

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Anna Joyce
<b>Date of Interview</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010
<b>Location</b>	Shem's home, near Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seamus (Shem) Downey
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1922 <b>Home County:</b> Kilkenny
<b>Education</b>	N/A
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> N/A <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 4 daughters and 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Tullaroan GAA [Kilkenny]
<b>Occupation</b>	Butcher
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1940s - 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Kilkenny
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Celebrations, Commiserations, Rivalries, All-Ireland, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Opening of Croke Park
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Shem talks about his GAA experiences over the years. He recalls playing for Kilkenny and contesting All-Ireland hurling finals in Croke Park, playing Tipperary numerous times throughout his career and having to mark Cork hurler Christy Ring. He also talks about his family's involvement in the GAA and training the local camogie team.</p> <p>00:10 Earliest GAA memories. Playing in Croke Park against Cork in 1939. Danny O'Connell gathering the minors under the stand before the senior game. Going to Independent Paper House the following day.</p> <p>01:45 Getting involved in the GAA.</p> <p>02:15 Changes in how the game is played.</p> <p>02:40 What the GAA means to him. Benefits to him in business.</p> <p>03:05 GAA tradition in his family.</p> <p>03:25 Role of GAA in his life when he was young.</p> <p>03:40 Playing against Cork hurler Christy Ring.</p> <p>04:30 Bill Welsh, Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy and Tom Walton were players he admired.</p> <p>04:55 Henry Shefflin is a latter day player he admires.</p> <p>05:25 Training a camogie team. Success they enjoyed.</p> <p>06:00 Daughters' success on the field and how he feels about that. Involvement in their development.</p> <p>06:50 Best game he ever saw - All-Ireland final 2009.</p>

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	<p>08:20 Playing in Croke Park and how he felt about it.</p> <p>08:50 Travelling to Croke Park by bus.</p> <p>09:15 Foreign sports in Croke Park.</p> <p>09:35 Opinion of Galway and Antrim playing in the Leinster championship.</p> <p>10:45 Best game he ever played in - 1950 League final against Tipperary. Meeting them in the All-Ireland later that year. How it felt to lose.</p> <p>12:20 Winning titles and how that felt.</p> <p>12:40 Prediction for 2010 hurling All-Ireland title.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:13:09
<b>Language</b>	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: \_\_\_\_\_Anna Joyce\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_19/12/2010\_\_\_\_\_

