

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

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| <b>Name of Interviewer</b>                             | Arlene Crampsie  |
| <b>Date of Interview</b>                               | 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2008  |
| <b>Location</b>  | Interviewee's Home, near Bellaghy, Co. Derry   |
| <b>Name of Interviewee</b><br>(Maiden name / Nickname) | Willie Cassidy   |
| <b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>      |  |
| <b>Gender</b>  | Male   |
| <b>Born</b>  | <b>Year Born:</b> 1935<br><b>Home County:</b> Derry  |
| <b>Education</b>                                       | <b>Primary:</b> Ballynease PS, Portglenone<br><b>Secondary:</b> Rainey Endowed, Magherafelt<br><b>Third Level:</b> University of Bristol, De La Salle Training College, Manchester |
| <b>Family</b>  | <b>Siblings:</b> 8 brothers & 3 sisters<br><b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married   |
| <b>Club(s)</b>   | Wolfe Tones, Bellaghy  |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                      | Principal Teacher  |
| <b>Parents' Occupation</b>                             | Farmers  |
| <b>Religion</b>  | Roman Catholic   |
| <b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>              | N/A  |

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| <b>Date of Report</b>             | 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2009   |
| <b>Period Covered</b>             | c.1940s – 2008   |
| <b>Counties/Countries Covered</b> | Derry, Dublin, Great Britain, England, Louth   |
| <b>Key Themes Covered</b>         | Earliest Memories, All-Ireland, Travel, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Education, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, Club History, County History, Challenges, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Socialising   |
| <b>Interview Summary</b>          | <p>Willie got involved in the GAA from an early age. He remembers the setting up of his local club, Bellaghy and watching their first match. Willie was playing for the Derry county team in league competitions from the age of fifteen. He was a member of the 1958 team that made it to the All-Ireland where they were beaten by Dublin. He was one of the few people at that stage who was flown home from England where he was studying for matches. Willie played football in three English counties and when he returned home as a local teacher he took over the management of the local underage teams. He also managed the Bellaghy senior team. From the late 1970s and early 80s Willie grew more involved in the local golf club and in providing entertainment locally.</p> <p>0.00 Introduction</p> <p>0.15 Willie's club is Wolfe Tones, Bellaghy</p> <p>0.30 Willie got involved through his club, in his day there wasn't many underage teams. The first football you could play was minors, with the odd U-16 match.</p> <p>0.52 'I was obviously very good because I was playing in the senior team at 16 years of age.' He was even in a county final at 16 and played a few games as a 15 year old for the county team in the league.</p> <p>1.18 'No underage football at all the way there is today, nothing structured'</p> <p>1.30 'My first memory is at home just a mile and a half from here down in Ballynease, where Damien Cassidy my nephew, the Derry Manager lives, is being out in the yard at home and</p> |

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|  | <p>watching these footballers from Bellaghy going up past with their boots and jerseys under their arm.’ He asked them how they did.</p> <p>2.05 The club had been formed in 1939 so that was around early 40s.</p> <p>2.20 ‘I went to watch the first game down at Greenlough, and still can remember these fellas in red jerseys and Bellaghy in the blue jerseys, I never remember any others colours.’</p> <p>2.45 ‘The pitches were rough’. He’s taught Seamus Heeney’s poetry for years and he wrote a poem about the first days when they had nothing but coats for goals.</p> <p>3.55 Willie started playing at 14 or 15. There might have been the odd 7-A-side game at carnivals.</p> <p>4.25 There wasn’t that many clubs before Bellaghy started.</p> <p>4.45 He went to a Rugby school called ‘The Rainey’ in Magherafelt – ‘I’d never seen a rugby ball until I went to The Rainey school in Magherafelt.’ He captained the first 15 for two years in a row.</p> <p>5.10 He went to Bristol to study and played rugby for Bristol when John Thorne was hooking for England. He went to Manchester Teacher Training and played for the college.</p> <p>5.30 ‘The problem was in my day with the ban, I could play Rugby in England, but I couldn’t play it here, the only Rugby I played here apart from school ... I’d have played for Randalstown junior club and they’d have picked me up at lunchtime on a Saturday.’</p> <p>6.00 He loved playing it and was obviously fairly good at it, but ‘I’d never think of going to a rugby match to watch, doesn’t do anything for me at all, yet I was steeped in it from 13 to 20 or 21.’</p> <p>6.45 ‘It’s impossible to play, at a high level, to play the both games.’</p> <p>7.15 ‘I remember being brought home from Bristol for a match. It was a Lagan Cup / National League, Lagan cup was the northern part of the National League – now it’s all, the 32 counties ... they brought me home from England to play against Tyrone, in the National League ... you’re only the second player, Derry player, ever to be flown home to play for the county. And Jim McKeever, of course you know Jim McKeever, the famous McKeever, the captain of ’58, he was</p> |
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|  | <p>brought home from Luftborough, the training college in England.'</p> <p>8.45 Derry played in the 1957 Ulster final against Tyrone they were beaten by two points.</p> <p>9.00 'With being away a lot, in fact, it probably cost me a permanent place in that '58 side because they would have played a couple of rounds against Antrim and against Cavan when I was still studying in England, that would have been in June, the Ulster final was always July, I was home then, I was just a sub in the Ulster Final.'</p> <p>9.30 After the semi-final against Kerry and two challenge matches before All-Ireland against Dublin All-Stars and Antrim, the papers said he was almost certain of his place, but he didn't get it.</p> <p>10.15 Roddy Gribben was the player-manager. 'He went on himself as a sub and he left nobody else in charge ... we were in an All-Ireland final, now this is after half time sometime and he goes on himself and there's nobody to make changes.' Patsy Breen could run no more and he came over and asked somebody to go on for him.</p> <p>11.35 'In those days it was a shambles, because in the semi-final ... we got off in Dundalk, or Drogheda, I think it was Dundalk, where they wanted to meet us and had a band out and there we were parading through the street on a Saturday behind a band, going to play an All-Ireland semi-final.'</p> <p>12.10 They stayed in Malahide before the semi-final and moved into Dublin on the Sunday night after the match, but he always thought that it was strange that they moved house after the match.</p> <p>13.10 He never really got caught up in it, he never thought about it.</p> <p>13.45 'We didn't expect to be there.'</p> <p>14.00 They went down in cars to the semi-final and came back in a coach. The training sessions were nonsense really.</p> <p>14.30 'We were there and didn't know we were there. It was so unexpected.'</p> <p>14.50 It was very informal. Half the subs didn't have jerseys with numbers on them, the names were printed over or the programme wasn't correct.</p> <p>15.25 Training 'was a joke.' Gribben was taking the training,</p> |
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|  | <p>McKeever said he did. They did lapping round the pitch and then played matches. In the week or so before the All-Ireland, the squad that didn't make the team were sent to practice taking penalties.</p> <p>16.50 Talks about his nephew Damien, the Derry Manager. He knows his stuff. Took Clonoe to a Tyrone County Title, and he took Bellaghy to the Ulster final two years ago.</p> <p>17.10 They hadn't a specific coach.</p> <p>17.30 They used the same fifteen or sixteen players in 1958. Now they use all the subs – 'It's a twenty man game now'.</p> <p>17.55 'Unless a man got his leg broken he didn't come off no matter how bad he was playing.'</p> <p>18.25 They just hit the ball up the field, and cleared it skywards.</p> <p>19.05 'You had to be really clever, because you weren't getting a supply, it wasn't laid on for you, you had to fight against a fella trying to kick your head off.'</p> <p>19.35 'At club level it was worse, because you hadn't the big fancy fields you've got today, wee tight pitches, and no fencing, spectators standing on top of you, it was good atmosphere alright, but I mean you had to be fast ... and clever to avoid these fellas, and your spectator would even come in from time to time.'</p> <p>20.15 A hatchet man from S. Derry told story that Willie Cassidy was brought home from Manchester to play against him. Somebody said you'll have trouble with Cassidy because he's got shin-guards. 'That'll not do him much good he says for I work from the knees up.'</p> <p>21.05 'There was a lot of violence and a lot of matches not finished, Gerry Donnelly would have said the match would've started maybe at 3 o'clock and finish at 6 o'clock four fields away.'</p> <p>21.15 'A lot of fighting, you see, there was no fencing to stop them, and particularly when the team was behind spectators would have found a way to interfere you see and get the match stopped. And of course in those early days there was only maybe the one ball, it went into the spectators and the team behind and somebody would put a pen knife in it, no ball to finish the match, oh it's come a long way, the game has come along way in 50 years.'</p> |
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|  | <p>21.55 Walking out onto Croke Park for the first time. The hairs would stand on you, but you wouldn't have heard the crowd at all. Their opposition would have been a bit threatening.</p> <p>22.50 Willie did a bit of boxing, the atmosphere at one of the fights in Glasgow between a Scottish fella and Charlie Nash was the best atmosphere he ever felt.</p> <p>23.25 Now you need a telescope to see the match in Croke Park. Willie feels that you're too far away. In the 50s they were on the sidelines eating their lunch from lunchboxes. 'Those days they were sitting on the sideline ... with their sandwiches, and their big bottles of mineral and that sort of stuff you know, they headed to Croke Park, even at that time, I always remember they headed to Croke Park at 9 o'clock in the morning. They were sitting there in Croke Park along the sideline there to get good seats, good views, oh that was typical of All-Ireland Days at nine or ten o'clock in the morning.' Last year he headed in as the band was leading the teams round the pitch.</p> <p>24.45 On All-Ireland Sunday he remembers going to Mass at nine o'clock in the morning out in Malahide and they had a knock around with the ball out there and read the papers. He doesn't remember anyone looking for autographs.</p> <p>26.20 They were sitting in the dressing rooms and got a kick of a ball, that sort of thing. He finds it difficult to remember.</p> <p>26.47 Celebrations: 'It was bedlam particularly after the semi-final we'd beaten Kerry, I remember us coming into Maghera, and I think it was a lorry we were on, we must have got off the bus and on a lorry, the crowds were there and they were screaming for your name you know, that I can remember that far more clearly than anything around Dublin.' There was a homecoming after they lost to Dublin in Magherafelt.</p> <p>27.35 Remembers the goal that put them four points clear against Kerry. Then a Kerry player stuck the ball in the back of the net bringing them back to a point again. Then the final whistle went 'and I can always remember 'we're in the All-Ireland final' and that was, just couldn't get over that and the people I can remember rushing on to the field and lifting you up on their shoulders and carried off.' They got carried away with that.</p> <p>28.30 Dublin was a let down. They were seven or eight points clear in the final. They were level after ten minutes of the second half and that's where it all went wrong, with the</p> |
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|  | <p>manager out playing.</p> <p>29.20 He felt a bit hard done by. He knew he should have been in there. If he'd been able to play football at all then it was that year.</p> <p>29.40 He knows it would have been difficult to take off somebody who played all the time, for somebody who was only home for two months in the year, but there should have been changes. He didn't go to the 25 years celebration, because he was still feeling a bit annoyed about it.</p> <p>31.00 He didn't stop playing after the final, but there was nothing important to play in. He went back to England until 1962, and only played in the odd National League game, the county didn't get into an Ulster Final in those four years.</p> <p>31.40 He still played for club. He played in the first official Ulster Club Football Final in 1968. They played against a Donegal team with Brian McEniff (who he's still friendly with); Pdraig MacShea, Mickey McLoone, Tom Quinn, Seamie McGrath – all Donegal county men and Willie's team beat them by two points in the Ulster Final. That was Willie's last game.</p> <p>32.35 The Irish News said he was involved in the score of the match. It was a bad, wet day, McEniff didn't come after him and he stood on the left hand touchline and put it between the posts off his right foot.</p> <p>33.20 He stopped playing because, he was 32 at that stage and he'd got a principalship near Carnlough.</p> <p>33.50 On a Monday he'd come over home and driving past the Ballymena Rugby Club he'd think if they had a licensed club, why didn't any Gaelic Club in Ulster have one. The social committee at Casement Park did, but that was it.</p> <p>34.35 They were only a fourth division club in Carnlough and they didn't even have a clubhouse. They built a wooden structured clubhouse. Willie knew the sergeant in Carnlough / Glenarm, Adrian England (son Trevor was a rugby player) and he gave him all the information for applying for a licence.</p> <p>35.35 People had 21 days to object, but Willie put the application in obscure papers. On the last day a Carnlough publican (a Catholic) found out about it. He went round 'the nation of shopkeepers' and about 14 of them objected on the last day.</p> <p>36.00 Willie went to a courthouse in Glenarm in January. The</p> |
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|  | <p>publicans had a high flying barrister to support their objections and the club had only a solicitor. Willie got a grilling. He was asked what the voting was at the AGM about the licence. Willie told them it was unanimous. The barrister queried this on the basis that Willie had already said the club was mainly teetotal, but Willie had only said that the GAA was mainly teetotal.</p> <p>37.20 They ran a marquee three years earlier to raise funds and a woman from the neighbouring old people's home had complained about the noise. The barrister tried to blame it on the clubhouse, but Willie told him the clubhouse wasn't even built at that stage.</p> <p>38.20 Judge said if that was all the evidence the licence was granted. They were the first GAA club to get a licence. Willie was involved with Bellaghy and got them a licence, but it was easier got. It was the first club in Derry to get a licence.</p> <p>39.20 Their club was burnt down due to an electrical fault. It was insured for £13,000 and you had to get the police to sign that it was deliberate. Willie knew Sergeant England and a few other of the police and he signed for it so Bellaghy got £60,000. Only two or three of the club's officials know that.</p> <p>40.30 Biggest kill they got was the Furey Brothers. Their centre would hold 1,500. Bellaghy made £4,000 out of it, the band's representative Maurice Cassidy made £5000. At the meeting on Monday night, a man said it was a disgrace that they went back to Dublin with that much money. That's what sickened Willie – people not realising that the big bands made more money than the small local bands, but you had to pay them.</p> <p>42.55 They'd always agree 60% for the act, but they were smart enough to make sure they only got 50%, by fiddling the door etc.</p> <p>43.20 It was amazing how the word got round in Dublin, that they were running on a big scale. Bellaghy was a big centre when the folk music was going. Willie lists the acts that were there.</p> <p>44.30 Spotlight was a great magazine that showed how groups were doing and where they were ranking. You used that to decide what groups you wanted. 'Bellaghy was the place for folk.'</p> <p>46.00 The Troubles killed these nights, because the police would ring saying that there was a bomb in the place. Police</p> |
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would tell them to make a decision – evacuate or not. If you evacuated that was the end of your night, but they were all hoaxes.

46.30 Willie tells a story about having Billy Brown and the Freshmen in the Town Hall. He had to ask the police not to arrest Billy until after the dance. Willie got held up with a gun to his head several times, by people looking for money.

47.20 'You had boys coming you see to rob the place, even the gaelic clubs they were robbing them you know ... maybe they were even members in the club for that matter. I mean, but they hadn't any conscience there you know, they were just evil men you know that didn't give a damn thing ... and definitely on a big night you had to be careful and get the money away sort of thing you know, you couldn't keep 2/3 thousand pound lying about or they'd have taken it with them. So every few hundred pounds that came in you got it away right away ... but it was dangerous, it was dangerous times, even coming home, whoever was involved in bringing the money home you see out of the club were on the verge of being held up.'

48.30 He worked in a hotel in Coleraine, and one of his friends was shot dead and the other was blinded. He knew the boys that did it. They'd be in after the bar was closed, they were UDA, then they blew themselves up in a car taking a bomb somewhere.

49.15 The gaelic clubs weren't as badly hit. Willie believes the non-political, non-sectarian mantra was a nonsense when the clubs were holding functions for prisoners charged with murder. The unionists used to complain about the names of the club. Wolfe Tone was ok, that was 1798, but the more recent ones were problematic.

50.00 Willie couldn't agree with the naming of clubs with the names of people involved in murder. Why couldn't they use the name of a parish priest or an historic Irish figure.

51.05 Willie was a managing a Bellaghy team in the late 70s. It was a bad team overall. They had a few good players, but not 15.

51.50 He was coming from a match in North Derry with Tommy Duignan, he was going on holidays the next morning. They left early without waiting for the tea and the army was stopping and pulled him in. The boys that had the tea were passing. The army told him that they were taking them up to Fort George, the army barracks in Derry. 'They took us into

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|  | <p>Derry and put my car up on a lift. They took everything off that car, doors, wheels, everything would screw was taken off, going round it with all these detectors, and then about three in the morning I said to one of the boys ... he says if you keep quiet you'll get home eventually and I got home around half three in the morning, no reason given.'</p> <p>53.20 Not everybody that was held up had done something or given cheek to the army. Sometimes it was for no reason and it changed Willie's attitude.</p> <p>54.15 Willie discusses how he and his school were involved in cross-community work for fifteen years. They got all kinds of grants and the students went to Paris twice.</p> <p>56.35 As a teacher he encouraged GAA in the school. Fergal McCusker, writes for the Derry Post and he mentioned the great work that Willie and a few other principals in South Derry did for the GAA. Many primary schools only gave it a token, but several of Willie's students went on to play for Bellaghy and Derry.</p> <p>57.30 Willie never asked for transport, he took them two or three times a week and then other fellas like Tony Scullion took them too. Willie got no thanks from the parent club in Bellaghy.</p> <p>58.15 He lists a number of players who went on to play for Derry while he was there: Joseph Cassidy, Kieran McNally and some of the Dohertys.</p> <p>58.40 They had an open week every year at the school and they'd invite stars e.g. Peter Canavan, the 1958 team, the 1993 team and the Sam Maguire Cup. Willie took Sam Maguire round the old fellas in the parish.</p> <p>59.20 He played for St. Brendan's when he was in Manchester. A friend from there asked him could he get Sam Maguire to Manchester and he did. Willie thinks they're having a reunion of some sort in the next few months.</p> <p>1.01.03 He also played for Warwickshire for a summer in 1956 and when he was a student in Bristol he played for Gloucestershire and then played for Lancashire when he was in Manchester.</p> <p>1.01.35 In the late 50's there could have been four or five thousand people at the Irish centre. Every player in the club team over there was a county player. Emigration was high and when they heard of a player coming over on the boat they'd be waiting there for you. Willie was the only northerner</p> |
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|  | <p>on the St Paul's team in Birmingham.</p> <p>1.02.30 'You were like a, you were treated like a David Beckham, you were a star you were being pointed out at the dance halls and you got the pick of all the ladies of course.'</p> <p>1.02.45 Club football was big business over there. He was invited down to play for Coventry and they paid him. They knew he was a student and they paid him £10 or £15. There was a far higher standard at club level, because they were all county players. It was like playing for the county.</p> <p>1.04.00 He loved the football over there. There were good pitches e.g. the White City in Manchester, the Perry Barr in Birmingham. They were probably council owned, but they were good. It was a day out for all the Irish on a Sunday.</p> <p>1.04.55 Willie got involved in Gaelic in England because of the sport. He found out where the clubs were once he got to know a few people. Fr Fulham, Desertmartin, played with Willie in 1957, was a priest in Manchester so he made sure he got Willie to St. Brendan's. All the Irish priests in Manchester were Manchester Utd mad.</p> <p>1.06.30 He talks about watching a Spurs match that Willie Jennings played in and the first match George Best played for United. He wasn't really that interested though.</p> <p>He did go to a box once – it was like being in the theatre.</p> <p>1.08.30 There was no hospitality like that associated with soccer matches at St. Brendan's and none in Bellaghy. He tried to introduce tea and sandwiches in Bellaghy, but no.</p> <p>1.09.30 'Even Bellaghy were very, very late in life getting a good pitch and getting proper dressing rooms and we were a top team in the country at that time and we had the worst facilities.'</p> <p>1.09.40 Bellaghy got their bar through Willie. Harry Cassidy, Willie's brother and a member of the Derry squad was the chairman for years. He was far thinking. He got the backing of a few people to buy and develop a pitch, now they have an indoor training centre and a bar.</p> <p>1.11.00 Gaelic clubs now aren't doing the business that they used to do. Willie thinks that it is bad management. They could have built the bar down beside the road, so the villagers could just walk in without having to go round the pitches.</p> <p>1.12.15 He thinks their pubs are too big to have a bar</p> |
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atmosphere. They need them to be big for functions, but they should also have a pub. They didn't know how to furnish them. 'They wouldn't even think of putting on a fire you know, a proper fire ... it's cold all the time'.

1.13.20 Willie thinks they need a bit of vision to compete against the pubs.

1.13.45 Drink did not play a huge part in the GAA in England when he was there. They drank in the pubs and social centres were only used for the matches. It was more associated with Rugby.

1.14.25 He managed at U-14 and U-16 and he did a good job because he knew the boys well. He took the U-14's to Scotland on a trip and they had a kick-around with a school in Scotland. They won the championship and league at U-14 and U-16 and nearly all of them went on to play for the senior team.

1.15.35 Willie got involved because he was taking the school team and also because he was a good player.

1.16.05 In 1964 he was principal in Carnlough and there was a lot of travel involved so that was difficult. They moved back in 1974 and that made it easier, so he took the senior team then in the late 70s. The entertainment took over then.

1.16.40 He had no other administrative involvement in the GAA club. He joined the Moyola Golf Club in 1977 as a founder member. He got the opportunity to become a life member for £600, it's now £600 a year.

1.17.20 In 1980 he brought Seve Ballesteros to the golf club and he was captain of the club in 1985. He was secretary for a period and was President from 1997 – 2000. For the last ten years he's been captain of the Ulster Cup team.

1.18.00 He was in charge of entertainment, but other people began to disagree with him and cancel artists that he booked. He stepped down. Now the club is not getting the same crowds. Willie talks about the types of functions he ran in the golf club.

1.19.40 He would have ran the Gaelic club the same way as he ran the golf club – good dinners, champagne receptions and top class entertainment not tin seats and sawdust round the bar.

1.21.40 Willie doesn't agree with pulling the shutters down before closing time as if people would try to climb in for their

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|  | <p>drink.</p> <p>1.22.00 Willie has no more involvement with the GAA, except going to the All-Ireland final.</p> <p>1.22.10 He thinks the biggest challenge facing the GAA is to get the young players involved. There's no reason Bellaghy should be scrambling about at the bottom of the league. 'I'd have four teams ... I'd have everybody that wanted to wear a pair of football boots, I'd have them out playing and make sure they're all getting games.' He blames the county boards. The Rugby clubs all have their fixture lists, that's what GAA clubs need.</p> <p>1.23.45 They should have four or five teams. The underage teams need to be provided for.</p> <p>1.24.15 When he was playing for Bellaghy he envied the teams that weren't winning. 'The pressure was on you, it was like going into an All-Ireland, the pressure was on you to win'. The pressure was on Bellaghy. They were winning from 1956 for the next twelve years, they were getting into finals from 1951.</p> <p>1.24.40 Carnivals were big business and you had to win the competition. 'Bellaghy were fed on a diet of success.' 'Our week was ruined if we lost.'</p> <p>1.25.30 Willie had to come home. 'I had to come home to play when I was in Bristol and Manchester, all the important matches. And there was plenty of times when I didn't want to come home, they thought they were doing me a favour bringing me home. I was having a good time over there, playing matches over there and the dances and all that sort of stuff on a Sunday night, Saturday night ... I remember I was doing finals in an exam and I couldn't get away, they were meeting every plane coming in over Antrim waiting on me getting off it.'</p> <p>1.26.15 Even when they were on holidays after him and Jean got married, he had to come home to play matches.</p> <p>1.26.45 It's badly organised. Three or four matches a season isn't enough for clubs.</p> <p>1.27.05 Willie thinks the annual dinner with the prize-giving is a bore. The masters are all finished, they're only hashing about and they shouldn't be at the county dinner.</p> <p>1.28.20 Willie is involved in a golf tournament with ex-inter-county players. It's usually played around the time of the</p> |
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|                                  | <p>Ulster Final at Clones in Monaghan. It's a ten man team.</p> <p>1.29.30 Willie will never forget his first goal. He scored it against Cavan at Ballinascreen. Phil 'the gunner' Brady, Victor Sherlock, the two Carlins, Tony Tighe, Bill Doonin all the legendary names. Willie describes the goal.</p> <p>1.31.30 'When you put a fella on to do a job and he does it, he says it puts meat on your bones.'</p> <p>1.31.45 His brother Harry was also playing that day. He got to have tea with the Cavan team and then he had to go back to school the next day.</p> <p>1.32.20 His biggest disappointment was not getting on the All-Ireland team. He thinks he should have. Colm Mulholland who started half back that day says that himself and Lee O'Neill should have been on to destroy the slow Dublin team.</p> <p>1.33.20 Willie always tried to get as close to the keeper as he could and that's what he told his players. If it breaks inside you're in then.</p> <p>1.34.25 Himself and Lee O'Neill would have got the scores that took the Sam Maguire over the border before Down.</p> <p>1.34.55 Ballinderry are their biggest rivals. They're in the final and they've won the next number of county titles to Bellaghy.</p> <p>1.35.30 The club has no song, but they sing republicans song in the clubhouse. They had a number of hunger strikers from the area including Hughes and McElwee.</p> <p>1.36.10 GAA was his life really from fourteen to thirty two and up until 1980 really. Then the entertainment and the golf club took over.</p> <p>1.36.55 He thinks its amazing the number of Gaelic players who are now playing golf – maybe because they see it on TV, every area has a golf club now and there's less protestant domination of golf clubs in the North now, Moyola Golf Club is 80% catholic.</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 type="checkbox"/> Coach   <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input 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>  |

**REFERENCE NO. DY/1/4**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Record as a Player</b><br>(Titles won; Length of time played)    | Senior County Final Winner, Bellaghy, 1951 – 1968; Played for Derry County Team 1954 – 1964 was on All-Ireland final team 1958. |
| <b>Record as an Administrator</b><br>(Positions held; how long for) | Club fundraising / entertainment committee for 10 years.  |
| <b>Format</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual   |
| <b>Duration</b>   | Length of Interview: 1hr 38min 9sec   |
| <b>Language</b>   | English   |

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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

Date:            \_\_\_09/11/09\_\_\_\_\_