

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick and Leo Gough
Date of Interview	13 th Dec 2010
Location	Eamon's home
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eamon Long
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1934 Home County: Carlow
Education	Primary: St. Joseph's Schools, CBS Carlow
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers and 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 2 sons and 2 daughters
Club(s)	O'Hanrahan's GAA Club, Carlow town; The Pearse's Hurling Club, Carlow.
Occupation	Clerical Officer and Sugar Store Keeper at Carlow Sugar Factory
Parents' Occupation	Labour Exchange Employee, Gael Linn [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil. Former Independent County Councillor for Carlow County Council
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Workman's Club Committee

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Date of Report	23 rd July 2012
Period Covered	1913-2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Carlow
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Eamon's GAA career is a long and storied one. A native of Carlow, he was always fanatical about the GAA. Encouraged by his father he lined out for the O'Hanrahan's club. As an extremely driven player he made it on to the senior club side at an early age, going on to represent Carlow at football and hurling. Eamon came into his prime during the 1950s and competed against some of the best GAA players in the country in both codes. He suffered a temporary setback when he was diagnosed with TB but recovered after some time and resumed his playing career. Later he became a referee and got involved in politics. A dedicated GAA man and proud traditionalist, Eamon recalls his playing career with great clarity and in the process paints a picture of a society far removed from the Ireland of 2010.</p> <p>00:20 (Eamon) Born in 1934. Originally from Carlow town. What that was like growing up. Employment opportunities. GAA the only pastime. Played in New Street. Mickey Geoghan had the footballs. Numbers that partook in games.</p> <p>02:00 Making the minor and senior teams at a young age. Winning a title in 1951.</p> <p>02:30 Older people watching from the sidelines. Remarks they would make.</p> <p>03:10 How they travelled to matches in places like</p>

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	<p>Bagenalstown and Tullow.</p> <p>03:45 People travelling to Croke Park by bicycle in 1944 to watch Carlow play Kerry in an All-Ireland semi-final.</p> <p>04:20 Family involvement in GAA</p> <p>04:50 He and his brother Hughie playing against Kerry in Dr Cullen Park. Players like Mick O'Connell, John Dowley, Páudie Sheehy, Tom Long, Dan McAuliffe and Seán Murphy with Kerry.</p> <p>05:35 Ban on other sports in force at the time. Popularity of other sports in Carlow.</p> <p>06:15 Fr Cullen in Greycullen photographed at an Ireland V Wales game. Consequences of that.</p> <p>07:05 Playing club matches with O'Hanrahan's against Clonmore. Crowds that watched.</p> <p>07:50 Standard of football at the time compared to that played in 2010.</p> <p>09:00 Admission charges for GAA games and his thoughts on that.</p> <p>09:40 Problems with modern-day training methods.</p> <p>10:15 Father moved to Carlow from Dublin in 1934. A Tipperary native, he brought hurling to the area. Father from Ballingarry and mother from Kilcooley.</p> <p>10:50 Scholarship father won to Maynooth. How that panned out.</p> <p>11:15 (Three boys and two girls in the family. Their GAA links. Sister Joan involved with Palatine. Brother Martin played with Wexford and why that was.</p> <p>12:00 Father wore goggles over his glasses playing hurling. Playing on the same team as his father. Charlie Timmons playing too. Incident during a game.</p> <p>13:00 Father an Irish speaker and a Republican who supported Fianna Fáil.</p> <p>13:25 He and his daughter holding positions as councillors.</p> <p>14:25 Administrative positions his father held. Ballinmurphy wanting a game held in Bagenalstown but opponents Tinryland wanting it to be in Dr Cullen Park. Father's attempts</p>
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	<p>to come up with a solution. Jim Kehoe a fellow administrator.</p> <p>16:45 Their house a busy one growing up as they had a radio. People visiting all the time.</p> <p>17:50 Hurling titles they won.</p> <p>18:00 Good generation of footballers they had. Playing against Cork, Kerry, Kildare and Wexford.</p> <p>18:30 Playing Kerry in the National League in Tralee. How the game went. Paddy Gardner and Mick Donovan scoring goals. What it was like going to Kerry. Staying in the Grand Hotel in Tralee.</p> <p>19:40 Willie O'Connor in charge of that team.</p> <p>19:50 Games against Offaly and Dublin.</p> <p>20:15 Started playing GAA at St Joseh's school with Sr Pansy before going on to CBS school where he played in different leagues.</p> <p>22:30 Brothers Noonan, Carroll, McInerney, Hannon, O'Connor all involved in the GAA. Instructions they gave them.</p> <p>24:35: Recognition they got for their playing abilities.</p> <p>25:00 Only O'Hanrahans club, started in 1919, in the town at the time. Éire Óg started in 1956. Tinryland going since 1913.</p> <p>25:55 No underage club competitions before minor.</p> <p>26:25 Playing with O'Hanrahan's. Style they preferred.</p> <p>28:00 Tom Shaw and Tom Liddle training teams. What they were like.</p> <p>28:50 Peter Reilly training them in 1958. Benefits of that.</p> <p>29:30 Going to Carpenter's pub after a game against Clonmore. Peter Reilly saying he wanted to train Carlow. Outcome of that.</p> <p>30:45 Playing in front of big crowds against Kerry at Dr Cullen Park. Involved in dramatic incident in the closing minutes.</p> <p>31:40 Playing beaten All-Ireland finalists Cork.</p> <p>31:55 Playing down in the late 1950s. How that went.</p> <p>32:35 Getting involved with the Carlow team. Playing Waterford in 1952 with the seniors having impressed against</p>
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	<p>Wicklow with the minors.</p> <p>33:30 First senior club game for O'Hanrahan's in Benagalstown. Charlie Doherty reporting on the game. Going in as fourth sub. How he fared.</p> <p>37:45 Playing Leighlin in a final at 16 years old. How that went.</p> <p>38:30 How they travelled to matches. Going to Palatine for games. Facilities there.</p> <p>39:15 Fundraising drives the club embarked on.</p> <p>39:55 Lots of work in Carlow in the 1950s.</p> <p>40:25 Work he did after finishing school.</p> <p>41:25 People from outside Carlow living in the area. Their GAA involvement.</p> <p>42:30 Factory leagues and the standard of football. Crowds they attracted. Irish Ropes of Newbridge, Corcoran's, Thompson's all involved.</p> <p>43:20 Playing hurling as well as football. Hurling set-up within the county. His father, Jack Monaghan, Jim Gllavey, Olie Murphy promoting the game.</p> <p>43:45 Carlow in senior hurling league.</p> <p>45:00 Liam Walsh and Willie Hogan top hurlers.</p> <p>45:25 Winning a junior championship in 1960. Playing London and Cork. Run-in with a Cork player.</p> <p>46:10 Leinster final against Leinster in New Ross. Playing Cork and Galway.</p> <p>46:55 Sidelined due to TB in 1962. In hospital in Tullow. What that was like.</p> <p>48:35 Returning to Gaelic games when he recovered. Getting a big score in the county final.</p> <p>49:10 Type of player he wanted himself to be.</p> <p>49:50 Playing against Dublin in Portlaoise in 1958. Fr Shine calling him over and having a word with him. Marking a Foley man from Dublin. How the game went.</p> <p>51:25 Travelling to London for a hurling game in 1960. How they travelled. Where they stayed and his impressions of that. Dance held the night before the game. Timmy Moran on the</p>
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	<p>dancefloor amongst black people. Nicky Brennan and Mick Gorman there too. Going to Soho for a wander. Asking for directions at a museum. Carlow people living in London.</p> <p>56:55 How he felt before playing games. Speeches in dressing rooms. Pre-match rituals. Boots he wore.</p> <p>58:20 Hurls he used.</p> <p>59:00 Playing against Kerry's Mick O'Connell and how he found that. Reaction in Kerry when Carlow beat them. Dance at Austin Stacks' hall after the game.</p> <p>01:01:30 Playing inter-county hurling from 1954 to 1963.</p> <p>01:02:25 Michael Maher, John Doyle and Kieran Carey of Tipperary toughest opponents he has come up against.</p> <p>01:03:20 Pat Brofey a tough opponent within Carlow.</p> <p>01:03:40 Injuries he sustained over the years.</p> <p>01:04:10 O'Hanrahan's development over the years. Ups and downs. Success in 1990s.</p> <p>01:05:30 Stopping playing in 1967. Feeling different when he returned after illness.</p> <p>01:05:55 Martin O'Neill of the Leinster Council asking him to referee games in the National League. Subsequent refereeing career.</p> <p>01:07:00 Refereeing a game in Kilkenny between Castlecomer and Arles. Fiery game. How he dealt with it.</p> <p>01:08:15 Working as a football trainer. Using Peter Reilly's ideas. Training drills.</p> <p>01:10:15 Socialising with players he trained in Treacy's pub.</p> <p>01:11:25 Missing his playing days when he hung up his boots.</p> <p>01:12:00 Success as a table tennis player when he was a teenager. Benefits of that.</p> <p>01:14:20 Opinions on the Ban.</p> <p>01:14:55 Evergreen soccer club around when he was young. TJ Byrne playing with Carlow. Christian Brothers' attitude to 'foreign games'.</p> <p>01:17:15 Opening of Croke Park.</p>
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	<p>01:17:55 GAA as a cultural movement over the years.</p> <p>01:19:15 Extent to which Irish was spoken within Carlow GAA circles. Team lists being submitted in Irish.</p> <p>01:21:00 Degree to which power is concentrated in Croke Park and his opinions on that.</p> <p>01:23:00 His GAA involvement and the impact it has on political careers.</p> <p>01:24:20 Television arriving in Carlow in 1962. Effect that had.</p> <p>01:25:45 Best hurling team he has ever seen was Wexford in the 1950s.</p> <p>01:26:05 Going to his first hurling match between Limerick and Cork in Thurles. How he travelled there. John Mackey, Mick Mackey and Christy Ring playing.</p> <p>01:26:50 Admiration for Kerry football teams through the years.</p> <p>01:27:35 Going to see Carlow in an All-Ireland semi-final with his father when he was 10. How they travelled.</p> <p>01:28:25 Children's GAA involvement.</p> <p>01:31:00 Favourite GAA memory - playing Wexford in 1958. Why that was special. Marking Andy Doyle. How he himself performed.</p> <p>01:32:45 What the GAA has meant to him in his life.</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 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 football with O'Hanrahan Blues - won minor and senior titles with O'Hanrahans.. Played hurling with The Pearse's in Carlow town in the late 1950s. Played hurling and football for Carlow for 11 years.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how</p>	<p>Chairman of O'Hanrahan's, Carlow (1960s)</p> <p>O'Hanrahan's representative on Carlow County Board</p>

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long for)	Committee of Pearse's Hurling Club, Carlow.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:34:11
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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 23rd July 2012