

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 2010
<b>Location</b>	Joe's home, near Ballyroan, Co. Laois
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Joe McCabe
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1919 <b>Home County:</b> Laois
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Clonad NS, Co. Laois <b>Secondary:</b> CBS Portlaoise, Co. Laois
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 sisters & 5 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Myra), 5 daughters & 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Clonad GAA [Laois]
<b>Occupation</b>	Welder
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Teacher [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	LDF; Pioneers Total Abstinence Association

REFERENCE NO. LS/1/15

<b>Date of Report</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1930s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Laois, Tipperary, Kerry, Limerick, Dublin
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Fundraising, Education, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Family Involvement, Career, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Retirement, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Joe recalls his background in the GAA. He talks about his playing days, particularly as part of the Laois team that reached the 1934 All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final. He recalls All-Ireland finals from the 1930s, and discusses the great players of the day. Joe talks about Gaelic football in Laois also, remembering some of the teams and players who played for the county. He then discusses the history of hurling in the Clonad area. He recalls travelling to matches in his playing days, detailing modes of transport. Joe makes reference to the club's purchase of its pitch, detailing how it funded the acquisition. He also discusses his retirement from playing, and his subsequent administrative roles with the club. Joe recalls GAA social events that were held, and reflects on the camaraderie that abounded in the Clonad club. He concludes by mentioning The Ban and recalling the only time that he attended a soccer match.</p> <p>00:26 Joe talks about his background. Mentions Clonad. Talks about his parents, mentions Clonaslee and Portlaoise. Recalls how his father moved to Clonad.</p> <p>1:25 Recalls going to school.</p> <p>1:38 Explains how he was selected for the Laois minor hurling team. Mentions Sean Barrett and Ballyfin. Recalls playing in Croke Park in 1933. Mentions jubilee year of 1934, recalls All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final against Tipperary. Mentions Billy O'Neill. Describes trip to Dublin, mentions Barry's Hotel.</p> <p>06:02 Recalls Limerick team staying at Barry's Hotel before 1934 All-Ireland Hurling Final, mentions Mick Mackey. Describes Limerick team sitting behind goal for minor match.</p> <p>07:04 Discusses 1931 All-Ireland Hurling finals between Kilkenny and Cork.</p>

	<p>07:36 Mary recalls Joe's father setting up loudspeakers so people could listen to matches on the radio.</p> <p>08:37 Joe talks about recognition for being part of 1934 Laois minor hurling team. Mentions Leinster Express. Also talks about his playing career.</p> <p>11:10 Joe discusses photographs of Laois minor hurling team in 1934. Recalls playing minor at the age of fifteen. Mentions John Drennan and Lot Campion. Discusses All-Ireland semi-final hammering of Down.</p> <p>12:39 Recalls his playing gear. Mentions making his own hurley.</p> <p>14:29 Joe recalls his family's involvement in the GAA. Mentions his brother Liam.</p> <p>15:03 Recalls Clonad's role in Laois hurling.</p> <p>15:39 Discusses the Laois football team in his playing days. Mentions 1936 All-Ireland Final defeat to Mayo and 1937 All-Ireland semi-finals against Kerry. Recalls Laois football team's trip to America in 1938. Mentions the Delaneys of Stradbally. Talks about the Graiguecullen and Stradbally teams at the time. Mentions Jack Delaney. Recalls All-Ireland semi-final against Roscommon in 1946.</p> <p>19:06 Discusses the strong Laois hurling clubs when he was playing. Mentions Abbeyleix. Discusses his welding business. Mentions the Kellys and Paddy Lawlor. Recalls matches against Abbeyleix, Errill and Kyle Ballymore. Also mentions Rathdowney and Portlaoise.</p> <p>22:11 Discusses the history of hurling in Clonad. Recalls Clonad players emigrating to America. Recalls attending 1930 Laois hurling county final win against Ballygeehan. Describes the facilities that were available at the time.</p> <p>24:28 Describes travelling to matches. Mentions Lar Brady. Recalls going to matches in Durrrow and Cullahill. Also mentions Abbeyleix, Mountrath and Clonaslee.</p> <p>26:55 Recalls buying hurling balls in Portlaoise. Mentions Lar Brady.</p> <p>27:38 Recalls training with Clonad. Mentions Lar Brady's field.</p> <p>29:32 Mentions Clonad GAA club buying Lar Brady's field. Mentions Paddy Bergin. Recalls how the funds were raised to purchase the field. Discusses facilities at the club.</p>
--	--

**REFERENCE NO. LS/1/15**

	<p>32:05 Discusses the state of the modern Clonad team. Mentions Portlaoise and Raheen.</p> <p>33:21 Recalls playing hurling in school. Describes the school day. Mentions Nora Whelan and Ladywell. Also mentions her sister Ettie.</p> <p>37:02 Recalls attending the CBS in Portlaoise. Mentions the New Road area.</p> <p>39:22 Recalls meeting his wife Maire. Talks about his children.</p> <p>49:24 Recalls hurling in Portlaoise CBS.</p> <p>50:07 Discusses hurling with Clonad.</p> <p>50:46 Recalls being selected for the Laois minor hurling team. Mentions Sean Barrett. Remembers minor match against Kilkenny in Tullamore. Mentions players such as Jim Langton, Seanie O'Brien and Terry Leahy. Also recalls match against Offaly in Birr.</p> <p>52:21 Discusses playing minor at a young age - started when he was fourteen.</p> <p>52:47 Discusses positions he played in.</p> <p>54:09 Describes travelling to matches when playing for Laois. Compares playing for his county to playing for his club.</p> <p>55:19 Recalls operations and surgery he underwent.</p> <p>56:57 Recalls the team spirit in Clonad. Mentions Paddy Bergin, Andy Merrigan and Mick Mackey. Also mentions the Conroys who played with Clonad.</p> <p>59:26 Recalls socialising at the club. Mentions the Coliseum ballroom in Portlaoise.</p> <p>1:00:44 Recalls retiring from playing. Describes being a supporter on the sideline, mentions Paddy Norton.</p> <p>1:02:05 Discusses his administrative roles with the club. Mentions Lar Brady. Recalls the efforts to acquire a pitch for the club. Describes facilities at the club.</p> <p>1:05:00 Talks about the biggest changes he has seen in the GAA.</p> <p>1:08:15 Recalls physical element to matches in his playing days.</p>
--	--

**REFERENCE NO. LS/1/15**

	1:08:43 Discusses The Ban. Mentions rugby and soccer. Recalls attending soccer match when playing for Laois.
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" 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): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played hurling for 20 years with Clonad (1935-54); won 8 Laois Senior Hurling Championships with Clonad; Played with Laois Minor Hurling team 1933-37; Won Leinster Minor Hurling medal in 1934; played on Laois Senior Hurling team for a short time.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Member of Clonad GAA committee for many years and help roles including: secretary, chairperson and currently president of the club.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:11:13
<b>Language</b>	English

**REFERENCE NO. LS/1/15**

**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: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012