

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Anne Finn
Date of Interview	21 st Feb 2009
Location	Interviewees home, near Carlow, Co Carlow
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Thomas Neville
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1939 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Poulfur N.S. Co. Wexford Secondary: St. Peters College, Wexford
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married; 1 daughter
Club(s)	St. Mogue's GAA Club, Fethard-on-Sea [Wexford] Geraldine O'Hanrahan's GAA Club, New Ross [Wexford]
Occupation	Technician with Teagasc
Parents' Occupation	Teacher
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/3

Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1947 – 2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Cork
Key Themes Covered	Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries
Interview Summary	<p>Tom talks about his involvement with the GAA and his enthusiasm for hurling. He explains how he came to move to different areas of the country, but how he always got involved with the local club where ever he was. He speaks of his career as a player, and then his role as coach and selector. He explains what he feels are the positive values of hurling, and explored what benefits the GAA has given him through his life</p> <p>00:00.00 Introduction</p> <p>00:00.39 Born in Fethard-on-Sea, Co. Wexford, 1939</p> <p>00:00.50 His parents were Catherine and Patrick Neville. His father was a National School teacher at Poulfur N.S.</p> <p>00:01.00 His earliest memory of GAA is of being taken to see St. Mogue's playing football in Merrnagh's field. The Junior Football team included Tom Hickey, Jackie Tubritt, Johnny Rowe, Tommy Tubritt.</p> <p>00:01.46 His earliest commentary memory was the 1947 All-Ireland Football Final, from New York – Kerry v Cavan</p> <p>00:01.59 He recalls being taken to Wexford Park and even though his father was pointing out Nicky Rackard he went through the whole day without seeing him.</p> <p>00:02.16 He recalls the 1950 Leinster Hurling Final in Kilkenny; Wilkie Thorpe, Wexford was marking Jimmy Langton, the star-forward for Kilkenny. It was a winding road to Kilkenny; all the Baby Ford cars available were on the road that day and were steaming up!</p> <p>00:03.21 His family were interested in GAA. His father played handball. His granduncles played football in Kilkenny; his</p>

	<p>grandmother was from Kilkenny and his grandfather (on his mother's side) was from Tipperary.</p> <p>00:04.03 His local club was St. Mogues, known as the Mogues. Colours were green and white. He recalls going to nearby Gusserane with the Mogues and as a very young boy getting to play football with them. Aged 18 he played seven-a-side football with them</p> <p>00:04.37 There was a lot of emigration from the area, difficult to field a team. There was no hurling played at the club in his time. Club now plays senior football and hurling and won a senior football championship about 10 years ago</p> <p>00:05.11 His local heroes at St. Mogues were Tom Hickey, Dick and Paddy Finn, Paddy Cadogan, Tommy and Jackie Tubritt and 3 McCabes who holidayed in the area. Dick McCabe played Minor Football for Wexford.</p> <p>00:05.46 He recalls hearing stories about Jim Byrne; he was from Ballymurphy, Co. Carlow and was a teacher in Fethard. He was on the Wexford Football Team of 1914 -1918.</p> <p>00:06.46 He recalls Wexford as going well in early 1950's. Everyone used to hurl in Dunnes field; a camogie team was formed.</p> <p>00:07.27 He went to St. Peter's College, Wexford. He learned the finer points of hurling with Ned Power and Father Jack Butler.</p> <p>00:08.17 On leaving St. Peter's College he was in England for a while. Later he worked with Staffords in New Ross. He played hurling with New Ross and this led to his place on the County Senior Hurling team of 1960. He considered his team mates to be heroes – Nick O'Donnell, Billy Rackard, Jim English, Ned Wheeler, Jim Morrissey, Tim Flood. He won a Leinster and All-Ireland Senior Hurling medal in 1960.</p> <p>00:09.15 His development as a player was at St. Peters but also by playing with a good Wexford team. He describes his team mates as modest, helpful, giving encouragement and example. He considered Nick O'Donnell the best full-back at any level.</p> <p>00:10.49 Regarding his own skill he was effective. Believes that meeting other players (Eddie Keher, Jimmy Doyle, John</p>
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	<p>McLoughlin) helps to build confidence.</p> <p>00:11.55 He was the “senior citizen” of the County team and was passing on the skills and encouragement. Maintains it is easier for traditional counties and clubs to encourage players to play with confidence. Feels that psychological pressure on teams who haven’t been successful is greater.</p> <p>00:12.40 He believes one should play with confidence in own ability.</p> <p>00:12.56 He has always played in defence; centre-back in club; mostly corner back on county team.</p> <p>00:13.17 He was selected on a few All-Stars before the “real” All-Stars began. Selected on a team with Christy Ring.</p> <p>00:13.40 He recalls his first wearing of the Wexford jersey – a very hot day in Kilkenny. He asked Ned Wheeler for advice, Ned advised him to just bring the ball out, Tom feels Ned forgot to say you had to get the ball first! On the day Wexford drew with Dublin and beat them in the replay.(1960)</p> <p>00:14.50 In 1965 Tom captained the Wexford Senior Hurling team.</p> <p>00:15.56 His Inter-county playing years were 1960 – 1972</p> <p>00:16.20 He continued playing at Club level until 1976/77. He recalls that three men from 1 club were on the County team – Ned Colfer, Jimmy O’Brien and himself.</p> <p>00:17.11 He recalls going back, at a later stage, to play Junior Football with St. Mogue’s.</p> <p>00:17.56 He had moved to Carlow in 1962 and used to travel to training in Enniscorthy. He has coached clubs in Carlow, Laois and Kilkenny</p> <p>00:19.44 He has been a selector and trainer with Wexford. He trained Oulart-the-Ballagh, the club of Liam Dunne and Martin Storey who were members of the Wexford Senior Hurling Team in 1996.</p> <p>00:21.18 Through the GAA he has made many great friends; it has been a way of life.</p>
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	<p>00:22.50 He speaks of the volunteering aspect of the GAA.</p> <p>00:23.53 He speaks of the more organised training of today. Also of the changes in hurling. Regrets there is no ground hurling now. Offaly had perfected the skill of ground hurling.</p> <p>00:25.11 He discusses media coverage of games. Sometimes over-analysed and over-criticised. "Hurling is a simple game"</p> <p>00:27.40 He speaks of an over-emphasis on physical training.</p> <p>00:28.46 He refers to a 1962 game of hurling and a club game between Birr and Shamrocks on a very wet day, both games displayed great hurling.</p> <p>00:29.40 His personal memories include winning the 1966 All-Ireland Hurling Final, winning the 1966 Hurling Club Final with Geraldine O'Hanrahans (New Ross) and winning watches playing Seven-a-Side with Fethard.</p> <p>00:30.12 One great memory is being one of four hurlers selected to attend the Cardinal Cushing Games in the United States in 1965. The other three hurlers were Paddy Molloy, Offaly; Jimmy Duggan, Galway and Christy Ring, Cork. He was young at the time, while Christy Ring was 46.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</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 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>2 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Titles; 5 Leinster Senior Hurling titles</p> <p>1 Leinster Junior Football Title</p> <p>3 Railway Cup Titles 3 All-Stars (1963, 1964, 1965)</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:31:36
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Anne Finn

Date: 20th April 2011