

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2011
<b>Location</b>	Declan's home, near Ballyneety, Co. Limerick
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Declan Moylan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1933 <b>Home County:</b> Limerick
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> De la Salle Brothers, Hospital, Co. Limerick. <b>Secondary:</b> De la Salle Brothers, Hospital, Co. Limerick.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 3 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Rosarie), 4 sons & 4 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Claughaun GAA [Limerick]
<b>Occupation</b>	Clerical Officer, CIE.
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Garda Sergeant [Father]
<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>	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1933 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Limerick, Clare, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Cork, Wexford, Americas
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Playing, Administration, Facilities, Grounds, Travel, Supporting, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Culture, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Declan talks about his early playing days in Limerick, playing both hurling and football. He recalls retiring from playing at the age of 29 due to an injury and moving into an administrative role within his local club, Claughaun. Declan discusses the impact that the rise in prevalence of rugby within Limerick has had on hurling and football within the County. He recalls his time in the administrative side of the Limerick County Board and Munster Council and the types of issues that faced them. He describes the importance of the GAA within communities throughout Limerick. Declan talks about Limerick’s 1973 All-Ireland hurling win over Kilkenny and the years surrounding the victory. He speaks about the current Limerick team and gives his opinion on what the future holds for Limerick hurling.</p> <p>00:22 Discusses living in Palace Green, Limerick for 4 years but moving to Hospital, Limerick from 1937-1955. Recalls playing junior football and hurling with De La Salle Brothers School in Hospital.</p> <p>00:53 Discusses playing junior football with PP Hogan, a famous trainer and amateur jockey. PP Hogan formed a football team, the Happy Rivers Boys, named after a horse he owned.</p> <p>01:27 Recalls moving to Limerick City in 1956, joining Claughaun and playing hurling and football at a senior level. Talks about his “bad start” with the team, losing both the senior county finals that year.</p> <p>01:53 Recalls winning the county Senior Hurling Championship in 1957 and 1958. Captained the club’s senior football team to championship glory in 1959.</p> <p>02:10 Discusses moving to Galway for work from 1960-1965. Recalls having to retire from hurling and football in 1962 due</p>

	<p>to an injury.</p> <p>02:35 Discusses moving back to Claughaun in Limerick in 1966 and joining the committee. Became Secretary of Claughaun Club and Treasurer for Limerick County Board in 1968. Recalls giving up the role of Secretary to Claughaun Club in 1969 but remaining as Treasurer of Limerick County Board until 1991.</p> <p>03:13 Discusses the role of the job of Treasurer for Limerick County Board, upgrading grounds, getting Mackey stand built.</p> <p>03:30 Recalls being nominated to replace a good friend, Michael O'Connor, as Treasurer of the Munster Council. Remained in this role from 1991 until 2001.</p> <p>04:42 Talks about travelling to matches with JP McManus, the current sponsor of the Limerick teams.</p> <p>05:00 Talks about travelling to America with the Limerick Senior Football team in 1974 after their All-Ireland Senior Football win in 1973. Recalls playing the All-Stars and travelling to LA to play a team in the Notre Dame Stadium.</p> <p>06:32 Discusses family involvement in the GAA. Talks about relatives who played at County level – Pat Foley, Artie Foley (Wexford) and Pat Moylan (Cork).</p> <p>07:10 Talks about his own sons playing GAA at a young age but graduating to rugby as Limerick had a strong rugby connection. Recalls his son Jeff coaching Shannon Rugby Team in Limerick and taking them to 3 All-Ireland finals.</p> <p>08:24 Recalls his mother washing the jerseys for the Claughaun football and hurling teams.</p> <p>08:45 Discusses playing rugby when the GAA season was over in 1954 for a local team and getting a 6 month suspension from GAA.</p> <p>09:33 Recalls being reinstated to the GAA team, being given a trial and getting a place on the Limerick County Football team.</p> <p>10:14 Earliest GAA memory – being given a hurling stick and ball for Christmas. Recalls playing hurling and handball in the street. Recalls hurling being the dominant sport in school and playing in Munster competitions with the school.</p> <p>11:35 Discusses the Brothers in the De La Salle School that promoted hurling.</p>
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	<p>12:25 Discusses the difference between training methods nowadays. Recalls walking and cycling to matches.</p> <p>13:12 Describes playing with the Happy River Boys, travelling to training and matches in PP Hogan's horsebox.</p> <p>14:02 Recalls the successes of the Happy River Boys team. Talks about being beaten in a county final by an "illegal team" from Limerick.</p> <p>15:03 Discusses socialising in Kilrush and Knocklong when the hurling season was over.</p> <p>15:45 Recalls listening to matches on the radio.</p> <p>16:34 Describes being taken to his first All-Ireland hurling match in 1949 between Tipperary and Laois.</p> <p>17:01 Recalls being taken to the Thomond Feis in Limerick and later playing in the Thomond Feis himself.</p> <p>17:31 Describes playing the violin as a child. Talks about skipping his violin lessons to play handball in the street.</p> <p>19:00 Describes the strength of other activities within the community – horses, greyhounds, playing cards.</p> <p>19:55 Describes starting with the Limerick Senior Hurling team in 1955 and training under Mick Mackey. Recalls not being selected for the championship campaign.</p> <p>21:17 Recalls playing in the National League in October 1955 at right-half forward. Describes an unsuccessful National League campaign.</p> <p>22:52 Recalls playing both football and hurling with Limerick from 1955 to 1959, moving away from Limerick for work finishing his inter-county career in 1960.</p> <p>23:23 Describes the importance of being selected for the county team and the pride in the community at his achievement.</p> <p>23:38 Describes his experience of training under Mick Mackey.</p> <p>24:15 Describes the hurling National League final between Limerick and Wexford in 1958. Recalls marking Ned Wheeler and later travelling to matches with Ned and going to the Artane Church for nights out with the Hurlers Association.</p> <p>26:05 Recalls being beaten by Tipperary in the Munster</p>
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	<p>Championship.</p> <p>26:23 Describes travelling to matches by taxi provided by the County Board. Mentions a local taxi man, Tommy Casey.</p> <p>30:00 Describes minimal training with the county team – no meals. Pride in playing for the team.</p> <p>30:55 Recalls his time as Treasurer for Limerick County Board and providing meals for the teams. Mentions “The Griller” from Kildare.</p> <p>31:25 Recalls the County Board providing “good money” to the team if they reached a National League semi-final or final.</p> <p>31:38 Describes playing Cork in a National League final. The match went to a replay and Cork won. Mentions Frank Murphy and Tommy Boland.</p> <p>33:00 Describes how the money from the County Board was distributed.</p> <p>34:00 Talks about his move into an administrative role with Cloughaun.</p> <p>35:09 Recalls the successes of hurling in Cloughaun during the years between 1973 to 1981.</p> <p>35:46 Recalls family outings attending the matches.</p> <p>36:18 Describes being elected as Treasurer of the Munster Council in 1991. Mentions meetings in Mallow, Thurles, Killarney working alongside chairmen such as Michael Mahon, Noel Walsh, Tom Boland, Sean Kelly, Christy Cooney.</p> <p>38:06 Recalls resigning as Treasurer of the Munster Council in 2001 and talks of his successor, Dan Horan from Cork. Mentions the current Treasurer, Michael Fitzgerald.</p> <p>39:09 Describes the big issues that arose in his administrative career at club level – the acquisition of grounds. Recalls Cloughaun having no field. Recalls speaking to Jackie O’Connell, the club chairman, about approaching Croke Park for funding for a field.</p> <p>41:13 Recalls meeting Seán O’Síocháin, Treasurer of the GAA and gaining funding for a field. Describes being given a letter of confirmation for funding.</p> <p>43:30 Recalls only having the new pitch a year and discovering that a ring-road was to be built through the pitch.</p>
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	<p>46:10 Describes enlisting the help of the GAA President, Seamus Ó Riain and President of the Munster Council, Cannon Hamilton to meet with the City Manager to overturn the decision to build a ring-road through the pitch.</p> <p>48:51 Describes the importance of Claughaun having a pitch in their community. Recalls fundraising to pay for the field.</p> <p>49:55 Describes the field and facilities in Claughaun club today. Talks about the slight decline of hurling in the area due to the prominence of rugby and soccer in the area.</p> <p>51:20 Recalls Limerick CBS School producing great hurlers down through the years. Discusses the hurling successes of Ard Scoil Rís in Limerick today.</p> <p>52:15 Discusses the prominence of rugby in Limerick causing a decrease in hurling in the area, especially at club level. Talks of his own interest in rugby.</p> <p>53:34 Describes the effect rugby has had on his own club, Claughaun. Talks about the attraction of rugby at a high level – money, travel – compared with hurling.</p> <p>54:16 Discusses the high standard of underage hurling in Limerick today.</p> <p>54:40 Talks of his disapproval of the National League being played in February as opposed to being played in October. Feels there is a gap in the year that lends itself to players moving to rugby and soccer.</p> <p>58:08 Discusses his role as Treasurer of Limerick County Board in the redevelopment of the Limerick hurling grounds. Recalls the old Hogan Stand in Croke Park being brought down to Limerick.</p> <p>1:00:09 Recalls the construction of the Mackey Stand. Discusses fundraising efforts to pay for the stand.</p> <p>1:02:50 Describes JP McManus' involvement in contributing to Limerick County Board for the development of the grounds.</p> <p>1:05:50 Describes the training facilities in Rathkeale.</p> <p>1:06:20 Discusses the issues that arose as Treasurer of the County Board – talks about insurance issues.</p> <p>1:08:15 Talks of his disapproval at charging clubs money, speaks of the expense of hurling sticks.</p> <p>1:08:53 Describes working alongside Donie Nealan and</p>
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	<p>Pearse O’Ryan on the Accident Committee of the Munster Council. Discusses the importance of the Insurance Scheme.</p> <p>1:09:55 Discusses which roles he preferred, and the issues he faced, in his time as Treasurer of the Munster Council.</p> <p>1:12:33 Recalls heated discussions in 1940 regarding where the match against Cork in the Munster Championship should be played. Mentions Jimmy Barry Murphy, the Cork Manager.</p> <p>1:14:20 Discusses player mentality.</p> <p>1:15:20 Describes the Munster Council’s distribution of funding. Mentions the development of the Fitzgerald Stadium in Killarney.</p> <p>1:15:50 Recalls the open draw being brought into Munster.</p> <p>1:16:25 Describes bringing in a system of allocating gate money from championship matches among all counties. Recalls money being plentiful in the Munster Council.</p> <p>1:18:32 Talks of his enjoyment in his role on the Munster Council. Recalls the efficiency of meetings as opposed to County Board meetings.</p> <p>1:19:50 Discusses the landmark changes to the organisational structures of the GAA. Talks about the development of grounds and facilities within clubs and the social benefits this provided.</p> <p>1:22:16 Describes his role today as Chairman of the JP McManus Charitable Foundation.</p> <p>1:26:40 Discusses JP McManus’ role as sponsor of the Limerick teams. Talks of JP’s love of GAA, particularly hurling, and his involvement in GAA from a young age.</p> <p>1:29:00 Describes memories of travelling to Limerick hurling matches, the disappointment of losses. Mentions Justin McCarthy. Recalls a humiliating loss to Dublin in a National League match in Croke Park.</p> <p>1:30:20 Talks about internal disputes within hurling under Justin McCarthy.</p> <p>1:31:00 Recalls Limerick winning the All-Ireland Hurling final against Kilkenny in 1973 and the years leading up to the victory.</p> <p>1:33:46 Recalls the mayor of Limerick driving the train to the</p>
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	<p>final. Talks of the excitement in the county.</p> <p>1:35:05 Describes the match and the different styles of ball used. Talks of the excitement when the final whistle blew and the weekend celebrations. Mentions Charlie Chalk, Frank Cummins, Vincent O'Connor.</p> <p>1:38:45 Describes the home-coming to Limerick, the reception from the supporters. Talks about his view of the players celebrating "too much for too long".</p> <p>1:39:50 Recalls Limerick's defeat in the final against Kilkenny in 1974.</p> <p>1:40:58 Discusses his views on the current Limerick hurling team. Talks about the internal disputes that affected last year's performance.</p> <p>1:43:21 Describes what motivated him to become heavily involved in GAA. Talks about his love of hurling from an early age. Recalls the pressures of the game.</p> <p>1:46:50 Recalls club hurling being very time-consuming – matches, training, meetings.</p> <p>1:47:51 Describes the conflict between the hurling and football teams in the club over the use of the grounds for training. Recalls priority being given to hurling.</p> <p>1:48:17 Recalls his role of Treasurer of the Munster Council and the "bigger issues" he dealt with compared to at county level.</p> <p>1:49:57 Recalls travelling to Munster hurling and football club finals during his time on the Munster Council.</p> <p>1:56:00 Talks about his own club Cloughaun.</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>



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	<input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played with Cloughaun until her was 29 yrs. Won Limerick Senior Hurling Championship in 1957, 58, 59.</p> <p>Played with Limerick Senior Hurling team in 1955; with Limerick Junior Hurling team and football team in 1956, 57, 58.</p>
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Cloughaun GAA: Member of committee for many years, has held various positions including, secretary (1950 – 69)</p> <p>Limerick GAA: Treasurer (1968 – 71)</p> <p>Munster GAA: Treasurer of Munster Council (1991 – 2001); Chairman of Finance Committee; Disciplinary Committee; Referees Committee.</p>
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 1:57:50
<b>Language</b>	English

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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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012