

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Kinsale Beg, Co. Cork.
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Vilem Rudolf Stieglitz
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1928 <b>Home County:</b> Czechoslovakia
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Zidlochovice Primary School; CBS Thurles <b>Secondary:</b> CBS Thurles <b>Third Level:</b> UCC
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother [deceased] <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Mary), 2 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Thurles Sarsfields GAA [Tipperary]
<b>Occupation</b>	Chemical Engineer in Gas Industry
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Sugar Engineer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

<b>Date of Report</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1933 - 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Tipperary, Cork, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Clare, Kilkenny, Belfast, Europe, Czech Republic, Americas, North America, Africa, Rhodesia, Costa Rica
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Education, Involvement in the GAA Abroad, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Outsider's Perspectives, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Professionalism
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>00:26 Speaks of his youth in Jinačovice Jiřkovice, a town outside Brno in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>01:11 Talks of his father coming to Ireland in 1933 to work as an engineer building and running sugar factories. Speaks of the train and boat journey to Thurles.</p> <p>03:33 Tells of getting together with other Czech families in the area. Mentions fighting with German children in the area and cycling to school where the Irish children called them names.</p> <p>04:28 Speaks of being shy and how his involvement in hurling and football (he played for Tipperary minor football team) helped him settle in.</p> <p>05:13 Talks of the tutor in the sugar factory who taught them some English. Mentions then going on to the Christian Brothers and to secondary school. Also mentions how difficult it was at the time studying English, Irish, Latin and Greek and how difficult the Czech language is.</p> <p>08:28 Talks of how they lived apart from the local community and only met them when purchasing groceries or in the local pub Mickybo's.</p> <p>09:22 Talks about the curiosity of the locals towards them.</p> <p>09:57 Speaks about going to school in Thurles comparing it to school in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>10:30 Talks about the discipline mentions Paddy Kenny (captain of the minor team) being made to stand in his wet clothes if he arrived late.</p> <p>11:20 Speaks about a Czech gymnast coming from Clonmel to teach the boys using Sokol drill techniques. Mentions his</p>

	<p>father and mother doing gymnastics for many years. Also mentions the large displays held in stadiums years ago in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>14:20 Talks about the Christian Brothers at the time and how fair they were.</p> <p>14:44 Recalls growing into hurling by simply playing the game and getting good enough to get onto a team. Tells a story of travelling by horse drawn coach and bicycles to Cashel to play Rockwell college as petrol was scarce.</p> <p>15:47 Talks of playing hurling and football in primary school and going on to play for the county being beaten at football by a larger Kerry team.</p> <p>16:36 Recalls being the only Czech player on the school team having been singled out as a good player by a Christian Brother, Brother Hutton.</p> <p>17:24 Speaks of his love for football and hurling and of his parents going to one match in Thurles when the team beat Cork on the way to the Championship. Mentions they did not attend any other matches as they were afraid he would be injured.</p> <p>18:14 Talks about the German and Czech being proud of his involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>18:54 Recalls the war years and travelling to the Czech Republic in 1938 and his father buying a house in the hope of returning sometime. Mentions the troop carriers passing over the cobblestones and watching the Czech air force practising.</p> <p>20:42 Speaks of how the Czech and German community in Thurles carried on as normal until the Germans returned home during the war. Tells of one Czech who went home and was placed in a concentration camp for four years.</p> <p>22:50 Recalls not having any contact with the family in the Czech Republic. Mentions how everything was gone by the time they returned in 1967.</p> <p>25:12 Tells how some had kept their money out of the Czech Republic while his father had invested in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>27:00 Talks about his days in secondary school and travelling by car twice a week to Clonmel to practice football. Mentions Father Fogerty rounding the people up for the first Tuesday of the month.</p> <p>28:58 Discusses his training regime of running and hurling.</p>
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	<p>Mentions bad luck being a factor in all sports.</p> <p>30:27 Talks of his grandson playing tennis.</p> <p>30:58 Speaks about the minor team winning the Dean Ryan cup and marching around the field after a band in a hail storm.</p> <p>31:52 Talks about losing in the Harty cup final to Saint Flannan's in Limerick. Mentions Paddy Kenny.</p> <p>33:12 Speaks about becoming a member of the Sarsfield club. Mentions Jackie Griffin.</p> <p>34:09 Tells of playing on the football team against Littleton and how the opposition tried to puncture the ball to force a replay. Mentions Nicholas Mockler.</p> <p>36:05 Recalls being suspended for playing rugby. Talks about playing during frosty conditions and injuring his back</p> <p>37:15 Offer of coffee and sausage rolls.</p> <p>37:36 Speaks of his mother cooking for the local Czech people when making sugar. Mentions driving the engines.</p> <p>39:28 BREAK</p> <p>39:40 Talks of training and being selected for the Tipperary minor team.</p> <p>41:08 Speaks of the pride of playing for the county. Mentions the media's interest in him as a non Irish player.</p> <p>42:31 Recalls his first games for Tipperary against Limerick and Cork. Talks of playing hurling in university in the Fitzgibbon cup against Galway university in conditions so bad that the ball disappeared.</p> <p>43:40 Talks about his kit and how expensive it was.</p> <p>44:20 Recalls training for both football and hurling at the same time but hurling being more popular.</p> <p>45:14 Talks of his main rivals and beating Limerick, Clare, Kilkenny. Mentions John Doyle.</p> <p>45:33 PHOTOS BEING SHOWN</p> <p>46:22 Talks of going to play matches and staying overnight on some occasions. Mentions driving in a big Hudson car to play Galway. Mentions Paddy Kenny, John Doyle, Stan Leahy Michael Maher and John Brady.</p>
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	<p>48:58 Talks of his time in UCC studying science. Mentions staying with friends of his fathers and them moving to Cobh and cycling to college.</p> <p>50:17 Talks of being invited to play in college. Mentions practicing in the Mardyke.</p> <p>51:37 Speaks about playing in Queens, UCD and Galway in the Fitzgibbon cup.</p> <p>52:56 Recalls playing against Cloynes and the injury he sustained from Christy Ring. Mentions Paddy Kenny and Tommy Ryan.</p> <p>54:32 Talks of not having any involvement with the camogie teams in UCC.</p> <p>55:00 Speaks of not practicing a lot but playing local teams instead.</p> <p>55:30 Discusses the major differences between GAA sports then and now. Finds the sport of hurling very rough now like ice hockey another Czech favourite. Mentions not taking his wife to matches because she whistles too loud.</p> <p>57:44 Speaks about the skills in the game now and how they play more professionally.</p> <p>58:19 Talks of the nervousness of playing in Croke Park which lifts after a few minutes of the game. Mentions being injured.</p> <p>58:55 Talks about his honeymoon in Africa.</p> <p>01:00:12 Speaks about moving to Africa and a local hurling match in Chingora. Mentions being recognised and playing on the team. Also mentions the local district commissioner playing ice hockey and hurling against the mine club.</p> <p>01:03:27 Talks about the social life in Africa at the time.</p> <p>01:06:08 Speaks of working as a chemist in a mine in Rhodesia.</p> <p>01:08:49 Recalls coming back to England from Africa. Mentions the train driver stopping the train to listen to a cricket match in Africa.</p> <p>01:11:04 Talks of losing touch with GAA while in Africa and playing cricket instead. Mentions dressing up for social occasions.</p> <p>01:12:08 Speaks of watching hurling matches in Mitchell</p>
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	<p>Stadium in London. Mentions Pat Stakelum. Also mentions working with Irishmen in the foundry and what they made there.</p> <p>01:13:50 Talks of moving back to Ireland, after many different positions, when he retired at 59. Mentions Costa Rica.</p> <p>01:15:52 Speaks about still watching Gaelic games now.</p> <p>01:16:40 Tells of the impact his involvement in Gaelic games has had on his life and in settling back into Irish life.</p> <p>01:18:43 Talks of the inclusiveness of the GAA regardless of your background. Mentions his son playing in Waterford and going to America and linking up with others involved in the GAA.</p> <p>01:19:48 Discusses what the GAA needs to do to keep people interested including paying players to thank them for playing for the county but recognises that this might change the game. Mentions Cork.</p> <p>01:20:46 Talks of the amateur status of the game but how good players seem to find good jobs.</p> <p>01:21:32 Discusses how much money the GAA makes although numbers are down and other sports are being promoted including rugby and tennis as well as women being more involved in sport.</p> <p>01:22:21 Talks about Croke Park being opened to other sports and how this is a positive thing. Mentions increased revenue along with possible damage to the pitch.</p> <p>01:23:19 Talks about his favourite memory of playing hurling and the celebrations afterwards. Mentions having a few drinks with the team.</p> <p>01:24:20 Talks of his greatest disappointment being when he hit both uprights one after the other from a rebound in the Minor All-Ireland in 1948.</p> <p>01:25:28 Recalls a medical student who fixed up his thumb when it was almost removed during a game.</p> <p>01:26:29 Talks of how his involvement in the GAA changed his life and stopped him being shy.</p> <p>01:28:30 Talks of how a lot of the team have passed away and his sadness over this.</p> <p>01:29:35 Talks of making his 1947 All-Ireland runners-up</p>
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	medal into a signet ring.
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<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 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): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played Dean Ryan Cup at CBS Thurles and won Munster Championship in 1945. Played in final of Harty Cup; Played Fitzgibbon Cup with UCC; Played in 1947 All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final with Tipperary
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:30:22
<b>Language</b>	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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.