

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2009
<b>Location</b>	Boston Park Plaza Hotel
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Connie (Cornelius)Kelly
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1942 <b>Home County:</b> Kerry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Blennerville NS, Co. Kerry <b>Secondary:</b> Technical School, Tralee, Co. Kerry
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters & 4 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Catherine, 3 sons, 1 daughter and 6 grandchildren
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Patrick's, Blennerville, Co. Kerry; Kerry FC, Boston
<b>Occupation</b>	Bartender
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Railroad Worker [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2010
<b>Period Covered</b>	1940s – 2009
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Kerry, Great Britain, Americas
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Earliest Memories, Childhood, Family Involvement, Travel, Economy, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, GAA abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Media, Supporting, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Identity, Rivalries, Role of Women, Culture, All-Ireland, County History, Irish History, Impact on Life, Career, Politics, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Connie was born and raised in Blennerville, Co. Kerry where he was involved in St. Pats club, before he emigrated first to London and then to Boston. Connie’s interview provides interesting insights into the socio-economic situation in Kerry from the 40s to the 60s, discussing the types of employment available to local people, the devastation caused locally by the burning of the boot factory and the impact of emigration. Connie discusses the role of the GAA in his local community and how he still played Gaelic games in London, while not being officially involved. Connie was initially involved with the Kerry club in Boston, and later became involved in the North East Board. He talks about the development of the GAA in Boston giving minute details about the development of the grounds at Canton. Connie discusses the negative impact the Celtic Tiger had on the GAA in Boston and his belief that the current Irish recession (2009) will bring benefits for the GAA in the USA.</p> <p>0.00 Introduction</p> <p>0.40 Connie was born and raised in Blennerville, his home club is St. Pat’s of Blennerville. He came to America in 1967 and his club in the USA is Kerry</p> <p>1.10 Earliest memory is when he was five playing with his younger brother who was three and a half. They had a rubber</p>

ball, the type they used to get for Christmas. Connie put his brother in goal and when Connie scored two or three goals, his brother would run in home.

2.00 'We never had a football, because as youngsters the club might have a football, one of the old fashioned ones with the pig skin ... we would tie rags together and kick it around, we'd get a rubber ball that would, you know when you kick it, would just go too far and one of the earliest memories was on a Friday night, it was a ritual that four or five of us would go round from house to house, in a different area every Friday night, and we'd get a penny or ha'penny in certain houses and I remember it was five shillings for a football, so you know if that's 60 pennies or 120 ha'pennies, so that meant that if you only got a penny in a house you'd have to knock on an awful lot of doors.'

3.00 They were all like a big family in the village. Football was for total enjoyment really, they played competitive games, but after it was over they would have a little dance on the street 'you never knew who won anyway, because nobody cared, there was never much more than you know friendly rivalry'.

3.50 Ballard a couple of miles away, and Mike Foley's team were their big rivals. They had a few good footballers, but never fifteen. Connie doesn't remember ever having boots and a lot of people wore long pants.

4.30 Ten or fifteen women might attend and when your side scored the women and kids would be cheering. It was a way of life in Ireland.

4.50 The club: 'It was part and parcel of the community, because if you didn't have an organisation like the GAA what would you do on a Sunday.'

5.25 The game went on long after it was over. When there were footballers around, the girls would be around and they'd have a few drinks, the pubs would be packed. It was a big part of their life in the 40s, 50s, 60s.

5.58 Connie's father was captain of Strand Road (later Kerin's O'Rahilly's). He was captain and 50 years later his grandson was captain of the same team. His father got married at 25, he worked in the railway from 14 to 25. He was a steam riser, it was hard work, he worked 8 hours a day, 7 days a week.

7.05 Connie and his family lived in the Station House and they had running water. He can remember listening to the match on the radio and all the neighbours came in.

	<p>7.25 Listening to the radio for the first time was a bit scratchy. 'Micheál O'Hehir could make the dulllest game ever, he could make it sound interesting, and he could almost make you feel like you were participating or that you were there in person.'</p> <p>7.45 Connie remembers listening to the game in New York, his time was up, but it was a draw and he pleaded with Radio Éireann for more time.</p> <p>8.05 'When we were growing up, if you were a good footballer you emigrated, you know because New York would bring you over or you'd go to England'. Connie says he was never a good footballer, he just did it for fun.</p> <p>8.40 In 1955 they won the West Kerry league, they were just a village, but they were competing against other bigger villages. They still talk about that.</p> <p>9.00 The club went from Division 5 to Division 1 in four years, but now they're in Division 3.</p> <p>9.25 Aeroplane O'Shea was famous all over the world. Teams they would have played against years ago would have had the like of John Kerry O'Donnell on them. His daughter was born in New York, but is now living in Ireland and is very involved in the Kerry Association. They had some great players playing with Strand Road that did not live in Strand Road – Dinny Falvey, Annascaul; Jack O'Shea and Jerome O'Shea. 'We had some fantastic footballers that cycled in to play with a bigger club.'</p> <p>10.20 Connie used to walk to local matches, anything further away they cycled to and as they got richer, they took the bus. 'Going to a game was a whole day out.'</p> <p>11.05 The 1955 All-Ireland was the first one he went to. His older brother and neighbour were going. When Connie heard it was the Ghost Train, he was too scared to go. Kerry beat Dublin that year.</p> <p>11.50 Connie was back in Croke Park in 2002 for Congress and videoed the whole place before it was properly finished.</p> <p>12.10 'I think the GAA is ... the greatest amateur organisation in the world bar none.'</p> <p>Connie talks about the amount of money that has been pumped in to villages to develop proper facilities.</p> <p>12.50 The club had no facilities except a field and maybe portable goal posts. A lot of the time they only had coats.</p>
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13.30 In 1954 they moved to a new place outside of Blennerville, where 48 new houses were built in the middle of a farming community. Connie worked with the farmers and delivered milk on a horse and cart. It developed into a seven day a week job, but his mother didn't mind because it was one less mouth to feed.

14.20 'We were thrown in with 48 families and everyone in that estate had four, five, six and seven children, can you imagine, we never knew each other prior to moving there... and we had as many as three places where we'd have three different games going on, because there was no way you could have you know – I mean I played hurling with a stick, with a blackthorn stick, anything with something like a bump on the end of it or a knob on the end of it anything that would hit the ball, but it was mostly football we played.'

15.05 Connie considered himself a serious worker, he made a little money and gave it to his mother. At fourteen he left school, which he considers a mistake, but a farmer's wife died and they asked him to take the creamery during the wake and he kept going for six months. He was in with a big family, talks about getting into fights with the girls who were the same age as him.

16.40 Your mother put your name down at several factories in the town and Connie got a job in the Boot Factory in the town, in the sandal plant – Tralee Footwear – in 1956. He loved it. There were 110 men and 100 women, a lot of them young girls. People would notice him and he went out with one or two. He stayed there from November to June.

17.35 They had an hour and a quarter for lunch and they played handball. They'd clock out at eighteen minutes to one and he would always be last in, but he was always last in, so his bike would be first out. His mother would have his dinner ready at ten to one, he ate his dinner and then back to the factory.

18.25 If you got back to the factory early enough you would get a game. If not others or the Downey's would be there and you had no chance to get a game because they only had one wall. They were laid off on the 20<sup>th</sup> June for July, August, September and October.

18.50 He went to the farmers then, Morris Kelly. He used to go to Ballybunnion, four or five nights a week, because the farmer had a car, he was an only son and had plenty of money. Connie joined the FCA at fourteen, even though you had to be eighteen and they got a pair of boots and a big

	<p>overcoat for the bottom of the bed.</p> <p>19.40 After Christmas the sandal plant would be busy and Connie used to clean the factory on a Saturday as well. They worked two hours overtime on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On a Thursday night he went to the Army Barracks to the FCA.</p> <p>20.40 50 years ago the boot factory went on fire on New Year's Eve. It affected 200 families. They were in the pub playing cards. There was a family of little people / dwarfs in the town. One of them played cards with them. He left the pub and came back in to tell them the factory was on fire. Everybody was out of work. Connie went to England in 1960. His mother wrote to tell them it reopened, but he was getting paid better in England. He worked in a brewery and in construction.</p> <p>22.55 Connie didn't stay long in the Brewery because somebody called him a liar and Connie hit him. He was called to the office and made redundant with two weeks pay. Connie describes the barrels rolling down the tracks and how people at the bottom tapped the barrels to send them the right direction.</p> <p>25.05 Connie was down a hole in London that had taken a direct hit from Hitler. They used to fill the skip by hand. Connie went dancing on a Saturday night to Cricklewood. Once he fell asleep leaning against the skip, his boss just said he was the first person he'd ever seen sleeping standing up.</p> <p>25.50 He got a letter from his mother saying he was wanted back in the boot factory, but the wages weren't as good. There wasn't as much fun, his brother was a dog trainer in England. The foreman in the new boot factory didn't like Connie and didn't treat him very well.</p> <p>26.40 One young fella told him he wanted to go and they went to England in March 1961. 'They were leaving in droves that time'. The second time they went he went to Harrow. 'There was more people from my town in Harrow than there was at home and football was our outlet there again. I mean like we had rag tag football you know. We trained on a Tuesday and Thursday night, but the games were on the different side of London, New Eltham was way out the other side of London so. We weren't that interested in it that we would travel, but if we were living closer to it we would have stayed involved, but we enjoyed our kick around on a</p>
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	<p>Tuesday and Thursday night.'</p> <p>27.55 They did it for fun, but in the summer they'd come down and have about ten shandies after training. They did it for fun and football. Connie stayed in England until 1966.</p> <p>28.30 Connie was over and back to England between 1960 and 1966. In 1966 he came home and was working for Arthur O'Leary, building a ballroom in the Parklands Hotel in Tralee. The banks went on strike and they had to let the workers go because there was no money.</p> <p>29.10 Connie's aunt arrived from America and asked him would he go to America. Connie told her he had been trying to go for a long time. Connie had given her husband £8 when he was going to America and he said he'd write for him, he didn't but his aunt did.</p> <p>30.15 In 1966 she went back to America to Worcester near Boston and asked a friend of hers Tom McGrath to apply for a metal grainer – a highly skilled painter. At that time you couldn't emigrate unless you were a qualified tradesman. Tom had to advertise for a certain number of weeks in the newspaper and when nobody applied the forms were sent over and Connie went to America.</p> <p>31.00 He hated painting, especially when he had a hangover.</p> <p>31.20 He came down to Boston in 1967 to the Boston Park Plaza. He painted a house belonging to Mike Harvey (who had a cellar full of drink, which they helped him drink). Harvey asked Connie what two-and-a-half times two-and-a-half was, when he answered correctly he told him that he belonged in a hotel.</p> <p>32.35 Connie had a big appetite and he ate half of the meal his Aunt prepared for the whole family. His uncle told him he'd have to put up the rent. Connie was smoking and drinking and sending \$5 back to his mother, so there was very little left from his \$60 wages. He thought he would get \$300 a week painting, but that was only when he would be qualified.</p> <p>34.30 He rang Harvey and asked for a job and he told him to go and see Mr McNamara.</p> <p>35.30 On a Saturday night a group of boys from Worcester used to go to the State Ballroom and Connie would come down with them. One night he went to the Statler Hilton to see Mr McNamara, but he was in a conference.</p> <p>36.25 Connie didn't even know how to spell McNamara. He</p>
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left him a letter saying that Harvey had sent him down and that he could come back down the following Monday. Connie got a phone call and McNamara asked him to come down to see him. Connie bought a suit on credit and met McNamara, who was like an army general – slim and trim.

37.30 McNamara called the food and beverage manager, Jim Horan, and Connie was tending the bar the next day. Horan would make Connie sit and talk to him about Ireland.

38.20 Connie travelled the whole country staying free in the Hiltons. Connie had four children, when he heard that the hotel was closing. Connie couldn't believe it.

39.10 When he was working in the hotel, he could sell sand in a desert. The Kerry club in Boston heard where he was working and when they'd have a banquet they'd ask him to sell a table of tickets. The next thing he knew he was secretary.

40.05 Connie only kicked around in Boston, he wasn't a serious player.

40.20 Connie remembers going to Dilboy field when his son was 3 and a half. They used to play eight or ten games on a Sunday. Connie met somebody and looked down and his son was gone – he was in the goals blocking the ball. He has three New England Championship Medals.

41.15 He hasn't played ball in a number of years. Connie tried to get him to play last year when the Kerry champions the Feale Rangers were over, and he did.

41.50 Connie believes in a hotel you get self-educated, he loved working in the hotel, then he was able to buy a house and had a garden and started growing roses.

42.25 Although the hotel closed they opened a new one. The Park Plaza used to be an old railway station. There are 1400 rooms, but that's only one half, the other half is office buildings. He learned a lot as a bar tender.

43.40 When he was 40 he decided he wouldn't work for anyone else.

44.00 Connie got involved with the North American Board he was the PRO for years. He thought nothing about going on TV or Radio. Then he became secretary, which was a huge job. He enjoyed being PRO and could have went back this year except for his bad health.



	<p>45.00 Irish people mostly meet at wakes there and they say 'oh, you're the guy on the radio.' Connie thinks it's a bit like being Micheál O'Muircheartaigh 'you tie the face with the voice.'</p> <p>45.45 Connie misses it but it was time consuming.</p> <p>45.50 Connie could have been in Somerville in 5 or 6 mins, but the new place is 32 miles away and takes an hour or an hour and a half in traffic. Somerville was a stadium that was neglected, they were there for 50 years. All of a sudden the cultural centre wanted to buy their own place so they went together. The GAA's divisional board have put in almost \$2 million to it now. Connie feels they're the backbone of the cultural centre.</p> <p>47.05 They start playing in April and play until August and last year they had the North America play offs and they have it this year again. It brings 60, 70, 80 clubs into Boston from around the country. They made a lot of money.</p> <p>47.40 They bought 45 acres and they had five fields for the play offs. They had Seán Kelly, Joe McDonagh and Nickey Brennan over to visit.</p> <p>48.20 John McDevitt, Joe Lydon, and Pat Mulvihill were all very involved. They went round to various places, but the Irish couldn't agree on location. They put a deposit of \$10,000 on a place, but they were told that it would cost a million dollars to clean up the asbestos etc. so they lost their deposit.</p> <p>49.00 They got an abandoned airport out in Canton with 45 acres, there may have been 30 more that they could have bought. They have a clubhouse and function rooms. Connie thinks it's too far away at 32 miles. If you get a lift down and that person leaves, you can't get a cab.</p> <p>50.00 For years they had hundreds of thousands of people coming over. John McDevitt brought out the Down team in the 60s and they had the Cardinal Cushing games which were amazing. The North American Board is over 50 years old, tying in San Francisco, Chicago, Detroit and Los Angeles. Connie feels they should have done it twenty years ago.</p> <p>51.00 The field is exactly the same size as Croke Park, although it has a small dip in it, which there shouldn't have been.</p> <p>51.30 The first fundraiser they had was a benefit in honour of two kids who fell off a scaffold in Quincy. The parents said they wanted nothing from the fundraiser, so they built a hall</p>
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	<p>next to the dressing room and dedicated it to them and brought out their parents for the opening.</p> <p>52.50 All the work was done voluntarily. John McDevitt has done an awful lot, he's a contractor and he works very hard. He brings out power washers etc. and has given a lot of money to the cultural centre. Connie feels that that's the real GAA – the people who do all the work for very little credit.</p> <p>54.10 Hundreds of Irish girls go down every summer. 'They bring the guys' and all the other girls feel comfortable. They've almost equal participation now. The board have quite a bit of money at the minute. They pay c. \$100,000 insurance for the clubs each year.</p> <p>55.15 Kerry spent an astronomical amount of money bringing players out. They only play thirteen a-side. They used to have three away based players and ten home, but now it's eight away and five home. Every club has to have two teams a senior team and junior team. They have ten sanctions for senior and three for junior.</p> <p>56.00 With the 90 day rule they don't want anybody staying for 91 days, so they bring them over, send them home and bring them back again. They bring them over in April for \$700/\$800, but it costs \$1200/\$1400 in June, which Connie feels is ridiculous.</p> <p>56.45 Connie feels that the GAA in America nurses people – 'We have nursed people here. Anybody that comes over here and gets involved with the GAA they become contractors, they become businessmen etc. I mean its amazing what the GAA has done here in Boston for people.'</p> <p>57.05 Boston is more like a town than a city.</p> <p>57.25 The GAA runs fundraisers for tragedies and they are very involved in the emigration thing. 'You see, anybody that came over to play football and stayed here is illegal and that means that we're more interested in it than any other organisation, because they're our people. You know like, they came over to us, to help us and now they're living here, they've families, and they've houses and they've businesses.' Connie blames Bertie Ahern for this. The Australian Prime Minister secured 10,000 visas not including wives and children. There are 40,000 / 50,000 Americans working in Ireland so we could have had a bi-lateral agreement. The Irish are now lumped in with the Mexicans – you can't legalise 12 million people, but they could have done 20,000.</p>
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	<p>59.10 Connie talks about the trip to Washington. Niall O'Dowd and Ciaran Stanton were involved. They held a fundraiser to ensure that it wouldn't cost people any money. They hired a bus and travelled eight or nine hours down followed by a four hour meeting and back that night. They met Hilary Clinton, John McCain, Ted Kennedy, Shumer from New York, it was standing room only.</p> <p>1.00.15 They had a photo op then in front of the building.</p> <p>1.00.40 They made a statement that day and they all had certain offices to go to – congress and senators.</p> <p>1.01.10 They are sick of Connie being on TV and radio at home. Connie's on Weeshie Fogarty's Terrace Talk every week. Connie thinks it's a great programme and totally unrehearsed.</p> <p>1.02.05 Connie's not sure how Weeshie keeps up with all the events he has to go to.</p> <p>1.02.30 There was a lot more rivalry in the GAA in the USA than in Ireland. 'When Galway won the All-Ireland there back in 2000 I think, or something like that, most of them guys were playing here in Boston. So if you come out here as a footballer and you play here for a year or two you're going to go back as a much better footballer, because you're going to be used to hardknocks. Especially when we were in our old place, the old place was more like a soccer pitch, there was a running track around it, but it was smaller. When you have 26 players in a small confined area, you're going to get hit hard and often.'</p> <p>1.03.30 They have local referees here and they won't send players off unless they do something serious. 'It is a little tougher here', but all the guys are friends and when players get injured they take good care of them.</p> <p>1.04.15 Involvement of second and third generation Irish depends on the parents. The Celtic Tiger 'robbed us big time'. A correspondent for Boston Globe, wrote a story on it.</p> <p>1.04.45 'These guys came over and they met their wives at functions. There's an awful lot of weddings have developed out of the GAA, so now they have two and three and four children. In the last five, six, seven, eight, nine years there are so many people, even my own club, guys went home with three and four kids, that we knew from the time they were, because they would come training with their father, and you knew them all the way up and the next thing the Celtic Tiger</p>
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	<p>appeared and they went home. So we lost a generation, but only temporarily, simply because all those children are United States citizens, so now when they come back, we're home free again.'</p> <p>1.05.45 Connie believes they will come back better footballers and hurlers, because they're exposed to it all year round.</p> <p>1.06.08 They have a fair amount of American kids that are playing – 200 / 300, but once they go to college you lose them, because they don't go to college in Massachusetts, they go away.</p> <p>1.06.55 You can have 80,000 people at a game in February that means very little – a national league game. They're talking about American football here and they have 60,000 or 65,000 and they're talking about it weeks ahead of time. You can't buy tickets for All-Ireland semi-finals, final and provincial finals.</p> <p>1.07.40 Connie is glad that money has been pumped into local clubs. At least everyone has a field they can play in.</p> <p>1.08.10 The opening up of Croke Park by Seán Kelly was great – he took on the organisation and proved himself right and now the club championships are played there.</p> <p>1.08.40 Last week he had the club intermediate and junior matches. One of the teams in the junior was from Liverpool. Connie thinks it's amazing that they opened up Croke Park for small clubs like that.</p> <p>1.09.40 Connie doesn't see any challenges to the GAA in America, because there won't be any shortage of players from Ireland this year or into the future. The recession in the USA will last for 6 years, but longer in Ireland and the only place for Irish people looking for work will be USA.</p> <p>1.10.30 The Irish will be welcome, because they are now highly regarded. 99% of them are hard workers and if they're not they will be, because otherwise they won't make the grade.</p> <p>1.11.35 'Without the GAA here we would be a dying breed.' They've had so many county organisations that will be non-existent in the next twenty years, but with the way the economy has gone in Ireland Connie feels that there will be a new generation to carry on the work.</p> <p>1.13.00 'The girls are great for bringing in other nationalities.' Some African American girls and some coloured kids have</p>
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	<p>also been brought down. If you go to the West coast the girls all have American names, no Irish, but that wouldn't work in Boston, because they need the county players.</p> <p>1.13.35 The county boards at home haven't released their county players over the last few years and Connie can't blame them, but the players will be leaving now and no county board will stop them.</p> <p>1.14.15 Connie keeps in constant communication with home and knows all about the Irish economic situation and the banks.</p> <p>1.14.50 Canton opened in 1999, in the last ten years things have changed. Certain individuals will never forget what was done to the Irish at home and find it hard to allow other associations to use GAA grounds. In Europe GAA is played in rugby and soccer fields. Connie wouldn't want to see people coming in and tearing up their field, if it's late in the season then fine, but they play 160 games in one year (12 weeks) so they can't afford to lose out on a Saturday or Sunday. It's in the contract that the main field is exclusively for the GAA.</p> <p>1.17.00 The Irish rugby team was supposed to play at Canton, but they went down to Hartford, because they couldn't accommodate more than 4000 or 5000 at the main pitch.</p> <p>1.17.50 'You still have politics here'. Connie is not into politics. He had to suggest people for the top table at the dinner dance. He brought out Dick Spring (Labour), Jimmy Deenihan (Fine Gael), and different Fianna Fáil people.</p> <p>1.18.40 Connie mentions one man in Kerry who wanted to give back his fathers medals because of the opening of Croke Park. Connie votes for the best man, not his party.</p> <p>1.19.30 Connie enjoyed being chairman of the Kerry Football Club a number of times. It's important for Connie to be involved with young people. Connie will be 67 soon, but he stays involved with young people – kicking a ball around with them.</p> <p>1.21.10 To Connie football is a game that shouldn't be taken too seriously. There are six dressing rooms in Canton and Connie will walk into any of them to say hello to teams.</p> <p>1.22.00 Connie's club plays football, hurling, ladies football and camogie. Though camogie has gone now, the Celtic Tiger wiped them out. The secretary of the north east board is a camogie player and Connie hopes that she will rekindle the</p>
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	<p>game.</p> <p>1.22.30 They have 160 games a year with 12 senior teams last year. They had no intermediate teams, everybody was in there, the top four went into the senior final and the other four went into the intermediate division. They had two senior and two intermediate finals. Kerry won the intermediate North American championship, if they had won one more game they would have been in top four, but they couldn't have competed.</p> <p>1.23.55 The underage scene is good. They have very dedicated fathers and mothers, they actually go to Ireland with the teams. In the playoffs, there are numerous underage teams.</p> <p>1.24.40 'Sometimes your heart swells in your chest and it did one day when I went down to Canton. It was a beautiful sunny day, there was maybe seven or eight games going on, because it was across the pitch for children, boys and girls mixed, at a younger age, under eight, under ten you know, and the Irish flag and the American flag and believe it or not I walked over the bridge and you know for once in my life my chest swelled out with pride. I mean that doesn't happen too often. That was a great feeling, I felt so proud that day.'</p> <p>1.25.25 Best Moment: Having his four children play in the one game. His oldest son is very good, his two other sons are 6'4 and 6'7 and at that height were great in midfield and his daughter played but she didn't have enough training. Connie still plays with his sons, he feels very proud of that. They played in Hartford, Connie came on as a sub, when Neil saw him all he said was 'Dad' and Connie knew he was going to pass the ball.</p> <p>1.26.50 Seán Kelly is one of the grass roots, he did umpire and linesman when he came out to Boston as President. Micheál O'Muircheartaigh, Marty Morrissey and his gang, were all out.</p> <p>1.27.30 Connie does not think he has had any disappointments with the GAA, though people have a tendency to fall out with people over football.</p> <p>1.28.20 His heroes are Colm Cooper and going back to the 50s Mick O'Connell and Matt Connor. He thinks the Dublin, Donegal, Mayo and Galway people are all great. 'In England, we used to have the all-stars come over and I remember one year we were in Wembley ... you had buses from Manchester, Coventry, Birmingham, all over the place I mean</p>
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	<p>and you're in England.'</p> <p>1.29.45 'When you meet people from home, you know that's what it's all about. I mean like if I were to take you out to Canton on a Sunday, you'd meet twenty or thirty people that you know instantly, now what other organisation, where can you go that you can meet twenty or thirty people from your own county or your own village or your own town, it can't happen any place else only in the GAA.'</p> <p>1.30.20 Connie has enjoyed ever minute in the GAA and is proud to be a part of it. He will always be a part of it. He can't understand people who walk away, he doesn't feel their interest was genuine if they can.</p> <p>1.31.05 They always get poems when they prepare a programme for the banquet (an Ad Book). Connie doesn't sing, although he's made an attempt to sing a few times.</p> <p>1.32.00 Boston is a fantastic place for Irish, on a Saturday and Sunday you have hours and hours of all types of Irish music on the radio.</p> <p>1.32.50 Connie hopes the GAA will be around for another 125 years and he can't see it going anywhere at the moment. The competitiveness of the GAA is unequalled and he feels there is nothing else like it in the world.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" 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> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>West Kerry School's Championship; Played until 2 years ago.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Secretary of Kerry FC, Boston on several occasions (6 years); PRO and Fundraiser with North Eastern Board (10 – 12 years); NAGAA Board Secretary (1 year).</p>

**REFERENCE NO. KY/1/7**

<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 1hr 33min 21sec
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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

Date:                \_\_\_\_\_11/01/10\_\_\_\_\_