

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	8 December 2008
Location	Thurles, Co. Tipperary
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eileen Maloney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1935 Home County: Tipperary
Education	Primary: Covent of Mercy, Templemore Secondary: Convent of Mercy, Templemore
Family	Siblings: Four brothers, one sister Current Family if Different: Husband (John McLoughlin); five children.
Club(s)	Thurles Sarsfields
Occupation	Housewife (formerly civil service – post office)
Parents' Occupation	Plasterer and Housewife
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A

Date of Report	2 September 2009
Period Covered	1920s – 2000s
Counties/Countries Covered	Tipperary, North America
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Politics, Opening of Croke Park, Emigration, GAA abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, Socialising, Food and Drink, Celebrations, Education, Identity, Culture, All-Ireland, Childhood, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Other sports
Interview Summary	<p>.30 Earliest memory – the importance of matches. Going to a football match on the crossbar of a bicycle from Templemore to Templetohy, which may have ended in a milea.</p> <p>1.20 Her father played for Templemore, times were lean, football was a release for people. It brought people together after the Civil War and became a place where like-minded people would gather.</p> <p>(section edited out at interviewees request)</p> <p>3.03 Her father died when she was young and so letters from American were very important to help her mother. In her aunt’s family, seven emigrated to Boston and Eileen’s brothers also eventually emigrated there too, they sent parcels home regularly.</p> <p>6.08 Her mother’s brother was her real hero; he emigrated to New York after the troubles and played with the Tipperary football team there. Was selected for the Tailteann Games team. Other locals also played for the Tipperary team in New York: Mick Spillane, Tommy Armitage (Loughmore) who had been a sub on the team on Bloody Sunday and Stevie Grant, the rest were from South Tipperary. Every time they came home to visit, they gave people a lift in hard times.</p> <p>7.44 Soon teams started to come to Ireland and teams from Ireland went to American and re-kindled old friendships. The sadness when they would return to America after a trip home. Eileen would go for the trip in the hackney to Cobh to take them to the boat. Remembers her uncle Mick recalling all the places he delivered dispatches to during ‘the freedom fight’ as</p>

	<p>they drove through them.</p> <p>9.25 When teams from Ireland went out to New York it was great for the people who had emigrated, they were so proud. Everyone would get together at Gaelic Park and the teams would get a huge welcome as would any visitor if they went over and then parcels were sent back.</p> <p>10.25 Persuaded her mother to allow her to go to the All-Ireland in 1951. She moved to Dublin in 1952 to work for the civil service.</p> <p>11.26 The convent in Templemore was like a nursery for the civil service.</p> <p>12.46 Got a job working for the post office. Remembers congregating with other people from home outside the post office before going back to the hostel on Henrietta Street. Hostel beside the registry of deeds, very run down area. Conditions in the hostel not very good but everyone was together so they didn't mind.</p> <p>13.45 Going to dances in the National Ballroom but had to be back at the hostel before the 11pm curfew.</p> <p>13.58 Met her husband John at a dance in Templemore in the summer of 1952. He was playing on the Tipperary Minor team in Croke Park the following Sunday and so they arranged to meet after the match outside Barry's Hotel, John scored 3-8 that day. County teams coming up to play in Dublin always stayed at Barry's Hotel and so people would always congregate outside of it after matches. The Castle Hotel was next door, they used to serve huge meals and were all the talk.</p> <p>16.30 Eileen took the lads down to the Teachers Ballroom that night and then met them again the following day before they went home. Loved having people from home up in Dublin.</p> <p>17.10 The hostel she stayed in was run by a French order of nuns. It was for girls who moved to Dublin and didn't have family to stay with, like a boarding school. Warned by nuns about the 'men in shiny shoes'.</p> <p>18.18 Teams from New York came over from time to time. Called themselves 'the flight of the Gaels'. An agent from Birr called Grimes would have their tickets for Croke Park for them when they flew over. Remembers meeting her uncle Mike in the Gresham Hotel. A lot of</p>
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	<p>the men who travelled over had been out in the War of Independence and were delighted to be home and going to Croke Park. They were so proud to be there, remembers them singing 'The Star Spangled Banner' and 'Amhráin na bhFiann' 'from their shoes'.</p> <p>22.40 No camogie for girls at the time but most of her friends in Dublin had an interest in the GAA. Remembers going to club games in the Phoenix Park.</p> <p>25.00 Celebrations after All-Irelands in Dublin. Going to the Crofton Hotel near the airport or to a hotel out in Dun Laoghaire. Going to Heuston Station to see the Tipperary team off and one year jumping on the train herself to enjoy the homecoming celebrations in Thurles and getting a lift back up to Dublin in the early hours in time for work. The All-Ireland was the highlight of the year.</p> <p>27.54 GAA a huge part of her life. Later when she earned a little more and the five day week came him, she could afford to go home more often and go to club games. Soon her family started to move back home and she would stay down Sunday nights to go to dances in the Confraternity Hall in Thurles and get a lift back up to Dublin afterwards. Sometimes dances in the Army Barracks (now the Garda barracks) in Templemore. Jim Delahunty and his band from Clonmel would play.</p> <p>30.51 Married in 1966 – another great meeting of the Gaels. John's old team came back together and her uncle came home from America.</p> <p>31.29 Another team re-union was organised by Babs Keating in Dundrum House in 2007, met a lot of their old friends including Pat and Nancy Stacklum, Pat has since passed away. John's medals were stolen from the house and they had a presentation night to present him with replicas. 'Life would certainly have been poorer without the GAA'.</p> <p>36.00 They married in Templemore, the local team lined the street in a guard of honour, there was great excitement. They honeymooned in the South of Ireland.</p> <p>37.26 John (Eileen's husband) played from 1958-68. Later he was involved with the Thurles Sarsfields.</p> <p>41.30 Very strong link between politics and the GAA, it was</p>
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	<p>like a natural progression from the War of Independence into the GAA. The bond between people who had been out in the War of Independence and their children, it was like they were blood relations.</p> <p>44.05 The Ban strictly enforced in Tipperary. John was always against the ban.</p> <p>44.57 Her uncle Jim Ryan was a sub on the Tipperary team on Bloody Sunday, he would have been good friends with Dan Breen.</p> <p>45.20 Meeting Dan Breen when he represented South Tipperary in the Dáil. He helped her get special leave to go to America for St Patrick's Day when she was working for the civil service.</p> <p>49.37 Life in New York – Irish community supportive of one another. Pub on Columbus Avenue, owned by a man called Armitage, was a great meeting place for people. The Shelly family of Templemore were great friends with Eileens family over there, especially Paddy Shelly.</p> <p>51.15 Rock Sunday – a special Sunday in Templemore, the third Sunday of July every year, when people go and climb the Devils Bit and then they have a mass up there.</p> <p>52.55 Being in Croke Park at the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics, her daughter volunteered at it.</p> <p>53.11 Niall Quinn's (former Irish international soccer player) father from Rahilly. John used to train with that club and at the end of training they would be treated to a cup of Rahilly spring water.</p> <p>56.22 Had concerns about Croke Park being opened up to other sports.</p> <p>(segment deleted at interviewees request)</p> <p>57.00 Great progress has been made on the GAA in schools.</p> <p>58.00 Their own children, why her son stopped playing.</p> <p>60.00 Two Sarfields players currently on the Tipperary Senior Panel – Pa Burke and Lar Kirby. Pa Burke plays hurling with the children on the green outside</p>
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	<p>Eileen's house.</p> <p>61.01 Paul Maher plays under 21 for Tipperary – hopes he'll get a place on the senior team in 2009..</p> <p>62.30 The Tipperary team that defeated Kilkenny in the 1964 All-Ireland one of the best Tipperary teams. Her husband John was on that team. Training was less intense in those days.</p> <p>63.57 used to stay in a hotel in Lucan the night before the All-Ireland and have a drink the night before in a pub called Murphy's. Sarsfields used to be very prominent on the Tipperary team at that time. Tony Walsh and Tommy Doyle were also there.</p> <p>65.16 John also played handball in the alley in the Horse and Jockey.</p> <p>66.23 John's heros – Stakelum, Tony Reddin, Tommy Doyle, Jimmy Kennedy, the Ryans of Roscrea and Borrisoleigh. Hurling more robust in his time. Doesn't agree with yellow and red cards – it's a different style of hurling, Referees have a tougher time now.</p> <p>69.52 John became organised in golf classics. He used to work for Dwans in Thurles which was eventually bought out by C&C. They used to employ people who stayed around the play hurling.</p> <p>70.50 Making time for training when he was working, looked forward to it every night, trained about three nights a week.</p> <p>71.00 No snobbery in the game, most people were from the same background.</p> <p>72.40 Players are treated much better now than they were then. The first treat he got as a county player was being fitted for a blazer for their trip to America after winning the League final. They would go all out for the League to win the trip to America – went by plane to New York and Chicago.</p> <p>74.18 Treated like kings when they went over. Remembers spending a day in Gaelic Park, four or five matches played on the same day, people there from about 11am. A lot of people would not have stayed in America only for Gaelic Park. It was lonely enough over there and so they looked after people who went over to make a life for themselves. Paddy Shelly was</p>
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	<p>one of the last of those Gaels.</p> <p>77.50 Went to Sheffers Brewery and Westpoint when they were there. Also met one of the star players of the Chicago Bears, they won all their matches over there.</p> <p>80.24 Glenmorgan House on Parnell Street, owned by the Lamb family – teams used to meet there after training and matches.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input 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)	N/A
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: 1:20:52
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 2 September 2009

