

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

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| <b>Name of Interviewer</b>                          | Arlene Crampsie  |
| <b>Date of Interview</b>                            | 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2009   |
| <b>Location</b>                                     | Interviewee's home, near Ballina, Co. Mayo   |
| <b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname) | Joe Corcoran   |
| <b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>   |  |
| <b>Gender</b>                                       | Male   |
| <b>Born</b>   | <b>Year Born:</b> 1940<br><b>Home County:</b> Mayo   |
| <b>Education</b>                                    | <b>Primary:</b> Boys NS, Ballina, Co. Mayo   |
| <b>Family</b>                                       | <b>Siblings:</b> N/A<br><b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Rene with 2 daughters and one son |
| <b>Club(s)</b>                                      | Ardnaree Sarsfields  |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                   | Caretaker in VEC   |
| <b>Parents' Occupation</b>                          | Salmon Fishery [Father]; Wellington Factory, Ladies Tights Factory [Mother]                              |
| <b>Religion</b>                                     | Roman Catholic   |
| <b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>           | N/A  |

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| <b>Date of Report</b>             | 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2012  |
| <b>Period Covered</b>             | 1957 – 2009   |
| <b>Counties/Countries Covered</b> | Mayo, Kilkenny, Dublin, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA   |
| <b>Key Themes Covered</b>         | Travel, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Celebration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, All-Ireland, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Professionalism  |
| <b>Interview Summary</b>          | <p>Joe recalls his first game and those who helped him on his way. He mentions the training and travelling to games. Talks of various wins and the celebrations afterwards. Tells of his move from playing into management and how the game has changed. He talks of sponsorship and challenges facing the GAA. He talks of family, and his favourite players and his best and worst memories.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:22 Joe talks of his earliest games in 1957. Mentions Larry Ruane who gave him a new pair of shoes and playing with the Mayo team. Also mentions Ardnaree, Castlebar, Ballyhaunis.</p> <p>02:04 Speaks of the crowds not turning out for club games in the numbers they turn out for county games. Mentions Healy Terrace and everyone going to the games. Also mentions the Stephenites.</p> <p>04:00 Talks of growing up in Ardnaree and the huge interest in football. Mentions training and travelling to games.</p> <p>07:09 Speaks of the quality of the pitches and Ardnaree playing in local grounds. Mentions Sean Duffy, Willie McCaffery and Walter Davitt. Also mentions only playing one hurling match.</p> <p>08:45 Talks of playing in Croke Park more often than in Castlebar and playing for Mayo rather than the club.</p> <p>10:07 Speaks of being called up for the county. Talks of playing in every county bar Kilkenny.</p> <p>10:46 Talks of playing in Croke Park for the first time. Mentions staying in Skylon Hotel, Ashling Hotel, West County</p> |

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|  | <p>Hotel and Spa Hotel. Also mentions playing pitch and putt.</p> <p>11:39 Speaks of the morning of the match and running out on to the pitch.</p> <p>13:09 Talks of the importance of the GAA to the local community.</p> <p>14:02 Speaks of social events organised by the club for the GAA in the past. Mentions the GAA's support of clubs. Also mentions the colours of the club being green and gold.</p> <p>15:51 Talks of the 1958 match and playing Kerry and then being beaten by Dublin. Mentions getting a crew cut for the All-Ireland final.</p> <p>17:14 Speaks of going on to the senior team after the 1958 minor game. Mentions never being injured. Also mentions two Connacht titles before being beaten by Galway and winning the league final as well as two Railway Cups with Connacht.</p> <p>19:43 Tells of the celebrations on coming home with a Connacht title. Mentions Morley, Ray Prendergast and Joe Langan. Also mentions the celebrations after the League win and the bonfires.</p> <p>21:31 Talks of playing Meath in Wembley. Mentions Joe Sherwood of the Evening Press. Also mentions travelling over by plane.</p> <p>23:32 Speaks of going to America to play in Gaelic Park with Connacht. Mentions many ex pats offering to put him up when there.</p> <p>24:19 Talks of the atmosphere at games abroad. Mentions the heat in America.</p> <p>25:53 Tells of stopping playing in his thirties. Mentions missing the game. Also mentions moving into management recently but not knowing any of the team.</p> <p>28:16 Talks of the dedication of the young players.</p> <p>28:46 Speaks of the differences between the game now and in his day. Mentions the skill levels and the practicing that is required.</p> <p>30:27 Tells what makes a good manager. Mentions Kerry and Cork.</p> <p>32:09 Talks of the role of priests and teachers in the GAA. Mentions one of the team attending Maynooth. Also mentions</p> |
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|  | <p>Fr Flynn, Fr O'Hora and Fr Hoban who played, sometimes under false names, and managed clubs.</p> <p>34:27 Talks of football keeping children out of mischief. Mentions girls playing and over forties teams.</p> <p>35:06 Speaks of the changing role of women in the GAA. Mentions how good some of them are at solo running.</p> <p>35:51 Tells of listening to his first match on the radio. Mentions his team sticking together.</p> <p>36:55 Talks about the ban on foreign games.</p> <p>37:42 Tells of only refereeing one match a year on St. Stephen's Day.</p> <p>38:33 Talks of the role of the pub in the GAA. Mentions he never drank.</p> <p>39:14 Speaks of making few sacrifices for the GAA.</p> <p>40:09 Talks of SuperValu sponsoring the Ardnaree team for €20,000. Mentions the difficulties in the past when all fundraising was in house. Also mentions his involvement at committee level.</p> <p>43:45 Tells how important the development of the club was to the community. Mentions there being a player in every house. Also mentions working in the ESB and in the schools.</p> <p>45:24 Talks of his wife's death and their life together since the age of fourteen. Mentions her playing camogie.</p> <p>46:58 Speaks about the challenges facing the GAA. Mentions being in favour of pay for play but the county would not be able to afford it. Also mentions it being an honour to put on the county jersey in his day but not now.</p> <p>49:12 Tells of the recognition of being a player on the county team.</p> <p>50:51 Talks of continuing in his current role for the foreseeable future. Mentions getting a lot out of his time playing and giving back. Also mentions revisiting McHale Road, Castlebar and being welcomed.</p> <p>53:53 Tells of visiting his daughter for six weeks a year in America. Mentions his grandson playing ice hockey and granddaughter skiing. Also mentions Eugene Rooney from Kiltimagh.</p> |
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|   | <p>56:17 Talks of playing golf after he finished his GAA career.</p> <p>57:01 Speaks of the best match he ever watched between Mayo and Dublin. Mentions watching Kilkenny play. Also mentions his best match and playing in Wembley.</p> <p>58:26 Tells of his favourite player Jim McKeever of Derry. Mentions Mick O'Dwyer. Also mentions playing against Cork and Kerry.</p> <p>59:58 Talks of the disappointment of not winning an All-Ireland. Mentions his best memories being getting ready for every match. Also mentions playing Sligo in Tubbercurry.</p> <p>01:01:35 Tells what the GAA has meant to him. Mentions there being no comparison between GAA and golf.</p> |
| <p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>  | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input 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><b>Record as a Player</b><br/>(Titles won; Length of time played)</p>    | <p>Played for 16 years in total.</p> <p>Club: 14/15 junior, intermediate and senior titles.</p> <p>County: Won an All-Ireland Minor in 1958, lost 3 Connacht titles 1964, 1965, 1966, won a National League in 1970 and Railway Cups in 1967 and 1969. Also won a Wembley Cup in 1967 and played with Connacht in America.</p>   |
| <p><b>Record as an Administrator</b><br/>(Positions held; how long for)</p> | <p>N/A</p>   |
| <p><b>Format</b></p>  | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>   |
| <p><b>Duration</b></p>  | <p>Length of Interview: 01:02:58</p>   |
| <p><b>Language</b></p>  | <p>English</p>   |

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**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_20/08/12\_\_\_\_\_