

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	11 th March 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Warrenpoint, Co. Down
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Barney Carr
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1923 Home County: Down
Education	Primary: Warrenpoint PS; Carrick PS, Newry, Co. Down. Secondary: CBS Newry, Co. Down
Family	Siblings: 6 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: 2 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	St Peter's GAA, Warrenpoint [Down]
Occupation	Bus Driver; Education & Welfare Officer with Down Education Board
Parents' Occupation	Stone Mason for the Great Northern Railway [Father]; Dressmaker [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Founding member of Warrenpoint branch of SDLP
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DN/1/10

Date of Report	21 st Aug 2012
Period Covered	1880s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Down, Dublin, Cavan
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Material Culture, Media, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Outsider's Perspectives, Northern Ireland, Relationship with the Association, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Barney talks about his involvement in the GAA in Down and the role the association has played in his life. He describes growing up in Warrenpoint in the 1920s and 1930s and what the area was like during this period. He discusses the history of the GAA in Warrenpoint and talks about playing soccer the 1930s before joining the St Peter's GAA club in 1940. He discusses his involvement in the administrative side of the game, being involved with the south Down board as well as the county board. Barney discusses becoming Down manager and winning the All-Ireland in 1960. He talks about the importance of the breakthrough the previous year and what winning the All-Ireland, the first team from Northern Ireland to do so, meant to him. Barney talks about his management style and approach to the game and discusses the build-up to the final in 1960 and feeling after the final whistle was blown.</p> <p>00:20 Barney talks about his early life in Summerhill, Warrenpoint and what the area was like growing up in the 1920s and 1930s.</p> <p>03:22 Describes how Warrenpoint John Martin's were one of the first GAA clubs in Down. Soccer was the main game until St Peter's GAA was set up in 1931.</p> <p>04:30 Talks about his father's involvement in the GAA and athletics. Played for Down around 1914.</p> <p>05:50 Discusses his first involvement in the GAA. Played soccer until 1940 and joining St Peter's.</p> <p>07:30 Talks about playing for a soccer team in Newry against a Welsh regiment team during the second world war. Being called 'paddy'. Starting Gaelic football in 1940. Winning the</p>

	<p>junior championship.</p> <p>09:10 Describes his first game for St Peter's. Playing in Glen.</p> <p>10:30 Talks about playing minor for Down and then senior. County winning McKenna Cup.</p> <p>11:08 Discusses what the McKenna Cup was.</p> <p>11:45 Talks about the county set up in Down during the 1940s and the south Down board. Becoming a member of the county board in 1958.</p> <p>12:45 Discusses how teams were picked in the 1940s. County board had mentors. Mentions Terry McCormick, John O'Hehir.</p> <p>14:38 Describes how there was no training when he played for Down. Winning three senior championships with Warrenpoint.</p> <p>15:48 Talks about the structure of the GAA in Warrenpoint. Leagues organised for teams from Warrenpoint and Rostrevor.</p> <p>17:20 Discusses the other pastimes available when he was growing up.</p> <p>18:00 Recalls being picked from Down. Brothers were on the team before him.</p> <p>19:20 Talks about his family's involvement in the GAA. Recalls being on a team with 7 Carrs, 5 of his own family and 2 cousins. Notes how the McGovern family from Burren had 9 brothers on the same team. Mentions John McLorey.</p> <p>21:17 Discusses travelling to matches during the Second World War. Taking McAnulty's bus and taxis. Recalls a series of matches in a 1944 final against Clonduff.</p> <p>24:08 Talks about the make-up of the team in Warrenpoint. Competition with soccer.</p> <p>24:48 Discusses playing for Down and how he was picked.</p> <p>28:04 Talks about the teams they played against. Winning the championship for the first time in 1959. The strength of Cavan during the 1950s.</p> <p>29:50 Discusses his involvement in administration with the county board. What the meetings were like during this period. Being a Down delegate at Ulster conventions. Mentions</p>
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REFERENCE NO. DN/1/10

	<p>Father Petit.</p> <p>32:39 Gives his opinion on the administrative side of the GAA.</p> <p>33:43 Discusses writing articles in newspapers under the name 'linesman'. Mentions Father Barney Traynor and being elected onto the county board.</p> <p>34:58 Discusses managing Down to their first All-Ireland win in 1960, the first team from Northern Ireland to do so. Talks about the breakthrough in 1959, beating Cavan.</p> <p>37:50 Talks about his management methods and the style of football Down played. Compares it Real Madrid and the Hungarian soccer player Ferenc Puskás. Mentions Alfredo Di Stéfano, Seán O'Neill, James McCartan, Paddy Doherty, Tony Hadden, Paddy O'Hagan.</p> <p>43:10 Discusses the victory of Cavan in 1959. Playing in Wembley against Kerry in 1961.</p> <p>44:44 Describes the type of training done before the All-Ireland finals in the 1960s. Mentions Danny Flynn.</p> <p>46:16 Recalls the days before the All-Ireland finals. Talks about James McCartan.</p> <p>47:35 Talks about the night before and the day of the All-Ireland final in 1960. His approach to the game. Mentions Paddy Doherty, Joe Lennon.</p> <p>50:28 Describes the feeling after winning the All-Ireland final in 1960.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" 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>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Started playing with St Peter's age 17 until age 34; member of Down Minor team, 1941, member of Down Senior Football team 1943-52. Won McKenna Cup in 1944. Won 3 senior Down Football championships, 1943, 49, 53.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how</p>	<p>Member of Down East Divisional Board; Down Representative to Ulster Council 1955; Member of Down County Board from 1958 for many years. 1959-63, manager</p>

REFERENCE NO. DN/1/10

long for)	of Down Senior Football Team.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:51:36
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 21st August 2012