



C. L. C. G.

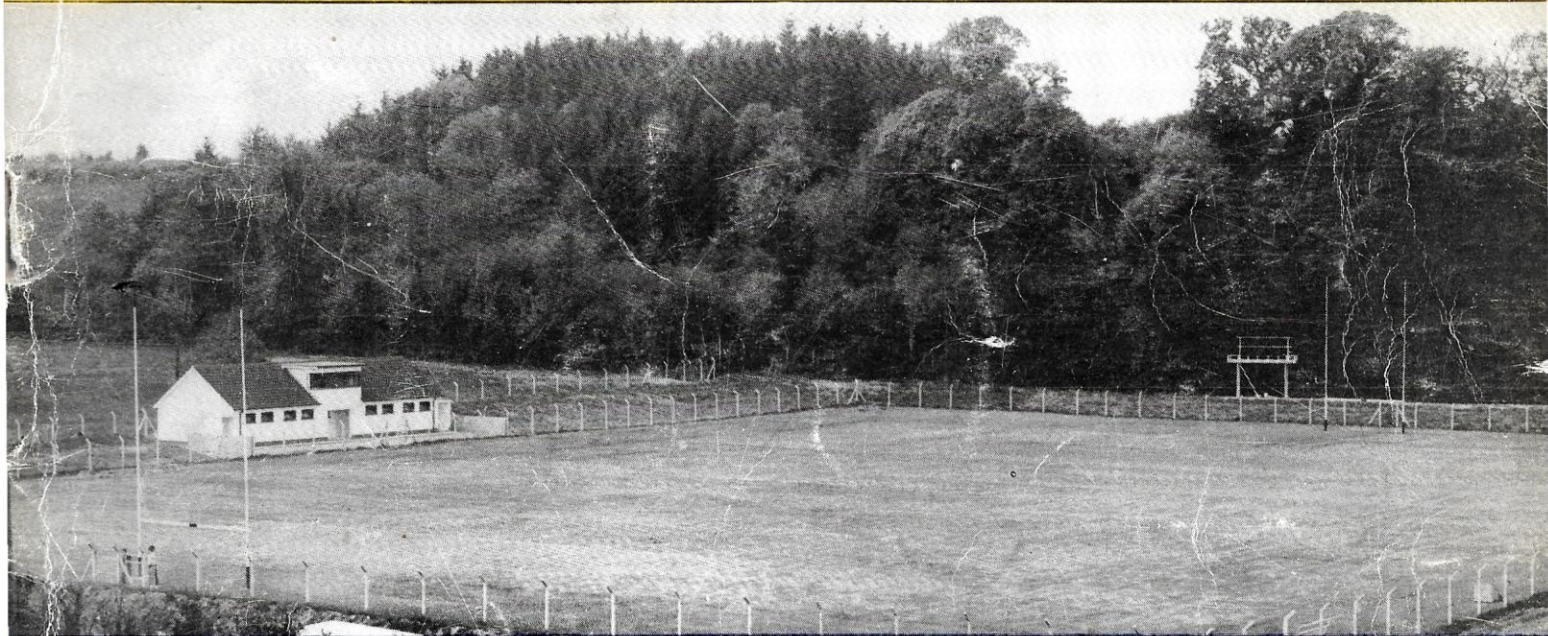
1980

PAIRC

Naomh
Cluain

Mhuire

1980



OFFICIAL OPENING

25.5.1980 BY: **Padraig Mac Floinn, Uachtaran C.L.G.**

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHALLENGES

1.45 p.m.

LIATROIM v. LONGFORT

3.45 p.m.

ROSCOMAIN v. AN CABHAN
DIV. III N.H.L.

6.15 p.m.

SLIGEACH v. LIATROIM

ARTANE BOYS BAND

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

FOREWORD

The Committee members of Pairc Naomh Mhuire Cluain wish to acknowledge the co-operation of all who contributed both materially and financially in order that this Souvenir Programme to mark the opening of our new grounds could be compiled.

We would like to thank especially the people who researched and compiled the various articles, those who made available photographs and assisted in the editing of the programme.

We are deeply indebted to the many individuals and business firms who generously took advertising space in this historic publication.

In conclusion a special word of thanks to our publishers the Management and Staff of the Westmeath Examiner, Mullingar for their assistance and co-operation.

OPENING OF CLOONE PLAYING FIELD AND DRESSING ROOMS

This is an outstanding event in the history of the Cloone Club. The provision of a playing field and dressing rooms is a great achievement. It is a culmination of long planning and hard work by many dedicated people. It is further proof of the great work being done by our clubs to provide facilities for recreation to be used by the people of the local community. This opening to-day of the Cloone playing field is another sign of the progress of the GAA in Co. Leitrim.

In this county great efforts are being made not only in the organisation and promotion of Gaelic games but in the participation of the Clubs in all national projects of the Association. Another club in Co. Leitrim now has a permanent home which ensures a base for its activities. I congratulate all those concerned in their endeavours on behalf of the Association and the local community.

Guim gach rath ar an gcumann agus ar na himeactai a bheidh a n-eagru acu. Ta suil agam go mbeidh na baill dilis i gconai do cluichi na nGael agus nach ndeanfar dearmad ar na daoine a shaothraigh chomh dian san chun na haiseanna seo a chur ar fail.



Padraig MacFloinn
Uachtaran.



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★★★★★ A PROUD DAY ★★★★★

★★★★★ BY SEOIRSE O TUATHAIL ★★★★★

This day, Sunday, May 25th 1980 is a proud day for the parish of Cloone celebrating as it does the official opening of its Park. Hard work and good planning by a dedicated group of people have made this momentous occasion possible and have provided for the young people of the parish excellent amenities to add to their enjoyment of playing our native games.

It is much to the credit of Cloone GAA Park Committee that they are providing the facilities necessary for the survival and well being of our games and so beneficial to our growth.

For Leitrim Co. Board it is gratifying that fifteen of our clubs have now acquired their own playing pitches and it is our hope that the other clubs still without them will do their utmost to remedy this before the Centenary of the Association in four years time.

The Cloone GAA Club and the Park Committee deserve to be congratulated by the people of Leitrim for their enterprise in providing this fine ground and also for having attained county status which is due recognition for their wonderful achievement.

It is my sincere wish that this Park which is named "St. Mary's" with the wonderful facilities for our players will provide much enjoyment for the loyal followers of our games and help to further strengthen the Association within the county in the future.



Seoirse O Tuathail, Cathaoirleach
Coiste Contae Liathdroma



Tommy Flynn, Ciste Gael
Co-ordinator.



Leitrim G.A.A. President, T.
O'Riordan.

THE 1911 FOOTBALL TEAM

SONNY DOHERTY RECALLS CLOONES FIRST SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP.....

I can recall back as far as 1910 when Fr. O'Connor, who was curate in Cloone at the time, called the young boys of the parish together on a Sunday afternoon to what was then known as the "co-meadows".

It was at that first meeting that the idea of starting a football team was mooted. Agreement was reached among those present and Fr. O'Connor immediately set about forming the team. He bought boots and jerseys and organised training sessions. The following year, 1911, the team won the County Championship, which was the first of many trophies to be won by them and subsequent teams and also defeated the Roscommon champions in an Inter-County Cup match in Rooskey.

The following is a list of players and substitutes associated with that 1911 team: Charles Quinn (Captain), Pat Moran, Pat Ryan, Charles Canning, Packie Duignan, Peter Duignan, Seamus Keegan, James Foley, Pat Foley, John Doherty, Charles Heslin, John Harte, Michael O'Donnell, Joe O'Donnell, John Joe Quinn, Michael Brady, P. Healy, Charles Heeran, Paddy Murray, James Doorigan.



Patrick (Sonny) Doherty



Corduff Football Team 1923 — Front row, left to right: Peter Curran, Jimmy McCusker, Paddy Cooney, Michael McCabe, Paddy Conboy, Francis Curran, Jimmy McCabe, Hughie Creegan. Back row, left to right: Tom Redehan, Eddie O'Neill, John Cassidy, Tommy Lavin, Edward O'Neill, John Cassidy, Phil Harte, Patrick McGovern.

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HUBERT DOHERTY — A PRINCE AMONG MEN

An Appreciation by Leo McAlinden



Hubert Doherty R.I.P.

It is only fitting on this special day in the history of the GAA in Cloone that some tribute should be paid to the previous generations of the GAA men who laboured so unselfishly in the cause of Gaelic games and the Gaelic tradition in this parish of Cloone.

Among the many names which immediately spring to mind claiming mention, pride of place must go to that of the late Hubert Doherty. Hubie, as he was known to his friends and colleagues, was a household name in Leitrim GAA circles, not only as a player of a very high calibre, but also as a referee and administrator for very many years.

I first met Hubie a few days after I had been posted to Leitrim in the month of May in 1942. I had just arrived in Mohill to take up a Bank appointment on May 8th — a noted Fair day in Mohill at that period. My main recreational interest in those far off days lay in playing Gaelic football and I was naturally delighted to learn that the Mohill club had a game on the following Sunday and that I would be very welcome to play with them. That game — my very first in Leitrim — was played against Gortletteragh in Cloone Grange and the referee that day was none other than Hubie Doherty, the man who was to become my close friend and colleague in the GAA for the next thirty years.

I can recall him vividly that day as he greeted me warmly and made me welcome to the Grange saying that he had heard about my recent arrival in Mohill from Armagh. He expressed the hope that I would decide to play with Leitrim rather than return to my native county, especially in view of the difficulty of travel in those austere days of World War II. I can recall his magnificent physique and that he did an excellent job of refereeing a difficult game. We had a chat after the match and I was impressed with his deep knowledge and interest in the GAA. This was the first of many games at all levels and in all weathers and conditions that I was privileged to see Hubie referee with such distinction. I recall clearly other personalities from that first game of mine in Leitrim. From the Mohill team the memory of Gerry Canning, stands out and then from Gortletteragh I recall the fine performance of Paddy and Charlie Reynolds, the keen tackling of Patsy Rogan and oddly enough, I have a vivid recollection of the deep rich Leitrim accent of Paddy Gannon. It sounded so strange to my then untuned ear.

But to return to Hubie, it wasn't as a referee — and he was indeed a very good one — that he is best remembered. Nor was it as a County Board official or club Chairman that he is recalled, no, it was none of these. Hubie will forever be remembered as the great club captain and leader of so many fine and victorious Cloone teams. Championship trophies, League and tournament trophies all came his way in abundance and all were accepted with a modesty and a generosity that befitted the man. Even defeat, when it did come, was accepted with a dignity that could well be emulated today.

I had the good fortune to share with Hubie and his team many of those wonderful Championship and League victories as I had become a Cloone player in 1944. Two games in particular, in which Hubie played a Captains part, stand out in my memory. The first of these was the Leitrim Senior final of 1942 played and won against Tully in Mohill. I remember it so clearly because it was the first Leitrim final which I saw, being a very interested spectator that autumn Sunday afternoon. In retrospect I considered that county final to have been as good a senior club game as I ever saw. But boy, it was a torrid game. Marching orders were given to at least three players but Hubie had an impeccable game at fullback and he led his men with tremendous dash and style. A notable feature of his play that day was his kicking out of the ball from goal. In fact this was probably the most outstanding characteristic of Hubie's play. He could kick a dead ball sixty or seventy yards and what is more, he could do this consistently.

The second game to which I have referred as being memorable for me was the first game that I ever played with Hubie. It was a most unusual challenge game which was played in the Grange in the summer of 1943. By that time I had become well acquainted with Hubie and one evening he arrived at my digs in Mohill to invite me to play for Cloone in a challenge game the following Sunday. I readily accepted his invitation. Around this period Cloone was the leading senior team in the county and apparently there was considerable dis-satisfaction in the club over the county representation which they were then getting. This led to a challenge being issued to the county team to play Cloone in the Grange, a challenge which the County Board accepted.

Thus the stage was set for a memorable confronta-

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Back row, left to right: Jim Rourke, Joe Bohan, Pat Cooke, Johnny Doorigan, James Reynolds, Terry Bohan, John
Kilkenny, Albert Kelly, Master Griffin. Front row: Jack O'Neill, Tom Lyons, Paddy Conboy, Hubert Doherty, J. P.
Lyons, Pat Frank Lyons, Tom Fay. (Extreme back, Joe Quinn, Bus Driver).

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tion. It was for this game I accepted Hubie's invitation to guest for Cloone and so began my active playing association with Hubie and his team which was to last for nearly twenty years. The game was memorable for me for many reasons. As I have said, it was my first with Cloone. It was also my first experience of hearing Hubie drill his forces before battle and of course it was to be a very historic victory for Cloone. They easily defeated the county team and this was no mean achievement to have subdued the cream of the county. It also put an end to the controversy regarding Cloone's poor representation on the county panel.

I have already briefly referred to Hubie's drilling of his forces before a game but I feel that this aspect of his leadership deserves a little more elaboration. Those of us, who have had experience of Hubie's pre-match pep talks know that these could only be described as priceless gems. In fact, they are legendary. I can see the scene today as clearly as if it had only happened yesterday. There we were on the bank of the Cloone river beneath those majestic beech trees in the Grange. Our little bundles of clothing were scattered around in piles and there, clad in our blue and gold, we stood around anxious for the fray and ready to go into battle. But one very important preliminary still remained to be done — Hubie had yet to speak.

The address was known as Hubie's "Lining out" or "dressing down" — it will never be forgotten. Each player was on the receiving end as he was spoken to firmly and his duties for the hour clearly outlined. Each man's shortcomings were clearly enumerated and his failings from his last outing were laid bare before him with the threat that if an improvement wasn't forthcoming there were ample replacements anxiously awaiting the call.

No one ever resented these harsh spine chilling rebukes from the general and even if some of them may not have been merited, they were nonetheless always accepted in a good sporting spirit. In those days little did we realise that as an exercise in psychological preparation, this procedure was second to none.

During Cloone's golden era in the 1940's Hubie was not only club Chairman, but also Captain, County Registrar and referee extraordinary. In fact he was the GAA in this parish. No matter what job was to be tackled or function organised he was the man to do it. I recall one incident among many which exemplifies Hubie's noble generosity and spirit. It happened in the month of July on the eve of an important senior fixture. In those days there were few cars and little or no public transport. A key Cloone player was arriving in Longford by bus on the Saturday evening before the game and somehow he

had to be transported to Cloone. Hubie was busy that same evening rearing hay but he realised that a job had to be done and that the player in question had to be brought home to Cloone. So he stuck his fork in the ground and abandoned his crop of un-saved hay, mounted his bicycle and having a second bike from a neighbour, he pushed it all the way by hand to Longford — some twenty miles on poorly surfaced roads. He met his comrade, they both arrived home safely and both played key roles in Cloone's victory the following day. Such was Hubie's commitment to his club and such is the example which he has left for others to follow.

Another side to Hubie's personality which may not be as well known as some of his other qualities was his sense of humour. He loved a good yarn and could express his delight with the most hearty laughter one could wish to hear. There was one occasion during the year when everyone laughed and that was on the night of the victory dance in the old hut, now the site of the National school. Here Hubie was at his best — all fuss and excitement especially about his speech which he had been rehearsing for days. Despite this preparation, when the dreaded moment of delivery came, he would insist on a prompter being strategically placed behind the stage curtain and woe betide that man if he fell down on the job.

No man in Leitrim has ever held office in the County Board administration for a longer period than Hubie held the post of County Registrar. During all his years in office he rarely if ever missed attendance at a meeting. In fact I can recall him arriving at my house to travel with me to those meetings and he would always arrive ahead of time. Invariably he came in all polished and shining, pipe in hand and would immediately reprimand me for not being ready. He was a most popular figure at County Board gatherings and while he seldom became actively involved in any of the major deliberations, he nevertheless did an enormous amount of diplomatic ground work. On our journeys back home he could analyse every point however sinister or obscure that had arisen that night.

Hubie has made his contribution in no mean way to the GAA in the parish of Cloone and in the county at large. His passing was mourned far beyond the confines of his native parish and when his former team-mates carried his blue and gold draped coffin to its last resting place, there were sincere and genuine regrets from the huge concourse of mourners who had come from every corner of Leitrim and beyond to pay their last respects. As we left the cemetery that day one visiting mourner described Hubie to me as "A prince among men".

May his noble soul rest in peace.

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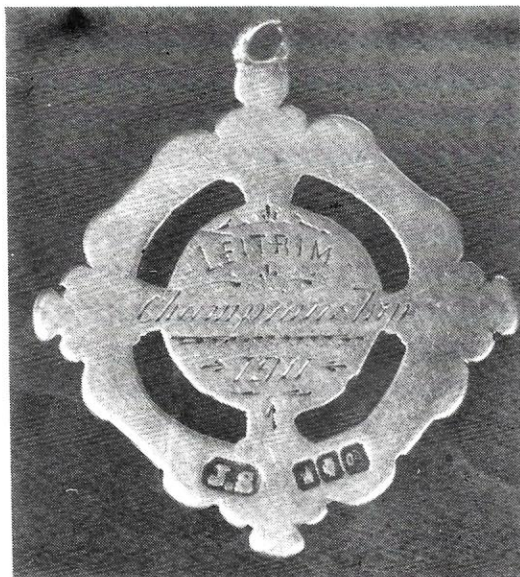
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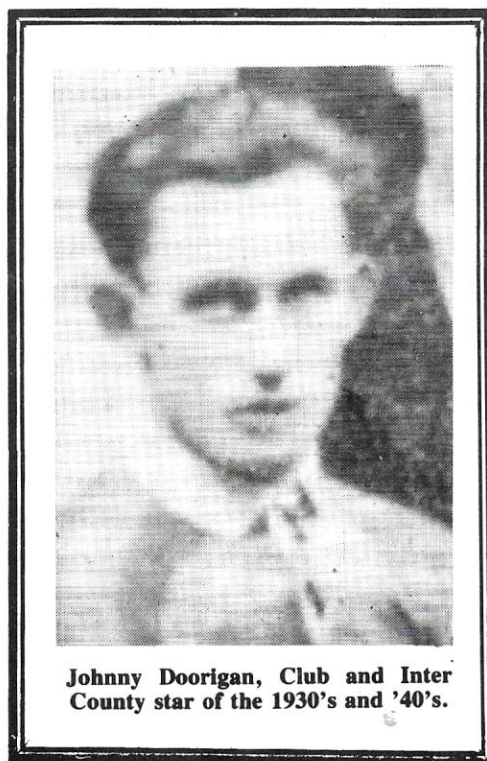
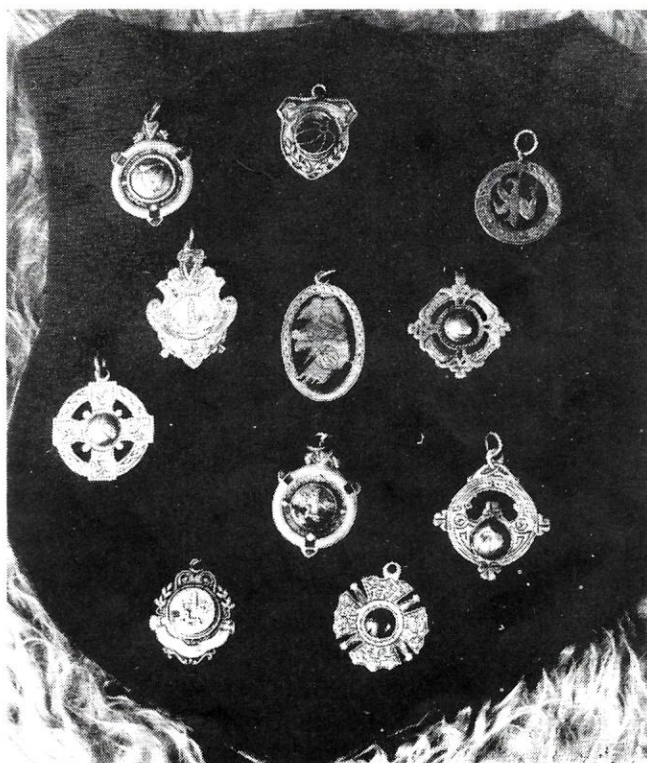
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The Doorigan Medals



Of the ten Senior Football Championships which Cloone won, the Doorigan family figured in eight of them. Johnny Doorigan won Senior Championship medals with Cloone in 1934, '37, '42, '44, '46, '47 and '48; two Connaught Junior Championship medals in 1938 and '41 plus an All-Ireland Junior medal in 1938. Top left, the 1911 Championship medal won by his late father R.I.P. Cloone's last Senior Championships were won in the 1950-'51 double.



Johnny Doorigan, Club and Inter County star of the 1930's and '40's.

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MY YEARS IN THE BLUE and GOLD (1953-'65)

BY. S. HESLIN.

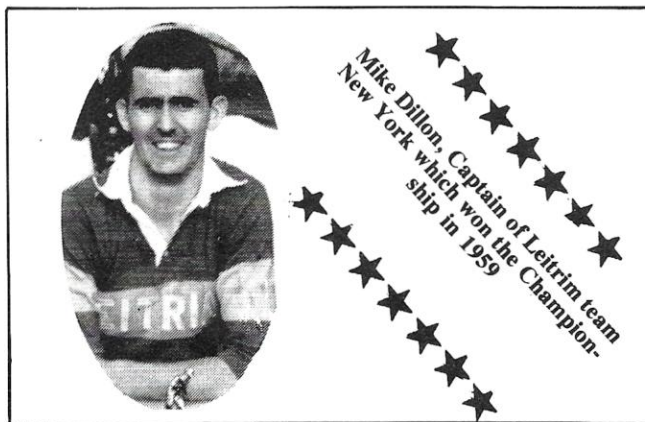


S. HESLIN

Cloone dominated Leitrim football between 1942 and 1952. Seven S.F. championships, four S.F. leagues, one Spring league, two M.F. championships (one of which was lost in an objection) and numerous tournament victories made them undisputed kingpins of the county.

Within twelve months of the 1951 championship win the lure of the metropolis and the emigrant ship deprived the club of John Kilkenny, Mick Dillon, Frank Quinn, Silver McHugh, Seamus Keating, Willie Clancy and Frank Joe Tiernan while Pat Murphy returned to play with his native Fenagh. The loss was overcome to some extent by the fact that Gortlettera did not field a team in 1952 and Paddy, Charlie and T.P. Reynolds and Seamus Browne threw in their lot with Cloone. The team enjoyed another good season but lost the senior championship final to Aughavas while the league dragged into 1953. It was at this juncture that Pete Reilly, Mel Kelly, Mick Doherty, Packie McCabe, Luke McNamee and myself were added to the senior panel.

We defeated Carrigallen in the league final and then the inimitable Packie McGarty joined us. It was another very successful year for the club with victories in the Mohill Tostal Tournament, Cloone Sports Tournament and a good run of victories in the S.F. league. We defeated Fenagh in the first round of the championship and were odds on favourites to beat Aughavas in the semi-final. T.P. and Michael Reynolds were not available for the game and we lost by a goal on a wet and windy Sunday in Ballinamore. We made amends, however by beating Drumreilly to retain our S.F. League title on the score of 2-4 to 0-5. The following was the winning Cloone lineout: L. Kelly, P. McCrann, J.J. McGarty, S. Browne, M. Donnelly, T.P. Reynolds, P. Doherty, L. McAlinden, C. Kilkenny, M. Doherty, P. McGarty, L. McNamee, S. Heslin, P.J. Heeran (capt.), M. Reynolds.



CLUB'S FUTURE

Shortly after this game I left for U.C.D. confident that the club's future was secure but the days of wine and roses were drawing to a close. The Gortletteragh contingent returned to the home club in 1954 and Packie McGarty went back to Mohill. We enjoyed a good run in the league but were narrowly defeated by Bornacoola in the championship. At the end of that year Sean Kilkenny and Mick Doherty left the parish and the team's stylish midfielder and dual Railway Cup star Leo McAlinden retired from the game. The league dragged on into 1955 and we forced a playoff with Bornacoola.

I can recall that game very vividly as Luke McNamee and myself had to take over in midfield. We led Bornacoola all the way but in the last quarter an incident in our goalmouth led to the abandonment of the game and two of our backs received long terms of suspension. This was the killer blow that marked the end of a glorious era. Carrick defeated us heavily in the first round of the championship and apathy and despondency took over.

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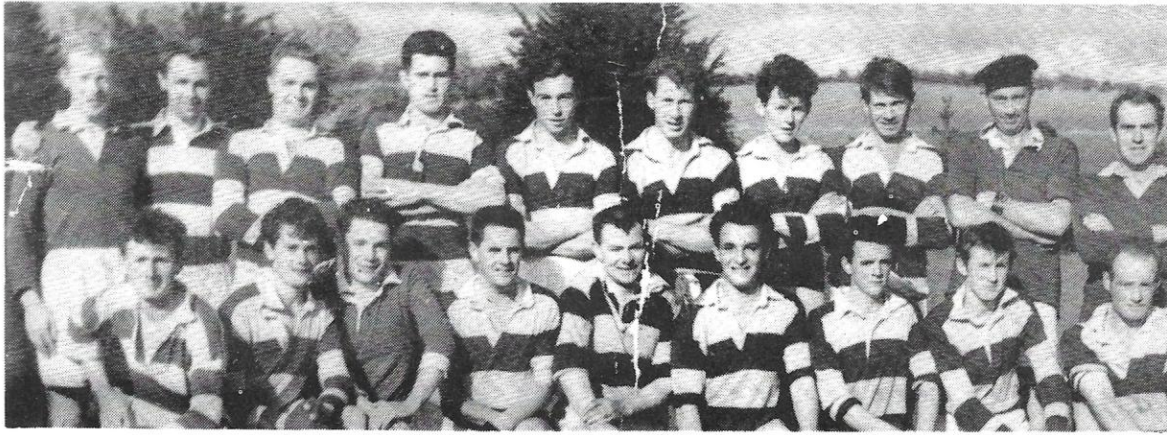
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The Cloone team which won the Leitrim Junior Championship in 1962:— Back row, left to right, T. Creamer, P. Heslin, S. Heslin, P. Reilly, Charlie Kilkenny, J. Beirne, Cathal Kilkenny, L. McNamee, M. J. Clancy, P. Higgins. Front row, left to right, P. J. Kavanagh, M. Brady, M. Tubman, M. Kelly, P. Solan, J. Dolan (Capt), P. Kelly, B. Moran, P. J. McGuire.

Some of the older players retired while others transferred to other clubs. We regraded Junior in 1956, had a good run in the league, won the first round of the championship but lost in the second round to Gortletteragh. Inexplicably we returned to senior ranks in 1957 but met with no success and the club went out of existence altogether in 1958.

It was in that year that former star County player John P. Doorigan returned to the parish and set about reviving the club. On October 29th, 1958, a meeting was held in Dillon's store and the re-organisation got under way. Special mention must be made of the parts played by the late Hubie Doherty by John P. Doorigan, Paddy Solon, Mike Joe Brennan and Oliver O'Higgins in this revival. They decided to field a senior team in 1959 and contacted all of us domiciled in Dublin. Success did not come overnight.

We won little in that year but ended on a high note by defeating Aughavas by 1—7 to 0—2 in the Cloone Sports Tournament. The following was the winning lineout: S. Creegan, C. Kelly, J.J. McGarty, Pat Conefry, P. McGuire, P. Doherty, S. Heslin, L. McNamee, F. Quinn, S. Creamer, M. Kelly, J. Dolan, P. Solon, F. Donnelly, P. L. Murray. The following year was even less successful and we decided to regrade junior in 1961 and to pay more attention to the underage footballers of the parish. Our first year in junior ranks was not very successful but our Minors reached the championship semi-final and held out promise for the future.

FROM THE DOLDRUMS

The following year (1962) saw the club emerge from

the doldrums and bring off the double by winning both the minor and junior championships. Pride of place must go to the Gormanston College quintet who contributed so much to both successes. The junior team played inspired football throughout the campaign and the forwards, although a shade on the light side, played with great understanding. We had facile wins over Leitrim, Eslin and Annaduff and a hard fought win over Fenagh before defeating Dromahaire in the final by 2—10 to 1—5. The following was the winning lineout: M. J. Clancy, S. Heslin, P. Reilly, C. Kilkenny, P. McGuire, L. McNamee, Cha Kilkenny, J. Beirne, J. Dolan (captain), P. Heslin, M. Kelly, P. Kelly, M. Brady, P. Solon, B. Moran.

The year 1963 saw us back again in senior ranks where we enjoyed a good run in the league and qualified for the final against Melvin Gaels. We lost to Carrick in the first round of the championship after dominating the game for long periods but we could do everything but score and really deserved to lose. The minors retained their championship crown but we had to wait until August of the following year before the league final was played and it ended in a draw 0—10 each. It was October before we replayed and won by 1—5 to 0—5, the first senior win after a decade in the wilderness. The following lineout could feel satisfied with their display: F. Conlon, S. Heslin, C. Kilkenny, L. McNamee, Cha Kilkenny, P. Conboy, M. Kelly, J. Beirne, J. Dolan (captain), P. Heslin, J. McCabe, P. Kelly, D. McAlinden, P. Solon, B. Moran.

By then we had been eliminated from the '64 championship by Aughavas but defeated them in the league. The league was played on a double round and we

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Cloone G.A.A. Park is just one example

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defeated every team in the county at least once and qualified to meet Carrick in the final. It took three games to decide the issue which Carrick eventually won around Easter '65. We lost to Annaduff in the first round of the '65 championship and after thirteen seasons I decided to say goodbye to competitive football.

My years with the Club were by no means the most successful it has enjoyed; in fact the latter fifties were

most frustrating but the most important fact of all was that the club survived. The opening of this new park is living proof of the club's determination in the face of adversity. It is a fitting memorial to the former club greats who are no longer with us, and will provide healthy recreation for the youth of the parish for generations to come. I hope they will uphold the proud tradition of a great little club and soon win the S.F. championship again. Go neiri go geal libh a chairde na Cluaine!

THE GRANGE THE END OF AN ERA.

BY JOE TIERNAN

The Grange, which originally covered an area of six and a half acres, has been used by Cloone footballers for the best part of a century. But there was — until the present incumbent took possession — a certain reluctance on the part of the different owners to make the pitch available.

But the opening of the new park will undoubtedly breathe a sigh of relief for John McGovern, who makes no secret of the fact that the football scenario was becoming "a bit of a nuisance". Nevertheless, John possessing that magnanimous nature that he is widely acclaimed for, never reneged on his side of the bargain.

But amidst the euphoria that surrounds the advent of the new pitch the demise of the Grange has a certain ring of nostalgia about it. The blood and guts battles of the giants, Cloone and Aughavas, were a feature that will for long be remembered. But it was also a breeding ground for football hooliganism which often resulted in vicious and protracted fighting — a syndrome which, gladly would not be tolerated today.

OLD ESTATE

Grainseach, being the Irish term for Grange, means

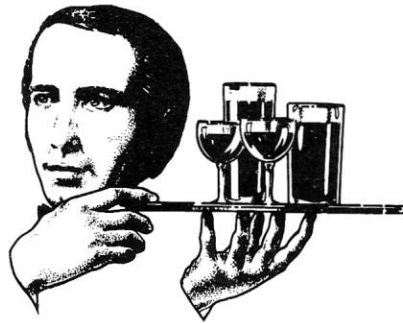
outlying land at a monastery. It can also mean "a farm with its buildings". The Grange was part of a larger estate which belonged to St. Fraoch of Cloone back in the sixth century. This monastic estate included most of the land around Cloone and Aughavas but was expropriated by the British sometime in the early 17th century. The annals recorded that Leitrim was first planted in 1622 and that parts of Cloone came under that plantation. The estate which the Grange was part of plus the Glebe were taken over by the English Church after the Reformation and a Rectory was built in the field where the new pitch now stands. The Glebe house, as the Rectory was then known, was condemned in 1836 and a new one built in 1843.

Today the Grange farm consists of between seventy and eighty acres and the present owner bought it in 1963 for £2,100.

The glorious years of the estate however, could be described as the period from 1900 to 1920. The house consisted of fifty rooms which included a ballroom with some elegant horse stables in the back yard.

But for both the Grange and Cloone G.A.A. the end of an era has been reached and there will undoubtedly be many who will mourn its passing.

CREEGAN'S CLOONE BAR AND LOUNGE



**The p(o)int to remember is the
one in Creegan's after
the game**

*Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to
Cloone Park Development Committee on the
opening of their new grounds.*

'PHONE CLOONE 22

HOW IT ALL HAPPENED

BY SEAMUS SHORTT, CLUB CHAIRMAN

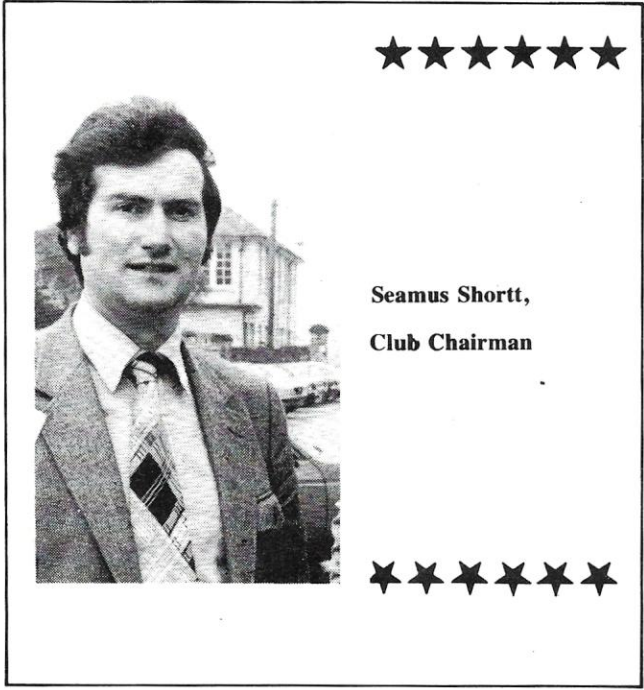
The reality of May 25th comes just three years after the initial purchase of this site and less than two years since development of this site commenced.

Pairc Naomh Mhuire's development brings to an end the utilisation of many sites throughout the parish by the club. The earliest of these sites was Beal an Leachtan, a flat plain of commonage adjacent to Drumloughan School. Ironically in contrast to the dominant position which football holds in the club at present, the first games played there were hurling. The teams consisted of twenty-one players a side and its said that the ball was wooden, using blackthorn hurleys instead of ash. Other sites used included Pat Doyles field and what was known as the Priests Hill, now the site of Cloone National School. Even the site of this new grounds in the thirties and forties was the venue for many great clashes between Cloone and such great rivals as Aughavas and Tully and also teams from North Longford including Drumlish and Killoe.

THE GRANGE

But the dominant venue for Cloone's games for the past fifty years has been the Grange. This unique natural playing pitch has been made available to the club through the generosity of its various owners. For the past twenty-five years its present owner Mr. John McGovern has sacrificed the obvious agricultural potential of the Grange in order that our club would have a suitable playing pitch.

The club however, realising that such accommodation could not be expected to last indefinitely, in 1976 decided to identify sites which could be developed into suitable playing accommodation. There were of course many options investigated and many late night sessions discussing the pros and cons of these options. However, by early January 1977 we had found the present site and its owner Charles Mitchel willing to sell and the responsibility for completing the deal fell to Michael Joe Brennan, Michael Heslin and yours truly. We can now vividly recall our anxiety of how we might be able to



Seamus Shortt,
Club Chairman

repay what then appeared to be a hefty price. We were nonetheless relieved when the deal was complete even though that entailed going well over the quota which we had set.

Subsequent to the initial purchase a Park Committee was elected under the Chairmanship of Damian Brennan, the man who never accepted no for an answer; Pat Canning as Vice-Chairman, Gerard McGovern as Secretary; Michael Heslin, Assistant Secretary; P. J. Heeran and myself as Joint Treasurers, together with about twenty enthusiastic and dedicated Committee members completing the team.

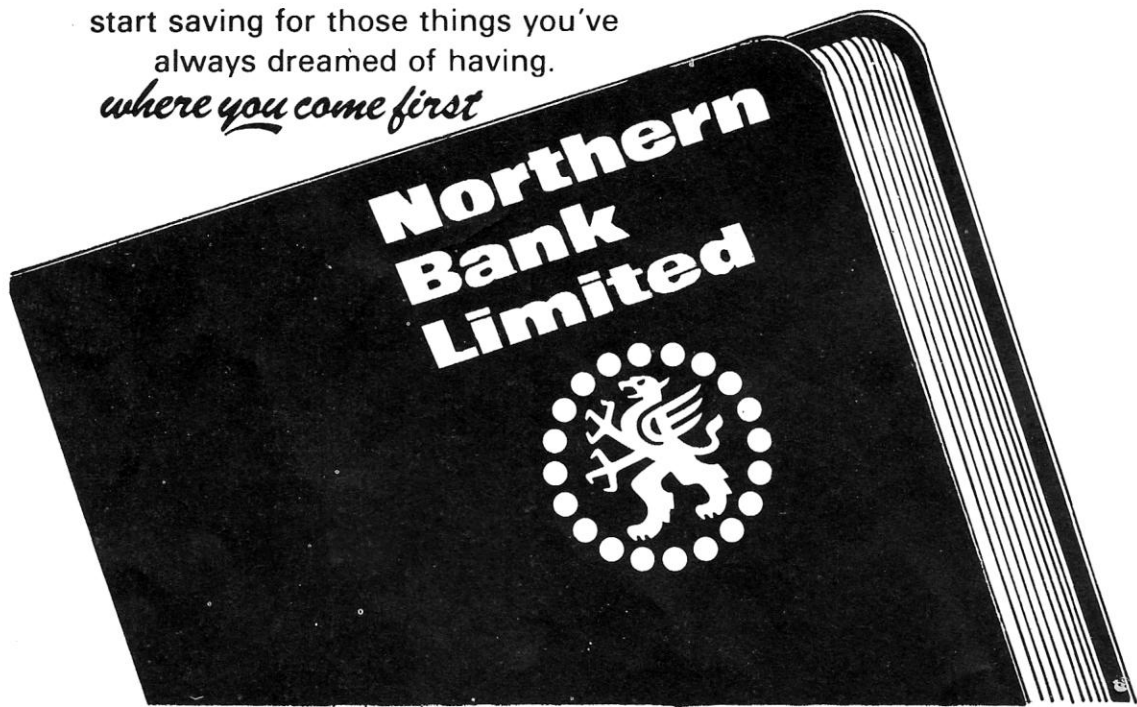
NOT A PENNY

Having started the project without a penny in the funds, the task to some at least, appeared insurmount-

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start saving for those things you've
always dreamed of having.

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able but straight away the target was set to erase the total purchase cost within a twelve month period.

The fund raising campaign was in full swing straight away and all concerned were heartened by the tremendous response to our house to house collection within the parish and indeed many other subscribers came from surrounding parishes as well as from many Cloone migrants and immigrants.

Other fund raising activities included bazaars, sponsored walks and monster raffles that took us the length and breadth of Ireland. Under the firm directions of the master himself, each team of ticket sellers was designated a specific town or group of towns to sell in and woe-be-tide the man who failed to turn up. The main spring of this campaign centred around Doherty's mini-bus and if only that bus could talk what tales it would tell; like the Castleblaney sandwiches; the Tullamore exemption or the trip to Durrow. Backing up the bus was an army of cars scattered far and wide, with the P. J. Heeran and Bernie Canning coalition and their able female colleagues covering every opportunity from Bundoran to Bunlahey.

REWARD

The long drives and slippery roads were quickly forgotten and the great efforts of all concerned culminated in the happy position that less than one year later we had raised in excess of the purchase price.

By June '78 we had purchased a further one and a half acres from John McLoughlin which left the site surrounded by roads on three sides.

With the aid of a Youth Employment grant from the Department of Education we recruited ten workers in June '78 and commenced the development project with our club Secretary Gerard McGovern as works supervisor and Mr. Roger Doherty as land drainage advisor. In February '79 we received an additional Youth Employment grant and the project was completed in July '79. An amount of work remained to be done and this has now been completed as a result of the skilled workmanship of a small number of our club members who gave of their time on a voluntary basis.

To me the remarkable aspect of the project is the fact that apart from drainage levels taken by Roger Doherty and the initial levels of the site taken by a local engineer, we did not have an architect employed or even have a master plan of the project.

The credit, I feel, for the success of the project must go to the skilled workmanship of the employees and our



McManus Plant Hire with driver Michael Flynn and Michael Reilly operating the rotovator, assisted by from left to right, Seamus Shortt, John Francis Mulvey, Johnny McLoughlin, Andy McGovern, Peter Lennon, Sean Doherty, Gerard McGovern and Roger Doherty preparing the ground for final levels.

plant hire operators on the scheme, together with the day to day decisions of the Committee, not that consensus of opinion was always easy to achieve.

Looking back now on how it happened its true to say that even the most optimistic member of our club could never have envisaged that within a space of less than two years after the project began, we would now have a County grounds. In fact we originally set out to develop a club grounds and little did we think that such development would cost in excess of £60,000.

Like any other project this one will not be complete until it is paid for and the debt that remains after May 25th will remain the responsibility of our Committee to be repaid in the shortest possible time.

HISTORIC OCCASION

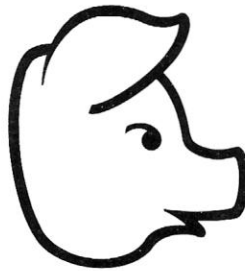
This is the most historic occasion which our club has experienced since its foundation and on behalf of the club I would like to express my thanks to everyone who made financial contributions to our funds. Also to all the people who supported unselfishly the money fund raising activities which we held and the many business firms who came to our assistance on so many occasions.

My thanks also to the officers of the Leitrim County Board who assisted and co-operated with us in every possible way.

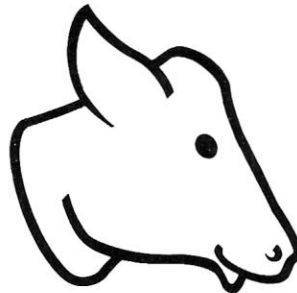
My greatest wish is that the facilities which Pairc Naomh Mhuire provides will contribute substantially to the development of our national games not alone within our club but also in our County and throughout the whole of Ireland.

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AR gCLUICHI AGUS AR dTEANGA

Nuair a bunaíodh Cumann Luth Chleas Gael in Ostan Ui Aodha i dTurlas Eile sa bhlian 1884 chuir se roimhe mar aidmeanna ar gcluichi fein, ar gcultuir agus ar dteanga fein a chur chun cinn ar fud na tire. Beagnach cead bhlian ina dhiaidh sin is feidir linn a ra go bhfuil ar gcluichi ag dul i neart in aghaidh na bliana, go bhfuil ar gcultuir beo fos ar a laighead, ach go bhfuil ar dteanga tinn agus i mbaol bhais.

Leis sin ina n-aigne shocraigh an t-Ard Comhairle C.L.G. cupla bhlian o shin ar rud eigin a dheanamh chun e sin a cheartu. Sileann roinnt maith dhaoine gurb ionainn sin agus bheith ag dunadh an dorais agus an capall imithe, mar a dearfa, ach is docha gur fearr deanach na go deo. 'Seard an rud a shocraigh siad air na Oifigi na Gaeilge a cheapadh do gach chondae agus mar is eol diobh togadh mise don phost i gCondae Liatroma anuraidh.

'Se an dualgas a cuireadh orainn na an teanga a aithbheocaint i measc na mball sa chondae agus co-oibru a dheanamh le h-eagrais eile ar fud on chondae ata ag deanamh sar -obair chun ar gcultuir agus ar dtradiisiun a choimead beo agus slaintuil. Taim ag iarraidh roinnt sceimeanna a chur i gcrích an bhlian seo agus ta plean deanta amach agam i gcoir na bliana ata ag teacht freisin. Faoi lathair taim ag solathair malai peile do na h-imreoiri i mbeagnach gach cumann sa chondae agus faoin am a leighidh sibh an giota seo beidh an chead bhuion diobh ar fail sna siopai. Ta na malai seo deanta i ndathanna na gclub, le suaitheantas C.L.G. agus ainm an chumainn orthu i nGaeilge. Ta suil agam go gcuirfidh se brod i ngach imreoir iad a iompair nuair ata a fhoireann ag imirt.

Freisin taimid ag cur roinnt buachailli oga chun an Ghaeltacht i gcoir tri seachtaine i mi luil seo chugainn. Ta na cumainn ag ioc leath an chostais. Taim cinnte go mbainfidh siad tairbhe as agus go mbeidh laethe saoire Gaelach acu chomh maith. Le co-oibru na gCumann bhfeidir go mbeimid abalta an sceim seo a leanuint agus a leathnu an bhlian seo chugainn.

Ta se ar intinn agam ranganna Gaeilge a chur ar bun



GEAROID O MATHUNA
Oifigeach Gaeilge
Coiste Liatroma

in aiteanna eagsula ar fud an Chondae san Fhómhair ionas go mbeidh seans ag gach duine, sean agus og, a bhfuil speis acu ann roinnt Gaeilge a fhoghlaim agus an meid ata acu a chleachtadh. Freisin ta roinnt socráithe deanta agam chun Domhnach Gaeilge a bheith againn sa chondae nios deanai sa bhlian. Ma ta einne ag leamh an ghiota seo a bheadh toiltineach beagainn cabrach a thabhairt dom chun an la seo a eagra bheinn buioch glaoch a fhail uathu. Ta moran eile gur feidir a dheanamh da mbeadh an t-am agus an co-oibru agam agus ma ta smaointe ag einne faoi rud ar bith a chuirfeadh an Ghaeilge chun cinn ba mhaith liom iad a chloisteail.

Ag an bpointe seo ba mhaith liom mo bhuiochas a ghabhail le Seamus Mac an Gheairr, Cathaoirleach Chumainn Cluain Conmaicne ceist na Gaeilge a phle libh ar an ocaid stairiul seo agus bhfeidir spiorad na Gaeilge a mhuscailt aris i measc muintir Liatroma. Mo chomhghairdeachas d'oifigi, imreoiri agus lucht leanuna Chluain Conmaicne ar an sar-obair ata deanta acu sa pharoiste sios na blianta ar son chumann Luth Chleas Gael. An fhad ata daoine mar seo againn ni baol dar gcluichi, dar dtradiisiun no dar dteanga.

Gearoid O Mathuna,
Oifigeach na Gaeilge.



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IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

You could walk from The Grange to St. Mary's Park in less than a minute. But it's really a walk into a new age. Into the age of the dressing rooms, showers, wire enclosures, scoreboards, masseurs, physiotherapists, broadcasting boxes, team managers, all-weather sods, coaches and carparks. The honest to God days of places like The Grange are at an end. Its called progress, but will football ever be the same? Will we be gripped with the same fever that gripped the hearts in The Grange, in Holohan's Bottoms, in Ardrum Rock, in Legonommar, in Laheen or The Sraitheen?

Players don't walk or cycle anymore. No more boots round the handlebars with the flour bag togs and the odd socks. We have kit bags, replacement cogs, bri-nylon socks and togs, track suits, chewing gum, muscular spray, towels and elasticated bandages. No one has to ask for a spare lace or a spare left boot, no one stands in goal in his trousers. Players nowadays come fully furnished, with all mod cons. And the Secretary distributes the properly numbered newly washed — or newly sponsored jerseys. The only thing we seem to be missing is the cap. The cap seems to have gone out with Peter McDermott and Michael 'Red' Moran. On its odd appearance now its of the baseball variety.

With the new rig-outs we appear to have introduced new injuries. In the old days your leg was broken or it was ok. Now we talk of pulled hamstrings, displaced cartilages and damaged achilles tendons. Hubie Doherty's magic bottle of cold tea had the cure for any injury whether of head, neck, chest, abdomen or limb — (how Hubie must be bragging in heaven today about Cloone's new pitch) but the magic bottle is no more. It's the masseur or physiotherapist with aerosol can or the tube of deep heat.

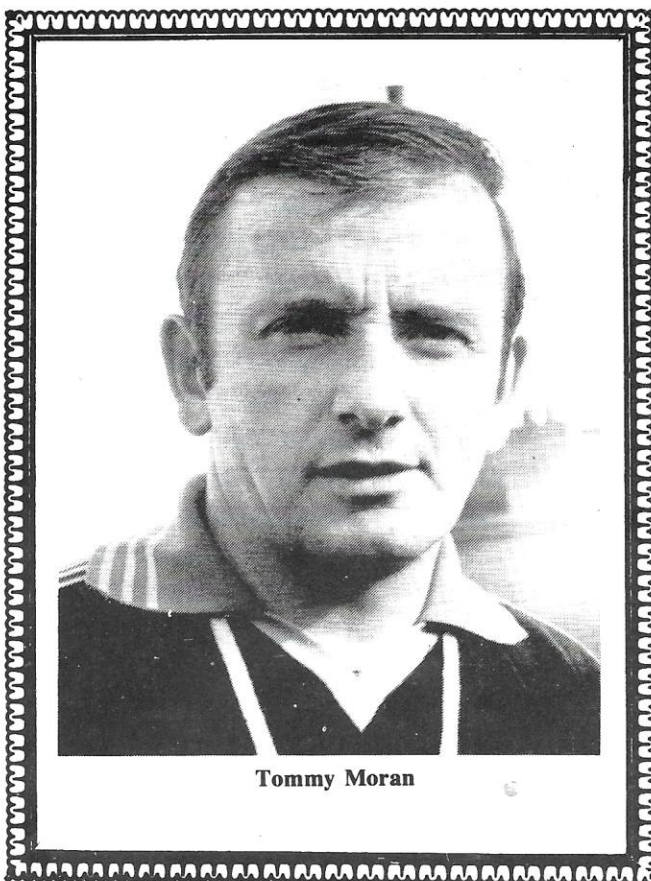
Jack Bohan remarked that they had no showers in his time, not the artificial ones anyway. A clump of grass rubbed off the cow dung — anything else was only clean dirt and it could wait till you got to the barrel at the end of the house. You had no dressing room either — your trousers, waistcoat, shirt, undershirt, shoes and socks were rolled in a ball in your tag coat and stuffed in a dry spot in the hedge. But then, you hadn't paid seventy pounds for a suit, fifteen for a shirt or twenty one fifty for your shoes.

Yes, things have changed and all over Ireland we are saying goodbye to the buachallans and the buttercups, to the zig zag sidelines and the chair at the gate. The

GAA is moving with the times. Clubs realise that modernisation is not a fad but a necessity and that proper presentation of games is a top priority.

The Cloone club has certainly set a high standard for Leitrim and every Cloone person can be justly proud today. The pitch and dressing rooms, the car park and boundary walls are not built solely of sand and cement. They are built of many years of voluntary effort; of late nights and of long hours; of intensive fund raising and of detailed planning; of sweat and worry and of a dogged will to succeed. And succeed they have.

And when the cheers echo around St. Mary's Park today, they'll re-echo through The Grange and from The Grange to every Cloone man around the world and to great Cloone Gaels like Hubie Doherty who are no longer with us, but who are watching the games today from their Hogan Stand above.



Tommy Moran

To-Day



LIATHROIM



S. Creamer
S. Mac Threindir
S. McManus
S. Mac Manais

S. Mulhern
S. O Maoilchiarain

M. Martin
M. O Mairtin
F. Smyth
P. Mac Gabhann

P. Donegan
P. O Donnagain
L. Flynn
L. Mac Floinn
O. Honeyman
O. O Honeman

G. Logan
G. O Logain
D. McNulty
D. Mac An Ultaigh

M. Quinn
M. O Cuinn

M. Duignan
M. O Duigeanain
J. Reynolds
S. Mac Raghnaill

J. Flynn
S. O Floinn
L. Kelly
L. O Ceallaigh

Subs: T. Larkin, N. Mahon, C. Loughlin, T. McKenna, P. McPartlin, S. Crossan, J. Holohan, G. Reynolds, E. Duignan.



LONGFORT



L. Connerton
L. O Connachtain
T. Gill
T. Mac Ghoill

G. Crowe
G. MacConchra
L. Tierney
L. O Tiarnaigh

D. Mullooly
D. O Maoilshuiligh

P. McGrath
P. Mac Craith
J. Barnes
G. O Bearain
J. J. Orohoe
S. S. O Murchain

S. O'Shea
S. O Se
P. Kiernan
P. Mac Thiarnan

C. Smyth
C. Mac Gabhan

M. Kenny
M. O Cionaoith
N. Jones
N. Mac Seoin

R. Culhane
R. O Cathlain
P. Mullooly
P. O Maoilshuiligh

Subs: H. Smyth, M. McGrath, D. Connerton, P. J. Rhattigan, F. Kennedy, D. Sheridan, P. Carberry, J. Noonan, M. Casey, J. Martin, P. O'Brien.

Teams

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ROSCOMAIN ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

H. Keegan
A. Mac Aogain
G. Connellan
G. O Conallan

S. Hayden
S. O h-Eideain

G. Watson
G. Mac Uait
M. Freyne
M. de Frein

G. Sheerin
G. O Siorain
P. Lindsay
P. O Loingsigh
T. Donlon
T. O Donallain

M. Dolphin
M. O Doilfin
D. Earley
D. O Mochair

J. O'Gara
S. O Gadhra

T. Heneghan
T. O h-Eineachain
D. Murray
D. O Muirithe

A. Dooley
A. O Dulaoic
E. McManus
E. Mac Manais

Subs: J. McDermott, D. Newton, J. McManus, M. McDermott, G. Emmet, M. Menton, J. J. Cattigan.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ AN CABHAN ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

F. Dolan
P. O Dubhlain
J. Reilly
S. O Raghallaigh

A. King
A. O Cionga

P. MacNamee
P. Mac Conmhidhe
D. Donohue
D. O Donnchu

A. Elliot
A. O Elliot
J. J. Martin
S. S. O Mairtin
O. Brady
O. O Bradaigh

M. Hetherton
M. O h-Eithertan
C. O'Keeffe
C. O Caoimh

J. Dillon
S. O Dioluin

J. Fay
S. O Feich
P. McGill
P. Mac Giolla

R. Cullivan
R. Mac Conluan
S. Cole
S. Mac Comhail

Subs: G. Sheridan, S. Leddy, O. Martin, O. Leddy, B. O'Grady, P. Martin, M. Faulkney

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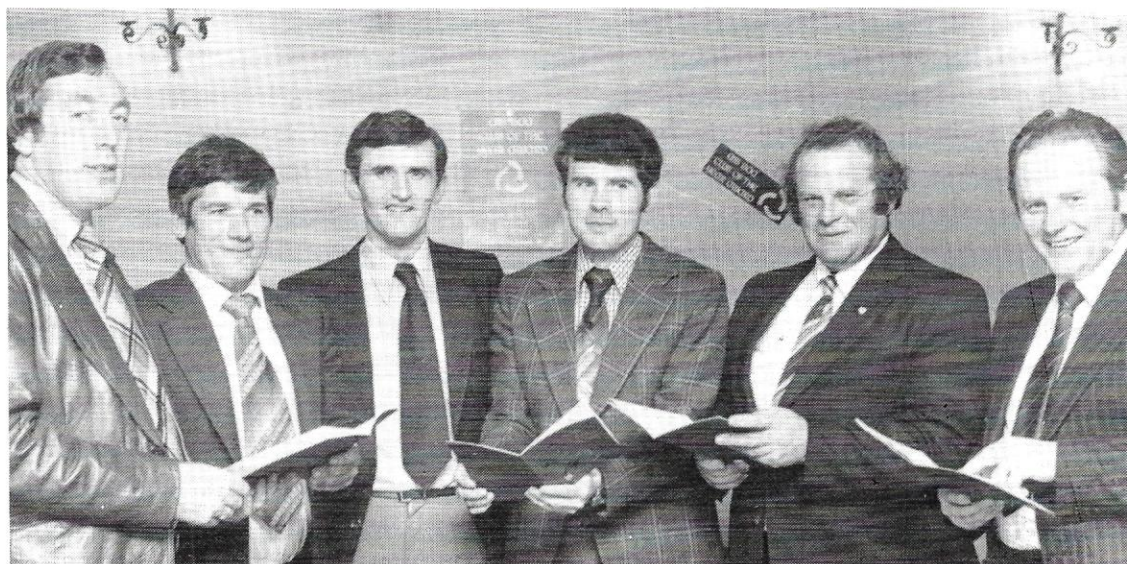
“BUALA BOS” DIBH MUINTIR CLOONE

When the success of a National cultural movement is measured, there is no doubt that this success depends entirely on the amount of energy, life and enthusiasm generated in the small community. If one were to spend a long time excavating, I am sure there is nowhere in this country that this success could be seen more evident than in the living memorial that the united grassroots GAA people of Cloone have put before the many hundreds of people who have come here to be part of this historic day in the life of the people of Cloone.

In Cork they talked of the spirit of “The Glen” but here in Leitrim we have a spirit that equals the best, and nowhere has that cultural spirit blossomed more brightly than in the parish and community of Cloone. The GAA club itself has been in existence since nearly the founda-

tion of the Association, 1911 being their first Senior County Championship success, and even the people of my own mountain area of Aughnasheelin will say, no Leitrim team is complete or right without a Cloone man on it. Their golden years of success of the forties speak for themselves, seven out of ten senior Leitrim Championship titles. The Gaelic football and way of life was not the only cultural spirit that thrived in Cloone, indeed legend has it that the first ever Ceili Band the Cloone Ceili Band was formed in Cloone in 1932. The work later for Irish music and games by Father Confrey from 1936 is another memory of pride for the people of Cloone.

All this and much more gave tradition and spirit to the present generation of Cloone people, who in 1977 decided for the generation present and to come to pur-



Pictured at the launching of the A.I.B. G.A.A. Club of The Year Scheme — (Left to right): Shay Reynolds, Co. Registrar, Michael McGirl, Leitrim Team Manager, Kevin Carmody, Asst. Manager, A.I.B. Ballinamore; Arthur Boyle, Leitrim P.R.O.; Sean Maxwell, Co. Board Treasurer; John Mulligan, Carrigallen.

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PAT BEIRNE, MANAGING DIRECTOR

*Congratulations to Cloone G.A.A.
on the opening of their new park*

chase land and develop a pitch. This huge undertaking for a small area, with its now superb developed pitch, dressing rooms and other amenities at the huge cost of £65,000 needed grit of the highest quality to succeed. To me and many more here the trump card of achievement lay. Carnivals, raffles, fund raising of every kind was undertaken. The success of their draw last winter with a profit of £5,000 was something that had to be seen to be believed, old men and women, busy housewives, children, farmers, shopkeepers and people of every walk of life in the area going all over Ireland in cold, frost and rain to sell tickets. The draw in December was an occasion one was proud to attend and see the unselfish desire of all to work to the last, for the ultimate success of ones fellow neighbour.

This community of unity is an example to the whole Association, and indeed to everyone on this Island of every colour, class and creed. The Positive attitude is also an example to us all. The naming of the park "Naomh Mhuire" is further proof of that positive unity. Men like Hubert Doherty, 31 years Registrar of the Leitrim County Board, R.I.P. would be proud of the people of his area. Leo McAlinden, Leitrim Central Council delegate for a quarter of a century, must feel a proud man today. Other names like P. J. Heeran, Shortts, Brennans, Higgins, Beirnes, McGoverns and the third generation of Dohertys are but a few of the greats who have made this day possible.

The club is also unique in that a member of their team that won the Leitrim Intermediate Championship was the first Senior League of Ireland Soccer player in the

country to win a GAA championship medal in 1972, after the removal of the Ban. The man, Jim Sheridan and his wife Patricia lived and still talk of the hospitality and their love for the people of Cloone. He was to captain his team Finn Harps to win the F.A.I. Cup the following year, a triumph shared in spirit by the people of Cloone.

The tradition and spirit generated by the people of Cloone down the years gave light to the present project. It is everyones hope that the generations to come in that area will carry on that spirit of Gaelic games and culture, in the positive way that the sons of Cloone past and present have done. Looking recently at their Under 21 team play in such a team like manner, they need have no fears for the future. Sons of formers legends like Heerans (twins), Doherty, Moran, Higgins, give the encouraging sign and hope for the future success. I congratulate you, and I ask you the present adults to remember the deceased and older hereos, and all the community who have helped and given you the spirit to do what you have done. To the under age players and youth, who are tomorrows adults don't forget the work the people of Cloone have done to provide you with a playing pitch and facilities for the future, you will be the people who will benefit most. Your memorial in the future to todays adults will be to play the Gaelic games and support the culture in a positive and unifying fashion.

Guim linn go mbeidh Dhia linn an Tam go leir. "Buala Bos" dibh Muintir Cloone.

Arthur Boyle, P.R.O.
Leitrim County Board GAA.



LEITRIM SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM 1978

Front row (left to right): N. Maxwell, S. Creamer, J. Reynolds, D. Meehan (Capt.), S. Layden (R.I.P.), M. Quinn, J. Holohan. Back row (left to right): M. Kiernan, F. Holohan, M. Tighe, L. Kelly, N. Crossan, L. Flynn, B. Wrynn, P. McPartland. This was Sean Laydens last appearance with the Leitrim team in Ballina versus Mayo. Ar dheis de go raibh a anam.

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on the opening of their new park*

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My first test of Secretaryship came in 1970 when I was elected to a position vacated by Michael Heslin, a man who through his honest efforts and hard work, kept the GAA alive during many lack lustre years.

When accepting the position I didn't envisage retaining it for ten years and indeed there were many times when I felt like retiring, but somehow I was prevailed upon to remain in office.

In the early Seventies football was at a very low ebb. Defeat seemed to be Cloone's lot during 1970 and in 1971 we participated in a newly inaugurated Intermediate Championship which proved a real fiasco as only two teams participated and unfortunately the other team, Melvin Gaels, won.

Cloone were not set back by this defeat and approached 1972 with an air of enthusiasm. Cloone reached the final of the Championship against old rivals Aughavas and as was traditional with all Cloone/Aughavas encounters, there was the usual element of parish rivalry.

Cloone won the game and made history for the club in winning it's first Intermediate Championship. This victory will be remembered not alone for its football qualities but also for the fact that two members of the Cloone team i.e. Damian and Kieran Brennan travelled all the

BY GERARD McGOVERN

Ten Years As Secretary~~

way from New York for the game and caused somewhat of a surprise when they took their places at right and left half forward.

This victory which was the result of many years dedication both by players and club officials was really the injection the club needed. Cloone was now a Senior team playing against the top teams but the step was too much and after one year, were back to Intermediate grade once more.

While this was an unsuccessful year on the playing field it was also a tragic year for the club as one of it's regular playing members, Aidan Foley lost his life as a



The Aidan Foley Cup and Trophies — Left to right: Pat Monaghan, Treasurer; Seamus Shortt, Chairman; George O'Toole, Chairman Leitrim County Board and Gerry McGovern, Secretary.

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result of an accident. Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a anam.
1974 was a more successful year as Cloone won the Intermediate League and contested the Championship final without success. This final with Cloone and Fenagh will be remembered as one of the best games of that year even surpassing its Senior counterparts.

Cloone were now on the upward trail and in 1975 were firm favourites to win the Championship. Aided by the return of one of our former stalwarts, Brendan Moran, we defeated Ballinamore in the first round of the Championship but as is typical of Ballinamore they came back through the losers group and defeated us in the semi-final by the narrowest of margins. This game will always be remembered as the one Cloone should have won and it is by far the nearest Cloone came to winning a Senior Championship during the '70's.

Cloone's fortune continued on this level during the next few years. We reached the semi-final once again in 1976 but were defeated by Aughawillian, the eventual winners.

We had to wait until 1978 for another success when

we won the Senior League Division II final. Back in Senior grade once more we made quite an impact on the Senior League and reached the semi-final of the Championship but were once again defeated by Gortletteragh.

Cloone had as good players as any other club in Leitrim during the Seventies but somehow lady luck always seemed to desert us at the most crucial stages. One encouraging factor for the club is that we have had for the last two years, underage teams who would hold their own with any in Leitrim and I have no doubt that with the facilities our new park and dressing rooms provide, those underage teams will bring back much needed Championship success to the parish.

As is generally recognised the future of a club is assessed by the strength of its underage teams and this is borne out by the fact that most of the successful teams of the early Seventies had won Championship medals either at Under 16 or Minor level during the '60's and with this in mind we look forward to Championship successes during the 1980's.

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FATHER PETER CONEFREY, "THE PRINCE OF CLOONE"

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Of the parish priests of Cloone in recent times one of the most remarkable was Father Peter Conefrey, distinguished alike for his personal holiness, for his zeal as a pastor and preacher, and for his practical interest in the social problems of rural life.

When a young priest in Athlone he walked the streets barefooted in reparation for public scandals and on more than one occasion he undertook the long journey to Loch Derg on foot, most of the way without shoes or stockings. Later as curate in Killoe and Dromard and more especially as parish priest of Cloone, he devoted much of his time and energy to social problems, especially to the revival of the older ways of country life, in food, in dress and in amusements.

The "Feiseanna" promoted by him in furtherance of these objects became famous and his voice was frequently heard on radio promoting the same cause.

Father Peter, as he was affectionately known, had a

very forceful and colourful personality and his name will long be remembered in Cloone. For some years before his death he walked with a painful limp, due to a riding accident which, however, in no way lessened his pastoral activities. His death came rather suddenly on the 24th April 1939, and his funeral evoked a striking manifestation of respect. His remains were interred at Farnought, in the parish of Gortletteragh.

During his pastorate Father Conefrey provided the church in Cloone with a fine marble altar and other necessary equipment. He also acquired as a home for the curate a suitable residence near the village which had once served as a Protestant rectory. This fine house with a small farm of seven acres was bought for the modest sum of £750.

Father Peter Conefrey, "The Prince of Cloone", was parish priest of Cloone from 1933 to 1939.

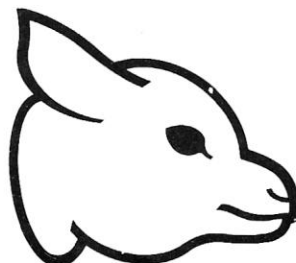


The Leitrim County Convention 1957. Front row, 2nd from left, Hubert Doherty R.I.P., County Registrar for 31 years. 2nd from right, Leo McAlinden, Central Council Representative for 25 years.

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CLOONE AND '98

The 1798 rebellion and the belated expedition of French troops under General Humbert which landed at Killala inspiring hope, once again, in Irish hearts that freedom might be achieved but ending in disastrous defeat at Ballinamuck, left an indelible mark on the history of Cloone.

On the evening of September 7th 1798, Humbert and the French Army arrived in Cloone, together with the Irish who had joined them on the way from Killala. Peter Kilkenny, Sunnaghbeg, has written an account of their activities in Cloone. He got much of his information from John Clancy, Faughill who died in July 1936 aged eighty seven.

According to Mr. Clancy many of the ordinary people didn't take much part in the 1798 war because they were too much afraid. There were many Yeomen in Cloone and Aughavas at the time and they used to be out nearly every night and they had the people terrorised. They

BY DAMIEN BRENNAN

knew everything that was happening in the area. People were afraid to speak about the times even at their own firesides because the country was full of spies. The people had no one to lead them and there were not so many priests to advise them either. There was only one priest in Cloone and Aughavas. His name was Fr. Anthony Gregory Dunne. He was educated in France and could speak French fluently. The people in the United Irishmen were mostly the journeymen workers, the weavers and the blacksmiths. Sunnaghmore was always a great place for the journeymen and there were more rebels there in 1798 than in any other place around. The travelling masters were also in the United Irishmen and they always had a hedgeschool in Sunnaghmore. But the ordinary people were too much afraid to have anything to do with it.

Mr. Clancy claimed also that the people around here never cared too much for the French. Long before 1798 they used to come over here recruiting for the French Army. They were terribly lazy fellows who hated work but expected the best bit and drop in the house. They

would sleep all day and local people called them "lazy cojoys".

It is said that when the French advance party arrived in Cloone that evening Purdon West, a Protestant landowner who owned most of Cloone at that time and Fr. Dunne were walking up and down the town. Fr. Dunne spoke to one of the officers in French and they had a long chat. West left them and it is supposed that he sent a message to the English in Mohill that the French were in Cloone. After a time the main body under Humbert came into the town. The local men pointed out West's house to Humbert and told him the kind of man he was — a spy and a base immoral tyrant. Humbert set a gun on the hill at the Protestant Church and trained it on West's house to knock it and and trained another gun on a house in Drumdarkin that belonged to West's brother, Johnny. West implored Humbert to spare the house but all to no purpose. He then asked Fr. Dunne to intercede for him and Humbert relented after Fr. Dunne told him that he had very little chance of winning and if the house was destroyed it would go very hard on the poor Catholics of the area when the French were gone.

West was so thankful that he offered the hospitality of his house to Humbert and the French officers. They had a great night by all accounts. West gave them plenty to drink and his two daughters danced and sang for them all night long. There seems to be a difference of opinion as regards the location of the French camp on the night. It was widely believed that they camped in what has since become known as the Camp Field, opposite the new Roman Catholic Church but another well-supported theory is that they camped on the hill where the Protestant Church now stands.

Another event that is surrounded by speculation is the disappearance of the chains which the French used for pulling their heavy guns. One story is that the chains were brought into West's house that evening and covered with hay on the kitchen floor. Another theory is that they were left in an outhouse and covered with hay and yet another story is that they were placed at the face of a turf stack and covered with turf mould.

West had two workmen, one a Catholic named Keegan and the other a protestant from County Cavan. One of the workmen disposed of the chains on West's orders. It was believed that he threw them into a draw-

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well in the yard. Again it was said that when Humbert and the French officers were asleep West's two daughters disposed of the chains. The well was searched later but no chains were found. One story was that after the French were gone, the chains were taken from the well and brought over to West's brother's house in Drumdar-kin where they were broken up and pieces given to Protestant families in the area. Another story was that they remained in the well for more than one hundred years at which time they were resurrected and bought by a blacksmith from Mohill named Devine.

There were others who claimed that it was all hurry and fuss in Cloone next morning and that the French themselves forgot where they left the chains. The English were following them up from Mohill and nearly managed to cut them off at Keeldra that morning. Whatever the exact details of their disappearance were, the loss of the chains was a severe blow to the French.

There was great activity and excitement in Cloone that morning. The people turned out with all kinds of food in baskets and creels, potato cakes, milk and everything the soldiers needed. A lot of people went the whole way to Ballinamuck to carry their supplies. They got sheets and ropes and drew the heavy guns and carriages out of the town but the progress was too slow and the English were behind them. So Humbert decided to leave the heavy guns and carriages behind and he dumped them on the hill at Keeldra.

The hillsides were covered with people watching and cheering the army as they marched along. The story is told of a tragic happening on Rocullion Hill that morning just over Keegan's house. Pat Mulligan from Camber rode his horse out to Rocullion to see the French pass

but they were gone when he arrived and instead it was the English who were passing at the time. He thought they were the French and he took off his hat and began to cheer. They fired on him and shot him dead on the side of the hill.

The defeat of the French at Ballinamuck on September 8th 1798 was followed by a period of harsh suppression and cruel reprisals by the British Yeomen against the people of this area. The French were treated as prisoners of war but the Irish were put to death. Many stories were told of local incidents after the battle. One such story tells of the killing of a wounded croppy coming home from the battle of Ballinamuck. His name was O'Rourke and he came from Goradice, near Ballinamore. He and his father had fought at Ballinamuck where his father was killed and he himself was wounded. The boy's sister had followed them to Ballinamuck and she carried home her dead father to Ballinamore, where she buried him. The brother was not too badly wounded and he told his sister that he would be home in a few days..

He struggled along from house to house, getting food as he went and lying out at night. It wasn't safe to stay in a house at night because the Yeomen were searching the area. He struggled on as far as Drumloughan but he fell very sick there so he lay at night in a cock of hay at Ballyknockan and the people brought him out food. The Yeomen came along and they heard that he was in the haycock. They surrounded it and riddled it with bullets, killing the poor croppy. When they were gone the people came out and buried him on the verge of that very hill surrounding Ballyknockan, and there he awaits the judgement day.



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SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN BALLYKNOCKAN

BY DAMIEN BRENNAN

One of the most famous and historical venues for sporting activities in the parish of Cloone was Ballyknockan, an extensive flat commonage along the banks of the Cloone river near Drumloughan school.

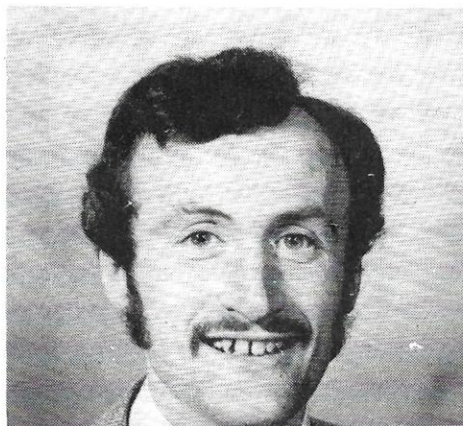
One hundred and fifty years ago South Leitrim people gathered there to play hurling. Football was not played much in those days as people did not like it but the hurling then was a grand game. Every man made his own stick and some of them were terrible looking weapons. A man from Drumloughan named Clancy was said to have a stick, he made out of bog oak, which was about 8 ft. long with a caimin as big as a pot lid. He was a famous hurler and many a hard game he played in Ballyknockan. They say he could bring the ball from one ditch to the other no matter how many were against him.

The ball or "crig" as they called it, was made out of bog oak and a stroke from it caused severe injury. There were no goalposts and the "bearie" or score consisted in putting the ball in the ditch at each end of a field. There was very little handling of the ball unless from a catch in the air. But Clancy would very seldom catch it. No matter how fast it was going he could hit again and make it go faster. When it would be coming near the ditch for a score the opposing team would form a line and attempt to prevent the score by dint of strength but it was said that Clancy often put ball and men into the ditch.

Tradition tells us that hurling was stopped here because of "party fights". When some of the great party fighting families came to play it always turned to a fight and it is a wonder to God that hundreds were not killed. Heads were split, arms were broken and men went home in their gores of blood.

The last hurling match played in Ballyknockan was before the famine between the Monaghans and the Keegans. At the same time there was an election and the match was not long started when they began to fight and there was terrible slaughter. After that the priest in Cloone stopped the hurling and made all the men of the district burn their hurleys.

As many men as liked could play and they came from all parts — Ballinamuck, Carrigallen, Ballinamore, Mohill etc. After Mass on Sunday the young men put their sticks under their arms and often travelled ten miles to Ballyknockan to play. When a batch landed they



Damien Brennan, Park Committee Chairman

looked at the run of play and whatever side seemed to be getting the worst of it they went to help that side.

After the hurling was over men engaged in other forms of athletic sports — wrestling, casting, running and jumping. The story is told that a man called Pat McKiernan from Sunnaghmore jumped twenty eight feet in Ballyknockan with his shoes on.

Ballyknockan was certainly the place to be for a Sunday afternoon of high quality entertainment one hundred and fifty years ago.



Frank Donnelly, Cloone, Chairman
Leitrim G.A.A., New York

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HOW TO JOIN — Subscription is £12 a year payable in advance or at £1 a month, payable before 10th of each month — by cash or cheque to your local club collector — by Bankers standing order. Further particulars contact County Co-Ordinator, Thomas Flynn, Kiltyhugh, Ballinamore, 'phone Ballinamore 148.

DRAW — Draw takes place on 15th of each month. Results published in National daily newspapers on 18th. County draw takes place at County Board meetings and results published in local press.

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“Cead Mile Failte” for the Artane Boys Band

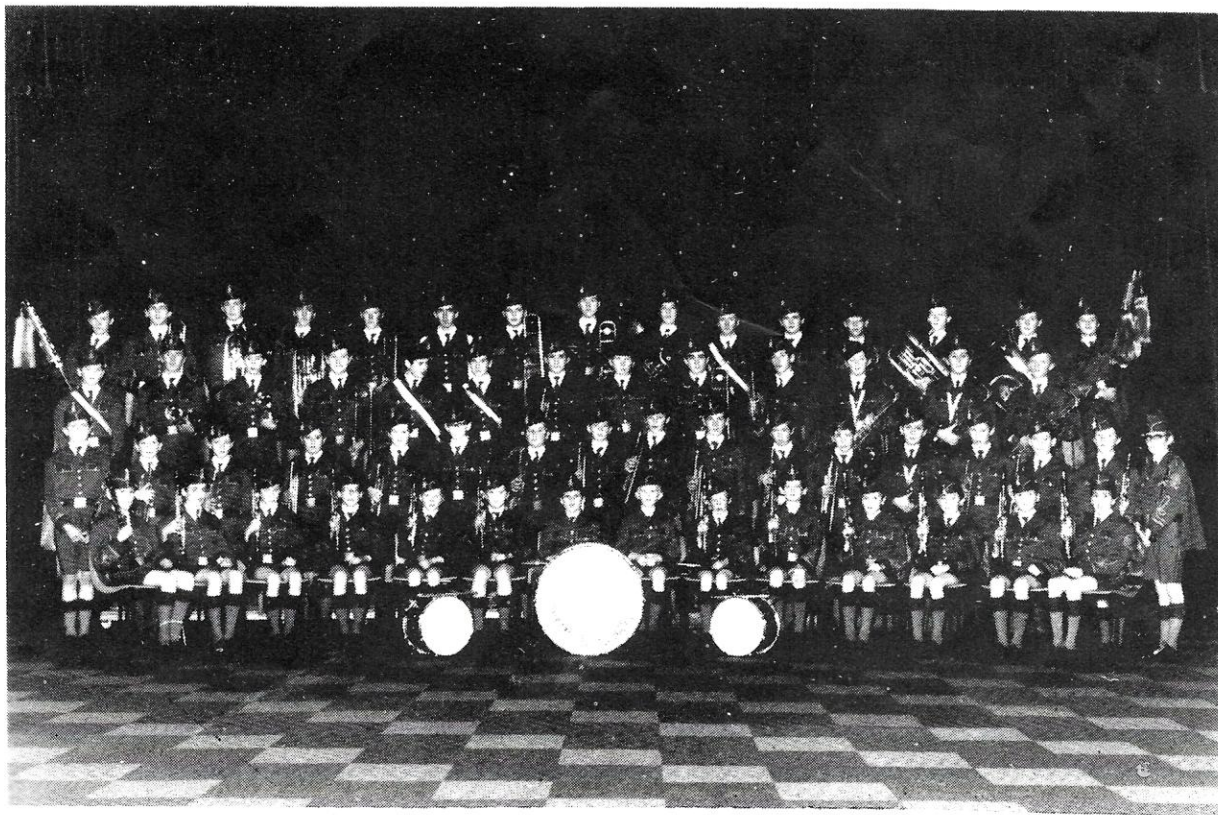
The Artane Boys Band, the “Biggest Little Band in the World” was founded in 1872 by the Irish Christian Brothers and in 1874 gave its first public performance for the then Prince of Wales, on the school lawn.

Since then the band has become known and loved the world over. Each year these young boys thrill countless thousands of people with their brilliant musicianship and fine figure-marching. People who see and hear these boys perform are astonished to learn that their average age is only 13½ years.

It is probably true to say that the band’s reputation

was mainly achieved through their annual appearances in Croke Park at the All-Ireland hurling and football finals. What a stirring sight it is to see the Parade of the Teams before the big game, with the Artane Boys Band, in their beautiful uniforms and flowing capes, marching around Croke Park followed by the competing teams in their distinctive county colours, with the cheers of thousands of supporters resounding through the vast stadium

What a lot of people do not realise, however, is that the appearances of the band in Croke Park form only a



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'PHONE: DROMOD 11 OR 38

small percentage of their annual programme. These boys give over eighty performances each year all over Ireland at concerts, parades, etc. Indeed, it is the rehearsing for the concert work which mainly helps to build up their fine musicianship. They learn to finger the difficult works of most of the leading composers of world renown, on instruments valued at over £30,000.

The band has performed outside Ireland on a number of occasions. Their very first foreign trip took place in 1884 when they went to London to play at the London Exhibition. It was not until 1958 that they again left the country, this time to Wembley Stadium, London, to play at the Gaelic Games during the Whit week-end. While in London they appeared on B.B.C. for "In Town Tonight."

In May, 1962 the band travelled to the U.S.A. and spent a fortnight there, giving concerts and recitals to packed houses in Boston and New York. On arrival in Boston they were given a civic reception and appeared on television conducted by Arthur Fielder, conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The band also had the honour of playing for the late Cardinal Cushing and President John F. Kennedy and also for Princess Grace of Monaco.

When Bing Crosby visited Ireland in September, 1961, the Artane Boys Band played for him at Dublin Airport. After hearing them he said: "I've never heard any band composed of youthful musicians play with such tone or expression."

In 1969 the Band suffered two major setbacks. On Saturday, February 15th, shortly after breakfast, a fire raged through the building housing the bandroom and the school theatre, completely destroying both. The fire completely destroyed all the band instruments, uniforms and music, together with the many fine trophies presented to the band over the years, including those received during the 1962 American trip. Much of the music destroyed was manuscript and was irreplaceable.

The band was now at its crossroads. Was it to bow out on its merits, which were many, or, like the legendary Phoenix, to rise literally from the ashes and out-shine even its former achievements? One person could supply the answer. Brother O'Connor did not let any grass grow under his feet. Before the day was out he had already obtained the permission of his Provincial, Brother E. D. Creed, to set about replacing the instruments, music and uniforms. On Saint Patrick's Day, March 17th, 1969, the band gave its usual splendid performance in Croke Park, not dressed in "capas, caps and short pants," but in blazers and slacks and playing their brand new instruments.

The second set-back suffered by the band in 1969 was the closing of the school itself as a centre for under-privileged boys. This set-back was also overcome and membership of the band is now comprised of boys from 20 schools in the north side of Dublin.

Boys are admitted from the age of nine years. Pupils first join the learners' class, from where he is promoted to the "second band." When a boy is finally admitted to the "first band" he knows that at last he has made the grade. It is a very proud day for him and for his parents who will now have an opportunity to see him perform in public as a member of the Artane Boys Band.

The standard of musical education achieved at Artane is exemplified by the very large numbers of past pupils now making their living at music, in symphony and light orchestras, Army and Police Bands, dance bands, and the Army School of Music. No doubt they will always remember with pride their membership of the Artane Boys Band.

Brother O'Connor, the Irish Christian Brothers and all those who have contributed to the success of the Artane Boys Band have earned our greatest admiration and gratitude. We in Cloone are highly honoured by the presence of the Artane Boys Band at the opening of our new G.A.A. Grounds.

BY DAMIAN BRENNAN

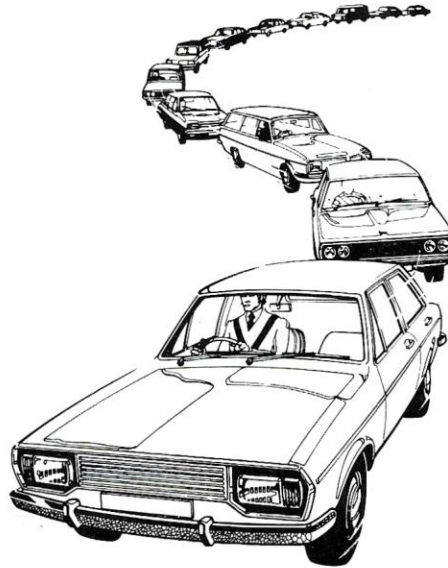


The Green Castle Ceili Band, Cloone. Michael Conboy, Paddy Kelly, Noel Sweeney, Patsy Doherty, Martin Sweeney.

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Haste my boys the blaze is up,
The Tostal final is gone by.
Cloone team won the Tostal final,
And they would win that final or die.
They have shown to their rivals
Their parish is still alive,
And they will uphold the blue and gold,
That is famed since 1935.
The 15th day of April in history we will mark,
When stalwart boys from Aughavas and Cloone,
Assembled in Mohill Park.
As they lined out on the field,
A credit for to see,
With the stewards in position,
And Larry Moran the referee.
The whistle it was sounded,
A warning to prepare,
The goalies then go back the field,
Take their position in the square.
The backs now in position,
A beautiful sight to behold,
Aughavas team in green and white,
Cloone team in blue and gold.
I would like to say a word,
In praise of Cloone's fifteen gallant men,
I suppose it is my duty,
And I better just begin.
Leo Kelly is goalie,
To no forward he will yield,
With his eyes on the invader,
From the square to centrefield.
The centrefull he is no way dull,
Jimmy McGarty he is the man.
He is flanked by J.J. Donoghoe,
And that stone wall boy McCrann.
The three half backs defy all attacks,
We heard of them before,
McLinden, Patsy Doherty,

And Mick Donnelly from Drumbore.
The centrefield they never yield,
And the ball is always theirs,
F.J. Tiernan, Charlie Dillon,
They are two electric hares.
The three quarter line is divine,
These men are tried and true,
Master Reynolds, young Mick Doherty,
And the ball of fire Silver McHugh.
Move a little bit further,
And I will tell you a little more,
Top of the left is Packie McGarty,
And he comes from Treanmore.
In the square P.J. Heeran
He is the pride of them all.
Top of the right you have the butcher,
With a shot like a cannon ball.
The game was a thriller,
With football of first class,
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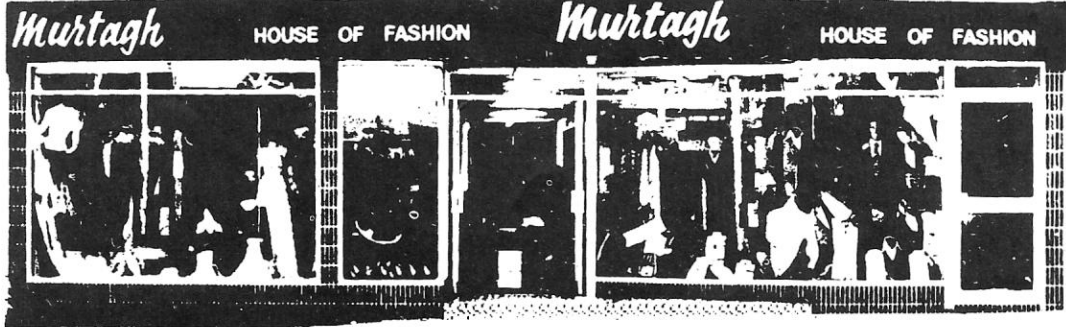
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