers club.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Member of club committee since 1963
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:19:30
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: Tommy McCann

Date: 11th Nov 2010