

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	25 th Feb 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, Dublin
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mick Kilkenny
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1918 Home County: Leitrim
Education	Primary: Augharan NS, Aughavas, Co. Leitrim Secondary: St. Mel's, Longford
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married
Club(s)	Aughavas [Leitrim]; Tully [Leitrim]; Binn Eadair, Howth [Dublin]; Clanna Gael [Dublin]
Occupation	Retired Garda
Parents' Occupation	Small Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	16 th August 2012
Period Covered	1920s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Leitrim, Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Cavan, Derry, Kerry, Cork, Limerick, Dublin, Kildare, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Career, Violence, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Professionalism, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Mick recalls his earliest GAA memories. He talks about playing on the Leitrim junior football team that won the 1938 All-Ireland 'Home' Final before losing to London. Mick discusses teams he played for and against. He recalls his time at St. Mel's College in Longford, and compares training regimes at club and inter-county level. He talks about the geographical divisions of club football in Leitrim before discussing the history of the Tully club. Mick talks about club football in Dublin in his playing days, before also discussing his time in Kerry. He also discusses World War Two and its effect on Ireland. He discusses his time as a ministerial driver, and recalls some trips he made to Europe. Mick discusses The Ban, before recalling listening to matches on the radio, attending his first All-Ireland hurling and football finals, and the best match he ever saw. He also recalls his best memories from the GAA, and explains what the GAA means to him.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:28 Mick recalls his earliest GAA memories.</p> <p>01:10 Recalls fields that he played on.</p> <p>01:39 Mentions local club Aughavas and St Mel's College. Also mentions Tully in Carrigallen.</p> <p>02:47 Recalls playing for Leitrim junior team. Recalls matches against Sligo and Mayo. Also mentions Longford team and players such as Jim Hannify, Murphy and Quinn all from Drumlish. Recalls Mayo players such as Austin O'Toole, Paddy Judge and Tommy Hogan. Also mentions Connacht Junior Final against Galway. Mentions Ballinamore players</p>

	<p>being brought on. Mentions Hugh Givens, 'Nipper' Shanley.</p> <p>06:35 Recalls All-Ireland Junior Semi-Final against Cavan. Mentions JP Maguire from Fermanagh. Also mentions taxi driver Frank White and Cavan player Neil Martin. Mentions match between Cavan and Longford in Gowna. Also mentions Packie Masterson. Recalls All-Ireland Junior 'Home' Final against Kildare. Mentions Sean Mitchel.</p> <p>09:40 Recalls All-Ireland Junior Final against London, played as curtain-raiser to 1938 All-Ireland Football Final replay between Galway and Kerry. Discusses selection criteria for team. Mentions Barry's Hotel and Tom Molloy. Also mentions John Joe Sheehy, Joe Keohane and Paddy Bán Brosnan of Kerry. Also mentions Mick Connaire, Frank Cunniffe and Ralph Griffin from Galway.</p> <p>14:35 Recalls joining the Guards and playing with Mick Connaire, Frank Cunniffe and Ralph Griffin for Beann Eadair in Dublin. Also played for Garda team. Mentions Clanna Gael, Art O'Leary, Seán Ó Síocháin and Sean Feeney. Recalls Nicky Rackard playing with the club. Also played with Dr Crokes in Killarney, before rejoining Clanna Gael. Mentions losing Dublin Senior Football Championship semi-final to St. Vincent's.</p> <p>17:01 Discusses the differences between training at club and inter-county level. Mentions training at Carrigallen with Pat O'Reilly. Also mentions Tom Molloy.</p> <p>19:15 Discusses his time at St Mel's College, Longford. Mentions Fr Carney. Recalls successes that the college had. Also mentions Fr Sean Manning, Vincent and Jim White from Cavan, Mattie Coleman, Jackie Carey and Tommy Murphy of Laois. Mentions cricket previously being played in the college. Discusses football training at St Mel's. Recalls support at St Mel's matches. Mentions Bishop Hoare.</p> <p>27:01 Recalls his playing career at St Mel's. Discusses celebrations after victories.</p> <p>27:45 Recalls travelling to matches in his younger days.</p> <p>28:31 Recalls geographical divisions of football in Leitrim. Mentions Tully, Cloone, Gortletteragh, Ballinamore, Keshcarrigan and Bornacoola. Mentions schoolteacher from Kerry called Lynch.</p> <p>29:45 Discusses family involvement in GAA. Recalls how he became involved in the GAA.</p>
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	<p>30:29 Discusses the history of the GAA in Aughavas and Tully. Also mentions Carrigallen.</p> <p>31:22 Recalls Tully matches played at The Rock. Mentions match played against Aughavas. Also mentions Sergeant Brady.</p> <p>32:26 Discusses physicality of football in his playing days. Mentions matches in Dublin with teams such as O'Tooles and St. Joseph's.</p> <p>33:43 Discusses club teams in Dublin. Mentions Sean McDermotts. Recalls players such as Eddie Boyle, Paddy Boyle and Jimmy Coyle. Also mentions Geraldines and players such as Murt Kelly, Paddy Kennedy and Charlie O'Sullivan.</p> <p>35:14 Compares club football in Dublin with club football in Leitrim. Discusses rivals such as Geraldines, Sean McDermotts and Civil Service.</p> <p>36:12 Discusses pitches in Dublin during his playing days. Mentions Parnell Park.</p> <p>37:00 Recalls the social aspect to the GAA. Mentions dances at Geraldines and Sean McDermotts.</p> <p>37:28 Discusses fundraising.</p> <p>38:18 Recalls jerseys in his playing days.</p> <p>38:54 Recounts being selected for Leitrim. Mentions Sean Mitchel. Recalls excitement of success in 1938. Also recalls 1927 All-Ireland football semi-final against Kerry. Mentions McGoldrick from Ballinamore who played for New York. Also mentions Martin.</p> <p>40:57 Recalls match days with county team. Recalls league semi-final against Derry in Magherafelt.</p> <p>42:18 Talks about friends he made in the GAA.</p> <p>42:44 Describes playing in Croke Park. Mentions All-Ireland Junior 'Home' Final against Kildare and final against London. Mentions Barry's Hotel.</p> <p>44:04 Recalls joining the Guards. Mentions Dun Laoghaire and Rathfarnham. Talks about being a ministerial driver. Recalls driving to meetings in Strasbourg. Also mentions Schwangau and St Colomon.</p> <p>51:27 Discusses World War Two and how it affected</p>
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	<p>transport. Recalls train journey from Killarney to Kingsbridge. Also mentions food rationing.</p> <p>53:32 Recalls involvement in GAA in Kerry. Mentions Dr Crokes and Tom O'Connor.</p> <p>54:11 Recalls priest playing under an assumed name in 1943 All-Ireland Final, Cavan v Roscommon.</p> <p>54:50 Discusses issue of illegal players in his playing days.</p> <p>55:25 Discusses The Ban. Mentions Richard Blake, former secretary of the GAA who previously played rugby. Also mentions Blake's book "How the GAA was grabbed". Mentions the role of the IRB in the GAA. Also mentions Dineen. Refers to Rathkenny GAA club. Also mentions the attitude of the GAA to Blake and a man named McCarthy from the RIC.</p> <p>59:05 Discusses the amount of coverage that soccer receives in the media.</p> <p>01:00:58 Recalls the first match he heard on the radio, Kerry v Kildare. Mentions old schoolteacher David Forde.</p> <p>01:01:45 Recalls first All-Ireland Hurling Final he saw, 1940 Kilkenny v Limerick. Mentions Mick Mackey, Paddy Clohessy, Jim Langton, Terry Leahy and Paddy Larkin.</p> <p>01:02:33 Recalls listening to 1939 All-Ireland Hurling Final, Kilkenny v Cork on the day World War Two was declared..</p> <p>01:03:06 Recalls first All-Ireland Football Final he saw, Kerry v Galway in 1938. Mentions Tom Molloy.</p> <p>01:04:14 Discusses Leitrim winning 1927 Connacht championship. Mentions JP Reynolds and Peter Blessing.</p> <p>01:05:23 Recalls his best memories from his involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:05:44 Discusses why Leitrim hasn't had more success in the GAA.</p> <p>01:07:39 Discusses the role of teachers and priests in the GAA.</p> <p>01:09:22 Discusses role of the Irish culture and language in the GAA.</p> <p>01:10:09 Discusses professionalism in the GAA.</p>
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	<p>01:11:11 Discusses his biggest disappointment in the GAA.</p> <p>01:11:37 Recalls his GAA heroes. Mentions Paddy Devlin from Cavan, Harry Kenny, Paddy Kennedy from Kerry, Neillie Duggan from Cork, Frankie Byrne in Meath and Paddy Meegan.</p> <p>01:13:08 Recalls the best match he saw. Mentions 1938 All-Ireland Football Final replay between Galway and Kerry.</p> <p>01:13:27 Discusses modern Gaelic football. Mentions Brian Mullins of Dublin.</p> <p>01:15:03 Explains what the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:15:43 Recalls listening to matches on the radio.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</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 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>Played from 1930s – 1949. Won a County League Final and Leinster Colleges in 1935/36 and 1936/37.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:17:31</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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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: _____16/08/12_____