

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	10 th Nov 2010
Location	Josie's home, near Bree North, Co. Wexford.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Josie Foley
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1947 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Presentation Convent, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford Secondary: Presentation Convent, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford Third Level: UCD
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: Husband (Michael)
Club(s)	Duffry Rovers GAA [Wexford]; Caim GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Secondary Schools Teacher
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Various community committees

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Date of Report	27 th June 2012
Period Covered	1950s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford
Key Themes Covered	Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Sacrifices, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Josie discusses her involvement with the GAA in Wexford in club, school, and county levels. She describes her various administration roles within the organisation and her establishment of GAA teams in St.Mary's CBS Enniscorthy, where she teaches. She considers the reactions of others in the organisation to the presence of a woman in high office, and she ponders the challenges of her different roles. Finally, she describes the impact of the GAA on her own life.</p> <p>00:00:38 Recalls her upbringing in Monart, Caim, Enniscorthy. Close-knit community in the 1950s, few cars. Her parents from the locality.</p> <p>01:29 Discusses her family's interest in GAA. Her uncle Dick Young, mentor for underage hurlers and footballers in the local club. Going to matches with him when she was young. Her uncle godfather to Damien Fitzhenry. No buses; travelling to matches by cars. Lemonade and ice cream after matches.</p> <p>03:08 Outlines the history of GAA in Caim, Killealy, and Ballydangan. The GAA club originally comprising the parishes of Caim and Killealy. Becoming the Duffry Rovers in 1960. Named for Duffry Hall in the parish.</p> <p>03:57 Mentions hunting as the only local pastime, apart from Gaelic Games.</p> <p>04:17 Discusses the club's involvement in hurling and football at underage level, primarily a hurling club. Winning the Nicky Rackard League in 1960. Her uncle's involvement. Beating Kilmore GAA Club in the final. Mentions Father McDonald of Kilmore.</p> <p>05:03 Recalls going to college to study commerce. Mentions</p>

	<p>Terry O'Regan who encouraged her to be treasurer of Duffry Rovers. Going to county convention every year with Terry from 1966 on. Unusual for a woman to be at convention then. Lack of hurling pitches in clubs then. Playing on Rackard's pitch in Caim, Bowes in Killealy, and Jordans in Ballydangan. Recalls her involvement with intermediate team in 1969: making tea, washing jerseys, embroidering captain's jersey.</p> <p>06:54 Describes her mother's interest in GAA. Women attending matches. Her own acceptance by the GAA, despite some hesitation from older male members. Starting teaching in CBS Enniscorthy in 1971. No GAA teams, she and Mrs Gartland establishing teams. Also refereeing.</p> <p>08:40 Discusses the lack of other female mentors of boys teams. The boys' initial negative reactions to her presence in dressing rooms or administering first aid. Gaining respect. The school winning the Under-16 Leinster Final in 1977. Mentions Dickie Murphy on team. Also in Senior Leinster B final. In 1984, winning Under-14 Leinster. Subsequent involvement of PE teachers.</p> <p>10:20 Outlines her approach to coaching. Attending course given by Michael Kinsella in Wexford. Inspired by her experience in her own club. Emphasis on skill then. Her belief that skill is the most important thing. Focus on playing the games. Fitness of students because they cycled to school and did farmwork.</p> <p>11:46 Reflects on the importance of PE in schools. Recognising talented players in spite of academic ability. The value of sport in boosting self-esteem. Contribution to school sense of identity. Her involvement with mentors from Enniscorthy clubs at divisional level. Clubs' contribution to funding for GAA in the school. Also funding from sponsored walks and discos.</p> <p>13:57 Describes pupils' parents' acceptance of her as mentor. Difficulty of driving young players home after matches.</p> <p>15:01 Describes the arrival of PE teachers in schools as progress. The Department of Education's increased emphasis on physical fitness. Importance of cooperation of teachers in school. Positive reactions of other teachers.</p> <p>16:17 Ponders the impact of her involvement in Gaelic games on her teaching. No discipline problems. Her belief that young people respond to people who care about them. Enduring friendships with former students.</p>
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	<p>17:13 Discusses the failure to fulfil of her dream of winning an All-Ireland senior title with the school. Her satisfaction in watching Wexford winning the 1996 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final. Mentions captain Martin Storey, her past pupil. Also mentions Mitch Jordan, Declan Ruth, Sean Flood, and Adrian Fenlon, past pupils on the team. The team visiting the school after winning the All-Ireland. Her sense of pride in winning a Leinster final when rivals Kilkenny didn't reach the final.</p> <p>19:09 Reflects on her passion for the game and her enjoyment coaching the players. Also her involvement in administration at club level.</p> <p>20:03 Describes her role as treasurer of Duffry Rovers in 1969. In 1972 and 1973 Under-10 and Under-12 reaching All-Ireland in Mosney. Mentions Louis Rafter, Seamus Fitzhenry (older brother of Damien). The club winning seven consecutive senior football titles from 1986 to 1992. Chairperson of club during some of those years. Resigning as chairperson in 1989 or 1990 when she married and moved further from the club.</p> <p>22:09 Recalls decision to purchase a pitch in 1980 while she was treasurer. Paying £27,000 for 9.3 acres. Building dressing rooms. Fundraising with raffles. The challenge of being responsible for the building project. Paddy Buggy opening the new facilities in 1984. Development committee formed in 1972 in Wexford to buy pitches, her husband on the committee. Several tragedies in 1985 uniting the club members.</p> <p>25:36 Discusses the role of the GAA in difficult times.</p> <p>26:47 Describes the grassroots nature of the organisation. Bonds with other members.</p> <p>27:29 Discusses her administration roles. Becoming treasurer her only ambition, her love of accounting. Art Bennett, chairman of Sean Gael in Wexford, asking her to be division secretary. Challenging role of organising district fixtures, games, meetings, and administration at junior and intermediate level. Elected county treasurer in 1978. Mentions Fr Harrison who also ran. Her pride in succeeding in a male-dominated organisation.</p> <p>29:59 Describes her acceptance in the GAA. Lack of discrimination. Respect from others. No negative reactions. Club's pride in her role and Fr Harry getting elected onto Central Council.</p>
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	<p>31:12 Recalls the biggest challenge in 1978 as county treasurer of managing the finances. Her ambition to return the club to a stable financial position. Her policy of saving money. Gate receipts the main source of income. The difficulty of meeting her objective to pay bills on time. Changing the practice of county secretary organising chequebook; her insistence on being responsible for accounts.</p> <p>34:23 Discusses the challenge of full-time teaching, club commitments, mentoring school teams, and organising Sunday matches for the whole county. Four divisional secretaries and efficient gatemen who helped her as treasurer. Her enjoyment of the administration side. Disadvantage of missing games while organising money. Bank manager and guard accompanying her to the bank with match takings.</p> <p>36:41 Describes her progression to the Leinster Council for one year.</p> <p>37:38 Reflects on her love of involvement with the club: camaraderie, socialising, dressing room rituals, making tea and sandwiches after training, superstition. Being prepared with replacement gear the players might need. Looking after hurleys in the club. Feeling inadequate for her lack of knowledge about re-sodding and draining pitch.</p> <p>39:53 Discusses being part of the Croke Park finance advisory committee from 1981 to 1984. Mentions Peter Quinn (who became president), Noel Drumgoole. Devising ways of raising funds. Asked by Paddy Buggy to go on the committee. Preferred hands-on practical work. Mentions Ciaran O'Neill, secretary of Ferns, Pat Quigley of New Ross. The challenge of achieving things at such a high level.</p> <p>42:13 Explains the difficulty of financing clubs. Hurleys expensive. More materialistic now, which lessens enjoyment. Issue of expenses. Discrepancy of high-paid managers and voluntary members.</p> <p>43:57 People more selfish, less willing to commit nowadays. No time for volunteering during the economic boom. Her hope that the recession will boost volunteer numbers. Satisfaction gained from volunteering. Core group of volunteers sustaining clubs.</p> <p>45:30 Explains that several women followed her into high offices in the GAA. More women involved now in ladies football and camogie, which are at a higher level.</p>
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	<p>46:22 Discusses the impact of the GAA on her life. Friendships made. Disciplining pupils easier because of her friendships with their parents.</p> <p>47:38 Ponders her happiest GAA memory: the Duffry Rovers winning their first county title in 1986, getting married shortly after. Her husband acting as fixtures chairman in Wexford for 15 years, currently chairman of the Sean Gael. Both originally belonging to Duffry Rovers, her husband in Ballyhogue now.</p> <p>48:57 Discusses missing the GAA when she went to America for 3 weeks couple of years ago. Mentions Marty Morrissey commenting. Her interest in rugby, tennis, and soccer. Discusses the significance of the GAA in her life.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Duffry Rovers GAA: Treasurer (25 years); Chairperson (4 years)</p> <p>Wexford GAA: Divisional Secretary (1975 – 78); Treasurer (1978 – 81)</p> <p>Leinster: Member of Leinster Council (1981 – 82)</p> <p>National: Croke Park Finance Advisory Committee (1981 - 84)</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 49:43:00</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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: 27th June 2012