

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	8 th March 2011
Location	Jim's home, near Kilkeel, Co. Down
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jim Green (also present Tom Cunningham)
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1920 Home County: Down
Education	Primary: St Joseph's PS, Ballymartin, Co. Down
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife (Ann) & 2 daughters
Club(s)	Ballymartin GAA [Down]
Occupation	Semi-skilled Engineer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DN/1/3

Date of Report	23 rd July 2012
Period Covered	1900-2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Down, England, Great Britain, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Celebrations, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Career, Challenges, Northern Ireland, Socialising, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Jim remembers growing up in County Down in the 1930s before emigrating to Liverpool. Money was scarce when he was young and there was war on the continent but he played football locally for Ballymartin and enjoyed some success there. He also recalls trips to Dublin to watch games in Croke Park before moving to Liverpool, where the culture was vastly different although he did manage to keep in touch with GAA matters at home by listening to the radio, reading Irish newspapers and socialising with other Irish people in his spare time.</p> <p>00:35 Born in Maghera, outside Kilkeel. Farming family. Went to school in Ballymartin.</p> <p>01:20 Worked in Kilkeel Harbour and later in the Mourne mines before emigrating to England in the 1950s. Returned to Kilkeel in 1972.</p> <p>03:00 Uncle met his wife at an Irish club in Liverpool. Uncle joined the police.</p> <p>04:15 How he found life in England.</p> <p>06:20 Smog problems in England.</p> <p>11:10 Sectarianism in Liverpool.</p> <p>11:45 Socialising with Irish people in the dance halls.</p> <p>12:45 Irish centre in Liverpool.</p> <p>13:30 Plenty of work on offer in England at the time.</p> <p>14:35 Neighbour of his who was a sailor.</p> <p>15:00 Peter MacParland, a talented player from Newry,</p>

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	<p>scoring a fine goal during a game in Liverpool. His neighbour at the same game.</p> <p>18:15 Plane crash in Munich that claimed the lives of several Manchester United players. Matt Busby injured and taken to hospital.</p> <p>20:05 Playing football for Ballymartin when he was young. Manager trying to secure a field to play a match in on a Sunday morning.</p> <p>21:20 Playing football in the yard at school. What they did for a ball.</p> <p>22:20 Scarcity of money.</p> <p>24:40 Going to watch games when he was a boy.</p> <p>25:25 His father a footballer in his day, around 1900.</p> <p>26:10 Reason that he might not be able to go see a game.</p> <p>26:45 Playing for Ballymartin on a Sunday. His father going to games.</p> <p>27:10 Attire they wore when playing games.</p> <p>27:40 Why they were called 'the lilywhites'.</p> <p>29:10 Obligation to wear a pioneer pin. Aggressive priest, who ended up teaching at St Malachy's.</p> <p>31:20 No organised football training when he was young. How matches were played out back then.</p> <p>32:50 Playing on a county championship winning team in 1938. His contribution.</p> <p>34:15 Going to the pictures before getting the bus back home. Political climate in 1938.</p> <p>36:20 Aughlisnafin the team they beat in the final.</p> <p>36:35 Céilí held after the final.</p> <p>37:20 Getting a bus to the game in Dublin.</p> <p>39:10 Seeing Nelson's Pillar in Dublin.</p> <p>40:05 Buying watches and getting them engraved in 1942. Problem with the watches.</p> <p>41:00 Impressions of Croke Park. Vincent McDonnell a big player.</p>
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	<p>42:00 Getting picture taken some time after they won the county title.</p> <p>43:35 Playing a game against Kilkeel on Easter Sunday in 1939. WWII about to break out in Europe.</p> <p>45:15 Fishermen unable to sell what they caught during the 1930s.</p> <p>48:10 Thomas O'Hare and another player leaving Ballymartin to join Kilkeel.</p> <p>48:55 Ballymartin resuming activities after WWII ended. Oliver McKiven, Niall Quinn, John B Quinn teammates of his.</p> <p>49:55 Ballymartin winning the championship in the mid-1950s.</p> <p>50:15 Keeping in touch with Gaelic games when he was in England. Derry playing Kerry in the 1960 All-Ireland final. Being tempted to go home. What he decided.</p> <p>52:30 Going to Clones to watch Cavan play an Antrim team featuring Kevin Armstrong. How the game unfolded. John Joe Reilly and PJ Duke playing for Cavan, the same team that beat Kerry in the 1947 All-Ireland final in New York.</p> <p>54:40 Listening to games on the radio when in Liverpool.</p> <p>55:25 Supporting Everton in soccer. Celebrations when they won a cup in the early 1960s.</p> <p>56:25 Listening to matches on the radio when he was growing up in Ballymartin. Problems with that.</p> <p>58:05 Listening to commentator Micheál Ó Heiher on the radio.</p> <p>58:55 Landlady in Liverpool had a television.</p> <p>01:00:25 Reading the Irish Press over in Liverpool.</p> <p>01:01:25 Buying a house in 1960. Putting it up for sale after his wife died. Living in a Jewish neighbourhood. Beatles manager Brian Epstein lived nearby.</p> <p>01:04:10 Moving back to Ireland. Getting a job with Kilkeel Technical.</p>
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Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input 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): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	1920s – 1950. Won Down Senior Football Championship with Ballymartin in 1938
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: 01:06:02
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: 23rd July 2012