

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	24 November 2008
Location	Ferrybank, Co. Waterford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paddy Buggy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1929 Home County: Kilkenny
Education	Primary: Sliabh Ruaidh, Kilkenny Secondary: Mount Sion, Waterford
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: Three sons and one daughter
Club(s)	Sliabh Ruaidh
Occupation	Local Authority Official
Parents' Occupation	Foreman in Clover Meats Factory
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A

REFERENCE NO. KK/1/4

Date of Report	4 October 2009
Period Covered	1930s-2008
Counties/Countries Covered	Kilkenny, Waterford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement
Interview Summary	<p>0:00 Introduction</p> <p>0:20 Born in Nurse Quinlan's in Waterford; father a pork butcher; one of four that went to England to be trained for Clover Meats before they opened in Ireland in the 1920s; worked all of his life there.</p> <p>0:50 Mother Mary Dooley from Jenkinstown. Father hurled with Conaghy; mother played camogie for for Conaghy; father an old IRA man; mother was in Cumann na mBan.</p> <p>1:25 They lived in Waterford and then in Slieverue; purchasing his house in Ferrybank; three quarters of the cul de sac was in Kilkenny but in the 1960s all of the estate was take over by Waterford Borough Council; attachment to Kilkenny.</p> <p>2:49 Lovely area – separated from Wexford by the River Nore and the River Barrow and separated from Waterford by the River Suir – the meeting place of three counties and three rivers. Description of Slieverue as a parish; how Ferrybank became a parish; recent move to incorporate Slieverue in to Waterford; influence of Celtic Tiger on the area.</p> <p>5:10 Slieverue club – only took off when the three parish rule took off and then the one parish rule; good Slieverue players used to play with Carrickshock; explanation of how the three parish system worked around Co. Kilkenny; most clubs had</p>

	<p>outside players.</p> <p>6:03 Winning a junior championship in 1949 – Johnny Hokey also captained Kilkenny Junior team to the All-Ireland in 1950; a couple of years earlier won the championship but there was an objection to Bobby Hinks and Buddy Norris; circumstances of this objections.</p> <p>8:01 Won senior county championship in 1954 - captaining Kilkenny in 1955; losing to Wexford in a replay</p> <p>8:18 Had a hurley and ball in his hand before he was two or three years old; neighbours, the Fitzgearlds and then Haverns on the other side; he used to go down to Haverns.</p> <p>9:40 His mother kept a lodger – Jim Robinson, who worked for Kilkenny County Council and eventually got Paddy a job in Kilkenny County Council where he worked all his life.</p> <p>10:26 Life in Ireland at the time – card games and dances in the house. Wheelers built a house on the site of their old house; story about how Ned Wheeler came to play with Wexford, through Clover Meats.</p> <p>11:04 Jim Buggy, his cousin, played for Mount Sion in Waterford; worked at Clover Meats, also transferred with Clover meats; Seamus Buggy won a doubles All-Ireland in Handball with Wexford and they won a world title in doubles handball with Lyng.</p> <p>12:44 Hurling not strong in Slieverue in his time, during the war (1939); prior to that there was a schools league; famous team in Slieverue, three parishes played together; players on that team; won the schools league twice in hurling and football.</p> <p>14:09 A good team in Slieverue in the 1940s; training one Schools League team.</p> <p>15:00 Moved to Ferrybank National School from Sliverue – importance of a good fire and a good table; life in Ireland at the time; getting a lift to school with a man on his way to the creamery; getting a bicycle.</p> <p>16:15 Groin and muscular injuries unheard of in his time; people naturally fit from walking and agricultural work.</p> <p>17:28 Making his confirmation in Ferrybank. Five in family – his two brothers also played for Slieverue and Gerry played for Kilkenny; sister Sheila played hockey and played camogie for Kilkenny.</p>
--	---

	<p>18:28 Parents advised by school master that he should be sent to secondary school; he was sent to Mount Sion; many new school subjects; got his leaving cert from there.</p> <p>19:40 First place he played hurling was in Belview with his father and neighbours.</p> <p>20:29 Played hurling in Mount Sion – captained a team to win the Hackett Cup; bringing cup across the bridge on the handlebars of the bike; becoming serious about hurling</p> <p>21:08 First match he ever played was a schools league match with Conaghy - he was illegal.</p> <p>22:10 1945 Ferrybank asked him to play – he lived in Kilkenny he was 15; played for them against De La Salle – again illegally. 1946 played minor with Slieverue; lots of illegal games played at the time, very unfair.</p> <p>24:00 Importance of playing for enjoyment and not just for winning especially with underage teams; what the GAA means to children</p> <p>25:24 Joining Pioneer Total Abstinence Association 1946 with his brother.</p> <p>26:16 Played inter-county senior hurling from 1949-1960; was very light in weight; very robust game; changes in the way hurling is played; three man tackle; very rough game; schmozzle in the square; goalkeepers were the bravest of the brave; tactics different; hurleys were different</p> <p>29:49 First time playing for Kilkenny was against Galway in the National League in 1949 in Ballinasloe; injury sustained during that match; later broke his arm in a league game against Cork.</p> <p>31:55 Beating Wexford in Nowlan Park, record attendance in Nowlan Park that day – the Rackards, Keoghs, Donnellys all coming up at that time; how Kilkenny won that day; Paddy dropped after that day. Kilkenny lost to Tipperary in the final that year; the same Tipperary team won three in a row 49, 50, 51.</p> <p>34:30 Jimmy Langton was the stylist of his boyhood – worked as a duo with Jack Mulcahy; a very strong man. Langton the first great Kilkenny player that Paddy remembers seeing. Has seen every county team since the 1940s including the Cork team that won the four in a row.</p> <p>36:01 One of the pleasures when he was president was to</p>
--	---

	<p>meet the great players of hurling and football.</p> <p>36:39 Frank Cummins – the strongest mid-fielder he has ever seen; won eight all-Irelands in the one position on the field.</p> <p>37:32 DJ Carey – could do anything; a genius; some of the best scores he’s ever seen; most skilful hurler he has every seen</p> <p>38:27 Christy Ring the best hurler he has ever seen – an all-rounder</p> <p>38:45 Current Kilkenny hurlers – best Kilkenny team that ever took the field in the modern game; way above the others.</p> <p>39:24 Doesn’t believe that Leinster hurling is in bad shape – Kilkenny have just gone far ahead of the others.</p> <p>40:08 The Kilkenny team of the 1970s was the best Kilkenny team before the current Kilkenny team.</p> <p>41:00 Ollie Walsh as a goalkeeper.</p> <p>41:53 Tony Reddin – the bravest of the brave; necessary for goal keeping</p> <p>42:10 Skill levels of the current Kilkenny team – Brian Cody’s career; strong on attitude and discipline and how much he and the players enjoy it. Determination of Kavanagh in the 2008 All-Ireland Final; they back each other up; Cody has brought the tactics and skills to a very high level; level of team work.</p> <p>45:37 Henry Shefflin the best hurler of the modern game today – excellent team tactics. Larkin’s improvement in the 2008 campaign.</p> <p>46:46 Enjoys watching hurling today – difference in hurlers today; Jimmy Doyle of Tipperary the first that he remembers using a shorter hurley; Reamy Dowling made the hurls in Kilkenny and kept a record of your hurl. The ball is completely different; ball goes a further distance; thinks the ball should be changed as its taking the half backs and centre field players out of play. Players much fitter and faster now; comparison of play in his day and today; doesn’t enjoy when the games are over defensive.</p> <p>51:39 – Break for tea.</p> <p>51:44 Story about ‘Jim- The Link’ Walsh – night before 1957 All-Ireland; Fr Meagher training the Kilkenny team.</p>
--	--

	<p>55:39 Story about Ollie Walsh – Paddy a selector for Kilkenny in 1967 and 1969; Reference to Watty Dunphy and 1923 team that beat Tipperary; theory in 1960s that Kilkenny could not beat Tipperary; getting the train up to the All-Ireland in 1967; Ollie Walsh injury on train on the way; reference to Dr Cuddihy.</p> <p>58:44 Description of Ollie Walsh - jovial character</p> <p>59:20 The filming of ‘Rooney’ in the 1957 All-Ireland – John Gregson parading around the pitch with the Kilkenny team. Paddy Grace’s view - Waterford and Kilkenny teams trying to teach John Gregson to hurl; based on John Sutton or Denis Heslip.</p> <p>1:02:41 Playing career –ambition of every child; 1904 first all-Ireland won by Kilkenny; importance of hurling in Kilkenny – handed down from generation to generation; reference to women and hurling; TJ Reid’s grandmother at every match; mothers of the current players; Kilkenny training sessions in Nowlan Park; the understanding of the game; theory that it came from the Normans; strong wrists from swordsmanship; record of Kilkenny teams since 1904; reference to camogie and Downey sisters; hurling and identity in Kilkenny; future of Kilkenny hurling.</p> <p>1:07:18 Hurling and National school teachers – schools league; St Kierans College and the College in Ross; vocational schools; Convent in Callan; CBS; all strong on the games; amount of work put in at underage level</p> <p>1:08:20 First start with Slieverue minors; on Kilkenny minor panel in 1947; playing on Mick Flannery; asking Mick to go easy on him so that he would look good in his first Kilkenny appearance; John Lukeman; Paddy didn’t make the team.</p> <p>1:09:45 Kilkenny minor team draw with Dublin in 1947, replay in Croke Park; Mick O’Shea from Stoneyford put off; lost to Dublin; ate in Castle Hotel that evening; everything still scarce after the war; still rationing; hotel owned by Mr O’Connor from Kerry, a GAA man and his wife Nora Carroll from Mooncoin, her brother Tommy Carroll had played for Kilkenny in the 1930s; will never forget the meal they got that evening; Nora involved in the Kilkenny Association in Dublin</p> <p>1:11:25 1948 – on Kilkenny Junior team; Lory Meagher critical of Paddy on one match; playing Laois in Nowlan Park; playing on Billy Dargan who later played senior with Laois and with London; Paddy was taken off that day; very upset about being sent off; thought it was the end of his career; got</p>
--	---

	<p>on the team after that.</p> <p>1:13:59 Meeting Clare in Nenagh in the home final in 1949; showed promise on that team; chairman of the county board; Tom Welsh, later Minister for Agriculture; Jimmy Smith playing with Clare; one of the best hurlers of his time; playing with Munster Colleges when he was in Mount Sion; description of that match in Nenagh. Paddy put on Senior team in 1950.</p> <p>1:17:13 Card from Paddy Grace – you’ve been selected to play for the Kilkenny panel; felt he wasn’t good enough for the senior panel and sent word to Paddy Grace to say he wasn’t ready.</p> <p>1:18:19 On panel in 1950 – played Cork in the League after the All-Ireland in Páirc Uí Caoimh; playing on Willie John Daly; Christy Ring playing the same day; only knows of two people from outside Kilkenny playing for Kilkenny; a Thurles man and Eddie Carew from Waterford, both worked in Kilkenny.</p> <p>1:19:50 Injury sustained in the game that day – Order of Malta; had broken his arm; taken to the hospital in Cork for the rest of the week; no one from the Kilkenny team or management went to see him or asked for him; had to get the bus back to Kilkenny when he got out of hospital. No one knew where he was; phoned Jim Tough Barry to find out where he was. Some of the Cork lads went to see him; took him a long time before he was confident with his arm again, not until 1953.</p> <p>1:22:33 Dr Hughes from Johnstown was the curate in Slieverue; he re-vamped the hurling club, built up Pioneer Total Abstinence Association; developed Parish hall; brought life to parish and amalgamated Raheen Rover and Slieverue; brought him in to play after his injury for the last ten minutes of a game; crowd roused Slieverue.</p> <p>1:25:05 Slieverue under the three parish rule – appeared in three county finals in those years.</p> <p>1:25:57 John Baron as a player for Slieverue – story about a match in Bennettsbridge; man who lost the tear duct in his eye that day; element of danger in hurling.</p> <p>1:27:53 Necessity to play hurling with a degree of abandon; skills needed to play hurling; skills gone out of hurling today.</p> <p>1:30:14 Winning the All-Ireland; Bill Walsh; very skilful hurler; kept Kilkenny hurling alive in the 1950s; beating Waterford in</p>
--	--

	<p>1957; Lucky to beat Dublin in semi-final; ohhny Hokey as a player; marking Kevin Heffernan; description of game.</p> <p>1:32:43 Story about Mick Crotty and Dublin v Kilkenny match in Athy when Paddy was Chair of the Leinster Council.</p> <p>1:34:13 Playing in an All-Ireland final; running out on to Croke Park on All-Ireland Sunday; wall of noise; parading around the field; representing your county; composing yourself; standing for the National Anthem; very emotional. Reference to Tyrone captain in 2008 All-Ireland; how he turned his game around.</p> <p>1:37:12 Played on Larry Guinan in 1957 All-Ireland; doesn't believe he played exceptionally well. 1959 - what went wrong for Kilkenny that day; Waterford a deserving winning team.</p> <p>1:39:05 Dressing room on the day of an all-Ireland – tension, excitement, importance of temperament. Ollie Walsh a great man for the dressing room; joking, life of the party; different personalities.</p> <p>1:40:17 Changes in Croke Park - description of dressing rooms in the 1950s.</p> <p>1:40:50 Photographs used to be taken at the Canal End, in front of the wall</p> <p>1:41:11 Clubs and counties should be proud of what they have; would not have them if it wasn't amateur; cause of the GAA; spirit of adventure about the GAA; facilities in clubs around the country; credit to clubs.</p> <p>1:42:23 Proud of being President in 1983 when the decision was made to re-vamp the Cusack Stand and Hill 16; dream that they would get 80,000 people into Croke Park; understood the demand for tickets; ordinary members sometimes having difficulty in getting tickets.</p> <p>1:43:30 Allocation of tickets not going to clubs only about 67,500 going to clubs the rest to the teams; corporate boxes, sponsors, business men; Croke Park would not have been developed without the support of the business world.</p> <p>1:44:37 Becoming president of the GAA; refereeing matches; refereed all over the county including Croke Park an intermediate and two under 21 All-Irelands.</p> <p>1:46:30 Involved in committee in Slieverue from day one; secretary for a long time; also treasurer.</p> <p>1:48:34 Cycling everywhere to New Ross, Kilkenny,</p>
--	--

	<p>Dungarvan to meetings and matches.</p> <p>1:28:55 Watching Waterford play; great Waterford players; Captain Vincent Baston; best Waterford player he ever saw; John Keane; Christy Moylan; Charlie and Jim Weir; Dotty power; Matty Creed; Andy Fleming.</p> <p>1:50:20 46th Battalion Army team made up of Kilkenny and Waterford matches.</p> <p>1:50:40 Parents love of hurling – mother betting with the bread man.</p> <p>1:52:18 South County Board – volunteered to cycle with Johnny Hokey to Kilkenny (25 miles) to keep him company going to meetings; how he started to learn the ropes; starting on the county board.</p> <p>1:52:00 Standing for election in 1967 for Leinster Council against Jimmy Langton; Bob Alyward Chairman at the time; learnt a lot about the GAA at the meetings; discipline cases etc.</p> <p>1:53:23 Kilkenny and Longford delegation became friendly; backed each other up; having pints before and after meetings</p> <p>1:54:03 Travelling to meetings; worked in New Rath; left at 4.30pm; thumbed a lift to Knockmoylan; got a lift to Kilkenny and then got a lift from Kilkenny to Paddy Grace; lift back to Knockmoylan ; 10 miles from his house and got a lift from there with an Albatross truck to Ferrybank in the small hours.</p> <p>1:55:35 Nominated to be vice-chair of the Leinster Council with the support of the Longford and Kilkenny delegates; had never chaired a meeting at the time; three years as vice-chair and three as Chair.</p> <p>1:58:08 A number of counties in Leinster encouraged him to go for the presidency; also chair of games administration committee and represented Leinster on Central Council; hesitation for family reasons.</p> <p>2:00:05 Never canvassed for a vote; other delegates and counties worked for him; Mick Loftus of Mayo runner-up; other delegates who ran; the election process and the count.</p> <p>2:02:37 Doesn't approve of the president-elect system; euphoria of winning the presidency.</p> <p>2:03:47 Reception in Slieverue – Celebrations; picture of a picture painted by a nun from the local school in his honour.</p>
--	--

	<p>2:05:28 Never wore his badge of presidency during his time; but it was a great honour.</p> <p>2:06:00 How the presidency affected his family life; demands of the job; travel; drove himself; driving through the six counties late at night; under threat by gun; hunger strikes.</p> <p>2:07:34 GAA's position on the Hunger Strikers and challenges of safeguarding that position; difficult time for the GAA; provocation of members on their way to matches and meetings in the North- searches; Greysteel Massacre; shootings of GAA men; attacks on GAA clubs; Tommy Melon; great regard for the GAA in the six counties; dedication to the GAA in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>2:11:01 Getting a bus North to see Laois play; British Army coming on board the bus.</p> <p>2:11:44 Support the GAA gave to Northern Ireland during the Troubles; lost members and clubs; moral support on humanitarian grounds; pressure put under Paddy Mac Flynn; believes they got through it well enough.</p> <p>2:12:39 Protest in Waterford in 1969 after Bloody Sunday; feelings ran high in the country; British Embassy came under fire; being in Dublin at a Leinster Council meeting the day the bombs went off there.</p> <p>2:14:15 British Government handling of the hunger strikes – GAA could not get into political arena; reference to Dr Croke; GAA a nationalist organisation; the foundation of the GAA; Famine; emigration; attitudes of the Irish abroad; militant.</p> <p>2:17:03 GAA was for the ordinary people of Ireland; reference to Maurice Davin; boatman, athlete; importance of Davin; Description of Michael Cusack; his stick nick-named 'Bás gan sagart' .</p> <p>2:20:07 Claims that Tullerone were represented at the first meeting; foundation meeting.</p> <p>2:20:35 Still used as a means of entering political life.</p> <p>2:20:53 Change in the Nationalist ethos of the GAA; changed political environment; Northern Ireland; the 1916 Rising; The Civil War; playing football in prisons; GAA part of the healing influence after Civil War and it can be healing again.</p> <p>2:22:00 GAA not as militant now; the ban is gone; falling foul of the ban; in favour of ban against members of the security forces for fear of infiltration.</p>
--	--

	<p>2:23:14 British sports council very good to the GAA; substantial money made available; more than the Irish Government.</p> <p>2:24:32 Men from Slieverue in the British Army and RAF.</p> <p>2:25:23 Interview with Raidió na Gaeltachta on the way to 1984 Congress; said he felt the GAA would be a better organisation without any ban.</p> <p>2:26:16 1984 Congress – Sunday papers claiming that he had done away with the ban; Paddy argued at congress that there was no need for the ban; Cork delegation feeling that the President shouldn't voice his opinions in this way.</p> <p>2:28:26 How effective the ban was against security forces and against the playing of foreign games; Kilkenny never enforced the ban against foreign games; Waterford very active.</p> <p>2:29:19 Going to a dance with Jimmy Heffernan; Mick Delahunty playing, best band in Ireland – Paddy couldn't dance, it was a Bohemian Rugby Football club dance; Tom Treacy banned for attending the same dance.</p> <p>2:30:45 Confidence damaged after 1984 Congress – ban didn't go until much later; fear of a split in six counties; but it was accepted peacefully in the end.</p> <p>2:32:23 Opening of Croke Park – against other sporting organisations playing there; though he will stand by the GAA; critical of government not building a national park to promote all games; idea ridiculed 'the Bertie Bowl'; the benefits of sport for young people.</p> <p>2:34:16 Centenary Year – ambition to make it successful, many people to honour. Preparation; celebrated by every club in Ireland. Honoured families of the founders; honoured all of those involved; inspirational year; GAA took off after that; development of Croke Park; club facilities; 'a ground per club by 84'; club histories written; a great honour; brought president to the people; travelled all over; opening ceremony in Ennis; visited secondary schools; more clubs than any other president; importance of the grassroots.</p> <p>2:38:29 Over-importance placed on senior inter-county scene; importance of work at a local and underage level.</p> <p>2:40:25 Finance may be a problem in the future.</p> <p>2:41:07 What motivates local level – community; remembers</p>
--	--

	<p>his first time going to the hurling field in Slieverue; Barton's Field; a field from the Barton family, the big house; no rent, just asked to close the gate, they were a local family well-liked; beautiful field by the river; love of territory; fun had there; regrets not preserving one of the fields. About playing with your family on the team; schoolmates; ethos of coming together and playing for one another; an extended family; the pride of being selected to play for the first time; the older people advising you, the bond; everyone working for one another; a team coming together; bond in current Kilkenny team.</p> <p>2:45:00 Disappointments – matches lost; days he played poorly, still hurts; never been beaten in any vote in the electoral system of the GAA; was beaten for the paid position of secretary of the Leinster Council.</p> <p>2:47:24 Affects of GAA career on his work in the County Council; set down ground rules with them and the GAA; treated very fairly; New Ross Road being built at the time and he took care of the accounts, a busy time; how he managed it.</p> <p>2:48:50 Sacrifices – home life; family; lifestyle; career; had a couple of car crashes due to tiredness; only received very modest travel and meal expenses at the time; it meant his wife was without a car; missed the confirmation of one of his sons.</p> <p>2:51:23 County hurlers are esteemed in his local area – he'll be well looked after in life. Well-regarded positions open to him in life.</p> <p>2:52:20 Emigration in his time – memories of people getting the train to New Ross; different lifestyle today; current inter-county players have a good lifestyle; believes players should have top class everything facilities, 5 star hotels; free to use their position for commercial reward; sponsorship etc – but should never ask money of their own.</p> <p>2:54:02 How he was treated after his injury; many regrets about the GAA but ambition remained to get on the field; injuries in his time.</p> <p>2:55:58 No thoughts of strike – couldn't get the jerseys back on fast enough; couldn't wait to get up after injury.</p> <p>2:57:07 What he is most proud of in his career – the hurling; wished he's won more with Slieverue; remembers being in the Imperial Hotel in Kilkenny after a winning county final;</p>
--	---

	<p>being chastised by the Gardaí.</p> <p>2:58:49 Fourteen of that junior team were tee-totalers; the fifteenth was a rep for a drinks company; story about one of the players losing his false teeth and not finding them until the next day.</p> <p>2:59:08 Winning an All-Ireland; every child's dream; celebrations in Kilkenny are muted enough; 1957 an exception because that had waited so long for it.</p> <p>2:59:49 Great team in Wexford in the 1950s who had bet them everytime.</p> <p>3:00:07 Inter-county players he played on; Wexford – Ned Wheeler; Tim Flood; Dominic Ahearn; Seamus Ahearn; reference to funerals and attending the funerals of those he played on – Pat Skeough; Harry O'Connor; Ted Bulger; Jimmy O'Brien; Martin Byrne. Tipperary – Jimmy Doyle (a genius- comparison with DJ Carey); Liam Devaney; Paddy Kelly; Bohan.</p> <p>3:01:44 One of the greatest games was a Railway Cup final when they bet Munster after 15 years in 1954, Jim Langton still there, they scored five points; Jim Hogan marking Christy Ring; Kevin Matthews (Dublin) as a goalkeeper; members of that Munster team; the importance of the Railway Cup – going to the Railway Cup matches as a child; importance of Oireachtas matches. Description of the play that day.</p> <p>3:04:30 J.D. Hickey report of a match between Tipperary and Kilkenny in Templemore one evening; Paddy was playing; description of the speed of play; greatness of the mid-fielders; admiration for sky play, doubling on the ball.</p> <p>3:05:37 Other inter-county players he play on; Waterford – Frankie Walsh; Larry Guinan; Dublin - Seán Óg Ó Ceallacháin.</p> <p>3:05:58 Didn't socialise much with those players at the time; but met a lot of them through playing golf with the National Hurlers Golf Society; not as popular for young hurlers to join today.</p> <p>3:06:59 Life without the GAA; may have read more; first job was got for him by a Christian Brother Tomás M Ó Catháin, a great hurling man and educator, wrote books on maths, had a big influence on him; used to travel around Waterford to get jobs for his students; got Paddy a job with the Irish Press; working at the Irish Press; introduction of the Sunday Press in</p>
--	---

	<p>1948/49: Looking after the deliveries for the South-East.</p> <p>3:09:15 Played football as well; won a senior football championship with Glenmore in Kilkenny.</p> <p>3:09:35 Regrets the passing of the dual-player in Kilkenny; used to be very common</p> <p>3:10:21 Could play football and hurling and work for the Irish Press so got a job with Kilkenny County Council; would like to have been a national school teacher but there were few opportunities for poorer people at that time.</p> <p>3:12:05 Working for the County Council; how the governments treated County Councils; coping with financial difficulties.</p> <p>3:13:39 Thoughts on the presidency of the GAA today – completely changed; sponsorship; management of Croke Park and of games.</p> <p>3:15:00 Great presidents of the GAA; Alf Murray; many were school teachers and non-drinkers; Pat Fanning – great orator, a remarkable man; Con Murphy of Cork who carried on after his presidency; Paddy very tired after his presidency; would like to have worked for the spread of hurling; feels that debates today are for the men of today, former presidents should not say anything to embarrass the current officials or interfere in current decision making.</p> <p>3:20:45 Ex-Presidents’ speeches at congress; the influence it had.</p> <p>3:21:12 Irish Language – the place of the Irish language in the GAA; studying through Irish in school; joined the Irish League; attended Irish classes; views on the language.</p> <p>3:23:18 Importance of the GAA keeping a connection with the Irish language; a role in keeping it alive.</p> <p>3:24:23 End of interview.</p> <p>3:24:24 Interview re-starts after Paddy remembers more stories he’d like to tell.</p> <p>3:24:37 Michael Griffen – treasurer of local club, very important locally; parochial efforts; fundraising efforts; key positions in local area nearly all held by GAA men; an example of what kind of community organisation the GAA was; ICA; Legion of Mary; Pioneer Total Abstinence Association.</p>
--	---

	<p>2:35:45 Camogie – Josie McNamara; practised in their own field; brought something to the club; lots of marriages started out there.</p> <p>3:26:26 Used to get evening herald on Monday nights, gather around and read it to each other with a flash lamp in the hurling field.</p> <p>3:26:50 The contribution of Micheál Ó hÉithir to the GAA; description of radios at the time; neighbours gathering around to listen to matches.</p> <p>3:28:42 Meeting Charlie Haughey.</p> <p>3:29:11 Politicians at the GAA – stopped one politician at a congress.</p> <p>3:29:51 Brian Cody – First Kilkenny city man to captain an All-Ireland winning team; records and jinxes he broke.</p> <p>3:31:02 No egos on current Kilkenny panel; goes to all the matches and goes into dressing room afterwards.</p> <p>3:31:54 President of Kilkenny County Board and of the local club; attends the AGM and the convention and some functions; currently on benevolent committee.</p> <p>3:32:58 GAA as a social welfare organisation; Paddy Grace's role in that.</p> <p>3:33:06 Story about Sutton and John The Link on a drinking session and going to Paddy Grace; two great characters.</p> <p>3:35:04 Story about a farmer in Kilkenny (name deleted on Paddy's request); believes farmers should be compensated for work when they are playing for the GAA.</p> <p>3:35:55 Paddy's wife comes in with tea. Recording stopped for tea.</p> <p>3:36:39 Recording re-started - story about being a selector for Kilkenny and how subs were selected; story about selecting a sub when Paddy Moran was injured when Kilkenny were playing Cork; Paddy Grace and his wife Maureen.</p> <p>3:40:09 Recording stopped at Paddy's request.</p> <p>3:40:16 Story about Mark Marnell taking hurleys.</p> <p>3:41:00 Cutting down their own makings for hurleys.</p> <p>3:41:48 Bobby Hinks very good at making hurleys and</p>
--	--

	<p>building.</p> <p>3:42:31 Lawlors of Threecastles made sliothars; made of leather; 'sweet spot of the boss'</p> <p>3:43:15 Recites 'The Hurlers Prayer' – sometimes said at funerals.</p> <p>3:44:09 Local songs about hurling – song about 1957, Slieverue and Kilkenny hurling; Uncle Jack Dooley and his mother played the accordion; sing songs in the houses when he was growing up; television has ruined storytelling. Paddy's wife present.</p> <p>3:45:42 Newspapers – reading match reports; story about the manager of the Irish Press visiting his father and see</p> <p>3:46:20 Tom Maher writing the GAA reports for the Kilkenny Journal; difference in sports reporting between then and now.</p> <p>3:47:03 Playing Galway in the All Ireland Semi Final in 1953 in Croke Park; Jimmy Heffernan; Bob Stakelem refereeing.</p> <p>3:48:02 Sing songs in the cars; talking about older players.</p> <p>3:48:44 Very difficult to get a big ego with the GAA.</p> <p>3:49:21 Only meet other players at funerals.</p> <p>3:49:40 Meeting in the Gresham Hotel with John Kerry O'Donnell of New York in 1958 about bringing the Kilkenny team out to America; running out of petrol on the way home.</p> <p>3:50:10 Kilkenny people in America put the money forward for them to go.</p> <p>3:51:30 The trip to America; first time seeing a tea-bag; fourteen hours to get to New York; Billy Dwyer and Dermot O'Brien had accordions and played them on the plane.</p> <p>3:53:13 Story about the women in New York – being taken around by friends and relatives while they were there; joke played on Murphy.</p> <p>3:54:27 Practical jokes played on each other when they were travelling as a team; staying in a hotel on the quays in Dublin the night before All-Ireland final.</p> <p>3:56:06 Getting married- postponed the wedding for a match; going on honeymoon and getting a cold; coming home a couple of days before an All-Ireland semi-final; staying in outside of Naas the night before the match; coincided with a race meeting; Description of the match that day against</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. KK/1/4

	<p>Tipperary.</p> <p>3:59:36 Sports psychology and teams today.</p> <p>4:00:04 Meeting his wife Peggy – story about influence of the Catholic Church on relationships.</p> <p>4:01:53 Going to the Houses of Parliament in England with Con Murphy; making representations for Crossmaglen (Paddy's grand-daughter arrives); in Westminster for Margaret Thatcher's question time.</p> <p>4:02:37 Went to Australia with Liam Mulvahill to set up the Aussie Rules series; received by Bob Hawk the Australian President.</p> <p>4:03:16 Received an honorary doctorate from the National University in Dublin as he was president during the centenary year; Garrett Fitzgearld was Taoiseach and he gave them a state dinner.</p> <p>4:03:43 Con Murphy signed in in Irish in Westminster; Paddy signed in English; the Crossmaglen situation; how the army took over the area; had listening devices in GAA grounds; helicopters in and out during matches.</p> <p>4:05:37 Going to a meeting in Crossmaglen to see the situation; parked at the entrance to social centre; Peggy (wife) and Louise (daughter) waited in car outside; army came out and surrounded them at gun point; being questioned by the army; Gene Larkin of Crossmaglen spoke on their behalf; damage the army did there.</p> <p>4:08:51 Story about leaving Newry one night going through a check point.</p> <p>4:09:49 Story about going over the Fermanagh-Cavan border at the checkpoint; with wife and daughter, late at night.</p> <p>4:11:15 Story about getting lost in a loyalist area late at night</p> <p>4:12:44 End of interview.</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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <u>President of the GAA 1982-1984</u></p>

REFERENCE NO. KK/1/4

Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	1949-1960 Leinster Junior and Senior Hurling titles; Railway Cup, Oireachtas, Byrne Cup, All-Ireland title; holds interprovincial medals (in different grades) with Leinster and Munster. Member of winning Kilkenny team in 1957 All-Ireland senior hurling final, Senior Football title with Glenmore.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Leinster Council (6 years); member of Leinster Council for 21 years from 1961; President of the GAA (1982-1984); County Board Chairman 1990. Manager of Leinster team that won record five consecutive hurling railway cups (1971-1975), referred major games for ten years.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 4:12:44
Language	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: 4 October 2009