

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010
<b>Location</b>	Billy's home, near Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Billy Horan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1933 <b>Home County:</b> Mayo
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Partry NS, Co. Mayo <b>Secondary:</b> St. Jarlath's, Tuam, Co. Galway <b>Third Level:</b> UCG
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Ina with 3 sons and 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ballinrobe [Mayo]; Ballygar [Galway]; UCG [Galway]
<b>Occupation</b>	Teacher
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Teacher [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Town Development, Active Retirement Association, Ballinrobe Race Committee

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/27

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Coyne
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1937 <b>Home County:</b> Mayo
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ballinrobe CBS, Co. Mayo <b>Secondary:</b> Ballinrobe CBS, Co. Mayo
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Fidelma with 1 son and 4 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ballinrobe
<b>Occupation</b>	PnT (Posts and Telegraph) / Telecom; CIE
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Used to be Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Lakeside Sports and Fitness Club; was Chairman of Handball Club; Board of Management; was Chairman of Community School Board.

**REFERENCE NO. MO/1/27**

<b>Date of Report</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1880s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Mayo, Galway, Antrim, Dublin
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Alcohol, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Billy and Michael talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years. They recall their early memories of the GAA and the role of the club in the community when they were growing up. Billy discusses his school days in St Jarlath's and the role of football in the school while he was a student there. They talk about their involvement in administration and on the South Mayo and Mayo county board. Michael talks about the history of the club and recalls the various issues encountered by the club over the years such as the ban on foreign games and dances. They discuss their involvement in the Scór competition and how they held quizzes around the country. Michael talks about his involvement in handball and recalls travelling to Belfast during the Troubles. They talk about the important role of the GAA in the community and what the Association has meant to them over the years. Towards the end of the interview they discuss their favourite GAA memories and select a few heroes of theirs from the past.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:30 (Billy) Talks about his earliest GAA memories, going to matches in Ballinrobe. Seeing Mayo play Galway. Mentions Bobby Beggs, Jimmy McGauran, Henry Kenny, Patsy Flannelly, Josie Munnelly. Listening to Michael O'Hehir on the radio.</p> <p>01:08 Describes travelling to matches on bicycles.</p>

	<p>01:27 (Michael) Describes his earliest memories of the GAA. Listening to Michael O’Hehir on the radio in the late 1940s. The successful Mayo team of the early 1950s. Mentions Joe Lowry, Tom Tracey, Joe Jennings.</p> <p>02:15 Talks about the success of Mayo in the 1950s. Winning the All-Ireland in 1954 and the Connacht final in 1955. Mentions Owen Roe O’Neill, Josie Munnely.</p> <p>02:45 Discusses going to club meetings in the early days. Club had no facilities. Having dances despite the Ban. Different types of fundraising.</p> <p>04:09 Talks about playing in the South Mayo O’Meara Cup. Ballinrobe winning the cup in 1956. Winning the junior county final in 1958.</p> <p>05:18 Describes how there was no underage teams in the club. Getting the train to the final in Ballina in 1959.</p> <p>06:00 Talks about becoming treasurer in 1959, later became chairman. The work involved.</p> <p>06:34 Discusses the closure of the local railway in 1959. Club bought land near the closed railway line. Flanagan Park opened in 1963, named after Mick Flanagan from Castlebar.</p> <p>08:00 Talks about the development of the club’s facilities in the 1970s and 1980s. Mayo v Louth played at the opening of the new Peter Browne stand in 1987.</p> <p>09:34 Talks about Peter Browne and his role in the GAA in the area.</p> <p>10:13 Discusses the success of the club in recent years at underage level. The work of people in the club.</p> <p>11:19 Talks about the contribution of people in the past. Keeping the club going when there was no money. The type of cars they travelled in.</p> <p>12:40 Recalls his involvement in the Scór competition in the 1970s and 1980s. Issues led them away from it.</p> <p>14:04 Discusses players who have represented Mayo at senior level. The contribution of the local Christian Brothers School. Mentions Declan Burke, Peter Burke, Jimmy Maughan, Peter Forde and Donal Costello.</p> <p>15:28 Talks about efforts in the past to form a hurling club.</p> <p>15:43 Recalls setting up a handball club in 1987. Winning two</p>
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	<p>All-Irelands.</p> <p>16:20 (Billy) Talks about his involvement in the club. Going to school in St Jarlath's. Jarlath's winning the Hogan Cup for the first time. Mentions Mick Flanagan, Peter Solan, Pat Flanagan, Michael O'Malley from Tourmakeady.</p> <p>17:02 Discusses going to UCG. Playing and refereeing. Recalls being chased off the pitch while refereeing a street league match.</p> <p>17:49 Talks about teaching in Ballygar in Galway. Mentions Mattie McDonagh, Mick Greally, Jackie Coyne. Moving back to Ballinrobe in 1959. Getting involved in the South Mayo board.</p> <p>19:09 Recalls a meeting on the South Mayo board. Mentions Tom Cunningham.</p> <p>20:21 Talks about a camogie county board meeting in Mayo. Mentions Jim Burke and Gerry Bracken.</p> <p>21:03 Becoming president of the Mayo board and being current PRO of the South Mayo board.</p> <p>21:25 Recalls some of the big decisions during his time on the South Mayo board. Issues with the amalgamation of Shrule and Glencorrib. Mentions Pat Conway.</p> <p>22:54 Tells a story about a Mayo vs Galway match in Ballinasloe.</p> <p>23:15 (Michael) Talks about the history of the club. Discusses the teams of the 1880s and 1900s. A team called Ballinrobe Harps. Mentions Harry Mellotts, Johnny Mulvey, Paddy Jennings, Jimmy Hyland, Jack Moran, Ballina Stephenites. Club folding in the Civil War, the first and second world wars.</p> <p>26:31 Discusses Ballinrobe's success in the 1930s. Name changed to Cloonacastle. Players from surrounding areas including 'the Farm'. Gary Moore, Jack Craddock from Shrule, Seamus O'Malley, Johnny O'Malley, Tommy O'Malley, Luke Luke O'Malley and Paddy O'Malley from all brothers from Levally.</p> <p>28:20 Talks about whole families played for the team. Mentions the Kavanaghs, Feericks, Lowrys, Langans, John Joe and Tom Rochford,</p> <p>28:59 Describes how John Langan and John Joe Rochford cycled to county board meetings in Castlebar. Talks about the</p>
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	<p>athlete Miley Burke. Mentions Tom Burke.</p> <p>29:58 Recalls how Miley Burke and four others cycled to an athletics meet in Clifton and won everything. Stopping in a dance hall in Galway on the way back.</p> <p>31:05 Talks about the links between athletics and the GAA and the Tailteann Games. Discusses the rift between the athletics organisations. Mentions John Joe Barry, Dr Pat O'Callaghan.</p> <p>32:32 Discusses going to South Mayo board meetings. Issues with illegal players. Mentions Joe Looney. Overage players in underage competitions. Hardcore supporters for the club.</p> <p>34:38 Talks about the worry for clubs to find enough players to field teams in the future.</p> <p>35:00 Highlights how the GAA gave him a sense of identity. Going to his first meetings. The GAA community. Mentions Peter Canavan.</p> <p>36:35 Discusses the role of GAA people outside the Association. Talks about the Christian Brothers leaving Ballinrobe and Billy's involvement in the schools. Holding bingo in the town and the fundraising they did.</p> <p>40:48 (Billy) Talks about being a student in St. Jarlath's. The role of football in the school. Talks about the school's opera.</p> <p>42:20 Recalls a Railway Cup match in Croke Park. Dr Mooney bringing the jerseys back to St Jarlaths. Wearing Henry Dixons jersey.</p> <p>43:00 Discusses his time in St Jarlaths. The role of the priests in the school.</p> <p>44:37 Talks about the role of the GAA in the school. How it became a nursery for the GAA. Mentions Sean Purcell and Dr Mooney.</p> <p>45:55 Describes the training they did. Picking stones on the pitch in Tuam. Mayo and Cavan played the first game on the pitch in 1948. Talks about the convent across the road from St Jarlath's.</p> <p>47:28 (Michael) Discusses his time in the Christian Brothers School. The relationship between the boys' and girls' school. Strictness of the nuns. Mentions Brother O'Farrell, Jim Burke, Colm Carter. Holding Céilís in the Old Maple Ballroom after the novena.</p>
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	<p>50:30 Recalls a story about Ethel Glynn and how she started a camogie club before the nuns cancelled it. Mentions Brother Conway.</p> <p>51:30 Talks about camogie and hurling in Ballinrobe. Christy Horan from Offaly setting up a team. Mentions Father O'Keefe.</p> <p>52:56 Describes trying to play hurling. Mentions Tom Tracey, Peadar Naughton and Tom Conway.</p> <p>54:08 (Michael and Billy) Talk about the ladies who played in Ballinrobe. Mention Denise Horan, Joyce O'Hara, Marianne Tracey, Cora Staunton, Costello girls. Gives their opinion on the foundation of Mayo's ladies footballing success. The role of it in the local school and the PE teacher Richie Bell.</p> <p>55:30 (Michael) Talks about the local school winning a junior B title. Mentions Fergal, Donal and Declan Costello.</p> <p>56:19 Describes how the school also played basketball and the relationship with the GAA. Playing it in the school. Mentions Brother O'Farrell, Miley Burke, Johnny Byrnes, Sean Sweeney and Dan Loughrey who were in the Local Defence Force (LDF / FCA).</p> <p>57:30 Talks about playing basketball. Having a good team with players like Paddy Moran, Billy Feerick, Frank Fitzgerald, Noel Lanesborough. All-Ireland semi-final against Queens University from Belfast.</p> <p>59:00 Discusses the role of soccer and rugby in Ballinrobe and the Ban. Mentions his father-in-law John McTighe and the role of the McCartan family.</p> <p>01:00:20 (Billy) Recalls going to a Connacht vs Ulster match while attending UCG and worrying about being seen by GAA people. Mentions Jackie Kyle.</p> <p>01:00:56 (Michael) Talks about his love for all sports. Reading about Jackie Carey and Con Martin in the paper.</p> <p>01:01:40 (Billy) Discusses his sporting memories and talks about Jackie Kyle.</p> <p>01:01:55 (Michael) Recalls a player not being banned for playing because he was a good player, role of the Vigilante Committee.</p> <p>01:02:25 Talks about ignoring the ban of foreign dances.</p> <p>01:03:09 (Billy) Discusses his family's involvement in the</p>
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	<p>GAA. Brothers playing in the 1953 county final. Mentions Brendan Nestor, Con Horan, Aidan Horan, Ballintubber, Holymount.</p> <p>01:04:02 Talks about how his father Joe Horan was captain of St Pat's training college in Dublin in the 1920s. Playing for Mayo in a junior All-Ireland final in the 1930s.</p> <p>01:04:38 Talks about his son Maurice Horan's involvement in the GAA. Current Limerick manager.</p> <p>01:04:54 (Michael) Discusses Billy's brothers involvement in the GAA. Aidan played in America for Mayo. Con played for Mayo minors. Liam won a Mayo junior final.</p> <p>01:05:34 Talks about his family's involvement in the GAA. Father against football. Son plays handball.</p> <p>01:07:10 Discusses the club in the area and the rural and urban make-up of the team. Having Sigerson Cup winners in the club. The issue of politics in the club. Hosting street leagues.</p> <p>01:09:00 (Billy and Michael) Talk about the issue of politics and the GAA in Mayo. Mentions John O'Mahony, Peter Browne.</p> <p>01:11:08 (Billy and Michael) Discusses the role of other religions in the club. Peter Rice Thomas, a Church of Ireland Minister represented the club in Scór. Producing a musical for the parish. Mentions Dorothy Herron who they bought their pitch off, Mrs Kenny, Courtney Kenny, Percy French and the Glineburg Operatic Society and the ICA.</p> <p>01:13:45 (Billy) Having a non-national on the current minor team.</p> <p>01:14:29 (Michael) Non-nationals playing hurling in Ballyhaunis.</p> <p>01:14:48 (Billy) Talks about the club's involvement in the Scór.</p> <p>01:15:41 (Michael) Discusses being on the first quiz team that won the South Mayo championship in 1971. Also figure dancing, set dancing, novelty acts and recitations.</p> <p>01:16:25 Recalls the Scór competition and set dancing in Claremorris. The role of alcohol. Mentions Tom Tracey.</p> <p>01:19:20 Talks about the Scór quizzes. An incident with a</p>
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	<p>priest.</p> <p>01:20:14 Recalls doing a quiz in Clonbur for the West Galway final and a team from the Connemara. Doing the North Galway finals in Corofin with Father Scanlon, Pat Prendergast, Mick Conway and Marianne Tracey.</p> <p>01:24:24 Talks about the type of questions they asked and the funny answers they got. The places they travelled to. Mentions Patsy Conway.</p> <p>01:25:39 Describes the type of celebrations in the town after the club or the school won competitions and the difference between the old days and today. Recalls a 1958 final.</p> <p>01:27:35 Discusses travelling to Croke Park for matches and other places around Ireland.</p> <p>01:28:13 Recalls travelling to handball game in Belfast during the Troubles and getting lost. Mentions Sean McEntee and Frank O'Toole.</p> <p>01:32:00 (Billy) Talks about All-Ireland finals in the late 1940s early 1950s. Recalls the 1948 All-Ireland. Mentions Declan Timoney.</p> <p>01:32:48 (Michael) Describes how there was only one radio in his village Rathredmond. Listening to the 1950 All-Ireland final. Mentions Mick Flanagan. Talks about the big field in Cloonkerry. Mentions Pádraig Carney, Henry Dixon, Tom Langan, Paddy Prendergast.</p> <p>01:34:30 Talks about how there was no money in the area when he was growing up. Having a train station in Ballinrobe.</p> <p>01:35:00 Discusses his first game in Croke Park in 1957 between Mayo and Dublin. Mentions Willey Casey and Ollie Freaney.</p> <p>01:35:11 (Billy) Recalls his first game in Croke Park. Being in the press box in 1955 covering the game for the Mayo news. Mentions Gerry Bracken, Jim Crowley.</p> <p>01:36:21 (Michael) Travelling to Croke Park by train from Ballinrobe before it closed down. Then Claremorris.</p> <p>01:36:51 Talks about the impact of emigration on the club.</p> <p>01:37:14 (Billy) Notes how three of his brothers emigrated.</p> <p>01:37:21 Discusses his best memory of the GAA. When his son got man of the match in a Mayo intermediate final. The</p>
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	<p>sense of place the GAA gives its members.</p> <p>01:38:11 (Michael) Describes winning the junior championship in 1958 as his best GAA memory. Notes how the game had to be played three times. Being dropped for the final.</p> <p>01:40:05 Getting into the senior league final in 1959 and losing seven players to emigration in the year before. Talks about Tommy Lowry and his role in the club. Mentions Tommy Coleman, Nickey Feerick, Tom Rochford, Hugh Caulfield, Red Hugh O'Neill, Ray Clinton.</p> <p>01:41:31 Playing against Tuam Stars in 1959 who had players like Sean Purcell, Frank Stockwell, Nallon, Reynolds, Garrett. Playing against Father Griffin's with players like Paddy Dolan. Playing against other teams like Ballina, Na Fianna in Dublin. Mentions Brother O'Farrell and Sean 'Yank' Murray.</p> <p>01:43:15 Talks about joining the post office in 1960 and winning five All-Irelands.</p> <p>01:44:14 (Billy) Recalls Ballinrobe beating St Jarlath's in a Connacht final.</p> <p>01:44:40 Picks Pádraig Carney as his GAA hero. Mentions Jason Sherlock.</p> <p>01:45:05 (Michael) Picks Michael O'Hehir as his GAA hero.</p> <p>01:46:08 (Billy) Talks about his biggest disappointment in the GAA, not seeing Mayo win an All-Ireland. Discusses the Ban and the opening of Croke Park.</p> <p>01:47:05 (Michael) Recalls losing to Meath in the 1996 All-Ireland final.</p> <p>01:47:30 (Billy) Discusses the role of the GAA in his life.</p> <p>01:47:45 (Michael) Describes what the GAA means to him.</p> <p>01:48:30 Talks about his pride in Ballinrobe GAA when they gave a free site to An Sportlann now Lakeside Sport and Fitness Club. Issues surrounding this. Mentions Father Anthony O'Toole.</p> <p>01:51:10 (Billy) Gives his opinion on the GAA in communities around the country.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Billy:</b></p>

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	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer   <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee   <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____         </p> <p> <b>Michael:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer   <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer   <input type="checkbox"/> Referee   <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____         </p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p> <b>Billy:</b>            Played for 10 years. Won a West Mayo Final with Ballintubber.   <b>Michael:</b>            Played for 20 years. 2 South Mayo Junior championships; 1 county championship; 4 O'Meara Cups; Gaeltra Éireann; 5 All-Irelands with Castlebar Post Office.         </p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p> <b>Billy:</b>            Got involved in administration in 1964.             Club: Chairman; PRO; Delegate to South Mayo Board; Delegate to County Board.             South Mayo Board: Chairman, PRO.             County: President of County Board.   <b>Michael:</b>            Got involved in administration in 1959.             Club: Chairman in 60s, 70s and 80s; Treasurer; Delegate to South Mayo Board; Delegate to County Board; President of the Club.         </p>

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<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:51:26
<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:      \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date:                \_\_\_\_\_11/07/12\_\_\_\_\_