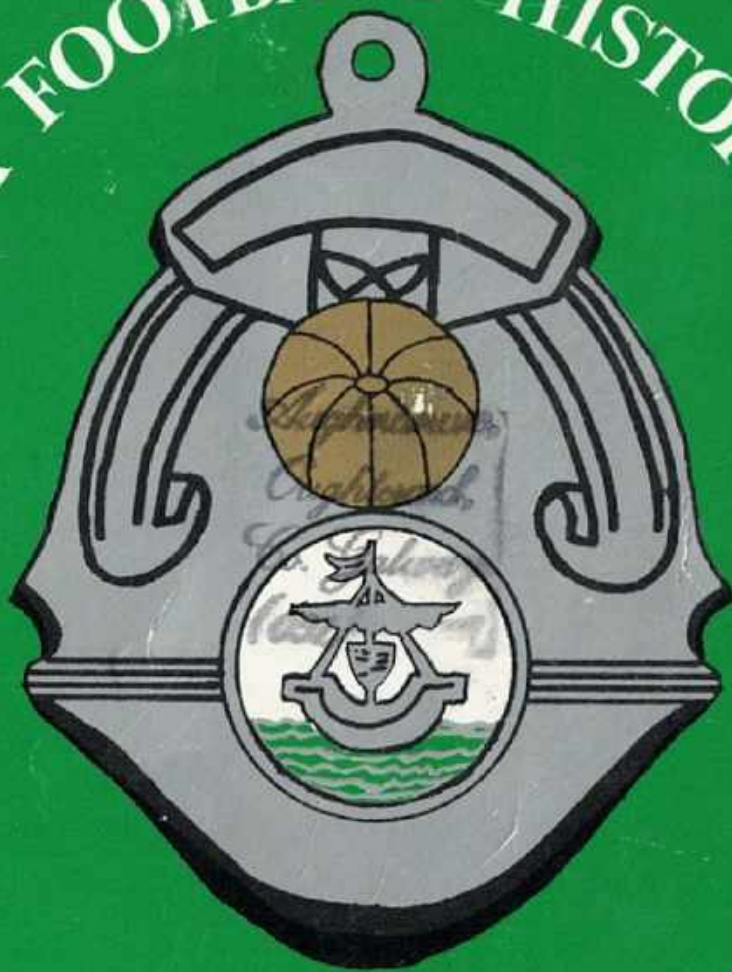


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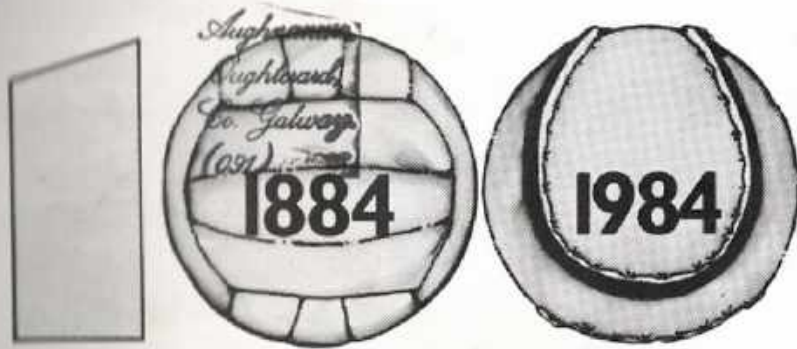
A FOOTBALL HISTORY



1908 - 1984



DOU



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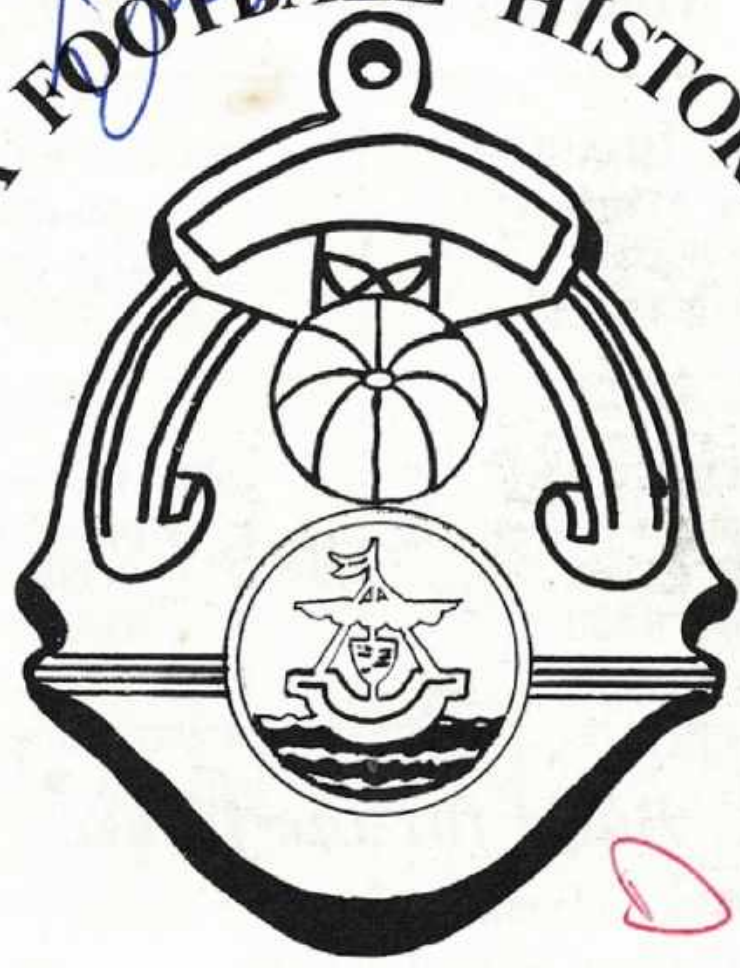
To mark the centenary



FOOTBALL HISTORY

Paddy Joyce

A FOOTBALL HISTORY



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CONTENTS

Foreword	5
The Early Years	7
The Triumphant Thirties	15
A Football Immortal	27
The Forties	33
The Connemara Bus	39
Tom Sullivan	41
A Man for All Club Seasons	45
The Unlucky Fifties	49
The Hurling Club	59
Playing For Oughterard	61
Juvenile Football 1959	63
Brian Geraghty — A Profile	64
The Lean Years	65
The Pitch	71
St. Paul's Secondary School	73
The Successful Seventies	75
The Michael O'Toole Memorial Cup	86
National School Games	87
The Sigerson Connection	90
The Exciting Eighties	92
Centenary Cup Final	99
Lá na gClub	101
Roll of Honour	102
Athletics	104
Oughterard Races	105
Gleanings	108

*Aughnanure,
Oughterard,
Co. Galway.
(091)*

EDITORIAL NOTE

In this concise history of the G.A.A. in Oughterard, the editorial committee have endeavoured to recall as many of the club's greatest and darkest moments as was humanly possible in a production of this size.

However we are only too well aware that we may have inadvertently omitted many names and days that individual readers would have seen as memorable. We would like to point out that the constraints of time, research facilities and space have, on occasion, forced us to make choices.

This club history is not, and never was, meant to be a chronological account of the Oughterard G.A.A.'s existence. Rather it was designed to present an overall and entertaining view of that history.

The editorial committee now feel that we have produced a book that serves a dual purpose — it gives a brief and yet sufficient account of the club's history and is also an entertaining and none too copious read. We hope you agree.

The five medals displayed on the cover are the county medals won by the club down through the years. Top of the left is the County Junior Captain's Medal won by John Joe D'Arcy (R.I.P.). Top of the right is the 1949 Co. Junior Medal won by Johnny Keogh. The medal in the centre is the 1938 Co. Senior Championship medal of Pat Gibbons. Bottom left is the Co. U21 Championship medal of Paddy Clancy and bottom right is the 1984 Intermediate Championship medal of Mike Walsh.

Design of the cover by: John T. Gibbons, Oughterard.



THE FINAL CHECK

Jimmy Duggan (Corrib Printers), Tom O'Sullivan, Gerry D'Arcy, Kevin Clancy, Oughterard and Johnny Kelly (Corrib Printers). Absent from photo David O'Connell.

FOREWORD

I am delighted and privileged to have been afforded this opportunity of writing the foreword to the history of Cumann Luth-Chleas Gael in Uachtar Ard.

According to existing records a cumann of CLG was founded in Uachtar Ard in the fall of 1908. It appears from research that there was an interest in CLG however even before this, as a man called J. H. Joyce, Oughterard represented the Barony of Ross at the County Conventions in 1895 and 1896.

To cover a local history which therefore spans over eighty years is indeed no light task of compilation and selection. We are greatly indebted to Kevin Clancy, Gerry D'Arcy, Tom O'Sullivan, David O'Connell and Michael Waters who so willingly gave of their time to ensure that the great achievements and great names of the past be recorded for posterity.

Of course a history of the GAA is about a lot more than the great occasions and the famous stars, and this book endeavours also to give due acclaim to those who served the club so faithfully during the barren years, and whose names would have appeared to have paled with the passing of time.

In paying tribute to those who compiled this book, we must also pay tribute to those who made it possible to have a history in the first place. Here I thank none more so than my predecessors as chairman of the club. To them more than most fell the task of keeping the club together through thick and thin.

Is tabhachtach an rud dúinn go léir é, a bhfuil spéis againn in ár gcluichí náisiúnta, go mbeadh ábhar tagartha agus pictiúirí ar fáil dúinn nuair a bhreathnuíonn muid siar ar bhóithrín na smaointe.

Is mór an tionchar agus an tabhachtacht atá ag CLG ar shaol na ndaoine sa pharóiste seo — it páirt dár gcultúr, dár dteanga agus dúinn féin é.

The whole atmosphere of the club in its infancy was recreated for me one night last winter by Mattie Clancy, when he recalled with great enthusiasm and pride the winning of the first county title in 1919; training at Gort an Uisce and Gort Mor; travelling to the venue by sidecar, boat or bicycle; the excitement; the tension; the winning; the quiet celebrations afterwards and the great players — ní bheidh a leithéidí arís ann.

Is iomaí scéal breá le h-inseacht agus éacht gan éarú le scríobh nách bhfuil breacuithe síos sa leabharín seo, ach a mhairfidh i mbéal na ndaoine go deó na ndeór. Is buan é an duine ina dhuiche féin.

Before I finish I would like to add a special word of thanks to our contributors. Of course Brian Geraghty, Bobby Curran and Ultan Macken are former members of the club, Frank Kyne has been keenly involved with the youth of the parish, but Jack Mahon and Jimmy Lydon are two who have seen Uachtar Ard through their learned and objective eyes.

Guím rath Dé oraibh go léir agus beannacht óm' chroí ar lucht léite an leabhair seo gura fada buan sibh.

Pádraig Feiritéar, Cathaoirleach.
Samhain 1984.

*Aughnanure,
Oughterard,
Co. Galway.
(091)*

THE EARLY YEARS

Genny P. Arce ✓

The Seamus O'Maille G.A.A. club of Oughterard is one of the oldest clubs in County Galway. Founded in 1908, it was then called the Oughterard G.A.A. club. Its founders included Fr. Fitzgerald P.P., Harry O'Toole, Hugh Walsh (Billamore), Colman King (Glann), Willie & Michael Logan (Maghera), Martin Walshe (Cregg), Bartley Conneely, John Conneely (Rusheeny). However games of football, hurling and other sporting events had been taking place for many years previous in the area. Hurling was played in Oughterard long before it reached many other parishes in County Galway. 21-a-side hurling teams played in a meadow called Leana Bhaire on the banks of the Owen Riff river. The meadow connects the townlands of Ceanrower, Claremount and Rusheeny.

At the inception of the G.A.A. in the 1880's there were three recognised teams in the parish, "Glann", "The Town" and a team from the outlying villages called "Fag an Bealach". In the early years of the G.A.A. Tipperary was one of the powerful football counties. It is very possible that a story regarding two Tipperary wood cutters working in Ross Woods near Oughterard as being the first men to bring the game of gaelic football to Oughterard. A woman presently living in Oughterard and now in her early 90's remembers one of their names as being Mahony. The most famous playing fields in those days were Pairc an Uisce (Waterfield) McDonagh's field and Corribdale close to where present day football in Oughterard is played.

Villages like Maghera, Rusheeny, Glann and Cloosh had recognised sports fields where teams competed in different events. Teams from Glann visited Maghera leaving their ponies and traps at Brian Walsh's house (Cloosh), playing Maghera in a nearby field where horse racing was also held.

Football matches against outside opposition were played near the waterfall in one of Josie McDonagh's fields or nearby in Pairc an Uisce which was owned by the Roe's and a charge of ten shillings (50p) was charged for the use of the field for a six month period. All the major games up to the mid twenties were contested in Waterfield or McDonagh's field. At that time football in Corribdale became more frequent and more players began to gather there. The area then used is what is now taken up with the car park and that area extending to the new dressing rooms. The game at that time was not governed by as many rules as nowadays and ones survival depended largely on how strong and fearless one was.

Some of the younger lads realised the dangers around them trying to compete with the stronger more ruthless players and decided to move to a new playing area further down the New Quay road.

The land belonged to the local landlord Jack O'Flaherty (Lemonfield Estate). He had no wish to have a second section of his land used for games, so having run off the players with his herdsman on more than one occasion, decided to call to his house some of the leading G.A.A. men in the area. Some of those involved were John Martin Melia, Sean Donnellan, Mattie Clancy (Portacarron), Sonny McQuinn (Eighterard), with whom it was agreed to officially grant permission to G.A.A. players to use the former playing area as long as a football team existed in Oughterard.



SEAMUS O'MAILLE

At a meeting of the club held on the last Sunday in May, 1926, it was unanimously agreed that the name of the club would from then on be called Seamus O'Maille Oughterard, in honour of Seamus O'Maille, a staunch member and player with the club up to his execution on April 11th 1923 in Tuam, Co. Galway. He distinguished himself as a player with the club on the 1919 championship winning side. Ar dheis De go raibh an anam.

The club founded in 1908, was 75 years old in 1983, waited 11 years for its first of many successes, winning the West Board Junior championship when defeating Athenry by 1-1 to 0-1, and going on to defeat the North Board champions Kilkerrin by the narrowest of margins 2-3 to 2-2.

The county final was played on Sunday 24th August 1919 at Carrogan, Headford. Players and supporters on that day made their journey by pony and trap to Knockferry, Collinamuck and crossed the Corrib. They cycled the third part and arrived at the pitch. The opposition did not look like making the appointment so the Oughterard players decided to play a challenge match against some local players. However the opposition did turn up very much behind time. The game, the original fixture, took place and that game gave the club its first County title. On that historic day Stephen Jordan (Athenry) was referee. A challenge was then offered to the Galway Senior football team by Oughterard but was not accepted. Oughterard's players in those days were coached by Rev. James Considine and Rev. Cawley. The sole survivor from the 1919 era living in Oughterard is Mattie Clancy (Portacarron). The other man still with us is Martin Naughton (then from Cregg) who is now living in Athlone. Deceased members are Pete Conneely, John Conneely (a famous runner) both of Rusheery, Miko Donnellan (the Town) the goalie, Willie and Michael Logan and Capt. John Joe D'Arcy and brother Michael (all Maghera), Paddy Donnellan (Billamore), John Naughton (Ceannrower), Martin Kinneavy and Eddie Dixon (Old Chapel), Martin Walsh (Dick) (Old Chapel), Pete Walsh and Martin brothers (Cloosh) and Seamus O'Maille (The Bridge).

There are some records of games which laid the foundation for that first success. In February 1915 a Galway Gaels team defeated Oughterard by 0-2 to 0-0. The team on that day and possibly the first Oughterard team to appear on a Connacht Tribune was Miko Donnellan, John Donnellan, Michael Logan, Willie Logan, Eviston Mons, Walsh, Molloy (2), Stephen and John Naughton, J. Logan, Paddy Donnellan, Burns and M. Kinneavy. In May of the same year Galway Gaels again got in Oughterard's way, defeating them by 0-2 to 0-1. Oughterard's first recorded score was from a free by Donnellan and in that same game M. Mons shone at midfield.

West Board convention reps. in 1915 were J. Donnellan and John Joe D'Arcy.

Games between Oughterard and Moycullen are always games that must be won. In the 1916 Junior football championship Moycullen defeated Oughterard after a replay by 1-0 to 0-2. M. Molloy and M. Tierney scored the minors for Oughterard.

The team that day was M. Naughton, M. Mons, W. J. McNicholas, M. Donnellan, M. Walsh, J. Naughton, M. Kinneavy, M. Tierney, W. Logan, M. Logan, M. Molloy, T. Lee, M. Molloy, M. Naughton, S. McQuinn.

In 1917 Oughterard's travels extended to South Park, Galway to play Galway Gaels and were beaten by 0-3 to 0-0. Glann also came to the fore and applied to the West Board to affiliate a Junior team, John Donnellan (Oughterard) objected at the meeting but the team was registered. Oughterard got revenge on Moycullen in the championship by 1-1 to 0-0.

The club is famous for its tournament wins at Kilbeg in a Corrib Shamrock tournament they defeated Caherlistrane in the final.

Oughterard and the newly formed Glann football team met in competition on September 16, 1917. Oughterard won by 1-2 to 0-0. Glann took on Moycullen next but owing to an injury (broken leg) to Robert McDonagh from Glann the game was unfinished. It is stated that the leg was set by two spectators Johnny Kelly and Paddy Mons and on the arrival of the bone-setter no further setting was considered necessary, such was the quality of the original job. In August 1919 Cross Cong met Oughterard and were defeated by 1-1 to 0-1.

In junior championship Galway Gaels again defeated Oughterard whose cause was not helped by the fact that two of their players were knocked-out and failed to resume play. In July 1920 Oughterard passed the first hurdle in Junior championship by defeating Athenry 1-1 to 0-1. G.A.A. games were interrupted for a year due to the troubles until July 30 1921 when the following notice appeared in the Connacht Tribune:

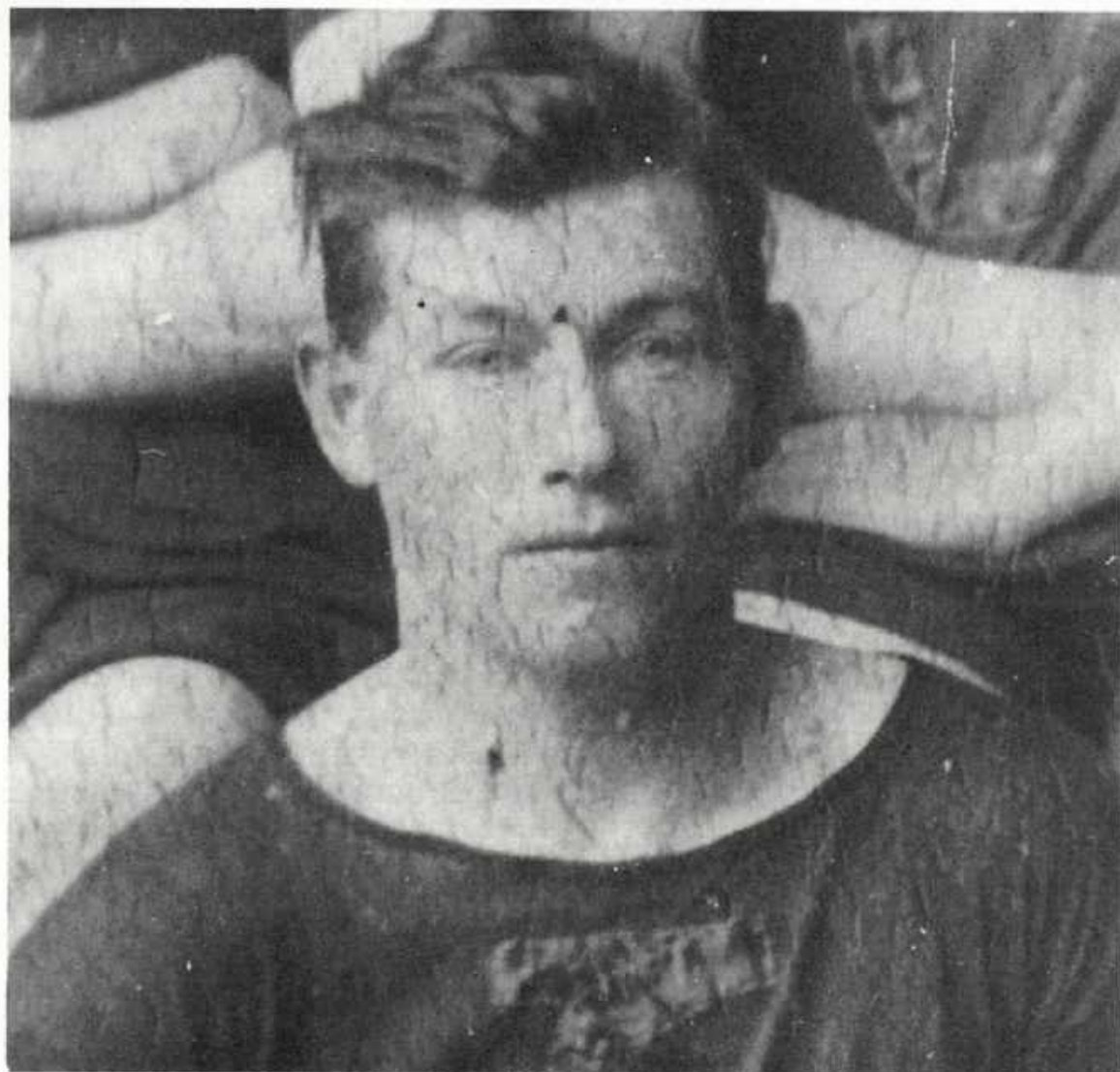
REVIVAL OF G.A.A.

Owing to the unfortunate condition of Roisin Dubh, and the number of restrictions we were inflicted with our Gaelic pastimes were practically neglected during the past year. This was not surprising. Many of our G.A.A. men, whose only crime was the love of the land they were born in (that feeling which animates, or should animate the people of every nation, for next to love of God comes love of country), were either "on the run" or pining inside prison bars. Nay, many of the "boys" we will never meet again, their pure angelic souls have fled to join their angels and are now in God's own keeping. They were weighted in the balance and not found wanting. A retrospect of the last few years is melancholy, but let us hope that the present negotiations will be successful, and that Irishmen of all creeds and classes will remember that they are Irish, and as such, join forces for the betterment of their country. It is refreshing to observe that the G.A.A. is being resurrected once more. It is only

to be hoped that the resurrection will be speedy and universal, and that the people will accord it the support which it deserves.

At Kilbeg on September 24 1921 Oughterard played their first game since the troubles and defeated Headford by 3-1 to 1-0 and at a Moycullen Tournament drew with the home team at 1-1 each.

Oughterard's next honour came with the 1921 West Junior championship final. Having beaten Tuam on June 4th 1922 they played, their bogey team, Galway Gaels at South Park and won by 1-1 to 0-1. P. Mons scored 1-1. Others mentioned in the report are Jack Walsh and Naughton, D'Arcy and J. Mons at midfield and John Conneely the well known runner had a "dashing game".



John Conneely (1919 winner Co. Junior Oughterard Football) also famous runner with Galway Harriers Athletic Club in the 1920's

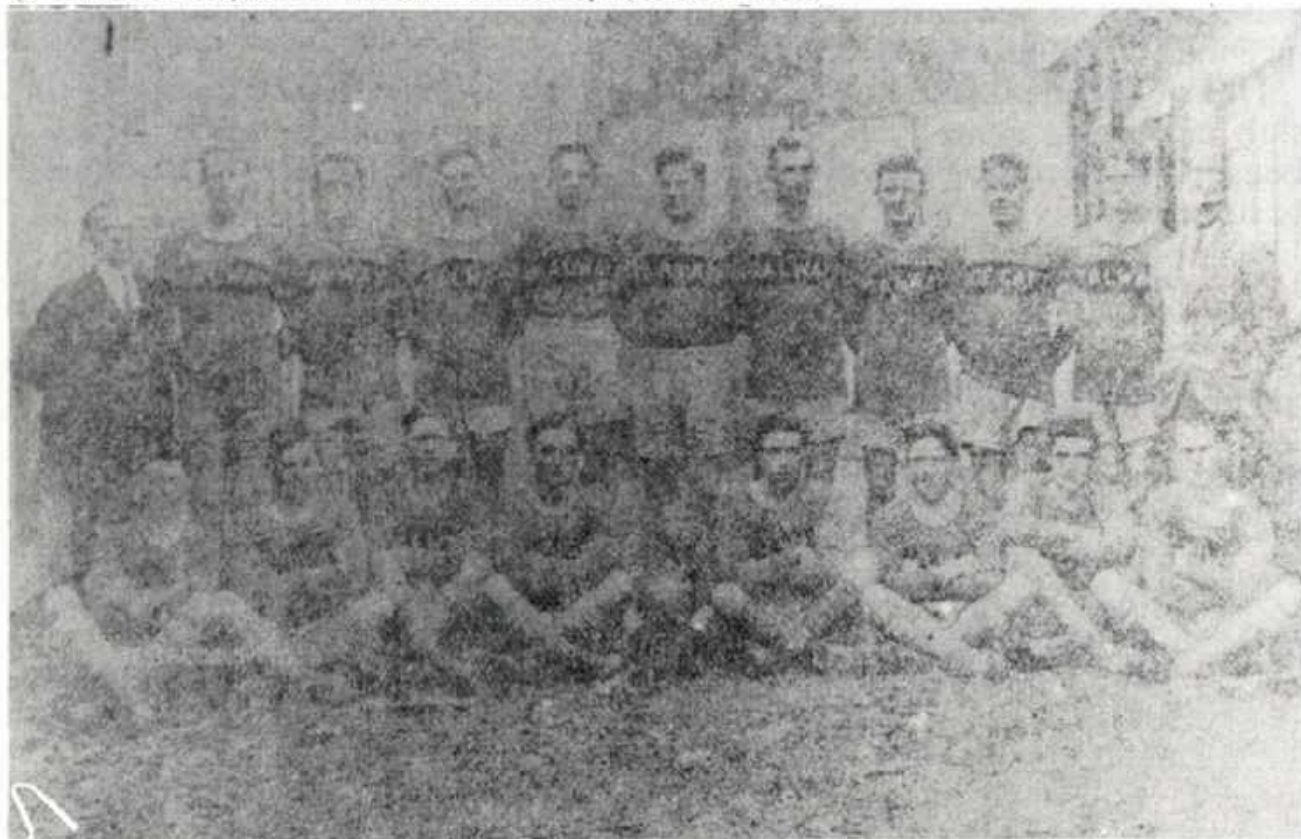
1924 saw Oughterard break into the Senior grade of football and from then until 1929 retained the West Board championship losing in the end to Galway Gaels in Moycullen.

Oughterard's new junior squad won three West district junior championships during that same era. Two Oughterard players were called into the senior panel for Galway v Mayo in the 1924 Connacht championship - these being Sony McQuinn (Oughterard) and Pete Conneely (Rusheeny).

Some of the many victories recorded from the successful period 1924 to 1929 include the 1927 double of Juniors defeating Craughwell and Seniors defeating Galway Gaels at Renmore on March 25, 1928. The 1928 Senior West Board championship was fixed in Oughterard v Headford, who failed to turn up and resulted in the title going to Oughterard at a West Board meeting

where an offer from Oughterard to play the game was overruled by the board.

The juniors were defeated in 1928 by Renmore on September 23, at Oughterard. Players from Oughterard to represent Galway at Senior level were Supt. Pete Colleran (a native of Sligo) who also played for Connacht and later declared for his native county. The club's first native to do so was John Donnellan at full forward for Galway v Westmeath, (League) Galway v Mayo in the Connacht championship and later toured America in 1929 with the Galway team. Great servants of the club in the early years up to 1930 and not previously mentioned were: John Conneely (Camp St.), P. J. O'Maille, Bernie Egan, Frank Egan (Brothers), Mattie & John Clancy, brothers (Portacarron), Tommy Dixen (Old Chapel), Thomas D'Arcy brother of John Joe 1919 (Capt.) Maghera, Stephen Naughton and brother John with Pat Faherty (all Ceanntrower), Tommy Gibbons, Tom Walsh (Bridge St.), Pete Walsh (Billamore), Stephen McDonagh (Billamore), Bill Joyce (Portacarron), Peter Clancy (Portacarron), Lal Connor (Camp St.), Bartley McGauley (Tullybrick), Gerard and Bartley Lynch, Mick Baker, Mick Walsh (Portacarron), and John Conneely (Clareville).



GALWAY SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM, NEW YORK CITY, 1929

Sitting (l to r): M. Carroll, Aghrim; C. Goode, Ballinasloe; W. Tully, Ballinasloe; W. Kecley, Ballinasloe; J. McHugh junr. Mascot; J. Keating, Mountbellew; S. O'Connor, Ballinasloe; M. Kitt, Mountbellew; T. McCormack, Mountbellew. Standing (l to r): J. Brennan (Manager), Milltown; T. O'Grady, Kilkerrin; J. Coyne, Williamstown; G. Kehoe, Clifden; J. Donnellan, Oughterard; "Knacker" Walsh (Captain), Ballinasloe; P. Higgins, Moylough; B. Canavan, Tuam; J. Clancy (vice-captain), Moylough; M. Crehan, Caltra; J. McHugh (Secretary), Ballinamore Bridge; J. Nevin, Ballinasloe was absent.

Oughterard in its first 21 years in official G.A.A. competition had a fantastic collection of honours. The name Oughterard and its players were highly respected in the sporting fields of the county and laid the foundation for great players and teams to follow. However one noticeable trend showed up in those early years — one which would cause great clubs to lose great

players in many eras — emmigration. Maghera's D'Arcy's Michael and 1919 Capt. John Joe were followed abroad by Sony McQuinn and Lal Connor. The Oughterard name was carried to the playing fields of Boston and other parts of America by Michael D'Arcy. He won a 1924 championship medal with Boston Inisfail, another with a Boston Galway Massachusettes team in 1929 and also a runners up medal in 1931 with the same team. He served the Boston Inisfail Club for many years and was possibly Oughterard's first ambassador to gain fame on the sporting fields of Galway and America alike.

BROOKE LEGGATT CUP

Presented by Mrs. Brooke Leggatt in 1920 and played for amongst the schools of Oughterard, Glann, Newtown and Ross.

Has not been played for in the last fifty years — a negligence for which the club must take some responsibility, as the spirit of the late Mrs. Brooke Leggatt in organising this competition was admirable and her wishes should be honoured.

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THE TRIUMPHANT THIRTIES

In the early 1930's Oughterard football club retained their status as one of the major forces in senior football in County Galway.

Following up on their numerous successes in the 1920's, Oughterard reached the 1930 final of the West Galway District Board. Their opponents on this occasion were firm favourites Galway Gaels who included among their number such players as Tadhg McCarthy, Frank Burke and Tom Gill. Burke and McCarthy later went on to win All-Ireland medals with Galway in 1934.

The game was played in South Park (The Swamp) in January 1931 and was surrounded by controversy. A Connacht Tribune report of the time sets the scene: "There seemed to be an absence of all preliminary arrangements. The field, wet and sodden was not lined. The upright goal posts, one of which was leaning at a precarious angle, had not even the dignity of a cross bar and a rope had to do duty instead".

To make matters worse, the game was exactly an hour late in starting as there was another game on beforehand which had started late. Consequently the latter part of the game was played in rapidly fading light and satisfactory football was out of the question.

The state of the pitch was deplorable and the weather was miserable with a heavy mist falling, but despite all this, the football seems to have been of a high standard and a credit to both teams involved". The Connacht Tribune report continued:

"The football itself was absolutely pleasant to watch and if played on



OUGHTERARD NATIONAL SCHOOLS 1931-32

Festy Connolly, Alfie Gibney, J. P. Power, Mick Joyce, Tom D'Arcy, Paddy Lydon, Andrew D'Arcy, Mick Micahel (trainer), Gerard Lee, Davie Walsh, Paddy McCarthy, Mick McDonagh, M. J. Lydon, Paddy D'Arcy, Pat Sweeney, Kenny O'Brien, Tom Sullivan.

suitable ground and under proper arrangements and the game finished, it would have ranked as one of the most enjoyable and brilliant matches of its sort played during the past twelve months”.

The football of the Gaels was described as “scientific” and Oughterard were described as a smart team with more drive in them. John Donnellan and Pete Conneely were dominant in the middle of the field, while Dinny O’Sullivan, Martin Joe Connor and Joseph Coyne were “among those others who had little to learn about football”.

The controversy began in the first half, when an Oughterard player was fouled close to the opponent’s goal, but before play was held up, the ball was in the back of the Gaels net. Oughterard claimed that the referee did not blow the whistle and that the goal they had scored after the foul, was a legitimate goal. But instead of the goal, Oughterard were granted a close in free and one must remember that there were no penalties in those days. Then, a prominent member of the Oughterard team took matters completely into his own hands and threw the ball at the referee. A heated argument ensued with the spectators invading the pitch and there was considerable delay before the game was resumed.

With the ten minutes to go to full time, Oughterard were leading comfortably by 3 goals and 2 points to 5 points, but by now darkness had almost fallen and a row broke out. The referee decided at this stage that enough was enough. He took the ball and walked off the field. The referee on this occasion was Mr. Brendan Meehan who was a member of the Annaghdown junior team.

The match was replayed early in March at Anbally, Cummer, Co. Galway and was well and evenly contested. Galway Gaels emerged as victors by the narrow margin of 2 points, the score being, Galway Gaels 2-3, Oughterard 1-4. Ironically, the player regarded as the outstanding man of the match for Gaels was Frank Burke from Doorus, Cornamona, who in 1938 played a major role in assisting Oughterard to their only senior county title. The outstanding player in the Oughterard side was Matthias Clancy, a survivor from the Oughterard team of 1919 which won the County junior title. Others to impress for Oughterard were Stephen (Staff) Naughton, Johnny Donnellan, Pat Gibbons, a “young” Dinny O’Sullivan and Bartley McGauley. For this game Oughterard were missing the services of Tom Dixon, another survivor from the team of 1919, one of their best players. Among the scorers for Oughterard were Bartley McGauley 2 points and John Donnellan 2 points, one from a free.

This would seem to have settled matters, but at a meeting of the West Board GAA in Galway Town Hall shortly afterwards, it was decided that as Oughterard and Galway Gaels each had 4 points from their games, they would have to meet again in a deciding game at Moycullen on April the 12th. Again, the elements and the state of the pitch played an important part in this game. The Tribune report of the time described it as a “hard vigorous game”. Good play was rendered impossible by the strong wind and uneven pitch. The play was rough and minor injuries were numerous. Oughterard finished the game with only 14 men and were beaten by 6 points to 4 points. Oughterard would seem to have adopted a never say die attitude and, as was the order of the day, they lodged an objection. The grounds for the objection are not clear (it may have been in relation to the constitution of the Gael’s team), but in any case it was ruled out on a technicality. The West Board GAA obtained the opinion of Mr. O’Keeffe of the Central Council to the effect that a club late on the field for a game is not entitled to object. Oughterard had

been reported late on to the pitch by the referee and thus, the chairman of the West Board had no alternative but to rule out their objection. There must be a moral there somewhere.

The Oughterard minor team in 1931 was as follows: Martin Faherty, Charlie Sullivan, Patrick Rowland, N. Murray, Martin Healy, Pat Healy, Kell Burns, Jim Connor, M. King, Paddy Molloy, Martin Toole, Paddy Geraghty, Jim McDonagh, W. Walsh, Brian O'Brien, John Lydon, John Osborne, Martin Clancy and Pat Conneely.

The Oughterard senior panel in 1931 was as follows: Matty Clancy (captain), Tom Dixon, Portacarron, J. Donnellan, Miko Donnellan (goalkeeper), Michael Baker, Ned Toole, Jim Egan, Denis O'Sullivan, Edward O'Sullivan, Martin Joe Connor, Eddie Faherty, John Conneely, John King, Oughterard town, Patrick Molloy, Bartley McGauley, Oughterard, Pat Gibbons and his brother Tom Gibbons, Tommy Mulkerrin, Patrick Walsh, Mick Lydon, Stephen (Staff), McDonagh, Billamore, Pete Conneely and Peter Naughton, Rusheeny, Pat Faherty and Stephen Naughton, Canrawer.

An interesting connection between the club then and now is between Michael Baker and Pat Ferriter. Michael Baker was a member of the Garda Siochana stationed in Oughterard, as is Pat Ferriter, a present officer of the club and they are related to one another.

1932 was not a very eventful year for Oughterard and they were defeated comprehensively by a very strong Corofin team who went on to defeat Tuam in the County Final.

Oughterard gained sweet revenge in the 1933 County Senior championship. On June the 11th, 1933, Oughterard played Corofin at the Gort An Uisce pitch Oughterard. In a preview the Connacht Tribune described Corofin as one of the best teams Galway had ever produced. So confident were Corofin of victory, that on the way up to the pitch going past the river, one of their players commented to two of the Oughterard players, Edward O'Sullivan and Ned Toole: "Not only will we beat ye, but when we are finished we will bring ye down and wash ye in the river". Nobody dreamed that Oughterard would be a match for Corofin, that is nobody outside of the Oughterard football team. The Oughterard club had been re-organising itself and they were quietly confident of victory.

In what the Connacht Tribune described as "one of the best exhibitions of Gaelic football ever witnessed west of the Corrib", Oughterard defeated the County champions by 12 points, before a large and enthusiastic crowd. The score was 3 goals and 8 points to 4 points.

Dinny O'Sullivan and John Donnellan starred for Oughterard at midfield while Ned Toole was the best of the forwards.

The Oughterard line out for this game displayed what was to be a feature of Oughterard football teams for many years — a large number of their players came from areas outside Oughterard. They had M. Varley, S. Nalty, John Fox and Frank Kenny from Cross in Co. Mayo, Davis from Moyard, outside of Clifden and Joyce from Cong.

Games such as the game against Corofin provided the platform upon which Oughterard were able to display their younger talent. Dinny O'Sullivan, then aged 21 and already playing junior with Galway, was drafted into the Galway senior team for the Connacht final against Mayo and later on Ned Toole then aged 20 was brought on to the panel and played his first senior county game in the All-Ireland semi-final against Dublin in Mullingar. Galway defeated

Dublin on that occasion and met Cavan in the All-Ireland final, but were defeated. This was the start of Dinny O'Sullivan's senior football career with Galway which spanned more than a decade.

After their defeat of Corofin in the first round of the championship, great things were expected of the Oughterard team. In the second round they were scheduled to meet Galway Gaels and an indication of the prominence of Oughterard can be seen from the following extract from the Connacht Tribune of October 1933.

"It is arranged to play one of the most prominent matches in the 1933 senior football championship, the contesting teams being Galway Gaels and Oughterard. Football fans quite realise that this is certainly one of the premier matches of the second round and anyone who has seen either of these teams in action in their past matches will not fail to be present".

The report further described Dinny O'Sullivan as one of Ireland's foremost footballers and praised that youthful forward of Inter County fame, Ned O'Toole.

Interest in the game reached such a level that the County GAA committee arranged an excursion train from Oughterard to Tuam. The fare for the journey was 3 shillings, but if you were lucky enough to live in Moycullen, it would only have cost you 2 shillings and 9 pence.

The game was a bitter disappointment for Oughterard and they were defeated by 3-3 to 2-2. Outstanding were Frank Burke for Galway Gaels and Denny Sullivan for Oughterard. Mr. Stephen Jordan TD, one of the most popular referees of that time refereed the game. The Oughterard line out was as follows: Pat Gibbons, John Donnellan, Ned Toole, Dinny O'Sullivan, Jim Egan, Martin Joe Connor, John Conneely, Paddy Gibney, Martin O'Toole, Martin Clancy, Frank Kenny, John Fox, S. Nalty, Miko Donnellan and M. Varley.

During the early thirties, Oughterard were also capable of fielding very useful 7 a side teams and took part in tournaments all over the county. One such tournament was the Clifden seven a side tournament held in November 1932 for which a set of medals was presented by Connradh Na Gaedhilge. Oughterard had an easy win over Clifden in the semi-final and went on to play Cleggan in the final which was a very one sided affair, Oughterard emerging as victors by the score of 6 goals to 1-1. The Oughterard seven were: John Donnellan, Jim Egan, Pat Gibbons, Dinny O'Sullivan, Michael Baker, Ned Toole and John Conneely.

1934 - 1937 THE JUNIOR YEARS

When one considers the success and achievement of the Oughterard senior team in the early thirties it is difficult at first glance to understand why, as was the case, Oughterard did not affiliate a senior team in the year 1934 and instead joined the ranks of junior football. The reasons for this voluntary demotion would seem to have been the effects of emigration and also the loss of players from outside the locality upon whom Oughterard had depended to a certain extent in the previous years. Faced with the loss of players for the above reasons, the Oughterard club decided to make a fresh start in junior football and make use of all the local talent available.

Further, this may have been the first time that Oughterard were able to field a team from Oughterard without having to depend on outsiders.

In one of their first junior games of 1934, Oughterard played Moycullen at Oughterard and the game was won by Oughterard on the score of 1-2 to 0-0. At one stage the game was held up because of an altercation between two of the players and the crowd swarmed on to the field with cries of encouragement. Some things never change.

The remainder of 1934 was a rather uneventful year and Oughterard did not make any great progress, but in 1935, Oughterard's fortunes seemed to have taken a turn for the better once again and they reached the final of the Western division junior football championship. Initially this game had to be cancelled at the request of Oughterard as some of their players were at training on the Curragh and were unable to attend. Their opponents were Clifden, who had home advantage. Oughterard were very fortunate to concede a goal direct from a 40 yard free and this allied to some splendid goal keeping by the Clifden goalie, let to Oughterard's defeat with a score line of 2-2 to 5 points. Best for Oughterard were John Donnellan, Pat Gibbons, Charlie O'Sullivan, Pat Faherty and Paddy Gibney, despite shooting wide from 5 yards out.

OUGHTERARD REACH 1936 COUNTY JUNIOR SEMI-FINAL

The 1936 junior championship was run off on a league basis and Oughterard's first match was against near neighbours, Kilannin in March 1936 and the game was played at Oughterard before a large number of spectators. The Connacht Tribune report states that: "despite a slippery pitch and a greasy ball, the match was played with grim determination and at times some brilliant flashes of football set the spectators on tip toe with excitement".

Martin O'Toole playing at midfield for Oughterard scored a great point from 40 yards and this was to be the only score of the first half. In the second half Martin Clancy sent Charlie O'Sullivan through for a goal. The kick out came to Edward O'Sullivan who sent Charlie O'Sullivan through for another goal. Later on victory was sealed for Oughterard when a passing movement initiated by Kell Burns and involving Martin O'Toole who placed Peter Naughton whose shot hit the upright and came back to O'Toole who put it into the net. The final scoreline read 3-2 to 2 points.

In the second round, Oughterard defeated U.C.G. in Moycullen by 1-5 to 1-0. Scorers for Oughterard were Charlie O'Sullivan 3 points, Edward O'Sullivan 2 points, Paddy Geraghty 1 goal.

Oughterard's run of success continued and they went on to defeat Headford, Wolfe Tones, and Caherlistrane and they got a walk-over from Athenry who failed to turn up. Oughterard then met Clifden for the first time that year and the game was played at Oughterard. The pitch was in very good condition due to the voluntary work of the members of the club. Oughterard won by the margin of 2-5 to 2 points and among the scorers for Oughterard were Edward O'Sullivan 1 goal, Martin Toole 1-3 and Paddy Geraghty 1 point. Others to impress were Charlie O'Sullivan, Paddy Gibney and Pat Moloney in a game which was played in good spirits with hard knocks given and taken on each side. Oughterard again met Clifden in the West Board junior final later on in the campaign and repeated their performance and went on to meet Menlough in the County semi-final. The game was played at Athenry and was described as one of the top notch junior football matches of the season and an hour of scientific and first class football was promised. Unfortunately, the weather conditions were so bad that the match had to be postponed for half an hour as it was raining very heavily. The game was

eventually played under adverse conditions, but in a good sporting spirit and a high standard of football was reached.

Oughterard objected to the match being awarded to Menlough on six grounds, the most important of which were that the pitch was not the proper length or width, was not properly marked and that the goals were not the proper height or width, that in the opinion of the Oughterard club, the Menlough team was not properly constituted and that while the game was in progress the Menlough supporters invaded the pitch and threatened some of the players of the Oughterard team. The referee, Deputy Stephen Jordan arrived at the West Board meeting armed with a report by Mr. Powell, Batchelor of Engineering, in which it was stated that the pitch was the correct length and breadth. Menlough were awarded the match and went on to defeat Ballinasloe in the County final.

The Oughterard panel for the 1936-1937 junior campaign was as follows. Pat Gibbons, John Conneely, Edward O'Sullivan, Charlie O'Sullivan, Mick Lydon, John Lydon, Pat Moloney, Paddy Gibney, Martin Noone, Martin Toole, Mick McDonagh, Paddy Geraghty, Paddy Walsh, Peter Naughton, Paddy Darcy, John Gill, Martin Clancy, Andrew Darcy, Henny Holleran, Kell Burns and Martin McDonagh.



Front row (l to r): Anon, Henny Halloran, Paddy Geraghty (Capt), Paddy Maloney, Maghera. Middle row (l to r): Tom Sullivan, Paddy Gibney, Pat Gibbons, Martin Toole, Charlie Sullivan. Back row (l to r): Martin Noone, Dev Tierney, Mick Lydon, Mick McDonagh, Edward Sullivan, John Conneely, John Donnellan.

From the report of the 1937 Oughterard Football Club A.G.M. it can be seen that the club was in a healthy condition. The secretary Mr. Charlie O'Sullivan submitted a report of the year's work which showed a balance on hands of 3 pounds and 10 shillings. The following officers were elected for the coming year. President, Mr. Sean O'Maille; Captain, Mr. Pat Gibbons; Vice-captain, Mr. Edward O'Sullivan; Treasurer, Mr. John Lydon; Committee, D.

Sweeney, Secretary Paddy Gibney, Edward O'Sullivan, J. Morrissey, Pat Gibbons, D. Sweeney and John Lydon. This healthy condition began to be reflected in the Oughterard footballers and Charlie O'Sullivan, Edward O'Sullivan, Paddy Gibney and Pat Moloney received trials for the Galway junior team. The Galway senior team selected to play Clare in the National League on November the 14th, 1937 bode well for the future of Oughterard football. Listed among the players were Denny, Edward and Charlie O'Sullivan. Another man with Oughterard connections played on that team also, none other than the late, great, Joe Joe Carney.

Oughterard had enjoyed several years as a highly rated junior team, but the year 1938 saw the re-emergence of Oughterard as one of the powers in Galway senior football. This year saw the return of Dinny O'Sullivan to Oughterard. He had been playing with Wolfe Tones since 1934 and had won a senior County title with them in 1936. Also in 1938 he won his second All-Ireland with Galway. From Cornamona came Frank Burke, Matty Lowry and John McDarby. Frank Burke had won an All-Ireland with Galway in 1934 and had been a regular on the Galway team for several years. Matty Lowry had also worn the Galway jersey on occasions as had John McDarby who also starred in six Sigerson cups for U.C.G. In addition to all this came the great Henry Kenny from Mayo. Kenny was at that time teaching in Recess, Connemara and opted to play with Oughterard. The effect of such an influx of talent must have been enormous, particularly when one takes into consideration that Oughterard already had a wealth of talent such as Pat Gibbons who played junior football with Galway, Edward and Charlie O'Sullivan, Ned Toole and Henry Holleran who had all played senior football with Galway. Henry Holleran had also won a Connacht championship minor medal in 1937. Also in the Oughterard line up was another young player who was beginning to show promise, Tom O'Sullivan. This may have seemed like an invincible line-up for club football, but when one considers that in 1938 Galway won the All-Ireland championship, it can be seen that the standard of club football in Galway must have been very high and this is particularly true of West Galway. These were the days of the great Wolfe Tones, U.C.G. and the Irish Speaking Batallion, Renmore, teams.

But nevertheless, Oughterard were in confident mood as can be seen from the fact that through organising dances and other fund raising events, the club collected the goodly sum of £87, which defrayed all of the training expenses for the year. Their first outing was against the reigning County and Sigerson champions, U.C.G. at Fahy's Field, Galway, which Oughterard won easily.

In November they met Wolfe Tones in the first round of the West Galway Senior championship. Tones had in their line up such notable Galway players as Bobby Beggs, Jack Flavin, Mick Higgins and Ned Mulholland. Tones played with a big wind in the first half, but could only manage to score 2 points to Oughterard's 1 point. In the second half Oughterard piled on the pressure and the final score was Oughterard 2-8 Wolfe Tones 1-5.

In December, Oughterard suffered their only setback of the year when they were defeated by the Irish speaking Batallion, Renmore, by 3-3 to 6 points in the West Board senior final. Oughterard started well with 3 points from Dinny O'Sullivan and just before half time Frank Burke broke through for a goal for Oughterard. In the second half Oughterard were held to just 1 point, while Renmore scored 3-3. Renmore were at this time the Irish Army champions and had John Burke, an All-Ireland medalist with Galway and a Railway Cup medalist with Munster, in their line up.

Despite this set back, Oughterard did not lose hope. The County senior championship was being played on a league basis and Oughterard again met Renmore in the later stages of the league. If Renmore won this match they would have gone on to meet Ballinasloe in the county final, but if Oughterard won, the league would be opened up again. In what was described as a grand exhibition of fast vigorous football, Oughterard defeated Renmore by 5-1 to 1-8.

The Connacht Tribune report of the time described Dinny O'Sullivan as the outstanding figure on the field. He broke up innumerable attacks and was behind practically every score and scored one goal himself. The first half was more or less evenly contested, but in the second half playing with the wind, Oughterard ran away with the match. Others to impress for Oughterard were Edward O'Sullivan, Henry Kenny, Mick McDonagh of Billamore and Packie Coyne of Cornamona.

Oughterard then went on to once again defeat U.C.G. at Oughterard which saw them through to the West Board divisional final against Wolfe Tones. As the championship was being played on a league basis up to this point, a win or a draw would have seen Oughterard through to the County final. The Connacht Tribune preview said, "there is little to choose between the sides, but Wolfe Tones have a more formidable side, at least on paper with experience. Such names as Jack Flavin, Bobby Beggs, Mick Higgins and Ned Mulholland listed for Tones, would perhaps seem too stiff an opposition for a single club, but pitted against such a centre-field as Henry Kenny and Denny Sullivan for Oughterard, their strength is considerably lessened".

Oughterard left nothing to chance and defeated Wolfe Tones to qualify for the County senior final against Ballinasloe.

The final was played in Parkmore, Tuam in March 1939 and proved to be Oughterard's greatest achievement. As a spectacle the game did not live up to expectations, but finals are for winning not for spectacular football. In the first half Ballinasloe played with the wind, but could only manage a lead of a point by half time and this was mainly due to the excellent defensive work of the Oughterard backs. Ballinasloe were first to score, but soon afterwards, Dinny O'Sullivan put Frank Burke through to score a goal for Oughterard. Ballinasloe attacked but the Oughterard backs repelled everything and Charlie O'Sullivan put Packie Coyne through for a point for Oughterard. In return Mills kicked a long range point for Ballinasloe and then Griffin put Ballinasloe in the lead with a good goal. In the second half there was a rare tussle at midfield between Dinny O'Sullivan and John Dunne. At the start of the second half, Henry Kenny scored the equalising point and shortly afterwards Packie Coyne scored a goal which was followed by another point. At this stage Oughterard were clearly dominant and ran out easy winners by 2-5 to 1-3. In the course of the game John McDarby came on as a substitute for Edward O'Sullivan who pulled a muscle in his thigh while kicking out the ball. Ned Toole who was injured also came on for the goal keeper John Conneely who was forced to retire. John Donnellan was also introduced as a substitute in the course of the game. After the game, the Oughterard contingent adjourned to Canavan's hotel in Tuam where the Crean Cup was filled. Rumour has it that in addition to porter, a mysterious white spirit found its way into the cup, but the less said about that the better. The Oughterard team returned home to a great welcome and the celebrations continued in Kathleen McCarthy's.



Back row (l to r): Michael McDonagh (Billamore), Pat Gibbons, Martin Toole, Der Sweeney, Frank Burke (Cornamona), John Conneely (Camp), Pakie Coyne (N.T.), Charlie Sullivan, Henny Halloran, Edward Sullivan. Front row (l to r): Tom Sullivan, Dinny Sullivan, Paddy Gibney (R.I.P.), Sean Donnellan, Michael McDonagh (Glann). Two players missing from the photo are Henry Kenny (Mayo), Patrick Lowry.

Oughterard senior team for the 1938 final: Goalkeeper, John Conneely. Full back line: Edward O'Sullivan, Pat Gibbons, Michael McDonagh. Half back line: Paddy Gibney, Charlie O'Sullivan, Matty Lowry. Centre field: Dinny O'Sullivan, Henry Kenny. Half forward line: Tom O'Sullivan, Martin Toole, Henny Holleran. Full forward line: Mick McDonagh, Frank Burke, Pakie Coyne.

The next two years were to be frustrating years for Oughterard football. In 1939 they reached the County semi final, but were defeated by 1 point by an excellent Wolfe Tones team which included such players as Bobby Beggs, Jack Flavin, Mick Higgins, Ned Mulholland, Paddy Walsh, all Galway players, together with other county players such as Jim Hannify of Longford, Joe Doyle of Donegal, Hugh Hogan and Slattery of Clare and Culhane of Limerick. The game has been described as one of the best exhibitions of club football ever seen in the sports ground in Galway. Oughterard were winning by a point until the last kick of the game when Wolfe Tones were awarded a free a long distance from the Oughterard goal, but from the free, the ball ended up in the Oughterard net.

The same fate awaited Oughterard in the 1940 County championship. The Connacht Tribune reports stated that Wolfe Tones won not because they had a better all round team, but because they had Bobby Beggs to break up most of the Oughterard attacks. Henry Kenny was missing from the Oughterard line up on this occasion due to the tragic death of Patsy Flannelly his midfield partner on the Mayo team. Best for Oughterard were Dinny and Tom O'Sullivan, Martin O'Toole and Mossy Holleran. Despite these set-backs the club enjoyed considerable success during these years. For example, the 1939

County Galway junior team included Edward, Charlie and Tom O'Sullivan and Martin O'Toole. Tom O'Sullivan was soon to join his brother Denny on the Galway senior team.



OUGHTERARD 1938 COUNTY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Back row (l to r): Paddy Masterson (Hon. Sec.), Henry Kenny, Martin O'Toole, P. K. Joyce, Edward Sullivan, Pat King, Pat Gibbons, Mick McDonagh, M. J. Lydon, Padraic Joyce, Jimmy Connor, Dr. Kirwan. Front row: Tom Sullivan, Henny Halloran, Charlie Sullivan, Barney Winston, Dinny Sullivan, Mick Clancy and Garda Mick Dowling. Sitting: Ned O'Toole and John Conneely.



Henny Halloran Oughterard with the Crean Cup 1938

The Oughterard senior panel in 1940 was: Pat Gibbons (Capt.), Edward Sullivan, M. Egan, Dinny O'Sullivan, B. Mullaney, Tom O'Sullivan, Henry Kenny, Charlie O'Sullivan, Henny Holleran, Martin Toole, Michael McDonagh, John Conneely, John McDarby, Ned Toole, Martin Noone, Mattie Lowry, John Lydon, Frank Burke, Paddy Masterson, Mick Lydon, Mossie Holleran, Des Sweeney, John Gill, Mick McDonagh and Kell Burns.

Despite the set-backs in 1939 and 1940, the Oughterard club enjoyed considerable success in these years, particularly in a 7-a-side and 11-a-side tournaments all over County Galway and parts of County Mayo.

Also at this time Oughterard were well represented on the County Board as Reverend J. O'Dea of Oughterard was chairman of the County Board.

These were to have been Oughterard's greatest years and the players who donned the green and white jersey in this decade were to make Oughterard a household name in G.A.A. circles all over the country. Even to this day when people speak of football in Oughterard the great teams and the great players of the thirties are well remembered.

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James F. Lydon

DINNY O'SULLIVAN — A Football Immortal

by Jimmy Lydon

Statistics can be most misleading! Take the 'Roll of Honour' in the Galway senior football championship as an example of what we mean. Perched proudly at the top of the ladder is the Tuam Stars club with 22 titles to their credit. Next come Ballinasloe (20) and they are followed by the reigning champions Dunmore MacHales, with 16 titles. Further down the rungs of the championship ladder we find Fr. Griffins (Galway City) with 7 wins and U.C.G., Mountbellew, Corofin and Athenry De Wets are all on the 3 mark. Tuam Krugers, Wolfe Tones (Galway City), An Cead Cath (Army), Kilererin, Milltown and Annaghdown have each won 2 titles and languishing on the bottom rung with one title each are Caherlistrane, Loughrea St. Brendan's, Tuam St. Jarlath's and Oughterard.

Taking the above statistics at face value, one would be apt to laud Tuam Stars on having 'come of age', so to say, in the number of Galway titles they have won. Going on the same line of thought, Oughterard, with their lone title to their credit might be classed as 'second class citizens'!

But, we hasten to repeat our opening comment — Statistics can be most misleading!

If we probe into Tuam's position in Galway football, we find that the 'Stars', with all their fine image and their array of 22 championships, must go back to 1962, for their previous championship success. Yes! It is 22 years ago since Tuam Stars won a Galway title — in 1962 to be precise!

Turning to Oughterard we can say without fear of contradiction that, after taking everything into consideration, the title won by the Connemara club in 1938 was as full of merit as any and more meritorious than most of the titles won by Tuam or, for that matter, any of the Galway clubs.

VERY HIGH STANDARD

It must be emphasised that Oughterard's success was gained during a year in which the standard of club football in County Galway was at its very highest. This contention is underlined by the fact that it was in 1938 that Galway won the third of their seven All-Ireland senior football championships.

To add further merit to that Oughteard success, it was achieved at a time when the West Board clubs were 'tops' in Galway football. During the period from Galway's success in the 1934 All-Ireland to their memorable 1938 triumph, the county championship was monopolised by West Board clubs, in those days, U.C.G. took the championship very seriously. The star-studded students outfit were Galway champions in 1933, 1934 and 1937; Wolfe Tones (Galway City) were champions in 1936 and it was from this cauldron of 'red hot' championship material that Oughterard emerged as the champion club in 1938!

A TEAM TRIUMPH

This noteworthy win gained by the footballers of Oughterard was achieved in the main by team-work in which each and everyone of the side played their role manfully. But there was one player who stood out and he is that magnificently talented defender — Dinny O'Sullivan!

I was only a mere 'gossoon' midway through my secondary school

education in St. Joseph's College, Galway — or if you prefer, 'The Bish', as my "Alma Mater" is popularly known — when Dinny O'Sullivan was carving his own special niche in Gaelic football history. In fact, we had just moved across the road from the Patrician Brothers National School to their secondary school in the refurbished Perrse Distillery (would you believe!) in 1934 when the great Oughterard player won the first of his two All-Ireland championship medals. Dinny O'Sullivan — who had a runner-up medal in the previous year — when Galway went under by 1-4 (7) to 2-5 (11) to Cavan in the final — played a real 'blinder' in the decider against Dublin. Galway won that final on a score of 3-5 (14) to 1-9 (12) after beating Cavan 1-8 to 0-8 in the semi-final, in Tuam, to gain sweet revenge for the defeat by the Ulster champions in 1933.



A FOOTBALL CLASSIC

Dinny O'Sullivan became an automatic choice on Galway's championship team until 1942, and during the time in 1934 when he won his first All-Ireland senior championship medal, he had the distinction of playing in three additional All-Ireland finals — 1938, 1940 and '41. Remarkably, all three deciders were against Kerry! Galway won the title in 1938 but lost the other two finals by narrow margins to 'The Kingdom'.

But life is short, so let's savour the sweet things it has to offer and flick back the pages of football history to the year 1938 when Galway won their third All-Ireland senior title by becoming the first ever county to beat Kerry in an All-Ireland final replay.

The drawn match between Galway and Kerry in 1938 was a real classic. Lest perhaps readers might think that being a Galwayman, something which I hasten to add I am very proud of — my version of what was a magnificent game of football might be biased and be viewed only through maroon-tinted glasses, I have decided to quote from the book — 'The Football Immortals' — written by my good friend and Independent newspapers colleague, Raymond Smith — who, incidentally is a Tipperary man.

Raymond Smith describes the 1938 final thus: "*The most classic exhibiton of football ever seen in Croke Park was undoubtedly that served up by Galway and Kerry in the superbly drawn match of 1938. Few have ever disputed the fact that*

for the quality of the play throughout the hour of this game was unsurpassed. The fielding and kicking were of a standard seldom equalled nowadays.

"Kerry, champions in 1937, seemed to have no difficulty in finding players of quality to replace those who had stepped down.

"The golden age of Joe Barrett, Paul Russell, John Joe Sheehy, Bob Stack and Con Brosnan had ended. Now into the team had come names like Bill Casey, Paddy Bawn Brosnan, 'Gega' O'Connor, Paddy Kennedy, Bill Myers, Tadgh Healy and Bill Dillon, and their talents which was to mature to such a great extent subsequently were supplemented by two links with the incomparable 1929-'32 Kerry team – Miko Doyle, holder of five All-Ireland medals and one of the most colourful full forwards ever to wear the Green and Gold, and John Joe ('Purty') Landers, also holder of five All-Ireland medals, who had the spark of genius in his play.

And there was the dominating Johnny Walsh of Ballylongford, who, with Sean Brosnan, formed a midfield partnership that carried on the high standard set by Bob Stack and Con Brosnan".



GALWAY ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1938

Front row (l to r): Frank Cunniffe, Jackie Flavin, Mick Higgins, John Dunne (Captain), Ned Mulholland, Mick Raftery. Back row (l to r): Bobby Beggs, Ralph Griffin, John Burke, Jimmy McGauran, Charlie Connolly, Brendan Nestor, Dinny Sullivan, Mick Connaire, Martin Kelly.

POWER AND GLORY

Continuing the 1938 All-Ireland saga, Raymond Smith writes: "Against this Kerry team, Galway fielded a team to which belonged a power and glory that was not surpassed by any other fifteen in the 'Maroon and White' until the 1964-'66 side recorded their three-timer.

"Their defence was rock-like, built around the imperturbable Bobby Beggs at centre-half back. Fronting a fine goalkeeper in Jimmy McGauran was Mick Raftery, Mick Connaire and Dinny O'Sullivan full-back line, solid as the Rock of Cashel, and Ned Mulholland reckons that Dinny O'Sullivan was the best player he ever saw at left full-back!



A fine action pictures taken during the All-Ireland final at Croke Park, Dublin, on Sunday. Sullivan (Galway) beats Regan to break up an attack on the Galway goal, while Beggs covers up Charlie Sullivan.

“Others talk of the brilliance of Mick Connaire at full-back, while Galway had a magnificent pair of wing half-backs too, in the dashing Frank Cunniffe and high-fielding Charlie Connolly.

“John ‘Tull’ Dunne, the captain, was a great leader and formed a commanding midfield partnership with John Burke. On the ‘40’ was Mick Higgins (not to be confused by the young with Cavan’s Mick Higgins of a later era), who has captained Galway to the second All-Ireland triumph in 1934.

“With Brendan Nestor and Ned Mulholland, Mick Higgins formed a triangle that could split the best defences with immaculate combination and skill”.

TENSION ALMOST UNBEARABLE

Croke Park had never before accommodated such a gathering. The attendance for that great Kerry/Galway final in 1938 was 68,949 (and Jim Lydon) and thousands more clamoured outside the locked gates unable to gain admission.

Three times in the hour a lead was forged. Three times the scores were levelled. Never at any stage of the great tussle did more than three points separate the teams! The tension near the end was almost unbearable! The sides were level — Galway having scored 3-3 (12) to Kerry’s 2-6 (12) — when Kerry put in a typical late rally. The reigning All-Ireland champions forced three ‘50’s’ in rapid succession in the dying minutes.

The watch had ticked over the 60 minutes of actual playing time when Sean Brosnan came up to kick the third ‘50’ and the Kerryman hit the ball straight and true for the Galway posts. It seemed Brosnan’s kick had made it! But at the very last second the ball dipped — right in front of the goal. Up go the Kerry forwards and the Galway backs and to the delight of the Galway thousands present in the Park and to the majority of the neutrals’ it was a Galway fist that got to the ball first and the game was saved!

But Galwegian hearts nearly stopped a second time when from the fisted clearance the ball was snapped up by an ever-alert ‘Purty’ Landers, who hit it all the way for what would have been a winning point for Kerry. But alas for ‘Purty’ and ‘Kingdom’ the referee had blown the final whistle seconds before he kicked the ball and the game had ended in a draw!

ANOTHER SENSATIONAL FINISH

Galway made football history by winning the replay 2-4 (10) to 0-7 (7) and became the first county ever to beat Kerry in a replay!

Although not on a par with the drawn encounter in the way of football skill, the game did have its moments — especially in the way it ended. With Galway leading by four points with three minutes left to play — the referee blew for a free, an extra long blast. One of the Galway players thought it was the final whistle and leapt in the air with joy. This was a signal for the crowd to come in on the pitch.

It took fifteen minutes to restore order and get the excited spectators back off the pitch. Some of the Kerry players had togged in and had left the ground. So, the Kingdom resumed the game with no fewer than eight fresh substitutes on duty!

NO SURRENDER!

But even if Kerry had brought on the entire population of the Kingdom — even though they did manage to score another point during the 'second match' — there was 'no way' they were going to wrest the Sam Maguire Cup from the eager Galwegians.

Galway were very worthy All-Ireland champions in 1938 and in looking back over the first 100 Years of the G.A.A. that epic drawn battle between Galway and Kerry played on that sunny September Sunday (on the 25th day of that year) stands out like a beacon light to illustrate all that is good in the game of Gaelic Football.

The Oughterard G.A. club can feel justifiably proud of the fact they were the Galway County champions in that Year to Remember, and even more so of the fact that they supplied such a stalwart defender as Dinny O'Sullivan — one of football's immortals — to that great Galway side who have carved their own special niche in sports 'Hall of Fame'!

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THE FORTIES

The forties and early fifties may have appeared barren in comparison to that historical 1938 victory, but, even if they didn't take another county championship title Oughterard did go on to establish themselves as a major football force.

The fifties also saw the club make its brief flirtation with the hurling scene — at first as Glann and then as St. Cummin's — but results would indicate that that is a period best forgotten.

Yet it was a rare occurrence in the county if Oughterard did not provide at least one county player at all times. Indeed there were times when up to a third of the side came from the club.

And the club did meet with success, limited though it may have been; they reached a number of county finals and won out West Board competitions and a Shrule sevens in heroic circumstances.

There were many survivors of that 1938 side still to the forefront as Oughterard entered the forties. Backboned as always by the Sullivans, Dinny and Tom, they opened their 1941 campaign with a game, billed by the Connacht Tribune as "the best match of the year" in its preview, against Wolfe Tones.

That side had its stars in players like the Sullivans - Tom, Charlie, Dinny and Ned — Pat Gibbons and Henry Kenny. They easily overcame a weak Tone's side 3-5 to 1-3, even without the services of Dinny Sullivan. Their opening Crean Cup clash of that year in May was played in heavy rain against U.C.G. in Fahy's Field. In fact U.C.G. had started the better side, but a Dinny Sullivan free was steered into the net five minutes from the end for a draw.



Dinny Sullivan, Oughterard, about to clear from a Sligo attack in the Connacht Senior Football semi-final at Roscommon. Behind him is Joe Duggan, Annaghdown, former All-Ireland discus champion.

The replay took place at the beginning of June and this time Oughterard made no mistake winning by two points at Oughterard, having trailed by six points to no score at the interval. The junior side made it a double by defeating Kilannin by a point on the same day.

The Oughterard connection with the county scene at that time was none other than Dinny Sullivan, and, in a Connacht Tribune pen-picture prior to the 1941 All-Ireland semi-final clash with Cavan, he was described as "the stone wall of the team. He has few equals, if any, playing at the present time. A great kicker and a wonderful catcher".

Ironically, he missed out on that semi-final due to a knee injury, but the county board hoped he would be back for the final against Kerry.

On the club front, meanwhile, Oughterard were preparing to take on old rivals Wolfe Tones in a county senior semi-final at Fahy's Field, which they subsequently lost by four points.

However Oughterard lodged an appeal against the result, which was overruled at a football board meeting. At first the club threatened to appeal to the Connacht Council, but then decided to withdraw their protest.

The second of the Sullivans, Tom, earned his call up to the senior panel in the Spring of 1942 when Galway faced Leitrim in a Connacht Senior Football League game, and later in that year lined out alongside brother Dinny and O'Toole on the county Junior side.

It had looked towards the end of '41 as though the club would not field a senior side for the following year, but that didn't hold through and they took on and beat Castleblakney in the Crean Cup first round in May.

An indication of the mode of transport in those days was given in a notice in the Connacht Tribune prior to that clash. "All players are requested to be at the Square at 10 a.m. sharp on Sunday with bicycles, togs and boots" — Ferguson's bus must have seemed a long way off!

The fact that Oughterard were very much a force in the county at that time is shown in that no less than three of the club's players — O'Halloran, O'Toole and Charlie Sullivan — were included in trials for the county side that year; and that didn't include either of the two better known Sullivan brothers.

In Junior football, Oughterard beat the previous year's winners before going under to Liam Mellows in September. Their senior side had better luck, however, and won through to meet Ballinasloe in the county senior championship.

That was taking place amidst the controversial suspension of Tom Sullivan for having represented a junior club in Roscommon while still registered to Oughterard. His brother Dinny pointed out at a county board meeting that Army players played whenever and for whoever they could.

"There should be a certain amount of leniency for an Army man who is travelling all over the country and is only too anxious for a game of football", said Dinny.

However the suspension was not immediately lifted — merely deferred and Tom lined out for Oughterard when they beat Ballinasloe 2-5 to 0-5 in Tuam. There, according to reports, Dinny was outstanding, and but for the inaccuracy of some of the Oughterard forwards the margin of victory would have been much bigger.

The Tom Sullivan case continued. Sullivan, who had played on the Galway All-Ireland final side beaten by Dublin that year, was suspended by the Roscommon county board — it was the Aughrim, Co. Roscommon side with which he committed the offence — who did leave the way open for their

Galway counterparts to apply to Congress for his reinstatement.

The 1942 championship ran well into 1943, and Oughterard had to play Erin's Hopes in the semi-final for the right to meet Tuam in the final. The first game ended in a draw, after Oughterard had led for most of the game. Hopes comprehensively won the replay.

However Oughterard bounced back and beat Wolfe Tones in their Crean Cup first round clash in May, and the Keoghs and Sullivans again proved to be the side's backbones.

Their interest in that competition was soon terminated, but the sides were again paired in the following year's first round. Again Oughterard came out on top winning by 6-9 to 3-9 against a side whose main disadvantage was fitness.

Again Oughterard's interest in the Crean Cup didn't last too long, as they went down to Erin's Hopes 2-4 to 0-4 in the next round, when, not for the first time it was poor shooting that proved their downfall.

Oughterard put out Hopes in the West Galway championship, gaining sweet revenge for that earlier defeat. In fact they had quite an advantage at the finish of that game, and qualified to meet Annaghdown in the final.

The presence of Oughterard players on the county senior side continued, and both Tom Sullivan and Henry O'Toole were regulars at the beginning of 1945.

The club surprised the fancied Pearses side when they comprehensively defeated them in their Crean Cup clash in May. They ran out winners by 1-11 to 0-4, with Edward Sullivan their star on the day.

Dinny Sullivan was recalled to the county side for the 1945 championship, and starred in the Connacht semi-final when they defeated a fancied Sligo side.



The Galway team led by Dinny Sullivan, Captain, taking the field for their match with Cork in the All-Ireland senior football semi-final at Croke Park, 1945.

Galway eventually went out to Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final when Dinny played at full-back, and Tom at midfield. Dinny also captained the side that year and was also to mark his last game for the county.

With the championship out of the way, the county started a programme of rebuilding, and one man called up was Ned Keogh. He starred in a challenge against Sligo, in which Tom Sullivan also played.

Oughterard met Pearses again in the West Board senior championship in September, and again came out victors. They then took on U.C.G. in a game serving two purposes — semi final of the Western section of the Crean Cup and the semi final of the county championship.

However U.C.G. didn't turn up to Fahy's Field, and Oughterard attempted to claim the West Board title as a result. U.C.G. didn't show because they had understood that the game would not go ahead, as an appeal lodged by Erin's Hopes after their clash with the College had yet to be heard.

Towards the end of that year, Tom Sullivan and Ned Keogh continued to shine for Galway at senior county level. In fact, when they were narrowly defeated by Kerry in the National Football League, Ned was described as "a real find". The report went on: "He is fast, tenacious and dangerous".

That 1945 county final took place in April of 1946 against Ballinasloe.

Ballinasloe had overcome Annaghdown in the semi-final, and started as favourites. They were reigning champions and had reputedly the strongest attack in the county.

Oughterard's path to that final had been somewhat more hazardous. That U.C.G./Erin's Hopes controversy was eventually settled when the county board over-ruled previous decisions and awarded the tie to Hopes.

They faced Oughterard in a county semi-final, but were beaten in a poor game. Oughterard now were also the West Board champions by virtue of this.

However the champions had little difficulty in retaining their title at Tuam winning by 1-8 to Oughterard's 0-3. The game was marred as a spectacle by driving wind and rain, and in spite of getting the opening score of the game, Oughterard trailed 0-5 to 0-1 at the interval. They did pull back two of those points through Ned Keogh, but Ballinasloe regained control and ran out easy winners.

Oughterard then crashed out of the 1946 senior football championship when they were hammered by a strong Army side 7-6 to 3-4. Oughterard, with the advantage of the strong wind, had in fact led 3-4 to 3-2 at half-time, but failed to score at all in the second half.

Galway retained faith in both Tom Sullivan and Ned Keogh, however, and in fact they partnered one another in midfield in a NFL clash with Clare at the end of that year.



*Souvenir of visit to Enniscorthy, 28th April, 1946
2nd row: Ned Keogh. Back row: Tom and Dinny Sullivan*

There was no Oughterard senior side for 1947, and the club entered a junior side instead. Yet they had three county regulars in Ned Keogh, O'Halloran and O'Toole from the parish.

Indeed the strangeness of this move to junior was further exemplified when Oughterard sevens were beaten only in the final of the Shrule competition, having put out two good teams along the way.

However they didn't meet with much success at that level in the end, and went down rather tamely to a strong Clifden in the West Board junior semi-final. Clifden won by 2-7 to 1-3, but Oughterard gained some solace when Hon Keogh was selected on the Galway junior side alongside such players as Dunmore's Bertie Coleman and Tuam's young rising star Sean Purcell.

Tom Sullivan, now playing his football in Dublin, and Ned Keogh, having opted for senior football with Erin's Hopes, were both holding their places on the county senior side at the end of the year.

Oughterard decided not to field any West Board side in 1948, and consequently had a very quiet year. They were defeated by the Neale in the semi-final of the Shrule sevens, but the main interest from the parish centered on the county scene.

Tom Sullivan and Ned Keogh, both still playing outside of the home club, gave sterling displays for Galway when they surprised Connacht champions Roscommon in the Connacht semi-final, while Hon Keogh scored 1-4 in a Connacht final for the county junior side against Sligo.



The Galway team who defeated Roscommon in the semi-final of the Connacht football championship at Ballinasloe on Sunday.

Galway's seniors held Mayo to a draw in the provincial final, and were eventually beaten in a replay. But it was Tom Sullivan's achievement in playing a captain's part and forcing that replay that earned him the praise of the plaudits that year. The Connacht Tribune put it that "his performance will long stand out in the memory of those who saw the Connacht football final".

Meanwhile, Oughterard decided to return to junior football for 1949, and got a bye in the first round of the West Board competition. They went on to defeat Cleggan, and subsequently Kilannin — a game they were rather fortunate to take having trailed substantially in the first game before it had to be postponed.

Oughterard took on Moycullen in the West Galway junior football final of 1949 in October, with Oughterard starting as favourites. The game, played in Galway, was remarkable for its low scoring, because Oughterard won by 0-2 to 0-0.

However Moycullen lodged a successful objection, and the game had to be replayed.

But again Oughterard made no mistake at the second time of asking, and overwhelmed Moycullen 1-8 to 0-3, and a newspaper report called it "a triumph for the Keogh brothers for with Ned as the initiator of all movements, Mick as a marksman, and Johnny as a sterling back the victors had three around whom all movements seemed to revolve".

Others who shone in that victory were Joe Lydon, the nippy Willie Power and F. Toole. Oughterard had led by a mere two points at the interval; 0-4 to 0-2. But Moycullen could only manage one single point in the second half, as Oughterard built up their advantage.

That qualified them to meet Kilgerril, the East Board champions, and victors over Caltra (the North Board champions) in a semi-final to decide the county junior football champions of 1949. Kilgerril were easily accounted for by a far superior Oughterard squad. The panel which brought that victory were as follows: Frank Gibney, Johnny Keogh, Joe Lydon, Paddy Lydon, Joe Keogh, Andy Joyce, Edwin McDonagh, Hon Keogh, Tom McHugh, Pat O'Toole, Ned Keogh, Henny Halloran, Peter Feeney, Willie Power, John O'Toole, Mick McDonagh, John Gibney and Eddie Joyce.

Oughterard went back to senior football for the 1950 season after their success in the junior division the previous year, and again they had a good campaign.

They sprung a huge shock in defeating Fr. Griffin's, the senior champions of '49, in a county football semi-final replay, after being extremely lucky to get a second chance.

On the first occasion they had trailed for virtually the entire game, and looked well beaten in the closing stages trailing 0-4 to 0-1. Then however a long free from Mick Keogh dropped into the strong breeze, dipped and beat the goalkeeper minutes from the end.

That had been a scrappy affair, with three players being sent off in the course of the game — one Oughterard and two from the champions.

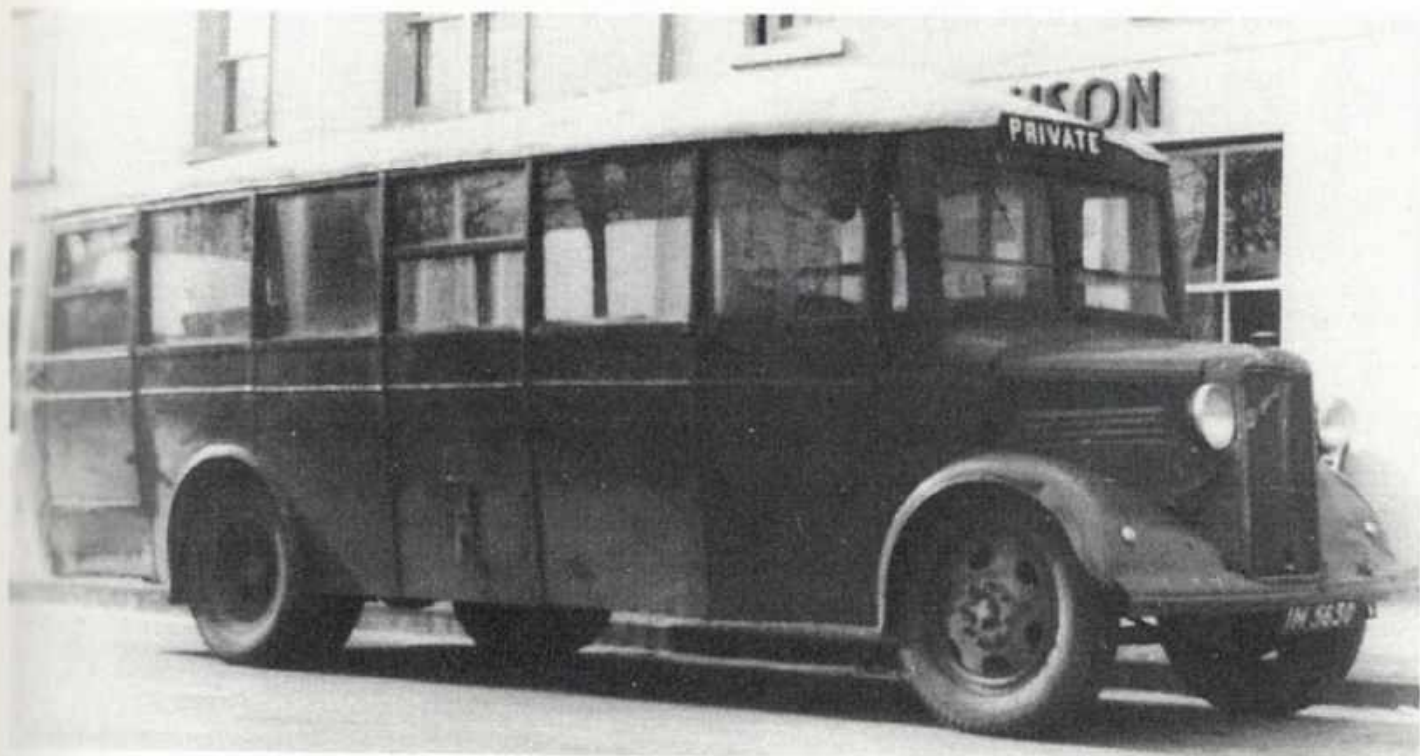
However if they had been lucky the first time, then Oughterard won on merit the second time of asking. At Tuam, the scores were level five times, and Oughterard just took it at the finish 1-4 to 0-6. Indeed it took some solid defensive work on both sides to see that finish. Frank Gibney made a handful of brilliant saves for the winners, while the Griffin's defence had a tough time keeping tabs on the three Keoghs; Hon, Ned and Mick.

That shock win qualified them for a county senior football final clash with St. Michaels. St. Michael's which they did not contest as Fr. Griffins lodged an objection to Tom Sullivan which was successful, it alleged that Tom had played for Guinnesses in the Dublin championship.

THE CONNEMARA BUS

Although he never kicked a ball in anger for Oughterard, Andrew Ferguson will forever hold a special place in any history of that club.

Because for over 30 years he was the link between the side and their supporters for away matches with his famous green bus.



Andrew Ferguson's Bus

Aptly coloured to match the club's green jersey, Andrew Ferguson's bus is a legend not just in Oughterard but all over the county. The stories about it are endless; indeed it has become famed in song thanks to Din Joe and his "Connemara Bus".

Andrew Ferguson was born in Tubber, Co. Clare in 1885, and while he always considered Oughterard to be his hometown, he didn't arrive there until 1922.

Prior to that he had served with the British Army in such far away places as Malaya, Singapore, Mesopotamia, Kenya, Tankanyika and China. He spoke fluent Chinese, and was involved in combat on a number of occasions.

When he returned to Ireland in 1922, he set up his own trucking business and wholesale business. It was then that he started transporting the Oughterard team to their numerous engagements on the sporting fields.

Andrew ran his business from Main Street, and his premises were where the Mayfly Inn and Tuck's Garage are today. This was a meeting point for the teams and supporters on match days.

His famous bus came into existence in 1932. A twenty-seater with a maximum speed of 35 miles an hour, Andrew always proudly said that in all of the amazing 640,000 miles he drove around the country, he never had a breakdown in his bus.

He drove it himself, and his brothers Maurice and Eugene also took turns. The seats were bigger than the normal size — Andrew had removed the original seating to accommodate passengers and their various types of luggage; from baskets to bags of flour and foodstuffs.

Andrew Ferguson was one of the best known characters around the West.

and to his credit he never left a passenger on the side of the road, regardless of getting the fare.

However his bus career came to an end in October 1964 when Andrew retired and sold his business to Tom Faherty in Moycullen. Andrew himself has since died, but will forever live in the hearts of the many thousands for whom he provided the link between Oughterard and the county's football fields.

A lover of sport in general, Andrew was never happier than when he was taking a victorious Oughterard side home. That was more satisfying and important to him than any business.



(l to r): Billy Ryan, Maurice Ferguson, Roger Finnerty, Andrew Ferguson, Hugh Ryan.



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TOM SULLIVAN

*Man with
a
very special place
in
Galway football*

*Jack
Mahon*

by Jack Mahon

Love of football has always been so much part of me that my love of footballers is very easy to recall and re-tell. Those of you who read my book "Action Replay" will have no difficulty in remembering the names. The stars of my own hometown of course like Brendan Nestor, Frank Fox and Mick Donnellan — the folk tales made them heroes even if you never saw some of them play. And Bobby Beggs of course. He had a very special place. And there was something magic about the name. And Tom Sullivan. Very special too. The man we could always depend upon to keep the old maroon and white flag flying.

BROTHER DINNY

Unlike brother Dinny, Tom hadn't the good fortune to play on an All Ireland winning team. Dinny too was a superb corner back, the greatest of his day. My late father regarded Dinny as one of the greatest of them all. So too did the late Brendan Nestor, Gerald Courell and Paddy Moclair, all three of them whom I interviewed at some stage or other. And when I went to secondary school in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam in 1945, I grew to admire Sean Purcell as a footballer extraordinary, the most skilled, balanced and stylish footballer I have ever seen. There have been others off and on since — Tom "Pook" Dillon, Peter Tierney, John Donnellan, Jimmy Duggan and Willie Joyce, all for varying reasons. But Tom Sullivan was special.

JACKIE LYNE

Time, they say, tends to magnify things and conversely time tends to make one forget. But the legend is never too far wrong. It is one of my greatest regrets that I never had the honour of playing on a Galway team with Tom Sullivan. Sean Purcell had that honour in 1948 and swears by the man. Tom Sullivan wasn't an almighty big man but he was as strong as an ox. Let no one tell you he was a dirty footballer. But he had no fear, would literally go through a stonewall and in the days when a shoulder charge was the in-thing in gaelic football, Tom could really bowl you over. I remember meeting Jackie Lyne, the former Kerry star in the Galway Golf Club a few summers ago. Lyne uncle of the Spillane brothers Pat, Mick and Tom, was a tough footballer himself, a centre half back of durability and quality. We talked of football present and past. "The hardest belt I ever got on a football field was from Tom Sullivan. It was a fair shoulder. I can feel it yet"

EAMONN YOUNG

I never met Eamonn Young of Cork that he doesn't mention Tom's greatest ever display at midfield v Cork in the '45 All Ireland semi-final. Young was a great piece of stuff himself and played that day at midfield also. Sullivan's was one of the greatest exhibitions of midfield play ever seen. I listened to that game on radio and it seemed from Michael O'Hehir's commentary that for a time in the second half that Tom Sullivan, in all his ragged football majesty, was taking on Cork single handed. And for a time it seemed as if Galway and Sullivan would prevail. A sub-heading in Jarlath Burke's account of Galway's herculean attempt in the following weeks *Tuam Herald* read "Sullivan versus Cork". It is an awful pity that tape recordings of such radio commentaries are not available today. Still the newspaper account of the games are and can be seen on micro film in the Galway Co. library.



N. Ryan, the captain of the Dublin team, kissing the ring of His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Walsh before the game against Galway in 1950 at Tuam's new Stadium. Also in the picture are Rev. Dr. Michael Mooney and Mr. Tom Sullivan, captain of the Galway team.

SHY, SELF-EFFACING

During my early student days in St. Jarlath's from 1945 to '48 Tom Sullivan was the football hero for all of us Galwegians. Roscommon men then cock-a-hoop but I remember whenever I went to see Galway play I always went up alongside Tom Sullivan at half time. Said nothing, just watched everything he did. I'd have been delighted to talk to him but he was a shy almost distant man, embarrassed at his own popularity. Those were the days of no dressing rooms and teams remained on the field at half time, overcoats over the team gear if the elements were not too kind. Years afterwards 1957 to be exact I met

Tom Sullivan at last in Gaelic Park New York, the night of our 2nd game v New York in Gaelic Park. I remember being told that Tom Sullivan was there and I was so thrilled to meet him. Shy as ever, we talked for a time. I told him of my childhood adulation but I had to drop it because he was ill at ease. But he was so happy to be in the midst of Galway footballers again.



T. O'Sullivan (6), Galway's centre half back in a tussle for possession with his opponent T. Langan, the Mayo centre three-quarter (11).

1948

But I suppose those titanic Connacht final tussles (draw and replay) with Mayo in 1948 really stamped Tom Sullivan's name on Galway's football history. A number of pages of my book "Action Replay" are given over to Tom Sullivan's titanic displays, his clashes with Tom Langan, the penalty goal, the mighty catching. The daily papers captured it for posterity. Two team-mates of that time Sean Thornton and Joe Duggan never stop eulogising Tom Sullivan. In their eyes and indeed in the eyes of many a Galwayman he was the greatest of them all. His last game for Oughterard v Fr. Griffins was one of his greatest ever but he was deemed illegal and subsequently suspended and so ended his football career on Irish soil.

BALLYMOE

In June of this year we played in an "oldie" game in Ballymoe Roscommon v Galway. Afterwards we dined in Castlerea with our old adversaries like Gerry O'Malley, Tony Whyte, P. J. Shine and Co. One of the organisers Tom Egan from Ballymoe — a Galwayman and a fervent G.A.A. follower — talked of times gone by, of stars past and present "Tom Sullivan was the greatest of them all. I carried him on my shoulders after the drawn Connacht final of '48, It is my proudest boast". Need I say anymore.

Centenary books by Jack Mahon published recently Action Replay (£3.95) - contains large chapter on history of Connacht finals. Gaelic Games Quizbook No. 3. - Centenary edition (£1.95). In all bookshops or direct from author at: 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway.

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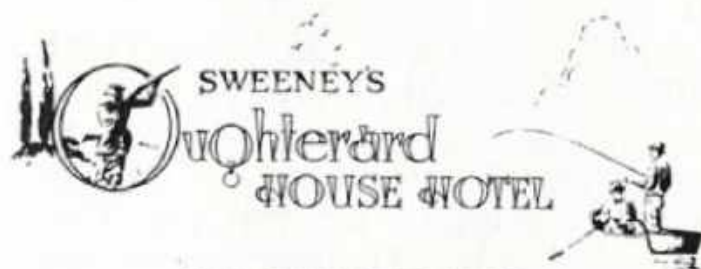
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PETER GERAGHTY

A Man for all Club Seasons

by Brian Geraghty

One of the fondest recollections I have of my father concerns a pretty heated match between Oughterard and Moycullen at Corribdale. Practically every player of the thirty was in the wars and eventually sometime in the second half things boiled over into the mother-and-father of a row. In such differences of opinion the modh direach was the only successful method of debate. In the middle of it all who do I find on the field beside me, but himself, and he foaming from the lips and ready to take on all comers. "Will you get to hell out of here" roared I at him "spectators should not be on the field . . . they only make things worse". (I actually feared for him). He looked hurt with the rebuff but probably realised I was right. As he made his way towards the sideline, however, his anger and frustration caused him to have the last word a sort of blow below the belt that more than anything else expressed what Oughterard meant to him. "Maybe I shouldn't be out here" adeir sé "but if I was here as long as you, I'd be doing a helluva lot more, and you a County player and all".

To my Dad, Oughterard and its people were everything, and the love he had for his adopted home expressed itself in a million ways. Perhaps the little notice sellotaped to his shop window told it all. It simply said "Ring for service". There were no specific times mentioned, no clauses at all . . . just a vocational commitment expressed in three short words, and without such a commitment springing from a completely selfless love it could never have been so great or so loyal. Doubtless, with him the G.A.A. club held pride of place, but Muintir na Tire of which he was secretary, the Race Committee, the Carnival Committee, the camogie team of which he was chairman, manager, trainer and spiritual advisor . . . all were given his one hundred per cent effort. Admittedly he was happiest when, after a marathon debate at the West Board, he would hold up the paper on which an objection had arrived, hold it so to speak against the light, and sensing a great victory, tell his arch rival and great friend Paddy Taylor that it was not water marked!! Here was his All Ireland Final victory and ones in which the County were concerned never meant as much. Regardless of Galway's calendar of fixtures every Sunday morning found him in Corribdale lining the pitch for that afternoon's game, and if he felt that no one else from the local club would be around to welcome the visiting teams he would sacrifice the County game and be so happy to do so. It had to be love.

I often felt it was all a consequence of his being a blow-in, for after all he came to Iar Chonnacht across the Machair Reidh from Tryhill on the Galway/Roscommon border. The people of Oughterard took him to their hearts and this he never forgot. At the same time he had a very generous nature and it may have been the same, regardless of the circumstances. The commitment to the G.A.A. sprang directly from his identifying with the nationalist movement and the struggle to promote Irish culture . . . you should have heard him argue to retain Rule 27. Not an inch would he move!!

He was secretary of the G.A.A. club during its greatest period in my memory (on reflection was he ever not secretary of it?). These were the years immediately after the war from 1948 to 1954. I had just graduated from the convent into the kamakazi world of the Boys School at Ton Bhui, where the nearest thing to a visual aid was the performance of Bolgers bull in the field across the way. There were few cars anywhere, petrol was rationed and money was scarce with many depending on the "Aunt in America". Consequently the parish was our only world, and Sinn Fein in its true sense, of all for one and one for all, the only practical survival kit. I doubt if youngsters in today's world of quick travel, international horizons, easy access and enough pocket money to make it all happen could ever really appreciate the scene.

Save for a certain speeding up to meet some of the more important occasions of our social calendar things just progressed enough in those days for night to give way to day. Winter card games might be followed by a Christmas pantomime, and save for Andrew Darcy's town litter collection nothing much followed until the Lenten Drama. Pete and Matt would re-colour the town for the visiting mayfly anglers and during the lazy, hazy days of summer that followed, a Regatta and Carnival would be held. Tommy McQuinn would broadcast the races annually and there would be the Show and always the Ross sports. Somewhere in the mid fifties regular visits from radio buses injected a sort of international flavour to the main street, though no one enjoyed them nearly as much as they did Padraic Conroy's bicycle sallies through town. All the time we'd have enough weddings and wakes to keep elbows in practice despite Tim Molloy's best P.T.A.A. efforts, and in the evenings there would be Corribdale and football.

On leaving May devotions you would hear the sound of the hopping ball and wonder how many were already in Corribdale. You would be hoping to get a few kicks from behind the goal before Sonny McQuinn got his training session into full swing. Sonny was one of the club's greatest assets, able to instill discipline into training and bring his charges to peak fitness. Thirty players would be put through their paces on at least two, and maybe three week evenings, and few doubted that the lean years in our club's success story were coming to an end. Not since the great side of legendry Dinny and the mighty Sullivans, not since we produced players of the calibre of Pat Gibbons, Ned O'Toole, Johnny Conneely from Camp and my own uncle, Sean Donnellan, did Oughterard rule in the county. It looked as if the famine was over however and eventually Nineteen-forty-nine saw the great breakthrough, when a team back-boned by the Keoghs won the County Junior championship. Andrew's bus often failed to pass Maggie Joe's afterwards, but the return journey from that final in 1949 saw Andrew swear "never again!!"

In 1950 Oughterard went senior and the following four year period incorporated the War of a Thousand Days with Fr. Griffins, magnificent championship and league finals against Tuam Stars, when Andy Joyce stood shoulder to shoulder with the great Purcell, and sweeping victories at Fr.

Kyne's Shrute tournament, where our seven were unbeatable and the best in Connacht. These were our golden years, when we gave to the County great players like Tom McHugh, Colm O'Higgins, Henry Halloran, Frank O'Toole, Andy Joyce and the marvellous Keoghs, all five of them. I suppose Tom Sullivan and Ned Keogh were my idols, but Oughterard's strength was such that sometimes even these great county men were outshone at club level by players like Edwin McDonagh, "Dodo" Neville (who played minor for the County), Pat O'Toole, Pete Feeney, Paddy Clancy and the popular Seamus Kyne (Frankie's brother), whom of course we only had on loan from Clonbur, and who figured as full back on Brian Mahon's All Ireland minor winning side in 1952.

Perhaps my father's greatest moment was when our side came of age in senior ranks and took the West Board title from reigning County champions, Fr. Griffins. The city side were packed with great players such as Jimmy Ward, Paddy Higgins, Eddie Dowling, Joe Keville, the Reidy brothers, Sean Kindillon and Aidan Corrigan. For weeks afterwards every traveller to our shop was greeted with "What will Johnny Cotter say now . . . himself and his League of Nations" and they'd be given a weave by weave account of Frank Toole's great boxed goal, and how Johnny Keogh outwitted Kindillon, and indeed the referee as well, in the parallelogram discussion.

When the sides next met in the County championship semi-final only the seagulls got home safely. Without our "Blonde Bombshell" Nedeem, who got the line for retaliation, Oughterard fell asunder but Mike Keogh earned us a draw with a great goal. In the replay we set Tom Sullivan on them and let everyone know who was who. As Tom was playing club football in Dublin also, Griffins objected, and despite my father calling in the services of P. K. Joyce from Clifden to play a supportive role at the meeting, and despite a special trip to discuss the matter with Paddy Naughton of the North Board, Cotter won, and Griffins were awarded the game. The story to the travellers then was "let them have their medals, we beat them where it counted . . . on the field". In retrospect, wasn't it all such fun, but let me emphasise — only in retrospect. It was very serious business at the time.

Mention of P. K. Joyce reminds me of William Keogh also. These two with my father Taylor and Cotter were the great characters that brought such life to Connemara football. My father had a great regard for P. K. and loved arguing with him. Together with half the kids of the town he would await the arrival of the Clifden team bus, and the moment P. K. would appear those children would break into a deafening chorus of "Up Oughterard". Eventually P. K. would shush them away by pegging a pocketful of pennies into the air and pretend to be ever so annoyed.

In 1953 a stylish Dunmore MacHales team defeated Oughterard in the County Final and for all intents and purposes that was our Swan Song. Clonbur took over the mantle of Connemara champions in the mid-fifties and Frankie Kyne, Paddy O'Malley, Marcus and Co. went into the annals in 1956 when they had a great victory over Tuam Stars in the League final. The following year we amalgamated with them and then came the period of Connemara Gaels. The latter failed in my opinion because the team never trained together. Connemara always produced fine individual footballers but regular training and coaching sessions are so necessary to wield them into a team. Perhaps it is not yet too late to try.

No one would give more to see a Senior Championship come west of Corrib than my father and if it ever should happen I imagine himself, John Martin, Keogh, P. K. Taylor and all those great characters would nearly drive Fr.

Mahon out of heaven with the ribbing they'd give him at the celebration. And what a night there would be. The guards, if such exist in heaven, would surely turn a blind eye to the poteen and with Martín Thornton at the helm that would certainly be made available.

What great characters they all were, and what a great life there was in those good days. May they all rest in peace, while their memories live on. I am so proud that the present day officers of the Seamus O Maille club remembered my Dad. He would be over the moon, for despite the fact that hardly anyone contributed more to the club's development he would never expect anything special in return. All he'd want would be those green and white jerseys flying out of car windows in victory as the Seamus O Maille's returned . . . hours before Andrew's bus.



Fay Tuck (R.I.P.), doing a check-up before another of Andrew's journeys

On his behalf may I congratulate you on this publication and wish the club every success in the future. Maybe a County title in his memory? Any chance?

OUGHTERARD — THE UNLUCKY TEAM OF THE EARLY FIFTIES

Mick Waters

Oughterard fielded a very strong and powerful team in the first half of the fifties, but it was dogged with ill-luck. This was a football team that in any ordinary year would have no bother winning a senior Co. championship. They had the unenviable experience of having been beaten in two county finals in successive years, in 1952 and 1953. In the final of 1952 they ran up against a powerful Tuam Stars outfit powered by Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell at their mightiest, while in 1953 met the youthful Dunmore team who were so fit they literally ran them into the ground and boasted such players as Peter Tierney, Jack and Brian Mahon, Mick Walsh and Jimmy Halliday. In those years the backbone of the Oughterard team was made up of the five Keogh brothers - Ned, Johnny, Joe, Hon and Mick. They also had the assistance of powerful players from Clonbur in Seamus and Frankie Kyne, Ignatius Burke and Matty Joyce and the services of Tom McHugh, a native of Caherlistrane, but who was living in Maam, where he worked as a forestry official. McHugh was a regular of the Galway team at the time.

Oughterard had a gallant band of followers at the time and they travelled to all matches. It was not very long after World War II had ended and transport was at a minimum with very few cars about, but somehow they overcame that and travelled to matches in Tuam, Clarenbridge, Corrandulla, Corofin and Galway regularly in the back of one of Keogh's turf-lorries. They usually had a bit of cover over part of the creel to keep out the drop and the draught. They were often very noisy in these lorries and the crack was good. When going through towns they got the order from the driver, Martin Noone, to lie down and keep quiet. It appears owners could not get insurance to carry passengers on lorries and the driver had to make sure that the Gardai would not notice or stop the lorry when passing through. Anyhow they always got to and from the matches safely and were never involved in any accident, on such trips. The Keoghs were great supporters of the Club. They placed their cars, vans and lorries at our disposal to get players and supporters to matches. They also hired Andrew Ferguson's bus extensively in the early fifties. Another great power behind the Club was Peter Geraghty. He was a great administrator, West Board and County Board delegate and at different times he acted as secretary and treasurer. He always prided himself in having something controversial to say at board meetings and county conventions and he often made the headlines in reports of same in the local paper, The Connacht Tribune.

Early in 1953 I was prevailed upon by Mick Keogh to take up the position of Secretary of the Seamus O Maille Club. Although I was only 19 years and with no previous experience for such a job I agreed and at the Annual General Meeting I was duly elected. Dinny O'Sullivan was then Chairman, with Peter Geraghty treasurer and William Keogh the board delegate. William Keogh was a very colourful character and great supporter who was known from one end of the county to the next. We held our meetings in a small hall which was located in Camp Street opposite where McGeough's butcher shop now stands. It was known as the Hibernian Hall and later as the Seamus O Maille Hall. Some of our meetings then evoked heated exchanges, etc. and we often had walkouts by members over policy, etc. I got great and valuable assistance

in my early days as secretary from Pat Gibbons. Pat gave me great briefing on how to conduct meetings, record minutes and deal with G.A.A. correspondence.

The year 1952 began on a quiet note with not much activity and few outings for the senior team. They played Clifden in the league in March and won and later in June again met Clifden in the West Board senior championship and once again we were successful but only by a goal (2-5 to 1-5). Clifden were then powered by the seven Joyce brothers, sons of P. K. Joyce, a well-known Clifden businessman of that era. There was great sporting rivalry between the Joyce brothers of Clifden and the Keogh brothers of Oughterard. P. K. Joyce and William Keogh made several challenges to one another to play their seven sons against one another in a seven-a-side football match but it never came off, in spite of the fact that this proposed match evoked much discussion all over Connemara at the time.

The quarter-finals of the senior championships took place on 6th July 1952. At Corrandulla they met Corofin and after a great struggle Oughterard won. But that was only the beginning of a hectic day's football. After the game in Corrandulla they all hit for Shrule for the big annual 7-a-side tournament. This was a famous tournament organised annually by the Parish Priest, Fr. Kyne. He had teams there from all over the country. They had to play two matches to reach the semi-final where they met old rivals, Fr. Griffins. In a memorable match, Oughterard emerged victorious on the score of 2-4 to 2-3, and it was said that all Fr. Griffins were county players. On they went to the final in which they met Edenderry, Co. Offaly, and won the final on a score of 3-3 to 1-4. The team was made up of the five Keoghs, Tom McHugh and Frank Gibney in goal, but Colm Higgins and Andy Joyce may also have been used in some of the matches.

The county semi-finals were played at Clarenbridge on 10th August 1952 in which Tuam played The Army (a draw) and Oughterard met Annaghdown. Oughterard emerged victorious on the score of 2-8 to 1-4, and Patsy Geraghty, Ballinasloe was the referee. The Oughterard team on that day was:

	Frank Gibney	
Edwin McDonagh	Johnny Keogh	Pat Toole
Seamus Kyne	Andy Joyce	Joe Keogh
	Tom McHugh	Colm Higgins
Mick Keogh	Ned Keogh	Hon Keogh
Pete Feeney	Richard King	Frankie Kyne

This was Frakie Kyne's first match ever to play for Oughterard, and it was brother, Seamus, who also played, was a county minor player that year. Tuam duly defeated Army in the replay and lined out against them in the county senior final at Clarenbridge on Sunday 31st August 1952. Oughterard had a good record going into the final and were confident. They had won West Board Championships in 1945 and 1950 and a Junior county championship in 1949 and had a good few of these players still on the team. Ned Keogh was a regular on the Galway team for the previous eight years and he had won a Railway Cup medal with Connacht a few years previously. Tom McHugh was also a regular for Galway and Connacht. Hon Keogh had played senior and junior for Galway while Mick Keogh played minor with Galway. Large crowds began to leave Oughterard by all kinds of transport from bicycles to lorries from early morning. It was a very windy day with the wind blowing straight from one goal to the other, and when referee Patsy Geraghty tossed the coin, Purcell, the Tuam Stars captain, won the toss and decided to play with the wind. It was all Tuam in the first half and they led at half-time by 1-6

no Nil. Hon Keogh and Tom McHugh were outstanding at centrefield. Frank Stockwell got Tuam's goal and most of the other points came from 14 yard frees. On resumption, Ned Keogh scored a point followed by a point by Tom McHugh. Then Pete Feeney reduced it to two points when he scored a great goal. Things looked good for Oughterard. But then Purcell, Nallen and Stockwell began to dominate and all Oughterard could score were two further points from Hon Keogh and Tom McHugh. Tuam added one other point and the final score was 1-7 to 1-4. Fr. Mahon, Chairman of the Football Board was on hand to present the cup to Sean Purcell and that was as near as we got to winning a senior championship then or unfortunately since then. The Oughterard team in that final was:

	Frank Gibney	
Edwin McDonagh	Johnny Keogh	Seamus Kyne
Joe Keogh	Andy Joyce	Colm Higgins
	Hon Keogh	Tom McHugh
Pat Toole	Ned Keogh	Frank Kyne
Mick Keogh	Henny O'Halloran	Pete Feeney

Sub: Richard King for Henny O'Halloran.

However that was not the end of the affair. Oughterard lodged an objection to Tuam being awarded the match on the grounds that Jack Mangan was illegal to play with them as he was playing with a club called Kickhams in Dublin. The hearing of the objection went on for a long time and it was dealt with at four different meetings of the County Football Board before it was finally overruled. They did get evidence from the Dublin County Board, through John Dunne, that Mangan played two matches with Kickhams in 1952 in Dublin, but the objection was lost by the time they got the evidence. Anyhow there were some of the players not in favour of winning a county final on an objection, and they considered that it was more sporting to win it on the field.

Seamus Kyne went on to play full back on the Galway minor team that won the first minor All-Ireland football title ever for Galway, against Cavan, later that year. It is worth recording that in Galway's first league outing against Clare in October four Oughterard players lined out for the county — Ned Keogh, Colm Higgins, Andy Joyce and Tom McHugh. Galway won 10 points to 3 points.

Oughterard went on to win the West Board final against the Army on 2nd November on the score of 2-4 to 0-4 in a very good game. Our team that day was:

	Frank Gibney	
Colm Higgins	Johnny Keogh	Pat Toole
Edwin McDonagh	Andy Joyce	M. Halloran
	Tom McHugh	Matty Joyce
Dodo Neville	Mick Keogh	S. O'Reilly
Mick Walsh	Joe Lydon	Pete Walsh

1953 opened on an unusual note with the formation of a Hurling Club in Oughterard. There was some great local interest in the game and Oughterard along with other renowned football strongholds took to the hurley and the Sliothair, some for the novelty and others for a renowned love of the game. The football championships did not begin until July. In the Connacht championship, three Oughterard players were honoured with selection on the Galway team, Ned Keogh, Hon Keogh and Tom McHugh. However, Roscommon had an easy win over Galway on the score of 4-4 to 0-3. The first rounds of the county senior football championships were played at the Sportsground, Galway on 12th July. Tuam Stars beat Fr. Griffins that day

and Oughterard beat Army on the score of 1-14 to 1-5. According to the report in the Connacht Tribune the best players for Oughterard that day were the five Keogh brothers, M. Walsh and E. McDonagh in the backs, Tom McHugh at mid-field and Colm Higgins, I. Burke, P. Faherty and F. Toole in the forwards. Mick Higgins was the referee. One match which was played in 1953 stands out in memory as one of the greatest club games ever seen. It was the county semi-final of the county senior football league and it took place in the Sportsground on a Wednesday evening in June, on 24th June between Oughterard and Tuam Stars. Oughterard had a score to settle with Tuam since the county final of the previous year at Clarenbridge. And this they did in no uncertain manner. Hon Keogh was marking the great Sean Purcell that evening and Hon was one of the few players who blotted out the maestro himself. Oughterard went on to win by a goal, with the scores at the end 1-7 to 0-7. Oughterard had a wild band of supporters at that time and large crowds travelled straight from the bogs in Maam Cross in the backs of lorries and Ferguson's bus was also commissioned as well as fleets of cars and vans. Andrew Ferguson was trying to get his load out from the Brooklyn Bar in Wood Quay at 3 o'clock in the morning and they sang all the way home!

The West Board final was played early that year and it took place on 8th August between Oughterard and old rivals Fr. Griffins. Oughterard fielded a strong team and it was described as a tough and rugged match in press reports. Oughterard won by four points on the score of 2-6 to 1-5. Oughterard were short Ned Keogh on that day. According to reports, the best players and



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CO. GALWAY SENIOR FOOTBALL FINAL '53

AT

TUAM STADIUM
On Sunday, 30th August '53

OUCHTERARD v DUNMORE

At 4 p.m.

Referee, P. McHugh.

PRECEDED BY JUVENILE FINAL:-

Dunmore v Corofin

AT 2.30 P.M.

Admission 1/-

Sideline 1/- Extra.

the scorers were: Seamus Kyne, Johnny Keogh, Andy Joyce, Tom McHugh (1-4), Frankie Kyne (1-0), Colm Higgins, Edward Joyce (0-1), Mick Keogh and F. Toole (0-1). The Reidys, Higgins, O'Rourke, Ward, O'Brien, Jennings, Keville and Hoade were Fr. Griffins best players. The Oughterard panel for medals for the West Board Championship that year was: F. Gibney, S. Kyne, M. Walsh, J. Keogh, P. Faherty, T. McHugh, C. Higgins, F. Kyne, F. Toole, Pat McEvelly, John Joe Thornton, John Gibney, Pete Walsh, A. Joyce, Joe Keogh, Ed McDonagh, Edw. Joyce and Mattie Joyce.

And so on to the county semi-finals which were played at Tuam Stadium on 23rd August. On the previous Sunday, Dunmore MacHales had advanced to the final with a good win over Moylough. In the semi-final Oughterard again met old rivals, Fr. Griffins, with P. McHugh (Corofin) the referee. There was the now usual great crowd of supporters at Tuam that day and they had something to shout about as Oughterard went on to beat Fr. Griffins once again on the score of 1-8 to 0-6. Tom McHugh had one of his greatest games for Oughterard that day and he scored six brilliant points. The other scorers were Ignatius Burke (1-1) and Frankie Kyne (0-1). The five Keoghs were brilliant as also were the two Kynes, Higgins, Joyce and Burke.

The county final was fixed for the next Sunday, the 30th August 1953, at Tuam again. Oughterard had little time to heal their wounds after the battle against Fr. Griffins whereas Dunmore had two weeks of a break. With Tuam Stars and Fr. Griffins out of the way they felt very confident. Oughterard were not short of support and there must have been twice as many Oughterard people present as was in Clarenbridge the previous year. It was one shilling to gain admission and one shilling extra for the sideline. There was a gate of over £150 so there must have been an attendance of over 2,000 present when referee P. McHugh threw in the ball. It was 41 years since Dunmore had won a county championship and there was also great excitement in Dunmore country. Arrangements were also made to make a film of this match, and as far as can be gathered it was the first Galway county final ever to appear on film. The

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WHITE STAR HOTEL

TUAM

W. Oughterard G.A.A. Club

30th August 1953

PROPRIETOR: STEPHEN LONG

LUNCHEONS		
TEAS	<i>21 meat teas</i>	
BREAKFASTS	<i>@ 4/6</i>	<i>4 14 6</i>
MIXED GRILLS		
DINNERS	<i>Bye</i>	<i>4 16 0</i>
SUNDRIES	<i>30/8/53</i>	<i>Rev. J. J. O'Leary</i>

The Oughterard team celebrates at the White Star following the 1953 final in Tuam - 21 Meat Teas at 4/6!

film is still in the possession of Bertie Coleman in Dunmore who played against Oughterard that day. Dunmore had a young, fit and very speedy team that day. They literally ran them into the ground. Hon Keogh played his heart out, even though he had an arm in a plaster having fractured it the previous Sunday.

Tom McHugh who had played so many great games for Oughterard did not shine in this final, and he met his match in Peter Tierney, who lorded it at centrefield. Dunmore had the wind in the first half and they led at half-time by 1-4 to 0-2. Dunmore were super fit and they never stopped running over the wide open spaces of the Stadium. Tom McHugh got Oughterard's first half points. With the wind at their backs in the second half they thought that they could still be in there with a chance, but all was lost when from a fifty, Jimmy Halliday punched the ball to the net for a super goal. Oughterard lost their head somewhat after that and began to go for goals — all to no avail. As in the first half it was left to Tom McHugh to score Oughterard's only two points of the second half. The final score was Dunmore 2-5 Oughterard 0-4. The Frank Fox Trophy was presented to Brian Mahon, Captain, by the donor, James Fox who had donated the trophy in memory of his father, Frank. It was described in the papers next day as "a brilliant final". For Oughterard Hon Keogh, Seamus Kyne, Andy Joyce, Colm Higgins, Tom McHugh and Frankie Kyne played well. Peter Tierney, Jack Mahon, Brian Mahon, Jimmy Halliday, Mick Walsh, Bertie Coleman and Brian Lynch were the best players for Dunmore. The Oughterard lineout was:

	Frank Gibney	
Colm Higgins	Johnny Keogh	Seamus Kyne
Joe Keogh	Andy Joyce	Edwin McDonagh
	Tom McHugh	Hon Keogh
Frankie Kyne	Mick Keogh	Ignatius Burke
Mattie Joyce	Ned Keogh	Frank Toole



OUGHTERARD SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM 1953

Back row (l. to r.) Joe Healy, (unidentified), Peter Geraghty Treasurer, Stephen Tierney (partly hidden), Hon Keogh, Joe Keogh, William Keogh, Seamus Kyne, Joe Conneely, Frank Gibney, Mick Walsh, Frank O'Toole, Mick Waters Hon. Sec., Johnny Keogh, (unidentified), Andy Joyce, Ned Keogh.
Front row (l. to r.) Mick Keogh, Colm Higgins, Edwin McDonagh, Tom McHugh, Ignatius Burke, Frankie Kyne and Matty Joyce.
The unidentified persons were from Tuam.

In the county senior football league final they again faced Fr. Griffins. It was played in Corrandulla in October and it became known as the 'No Ball Final'. When both teams lined out at 3.30 p.m. it was discovered that neither team had a football, the referee had none and the county board had provided none. Efforts were made locally to get one but there was none to be found. Somebody suggested to go to the Franciscan Monastery and there might be one there and somebody drove there and sure enough procured a ball. The match began around 5 p.m. Oughterard were somewhat depleted that day. Hon and Joe Keogh had returned to college where they were preparing for the priesthood and others had emigrated. For once Fr. Griffins got the better of them and won on the score of 3-4 to 1-3. So the great win we had over Tuam back in June at the Sportsground proved to be all in vain!

Early in 1954 the mentors of the Clonbur Club were making overtures to their star players who were playing with Oughterard to return to the fold and again field a strong Clonbur team. Their star players like Tom McHugh, the two Kynes, Mattie Joyce and Ignatius Burke had now played for Oughterard for two years and were beaten in two county finals and a county league final and the only glory came in the two West Board championships won in 1952 and 1953. So the players yielded to the pressure from home and in 1954 they returned to Clonbur. Tom McHugh, however, continued to play with Oughterard in 1954. Oughterard were much weakened as a result, struggled from then onwards, and were not a patch on the force they were in former years.

The A.G.M. of Oughterard Club was held on 29th January 1954. The officers elected were: Chairman - Denny O'Sullivan; Hon. Secretary - Mick Waters; Treasurer - Edwin McDonagh; Vice-chairman - Paddy Darcy; Committee - Paddy Walsh, Pat Gibbons, Frank Gibney, Pat Toole and Mick Keogh. President elected was John Martin Melia, and the vice-president was John Conneely. The balance sheet for 1953 showed a credit balance of £9.17.0 and the expenses to run the club came to £100.8.7. At the next meeting in March it was realized that as the Clonbur players would not be with them, Oughterard would have a very weak team for the championship, so it was decided at this meeting to write to Clifden Club and inform them that we were willing to meet them and amalgamate for the championship with them to form a Connemara team. Clifden were willing to the suggestion and they wrote to us and offered the names of five players who would be up to the required standard - P. Davin, Francie Mannion, Sean Mannion, P. O'Toole and Peter Joyce. They also had Frank Connolly and Martin Joyce who were on the upgrade. A Connemara Gaels team was formed and entered for the senior championship. They were drawn against the Army in the first round and it was fixed for Clarenbridge on 27th June 1954. However as the appointed referee, E. Mulholland, did not turn up, the match was not played. It was refixed for Corrandulla on 25th July with R. Burke as referee. In this match Connemara Gaels did not sparkle as anticipated and were beaten by the Army, but lacked the services of Hon and Ned Keogh that day. Hon was ordained in June and later left for the mission fields in Nigeria and Ned had almost called it a day. He had given nine years faithful service to Galway and Oughterard.

Tuam went on to win the senior championship that year but it was also a great year for Clifden and they went on to win the county junior football championship, and their minors also reached the county final only to be pipped by Headford. The Connemara Gaels team that played in that 1954

championship was:

	Frank Gibney	
Sean Sugrue	Johnny Keogh	Michael Cowley
Andy Joyce	Edwin McDonagh	Joe Keogh
	Tom McHugh	Sean Mannion
Francis Mannion	Frank Toole	Mick Keogh
Frank Connolly	Pat Toole	Peter Joyce

Subs: J. J. Thornton, J. J. Casey, Paddy Faherty and Peter Toole.

During the early fifties Oughterard also fielded a junior football and a minor team. They did not win any championships but partook in all competitions at the time and it is worth mentioning that in 1954 the Oughterard minor team was selected from the following panel: Mattie Maloney, Bunt Lambert, Mike Clancy, George Melia, P. J. Melia, P. Melia, Brian Geraghty, Tom McGauley, P. Tierney, P. Kelly, Tony Osborne, Pat Lee, R. McDonagh, P. Geoghegan, John Walsh, P. Walsh. In 1954 the following is the panel of junior and minor players which was registered by Oughterard with the County Board: Sean Sugrue, Pat Anglim, Mike Clancy, Pat Lee, Peter O'Halloran, Tony Osborne, Pat McEvelly, Martin Halloran, Barney Walsh, Paddy Geoghegan, Michael Thornton, J. J. Thornton, Michael Walsh, John Gibney, Jimmy Masterson, Pete Feeney, Brian Geraghty, Paddy Dixon, Paddy Faherty, Mick Waters, Matty Maloney, Michael McDonagh, Kevin Watts, Jack Walsh, Pat Walsh, Jackie Geoghegan, Mick Darcy, George Melia, Jack Melia, Dick McDonagh, Stephen McDonagh, Tom Joyce, Stephen Tierney, Liam Donnellan, Joe Donnellan, Seamus Lambert, Bunt Lambert, Johnny Walsh, Tom McGauley, Peter Tierney, Michael Clancy, Matthew Clancy, M. Tobin.

In April 1954 there was a disagreement between the members of the G.A.A. club and the Trustees of Corribdale Park, where the G.A.A. club played all their matches and did all their training. It appears that primarily these grounds were to be used as a cow park by landless cow owners who were resident in the town and they were placed in the hands of Trustees who lived locally. The trustees at this time were seeking a rent for any matches played there by the club. The club were claiming that they had a right to play their games in the park and they had been used by footballers from Oughterard since football was first played there. It appears that the then local Garda Sergeant, Sgt. Martin Murphy, has interviewed two members of the club concerning cheques received from the West Board as percentage of gates which had been collected at Oughterard. The members of the club were very annoyed about this and special meetings were held to deal with the matter. As secretary, I was instructed to write to the secretary of the Trustees, Mr. E. A. Sweeney, concerning the matter. I also was instructed to write to the Garda Sergeant to find out who had made the complaint to him as a result of which he had interviewed two members of the club. I got an acknowledgement from him of my letter but I never heard anything else from him. There were some efforts made at that time to try and prevent us members from using the grounds at all for playing football and hurling but we resisted this strenuously. A notice was displayed on a tree, opposite the present Welby Filling Station which read: "TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED". But in reality this had no effect on us and we continued to use the grounds for training and playing our matches.

Tom McHugh did not win any medals with Oughterard in 1954 but he did

play at right half-forward for Galway in the Connacht final which Galway won. They defeated Sligo on the score of 2-10 to 3-4. He continued to play great stuff with Galway in the years after that but he was most unfortunate not to be able to line out in the All-Ireland Football final in 1956, in which Galway beat Cork, as he was injured in the semi-final when he fractured his leg.

Oughterard did not win many matches in 1954. When Connemara Gaels were beaten in the championship a lot of players lost interest in the senior league matches. They could not play the Clifden players in the league and had to field an Oughterard team, sometimes having difficulty in even fielding a team.

The annual general meeting of the Club was held in 24th January 1955. John Martin Melia was appointed to act as Chairman during the election of officers. The election of Chairman was the first item on the agenda. William Keogh stood up and proposed Rev. Fr. Hanniffy C.C., Oughterard for the chair and this was seconded by Peter Geraghty. John Conneely proposed Denny O'Sullivan and this was seconded by Pat Gibbons. The acting chairman was not inclined to have a vote taken although he was requested to do so. William Keogh said that in view of this he was withdrawing his proposition and he was leaving the meeting in protest, which he did. Peter Geraghty then proposed Ned Toole for Chairman. This was seconded by Mick Keogh. The acting chairman said that he would not accept this proposal as Ned Toole was not present, and he ruled that at this stage because of the heated exchanges he would adjourn the A.G.M. to a later date.

The re-convened A.G.M. took place a week later, on 31st January 1955. Present were William Keogh, John Conneely, Mick Waters, Sean Surgue, Peter Geraghty, Pete Tierney, Tom McGawley, Jim McDonagh, Frank Toole, Jackie Murray, John A. Molloy, Mike Thornton, Mattie Maloney, Pat Faherty, Henry Toole, Mattie Healy, George Melia, Paddy Geoghegan, Tim Molloy, Sean Monaghan, Denny O'Sullivan, Jo Jo Carney, Dud Darcy, Mick Keogh, Matty Clancy, Joe Davin, Pat Gibbons, Edward O'Sullivan, Frank Gibney, M. Kelly, Fay Tuck and Johnny Keogh. There were 32 in all.

It was proposed by Jackie Murray that Pat Gibbons should take the chair during the election of chairman. This was seconded by Edward O'Sullivan. Pat Gibbons said that he was reluctant to do so as the acting chairman of the last meeting was not present but having been pressed, he finally agreed. Some of the outgoing officers came in for severe criticism for their inactivity in recent years and Johnny Keogh complained that three county championships had been lost because of bad committees, while others complained that some committee members and officers did not even attend our matches to look after the teams.

John Conneely proposed Denny O'Sullivan for Chairman and it was seconded by Sean Sugrue. Pat Faherty proposed Mick Keogh for Chairman and this was seconded by Peter Geraghty. On a vote by a show of hands Denny O'Sullivan was elected by 16 votes to 14. The acting Chairman did not vote and M. Kelly abstained. Mick Keogh was elected vice-chairman unopposed, as Pat Gibbons withdrew after he had been proposed. The election of Secretary then took place. Pat Gibbons and Peter Greaghty were both proposed and seconded and the voting went - Peter Geraghty 14, Pat Gibbons 13. Edwin McDonagh was elected Treasurer unanimously. H. O'toole was elected vice-President. The committee elected were: Frank Gibney, Frank O'Toole, H. Toole, Pat Gibbons, Paddy Faherty, and the incoming captain who would be elected by the team before the first match.

It was agreed to only enter a junior team in the competitions in the year 1955. This was a big step-down for a team that had contested the County Senior Finals of 1952 and 1953.

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THE HURLING CLUB IN OUGHTERARD

Mick Waters

In the early fifties there was a great hurling revival in the West and this may have been prompted by the successes of the Galway hurling team at the time and also by a nationwide drive by the G.A.A. to have the game played everywhere. Hurling clubs were set up in many places and Oughterard was one of them. At a meeting held on 20th March 1953 in the Seamus O'Maille G.A.A. Hall, Camp St., the St. Cummins Hurling Club was founded. It was the first Hurling Club registered and affiliated in the Oughterard parish for thirty years, but it is believed that the game was played in Oughterard before ever it was played elsewhere in Iar Connacht. This was prior to 1817 and indeed to prove this there is a field where it is said to have been played up in Cannrower which is known locally as Leine Bhaire - the hurling meadow.

The first officers elected on 20th March 1953 were: President - Rev. Fr. Murtagh C.C.; Chairman - Peter Geraghty; Vice-chairman - Paddy Joyce; Hon. Secretary - Mick Waters; Joint Treasurers - Jackie Murray and Tim Molloy; Delegates to West Board - Pat Gibbons and Jimmy Masterson; Trainer - Michael O'Brien; Captain - Jimmy Masterson. Committee: Ned Toole, Pat Gibbons, Mattie Maloney, John McDonagh, Paddy Faherty, Stephen Joyce, Jimmy Masterson, Stephen McDonagh and Jackie Geoghegan.



GROUP OF HURLERS

*T. Melia, P. J. Melia, Martin Thornton, Tommy Melia, Mac Burns, Jack Melia.
Photo taken by P. Roland.*

A collection was held at the meeting to try and raise the amount of the affiliation fee which was 14/6 at the time and the collection amounted to £1.12.0. They entered a junior team in that year's league and championship. Naturally Oughterard were no-hopers against teams from traditional hurling areas like Catlegar and Carnmore and whenever they played one of those

teams they got a trouncing. But they had a great crowd of eager lads willing to have a go, they enjoyed their experiences and never had any bother fielding a team. Oughterard had little success the first year and were beaten in the Championship by Carnmore which was played at Corribdale. I still remember that match. Playing at full back I put up my hand to catch a dropping ball and Martin Murphy pulled on me, split my thumb from top to bottom and I had to go off. The following was the usual line-out and this team played in one of these games in 1954 against Clifden, who also happened to have a hurling team at that time.

	Kevin Watts	
Dick McDonagh	Mick Waters	Tom Joyce (R.I.P.)
Michael Thornton	Sean Monaghan	Fay Tuck (R.I.P.)
	Edwin McDonagh	Mick Keogh
Mattie Maloney	John Walsh	Jackie Murray
Michael Clancy	Tim Molloy	John Cummins

Subs: Willie Darcy, Matt Clancy, Seamus Lambert, Bunt Lambert, Peter Tierney and John McDonagh (Glann). Other regulars on the team were Johnny Keogh, Jackie Geoghegan, Stephen McDonagh, Paddy Faherty and Frank O'Toole.

This hurling club lasted for a couple of years and at some stage the name was changed to Glann Hurling Club, as there were a great number of team members, perhaps, a majority, from the Glann area. I recall on a couple of occasions with Jackie Murray cycling the seventeen miles from Oughterard to Galway to represent the Club at meetings of the West Board. We had no other transport in those days. I wonder would the youth of today be that dedicated?

Mick Waters

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PLAYING FOR OUGHTERARD

by Ultan Macken

My father loved all sport. Having grown up in Galway in the 1920s he had played different games. He played hurling and football for the Bish while at school, he played rugby for Corinthians and he also played soccer. Of course at that time the ban must not have been as strict. He always loved sport and he passed this love on to me.

Once we came to live in Glann in 1951, my father had given up active participation in any games except tennis. We played at home at our house, Gort na Ganiv. It has a hard tennis court. I think it's the only one of that group of houses along the road to Glann that had a tennis court. My schooling was important too as having been sent to St. Ignatius College in Galway, it was inevitable that I would become involved in sport there. During the period I was at the Jes, it was what was called an A school. That meant that only GAA was played at the school so from the age of seven when I first went to the Jes I began to play hurling and football regularly. Since I was a day boy and myself and my brother travelled to school every day we also began to play handball every day. My older brother, Wally, didn't take that much interest in GAA, he liked handball and rowing and in fact in rowing he helped as the stroke and captain of the team to bring the Jes many honours. I concentrated on GAA. I became quite good, even if I say so myself and it's my proud boast that during my years in school, I was nearly always picked for the team. It was exciting to go out to the sign-board each day and see your name among the chosen few. As well as playing GAA in school quite early on I became involved in games at home. The first games I played were up behind the late Paddy Mons field in Glenn, where a group of us would gather on a Sunday afternoon. I remember I was very small at the time and would often not get a game at all but in fact would be delegated to referee the match. I was quite small in stature until about the age of fifteen and so it must have been a funny sight to see me separating these big men as they threatened each other. I can remember in particular one match we played in Derrymoyle where Mattie Mons and Petie Tierney had got involved in a row and I remember separating them and one Sunday actually sending them off even though I was half their size.

These games we played in Glann and Derrymoyle were very enjoyable but the real break-through came for me one Sunday afternoon. I can remember it well, my parents and myself would visit, Mrs. Vsoke who at that time was living in Dermot Joyce's bungalow on the road down to the pier. Mrs. Vsoke's husband had started the carpet factory in Oughterard and Mrs. Vsoke brought some of her American habits to Oughterard when she visited . . . One of these was brunch. After the brunch was over one day, I went outside and watched the local lads kicking around a ball in the main football field. I was shy at the time and did not have the courage to go over and join in the game. But Paddy O'Halloran came over to me and invited me to have a game and I went immediately.

As a direct result of that first practice game on that Sunday in the late fifties, I was picked to play for the Oughterard Juvenile team. For me this was a real thrill, much more so than playing for your school, for to represent your parish meant an awful lot. We had some great games. I remember in particular one match we played out in Clifden. We travelled out to the match in the back of one of Keoghs lorries, I think. I remember we were told to put our heads down passing the Gardai at Recess so that they wouldn't see us as presumably it was illegal to be travelling this way on the back of an open lorry.

Even though I was only fourteen or fifteen, I was quite a sturdy youth and although I was playing in the full back line, I remember one particular incident out of that match. There was one young fellow playing for Clifden who was a "hairy" looking juvenile. The theory was that he was in the army. He was knocking down our fellows like nine-pins. I was summoned up field to take care of him. I did just that running up the field and catching him with a solid jostle while he was running. I sent him flying and retrieved the ball. In the newspaper reports of that game I got honourable mention as being a help to Dinny Curran who was a tower of strength at midfield.

I played quite a few matches for the Juvenile team and indeed did some very hard training under the guidance of Galway senior footballer Brian Geraghty. I can remember one awful exercise he put us through of going the length of the field on our hunkers. It was murder. Eventually after a very short time, I was asked would I play for the Oughterard junior team. Although I was pleased to be asked, other people advised me not to play junior as I was too young at fifteen and some of the older fellows could injure me. So I opted out.

I lost contact with the club then after that because when I went to the University in Galway, I simply didn't have the time to continue playing football. In retrospect, I regret that as I think if I had persisted and played at club level for Oughterard, I might have made the Galway minor team and maybe even the senior squad. But that wasn't the way my life was meant to be and so I took off in another direction. Playing football in Oughterard was a very important part of my childhood and I think it helped me make friends with people in Oughterard that I might never have got to know if it were not for that experience.

JUVENILE FOOTBALL 1959

Following the celebration of its Golden Anniversary in 1958 the club eagerly looked forward to the 1959 championships and entered teams in Junior, Minor and in the Juvenile Grade which was organised for the first time.

Oughterard with a very good team enjoyed a great run in this competition and a report in the Connacht Tribune of 11th July, 1959 following their win over Clifden in the championship semi-final by 1-7 to 0-5 describes it as "Oughterard best in Thriller". This gives an indication of the quality of the competition. It goes on to state that "both teams were a delight to watch and the game fiercely contested but scrupulously clean from start to finish producing a very high standard of football."

Clifden had in their ranks Andy Donnolly who later won an All-Ireland minor medal with Galway in 1960 and was the outstanding player afield.

Oughterard's strength lay in their fast moving attack led by the brilliant Tommy Fahy well supported by Tom Walsh, Pat Halloran (Porridgetown who later played in goal for Killanin for many years) and the elusive Ollie Osborne.

Captain of the side was the towering centre half back Dinny Curran and he was well supported by a full back line, consisting of Pascal McDonagh, Mike Naughton and Ultan Macken. The team also included such as Roddy Joyce, Paddy Halloran, Paddy Healy who later featured prominently. The line out for the Clifden game was as follows: Finbar Joyce, Mick Naughton, Pascal McDonagh, Ultan Macken, Joe McDonagh, Dinny Curran (Captain), Paddy Healy, Pat Halloran (Porridgetown), Pat Hennelly, Roddy Joyce, Tommy Fahy, Paddy Halloran, Oliver Fahy, Tom Walshe, Ollie Osborne.

This team recorded a big win over Clonbur by 8-6 to 1-4 a feature of which was 4-2 scored by Pat Halloran.

The West Board final was played in August against St. Augustines. Oughterard coached by Brian Geraghty prepared well for the game but were defeated by an outstanding team from the city which included a budding young talent called Liam Sammon who was to become one of the greats of Galway football.

The team for the final included M. Joyce, P. Geoghegan, Sean Gavin (Maam), Michael O'Toole in place of Joe McDonagh (Seanafeistin), Roddy Joyce, Paddy Halloran and Oliver Fahy.

Notwithstanding the fact that victory in the final escaped them, this team produced men who later featured for both Oughterard and Killanin in senior grade and showed the value of competition at this age group.

In 1959 Oughterard were defeated by Clifden in semi final of the minor competition by 3-8 to 0-5 with J. Geoghegan, P. Joyce and S. O'Malley starring.

Oughterard were defeated in the Junior championship at an early stage but an extract from the Connacht Tribune shows the club's single mindedness in pursuing the ideals of the association.

Headline Connacht Tribune 17/1/59: "A plea for more respect from the Tricolour" came from Mr. P. Geraghty at the Board meeting in proposing a motion recorded by B. O'Neill of the Army stating that the Tricolour should be flown at all grounds whilst games were in progress.

BRIAN GERAGHTY - A Profile

In June 1957 this young man played his first championship with a Galway team in the minor game against Mayo which was the curtain raiser to Galway's commencement to defend the Sam Maguire won in 1956.

A year later Brian progressed to the Junior team winning an All-Ireland medal starring in victories over Kerry in Pearse Stadium and Meath in Tullamore in the home final.

About this time he got his first taste of Senior football along with his Connemara Gaels colleagues, Pat Davin and Sean Mannion against Tyrone in the Gaelic weekly tournament. But it was in 1961 that Brian began to make his mark with Galway and establishing himself as a regular on the team. This was transition period between the '56 team of S. Purcell, F. Stockwell and J. Mahon and the three-in-a-row era.

Brian played in the championship of '62 which will be remembered for the infamous crossbar incident in Castlebar in the Connacht final which Galwaymen to this day believe robbed them of a Connacht title.

In the league campaign of 1963 Brian had his most successful run scoring a brace of goals to beat Dublin in the divisional final and again raising two green flags in the league semi-final defeat by that great Down team. That day will also be remembered for the dismissal of Jim McCartan of Down following a tackle on Moycullen man Tom Clancy.

Down, cast with the resilience of a great team, raised their game to win with 14 men an event which has been repeated to Galway teams since.

In the championship of 1963 Galway galloped through Connacht and qualified to meet Kerry the All-Ireland champions in the semi-final, a game which Brian played with a broken nose suffered in training and was eventually replaced in that game by Dunmore man J. Keenan who continued to become a kingpin of the 3 in a row team.

Galway won the All-Ireland in 1964 and 1965, Brian was a substitute on both teams but the highlight of his career must have been the captaining of the Junior team of 1965 to the All-Ireland title, thus winning his second junior medal with a victory over Kerry after a replay scoring 1-5 and a highly rated Kildare side in the home final by 1-5 to 2-4 before defeating Hertfordshire in the final. This team also included men of the calibre of Coleen McDonagh, Tom Sands and F. Cavavan, and it is reported that this junior team defeated the all conquering 3 in a row teams twice in trial matches in Tuam Stadium: such was the quality of Galway football at that time.

Brian also had the distinction of a dual role on the 1965 American trip covering as a journalist for the Gaelic Weekly and as a member of the team.

In the lean years of football of the late fifties and sixties he played on Oughterard teams — the combination team of Connemara Gaels and also inspired Oughterard to a West Board Junior final in '64 where they were defeated by Moycullen.

He also played for Clonbur, Tuam and U.C.G. at various times in his career, and contributed greatly to the sport at that time.

THE LEAN YEARS

Oughterard's minor side had an eventful year in 1956. They defeated Fr. Tom Burke's in the West Board final and went on to completely overwhelm Loughrea in a county semi final.

But they were the subject of an objection from Fr. Tom Burke's before that final clash with Ballygar, because the losers claimed that Oughterard had included an illegal player in their line-up.

At that time Oughterard drew their side from their own parish and Clifden, but they also included John O'Malley from Carraroe. Fr. Tom Burke's won the objection and went on to defeat Ballygar in the re-fixed final.

That minor side was: P. J. O'Malley, J. Geoghegan, John O'Malley, Mike Clancy, C. Conneely, P. O'Malley, W. Conneely, B. Conroy, M. Joyce, P. Tierney, E. McDonagh, S. Lowry, T. Clancy, M. Geoghegan, J. Geoghegan.

Oughterard also affiliated a hurling team that year under Glann's name but were defeated by St. Flannin's in the first round of the championship.

In 1957, the footballers were drawn with Moycullen, Ballyconneely, and Clifden in the championship group, but were eventually dismissed by Clifden by 2-4 to 1-1.

Oughterard's Tom McHugh who was a member of the successful 1956 All-Ireland winning side again lined out with the county side and won a National League medal before losing out in an All-Ireland semi-final.

The club celebrated their jubilee year in 1958, and affiliated with junior and minor teams. Pat Gibbons was elected president of the club for this celebratory year, and was joined on the committee by Edward O'Sullivan (vice president), Mick Keogh (chairman), Jimmy Geoghegan (vice-chairman), Mattie Maloney (treasurer), Paddy Harris (secretary), Peter Geraghty (assistant secretary), Edwin McDonagh, Frank Gibney, Pat Faherty and Tommy McDonagh (committee members).

Johnny Keogh was elected captain of the junior side, and his brother Fr. Hon Keogh was one of the speakers at the jubilee dinner at Egan's Lake Hotel, when he was home on holidays from Nigeria.

The club defeated Moycullen in the first round of the Junior championship, but went no further. They met a similar fate in the minor championship when Clifden put them out 2-10 to 1-1.

Their tradition in sevens competitions saw them once again reach a final with Clifden in Cashel, but that journey met with considerable misfortune.

The team were travelling on the back of Keogh's lorry, but that broke down on the way to Cashel. However luck prevailed on this occasion, because Dick Lyons in his truck collected them and brought them the rest of the way. The journey home was made in a traveller's van.

Oughterard again competed in all grades in 1960 and were unlucky in the junior championship to lose to a good St. Michael's team by a single point in a team backboned by Seamus O'Malley, Mike Naughton and Mattie Maloney.

The registered list of players for the 1960 championship was: Brian Geraghty, Paraic O'Malley, John O'Malley, Tom O'Malley, Pascal McDonagh, Pat Faherty, Paddy Joyce, Mike Geoghegan, Edwin McDonagh, Peter McBride, Frank O'Toole, Brian O'Reilly, Tom Walshe, George O'Malley, Frank Tully, Paddy Geoghegan, Mick Keogh, Johnny Keogh, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Mike Naughton, Noel Keane, Joe Donnellan, Mike Clancy, Gabriel Kyne, Peter J. O'Malley, Mattie Maloney, Peter Tierney,

Stephen Tierney, Dinny Curran, Tony McDonagh, Tommy Fahy, Paraic Hanly, Paddy O'Halloran, Rory Lee, Michael Conroy, Frank O'Halloran, Oliver Sammon, Patrick Conneely, Kevin Watts, Joseph Curry.

The chairman of the club was Mick Keogh and Peter Geraghty was secretary.

Killanin defeated the senior league side with Rory Lee and Pat Halloran outstanding.

Fr. Griffins defeated the junior team in a league game in which it is alleged that Johnny Keogh played in goal wearing his suit of clothes to make up the fifteen players.

BALANCE SHEET OF 1961

The club at this time was responsible for running Camp Hall social activities and Tim Molloy as secretary of the G.A.A. had special responsibility for the running of the social club.

The committee in 1962 was: President, William Keogh; Vice president, Pat Harriss; Chairman, Rev. C. O'Connor, C.C.; Vice Chairman, M. Keogh; Games Secretary, Peter Geraghty; Secretary, Tim Molloy; Treasurer, Lal Faherty; Committee, Frank McGauley, Mattie Maloney, Patrick Conneely, Tommy Mallon, Pat Joyce, C. Ward and Pascal McDonagh, with Edwin McDonagh appointed team captain.

This G.A.A. committee were very active and organised basketball and badminton competitions and also under the umbrella of the club organised lessons in ceili dancing, catering for the social needs of the community in general rather than the G.A.A. in particular. Later the patrons of these activities organised into separate clubs, which to date have enjoyed admirable success.

DOUGHTERARD G.A.A. COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET

FEBRUARY 1, 1961, TO FEBRUARY 1, 1962
TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
G.A.A. HALL, CAMP STREET,
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1962

Reading of Minutes 1961 General Meeting
Chairman's Report and Address.
Secretary's Report.
Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts.
Re-election of Officers:
President, Vice-President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Games Secretary, Hall Secretary, Treasurers, Teams Captains, Committee.

Private Members' Motions include: Players' Travelling Expenses; Reorganisation with Killanin; Basket Ball; Ceilidh Dancing Classes; Reorganisation of Camp Hall to Gymnasium; Hall Rates; Membership and Insurance of Players.

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing Balance Sheet of Accounts is taken from the books of the Committee and from information afforded me by the Secretary. I can state that they represent a true and correct statement of the Committee's affairs.

Signed: L. O'FLATHARTA, *Clerk*.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
Affiliation Fees	1	9	0
Making up and Curtain Rings	2	0	0
Records	1	10	0
Rent to Miss Hopkins, 1961	2	0	0
100 General Posters	2	15	0
Bands Wanted Advt. and Phone Calls (M. McD. Show)	1	8	6
3 Cut Blocks	0	12	0
Car Run to Galway, T. Molloy	1	10	0
Box of Poster Paints	1	0	0
Refreshments	0	15	0
First Instalment on Radio	5	0	0
Treasurer's Book	0	3	6
5 Cut Blocks	1	0	0
D. Sullivan Account	3	0	0
Sean Conneely, Car Runs (Play)	5	0	0
Photo Block, Play Group	1	2	6
Four Cups	0	4	0
500 Play Programmes	3	0	0
E.S.B. Bill, March-February, 1961	4	6	8
Final Instalment of Radio	5	0	0
E.S.B., April and May	0	8	5
Subscription to Regatta	2	10	0
Peter Geraghty's Account (Football and 4 Car Runs)	10	0	0
Jack Fahy, Expenses	0	10	0
Masses	1	0	0
Floor Polish, Darts and Tennis Balls	1	0	6
Records	2	14	6
Secretary's Honourarium	12	0	0
M. King, Car Hire	6	0	0
Posters, South and O'Hanlon Match	1	18	6
Peter Geraghty's Account, Car Runs	2	11	6
Car to County Board Convention	1	0	0
Bank Charges	0	10	6
Loss on Galway Dance, April 11	4	3	0
To Rents of Parochial Hall	20	0	0
Donation to P.P. for Parochial Funds	25	0	0
Repayment of Regatta Committee's Interest-Free Loan	45	0	0
Keogh's Account, Shop and Mill	14	10	0
Balance, being Excess of Income over Expenditure	8	13	10
	£202	7	2

BALANCE SHEET AS AT

NIL.
Decision on Rates to be made at General Meeting.

LIABILITIES

FEBRUARY 1, 1961, TO FEBRUARY 1, 1962

	£	s.	d.
Membership Fees to G.A.A. and Hall	1	15	0
Hall Takings, February, '61	3	8	0
Spellman Concert, March 7th	15	1	0
Draws Rehearsal <i>Lack of the Draw</i> , March 10	3	10	0
<i>Lack of the Draw</i> , Moycullen, March, 12	15	6	2
Takings on Hops	5	1	0
Play Ballconnochy, March 19	11	18	11
Hall Takings, March	0	13	0
I.C.A. Rent, March (£1 per week)	1	12	0
Play, Carna, March 25	7	0	0
Play, Oughterard, April 7	25	8	0
Sale of Programmes of Play	2	13	0
Maise McDonnell Show and Dance	12	9	4
Takings on Hops	4	17	6
I.C.A. Rent, April	1	12	0
Moycullen Hall Fee Refund	5	0	0
Hop, September 12	1	15	0
Hop, September 22	1	16	0
Hall Takings, October	0	8	0
Rent of Hall (£1. Faherty and P. Conneely) November	2	0	0
do. December	2	0	0
I.C.A. Rent up to and including November 29, 1961	3	4	0
Rent of Hall (Faherty and Conneely) January	1	0	0
Ceili Profits, December 29, 1961	7	19	3
Balance of Projector Account, from Rev. T. McCullagh P.P.	45	0	0
Grant from Regatta Committee towards Gymnasium	20	0	0

£202 7 2

FEBRUARY 1, 1962

	£	s.	d.
Cash on Hands, General Meeting, 1961	7	6	2
Cash on Hands, General Meeting, 1962	6	4	4
Cash in Bank, February 1, 1962	2	9	6
Total Cash	16	0	0
Stock (approx. value) Radio	8	0	0
Records	5	17	6
Dart Board and Ring Board	4	0	0
Tennis Table	4	0	0
Hall Property, Value ?	£37	11	6
Also: Footballs and 16 Jerseys, value?			

In 1961 Peter Geraghty organised a combination team of Clonbur, Oughterard and Killanin. This team competed in the senior championship up until 1964 with little success, being defeated by Tuam and Dunmore in successive years. They will be remembered for their best display against U.C.G. in the West Board final of 1964 when leading a U.C.G. team powered by E. Colleran, M. Newell, C. Tyrell and E. Slattery, Galway, T. Langan, Mayo, and Sean Donnelly Longford, a penalty was awarded following a controversial free decision against one of the backs which was contested with the referee.

The registered list for 1964 was, Oughterard: P. J. O'Malley, Frank O'Toole, Pascal McDonagh, Tom Walshe, Tom Ward, Dick Mooney, Mike Naughton, Joe Donellan, Brian Geraghty, Seamus O'Malley. Killanin: Pat Halloran, Frank Halloran, Paraic Walshe, Pat Connor, Michael Faherty, Frank Ryan. Clonbur: Seamus Kyne R.I.P., Frank Kyne, Joe Joyce, Pat Mulroe, John Coyne, Liam Coyne, Willie Doyle, John Waters, Marcus Keane, Pat O'Malley, Martin Mulroe, Michael Heaney.

The team did not play as a combination after that game and it is an indication of the development of football in that all three clubs have since won county titles at different grades.

Following the narrow defeats of the previous years a determined effort was made for the 1964 championship. Chairman of the club Mattie Maloney had responsibility for training the team.

After recording good wins in the earlier rounds they were beaten by a superb Moycullen team in the West Board final on the score of 1-11 to 0-8. Moycullen had some outstanding footballers on this team none better than Joe McLoughlin who scored 1-7 in that final and went on to play for Galway for many years.

Oughterard were ably led by Brian Geraghty in this championship and unfortunately for Oughterard he was a doubtful starter right up to the day of the match as he was suffering from sunstroke and confined to bed. Peter Geraghty then secretary applied for a postponement in view of Brian's illness but the secretary of the West Board, P. Taylor his good friend, would not grant it.

After the game it was found out that a rumour, to which there was no basis, of an outbreak of smallpox in Oughterard had circulated in the Moycullen area resulting in a certain amount of trepidation in fulfilling the fixture. Such were the times, each tactic used to advantage, however to no avail as Moycullen were the better team who went on to win the county championship and many senior West Board's afterwards. The Oughterard team that year was: Seamus O'Malley, Mike Naughton, Dick Mooney, Mixie McGawley, Joe Donellan, Thomas Walsh, Paddy Kelly, Tommy Ward, Paddy Joyce, Ml. John Joyce, Brian Geraghty, Tommy Fahy, Oliver Fahy, Frank O'Toole, Edwin McDonagh. Moycullen again defeated this team in the winter league final.

In 1965 this team was expected to perform well in the championship but were beaten in the first round by a second Moycullen fifteen. This was the end of the football careers of many of the stalwards such as Edwin McDonagh, Tommy Ward and Brian Geraghty who played little football with Oughterard afterwards.

In 1966 Clifden were the conquerors winning by 3-6 to 1-8 in a game played in Carraroe with Ml. John Joyce, Frank O'Toole and Pascal McDonagh best for Oughterard.

1967 was a transition year but the team was back in 1968 defeated in the

West Board semi final by Spiddal a game which will be remembered for all the close-in frees missed by Oughterard.

1968

This year saw Oughterard make good progress in the Minor Championships with victories in the earlier rounds qualify to play Carna in Rossaveal in the semi-final.

Lady Luck did not smile on Oughterard however as a car carrying five of the team went off the road, a fact which will not surprise those who are familiar with the wandering road to Seanafestín, cutting a fifty year furrow in the bog which would do a contestant in the Ploughing Championship proud.

The players concerned, Pat O'Connell, Miko Lambert, Robert O'Sullivan, Pearce O'Malley and John Healy put the car back on the road and continued on to the game where they lined out despite suffering from superficial injuries and a certain degree of shock.

Carna emerged victors by the narrow margin of two points which was a creditable performance by the Oughterard team in the circumstances. This team then went on to defeat a top-class St. Michaels fifteen only to suffer defeat by a Fr. Griffins side for whom Martin Jones, a nephew of Mattie Clancy the only surviving member of the 1919 team living locally, scored a goal.

The Under-21 Championship was played on a group system of which the Mouth-Organ game was a feature.

THE MOUTH-ORGAN GAME

1968 also saw Oughterard prominent in the U21 championship and they were fixed to play Carna in Rosaveel on an evening that is best remembered for Man. Utd. defeating Benfica in the European Cup final. There was considerable speculation as to whether the game would in fact be played resulting in quite a number of the Oughterard team failing to turn up leaving them quite depleted for the tussle with Carna.

The referee appointed must also have been a soccer fan as he failed to show resulting in both teams tossing to decide on which side would provide the referee. Then it was discovered that there was no whistle, but not to be thwarted the Carna team produced a mouth-organ and the referee, Johnny Jennings, proceeded to ref the game with the mouth-organ and played a very tuneful mix with Oughterard being narrowly defeated. Finely tuned and in perfect harmony the team went on to defeat Clifden before losing the West semi-final by default. This team included such stalwarts as Gerry O'Malley who was a hardy a player as the club ever produced and later played on the successful junior teams of the seventies. The under 21 team was Noel Keane, Michael O'Toole, Pat O'Connell, John Joe Tierney, Marty O'Toole, Eddie Dixon, John D'Arcy, Gerry O'Malley, Johnny Lee, Paddy Walsh, Paddy Kelly, Gerry Joyce, Gerry D'Arcy, Sean O'Malley, Tom Lydon.

A new era was dawning for Oughterard football when in 1969 it reached the West Board minor final with a team captained by John McGawley which included Edward O'Sullivan a county minor that year, Kevin O'Connor and Michael Walsh who won All-Ireland minor medals with Galway in 1970.

Oughterard defeated St. Keran's, then Spiddal, and Carna in a very exciting semi-final after extra time when a goal from Martin Lee decided the issue before qualifying to meet St. Michael's in the final.

The strength in depth of the city team proved too much for this inexperienced team and they won on the score 4-6 to 2-8. The team for the final was: Kevin O'Connor, Gerry Clancy, John McGauley, Pat Lydon, Ray

Lee, John Gibbons, Ed. O'Sullivan, M. Walsh, G. Darcy, M. Lambert, P. O'Malley, R. O'Sullivan, T. Kelly, T. Conneely, M. Lee.

Naturally the team was disappointed but there was a general feeling that this was only the beginning, Oughterard had good grounds for an objection as it was alleged an illegal player had played with St. Michael's in the final, but it was decided not to object.

The junior team were also going well and after a tough semi final against Carna they progressed to the final against Clifden.

This game was played in a downpour and with Jack Cosgrove inspiring Clifden, victory went their way on a scoreline that did not reflect the closeness of the game, Oughterard's team was: Kevin O'Connor, Pat O'Connell, Mixie McGauley, Oliver Fahy, P. J. O'Malley, Tom Walsh, Peter Naughton, Gerry O'Malley, (Murt Naughton), K. Blehein, P. Halloran, P. Kelly, E. O'Sullivan, P. O'Malley, M. Naughton, Johnny Lee.

1970 was eagerly looked forward to and began in February with a great win in the league over Killanin who had just been re-graded back to Junior. This gave great hope which was dented by a good Lettermore team who had a big win. Oughterard's sights were focused on the championship and they easily progressed to a quarter-final date with Killanin played in June on a Sunday evening in Pearse Stadium.

Oughterard were well prepared and confidently expected to topple the neighbouring parish in what was a classic derby. The game was played in ideal conditions and good football was the order of the day. Exchanges were hard and fast and unfortunately boiled over at the stage when Edward O'Sullivan was carried off following an over zealous tackle. The game then swung decidedly Killanin's way who went on to win the championship that year. The team that day was: K. O'Connor, Pat O'Connell, Mixie McGauley, Oliver Fahy, R. Joyce, T. Walsh, R. Lee, P. Kelly, G. Melia, G. D'Arcy, M. Walsh, E. Sullivan, P. O'Malley, R. O'Sullivan, P. Halloran.

1970 also saw the minor team to the fore backed by M. Walsh and coached by F. Kyne and Fr. Larkin who were unfortunately suspended following a decision to take the team off in a dangerously rough game against Oranmore in Moycullen. Oughterard won the replay convincingly but were later defeated.

Success was coming closer and on the hard road the team was gaining experience. The juvenile team were narrowly beaten in the semi-final by the all conquering St. Michael's.

CONNELLY CUP

This cup was presented by Pete Conneely (Camp St.) to the Oughterard Boys School for presentation to the winners of an interparish competition.

It was played for on a number of occasions, commencing in 1969 between the four areas of the parish with the first and second year students of St. Paul's combining with sixth class pupils from the Boys school.

Later it was handed over to the Youth Club who organised the competition amongst its members on a number of occasions.

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THE PITCH

The pitch as we know it today was part of the old O'Flaherty estate and in earlier times the club had to surmount numerous difficulties to establish their right to play football on this ground.

In 1926 the Irish Land Commission took over the O'Flaherty estate and after some years sold part of the ground to the County Council for the purpose of building cottages.

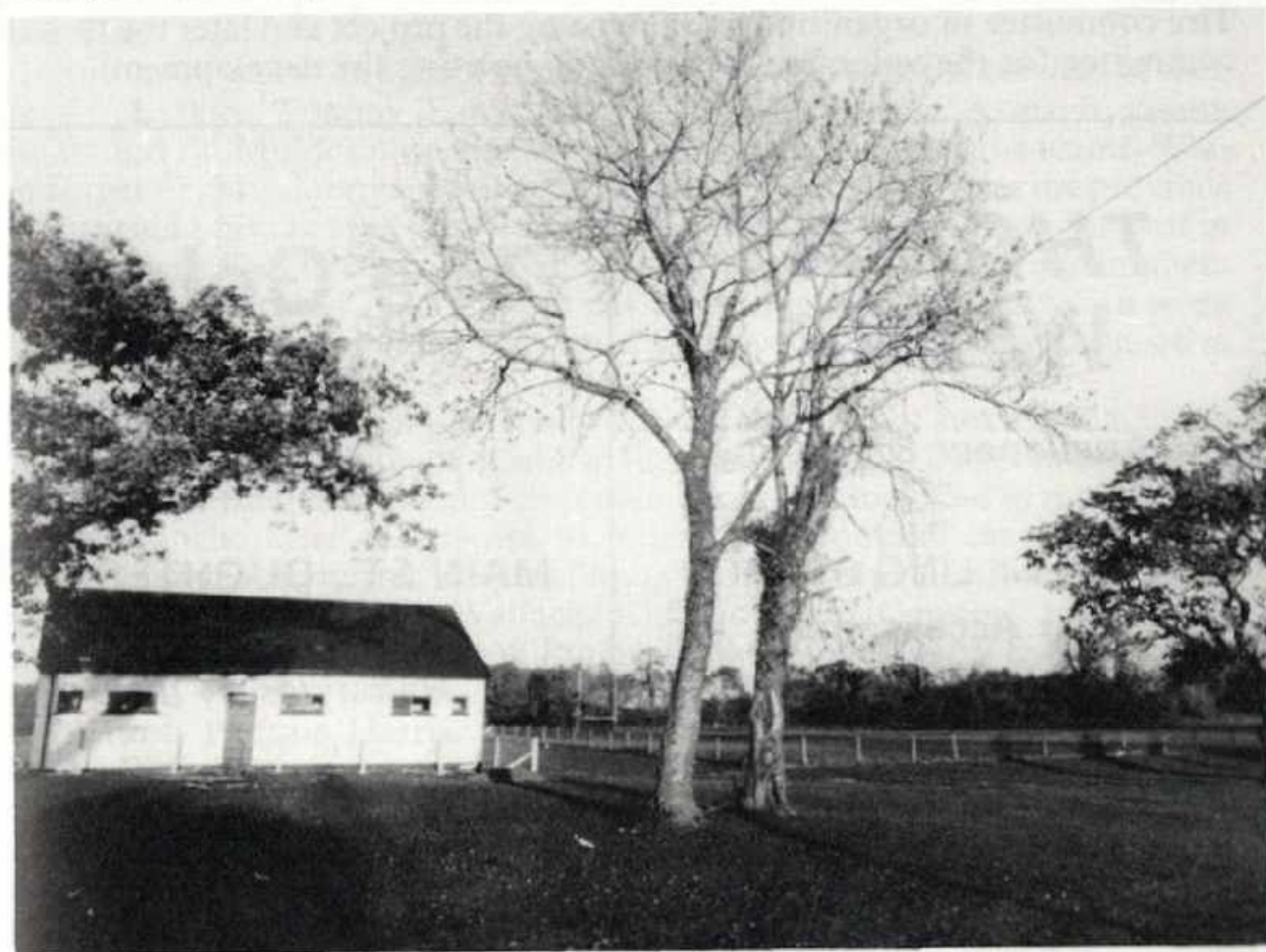
In true Irish fashion the club members approached the sitting T.D.'s in County Galway to have the pitch area given to the club and the surrounding area to the townspeople for a cowpatch.

Subsequently the county council purchased another part of the estate and erected cottages with the G.A.A. clubs request granted.

The club members compiled a petition signed by people of the parish including the villages of Maghera, Billamore and Glann as well as the town.

Until 1945 the club used the playing area and the remainder was a cow patch with a caretaker collecting rent.

About this time the Land Commission decided to appoint Trustees and contacted the club to clearly mark out the playing area. For some reason the Land Commission changed their decision and trustees were appointed on the basis that the G.A.A. would have no rights. At this stage a petition was compiled in the townlands of the parish with the majority of landholders signing to support the G.A.A. position. It was then granted that the G.A.A. would nominate a trustee in recognition of its right. This was subsequently changed and the gates locked.



Ougherard G.A.A. Clubhouse

However members continued to use the pitch but were unable to improve it, many attempts being made to roll it without success.

The matter was eventually resolved in the early sixties when Muintir na Tire decided to develop the ground as a playing area before agreeing to vest the ground in the G.A.A.'s name who would maintain and further develop the grounds.

Work on the pitch began in 1968 with the ground being developed from North to South rather than East to West as previously. The Muintir na Tire committee funded the development with the late Pat McGauley Derrymoyle and Philip Hartley, Portacarron, being particularly active. The pitch was laid down and seeded and on 10/11/69 a meeting of the club appointed the following as club trustees for the pitch. Edwin McDonagh, Michael Dixon, P. J. O'Malley and Jim Joe Clancy with the County Board nominee being the fifth trustee.

Appointed to act as trustees for the area of the park outside of the club area were Seamus O'Malley and Jimmy Canavan.

Unfortunately in 1970 it was necessary to re-seed the playing area as original seed did not properly take. It was arranged to plough and rotate the ground which the club requested P. J. O'Malley to oversee. Work pressed ahead as quickly as possible with Frankie Kyne having the national school boys picking stones in the evenings and to ensure readiness a number of the committed picked stones at 6 a.m. before going to work. With such enthusiasm and dedication it is understandable that the pitch was ready in October 1971 for a game between the U21 side, then qualified for West Board final, and the junior team.

The total cost of the re-designing of the pitch was £2726.69p as advanced in the treasurer's report of 1972. This figure would have been much higher were it not for the huge voluntary input from both a very progressive Muintir na Tire committee in organising and financing the project and later the G.A.A. committee for the voluntary labour in completing the development.

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ST. PAUL'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

September 1964 saw the opening of St. Paul's co-educational secondary school in the Convent of Mercy in Oughterard. This of course meant that those who would previously have had to attend college in Galway could now pursue their studies locally.

However the benefits were not entirely of an academic nature as it also meant that the boys progressing from local primary school and under-age teams continued to train and play together on the St. Paul's teams. Indeed from a male entry of 19 or 20 in its first year it was a great achievement that the school was able to field a team at all and merely underlined the fact that there was plenty of local talent (football-wise) available in Oughterard and the surrounding areas.

The very first team to represent the school lined out against Headford in the old pitch in Oughterard in 1964, a game which Oughterard won by 2 points. The team was: John Joe Maloney, J. M. Joyce (R.I.P.), Pat O'Connell, Anthony D'Arcy, Robert McEvelly, Miko Gibbons, Kieran McGloin, J. J. McCarthy, Murt Naughton, Gerry D'Arcy, Tom Lydon, John O'Connor, Frank Butler, Christy Maloney, John Gill. Subs: Peadar Coyne, Festus Jennings, Gerry Kinneavy, Peadar Fahy.

In the following years St. Paul's with a large increase in the numbers of students, went from strength to strength and reached the Connacht senior final in 1968 when they were defeated by St. Phelim's, Bellinamore, Co. Leitrim, at Castlerea.

The school reached two further senior Connacht finals. In 1973 they were defeated after a replay by Louisburg and in 1974 they were defeated by Belmullet.

In the early years the school was very fortunate in that the services of men like Fr. Larkin, Tommy Fahy, Robert Watson (former Armagh county player) and Fr. Muldoon were available to train and manage the teams. Who can forget Fr. Muldoon marching up and down sidelines all over the province encouraging his charges. These men had the ability to bring out the best in people. Regardless of one's football ability the experience gained from them moulded the character of those who passed through their hands with a sense of sportsmanship and competitiveness which has stood them in good stead in all walks of life.

Those defeated St. Paul's teams of the sixties and mid seventies included many players who went on to establish themselves as club and county players of distinction. But it should also be remembered that included in those teams were many who later choose not to pursue their football careers and also many from the outlying parishes including Clonbur: Michael Conroy, Martin Coyne, Colm and Martin Wallace. Killanin: Tom Connor, John (Cug) Connor, Robert McEvelly, Frank Butler, Pat McEvelly, Gerry Lydon, Frank McDonagh, Fintan Maloney, Pat Reilly, John Walsh and others. Oughterard: Padraic Harris, Walter and Jim Butler, Kevin Toole, Aidan Kenny, Peter Conneely, Jerry Lambert, Padraic Conneely (Seanafeistin), Matt Healy, Michael McDonagh, Leopald Cleggett, Stephen Kinneavy, Miko Lambert, Gerry Molloy, Pat Healy, Johnny McGloin and many others.

It is fitting that St. Paul's first major success was achieved by a team trained and managed by Fr. Muldoon. This was the U15 team of 1975 who defeated Claremorris in the Connacht final. Two years later St. Paul's fielding much

the same team as achieved success in 1975 went on to win the U17 Connacht final in 1977 defeating Ballinamore in the final.

It is to be hoped that people with the dedication of previous trainers will continue to foster the game in what has proved to be a very successful football nursery.



ST. PAUL'S OUGHTERARD

Front row: Mike Noone, Tom Welby, David Walsh, Aidan Watts, Sean Coady, Daniel O'Sullivan, Billy Walsh, John Morley, Pearse Clancy, Harry Walsh, John McDonagh, Billy Donnellan. Back row: Tony McQuinn, Mike Conneely, Tom Kelly, Dick Lee, Paddy Gibbons, John T. Gibbons, Tom Walsh, Johnnie Welby, Tom Walsh, Tom Lydon, B. Butler.



OUGHTERARD UNDER 14 'BICYCLE' TEAM 1977

Front row: Padhriagh Walsh, D. Geoghegan, J. Mannion, C. Gibney, John Tierney, M. O'Toole, Stephen McDonnell, Robert Welby, Eamon Molloy, Harry Óg Walsh, Tony O'Halloran. Back row: Willie Power, Liam Walsh, Declan Harris, Tony Morley, Michael Power, Matthew Tierney, Johnny Feeney (capt), Tom Joyce, Richard McDonagh, Peter Tierney, John Gillespie, Ml. Molloy, Michael MacDonagh.

THE SUCCESSFUL SEVENTIES

The club was beginning to buzz now and the pitch development was almost complete with the grass being laid down. A very committed group were to be seen at 6 a.m. clearing stones in order to have the ground ready. Frank Kyne had the national school boys down picking also.

At the A.G.M. the motion to abolish the ban was discussed and defeated by 20 votes to 12.

On the playing field 1971 was to be a year of success. Competition commenced with Mongan cup games in Ballyconneely and Clonbur good wins recorded in both. The team was guided by Michael Dixon and Tony Gibney. A league final from 1970 was played against Moycullen which will be remembered for the outstanding display of Murt Naughton at centre half back. However Moycullen won the day against a young Oughterard fifteen minus many players such as the Sullivans and M. Walsh who were away at College. Championship came around and Lettermore caught Oughterard on the hop to record a good victory.

The minor and U21 teams were doing well both reaching their respective finals — the minors going down again to St. Michael's and a fancied U21 team being beaten by a good Fr. Griffin's team on a November day in Carnmore.

This U21 team was built on the minor side of 1969 but found Fr. Griffin's team powered by Pat Sands and Emmet Farrell the Galway seniors too much on the day. The Oughterard team had recorded a good win over a fancied Moycullen team after a replay and were well prepared for the final under the guidance of John O. Molloy and Matt McGauley. The team for the final was: K. O'Connor, G. Clancy, Pat O'Connell, J. Gibbons, R. Lee, Paddy Clancy, Ed O'Sullivan, John McGauley, G. Darcy, M. Lee, M. Walsh, P. O'Malley, P. Gibbons, R. Sullivan, K. Clancy. The first game on the present turf was played between this U21 team and the junior team before the final. The club had been beaten in five finals in three years but it was felt the day of victory was closer.

In 1972 the junior team was again dismissed in the second round by Spiddal in a game played in Carnmore. Oughterard were most unlucky to lose this game a feature of which was the marksmanship of G. Darcy. M. Walsh starred at midfield for Galway U21 team who won an All-Ireland with E. O'Sullivan a substitute. Mick Walsh also played full forward for the Galway senior team in the Connacht semi-final against Roscommon a game that will be remembered for the return of John Keenan. He previously starred scoring 3-3 against Mayo in Tuam in the Gael Linn in March. M. Walsh and Ed O'Sullivan won All-Ireland medals with Galway beating Kerry. The minor team finally overcame St. Michael's beating them easily in the championship after which it was felt this had to be their year. Coached by F. Kyne they went on to beat Carna and Killanin to reach the minor semi-final against Cois Fharráige. This was played on the 15th August a Tuesday evening. Oughterard were unlucky to lose J. J. Conneely through injury and Paddy Clancy was also carrying an injury suffered training for the All-Ireland minor semi final with Cork. Cois Fharráige with the aid of two soft goals won by a point in a game Oughterard should have won convincingly. Another title chance was lost.

The U21 team suffered a similar fate being again defeated in the West Board final on a day in which Mike McGauley excelled at centre back giving

the first indication of his talent which was so evident through the next decade. Others to star on that team were P. Clancy, M. Walsh and R. O'Sullivan. This team was one of the most talented ever fielded by the club in that K. O'Connor, M. Walsh, had won All-Ireland minor medals with Galway in 1970, with P. O'Malley featuring in the League team, M. Walsh and Edward O'Sullivan U21 All-Ireland in 1972, R. Lee represented Galway in minor championship 1971, Paddy Clancy and Kevin Clancy won Connacht minor medals in 1972.

The playing field was in use once again and was to prove a tremendous asset in later years. An active committee was elected for 1973 with the following officers: President, P. J. O'Malley; Vice-President, Michael Dixon; Chairman, Matt J. Molloy; Vice-Chairman, Seamus O'Malley; Secretary, Paddy Clancy; Treasurer, Paddy Halloran; Committee, John Joe Tierney, Paddy Geoghegan, Gerry Clancy, Mick Kelly, Sean Curran, Peter McGauley, Senior Captain, Mike Walsh, Junior Captain, Roddy Joyce.



Back row (l to r): Kevin Clancy, Mike Walsh, Pat Connell, Paddy Clancy, Gerry O'Malley, Tom Coyne, Seamus Melia, Mike McGauley, Mike Joyce. Front row (l to r): Ray Lee, Oliver Fahy, Pierce O'Malley, Paddy Halloran, Johnny Lee, Roddy Joyce (Capt.), Gerry D'Arcy, Billy Keogh, Murt Naughton, Paul Gibbons.

The Junior team was again dismissed from the championship in the early rounds but qualified for the Iar Chonnacht league final where Clifden defeated them by four points. Much was expected on the U21 team but Clifden surprised an Oughterard team in Clonbur on an occasion when the grass was at least two feet long. The minor team won the league defeating Carna and so this team had finally won a competition. The panel was: John O'Connor, Michael Joyce, John Clancy, Paraic Harris, Gerry Lambert, Mike McGauley, Kevin Clancy, Paddy Walsh, Tom O'Sullivan, John Martyn, Seamus Kelly, M. J. McGauley, Tommy Molloy, Gerry Lee, John & Aiden Kenny, Kevin O'Toole, Peter Conneely, Paddy Geoghegan, Noel Gibbons, John B. Walsh.

In 1974 a sub committee was appointed for the erection of dressing rooms. The late Tony Gibney drew up the plans and it was decided to proceed on the project with voluntary labour. This circular was issued to all householders in the area for funds to supply materials.

Last year the Oughterard G.A.A. Club decided to erect dressing rooms at the pitch. A committee was

formed to set about planning and erecting the building. Now the fruit of their work can be seen. The blocks are being laid and the building is gradually taking shape. All the work is being carried out on a voluntary basis.

The project includes dressing rooms, wash rooms, toilets and meeting rooms. It will be used for indoor training, recreation, card drives, hops and meetings and it will be available to all clubs and organizations in the area.

Since the work on the dressing rooms began on 30th May, the club received some financial help from people in Oughterard and in the neighbouring parishes. Contributions were also received from emigrants in England and America. The club is very grateful for this help. But enough money has not yet been received. £4,000 is still needed to complete the project. We ask your help and we earnestly hope that you will generously support this worthwhile and necessary building. Contributions will be taken up at Church Gate collections after Masses on Sunday, 17th August, or they can be sent to one of the following:

Mr. Seamus O'Malley (chairman), Bridge St., Oughterard.

Mr. Roddy Joyce (secretary), Camp St., Oughterard.

Mr. Paddy Halloran (treasurer), Camp St., Oughterard.

Rev. Enda Muldoon, C.C. Oughterard.

Mr. Mick Keogh, Lemonfield, Oughterard.

Mr. Philip Hartley, Portacarron, Oughterard.

Mr. Peter Naughton, Rusheeny, Oughterard.

Mr. Paddy Clancy, Glann, Oughterard.

Work was completed and the rooms functional at the end of 1975. It is an indication of the community spirit in the parish that all labour was voluntary and with an amount of material donated the building was erected without placing an undue financial burden on the club. A number of ten year tickets were bought in 1975 to help finance the development. Thanks is due to the Oughterard Boxing Club for their assistance in this regard also and indeed the facility is used for training purposes by the club who have produced many successful competitors in recent times.

FR. ENDA MULDOON R.I.P.

Another major factor in the clubs development was the assigning of Fr. Enda Muldoon R.I.P. who got involved immediately in the club, being elected minor chairman in 1974. He brought with him great enthusiasm, invaluable experience and expertise and was largely responsible for the success of the club since both on and off the field such was the legacy from his example. He immediately took charge of the under age teams both in St. Paul's school and in the club and he brought a great discipline to bear on all. In his role as vice-chairman of the club he immediately set to work on the construction of the dressing rooms. A sub-committee was set up and they had Tony Gibney draw up the plans. A house to house collection was taken to raise funds. Work on the premises was all carried out voluntary and it is a tribute to the parish that labour on the dressing rooms in Oughterard cost a total of £5. Work went ahead in the Spring of '74 and the premises was in use by September 1974.

On the playing side Fr. Muldoon was constantly motivating through his contact with all. His aim with underage teams where the few always seemed to dominate was to have fifteen heroes on his team. His familiar large frame, dressed in oil jacket could be seen up and down the sidelines of pitches all over the West with Oughterard teams.

In St. Paul's he continued the good work started by his predecessor Fr. F. Larkin, Fr. M. Hallinan and Mr. T. Fahy. He ensured that the enormous amount of talent present in the parish at that period in time was reaped to the full.

Even in dealing with teams he was not responsible for he was constantly in the background, available to advise in some cases indeed criticise but such was the man that he never unfairly criticised or hogged the centre stage. When transferred from the parish to take up a position in U.C.G. he continued to



Fr. Enda Muldoon R.I.P. receiving a presentation from the officers of the club M. J. McGauley, Tom O'Connell, Seamus O'Malley, Paddy O'Halloran, Roddy Joyce, at 1975 social.

maintain his links with the club — a link on his own admission he wished to retain. His untimely death whilst on a holiday in Malawi was felt in every home in the parish and by every member of the club from juvenile to junior. But his legacy remains and seeds sown by his endeavour will continue to be reaped for many years. Two examples of Fr. Muldoon's commitment to the individual whilst promoting the game are of one young man who was studying for his Leaving Cert and decided he would be unable to play football until the exam was over. Fr. Muldoon called and made a bargain, should he train he would help him at a particular study. This he duly did spending hours after training that evening helping that particular student.

Another time he called for a young man who was engaged in hay-saving. It being a particular bad summer he was anxious to remain to help his father so arriving early Fr. Muldoon took the fork, made up the hay and they all went off to the game.

1974

On the social side Pascal Spellman was the first artist for a concert in the old hall with his talent guaranteed to set the place on fire. On the night of the concert a heater overturned and the Old Hall literally went on fire with the majority of the audience escaping through the stage door.

Following the disappointments of 1973 it was decided that a trainer was required and Pat Doc Callaghan took on the responsibility. Training commenced in Sullivans hall combined with runs to the pier. Over a period of three months he had the team literally flying as Moycullen discovered in the senior league game played in Pearse Stadium on Easter Sunday where Oughterard ran out easy winners inflicting their biggest defeat on their great rivals. The wheel has now gone full circle in that Moycullen who dominated in the sixties were to suffer one of their heaviest defeats.

Oughterard went on to defeat the Gaeltacht combination before going under to St. Michael's by a point with Pat O'Connell, Murt Naughton, M. Walsh and G. Darcy outstanding. In the junior competition they were enjoying a great run the pinnacle of which undoubtedly was the game against

old rivals Clonbur who had won 9 games on the trot. This game was played in May, the Mayfly was up, many of the team came direct from the Corrib. As big a crowd as has gathered, in recent times in Corribdale was at the match. Clonbur were powered by the Kenneavy's, the Conroy's and the Halloran's. Oughterard lined out as follows: Kevin O'Connor, Pat O'Connell, John Clancy, Roddy Joyce, Paddy Clancy, Murt Naughton, Ray Lee, M. McGauley, Ed O'Sullivan, G. Darcy, M. Walsh, Paddy Halloran, R. O'Sullivan, K. Clancy, P. O'Malley, and ran out winners in a thrilling match, the first of many in the course of the seventies. Hopes were very high for the championship. A good win over Moycullen put the club into a game versus Renmore played in Carnmore — a graveyard for Oughterard football.

This game was played on the Sunday after the revision of the rules introducing the large square to football, with forwards not being allowed gain possession in the small square if there before the ball. Unfortunately for Oughterard the rules were not interpreted properly and as a result three perfectly good goals were disallowed. Following the third disallowed goal the team management decided they had enough and decided to make a protest which resulted in one of them taking a fifty that was awarded to Renmore. The result of the game was a win for Renmore aided by goals from Martin Newell. Oughterard were out of the championship for another year. The disappointment was intense but was overcome as events unfolded.

UNDER 21 CO. TITLE

The U21 team was entrusted to Seamus O'Malley, chairman of the club, and Jim Joe Clancy, and Paddy Clancy was selected captain. They opened the campaign quietly defeating Mervue 4-8 to 3-2 and were then fixed to play Carna in Lettermore on a Friday evening in July. They left for Lettermore with fourteen men with Kevin Clancy to come direct from work in Galway. However Kevin Clancy came to Oughterard where Roddy Joyce borrowed Edwin McDonagh's green Volkswagen and headed out across Seanafestín at full speed. The game luckily delayed due to the referee failing to show. Roddy arranged for Nicky O'Connor to referee the game and Oughterard won after a hard game on the score 3-8 to 1-6. Next was Moycullen the then West Board champions in a game played in Pearse Stadium on a Saturday evening. Oughterard drafted in Kieran O'Sullivan for this game to make up fifteen and overcame Moycullen with a sequence of goals in the second half to win by 4-8 to 3-3. Clonbur provided the opposition for the next game. Martin Lee came from Ashford for the game collected by Billy Keogh. The teams were on the field when they both arrived togged, and immediately were placed before the throw-in, their unlucky substitutes being L. O'Connor and John Kenny who made way for them. After a very close game Oughterard won their way into the semi final on the score 2-10 to 2-5. A feature of this game was the inclusion of Tommy Molloy and Noel Gibbons to mark Clonbur dangermen S. Joyce and F. Walsh at half time. The final was against a Fr. Griffins side which included many of their senior side.

Oughterard, by now developed into a formidable unit, completely overwhelmed Griffins on the score 3-11 to 0-2. The Connacht Tribune described the game: *"Its difficult to pinpoint the strength of this team as their supremacy extended throughout the field. One man stood out – centre half back and captain Paddy Clancy who never put a foot wrong, fielding and distributing well. Others to star were Ray Lee, John Martin, John Clancy, M. McGauley at midfield with K. Clancy scoring 1-5 and Tom Sullivan 1-0 the last score of the game. The magnificent Ned Keogh Memorial Cup was presented by Fr. Joe Keogh himself an Oughterard stalwart and he congratulated Oughterard on*

their success and expressed his own pride and satisfaction in presenting the cup, to a son of Paddy Matt'.

Now for the county semi-final against North Board champions — either Tuam or Dunmore who played a draw. Dunmore won the replay and the game was fixed for Pearse Stadium on 27th October.

Training was at full pitch under Roddy Joyce. Games were arranged against the junior team on two successive Sundays and the members of the successful U21 team swear to this day that these games won the championship for them, such was their intensity and competitiveness. Great rivalry was present, the clashes of Frank O'Toole and John Clancy, G. O'Malley v M. McGauley, Murt Naughton v K. Clancy, R. Joyce v B. Keogh, N. Gibbons v P. Halloran, with Peter McGauley giving Paddy Clancy a roasting, were spectacular with no quarter being given and none expected. The under-age team won both games chiefly because of better teamwork gained in the course of competition.

The day against Dunmore was windy but this did not prevent both teams serving up a game which was rated as the best game of the year. Dunmore fielded many of the team which had won the senior championship the previous year but had to succumb to a superior Oughterard team on the score 1-9 to 0-9. The Tuam Herald described the game: *"For sheer excitement and wholehearted football this semi-final was as good as has been seen in the county this season with both sides straining every nerve in a heartwarming finish at Pearse Stadium". "Exchanges were as tough as senior football but the hard knocks were given and taken in good spirit. It was the unyielding Oughterard defence that took the honours in a hectic finish with centre half back and captain Paddy Clancy literally standing head and shoulders above all in this area. Well supported by Ray Lee, John Clancy and Noel Gibbons. Mikie McGauley played well in the centre and they had lively forwards in Tom Sullivan, Billy Keogh, Paul Gibbons and Kevin Clancy".*

Now for the final which was played on the 23rd November in Tuam Stadium against St. Gabriel's, Kilconnell. Training continued under Roddy Joyce in Camp Hall. There were no injury scares so all was set for the final.



OUGHTERARD U21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1974

Back row (l to r): Kevin Clancy, Mike McGauley, John Clancy, John Martyn, Kevin O'Connor, Tom O'Sullivan, Tom Coyne, Kieran O'Sullivan. Front row (l to r): Raymond Lee, Michael Joyce, Paul Gibbons, Paddy Clancy, Martin Lee, Billy Keogh, Noel Gibbons.

Michael Lyster of the Tuam Herald describes the game as follows: "*Oughterard take first U21 title in thriller*". He went on to say "*the large attendance thoroughly enjoyed this clash with both sides serving up good football despite difficult conditions but the Kilconnell men did not have the finishing power of their industrious opponents. Goals by Tom Sullivan who had the distinction of finding the net in each game up to this, and Kevin Clancy at vital stages closed the gap on St. Gabriel's and although they fought bravely they had no one up front to match the talent of Kevin Clancy who was an inspiration all through. This was a deserved win for Oughterard who had a good side with Michael Joyce, John Clancy, Ray Lee and Noel Gibbons best in defence, at midfield Mikie McGauley was outstanding and up front Billy Keogh and Martin Lee starred*".

The Connacht Tribune describes the after match scene as follows: "*The Paddy Stephens Cup was presented to captain Paddy Clancy by Seamus Cox and it was brought in triumphant procession through Moycullen, Killanin and on to Oughterard where bonfires blazed all along in welcome*".



Club chairman Paddy O'Halloran with U21 team captain Paddy Clancy at victory social with Paddy Stephens and Ned Keogh Perpetual Cups.

A tremendous support for Oughterard was evident in Tuam with two bus loads from St. Pauls, a bus load from the club, many more travelled by car plus Jackie Joyce who set off cycling before Fr. Hon Keogh caught up to him and brought him. Interest and enthusiasm was at an all time high. In the welcome home ceremony captain P. Clancy thanked selectors J. J. Clancy and Seamus O'Malley and especially trainer Roddy Joyce. The annual social was held the Wednesday night afterwards in the Sacre Coeur where a huge crowd gathered to celebrate.

1975 — 1980

Great things were anticipated in 1975 after the flush of victories of the previous year. All systems were go it being confidently expected that the junior championship would be taken.

The junior team performed quite well before being beaten in the championship semi final after a replay by Eire Óg. This was the day referee Johnny Fahy got ill with ten minutes left and with the delay which occurred whilst he was carried off the momentum of the game dropped and Éire Óg came back to draw and went on to win the replay by a point in what was Mike Walsh's last game with the club for some time. The team went on to win the junior league against Moycullen some weeks later.

The U21 team were drawn against Salthill in the first round and recorded a big win. They progressed to a semi final date against Carna played on the Wednesday evening of race week in Carraroe. It is alleged that, Oughterard with some difficulty fielding a team, managed in fact to outscore Carna by 8 points to seven. Unfortunately the referee had the score Carna 8 Oughterard 7 so they were dethroned as champions. Kieran and Tom Sullivan represented Galway on the county minor team defeated by Roscommon. Mike McGauley, Paddy Clancy and Kevin Clancy played on U21 team with Kevin as Oughterard's nominee being captain. He also played senior football for Galway in the league that year.

Liam Seamus O'Hare's Clubhouse Balance Sheet 1975

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
Transport - Bus	2 15 00	Cash at Bank	15 48
Away Players	150 00	Cash in Hand	34 65
Affiliations and } 1975	17 35	Land Drive for 75	101 31
Insurance } 1976	17 25	" " Dec 75	103 00
Connaught Fashion aids	28 20	Donor Feb 75	159 00
Emmanuel Printing Perks etc	34 66	" Apr "	123 00
ESB. Camp Hall	17 51	" May "	144 00
Rates "	21 67	" Aug "	177 00
Extra Meals '74 + '75	8 80	Connaught Nov 75	107 00
Headford Towing Entry	2 00	Donations	42 00
All Ireland Hurling Tickets	27 00	Money Out Sini Finals	126 00
" " Football "	11 00	" " Final	54 25
Hire of Hall	105 00	Raffle	24 00
" " School	10 00	Membership	37 50
Band Fees	150 00	Social	647 50
Stationery Postage Phone	22 32	All Ireland Hurling Tickets	28 00
Social	557 00	" " Football "	11 00
Social Tickets	5 00	4 year Tickets	131 00
Presentation	15 00		2,214 67
Land Drive Prizes	116 00		
Tax. Land Drive	24 76	Excess of Income over Expenditure	80 02
Foot balls	10 00		
Insurance. Public Liability	25 00	Excess 2 Sets of Insurance 7 footballs	
Sub to Dressing rooms	200 00	1st of all 1 hurling sticks	
Sum as no 03 Entry	2 00		
Tax on Donors	19 42		
2st of all	31 76	I declare this to be a true and	
Registration Fees	3 75	correct account of the Club's	
Glass etc Camp Hall	3 90	financial affairs for 12/1/1975	
Team Refreshments	17 35	6 20/1/1976.	
Tidy money	2 15		
Connaught P. Spelman	40 00		
Raffle Prizes	30 00		
Land Drive Tickets	5 00		
Debt - 12/1/1975	164 72		
	2,39 67		

Liam Seamus O'Hare

This year saw the introduction of a new system of General Purpose areas and differing divisions rather than boards and junior and senior grades. There were now three divisions, I former senior teams, II higher grade junior sides, III junior.

Oughterard were rated Div. II and confidently expected to gain promotion as this competition was on a league basis. They advanced to the West final early where they met old rivals Clonbur. Oughterard were coasting to a win when a long ball from Michael Conroy found J. J. Halloran completely unmarked in front of goal and he scored the easiest of chances. Sweet revenge for Clonbur for the 1974 Iar Chonnacht league defeat.

Oughterard advanced to the play off stages of the championship where they played Ballygar in Tuam and accounted for them to qualify to play Headford in the county semi-final where after a hard encounter went down by a point in a game that should have been won.

The U21 team was beaten in the West final by Clonbur also. Kieran Sullivan won an All-Ireland minor medal with Galway defeating Cork in the final, Kieran scoring 1-2. Kevin Clancy played on the senior team that won the Connacht title and went under to All-Ireland champions Dublin in the semi-final and was a member of the squad which won an All-Ireland seven-a-side played in Dublin.

The league system was in vogue for 1977 and Oughterard qualified for the final again. In the championship they advanced to the semi final after beating Corofin to play Clonbur. Kevin Clancy suffered a broken wrist in a challenge game a week previous to the match but played nevertheless.

There was much tension prior to this game as rivalry between the two sides was intense in view of the frequency of their meetings. This was seen as a game that had to be won, both teams having failed to qualify for senior the previous year. The game was evenly balanced and the struggle hard when with some over-robust tackling it boiled over. Clonbur ran out winners eventually despite the brilliance of Ed O'Sullivan in his last game with Oughterard and Robert O'Sullivan who scored 2-3 on county full-back S. Kinneavy. Following the referee's report of this game six of the club found themselves suspended for periods from 3 months to a year.

The club was beaten in the county U21 semi final by M. Breathnachs who were beaten in the final. Martin Lydon played for Galway minor team, Kevin Clancy for the senior and U21 team.

UNDER 17 CO. TITLE

The minor team were unlucky in their quest for honours but the under 17 team in a competition that was run on that year only qualified for the knock-out stages and eventually won the final played in 1978 with a great win over, a Brian O'Donnell powered Mervue in the final. Outstanding displays by Dick Lee, Pearse Clancy, John T. Gibbons and Billy Walsh brought the county league title to Oughterard for the first time. This team was managed by Pat Ferriter and J. J. Clancy and preparations for the minor championship began in earnest.

With wins over Ballygar, they qualified to play a star-studded Milltown side in the quarter-final a match played in Pearse Stadium.

This was a great game of football and must rank as Oughterard's finest display by a minor team. Milltown had in their ranks Tom Tierney and Paraic Coyne current Galway seniors but they had to give way to a superbly balanced Oughterard team with Martin Wallace, Paddy Gibbons, Pearse Clancy and Seamus Walsh outstanding in defence, R. Lee and J. T. Gibbons dominating centrefield and the McQuinn brothers Patrick and Tony inspiring the attack. A goal scored by Patrick McQuinn in the second half of that game remains in the memory of all who saw it. The team then went on to play Ballinasloe in the semi-final in Tuam on an August evening. This was a game that should never have been lost but Ballinasloe took their chances better and with the aid of a late goal won their way to the final. Billy Walsh had an outstanding game that evening, well assisted by Dan O'Sullivan and John Gibney. The minor team was John Morley, Dan O'Sullivan, M. Wallace, John Gibney, Paddy Gibbons, Seamus Walsh, Pearse Clancy, R. Lee, John T. Gibbons, Billy Walsh, Sean Coady, Tom Welby, Tony McQuinn, Mike Noone, E. Walsh.

In 1978 Oughterard were granted senior status in an expanded league with Pat Ferriter, Jim Joe Clancy team managers. They were beaten in the early league games and were drawn against Ballygar in the championship played in Corofin. A team cobbled together with Ballygar waiting on the field were unlucky to be beaten. P. Joe cut the toes off a borrowed pair of boots to make them fit, Fr. Considine a curate in Oughterard now Administrator in Carron togged out to make up the number also. Amazingly Oughterard were unlucky to be beaten.

The team on that day was: K. Connor, M. Joyce, P. Clancy, J. Morley, R. Lee, M. Flaherty, P. Geoghegan, K. Clancy (0-5), P. Walsh (0-2), P. J. Melia, J. Gibbons, K. Sullivan, D. Halloran, R. Joyce, P. Considine, M. Gibbons.

Martin Wallace, Billy Walsh and John T. Gibbons played on the Galway minor team defeated by eventual All-Ireland winners Mayo the highest representation on a championship under age team from Oughterard.

Kieran O'Sullivan starred on the Galway U21 team defeated by Down in the All-Ireland semi final played in Newry and played for the senior team in the National league. Kevin Clancy was a member of the Galway squad that won the All-Ireland Seven-a-Side and played on the National league team.



CUMANN LUTH-CHLEAS GAEL
Coiste Peile Contae na Gaillimhe
CLUICHE CHEANNAIS PHEIL SHINSIR
Co. Galway Senior Football Championship Final Replay

BEAL ATHA NA SLUA
(St. Grellan's, Ballinasloe)

v.

DUN MHOR MHIC EIL
(Dunmore MacHales)

ag

PAIRC AN PHIARSAIGH, GAILLIMH
(Pearse Stadium, Galway)

DE DOMHNAIGH, 23ú MEAN FOMHAIR, 1979

ag 5.00 i.n.

Réiteoir: PADHRAIG O FEIRITEAR (Uachtar Ard)

CLUICHE LEATH-CHEANNAIS PEIL FE 21

CORA FINNE v. UACHTAR ARD
(Corofin) (Oughterard)

at 3.30 i.n.

Réiteoir: S. O GRADAIGH (U.C.G.)

CLAR OIFIGIUIL

10p

OUGHTERARD		
	1 T. Welby	
2 D. O'Sullivan	3 P. J. Clancy	4 J. Kelly
5 P. Gibbons	6 J. Morley	7 P. Clancy
	8 M. Wallace	9 R. Lee (capt.)
10 S. Coady	11 M. Lydon	12 T. McQuinn
13 K. O'Sullivan	14 F. O'Connell	15 M. Coady
Subs.: 16, E. Walsh; 17, P. McQuinn; 18, J. T. Gibbons; 19, B. Walsh; 20, D. Walsh; 21, P. Wallace; 22, M. Noone; 23, J. Gibney.		

Oughterard defeated Moycullen in the championship in Pearse Stadium by a point. The game was fixed for Fahy's field but the game was not played as the pitch was not properly lined. Oughterard were then dismissed by Tuam. The Under 21 team enjoyed a great run in the championship defeating Killanin, Moycullen, Clonbur and Annaghdown before advancing to meet Corofin in the semi-final. This game was finely balance when a penalty decision duly converted gave Corofin an advantage they never lost.

The senior team managed by Roddy Joyce went undefeated through their senior league campaign to defeat Spiddal comfortably in the final. The team was: K. O'Connor, J. Morley, P. Clancy, D. Lee, P. Clancy, K. Clancy, G. D'Arcy, T. Coyne, M. McGauley, J. T. Gibbons, M. Lydon, M. Lee, K. O'Sullivan, T. McQuinn, E. Walsh. Subs: T. Molloy, M. Wallace, K. Blehein, M. Coady, P. Halloran.

1980 Clonbur defeated Oughterard by 2-11 to 0-15, who had over come Cortoon in the first round. In the Clonbur game Oughterard scored 15 points from play, with Billy Walsh in his best ever game. Dan O'Sullivan played on the Galway Minor team defeated in the Connacht final.

WEST SEVEN-A-SIDE

A seven-a-side competition for nine medals sponsored by Liam Keogh in June 1976 was organised, each of the twelve clubs in the West being represented.

The competition was played in groups of three with the winners of each group playing a semi-final. Oughterard defeated Michael Breathnachs, and Clonbur after extra time to qualify to beat Spiddal in the semi-final and Lettermore in the final. The Oughterard squad of ten was Martin Coady, John Clancy, Paddy Clancy, Edward O'Sullivan, Tom Lydon, Tom Kyne, Michael McGauley, Kieran O'Sullivan, Kevin Clancy and Paul Gibbons.

This was a most enjoyable competition which was not played afterwards.

THE MICHAEL O'TOOLE MEMORIAL CUP



1980 OUGHTERARD v THERMO KING

Back row (l to r): Kevin Clancy, Mike McGauley, Tony McQuinn, Tom Molloy, John T. Gibbons, Martin Coady, Tom Sullivan, Martin Lydon, John Morley, Liam Keogh. Front row (l to r): Ciaran O'Sullivan, Eamon Walsh, Martin Lee, Gerry D'Arcy, Paddy Geogheon, Martin Wallace, Ray Lee, Joe Welby.

Oughterard has a strong link with the Galway based American company, Thermo King (Europe) Limited since it set up in Galway City in the early 1970s. Many Oughterard workers have been employed there down through the years. They have acquitted themselves both at work and in Inter-firm Football competition. Players such as Mike McGauley, John and Paddy Joe Clancy, Paddy Geoghegan and others have won many trophies with the firm.

The tragic and sudden death of another Oughterard man — one Michael O'Toole (R.I.P.) from Leam, who died while working there and is commemorated annually by the meeting of Oughterard and Thermo King for the Michael O'Toole cup. The cup was donated by Thermo King and is always played for with pride by both clubs to the memory of Michael O'Toole. Some great games have taken place since its inception, where Thermo King with their Oughterard players clashing with their club-playing colleagues.

In the early years of the competition Thermo-King held the advantage but of late the Oughterard team is coming to the fore and at present the victories are evenly shared.

A great sporting bond has built up between the two teams and the next meeting is eagerly awaited.

NATIONAL SCHOOL GAMES

In 1920 Miss Brooke-Leggatt, Wellpark, Oughterard, presented a cup and medals for competition among National Schools around Lough Corrib. The draw for the 1920 competition was Oughterard v Newtown, Cornamona v Glann.

In November, Oughterard played Glann in the final. Oughterard won by 6 points to nil, Mr. James Hefferan N.T. was the manager of the Oughterard team and Rev. James Considine C.C. was referee. Following is an account of that final taken from the Connacht Tribune of 6th November, 1920:

Father Considine, the referee, had the teams lined up at 2.45. When the ball was thrown in by Miss Brooke Leggatt (the donor of the cup). Oughterard immediately got possession per B. McGawley, who passed to Johnny Smallhorne who, notwithstanding a gallant defence by the Glann backs, scored a minor. On the kick-out Butler passed to Halloran, who ran the ball up along the left wing to within ten yards of the Oughterard goal, but T. Sweeney got the ball here and with a long kick sent to T. Murray, who passed to P. Gibbons but the shot went wide. When the ball was kicked out Murray got possession and sent back to Glann territory, but the Glann backs saved well and sent the ball to midfield. Again Oughterard sent to Glann goal, where Murray passed to Smallhorne, who scored another point. Butler kicked out and passed to Sullivan, who cleared well to midfield. McGawley got possession, and with a well directed kick scored another point from midfield. At half time the scores were Oughterard 0-3, Glann 0-0. The second half was very exciting, Halloran, Flaherty and Sullivan forced the pace for Glann, and with a terrific rush brought the ball towards Oughterard territory. Things



OUGHTERARD HURLING TEAM 1934

The Oughterard hurling team which gave a promising display at the Aeridheacht. Included in the photograph are Joe Conneely (Lemonfield), Piper Flannagan, John Joe Osborne, Kel Burns, Charlie Sullivan, John Lydon (Billamore), Paddy Geraghty (Camp St.), Henny Halloran.

were looking serious for Oughterard when the tension was relieved by P. Darcy clearing to midfield. The pace was fast, and with only three minutes to go Oughterard put forth its best effort, and getting the ball to Glann territory P. Gibbons sent the ball over the cross-bar. Glann rallied, but too late, and

when the final whistle sounded the scores were as follows: Oughterard 0-6, Glann 0-0.

When the match was over, Miss Leggatt presented the cup to the Oughterard boys. It is a beautiful silver cup, which as an onlooker remarked, "would be regarded as a valuable trophy to be presented to the winners of an All-Ireland match".

After the cup was presented both teams journeyed to Murphy's Hotel, where Brooke-Leggatt entertained about fifty boys and some friends to tea, and when it was over the Oughterard and Glann boys together contributed several songs, amongst which were "Rally Round the Banner, Boys", "The Hills of Donegal", etc.

Miss Brooke-Leggatt also presented medals in 1920 for a competition between the Oughterard boys team and Camp boys. She also presented a set of jerseys, togs and caps to these two teams. The town boys got white jerseys, white togs and white caps. The Camp boys got blue and white jerseys, blue and white caps and white togs. The town boys won these medals. 1920 Boys teams, Boys School Team: Jimmy Smallhorne, Johnny Smallhorne, Paddy Darcy, Frank Darcy, Pat McDonagh, Martin Joe Connor, Michael John Connor, Bartley Gannon, Bartley McGauley, Tom Sweeney, John Conneely, Peter Conneely, Tom King, Pat Gibbons, Charlie Clerkin and Stephen McDonagh.

Oughterard Boys team: Frank Egan, John Egan, Jimmy Smallhorne, Johnny Smallhorne, Paddy Darcy, Frank Darcy, Tom Murray, Jack Mallon, Pat Gibbons, Charlie Clerkin and Joe Clerkin.

Camp Boys team: Michael J. Connor, Martin Joe Connor, Bartley Gannon, Tom Sweeney, John Conneely, Pat McDonagh, Bartley McGawley (M), Peter Conneely, Bartley McGawley (P), Stephen McDonagh and Tom King.

In 1971 National teachers in the Galway city area decided to organize hurling and football competitions based on school size, and also to compete in the inter-city league. Oughterard boys N.S. has competed in this competition since 1971 with reasonable success especially in the years 1974 to 1977. In 1972 Oughterard lost to Salthill C.B.S. in the final of Division II. In 1973 Oughterard lost to Gort in final of Division II. In 1974 Oughterard defeated Gort in the final of Division II. As a result of this victory Oughterard played in Division I in 1975 and defeated St. Patrick's, Galway in the final. As most of the players on this team were in sixth class Oughterard played in Division II in 1976 and defeated St. Brendan's N.S., Galway in the final. In 1977 Oughterard again competed in Division I and again defeated St. Patrick's in the final in Pearse Stadium. In 1979, 1980 and 1983 Oughterard were defeated in the finals of division II by Renmore N.S. (1979) and by Gort in 1980 and 1983.

Since 1971 many Oughterard players represented Galway in the inter-city competition. 1973 Billy Walsh, Daniel Sullivan. 1974 Michael Noone, Eamon Walsh, Patrick McQuinn. 1975 Tony Morley and Conor Gibney. 1976 Matthew Tierney, Conor Gibney (Capt), Stephen McDonnell, Harry Walsh and Michael O'Toole. 1977 Matthew Tierney, John Gillespie, Tony O'Halloran. 1978 Conrad Keogh, Kevin Watts, Joseph Tierney. 1979 Tommy Finnerty, Finbar O'Halloran, Gerard Geoghegan. 1980 Tommy Finnerty, Mark Molloy, Jimmy Molloy. 1981 Alan O'Connor. 1982 Alan O'Connor, Bosco O'Halloran. 1983 Bosco O'Halloran, Francis Kyne.



CO. GALWAY NATIONAL FOOTBALL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS 1975
Back row: Trainer F. Kyne, Pat Conneely, John McQuinn, Tony Tierney, Patrick McQuinn, Patrick Molloy, Jim McCauley, Patrick Gillespie, Declan Farnan, Roger Joyce, John Joyce. Front row: Brendan Walsh, Michael Gibbons, Pat McDonagh, Tony Morley, Eamon Walsh (Capt), Conor Gibney, Joey Clancy, Billy Donnellan, Michael Molloy, Jackie Conneely.

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SIGERSON — The Oughterard Connection

by Bobby Curran

When U.C.G. won their 21st Sigerson Cup on March 4th in Pearse Stadium, Galway, two Oughterard club footballers continued a great local tradition of involvement in the Sigerson Cup (Universities Gaelic Football competition, usually played over four days in March of each year). This involvement embraces both playing in and supporting this great competition, particularly, in Galway. So it was that Harry Walsh of Moyvoon and Matthew Tierney of Portacarron, both Freshers (first years at University), were members of a great U.C.G. squad which was contesting its eight successive Sigerson final and winning the cup for the fourth time in five years. Harry Walsh had an outstanding Sigerson at corner back and is now a valued member of the Galway senior panel. Matthew Tierney excelled with the U.C.G. Freshers who were beaten finalists in the McKenna Cup.

This tradition of Oughterard and U.C.G. Sigerson teams stretches back through Kevin Clancy (1974-77), Edward and Tom Sullivan (1972-77), Brian Geraghty (1961), Charlie O'Sullivan (1939-42), Dinny O'Sullivan (1933-35) to Conor O'Malley who was a member of the U.C.G. team to compete in the first Sigerson Cup competition in 1910 and won U.C.G.'s first Sigerson in 1911. Dinny O'Sullivan was a member of a great U.C.G. team which won Sigerson in Galway in 1933. This win broke a long losing sequence for U.C.G. which had started in 1922. Incidentally, another Oughterard link with this 1933 victory is provided by Pat Ferriter of Portacarron whose uncle Mick Ferriter was one of the stars of this great team.

The U.C.G. team of 1933 was, without doubt, one of the finest of all time. It included, in addition to Dinny O'Sullivan, and Mick Ferriter, Mick Raftery, Mick Higgins and Brendan Nestor, all of whom won All Ireland's with Galway in 1934 and 1938. The Mayo 1936 All-Ireland winning team was well represented by Seamus O'Malley, Paddy Quinn,



The 1961 Sigerson team including Brian Geraghty front row, extreme left.

Jimmy Laffey, Vincie Kelly and J. P. (Tot) McGowan. Another member of that 1933 team was Dr. John McDarby of Ballinrobe, whose wife is a sister of Mrs. Sheila O'Sullivan, Corribdale. That victory in 1933 was the beginning of a great U.C.G. run in both Sigerson and Galway County Championships. They won every Sigerson, except 1935, until 1943 and a Galway Championship three-in-a-row (1933-35). Dinny O'Sullivan and his brother Charlie featured in many of these victories as did Jo Jo Carney R.I.P. of Portacarron and winner of six Sigerson's in a row (1936-42) and Henry Kenny, who won a Galway County Championship with Oughterard (1938), in a team that included all of the O'Sullivans, Pat Gibbons, Mick McDonagh, John Paraic Conneely, the goalkeeper who saved a Jackie Flavin penalty in the semi final at U.C.G.'s Fahy's Field. Marty Newell, of Galway three-in-a-row fame, writing in a recent article in connection with the 1961 U.C.G. Sigerson Cup winning side, captained by George Glynn and including Brian Geraghty, said: "of course I remember the team. A team of so many new faces that all the experts gave it two chances — slim and no chance. How would those 'ladeens replace the mighty 'men' who went before them. Twelve of the side are playing their first Sigerson. You wouldn't put the likes of young Tony Kenny, Sean Donnelly and Joe Langan on the same field as Bobby Curran, Ray Clinton and Jimmy O'Neill. The only line of any real promise is the half forward line of Des Feely, Brian Geraghty and Pateen Donnellan!

And they won! They were like lightning, you couldn't get near enough for a right belt at them. They moved the ball around so fast you didn't know who to mark. 'Gerache' (B. Geraghty) scored some beauties from far out". Marty was, of course, at left-half back on that team. Brian Geraghty played only one Sigerson with U.C.G. during his Higher Diploma year. Maynooth, where he did his undergraduate studies, did not then participate in the competition. It is easy to speculate that had Maynooth been in the Sigerson Cup during the forties, fifties and sixties then Fr. 'Hon' Keogh and Fr. Joe Keogh would have featured prominently with them.

Edward O'Sullivan was an outstanding corner/wing half back on U.C.G. teams during the period 1972-77 and won Galway and University Senior League medals with them. Severe ankle injuries cut short a very promising career. U.C.G. were not blessed with good luck during this period in a number of Sigerson finals. In particular, in 1972, U.C.C. with Dan Kavanagh, Brendan Lynch, Pardie Lynch, Mick Scannell and Billy Field, beat U.C.G. by two points after a thrilling game in which U.C.G. lost their full back line through injury in the first half, two of three in the first five minutes. Joe McDonagh, of Galway hurling fame, Ger O'Keeffe, Paudie O'Mahoney and Tony Regan featured for U.C.G. Likewise, in 1977, U.C.G. with Kevin Clancy outstanding at centre forward, were caught in the last minute by U.C.D. through an 'Ogie' Moran and Barry Walsh goal.

Finally, on a personal note, my first competitive game with U.C.G. was in the West Board championship against Oughterard in the Swamp. I remember two of that Oughterard team in particular, Ned Keogh playing at full forward and "Brianeen" Geraghty at centre forward. I remember, also, some tough competitive games against Clonbur, featuring Kynes, Mannions and Joyces — including Frank Kyne, our local N.T.!

THE EXCITING EIGHTIES

1981 — 1982 LEAGUE VICTORY

The club had one of its most significant successes of modern times in the 1981-82 period.

The senior team of 1981 was drawn against Dunmore in the championship and were unluckily defeated by two points. The team was managed by J. J. Clancy, G. Clancy and Matt Healy.

The league of 1981-82 was played on a double round system and the club found itself with six matches to play at the end of 1981. The county board then decided following a review to reduce the number of senior teams to sixteen and introduced the intermediate grade.

In 1981 the U21 team defeated Moycullen in an absorbing battle and went on to a county semi final clash with Milltown, where they failed to score on a day which was not at all conducive to football.

1982 dawned and the selectors chosen were R. Joyce, J. J. Clancy and P. Ferriter with K. Clancy being elected captain. Oughterard were left with six games to play and had to win at least five to ensure senior status and the first game was played against Moycullen in Moycullen in February.

This was a game in which a fitter Moycullen team completely dominated an Oughterard team which had not yet recovered from the excesses of Xmas and their margin of victory would have been much greater were it not for the outstanding display of K. O'Connor in goal. In hindsight this was the best thing that happened to Oughterard as they were jolted into action. Oughterard were by now in with only a slim chance of qualifying.



MEDAL WINNERS 1982

Front row: Stephen McDonnell, Padraic Walsh, Eamon Walsh, Harry Walsh, Paddy Gibbons, Tom Molloy, Tom Welby, Dick Lee, Martin Lee, Pearse Clancy, Matt Healy, Paddy Geoghegan. Second row: Marty Faherty, Conor Gibney, Joe Clancy, Paul Gibbons, Henry Keogh, Kevin Clancy, John T. Gibbons, Gerry D'Arcy, Peter McGauley, Kieran O'Sullivan, Roddy Joyce, Jim Joe Clancy. Back row: Damien Vahey, Tom O'Sullivan, Tom Coyne, Paddy Clancy, Kevin O'Connor, Paddy Joe Clancy, Martin Lydon, John Morley, Mikie McGauley, Martin Wallace.

Training commenced in earnest under Matt Healy and in the next game against Killanin the team staggered to a win. Killanin were again the opposition on the next Sunday and this time the margin was greater. The team was beginning to settle with John Clancy returning to full back and T. Kyne to midfield. The next engagement was against Headford in Headford always a tough encounter.

Thus 6 points had been secured from a possible 8. It was now essential that the remaining games be won against M. Breathnachs and Kiltormer both teams in the running for honours also.

The game against Breathnachs was a close affair all through but the battling qualities of the team kept them ahead and so to Kiltormer for the last game, a large crowd followed the team that day in March. Kiltormer started well and went into an early lead but Oughterard came back and a goal on half time put them into the lead. A very tough hard game ensued as the match report states: *Both sets of players found that the soft going and the pressure to succeed at all costs upset their usual rythm. Consequently the game took on a very physical dimension which led to pulling and hauling, slipping and sliding, bustling and interuptions all of which are not part of their accustomed styles. For Oughterard's Mikie McGauley and Paddy Clancy this was probably their finest hour. In the rough and tumble conditions prevailing these two big men emerged as saviours for their side. In the final analysis it was fundamental football that won the day for Oughterard, and positions them at the top of the Div 1 C table with 24 points.*

It was a great sense of relief when the final whistle sounded. The team had proved itself and now had to wait for its opponents to come through from the trio of Moycullen, Salthill & Kiltormer with Moycullen managing easily and favourites to take the title.

This hightened the interest in the competition and training was hectic. A challenge game in Caherlistrane was arranged which indicated the team's well being in running out easy victors. The team welcomed back Tom O'Sullivan at full forward who was to play a crucial role in the final which was fixed for 6 p.m. on Sunday. The team selected was: K. O'Connor, Marty Faherty, John Clancy, Dick Lee, Paddy Geoghegan, Paddy Clancy, Pearse Clancy, Tom Kyne, Mikie McGauley, J. T. Gibbons, Kevin Clancy, Martin Lydon, Martin Lee, Tom O'Sullivan, Kieran O'Sullivan.

The game was played at a hectic pace with Oughterard gaining an early advantage. Then Moycullen struck with a goal and 3 points to leave them leading coming up to half time. Oughterard struck back with Kieran Sullivan making a great run up the wing before passing to Tom O'Sullivan for a great goal. This was quickly followed by another major score involving Tom O'Sullivan when he finished a shot to the net which came back off the upright from a Kevin Clancy shot. This was however disallowed as the rule regarding the square was considered infringed — shades of 1975 to appear again. Oughterard faced a stiff breeze in the second half and a determined Moycullen onslaught. The backs were outstanding especially the half line of P. Geoghegan, Paddy Clancy and Pearse Clancy. Marty Faherty's kickouts seemed to get even longer against the wind — a vital one reaching the half-forward on one occasion.

At centrefield Mikie McGauley had again risen to the big occasion and lorded the area ably assisted by Tom Kyne playing what was his gratest game for Oughterard completely curbing the Moycullen star Paraic Kelly.

The forward line was combining very well and took the few chances that came their way in the second half to ensure Oughterard ran out winners on the score of. 1-10 to 1-7.

In the championship played on 23rd May Killererin overcame Oughterard though failing to score in the second half, by two points. Oughterard faced Moycullen the following Sunday in a Welby Cup clash with the rivalry intense this being the third meeting in 4 months. It was a game played at a tremendous pace with both sides on top at different stages, the teams level on three occasions. With three minutes to go the pitch was invaded and the game called off. If one refers back to 1931 it proves that history repeats itself.

Oughterard suffered narrow defeats in the senior league at the hands of Milltown, Ballinasloe, Killererin, Monivea and Clonbur this leaving them relegated to intermediate for 1984. In the championship they were beaten by Mountbellew after a good game.

1982 Harry Walsh won a Connacht minor medal with Galway minors at full forward, being defeated by Dublin the eventual winners in the All-Ireland semi final.

Oughteard won out the Caherlistrane cup which is a competition played amongst teams unsuccessful in the championship defeating Monivea/Abbey, Caltra and Ballygar in the final. The final will be remembered for a tremendous second half display being 7 points down at half time, with Oughterard going on to win by 4 points. The Tuam Herald describes the game as *"a most entertaining exhibition of old style catch and kick football with plenty of high fielding and long range points but most important it was a hard hitting sporting contest which did credit to both sides"*. It goes on *"Oughterard made a match winning substitution bringing in six footer M. Joe McGauley at full forward"*. *"Then the other McGauley Mike began to pull down the high ones and Kieran Sullivan and Kevin Clancy were soon cutting stripes in the Ballygar defence"*.

The team: John Morley, Marty Faherty, Paddy Clancy, Dick Lee, Paddy Geoghegan, Harry Walsh, Pearse Clancy, Mikie McGauley, Tom Kyne, Martin Lee, Kevin Clancy (capt), Martin Lydon, Kieran O'Sullivan, Tommy Molloy, Eamonn Walsh. Subs: M. J. McGauley for T. Molloy, Henry Keogh for M. Lydon.



OUGHTERARD CAHERLISTRANE CUP WINNERS 1982

Back row (l to r): Mike McGauley, Tom Coyne, Kieran O'Sullivan, Martin Lydon, Dick Lee, Marty Faherty, Paddy Clancy, Pierce Clancy. Front row (l to r): Martin Lee, Henry Walsh, Paddy Geoghegan, Kevin Clancy, John Morley, Eamon Walsh, Tom Molloy.

It was indeed fitting that G.A.A. Centenary Year in 1984 would emerge as Oughterard's most successful in some considerable time. Yet it scarcely looked healthy at the turn of the year.

Having been relegated to Intermediate, they had to miss out on the prestigious senior championship, but the return of former county under 21 star Mike Walsh added the necessary impetus for a shot at the Intermediate title.

The junior side also set their sights on a county title and ended up in fact with more than one honour, in spite of the early season upset of losing a third of the side to the intermediate ranks.

Walsh had been stationed as a Garda outside of the county and since 1975 he had played his football with Kildare's senior kingpins Sarsfields in Newbridge, alongside such players as Stephen Kinneavy and Dermot Earley, two other "exiles".

On his return to the county to Oranmore he rejoined his home club and was immediately appointed captain and team trainer. Roddy Joyce - another stalwart of the club - was elected team manager, with Pat Ferriter and Frank Kyne as assistants.

The club gave an early indication of their desire to win with a Gaeltacht victory over rivals and senior side Moycullen before going down to Clonbur in the same competition.

Fr. Griffins defeated Oughterard in the intermediate league on a day when both Kevin Clancy and Harry Walsh were on county senior duty in a National football league final against Kerry. Michael Breathnach also beat them to end any league title aspirations.

However a good run in the Shrule eleven-a-side to reach the final proved to be a watershed for the club in that it bonded the side together.

Their initial intermediate panel had been strengthened by the additions of Henry Keogh, Damien Vahey, Conrad Keogh, Matt Tierney, Conor Gibney, Dick Lee and Martin Lydon from the junior side by this time also.

However the side lost both Harry Walsh and Paddy Geoghegan before the championship when they both emigrated to the U.S. and prior to their first round championship clash with Caltra, Paddy Clancy was also struggling through injury.

Oughterard eventually swung that game by introducing Clancy at full-back during the game and brought Matt Tierney to centre-forward and bringing Kevin Clancy to centre-back. They won by 0-9 to 0-5.

Unfortunately Mike McCawley was injured in that game and would not reappear for the side until mid-way through the county final.

Oughterard recorded a facile victory over Clifden in the second round winning by 2-17 to 0-2, and then did well to defeat a strong Kilconly side by 1-11 to 2-6 in the semi final.

Tom Coyne had come in for the absent Pierce Clancy for that game, but Clancy returned for the final. That county intermediate championship final against Cortoon was fixed for Pearse Stadium on the 16th September, 1984 with Seamus O'Grady as referee. Oughterard lined out as follows: John Morley, Henry Keogh, Paddy Clancy, Dick Lee, Conrad Keogh, Damien Vahey, Pierce Clancy, Tom O'Sullivan, Matt Tierney, Conor Gibney, Kevin Clancy, Eamonn Walsh, Kieran O'Sullivan, Mike Walsh, Martin Lydon. Late in the second half Mike McGawley came on as a substitute for Martin Lydon. Cortoon, a half parish of Tuam, had defeated Lettermore in the semi-final and expected to do well.



OUGHTERARD CO. INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONS 1984

Back row: Roddy Joyce, Matthew Tierney, Martin Lydon, Paddy Clancy, Conrad Keogh, Tom O'Sullivan, Henry Keogh, Damien Vahey, Conor Gibney, Tom Coyne. Front row (l to r): Mike McGauley, Kevin Clancy, Kieran O'Sullivan, John Morley, Michael Walsh, Dick Lee, Pierce Clancy, Eamonn Walsh.

The game was without a score for almost 20 minutes before Kieran O'Sullivan, Mike Walsh and Matt Tierney put over three in quick succession for Oughterard, and at half time they led 0-4 to 0-2.

But it didn't take Oughterard long to sew up the title and a brilliant goal from Kieran O'Sullivan following a pass from Kevin Clancy set them on their way. Mike Walsh added a second, and Oughterard went on to win 2-5 to 1-4.

The junior side too saw their efforts all season culminate in a title success that afternoon at Pearse Stadium when they took the West Board Junior B title by a single point from Oranmore.

The side had trained with the Intermediates all year, but were motivated in particular by Tom Molloy. The loss of so many quality players was a tough blow, but Molloy and captain Ray Lee to their eternal credit never allowed it to deter the side.

They defeated Oranmore-Maree, Clonbur and Kilannin in the early stages of the league campaign before coming up against old rivals Fr. Griffins. They took that game too with a strong display.

Victory over St. Michael's and a walkover against Spiddal put them into the league final against the winners of group C. It was at this stage that the original side lost so many of its stars to the intermediate side. The side up to then had lined out as follows: Miko Gibbons, Henry Keogh, Noel Gibbons, John Coibney, Ray Lee, Damien Vahey, Conrad Keogh, Matt Tierney, Conor Gibney, Martin Lydon, Dick Lee, Martin Lee, Gerry D'Arcy, Tom Molloy, Stephen McDonald.

In addition to the six who were promoted, the side also lost Gerry D'Arcy through injury. The club's longest serving player was injured in a challenge with U.C.G. and did not feature for the rest of the season.

However new blood was quickly drafted in and Daniel Sullivan, John Gillespie, Joey Clancy, Paraic Walsh, Paul De Lapp, Tony Halloran, Mike Noone, Paddy Walsh, Martin Gibbons, Billy Walsh, Paul Gibbons, David Walsh, Oliver Lee and Tommy Finnerty were all to play important parts in the club's success.



OUGHTERARD JUNIOR FOOTBALL PANEL
Winners of W. Board League and Championship and
Co. Junior C/ship Finalists

Back row: Dick Lee, Selector, Pat Ferriter, Tony Halloran, Paul DeLapp, Gerry D'Arcy, John Gillespie, John Givney, Noel Gibbons, Billy Walsh, Gerard Greene, Stephen McDonnell, Declan D'Arcy, David Walsh, Matt Healy, Selector. Front row: Mike Noone, Daniel Sullivan, Joey Clancy, Ray Lee (Capt.), Mike Gibbons, Tom Molloy, Padraic Walsh, Martin Lee, Paul Gibbons, Oliver Lee, Martin Gibbons.

The first triumph this year came when they defeated Cashel in the West Board league final, and they quickly went on to run up victories over Kilbride, Cashel and Lettermore in the junior championship.

Then came that triumph over Oranmore in the West Board junior B final at Pearse Stadium, and the side set their eyes now on the junior B Centenary Trophy and a county junior title last won by Oughterard in 1949. The junior team lost two more players in Daniel Sullivan (who went to England) and Joey Clancy whose nose was broken in training, they had played their last games for 1984.



Ray Lee, Oughterard Junior Capt., being presented with the West Board Championship Cup by Pat Ferriter

A walkover from Mountbellew and victory over Claregalway brought them to the centenary junior semi final. But victory here was not to be, and Caherlistrane ended the club's hopes of a staggering four titles by defeating Oughterard by two points.

Athenry and Oughterard met in the county junior B semi final and the latter won through by again a single point. Now they faced their centenary cup conquerors, Caherlistrane, again in the final.

However that game proved to be the most heartbreaking of defeats for Oughterard. They lost by five points at the finish but had missed two penalties and had a player sent off during the game.

In spite of these two disappointments late in the year, it must be remembered that the juniors did win 14 out of 16 games and took two titles in the process. Certainly the amount of talent in the side will benefit the newly promoted senior side next year. The county junior final team was: Mike Gibbons, John Gibney, Noel Gibbons, Martin Gibbons, Ray Lee (Capt), John Gillespie, Paul De Lapp, David Walsh, Billy Walsh, Tony Halloran, Tom Molloy, Martin Lee, Mike Noone, Paddy Walsh, Stephen McDonald. Subs who played: Gerry D'Arcy, Tommy Finnerty.

1984 MINOR LEAGUE TEAM

This team successfully defeated Lettermore after a replay to win the league. Panel: Gerry Geogheon, Enda Maloney, Oliver Lee, Tom Gill, Kevin Fahy, Conrad Keogh, John Tierney, Martin Gibbons, Finbar O'Halloran, Martin Noone, Joe Tierney, Patrick Clancy, George McQuinn, Tommy Curran, Tommy Finnerty, Jimmy Molloy, Eddie Keogh, Frank Molloy, Neville Moore, John Lambert, Tom Connolly.

THE WELBY CUP

The Welby Cup was presented to the G.A.A. committee for use in the running of a fund raising tournament for the club.

Four teams were invited to play for it on a knockout basis. The original draw being Annaghdown v Oughterard and Killanin v Moycullen, games which were played on March 25th 1973. Annaghdown won out the tournament that year and repeated this success on three further occasions. Moycullen won in 1975 and 1978. Oughterard were successful in 1976 and Killanin unfortunately are the only team of the original four teams not to have won the competition.

In 1979 the competition was extended to include Clifden, Clonbur, Michael Breathnachs and Spiddal, but due to pressure of fixtures the competition was not completed. After this the competition lapsed for a brief period but it was re-organised in 1981 on the original basis with Annaghdown being victorious on a day that will be remembered for the exceptional accuracy of Annaghdown full back Frank Broderick who scored five points, out of a total of six points from long range frees — enough to give any self respecting full forward a headache.

Failure to complete the competition arose in 1982 following unfortunate incidents in the Oughterard - Moycullen semi-final.

This competition, especially in the early years, proved to be a very valuable source of revenue to the club in their efforts to cater for the sporting needs of the parish.

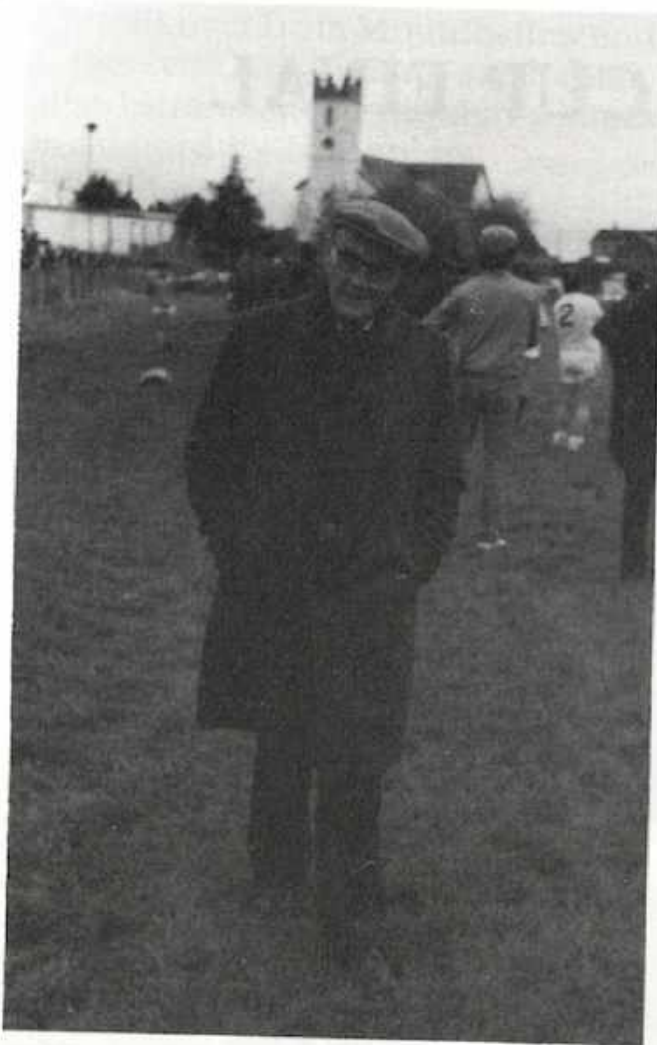
CENTENARY CUP FINAL



Staunch defence



Swift attack



Edward O'Sullivan Snr.



John Morley's best save of the day



Roddy Joyce and Mike Walsh (left) with the Centenary Trophy

LÁ NA gCLUB 1984



Back row: Paul Stewart, Pat Ferriter, Matt J. McGauley, Gerry O'Malley, P. J. O'Malley, Pat O'Connor, Michael Healy. Front row: Pierce O'Malley, Mixie McGauley, Johnny Lee, Jimmy Geogheon, Paddy Halloran, Paschal McDonagh.



Back row: Peter McGauley, Paddy Roche, Roddy Joyce, Anthony D'Arcy, Paddy Kelly, Peter Naughton, Patrick Conneely. Front row: Pat Lydon, John Healy, Jackie Joyce, Tom Walsh, Mike Clancy, Gerry Clancy, Paddy Geogheon.



Where is the ball?

Mick Waters

OUGHTERARD'S ROLL OF HONOUR

Over the past sixty years many footballers from Oughterard were honoured to represent their county in all grades of football. They brought home many honours to the little village. One of the first players to play for Galway at senior level was John Donnellan, and he played many times for Galway in the late twenties and early thirties.

Pride of place must go to Denny O'Sullivan who had a distinguished career in the thirties. He won two All-Ireland senior medals when he played in the 1934 and 1938 finals won by Galway. He won seven Connacht senior championships in 1933, 34, 38, 40, 41, 42, and 45. He represented the Province in many Railway Cups and won Railway cup medals in 1937 and 1938. He also won Sigerson Cup medals with U.C.G. in 1933 and 1934. Tom O'Sullivan, brother of Dinny, was also a marvellous footballer and although he was on the panel for four All-Ireland finals, he never won a medal. He did however win Connacht senior medals with Galway in 1940, 41, 42 and 45.

Ned O'Toole played with Galway in the early thirties. He played in the All-Ireland semi-final against Cavan at Mullingar in 1938, but he did not play in the final later that year, which was won by Galway.

Charlie O'Sullivan was also a county player at that time and he was on the panel for the 1938 team that won the All-Ireland. Henny O'Halloran won a Connacht Minor championship with Galway in 1937 and enjoyed a long and distinguished career right up to 1952.

We now come to the Keogh era. Ned played county senior football from 1946 to 1953 but during these years Galway had a very lean time and never won a Connacht championship. He did, however, win a Railway Cup medal with Connacht in 1951, when he scored 1-3 in the final. His brother, Hon, also played several times for Galway. Mick won a Connacht minor medal in the late forties.



*Ned Keogh Trophy presented
by the Keogh family to
County Board in honour
of Ned R.I.P.*

Tom McHugh, a native of Caherlistrane, played football for several years with Oughterard in the early fifties. During that time he won an All-Ireland with Galway in 1956, a National League in 1957 and three Connacht championships in 1954, 56 and 57.

One of the most successful players was Brian Geraghty. He was a member of the Galway senior panel for the three-in-a-row and holds three All-Ireland medals for these. He also won two All-Ireland Junior medals in 1958 and 1965. He was captain in 1965 and he is the only Oughterard man to captain a winning Galway team in an All-Ireland final. He also won Connacht championships in 1963, 64, 65 and 1966. Spare a thought for him, as recently his home in Dublin was burgled and all his medals were stolen.

Edward O'Sullivan, a son of Denny, won a Connacht minor championship in 1969. He later won an U21 All-Ireland and Connacht medal in 1972.

Mike Walsh won an All-Ireland minor medal in 1970 and also on that panel were Kevin O'Connor and Pierce O'Malley for the league. Mike later won an All-Ireland U21 medal in 1972.

Kevin Clancy of Glann was most successful. He and his brother Paddy won Connacht minor medals in 1972. Then Kevin went on to win Connacht Senior championships with Galway in 1976, 1983 and 1984. He also won a Connacht junior championship in 1984 and he was a member of the Galway team that won the Wembley Tournament in 1975. Frankie Kyne won Connacht senior and junior medals in 1960. His brother, Seamus, who also played for Oughterard, won All-Ireland minor honours with Galway in 1952. This was Galway's first minor All-Ireland win, and Seamus was later killed tragically in an accident.

Kieran O'Sullivan won an All-Ireland minor medal with Galway in 1976, in which final he scored 1-2. He also collected a Connacht minor in 1976 and Connacht U21 in 1978.

In 1981 Pearse Clancy won a Connacht U21 medal with Galway. Mike McGauley won a Connacht Minor medal with Galway in 1973 and Kevin Clancy was also on that team.

Harry Walsh won a Connacht minor medal in 1982 and he played on the winning U.C.G. Sigerson Cup team in 1984. Matthew Tierney won a Connacht minor medal in 1983 and he also won a Sigerson Cup medal in 1984.

Tom O'Sullivan won the Provincial Championship of Great Britain.

*Best wishes to Oughterard
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ATHLETICS

In the early years of the Gaelic Athletic Association, athletics were organised and run under the umbrella of local G.A.A. clubs. Oughterard has been fortunate to have produced a number of International athletes in its time. Such as:



MICK MOLLOY

Mick Molloy has won 15 National Championships on track, road and cross-country. He represented Ireland in the International Cross Country in Tunisia in 1968 and finished 13th in the European Marathon in Athens in 1969. In 1974 he hit the headlines when winning the Brendan International Marathon by over 3 minutes despite losing over 2 minutes by taking a wrong turn on the road. Five weeks later he set a world record for 30 miles track at Walton Surrey. His brother Christy ran a 4.19 mile on grass at the age of 19 but was forced to retire with a permanent leg injury.

*Lough Corrib,
Oughterard
Co. Galway
(091) 82315*

CUIMIN CLANCY

He won Irish Discus and Shot titles, the A.A.A. Discus championship at White City and competed in the 1948 Olympics in London before going to Villanova University and becoming All American Inter Collegiate discus champion and Irish record holder at 164 ft. which was not beaten until the late sixties.

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OUGHTERARD RACES

The biggest social event of the year in Oughterard has always been the Oughterard Races. Usually held in August, it attracts thousands of people annually for this great re-union. The event used to be always held over the Waterfield Course up until 1955 when this land was sold by the owner, the late Jack Bolger, to Galway Co. Council for housing development. In 1955 it was held further up the hill from the top of the old course and later it was transferred to the Corribdale Grounds on the other side of the town.

When I was associated with the event from 1951 to 1955 it could be described as a flapper event that attracted racehorses and ponies from far and near. Some local farmers were always able to produce good horses on the day and they were willing to take on all comers with success. I can remember especially the likes of Robert Welby, Ivy Gable, Jack Bolger, Paddy Geoghegan, Chrisy Butler and Nick Byrnes — all producing winners in their day. The committee that ran the Races were usually drawn from the G.A.A. club and they put a great effort into it and met regularly throughout the year to plan the event.

The revenue usually came from the gate collections, collections of business people in Oughterard, Galway and Connemara and from dances. There was usually over £100 given out in prizes and that was a sizeable amount in those years.



1953 OUGHTERARD RACE COMMITTEE

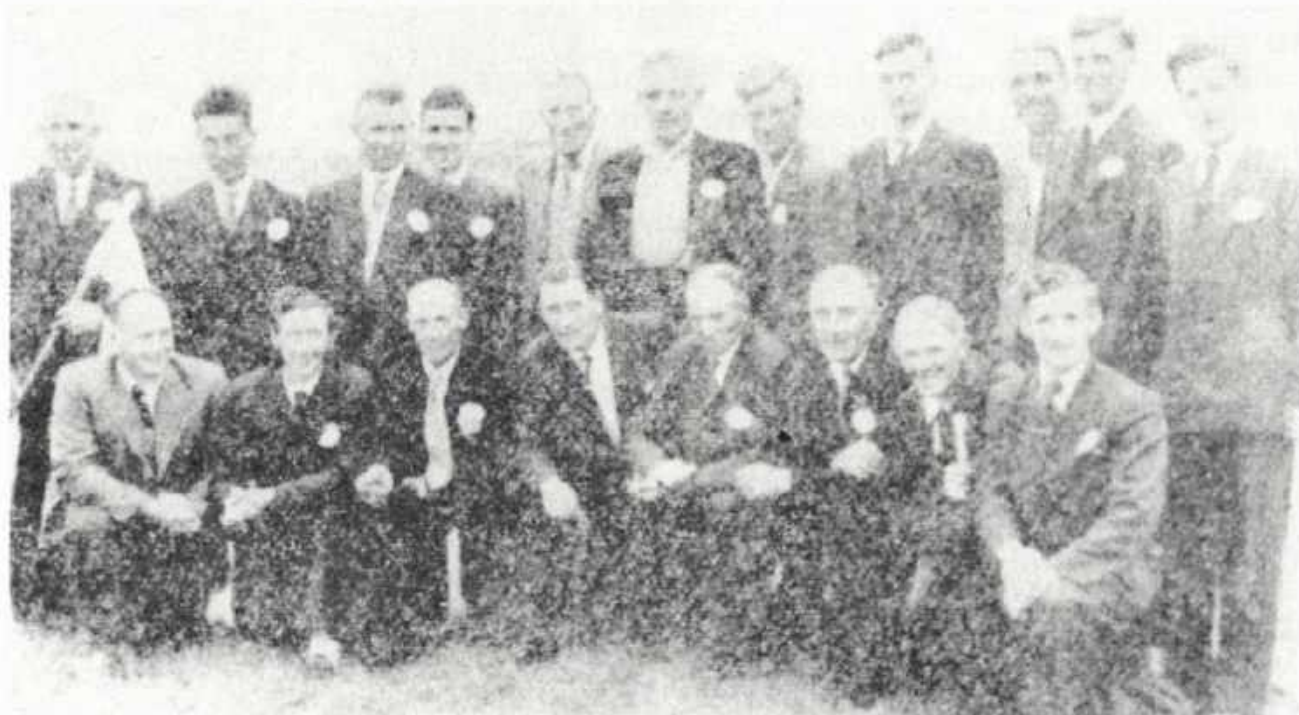
Front row (l to r.) Tommy McQuinn, Johnny Keogh, Matty Molloy, John A. Molloy.

Back row (l. to r.) Matty Clancy, Pat Mons, Paddy Harris, Pete Molloy, Pat Gibbons, Mike Clancy, Edward O'Sullivan, Mick Waters, Matty Healy and Peter Naughton.

The usual committee in these years were: Chairman Denny O'Sullivan; Vice-chairman Pat Gibbons; Hon. Secretary Mick Waters; Hon. Treasurer Matty Healy. Committee: M/s Edw. O'Sullivan, Patrick Roland, Edwin

McDonagh, Paddy Walsh, John A. Molloy, Paddy Geoghegan, Frank Gibney, Paddy Harris, John Conneely, Tommy McQuinn, Charlie Byrnes, Matty Clancy, Johnny Keogh, Bartley McGawley, William Keogh, Peter Geraghty, Nicholas Byrne, Pat Mons, John Shaughnessy and Pete Molloy.

The Gate Collectors were: Matty Molloy, Matty Clancy, Pat Mons, Harry Stewart, Patrick Roland, Michael John McDonagh and Nick Byrnes. The Judges were Pat Gibbons and Peter Geraghty. Paddy Walsh, Blacksmith was always the gallant starter while Tommy McQuinn was in charge of the mike and gave running commentaries on the races in his own inimitable way. The Connemara collection used to be taken up by Jack Bolger, Peter Geraghty, Pat Gibbons and Tommy McQuinn. Collecting Oughterard were Michael John McDonagh, Bartley McGawley, Matty Healy and Matt Clancy. Galway city was collected by William and Johnny Keogh, Tommy McQuinn, Peter Geraghty and Mick Waters. The latter also collected money from the members of Galway Co. Council. Admission in these days was two shillings and we always collected in the region of £100 on the gate. There were always a good number of bookmakers present and many's the good flutter that was had with them by local and visiting punters. Thanks be to God the event is still retained and long may it flourish.



1956 OUGHTERARD RACE COMMITTEE

Front row (l. to r.) Nicholas Byrne, Matty Healy, Tommy McQuinn, Dinny O'Sullivan, Edwin McDonagh, P. J. Melia, Matty Clancy.

Back row (l. to r.) Paddy Geoghegan, John Conneely, John O'Shaughnessy, Pat Gibbons, Patrick Roland, Paddy Walsh, Mick Waters and John A. Molloy.

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
For Race Stakes	£124 0 0	By Gate receipts	£94 12 0
Connacht Tribune Ex.	14 7 6	Galway Collection	36 13 0
Galway Printing Co,	4 8 0	Oughterard "	33 2 0
T. Gibbons Expenses	6 0 0	Connemara "	18 4 0
Field Stewards Expenses	2 5 0	Stands "	7 14 6
D.O'Sullivan's "	5 0 0	Sale of Race Cards	5 15 8
P. Geoghegans "	4 0 0	Entries	9 5 0
Fallon's "	4 10 0	Winners Subs.	2 14 6
Rent of Field	6 0 0	Raffle AT Dance (nett)	4 0 0
Town Coll. Expenses	10 0		
Galway Coll. Ex.	18 6		
Flags	11 8		
Advt. (Carnival Prog)	1 10 0		
Sec.'s. Exs. 5c	10 0 0		
Balance Sheets	7 6		
To Balance c/f	27 14 6		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	<u>£122 0 8</u>		<u>£212 0 8</u>
		By Balance c/d	£27 14 6

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GLEANINGS



Glann National School Choir, which won the Corn Naomh Brigidhe at Oughterard Ard Aeridheacht. Back row: Bernadette Clancy, Mary Joyce, Mary Kelly, Cisse Sullivan, Mary Clancy, Mary Clancy, Bridget Clancy, Celia McDonagh R.I.P., Miss Hession (Teacher) R.I.P. Middle row: Bride Clancy, Mary Feeney R.I.P., Nora McDonagh. Front row: Pete McDonagh R.I.P., Cuimin Clancy, Paddy Feeney, John Feeney, James Kelly, Cuimin McDonagh.



GROUP OF FISHERMEN

Front row: Patsy Molloy, Paddy McGauley, Paddy Harris, Peter McGauley, Jack Faherty, Joe Molloy, -, John King, Mark McGauley, Roger Lee, Bartley McGauley, Mick Lambert, Joe Healy, -, Martin Connor, Camp, John Farrell. Back row: Joe Halloran, Tom Coyne (Camp), -, Tom McQuinn, -, -, Seano Joyce, Mick McDonagh, Stephen McDonagh, Paddy Clancy, Larry McEville, Martin Molloy, Mark Molloy, Peter Lydon, Pete Tierney, Pat Naughton, John Lydon (Camp), Bartley Fahy (Baur.), Paddy Geraghty (Camp), Jim Kelly, Bartley Fahy, Michael McGauley, Paddy Molloy, Paddy Mons, Joe Tierney, Michael McGauley (Baurisheen).



1954 stage production of "The Morning Rising", the story of the apparition at Knock, which was performed by the Oughterard Dramatic Society.

Front row sitting (l to r): Julia Walsh, Portacarron; Mrs. Delia Lambert, Old Chapel; M/s Kinneavy; Mary Claire Conneely, Old Chapel; Mary Lambert, Old Chapel; Rita Walsh, Gorthreeva. Second row: Teresa Tierney, Portacarron; Nancy Joyce, Glann; Breege McQuinn, M/s Kinneavy, Nora Conneely, Main St.; M/s Prendergast; Anne Dixon, Old Chapel; Una Donnellan, Bilymore; Lina Harris, Old Chapel; Frances Geoghegan, Bridge St.; Peggy O'Connor, Derrylaura; Maureen Monaghan, Main St. Third row: Mary Molloy, Derrymoyle; Nan Burke, Main St.; Peggy Tierney, Bridge St.; Mary B. Molloy, Main St.; Bridie Tierney, Bridge St.; Jim Faherty, Cregg. Standing on stage: Jones Ferris, Main St.; Paddy D'Arcy, Magheramore; Matty Healy, Bridge St.; Tim Molloy, Derrymoyle; Mrs. Katie Walsh, Gortreevagh; Sean Monaghan, Man St.; Mary Walsh, Moyvoon; Gda. Michael Cowley, Oughterard; Mick Waters, Moyvoon; Jim Kelly, Glann and Sean Conneely, Main St.

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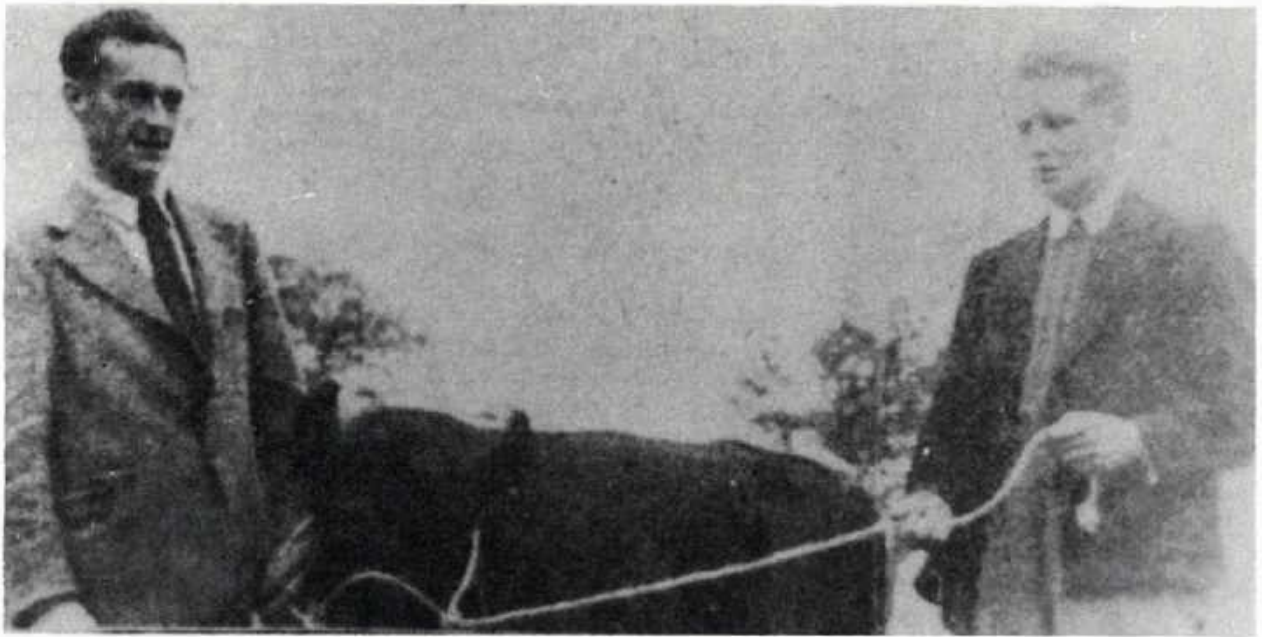
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Hollywood film director John Ford and a director of Four Provinces, the new Irish film company, instructs a group of Oughterard "extras" on location for "The Rising of the Moon". Back row: Madeline Donnellan, Michael Molloy, Sheila O'Sullivan, Mrs. Thornton, Masie Harris, John Ford. Front row: Michael John Joyce, Paddy Joe Joyce.

Dermot Joyce

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1951			2. 8. 4
Oct. 21	By	Car to Tuam(Lydon & McQuinn)	1.10. 0
		Car to Leenane with M. King	1.10. 0
24		Bladder (per school)	3. 9
31	By	Balance	<u>11.10. 9</u>
			£14.14. 6

Nov. 15	By	J. McDonagh	4.10. 0
		P. Geraghty	5. 0. 0
		Billiard Co.	2.10. 0
31	By	Balance	<u>8.11. 3</u>
			£20.11. 3

Dec. 17	BY	Joyce (shop) per Glass	2. 6
		1 lb. Nails	4
		Tom Coyne	6. 0
	By	Balance	<u>10.17.11</u>
			£11. 6. 9

1952			
Mar. 5	By	Fees	1. 9. 0
		T. McDonagh	2.10. 0
		T. McDonagh	2. 0. 0
Apr. 3		Football	4.13. 9
		Car to Galway & Carraroe	
		per D. Neville	3. 0. 0
May 12		John Keogh	21. 0. 0
		Billiard Co.	2. 6. 0
		Football	1.14. 0
		Phonecalls	2. 0
11		Car to Tuam	2.15. 0
		Car to Galway(West Board)	1. 5. 0
		Per Car runs	10. 0. 0
		Tom McHugh	7. 0. 0
		P. Sullivan	10. 4. 0
		Keogh's (per statement)	19.10. 5
Nov. 2		Lydon's Cafe	3.16. 4
2		Tom McHugh	3. 0. 0
		Objection	1. 0. 0
		Peter Geraghty	<u>8. 0. 0</u>
			£103. 5. 6

1953			
Jan. 1	By	Balance	55. 6. 7
		Wreath	5.15. 0
31		P. Sullivan	1.10. 0
		Ned Keogh	10. 0. 0
Feb. 1		Car to Tuam	2. 0. 0
		Peter O'Farrell	1.12. 8
20		Joe Lydon	2. 5. 6
		P. O'Sullivan (per E.S.B.)	2. 4. 6
		P. Geraghty	<u>2. 2. 0</u>
			£82.16. 3