

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	15 th Dec 2010
Location	Vinny's home, near Carlow town
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Vinny Harvey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1937 Home County: Carlow
Education	Primary: St Joseph's National School; Carlow CBS Secondary: CBS Carlow
Family	Siblings: 1 brother and 6 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife; 2 daughters and 1 son
Club(s)	Éire Óg GAA Club [Carlow]
Occupation	Postman
Parents' Occupation	Skilled Labourer in Carlow Urban Council [Father]; Blade Factory Worker [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. CW/1/7

Date of Report	24 th July 2012
Period Covered	1927 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Carlow
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Media, Role of Clergy, 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, Alcohol, Politics, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Vinny recounts in vivid detail his GAA experiences over many years. A Carlow Town man, he grew up immersed in the sport, absorbing stories of his father's exploits, attending as many games as he could and looking up to the senior players with awe. Vinny recalls forming the Éire Óg club in the early 1950s with his friends, a project that was less than straightforward but ultimately yielded great results. Through his stories he brings the past to life, recalling incidents, characters, capers and banter from years gone by as if it all happened yesterday. Vinny also remembers the Mullingar crash in 1951, a tragic incident that devastated the local community.</p> <p>00:20 Born in 1937 in St Killian's Crescent. Later moved to his grandfather's house. One brother and six sisters in the family. Father's people originally from Essex. Tracing ancestry.</p> <p>03:30 Father played with Shamrocks, a Carlow Town team. Made senior final in 1927. Tinryland successful at the time. Fr Paddy Shine playing for them.</p> <p>04:30 Father in the Irish Army. Friends of his in the British Army. English flag flying outside friends' house.</p> <p>05:15 Original O'Hanrahans team starting out at 'the milking field'. Jerseys they wore. Father paying with the Blues. Display of medals in McIlroy's pub. Man looking at medals and making disparaging comment about his father. Reaction to that. Differences in strength between Blues and Shamrocks.</p> <p>08:40 Dinny Hyland, Jim Array, Buller Moore on the</p>

	<p>Shamrocks team.</p> <p>09:10 Amalgamation of Blues and Shamrocks in 1951. Carlow losing to Louth in 1950. Pert Nolan, Paddy Carpenter, Paddy Lasty. O'Hanrahans men playing minor the same day. Outcome of senior game and big decision made at Congress around the same time. Returning home on the train.</p> <p>12:45 Carlow meeting Louth again in 1952, having beaten Wicklow and Laois. College students not allowed to play. Fr Paddy Maher, Fr Gary Doyle, Fr Connolly all Carlow players. What happened at Croke Park.</p> <p>14:15 Mullingar crash in 1951. Carlow playing Longford in Portlaoise. What happened in the game. Andy Murphy and Martin Molloy involved. Replay in Mullingar. How he travelled there.</p> <p>16:15 Shamrocks and Blues amalgamating, agreeing to name the team 'Carlow Town'. Why that name wasn't adopted in the end. Changing jerseys. Taking part in 1951 championship. How that went.</p> <p>18:55 County selectors trying to appease clubs.</p> <p>19:20 Mullingar crash and what happened. Crash near Kinnegad. Meeting Tom Shaw after mass with his father. Travelling to Mullingar. Meeting Mick Moore when they stopped at a pub. Returning from the game. People crying on the road next morning as he made his way to school. How the crash happened. Eggerton, Hogan, Smith people killed. Liam Quigley and returning Carlow team coming upon the scene. Having to tell relatives of victims what had happened. Tommy McKetney injured, girlfriend Florrie Hogan killed.</p> <p>28:45 Funerals after the crash.</p> <p>29:25 Going to watch famous Carlow team of 1944 train. Ted Joyce playing full-back. Number of footballs they were using and type of training they did. Training held at Dr Cullen Park. Dundon man training the team.</p> <p>31:00 Buller Moore and the Tobins his neighbours. Jimmy Travers his neighbour in later years. Vinny going with his grandmother and other women to Athy for the 1944 Leinster final. How people travelled. Rations at the time because of World War II. Going to Banbrick's in Athy. Women complaining.</p> <p>34:40 How the game went. Mickey Byrne featuring. Celebrations after a goal. Meeting his uncle Paddy after the</p>
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	<p>game. Stopping at a pub on the way home. Meeting Kildare men with a young boy there. Hearing what became of the boy years later.</p> <p>38:55 Nicknames for Carlow and Kildare. Reason for Carlow nickname. How Travers travelled to Croke Park.</p> <p>39:50 Listening to Carlow v Kerry on the radio in 1944. His uncle attending the game. Bad weather. John Brien riding home during the night.</p> <p>41:20 Amalgamation of Blues and Shamrocks. Scarcity of footballs. Fields they used for training. Where the football was kept. Moving to Green Lane in the 1950s. Busty Kerins minding the ball then. Talking to Mick Kelly about buying a ball. Price it was going to cost. Playing games on Saturdays with the ball. Buying another ball. Bill Brien's father Jim getting involved in a draw they were holding. Mrs Abbot of Knocknagee winning a prize. Informing her of the win on a day Milford were playing.</p> <p>52:40 One of the first club meetings in Green Lane in 1957. Bill Brien securing a room in the vocational school. Early success against Bagenalston. In a league group with Milford and Ballinabranna. Playing Milford in Tomard. How they travelled. Advice father gave them on club name.</p> <p>55:10 Jack Carey on committee. Carey going to pub before Milford game. Peter Walker and Seán Brooks having an argument. Tony O'Connor the treasurer on the team. DJ Christy Walsh in midfield. Mick Roche and Charlie Timmons were from Carlow Town but on the Milford team. How the game went. Clash he had with Roche.</p> <p>01:00:40 Playing Ballinabranna in Dr Cullen Park. Problem with the ball. Solution they came up with.</p> <p>01:05:30 Entering two minor teams in 1958. Benefits of that. Sunday atmosphere at games. Tournaments.</p> <p>01:09:50 Club more popular in 1958. Making a county final against Fenagh in Dr Cullen Park. Matt Murray from Athy refereeing. Father talking to him before the game. Attendance at the match. Tom Butler in opposition defence. Having words with him. Dramatic conclusion to match. Replay. Bunny Kavanagh refereeing. Jean Kelly clashing with Tom Butler. Action taken. Outcome of game.</p> <p>01:18:55 Playing senior in 1959. Jimmy Hyland and Paddy Conlon talented Blues players. Hyland switching to their side. His attributes. Championship success with his as trainer in</p>
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REFERENCE NO. CW/1/7

	<p>the 1960s.</p> <p>01:21:20 1959 campaign. Playing Palatine and Tinryland.</p> <p>01:21:40 1960 campaign. More players transferring to their team. Reaching a final against Tullow, who boasted talented players such as Joe Nolan, Bunner Canavan, Pat Brophy and Mick Donovan.</p> <p>01:24:50 Peter and Eddie Walker transferring from the Blues.</p> <p>01:25:25 Playing the Blues in a 1961 final. Meeting again in the 1963 Meaghar Cup final. Other encounters.</p> <p>01:26:45 Advising Éire Óg secretary Brien on what to do ahead of a final. Drinking with the team at Travers' house as a team bonding exercise. Game against the Blues.</p> <p>01:33:20 Naming the club Éire Óg.</p> <p>01:34:55 Getting goalposts. Timmy Fleming involved. Mishap.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input 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>
<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>N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:37:08</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

REFERENCE NO. CW/1/7

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: 24th July 2012