

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	8 th Feb 2011
Location	Frank's home, near Enniskillen, Co. Donegal
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Frank McManus
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1942 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: Drumbrughas, Co. Fermanagh Secondary: St. Michael's College, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh Third Level: Queen's University Belfast
Family	Siblings: 6 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 3 children
Club(s)	Kinawley Brian Borus
Occupation	Solicitor
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Republican
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Joe McGurn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: Lisded PS, Co. Fermanagh
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers and 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married
Club(s)	Enniskillen Gaels; Slack and Parr, Wolfe Tones
Occupation	Civil Engineer
Parents' Occupation	Farm Workers
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paul Corrigan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1934 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: Rossdoney PS, Co. Fermanagh Secondary: Presentation Brothers Third Level:
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 sons and 1 daughters
Club(s)	Belnaleck Art McMurroughs
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Sinn Féin
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Pioneers (PTAA)

Date of Report	6 th August 2012
Period Covered	1930 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Fermanagh, Cavan, Dublin, Donegal, Armagh, Tyrone, Great Britain, England
Key Themes Covered	Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Club History, County History, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Culture, The Troubles, Northern Ireland, Volunteers, Rivalries, Media, Religion, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Celebrations
Interview Summary	<p>Joe, Paul and Frank discuss their earliest memories of being involved with the GAA. They talk about their respective clubs (Kinawley Brian Boru's, Enniskillen Gaels and Belnaleck Art McMurrough's) and their involvement at both a playing and administrative level. They discuss the improvement of facilities in the county over the years. The men talk about the importance of volunteers to the GAA and the contribution of people in Fermanagh. They mention the Centre of Excellence in Lissan and talk about the effects of The Troubles on the GAA in Fermanagh. The men discuss the importance of the GAA in their lifetime.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:55 Joe discusses his earliest GAA memory. Recalls becoming involved with Enniskillen Gaels. Mentions his role as Secretary of the club and his involvement in organising a street league competition. Playing out the Sligo Road. The club purchasing a bus and travelling to challenge matches in Donegal.</p> <p>02:14 Joe recalls becoming a delegate to the county board at an early age. Meetings being held in the Parochial Rooms on the Main Street.</p> <p>02:30 Joe mentions his election as delegate to Croke Park within the hurling board in Fermanagh. Discusses his role as Vice Chairman and Chairman of Fermanagh County Board.</p> <p>03:19 Joe talks about the poor facilities in Fermanagh in his early administrative days. Discusses efforts to develop county facilities and the centre of excellence in Lissan. Mentions Pat King.</p>

	<p>06:55 Discusses people within Fermanagh who contributed to the development of facilities in the county. Mentions Peter Quinn.</p> <p>07:53 Joe talks about his current involvement in the GAA and at Lissan.</p> <p>08:20 Paul discusses his earliest GAA memory. Recalls travelling to Belnaleck matches to watch relatives play. Discusses the start of his own football career at the age of twelve.</p> <p>09:44 Paul recalls that playing gear was scarce in his early playing days. Talks of playing a match in short trousers.</p> <p>10:11 Recalls experiences of playing football with Belnaleck in his early days. Mentions Tom Fee, a native of Tempo who was a teacher in Derrygonnelly.</p> <p>10:59 Paul discusses the establishment of a minor football championship in Fermanagh in 1948. Recalls that Belnaleck won the minor championship that year. Mentions a trophy provided by Canon Maguire.</p> <p>12:45 Paul discusses the reformation of the Kinawley club and the impact of losing players from Belnaleck.</p> <p>13:26 Paul notes that he was elected chairman of the club in 1951, at the age of 18. Recalls the successes of the club in those years.</p> <p>14:19 Paul talks about his county career. Mentions an injury that ended his football career in 1958. Talks about his anxiety at attending Belnaleck matches when he wasn't playing.</p> <p>15:41 Paul discusses his refereeing career. Discusses criticism of referees. Recalls experiences of officiating matches.</p> <p>18:55 Paul talks about attending All-Ireland finals in the 1950s. Discusses the All-Ireland final in 1953 between Armagh and Kerry.</p> <p>20:39 Talks about his interest in the GAA.</p> <p>21:33 Frank recalls his earliest GAA memories – playing football with his brothers in Kinawley. Discusses the collapse of the club in Kinawley in the 1930s.</p> <p>22:45 Talks about the revival of the club. Discusses the effects of emigration on football in Kinawley. Recalls playing in a county league final in 1962 against Devenish in</p>
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	<p>Irvinestown. Mentions Mick Cullen.</p> <p>24:58 Explains that Kinawley parish is split between Fermanagh and Cavan. Frank mentions playing in a juvenile league in neighbouring Cavan in his early days. Discusses the successes of the team. Mentions the Murphys, McManus', McCormack, Green and Reilly families. Mentions Mullahoran.</p> <p>27:07 Frank reflects on the successes of Cavan football in his early days. Talks about the rivalry between Fermanagh and Cavan.</p> <p>28:00 Frank mentions his county minor football career. Recalls working in the Isle of Wight during the summer and the effect this had on his football career.</p> <p>29:13 Recalls winning the junior championship with Kinawley in 1958. Discusses the amalgamation of smaller clubs in Fermanagh in the late 1950s.</p> <p>30:37 Frank talks about his roles in administration. Notes that he held the position of secretary and treasurer for Kinawley at the same time.</p> <p>31:05 Frank talks about the difference in administrative roles today compared to his early days in administration.</p> <p>32:17 Recalls playing on the Sigerson team for Queens University during his college years. Talks about the social aspects of being involved in GAA.</p> <p>33:18 Frank talks about his refereeing career.</p> <p>34:48 Frank discusses characters within the GAA. Mentions Charles Murphy, a fanatical supporter.</p> <p>35:57 Discusses the changes in football today. Talks about the loss of skill in the game.</p> <p>36:43 Frank talks about Kinawley Club. Describes the facilities and the efforts of the community to develop these facilities.</p> <p>37:35 Frank talks about a draw held in 1998 to raise funds for the development of facilities in Kinawley.</p> <p>39:20 Frank recalls experiences of playing club matches with Kinawley. He discusses the importance of GAA in the community and the volunteering efforts of people within the club.</p> <p>42:35 Joe talks about the role of the GAA in the town of</p>
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	<p>Enniskillen. He talks about the influences of other activities in the town.</p> <p>44:17 Joe mentions his childhood in Boho - watching the neighbouring team Derrygonnelly play matches.</p> <p>45:42 Joe talks about travelling to matches in the early years, by car and bus. Recalls an experience of travelling to Glenties for a club match. Mentions Seamus Corrigan, gatekeeper, describes his tin. Mentions John Vesey. Stopping for a drink in Donegal Town. Mentions Frank Quinn.</p> <p>48:42 Joe talks about his involvement in forming the Wolfe Tones team in Enniskillen from a group of workers in a local factory – Slack and Parr. Discusses the influences of soccer in the area. Talks about the successes of the Wolfe Tones team.</p> <p>50:25 Joe discusses the amalgamation of Wolfe Tones and Enniskillen Gaels. Talks about the team colours reflecting both teams.</p> <p>51:44 Joe talks about the lifting of the rule on the ban on foreign games.</p> <p>55:12 Joe discusses the voluntary aspects of the GAA. He talks about his disapproval of the GPA.</p> <p>56:07 Paul talks about a local character in Fermanagh – Paddy Quigley. He recalls a tale of Belnaleck playing in a final against Lisnaskea.</p> <p>58:15 Frank recalls an incident of refereeing a match between Killesher and Enniskillen. Talks about Paddy Quigley voicing his disapproval at how the game had been refereed.</p> <p>01:00:11 Paul discusses an incident when refereeing a match between Teemore and Tempo.</p> <p>01:02:56 Joe and Paul recall stories about Paddy Quigley.</p> <p>01:06:10 Frank discusses the abuse that referees received in earlier days. Joe recalls being assaulted after refereeing a match.</p> <p>01:08:08 Paul and Frank recall cycling to matches in their early playing days. Paul mentions a private bus service – Erne Bus Service that ran in Fermanagh owned by Cassidy.</p> <p>01:09:38 Paul talks about the fitness level of men in his playing days due to the manual work they carried out. He</p>
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	<p>compares that to the training regime for players nowadays.</p> <p>01:12:14 Paul recalls listening to his first match on the radio, the 1947 All-Ireland final from the Polo Grounds in New York.</p> <p>01:12:44 Frank talks about the history of Kinawley Brian Borus. He talks about the disbandment of the club during World War Two and the revival in the 1950s.</p> <p>01:13:59 Frank mentions that the first club in Kinawley was founded in 1888. He notes that the county board was only established in Fermanagh in 1904.</p> <p>01:15:40 Paul mentions his uncle, Richard Corrigan, the first Secretary of the Fermanagh County Board.</p> <p>01:16:13 Frank talks about his term as secretary of Kinawley club. He talks about the loss of important information that was not recorded properly in early meetings.</p> <p>01:17:30 Paul notes that local matches were always well recorded in Belnaleck. Talks about the Fermanagh Herald. Mentions Tommy Maguire.</p> <p>01:18:26 The men talk about county board meetings. Joe mentions a disagreement between John P Reilly and Tom Fee. He talks about experiences of disagreements on the board.</p> <p>01:21:16 Joe talks about the decline in interest in the goings-on in other communities. Gives his opinion that people are only concerned with their own club nowadays.</p> <p>01:23:11 Paul recalls regular incidents of referees not turning up to officiate a match. Mentions a disagreement when Belnaleck played Newtownbutler in the first round of a senior championship in 1954. Mentions Hugh D'Arcy and talks about Fr. Slevin refereeing the match.</p> <p>01:28:52 Paul talks about the importance of the GAA and the pivotal role it played in society following the Civil War.</p> <p>01:30:01 Frank discusses negativity in the media towards the GAA.</p> <p>01:32:26 Frank talks about the success of the GAA. Notes that he conducts the election of officers at the AGM for Kinawley annually.</p> <p>01:33:35 Frank notes that differing political views are not brought into affairs within the GAA.</p>
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	<p>01:34:30 Frank talks about his passion for attending matches in Croke Park.</p> <p>01:35:01 The men discuss soccer within Fermanagh. Mentions Crumlin Road. Frank mentions Eamon McDonnell who played for the Combined Universities going to a Rugby match.</p> <p>01:37:10 Joe talks about the importance of the GAA in the community. Mentions the Michaela McAreavey tragedy.</p> <p>01:38:07 Joe mentions Eamon McPartland of Belcoo who played soccer for Lisbellaw.</p> <p>01:38:52 Paul talks about vigilante committees that upheld the rules of the organisation. The men discuss incidents of reports.</p> <p>01:42:46 The men discuss the small impact of The Troubles on the GAA in Fermanagh. Frank discusses being stopped travelling to matches or training. Joe talks about the importance of the GAA in the times of The Troubles in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>01:46:32 Frank talks about the naming of the pitch in Kinawley after his brother who died during The Troubles. He talks about opposition to this.</p> <p>01:49:02 Frank talks about changing attitudes in Northern Ireland between different denominations.</p> <p>01:49:45 Frank talks about a friend from Galway (Western Refrigeration) who worked in Armagh in 2002 when Armagh reached the All-Ireland final.</p> <p>01:52:19 Paul mentions that Belnaleck club have had a number of Protestant players down through the years.</p> <p>01:53:02 Paul discusses the effects of the rise in prominence of soccer and rugby on GAA. The men talk about the influence of media.</p> <p>01:54:55 Joe talks about his best memories of his involvement in the GAA. He mentions Fermanagh getting to Croke Park in 2004. He mentions the achievement of Fermanagh County Board acquiring premises.</p> <p>01:55:53 Paul reflects upon his best memories of being involved in the GAA. He talks about the development centre in Lissan and Joe's contribution to this.</p> <p>01:57:19 Paul gives his opinion that county managers today</p>
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	<p>are given too much authority.</p> <p>01:58:35 Frank talks about his fondest memories of his involvement in the GAA. He recalls the matches he played in his earlier years, the camaraderie among the team.</p> <p>02:00:25 Joe talks about his contribution to the development of the centre of excellence in Lissan. He mentions Frank and Paul's contribution to the development.</p> <p>02:01:12 Paul discusses the Sunday Independent's challenge to pick the best team of players that never won an All-Ireland. He talks about the nominated players.</p> <p>02:03:02 Frank talks about his GAA heroes – Sean Purcell and Sean O'Neill. Paul discusses his admiration for Mick Higgins and John Joe O'Reilly. Paul talks about Peter Quinn's contribution to the GAA. Joe talks about his admiration for Mick O'Connell from Kerry.</p> <p>02:07:33 The men discuss their biggest disappointments with the GAA. They mention the decline of volunteers, the growing professionalism within the organisation, the GPA. They discuss disappointment at Fermanagh's loss against Mayo in 2004 and losing the Ulster Final in 2008.</p> <p>02:10:37 Paul talks about the All-Ireland Junior Championship final in 1959.</p> <p>02:13:07 Joe talks about the homecoming celebrations for the All-Ireland junior championship team in 1959 when they returned from London.</p> <p>02:14:00 The men discuss what their involvement in the GAA has meant to them.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p>Frank:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Joe:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p>

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	<p>✓ Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): __Bus Driver & County President__</p> <p>Paul:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): ____President_____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Frank: Played for 11 years. Won minor and junior county titles.</p> <p>Joe: Played for 5/6 years.</p> <p>Paul: Played from 1948 – 1964. Won minor, junior and intermediate titles with Belnaleck.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Frank: Got involved in administration since the early 1960s.</p> <p>Club: Secretary (6 years), Treasurer (6 years), Delegate to County Board</p> <p>County: Secretary of County Centennial Committee</p> <p>Joe: Has been involved in administration since 1955.</p> <p>Club: Secretary, Delegate to County Board</p> <p>County: Delegate to Ulster Council, Hurling Delegate to Central Council, Vice-chairman, Chairman (14 years), President of County</p> <p>Paul: Got involved in administration since 1952.</p> <p>Club: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Delegate to County Board, President.</p> <p>County: Selection Committee</p>

REFERENCE NO. FR/1/9

Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:18:08
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: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____06/08/12_____