

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	14 th Dec 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, Clarecastle, Co. Clare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Hanly
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1928 Home County: Clare
Education	Primary: Clarecastle NS, Co. Clare Secondary: St. Flannan's College, Co. Clare Third Level: St Pats, Drumcondra, Dublin; UCD
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters & 7 brothers Current Family if Different: Married to Maura Bannon (RIP) with 3 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Clarecastle [Clare]; Civil Service [Dublin]; Rovers [Laois]
Occupation	Retired Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Teachers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Sinn Féin probably
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. CE/1/7

Date of Report	13 th July 2012
Period Covered	1930s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Clare, Kilkenny, Limerick, Cork, Tipperary, Waterford, Dublin, Americas, USA, Armagh, Laois
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Violence, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>John talks about his life in the GAA. He describes his childhood in Clarecastle, the history of the club and how it impacted on his early life. He describes general life in Clarecastle and Clare when growing up, mentioning the poverty that existed. John talks about his playing career, the victories and defeats. He progresses to discuss his administrative career in the GAA, and also describes supporting Clare county teams. He recalls the effect that Clare winning two All-Ireland hurling championships had on the county, and describes the recording of the build-up to the 1995 All-Ireland Final that was made in Clarecastle. John compares media coverage of the GAA from his younger days to modern times, detailing the differences between radio and television. He summarises his highlights and disappointments with the GAA, and expresses what his involvement with the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:30 John discusses his earliest memories of the GAA. Mentions Clare's defeat to Kilkenny in the 1932 All-Ireland Hurling Final. Mentions getting his first hurley made by local blacksmith. Mentions winning a junior championship medal in 1939 and a minor championship in 1942.</p> <p>01:40 Recalls hurling at St. Flannan's College. Mentions Tony Considine, a player on the 1932 Clare team that lost the All-Ireland Final. John mentions his brother, Willie Hanly. Describes winning trophies at St. Flannan's, including the Harty Cup and the Colleges All-Ireland. Describes staying in</p>

	<p>Dublin for Colleges All-Ireland Final – mentions Barry’s Hotel, Croke Park, Micheál Ó hÉithir. Mentions Dave Hanly. Recalls an eye injury he received from playing hurling. Mentions winning county championships with Clarecastle. Also played in Laois and with Civil Service in Dublin. Recalls a knee injury that ended his hurling career.</p> <p>05:35 Discusses returning home to Clare in 1960 to become principal of the Boys school in Clarecastle. Mentions the hurling course in Gormanstown, became national coach there with Fr Maher, Donie Nealon, Ned Power from Waterford, Des “Snitchy” Ferguson.</p> <p>06:39 Recalls his early days coaching in Clare, and how his successes convinced others of the importance of coaching. Mentions the late Brendan Vaughan and Culloo from Tulla, who were involved in reorganising the schools GAA system. John mentions his brother who owned the Liscannor Hotel, where coaching meetings were held. Mentions Justin McCarthy, Donie Nealon and Des Ferguson attending the coaching seminars.</p> <p>08:10 Recalls coaching the Clare senior hurling team in the 1960s. Mentions the strength of the Newmarket team at the time. Recalls a Munster Championship match in 1966 against Cork in Limerick. Mentions Justin McCarthy scoring a late goal to level the match – that the Cork team went on to win the 1966 All-Ireland Hurling Championship. Mentions the 1967 Munster Championship defeat to Tipperary. Mentions 1968 League semi-finals against Kilkenny. Mentions Eddie Keher and the Hendersons.</p> <p>10:02 Recalls going for the position of Clare County Board Chairman in order to improve the culture of coaching in Gaelic games in Clare. Mentions former chairman Monsignor Hamilton. Recalls Clare beating Limerick in 1972 in the Munster Hurling Championship when there was controversy regarding the venue of Ennis. Mentions Limerick County Board Secretary Tom Boland and the Munster Council. Describes offering a bet to Tom Boland on the result of the match. Mentions Cullinan from Lissycasey who scored three goals for Clare in the match. Recalls Clare losing Munster Final in 1972 to Cork.</p> <p>13:05 Discusses Clare hurling team of the 1970s and the influence of coaching on them. Mentions Fr Harry Bohan, then manager of the team, with Justin McCarthy from Cork the trainer. Mentions league final meetings with Kilkenny and Munster Final meetings with Cork. Describes crying after 1978 Munster Final defeat to Cork in Thurles. Mentions</p>
--	--

	<p>Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Christy Ring and the Cork dressing room at half-time in that final.</p> <p>15:15 Recalls 1981 Munster Final defeat to Limerick, and defeat to Cork in the 1986 Munster Final. Mentions Jimmy Barry-Murphy. Recalls underage successes that Clare had in late 80s/early 90s.</p> <p>15:39 Recalls Len Gaynor from Tipperary coming to train the Clare senior hurling team.</p> <p>15:55 Discusses Ger Loughnane and his influence on the Clare team as manager. Mentions Clare winning senior All-Ireland hurling titles in 1995 and 1997. Mentions Brian Lohan, Frank Lohan, Seanie McMahon. Describes the emotion in Clare after they won in 1995. Recalls meeting Tipperary in the 1997 Munster and All-Ireland finals. Mentions Jamesie O'Connor.</p> <p>17:50 Recalls 1998 and the controversy that Clare hurling was involved in. Mentions Tipperary, Waterford, Offaly. Discusses the replay against Offaly when the referee blew his whistle early. Mentions 2002 All-Ireland Final against Kilkenny. Mentions Clare winning the 2009 Under 21 All-Ireland Hurling Championship and losing the 2010 Minor All-Ireland Hurling Championship final to Kilkenny.</p> <p>19:45 Discusses the general state of hurling in Clare. Mentions Clonlara, Cratloe, Newmarket-on-Fergus. Mentions books written by Ollie Byrnes, St. Flannan's College, "The Voices of Clare".</p> <p>21:10 Describes the most interesting hurling match he ever played in – 1948 County Final, Clarecastle v Ruan. Mentions Ennis, referee Mick Quinn, Jimmy Smyth, the Munster Council. Confusion surrounded the result, match refixed for the following Easter, which Ruan won. Mentions that there was a song written about that county final. Mentions his brothers Willie and Mickey. Mentions Clarecastle trainer Tommy Considine. Mentions Parish Priest Canon Madden, Ollie Daly, ground hurling and the style of play in the modern game. Mentions coaching programme that has been laid out by Croke Park.</p> <p>29:43 Mentions Michael Cusack and his vision of the GAA as encompassing athletics. Mentions athletics, tug-o-war, throwing the sheaf, hammer throwing, handball.</p> <p>31:14 Recalls receiving a 12 month suspension from the GAA when chairman of Clare County Board, due to an incident in a</p>
--	--

	<p>1969 Munster Championship match against Cork, when he was coaching Clare. Mentions Pascal O'Brien, Charlie McCarthy and a disputed goal. Mentions referee, Foran from Tipperary. Mentions Munster Council Chairman Paddy Ryan from Limerick. Mentions Con Roche from Cork, Joe McGrath from Down.</p> <p>33:33 Recalls coaching around the country with Joe McGrath and Ned Power. Mentions Con Murphy, then President of the GAA. Mentions attending the Gormanstown hurling training course while suspended.</p> <p>35:13 Discusses running for election as Clare County Board Chairman in the 1970s. Mentions Brendan Vaughan. Mentions the renovation of Cusack Park in Ennis, mentions Tulla.</p> <p>38:24 Discusses the club pitch and mentions local farmers, the Lynch family. Mentions St. Flannan's College and the former President Canon Cuddy. Recalls receiving land from Joe O'Brien. Describes facilities at the Clarecastle club. Recalls sending letters abroad seeking funds for the club. Recalls buying new fields for the club from Denis Ryan and Mrs Roan. Mentions Clare County Council.</p> <p>42:57 Discusses changes in population in the Clarecastle area. Mentions Ralph from Tipperary. Mentions traditional hurling families in Clarecastle – Daly, Murphy, Russell. Mentions Tommy O'Neill from Offaly, Fr Denis Barry from Cork.</p> <p>46:47 Recalls training the Clare football team. Describes the personality of West Clare. Mentions Fr Mullins. Recalls Munster football semi-final against Cork in Ennis.</p> <p>49:31 Discusses his family's involvement in the GAA. Mentions his brothers Willie and Tom, and his sons John and Andrew. Mentions his uncles, the Daras, as well as cousins in Kilmaley.</p> <p>51:52 Discusses the role of the GAA in the local community.</p> <p>52:28 Recalls coaching teachers in Kilkenny. Mentions Ned Power from Waterford. Mentions Langtons pub. Mentions Brendan O'Sullivan, Fr Tommy Maher, Féile na nGael, Noel Skehan and Eddie Keher.</p> <p>54:15 Describes GAA facilities in Clarecastle when he was growing up. Discusses social conditions in the area. Describes the coal boats coming from England and timber coming up the river to Ennis. Mentions the granary in the</p>
--	--

	<p>area. Mentions a story from Famine times of a local fisherman attacking one of the granary boats as it made its way for England. Discusses conditions in the local schools.</p> <p>58:15 Mentions hurling in a field owned by Eddie Russell. Recalls local men being employed to empty the boats. Describes the poverty that was in Clarecastle, and Clare in general, in his younger days. Describes men cycling to work in Shannon. Mentions Brendan O'Regan.</p> <p>01:02:40 Discusses the role of the GAA club in Clarecastle. Recalls how originally Clarecastle was only a Gaelic football club, winning a Clare County Championship in 1908. Recalls past successes of the club. Mentions Newmarket, O'Callaghans Mills and Feakle. Mentions reaching the 1942 County Final, only for Clooney-Quin to object re Fr Paddy Lynch.</p> <p>01:03:58 Discusses where Clarecastle played their matches. Didn't play senior hurling matches at home in his younger days. Describes what the village was like in his younger days. Mentions cars were a rarity. Mentions Michael Slattery. Recalls the location of the water pumps.</p> <p>01:05:37 Describes travelling to matches in his younger days. Mentions travelling to Tulla by ass cars or bike. Recalls match against Tulla where Clarecastle full-back was struck by a brick thrown in over the wall. Mentions Norrie Henchys crossroad. Describes refreshments after a match. Mentions Mick Henchy and a former Clarecastle player "Paddy" looking for a pint at Norrie Henchys pub.</p> <p>01:07:55 Recalls the pub being used as a stopping point for the Clarecastle carters, who would be travelling to East Clare to collect trees as ballast for boats. Mentions Mrs O'Malley, Ollie Daly, and a local sergeant from Cork who allowed the local pubs to stay open until midnight to celebrate a victory in a match. Recalls cycling to Kilkishen to play matches, and to Dungarvan and Melleray. Describes taxis doing team runs to matches. Mentions a man called Keane who used to make boats.</p> <p>01:14:16 Recalls his parent's interest in the GAA. Recalls a local blacksmith who organised matches on the fairgreen. Mentions St. John's Abbey and Clareabbey.</p> <p>01:16:33 Discusses how the village of Clarecastle was founded. Mentions the River Fergus. Explains how Clare got its name. Mentions that in the beginning Clare GAA was part of Connacht. Mentions Kilfenora and Killaloe, and explains</p>
--	---

	<p>how the county Clare was called after Clarecastle. Mentions Clonee. Mentions McNamara Castle. Also mentions Brian Boru, Scattery Island, Cromwellians, Carrigaholt, boats coming from Spain. Recalls links between Clare and Spain.</p> <p>01:21:33 Discusses the history of Clarecastle GAA club. Mentions Sinn Féin element in Clarecastle. Mentions a local man, Guinane, who was shot during the fight for independence. Recalls his own mother being in Cumann na mBan, and mentions local woman Nancy Twomey.</p> <p>01:24:34 Recalls stories from his childhood days – of a tinker lady coming to his door when he was 11/12, and tinker lady who came to the house with a baby in her arms.</p> <p>01:31:01 Discusses the effect of the fight for independence on the area. Mentions Ballyea and Clarecastle, the IRA, the British Army. Describes his mother being shot at. Mentions Tom O'Dea, raid by the Black and Tans. Recalls the labour hall as being the centre of activity at the time.</p> <p>01:34:00 Discusses the pipe band and their role in the GAA and the local community. Mentions Newmarket, Tulla. Recalls regattas and duck races that used to take place. Mentions Louis, Norman and Archie Burton.</p> <p>01:39:30 Recalls bonfires on St. John the Baptist Night, mentions the Clare Road. Recalls superstitions at the time.</p> <p>01:40:25 Recalls bonfires being lit for successful GAA teams, mentions the fairgreen. Recalls his own playing record in finals. Mentions Munster Council Chairman Murphy (1940s), Burley's orchard, team captain Tommy celebrating with the cup. The club had to pay to repair the cup.</p> <p>01:42:46 Recalls the history of hurling in the area. Describes the team walking to Clare for 1908 County Football Final. Mentions Timmy McMahan and his love for hurling. Describes houses that were built for ex-British soldiers in the First World War. Recalls black porter being drank. Mentions Fr McGrath.</p> <p>01:48:58 Discusses involvement of clergy in GAA. Mentions Fr Denis Barry, Fr Keane, Fr McMahan, Fr Fitzpatrick, Fr O'Meara. Recalls the situation re cars in the area when he was growing up. Remembers when his father bought his first car. Mentions Paddy McInerney.</p> <p>01:51:03 Discusses GAA in the area during the Second World War. Mentions Christy Halpin, Michael Slattery. Recalls 1945 County Hurling Finals against Eire Óg in Newmarket. Mentions having Spock's made from Hazel. Mentions Fr Cyril,</p>
--	---

	<p>Fr Charlie, Fr Paddy Lynch. Describes playing hurling in a concrete yard. Recalls childhood memories. Mentions Spud Murphy and Marcus Harnan. Recalls watching films in the fairgreen and Ennis. Mentions Norman Burton and Mick Fitzgerald.</p> <p>02:00:55 Recalls role of GAA in St. Flannan's College. Describes the success of the college - mentions Anthony Daly, "The Sparrow", Healy, Tommy Hall, The Collins'. Mentions Tulla, Feakle and Clarecastle, Danny Markham. Mentions Morrissey, Neville.</p> <p>02:03:00 Recalls how hurling in the Harty Cup arrived into St. Flannan's. Mentions Archbishop McNamara in Dublin, local man Sean Costelloe and Canon Quinn in Newmarket-on-Fergus. Describes hurling training at the college. Mentions Tull Considine, brought in as coach. Recalls early successes of the college. Mentions players such as Jimmy Smyth and Donie Nealon who went to the college.</p> <p>02:08:40 Discusses his administrative roles in the GAA. Mentions Monsignor Hamilton. Recalls becoming Chairman of Clare County Board. Discusses importance of coaching.</p> <p>02:10:58 Describes the big issues that arose when he was Clare County Board Chairman. Mentions Brendan Vaughan.</p> <p>02:16:30 Recalls County Board meetings at the Queens Hotel. Mentions Convention. Meetings now held at the Auburn Lodge.</p> <p>02:18:20 Recalls how he got a President of the GAA elected. Mentions Seamus Ryan and Pat Fanning.</p> <p>02:19:40 Recalls his best memories from his involvement with the GAA. Mentions the 1995 and 1997 All-Ireland Hurling Finals. Recalls a DVD of Clarecastle in 1995 when Clare reached the All-Ireland Hurling Final. Mentions Sparrow's terrace, Daly's terrace, Scanlon's terrace, Healy's terrace. Mentions pub owner, Johnny Callinan's sister and John's wife giving interviews on the DVD, as well as Justin McCarthy. Mentions Brendan Vaughan and Paddy Markham in New York, Barry Smythe. Describes snippets from the various interviews. Explains that there has been a DVD created that details his own life. Remarks upon the historical significance of making that DVD when Clare reached and won the 1995 All-Ireland Hurling Final.</p> <p>02:25:26 Discusses his GAA hero, Alf Murray. From Armagh, former President of the GAA.</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. CE/1/7

	<p>02:26:23 Discusses the removal of the Ban on foreign games and the opening of Croke Park. Mentions rugby in the media, and asks what the GAA is doing to promote itself in the media. Mentions the role of TG4 in promoting Gaelic games.</p> <p>02:29:03 Discusses professionalism in the GAA. Mentions Henry Shefflin and players being paid for advertising products.</p> <p>02:31:02 Discusses changes in media coverage of the GAA. Compares radio to television. Mentions Micheál O’Hehir and the 1947 All-Ireland Football Final in New York. Mentions Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh and Micheál O’Hehir’s son. Mentions having a bet on the 1947 All-Ireland Football Final. Mentions Pat Corry. Describes listening to the 1939 All-Ireland Hurling Final on radio. Mentions Jimmy Langton of Kilkenny.</p> <p>02:34:56 Recalls playing a hurling match in Mountrath, Co Laois, that was the strangest place he ever played a match in. Describes the events of the match.</p> <p>02:35:47 Discusses his biggest disappointment with the GAA. Mentions the 1978 Munster Senior Hurling Final defeat to Cork. Mentions Jimmy Barry-Murphy.</p> <p>02:36:16 Explains what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him. Mentions social aspect and selling hurleys that he fixed up.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<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</p> <p><input checked="" 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>Played from 1939 to 1954. Won juvenile, minor, and colleges title. Won 2 Clare Championships and 2 cups.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Got involved in administration in 1961.</p> <p>Club: Secretary, Chairman, Delegate to County Board.</p> <p>County: Chairman (1964 – 1974); Assistant Secretary and Delegate to Congress.</p>

REFERENCE NO. CE/1/7

Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:41:31
Language	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: _____13/07/12_____