

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	04 September 08
Location	Naas, Co. Kildare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Brian McCarthy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1941 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Christian Brothers Monaghan Secondary: St McCartan's Seminary Third Level: Garda College
Family	Siblings: 3 brother; 9 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife (Margaret); 2 daughters (Jude and Lorraine); 1 son (Brian)
Club	Pearse Brothers GAA Club, Ballybay, Co. Monaghan
Occupation	Retired Garda
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A

Date of Report	17 October 2008
Period Covered	1920s-2008
Counties/Countries Covered	Monaghan, Down, Carlow, Kildare
Key Themes Covered	Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Education, Travel, Politics, Northern Ireland, Religion, Other sports, Violence, Media
Interview Summary	<p>0.41 Christian Brothers' street league Pound Hill, Monaghan, great story about dodging train fares between Monaghan Road and Ballybay.</p> <p>3.00 Brother Leigh refereeing matches</p> <p>5.27 100 years of Christian Brother in Monaghan celebrations (1988); story about meeting Brother Leigh again.</p> <p>7.00 Fighting at Christian Brothers league matches, further reference to Brother Leigh</p> <p>8.40 Description of Fergal O'Hanlon's Funeral.</p> <p>9.33 Description of connection between nationalist politics and GAA in Monaghan</p> <p>10.26 Story about his father playing for Monaghan team in 1920s in Irvinestown. Kidnapping of Monaghan team by the RUC.</p> <p>11.50 1920s Monaghan v. Down – Story about Brian's father being escorted by RUC off pitch and on to bus after scoring the winning goal against Down.</p> <p>12.54 Belfast Charlie (Brian's father) as driver for Hogan in the North.</p> <p>13.35 1920s – GAA buses being stoned going through the north.</p> <p>14.40 Belfast Charlie's carrying messages on the bicycle cont'd.</p> <p>14.30 Hogan (referred to above) brother of Michael Hogan who was shot in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday, 1920. Story about his disappearance.</p> <p>16.54 Story about being stopped by B-Specials, sitting on the</p>

	<p>road for four hours</p> <p>17.40 Status of GAA players in the town.</p> <p>18.08 Description of GAA Carnivals.</p> <p>18.40 Education – CBS in Monaghan and then the St McCartan’s Seminary, Monaghan (Fergal O’Hanlon reference).</p> <p>19.20 John and Charles McCarthy (nephews) play for Meath.</p> <p>19.40 Brothers’ involvement in GAA , both Paul and Cathal played for Monaghan, Paul also played for Ulster.</p> <p>20.28 Travelling to matches by train to Clones for Ulster Final</p> <p>20.46 Ulster Final Day in Clones, rushing onto trains and getting free passage.</p> <p>21.02 Great story about getting chips for photographer in Clones</p> <p>23.52 First colour GAA match on television – railway cup between Ulster and Munster, St Patrick’s Day 1969/70 – Paul McCarthy playing in goals for Ulster.</p> <p>24.40 RTE wiping tapes of matches due to lack of resources.</p> <p>24.05 Paul McCarthy receiving Legends Award.</p> <p>25.45 Getting lift to Croke Park with Parish priest</p> <p>26.03 Great story about Fr Kevin Cassidy of Fermanagh, fighting priests...’GAA to the roots’</p> <p>27.05 borrowing the priest’s boots to play a match</p> <p>27.35 Other sports played: basketball and handball,. Story about winning the Ulster Handball League and the Brother Leigh refusing to present him with the cup.</p> <p>29.10 Building of handball alley in Ballybay.</p> <p>29.56 Joining the Gardaí in 1961 – playing football with the Gardaí and soccer in Kildare. ‘Forgetting’ the ban in playing foreign sports.</p> <p>30.33 Brian McNiff and Pauric McCartan (brother in law of Ronny Drew) in his class in the Seminary.</p>
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	<p>31.18 Description of Garda leagues</p> <p>31.49 playing soccer with Kildare time and playing football in Ballybay at the same time in the 1960s.</p> <p>33.10 Description of disciplinary case for playing for both Kilcullen and Kildare at the same time.</p> <p>36.23 GAA culture in the Gardaí, one of the biggest teams in Ireland, being stationed with Dinny Breen (a legend from Westmeath, over 100 when he died)</p> <p>37.18 Description protest preventing rugby game between the staff of Arnotts v. North Kildare in a field belonging to the Duke of Leinster. Reference to Geraldine Cry.</p> <p>40.37 Story about being stopped by the Gardaí, on the way to a match in Carrickmacross.</p> <p>42.00 The GAA Parish carnival – story about sneaking into carnival tent. 1950s and 60s.</p> <p>45.00 Description of Feiseanna in Monaghan – 3 of his sisters dancing.</p> <p>47.42 Reference to use of Irish Language in GAA.</p> <p>48.20 Talks about his sisters playing ladies football.</p> <p>49.12 Changes in the game – professional training; less violence</p> <p>50.12 Talks about Jimmy McGee and the All-Star Matches in the 1960s and 70s.</p> <p>53.55 Best team he ever saw was the Down team of 1960. Mentions Joe Lennon, Seán O'Neill, Paddy Doherty – 1st team to bring Sam McGuire in Ulster; trouble getting the Sam McGuire cup over the border, biggest crowd ever in Croke Park, 'they broke the gates getting in'.</p> <p>56.47 Story about Fermanagh flag being put in chimney of Paddy Cole's pub in Castleblaney the morning of a Monaghan v. Fermanagh Ulster Final.</p> <p>58.20 Changes in the social life of the GAA</p> <p>59.36 Story about getting the match results back to the town and to RTE in days before mobile phones.</p> <p>60.01 Talks about professionalisation.</p> <p>62 Story about meeting Mick O'Dwyer and Mick O'Connell</p>
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	<p>after they left the Sam McGuire in the dressing room at Croke park after winning All-Ireland.</p> <p>63.25 Story about going to South Africa with the Kildare team in 1998. Funny story about Kildare team not being allowed to play at a certain golf 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 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)	Monaghan SC 1969; Garda medals; Ulster Handball Champion 1956.
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: 1:08:45
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 17 October 2008