

Early Goals Proved Decisive In Abbeyfeale-Ballyhahill

10/3/46

Semi - Final Tie

("KERRYMAN" SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE)

Abbeyfeale ... 3-4 Ballyhahill ... 1-6
TWO rather lucky goals in the opening three minutes proved to be the deciding factor in the Co. Limerick Senior Football Championship semi-final which was decided at Newcastle West on Sunday last in the presence of a record gathering.

Abbeyfeale, however, fully deserved their hard-earned four points' victory, as they decidedly had the better of the open exchanges for three-quarters of the hour and were superior in combination for most of the game. Ballyhahill, on the other hand, struck a definitely unlucky day and the fact that they made such a fine recovery from the earlier impact of two fatal goals was in itself the best proof of the merit of their gallant but unavailing bid to pull the fat out of the fire in the concluding stages of the game. Their belated but gallant effort to turn the tide of fortune in the last quarter helped to sustain interest and excitement up to the last minute and helped to provide plenty of interest and excitement for the unusually big crowd of patrons from all parts of the west of the county. The pitch was in excellent order for the semi-final and the stewarding by the members of the local Club left nothing to be desired. Apart from a few minor and pardonable incidents the game was played in a real sporting spirit which reflected the highest credit on the two worthy rivals.

GAME IN A NUTSHELL

The story of the game, briefly told, was a sequence of masterful and cleverly combined offensives by the Fealesiders and a tragedy of errors for the Ballyhahill men. Those two early goals—one of them accidentally pushed into his own net by the Ballyhahill full back—would surely have broken the spirit of a less gallant combination. Indeed, the onlooker who declared that the game was won and lost in the opening three minutes, while he may not have been an inspired prophet, succeeded in summing up the ultimate situation very neatly. Having thus secured such a decided advantage the Abbeyfeale men never looked back, even though there were hectic moments in the concluding stages when it looked as if they would have to concede a draw. However, they were always able to make that quick recovery and the element of surprise and speed in their clever attacks always kept the Ballyhahill defence on tenterhooks. Nevertheless, even at half time when the winners were leading by 2-2 to 0-3, there was still an element of doubt about the final issue, as there was a feeling that Ballyhahill were capable of staging a come-back. As it so happened anticipations in this respect were by no means unfounded, and with a fair mixture of good luck and better cohesion in the forward line, the result might well have been a draw.

EXPLOITED OPPORTUNITIES

As things turned out they were beaten by a team that made better

to the full their clever hand-passing tactics. Nelius Murphy and Eddie McCarthy were always dependable in the Abbeyfeale defence, while at centre-field Paddy McCarthy, of former Limerick and Army hurling fame, and B. Riordan, had much the better of the exchanges. John Fitzgibbon, and Tommy Mann, Moss Colbert and Nicholas Cotter provided the mainspring of the Abbeyfeale scoring machine. Paddy Fitzgerald, of Askeaton and Limerick hurling fame, also did great work for the winners.

Ballyhahill were well served throughout by Michael Hayes, Tom Sheehan, Joe Curtin, Pat Walsh, Paddy Dunne, Stack and the Hayes Brothers. Mr. J. Mulvihille, Kilcoleman, refereed.

THE PLAY

Abbeyfeale broke away right from the throw-in and despite the efforts of Tom Sheehan and Joe Curtin in the Ballyhahill defence, Nicholas Cotter sent all the way to the net for a rather soft goal for the Fealesiders. Paddy McCarthy intercepted the kick-out and Paddy Fitzgerald and John Fitz combined in a clever offensive which brought the ball all the way to the Ballyhahill goalmouth where, in the course of a confused skirmish, the Ballyhahill full back accidentally tipped the leather into his own net for Abbeyfeale's second goal within three minutes of the start.

Ballyhahill stunned by these two early reverses, again yielded to a further Fealside attack and from a free 21 yards out John Fitz sent over the bar for a further point for the winners. B. Riordan and Paddy McCarthy were in the van of a further Abbeyfeale attack from which Nicholas Cotter missed a point by a matter of inches. The delivery found Ballyhahill more settled down and Michael Sullivan and Pat Fitz started a drive which was carried all the way for a point from a melee in front of the Fealside net. Ballyhahill were now playing with more confidence, and from a free 40 yards out M. Sullivan sent all the way between the posts for a further point. Then the winners again took up the running and despite the fine defence work of Tom Sheehan and Joe Curtin, John Fitz added an Abbeyfeale point from a free close in. Ballyhahill replied with a similar score after Paddy Dunne had led off with a solo attack and crossed a clever pass to the versatile Pat Fitz who finished in style. Before the interval, Paddy Dunne, receiving from Joe Curtin, added a further point for Ballyhahill, and at the interval the scores stood:

ABBEYFEALE .. 2-2 BALLYHAHILL 0-3
 ANOTHER ABBEYFEALE GOAL

John Fitz put Abbeyfeale attacking immediately after the resumption and almost before the Ballyhahill defence realised what was happening the winners were a further goal up when Moss Colbert sent all the way to the net. Keeping up the pressure the Fealesiders again moved in and for the third time in the game the sharpshooting John Fitz sent over a point from a free in front of the Ballyhahill net. Breaking away from the kick-out, Ballyhahill forced the pace and a free close in enabled Michael Sullivan to add a point for the losers. Paddy Dunne, after a fine solo effort, followed up with a further point. Hereabouts, Ballyhahill took command of the situation for the moment and hope and enthusiasm were born anew in the Ballyhahill followers' camp when Stephen Barrett, receiving from Pat Fitz, crashed a great goal into the Abbeyfeale net. With three points between the rivals and five or six minutes to go, Ballyhahill forced the pace with renewed vigour, and excitement reached a new pitch of intensity. However, Nelius Murphy and his fellow Abbeyfeale backs stood up to the test and Tommy Mann eased the situation with a drive to the other end where John Fitz, recording his fourth point from frees, made the issue fairly safe for the Fealesiders.

TEAMS

ABBEYFEALE—D. Riordan, C. Murphy, P. Brown, T. Sullivan, S. Colbert, E. McCarthy, S. Riordan, P. McCarthy, E. McCarthy, S. Riordan, P. Fitzgerald, J. Fitzgibbon, T. Mann, M. Colbert, N. Cotter.

BALLYHAHILL—M. Sullivan, M. Hayes, M. Hayes, G. Walsh, M. Curtin, J. Curtin, P. Walsh, T. Sheehan, J. Fitzgerald, P. Dunne, P. King, S. Stack, S. O'Ryan, S.

FEALE-SIDE MEMORIES

MORE than once I have been asked to write something reminiscent of the events and experiences associated with that part of West Limerick and nearby Kerry marking the milestones of my early life.

The village of my birth was then obscure in its importance, but no wplumes itself in the arrogance of a progressive town. Not many may be accurate in boasting, as I do, that few towns or villages in Munster have doubled their population and proportionately their commercial position as I have seen my town do since my childhood. I can well recall the few shopkeepers who depended for their merchandise, limited as it then was, on the services of the "carmen," as they were called, who journeyed weekly the long, long road to Cork City. They usually went via Rockchapel, Newmarket, Kanturk, Banteer, or Lyre, and even through Mallow. Each cart was laden with firkins of farmers' butter, which were replaced for the return journey by Cork porter, whiskey, and general merchandise. From Tarbert came meal-flour and even "rock-salt" which was converted into salt in roasting pans employed in the town.

FIRST BICYCLE

Now this period was emerging from 1878-9 into the "80's" of the last century. I saw the first bicycle arriving in Abbeyfeale. This penny-farthing contraption was ridden by one of the engineers employed in laying down the new line of railway (W. & L. Rlys.) in its extension from Newcastle West to Listowel. At the time what a delight it was for us youngsters to learn, occasionally, that another of those big steam engines, on its way from Limerick to Abbeyfeale,

By J. D. H.

pulling its long range of wagons loaded with rails and sleepers, was again sunk in the public road near Goulbourne Bridge! When alive to its functions again, how delighted we were to greet its return at Mountmahon. On one such occasion a mischievous youth ventured to ride on the buffer of a wagon and hastily alighting at the approach of the "flag-man" had a finger of his crushed. This same youth afterwards owned "The Friendship Park Hotel" in Pittsburg. One of Father Casey's famous football team, he died young.

I saw the Abbeyfeale Railway Station built from stones raised in a quarry through which the railway line cut. This must have been my first year at the school, which stood in the grounds of the local Parish Church. While in the infant classes of this school, a fellow class-mate tempted me to go out on leave, and outside informed me that the first passenger train would arrive at Abbeyfeale Station about half a mile away that day. Off we set, and arriving breathless at the station, we were just in time to meet the train pulling into it, and from the train we saw its two first passengers who rode in from Devon Road—Mr. W. L. Hartnett, R.O., Dromtrasna (father of Dr. Ed. Hartnett) and the late Mr. Wm. O'Sullivan, Springmount. This was Monday, December 20, 1880.

23-9-46
cember 5, 1880: "A Land League Meeting in Duagh. The O'Donoghue of the Glins was there."

Amongst other items set out in the Diary, appears under date of July 2, 1879: Richard Ellis (Landlord of the town and adjoining country), and Fuller Hartnett, died to-day. On the 4th of August, '79 there was a Sheriff's sale of cattle, which Father Casey bought in for the tenant. Two days later two horses belonging to Tom Murphy, a well-known local jarvey then, were burned in their stable at Convent Street. 15th October, 1879, deaths were recorded from the fever which ravaged the town and district at the time. After attending 19 such cases Father Casey, then C.C., was stricken down himself with the disease, as was also Father Byrnes, C.C., who was after P.P. of Dromcolliher. On August 12, 1880, a man named Browne was drowned in the Feale (canal pool). On the 15th, another boy was drowned and on August 17, 1880, a great bog flood burst down the Feale from Dromadda Mor Bogs, where it burst through the side of the mountain and covered the Feale Valley with bog soil, leaving thousands of salmon, trout and eels dead on every side. The salmon were sold in various outside places at from twopence to sixpence per pound.

Thursday, April 7, 1881. "Great excitement to-day. About 150 police conveying some tenants of Lord Gullamore by rail to Limerick, because of assaults on R.I.C. and agents serving writs in Dromtrasna. There were five prisoners including two women." Tuesday, April 12: "Much excitement again when big numbers of police and military attended to protect witnesses examined in the Gullamore charges." The examination and depositions were in the old Courthouse, then in the middle of the Main Street. On this occasion, "Father William Casey, P.P. (then curate), intervened, learning of an attempt being arranged to rescue the prisoners on the way to the railway, got about fifty men to turn the big crowd that followed back into the Square, until the military were clear of the town. It was on this day that some of the depositions taken in the Courthouse disappeared mysteriously and necessitated the further taking of them in Limerick City. From this the prisoners were returned to the Cork Assizes where, on December 9, 1881, they were sentenced to from 12 months to Penal Servitude for 5 years.

Other interesting items may be given space at a later date.

DIARY MEMORIES

More interesting to many in West Limerick and Kerry may be some excerpts from diaries I possess of those who have long since gone to rest, but who in their leisure hours found time to record the every-day happenings of seventy odd years ago. One of these interesting records belonged to the late Captain William Clarke Oliver, R.N., who, on retirement from the Navy some years after his marriage, settled down in Knockbrack, Abbeyfeale, on a farm dowered on his wife, Ellen Hartnett Oliver. The captain was born within the sound of Bow Bells, London, and served many years in the British Navy. During the Famine years he came to Ireland with some of the grain, which was probably grown in this country, but taken to England from it, and returned too late to avert the misery its loss had aggravated. After his death in 1889 an obituary note records that he fought in the taking of the Redan (Sevastopol, 1856 in the Crimean War against the Russians). Having done a world cruise with the Duke of Edinburgh in his charge, it was certainly more than a little novel for him to become accustomed to the hum-drum life of an Irish country gentleman in Knockbrack. In time, however, he became as Irish as ourselves, like many of his predecessors, but unlike some of the foreign settlers he became sympathetically impressed with the wrongs of the tenant farmers he saw around him. He did not suppress his opinions, for he took part in the first Land League Meeting in Abbeyfeale.

In the summer of 1879, which had been as bad for the crops because of the rain, as our own experience in 1946, he was shocked at the state of the country. On July 16, 1879, he writes in his diary—"Dry weather very badly wanted, for potatoes, turf and hay; unprecedented year for weeds; impossible to keep them under. Good weather is now needed for the hay. Work on the railway is much impeded." This has reference to the completing of the permanent way, when the Waterford and Limerick Railway was about being extended into Kerry via Abbeyfeale.

"FEARFUL RAINS"

August 2, he continues—"Fearful rains during the night; rivers and lands flooded, such as had not been seen since 1858, when many persons were drowned at Feale Bridge, and along the course of the Feale. Hay and cows, etc., swept away." September 8—"Night and day dreadfully wet and cold; great floods, terrible for the poor people trying to save hay. Turf ruined." Next day there is another despairing note: "All day wet and windy, nothing to be done; I'm afraid the harvest is lost. A fearful prospect for the country. Hay rotting, oats flattened on the ground; potatoes bad, turf lost. All, all, gloomy, cattle in bad state from wet and cold." The dawn of hope came Sunday, September 16, 1880: "Great day in Abbeyfeale; a Meeting and the commencement of the Land League; there were ten speakers. Large concourse of people; largest ever seen here, estimated at 4,000 from far and near. Magistrates with extra police attended, but were not required. Public houses were open until evening, but everything passed off very quietly. Indeed nothing could be better. Vereker and O'Grady were severely handled in the reference.

THE LAND LEAGUE MOVEMENT

The Land League meetings were spreading and putting heart into the people, for October 10 records: "Large Land League Meeting at Abbeyfeale in

6-9-47
**Limerick M.F. Title
Goes to Abbeyfeale**

Abbeyfeale, 3-4; Askeaton, 2-5.

ABBEYFEALE scored a fairly convincing but hard earned victory over Askeaton in the final of the West Limerick Minor Football Championship which was decided at Newcastle West Gaelic Grounds on Sunday.

The attendance was rather disappointing for such an attractive fixture but the small gathering of patrons was more than amply rewarded with a game that, while being seldom high class, was always interesting. Although the boys from the Fealeside fully deserved their victory they met with plenty of opposition from their Deelside rivals who made a determined rally in the second half and threatened more than once to force the issue to a draw. At half time the winners were leading by 1-3 to 0-1.

Abbeyfeale had the best of the opening exchanges and were a goal and two points up before Askeaton replied with a minor. The Fealesiders continued to do most of the pressing but scoring opportunities were lost at both ends before half time.

On resuming, Askeaton improved their tactics and after repulsing several Abbeyfeale attacks they succeeded in adding a point. Abbeyfeale replied with a similar score and a close-in free enabled the Deelsiders to again raise the white flag. Then an Askeaton goal reduced the Abbeyfeale lead to a single point as the game took its most exciting turn. Shortly afterwards the Fealesiders secured their position with two goals, to which Askeaton replied with a goal and a point following a series of cleverly combined onslaughts.

Sean Leahy, McAuliffe, Begley, T. Leahy and Dalton scored for the winners, while scorers for Askeaton were Madigan, Fitzgerald and McKeon.

Mr. T. Cregan (Dromcollogher) was a capable and impartial referee.

C ROOM

27/9/47
Notes

BEFORE a small attendance at Croom on Sunday, Abbeyfeale (West Limerick) qualified for the Co. Limerick Minor Football Final, when they defeated Pallasgreen (East Limerick) in the semi-final of the championship on the score of 3-2 to 4 points.

The game did not reach a high standard and in the opening half, when they were playing against the breeze, Pallasgreen looked like taking the honours as they were only a point in arrears at the interval. Abbeyfeale, however, changed their style in the second moiety, and their stronger kicking and better combination paved the way to victory.

Abbeyfeale broke away in the throw-in and had an early goal per J. Markie, which surprised Pallasgreen, who, however, fought back determinedly and wiped out the arrears with points per Dwyer and Corbett (2). Abbeyfeale then had the better of matters, and before the interval added a point per O. Liston which gave them an interval lead of 1-1 to 3 points.

On the resumption Abbeyfeale, after eight minutes, crashed through for a goal, per J. Doody. Pallasgreen came within striking distance when Hayes sent over the bar, but Abbeyfeale were showing definite superiority now and P. McCarthy had their third goal. D. Hartnett (Abbeyfeale) concluded the scoring with a point for Abbeyfeale.

Mr. Lawlor (Limerick) refereed.

The teams were:

Abbeyfeale—J. Cusack, J. O'Connell, T. McEnery, P. Leahy, O. Liston, J. Markie, D. Leahy, D. Hartnett, J. Moloney, D. Begley, J. Collins, D. Doody, T. McAuliffe, J. Doody, J. McCarthy.

Pallasgreen—T. Ryan, L. O'Dea, J. Dwyer, P. Dunne, J. Gammel, S. Mulcahy, J. Darcy, S. Dwyer, M. Corbett, J. Heffernan, J. Hayes, T. Guare, S. Hayes, M. Beary and J. Birrane.

CITY TEAM'S DEFEAT

—oo—25/10/47
**FOOTBALL TITLE FOR
ABBEYFEALE**

There was a record attendance at the Sports Field, Adare, on Sun., where the city relinquished its hold on the Limerick County Senior Football Championship, held by Treaty-Sarsfields, when St. Patrick's were beaten by last season's finalists, Abbeyfeale. Just a mere goal separated the teams at the end of a hectic hour's football, the winners leading at the interval by 1-3 to 0-3, and then going on to take the trophy by 1-5 to 0-5.

Playing against the wind in the opening half, Abbeyfeale had the better of the exchanges. There was a considerable improvement displayed by the "Saints" in the second period, but faulty marksmanship was their undoing. An outstanding figure on the field was Paddy McCarthy (Abbeyfeale), the county hurler. Paddy Fitzgerald (St. Patrick's) received a nasty injury to his back, and may not be able to take his place in the hurling side against Clare in the National Hurling League on Sunday next.

THE SCORING.

J. Riordan opened the scoring with a goal for Abbeyfeale, and after pressure St. Patrick's replied with a point by McGill from a free. McGill added a further St. Patrick's point from a free before J. Riordan had another point for the winners. A further penalty enabled Fitzgibbons to add a point for Abbeyfeale. Just before the interval St. Patrick's had another point per Fitzgerald.

Immediately after the resumption Fitzgibbons pointed for Abbeyfeale from a free, and Colbert added a similar score. McGill replied with a point for St. Patrick's, and for a quarter of an hour the city team kept up the pressure. Several scoring chances were thrown away, and there was much excitement as wide followed wide. In the concluding stages Abbeyfeale recovered superiority and finished easy winners.

Mr. P. Kennedy (Pallas) refereed.

Semi-final Ends ^{1/10} In Draw ⁴⁷

A LAST minute point by Tim Cotter left the issue still undecided at the final whistle when Abbeyfeale met Army (12th Batt.) in the County Limerick senior football semi-final at Newcastle West on Sunday.

The game was one of the best and most exciting ever seen in the county and the very large crowd were kept on tenter hooks for every minute of the hour.

Curiously enough, the teams were also level at half time with five points each, although it looked for a time as if the Army team were going to snatch a very hard earned victory when they went two points ahead within ten minutes of full time.

They were leading by a solitary point within a minute or two of the hour and it was only just before full time that Abbeyfeale succeeded in sending over the equaliser.

RESULT POPULAR

The draw was, incidentally, about the most popular result as both teams had their patches of bad luck and Abbeyfeale would definitely have been unfortunate to lose after giving a very fine display. The final score was: **Army 1-6, Abbeyfeale 0-9.**

One of the big attractions of the game was the appearance of Lt. Simon Deignan, just back from his visit to New York. The Cavan man was in rare form and was, in fact, one of the main inspirations of the Army side in which Lt. Crohan, O'Brien, Ryan and Kerrigan were also seen to advantage. Nelius Murphy and Neddy McCarthy, in the defence, "Balbo" Riordan and Jimmy O'Rourke at centre-field and the Cotters, John Fitzgibbon and Moss Colbert in the forward line, were always very much in the picture for Abbeyfeale.

THE OPENING SCORE

Army lost no time in getting down to business and a long drive by Simon Deignan paved the way for the opening score—a clever point by Lt. Crohan.

The Fealesiders, however, were immediately away from the resumption and the versatile Dan Cotter brought the scores to a level with a grand shot over the bar for Abbeyfeale.

Continuing to keep up the pressure, Abbeyfeale again moved in from a long drive by Neddy McCarthy and John Fitzgibbon finished off a determined drive with a point which put Abbeyfeale on top. Plunkett saved the Army net in style when the westerners again forced the pace and a long clearance enabled Army to again draw level with a point from Kerrigan. Then Dan Cotter, receiving from his brother, Tim, put the Fealesiders in the lead, and the redoubtable John Fitzgibbon added a further Abbeyfeale point. Ryan and Crohan replied with two points for the Army, before Dan Cotter had a further Abbeyfeale minor. Just before the interval, Army succeeded in again drawing level with a point which left the scores even at 5 points each.

THE SECOND HALF

Almost immediately after the resumption, John Fitzgibbon regained the lead for Abbeyfeale with a point. Army replied with determination following some fine solo efforts by Simon Deignan but Brown effected some fine clearances in the Abbeyfeale net. Abbeyfeale missed some good scoring chances.

The teams were:—

Abbeyfeale—E. Breen, D. Cotter, N.

Abbeyfeale in ^{18/10/47} Limerick Senior Football Final

AT Dromcollogher, on Sunday, before a crowd of well over 1,000 people, Abbeyfeale defeated Army (12th Batt.) by 1 goal 4 points to 4 points in the replay of the Limerick senior football semi-final.

Due to close tackling, the replay did not produce as spectacular football as in the drawn game, while a downpour in the second half made playing conditions very difficult.

Abbeyfeale lasted the gruelling pace the better and despite a plucky stand by the Army, with the issue open up to the end, the victors had something in hand at the final whistle.

A FINE DISPLAY.

Both sides treated the large crowd to a fine display, and the game should do much to popularise football in a predominant hurling district.

FIRST HALF.

Abbeyfeale were first away and a free by P. McCarthy saw the Army lines hard pressed, but a nice passing movement brought play to midfield where, from a free taken by Deignan, Crohan received to open the scoring for Army with a point. Both sides were visited in turn, before Falvey, who was prominent for Army, sent over a point from a free.

McCarthy and Cotter sent Abbeyfeale on the attack and in a clever movement, in which Fitzgibbon was prominent, Abbeyfeale replied with a point. Prior to the interval, Abbeyfeale forced two 50's, which were cleared, but from a midfield drive by O'Rourke, McCarthy received and levelled the score with a well judged point, which left the interval score: Abbeyfeale, 2 points; Army, 2 points.

SECOND HALF.

On resuming, Army were first away and again went into the lead with a point from Falvey. Abbeyfeale returned and from a weak clearance by the Army goalkeeper, Cotter received and made no mistake when, with a long low shot, he drove the ball to the net. This score gave new life to the Fealesiders. O'Brien was prominent in the Army defence when a free from Deignan again put Army into the attack, but a stonewall defence, in which Murphy and Cotter were prominent, saved the Abbeyfeale net. O'Riordan, who had been doing great work for Abbeyfeale, passed to Cullhane, who drove over a point, which gave Abbeyfeale a lead of a clear goal.

Army again reduced the lead with a point from S. Deignan from a free, and after both sides missed easy chances from close in frees, Abbeyfeale finished the scoring with a point from Reardon, which left the full time score: Abbeyfeale, 1 goal 4 pts.; Army, 4 points.

Mr. W. Kenny (Treaty-Sarsfields) acted as referee.

O'Rourke, J. Riordan, M. Cotter, J. Fitzgibbon, P. McCarthy, D. Cotter, M. Colbert.

Army—P. Plunkett, M. O'Brien, D. Markham, W. Clancy, M. Curran, E. Falvey, P. Diver, S. Deignan, M. Crohan, D. Ryan, M. Kerrigan, D. Ahern, M. Ryan, P. O'Reilly, M. Breen.

opportunities hereabouts but eventually Moss Colbert, receiving from the hard-kicking "Balbo" Riordan, sent over a further point.

Then, Army suddenly took command of the situation and their forwards were seen to their best advantage as they virtually stormed the Abbeyfeale defence.

FAR FROM BEATEN

Their efforts were duly rewarded with a goal and a point from the sharp-shooting Lt. Crohan, who thus put Army in the lead again. But Abbeyfeale were, as yet far from beaten and, replying with all that was in them, they succeeded in sending over two points per John Fitzgibbon and Jimmy Riordan. Army were now leading by a single point and with time fast running out excitement reached fever pitch. Abbeyfeale lost some good scoring chances, and it looked as if the Army lead would hold good when, just before full time, Tim

'NELIUS' MURPHY

Sport Personality

New Gaelic Star Of Limerick

Sunday Dispatch Special Correspondent

THE last of Limerick's six hurling championships was won at Croke Park, Dublin, as recently as 1940. Now the Shannonside county is resurgent in the stick-game, having just held Kilkenny, present national title-holders, to an exciting draw in the league final.

With all this emphasis on Limerick's traditional craft with the *camán*, it is sometimes forgotten that the district was originally keen on Gaelic football.

Indeed, the first two of Limerick's eight G.A.A. titles were for football—in 1887 and '96. The first of the county's half-dozen hurling triumphs did not come till '97.

Many enthusiastic young Gaels in Limerick today do not see why their county should not recover the lost football glories as well as the hurling supremacy.

Though Limerick have been graded junior for Munster football championships for most of the past dozen years, they are confident and ambitious enough to look forward to an early re-entry to premier ranks and to a dethronement of Kerry in the south in another season or so.

A Pointer

FORECAST of even better things to come is the fine record of the Limerick footballers in the current league, in which they are grouped with and not outclassed by Tipperary and Clare.

Captain of the steadily improving Limerick fifteen is G. ("Nelius") Murphy, of Abbeyfeale, a versatile and eager defender, whose best position is at full-back.

Solidly built, steady on the feet, and with a long and accurate kick, he has shown himself an inspiring skipper, whose wise policy is never to allow his men to ease up till the long whistle.

Murphy rightly believes in keeping his men fit between outings—some of them are non-smokers and T.T.s—and he himself is always in the pink of condition.

His training methods are based on what he learned from Garda P. Kirwan when the latter was in charge of the U.C. Dublin selections for the Sigerson Cup series.

The Abbeyfeale star stayed for his Alma Mater a few times in those inter-Varsity annuals, and by sterling displays at Belfield, Galway, Belfast and Cork proved he was up to the best standard. Opposing forwards had included Antrim, Kerry, Galway and other Croke Park personalities; but young Murphy more than held his own.

Old Team-mates

FOR U.C.D. team-mates he had such fine footballers as "Vincey" Duffy, now Monaghan captain; Bob O'Connor, now a Roscommon official and selector; dentist V. White of Cavan; "Silky" Smith of Dublin; and Denis Cullinane, who played minor for Galway, junior for Dublin, and senior for his native Limerick.

The latter is a first cousin of "Nelius" Murphy, and there are other Cullinanes who were also good footballers.

There would probably be more Murphys on the present Limerick line-out if three of the captain's brothers had not finished with sport on account of their vocations.

Father "Tim" Murphy, educated at the Irish College in Rome, is now a parish priest in Australia; Father "Dan" Murphy, Mayo-north-trained graduate of the National University, is a Catholic curate in England; and young Sean Murphy, former member of the Abbeyfeale club XV, is a clerical student in a Dublin seminary preparing to be ordained a priest.

"Nelius" Murphy is in business in his own Feale town

Murphy's leadership a strong bid may be made in 1948 to get the county's third title in the catching-and-kicking code.

In The Blood

SOME of the present Limerick selection are sons, grandsons, or nephews of the men who brought football honours home almost 60 years ago.

Almost forgotten now is that John and Mick Mackey, the famous brothers who starred in Limerick's hurling achievements in the 1930's, are sons of "Tyler" Mackey, an all-rounder who preferred football as a youth.

STATISTICAL POSTSCRIPT: Some Sundays ago "Nelius" Murphy led his Abbeyfeale club to victory in the Limerick championship; teams defeated on the way to the title including a strong Army side on which Lieutenant Simon Deigan, who won an all-Ireland medal with Cavan, champions, starred. This is the sixth season Abbeyfeale have won the Limerick final. They were local title holders before in 1914, '15, '32, '41, and '42.

Traditional

IT is most appropriate that this Abbeyfeale sportsman should be at the spearhead of the drive to put Limerick back on the Gaelic football map, for it was in Abbeyfeale and district that some of the best Limerick footballers of more than half a century ago were born and trained.

In the square of the market town is a monument to the late Father Casey, well-remembered clergyman, who organised a famous brass band to accompany local Gaels to all their fixtures.

Memorable Final

THE Limerick team to win the '87 football final—first ever decided under G.A.A. rules—was a Commercial's club selection.

The game was played at Clonskeagh (Dublin) on April 29, 1888, and the defeated side were Louth (Young Irelands). The score was 1-4 to 0-3. The losers had been in the lead at half-time.

Limerick's path to the final had been by victories over Meath, Kilkenny, and Tipperary.

Limerick did not survive long in the following year's series, and it was 10 years before—on February 6, 1898—they won another football final, this time against Young Irelands, of Dublin, defeated at Jones's-road by 1-5 to 0-7.

Plenty Of Talent

OUTSIDE that great pre-20th-century double, Limerick's football honours have been few—one reason being that Kerry were generally too strong for them in Munster, another that for five decades or more the skilled Gaels of Limerick have been inclined to specialise in hurling.

Yet that Limerick can breed footballers of championship class is shown by the way Roscommon this season recruited to their title-seeking side Limerick-born Garda Mick Culhane.

The policeman from Glin, who has also played for Dublin, may be asked to "declare" for his native county next Easter under the G.A.A.'s non-residential rule.

In all, there are more than a score of Limerick footballers good enough

Abbeyfeale's
Big Annual 1948
March
G.A.A. Fixture

Mayo, 1-8; Munster Selection, 1-1. Mayo had a convincing win over a Munster selection at the Abbeyfeale Gaelic Grounds on Sunday last (writes our Abbeyfeale correspondent). The game, which attracted 1,000 people, was played under adverse weather conditions. Although the sod and ball were very slippery there were times when the football was very good but in general the standard was mediocre.

THE PLAY.

Mayo were first to score—a point by Quigly after ten minutes. The Munster forwards got plenty chances of scoring early in the first half but poor finishing by the forwards left them scoreless for a long time. Nallon (1 point), McLoughlin (1-1), Kilmartin (2 pts.), had further scores for Mayo before the Munster boys had their only score of the first half—a centre by Dowling and finished to the net by Dillon.

Mayo dominated the second period and would have scored more than three points had the Munster backs allowed them. Munster's solitary score in this half was a point scored by D. McAuliffe. W. Casey, F. Fleming, J. Nallon, E. Martin and McLoughlin were outstanding for Mayo. Munster were best served by S. Collins, E. Roche, F. Meany, S. Murphy, J. Dowling, D. McAuliffe.

THE TEAMS.

Mayo—C. Phillips, W. Casey, B. Keane, G. Kelly, F. Fleming, J. Donoghue, P. J. Curran, J. Duffy, P. Sloane, T. O'Boyle, J. Nallon, T. Quigley, B. McLoughlin, R. Davey P. J. Kilmartin.

Munster Selection—S. Collins (Limerick), S. O'Donnell (Clare), E. Roche (Kerry), T. Lyons (Kerry), S. Murphy (Kerry), F. Meany (Clare), M. Kerins (Kerry), M. Culligan (Clare), D. O'Shea (Kerry), D. McAuliffe (Kerry), J. Dowling (Kerry), D. Dillon (Kerry), G. Clancy (Clare), T. Barrett (Kerry), P. Carey (Clare).

Moss Colbert (Abbeyfeale) was a very capable referee.

Abbeyfeale Gael's Death 11/2/48

THE death of Mr. John M. Broderick of Purt, Abbeyfeale, which occurred in his 82nd year, leaves only two surviving members of the old Father Casey famous football team which won some of the County Cups of the G.A.A. in the old days.

Deceased was a well known and popular farmer, of a retiring, kindly disposition, who retained the respect and esteem of many friends and relatives to the end.

There was a very large attendance at the funeral and interment. The prayers at the graveside in the old Abbey Cemetery were read by the Very Rev. P. Canon Carroll, P.P., V.F., Rev. J. Halpin, C.C., and Rev. J. Liston, C.C.

23-7-48
ABBEYFEALE G.A.A. PLAYER

LEAVES FOR AMERICA

Abbeyfeale G.A.A. Football team could ill afford the loss of one of their best centre field players, Mr. Sean O'Riordan—who has left for America. Having already lost Mr. Moss Colbert, now in business in Cork, the Abbeyfeale football team are finding it difficult to maintain that prominent position.

ENCOURAGING FOOTBALL AT ABBEYFEALE ^{5/8/50}

The Committee of the Abbeyfeale senior football team deserve much credit for their efforts to restore Gaelic games in the district to the leading position occupied some years ago (writes our Abbeyfeale correspondent). The final of the Schools Football League of Abbeyfeale and the outlying Schools of the district, devolved on Abbeyfeale and Knocknasna Schools teams, who played for the Cup and medals in a very interesting game on the Abbeyfeale Sports Field. Knocknasna, trained by Mr. David O'Connor, N.T., a useful member of the old football team, were victors by 2-1 to 1 point for Abbeyfeale. In a senior contest between players of Church Street and Convent Street, the former were winners at 2-1 against 0-1.

FOOTBALL AT ABBEYFEALE ⁹⁻⁹⁻⁵⁰

An excellent senior football contest, well and strenuously played, with strict adherence to the rules, between Ballydonoughue (Kerry), and the local team, on the Abbeyfeale Sports Field, resulting in a win for the visiting team by 2-3 to 0-2. Mr. J. J. Cotter refereed with his usual ability. The Kerry men played with the customary vim of their fellow county men, and the game was thoroughly enjoyed by the large attendance.

MUNSTER Gaelic referee very much in demand this season has been Abbeyfeale-born Moss Colbert, of Limerick. He had charge of the whistle at the Cork final between Garda and St. Nicholas last Sunday, last month refereed the Waterford final between Kilrossanty and Old Parish.

Moss, who is also often in action as a referee in his native county and in rival Kerry, was, of course, the referee at Croke Park some time back for the Irish-America versus Cavan decider in the National League.

$\frac{2}{11}$
1950

CHALLENGE FOOTBALL AT ABBEYFEALE

In a very exciting minor football challenge game at Abbeyfeale the local team defeated Glin on the score—4 goals to 2 goals 2 points. Both teams were below full strength, but, nevertheless, football of a high order was witnessed. Abbeyfeale had much the better of exchanges in the first half, but good work by Marshall and Finn, of Glin, kept the scoring low. The game ended on an exciting note, with Glin attacking in an all-out effort to pull the game out of the fire, but the Abbeyfeale backs proved to be a stone-wall defence. Scorers for Abbeyfeale were H. King (3 goals), J. Rennick (1 goal).

Scorers for Glin were: Marnell (1 goal 2 points) and King (1 goal).

Mr. Dan O'Mahony was a very capable referee.

PRINTING—When about to order printing of any kind ask at the "Limerick Leader" Office for quotations. "I will pay you to do so."

Abbeyfeale Game Won By Munster ^{13.4.52}

Munster Sel. 1-9; Four-Provinces Sel., 0-11.

AN estimated 4,000 people packed the Abbeyfeale Gaelic Grounds to capacity yesterday to watch the third annual exhibition football match between a Four-Provinces Selection and a Munster Selection, which the southerners won by a point—1-9 to 0-11.

Playing with the sun and the strong breeze in their backs the Provinces forced the pace in the opening half, despite a stubborn Munster defence in which Paddy Bawn Brosnan was always very much to the fore. Deignan opened their account with a point, but Reynolds promptly replied with a similar score. Brennan and O'Leary put the Provinces ahead with two points each before Con McGrath pointed for Munster. P. J. O'Dea got the equalising point for Munster, but Provinces again took up the running with points from O'Leary (2), Armstrong and Brennan. After McGrath had again pointed for Munster Brennan, Dunne and Allen added three more minors for the Provinces, to leave the half-time score—Provinces, 0-10; Munster, 0-4.

Munster improved on the turn-over, and McGrath, Palmer and Fitzgerald sent over three points before Kearney replied with a point for the Provinces. A Munster point by P. Murphy was followed by a great goal by Jim Brosnan, to give Munster the lead for the first time. McGrath put Munster a further point ahead and excitement mounted when Deignan replied with a point for the Provinces, but Munster held on to their point lead to the final whistle.

Grand G.A.A. Exhibition ^{14.4.52}

THE Gaelic Grounds, Abbeyfeale, were packed to capacity yesterday for the third annual exhibition football game between an interprovincial side and a Munster selection. Football was of a high standard.

The "Provinces" seemed to have the best of matters, but Munster fought every inch of ground and stayed the pace. Simon Deignan played the game of his career and had the Munster defenders on their toes.

The first half was a fairly dead affair as the Provinces Selected piled up score after score. However, the final stages of this half-hour were somewhat exciting as Munster got going and made a gallant comeback.

In the second half the Munstermen took every advantage of the sun. Playing with a strong breeze and the advantage of the sun, Provincial Selected forced the pace in the opening half. Despite a stubborn Munster defence, in which Paddy Bawn Brosnan was always very much to the fore, Simon Deignan pointed for Provincial Selected, but Reynolds replied with a similar score. Brennan and O'Leary put Selected ahead with two further points before Con McGrath replied with a Munster point. P. J. O'Dea again equalised with a point for Munster, but Selected again took the lead with a point. O'Leary (2), then Armstrong and Brennan, added further points for Selected after Con McGrath had pointed for Munster. Before the interval Brennan, Dunne and Allen had three more points for Selected.

Munster had the rest of matters in the opening stages of the second half, and McGrath, Palmer and Fitzgerald sent over three points, before Kearney replied with a point for Selected.

A Munster point by P. Murphy was followed by a great goal by Jim Brosnan to give Munster the lead. Con McGrath put Munster a further point ahead and excitement reached fever pitch when Simon Deignan replied with a point for Selected, but Munster held on to their point lead to the final whistle.

Munster's Point Win At Abbeyfeale

14/4/52

Munster, 1-10; Interprovincial XV, 0-12.

A LATE goal by Jim Brosnan (Kerry) paved the way for a Munster victory in the challenge football game against an interprovincial selection at Abbeyfeale yesterday before a crowd of 4,000. The game was the best of the series of football matches already played at the Fealeside venue in aid of the new local Gaelic grounds project.

As in former years the cream of Ireland's football talent was seen in action and Munster's single point victory made amends to some extent for their railway Cup defeat.

The Provincial selection forced the pace in the opening half, despite a stubborn Munster defence in which Paddy Bawn Brosnan was always very much to the fore. Simon Deignan pointed for the Selected XV, but keynolds promptly replied with a similar score. Brennan and O'Leary put Selected ahead with two further points before Con McGrath replied with a Munster point. P. J. O'Dea again equalised with a point for Munster, but Selected again took the lead with points from O'Leary. Then Armstrong and Brennan added further points after Con McGrath had pointed for Munster. Before the interval, Brennan, Dunne and Allen had three more points for Selected to leave the half-time score, Provincial Selected 10 points, Munster 4 points.

Munster had the best of matters in the opening stages of the second half and McGrath, Palmer and Fitzgerald sent over three points before Kearney

replied with a point for Selected. A Munster point by P. Murphy was followed by a great goal by Jim Brosnan to give Munster the lead. Con McGrath put Munster a further point ahead and excitement reached fever pitch when Simon Deignan replied with a point for Selected, but Munster held on to their point lead to the final whistle.

Munster—Dan O'Keefe; P. Hayes, P. A. Murphy; P. Bawn Brosnan; S. Murphy, N. Gould, C. Bernard; N. Duggan, C. McGrath; J. Brosnan, C. Young, P. J. O'Dea; M. Cahill, T. Ashe, P. Brennan.

Provincial Selected—J. Stack; C. Hayes, G. Condon, D. O'Rourke; E. Carolan, P. Dunne, P. Gordon; J. O'Mahoney, J. Rogers; S. Brennan, K. Armstrong, H. McKearey; S. Boyle, S. Deignan, N. Allen (Dublin).

Minor Football

Final At $\frac{22}{8}$
Abbeyfeale⁵³

Before a good attendance, Abbeyfeale defeated St. Senan's (Foynes) by 2-8 to 2 points in the final of the West Limerick Minor Football Championship, played at Abbeyfeale on Sunday last.

The standard of play throughout was very high, and interest was maintained to the final whistle. It may be assumed from the final score that the Fealesiders won easily, but this was not the case, as the St. Senan's boys fought hard to the end. In general, the home forwards took the shortest route goalwards, and this paid dividends. For 40 minutes of the hour they got a good supply of the ball from a very brilliant centre-field pair, and here the game was won. Against a strong breeze Abbeyfeale did well to hold the visitors to a 2 point to 1 lead at the end of the first half hour. Foynes scorers being Sheehy and Mullane. T. O'Connell was the Abbeyfeale marksman.

In the second half Abbeyfeale scores came from M. King (1 goal 1 point), C. Tobin (1 goal), V. Salmon (2 points), F. Lenihan (1 point), P. J. Lane (1 point) and L. Downey (1 point).

Although St. Senan's made several attempts in this period, they failed to bring off a score.

When the final whistle sounded jubilant Abbeyfeale supporters rushed on to the pitch and chaired the winners.

Micéal MacCarthaig, Secretary West Board, presented the cup to the winning captain, Harry King, amid great applause. Mr. J. Cotter refereed

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

9/5/53

Abbeyfeale's senior footballers were successful over a good Copewood team in a senior challenge match at the College Grounds on Sunday last.

The final scores were:—Abbeyfeale, 1-9; Copewood College, 2-2. For the winners M. King scored 4 points, H. King, 1 goal, T. Doody 3 points and J. J. O'Connell and J. Lyons, 1 point each.

The losers' scores were got by G. Keane, 1 goal 1 point, and B. Lawlor, 1 goal 1 point.

This is Abbeyfeale's second success this season, having already defeated St. Patrick's in the senior football championship.

Abbeyfeale

Jan 1953

There was a very big attendance at the annual general meeting of the Abbeyfeale Football Club, held at St. Ita's Hall on Friday night last. Rev. J. Liston, C.C. presided.

The Secretary (Mr C. Murphy), in his annual report, referred to 1952 as a lean year for Abbeyfeale Club as far as the winning of championships went. Although four teams—senior, junior, minor and juvenile—took the field, the juveniles were the only team to survive the first round. They went down "fighting" in the final at the hands of St. Senans—worthy champions of the juvenile competition.

PARISH SCHOOL LEAGUE

A parish school league was started in May. This was really a success as it brought up to 80 young players on the playing field on summer evenings and if continued Abbeyfeale will not be without football teams in the years to come. Unfortunately the league was not finished but an early start will soon be made to find the 1952 winning team and to get the 1953 league going. It is to be regretted that the teachers in the country schools gave little if any co-operation. A special word of thanks goes to Mr. Andrew Downey, N.T., for his unstinted support and co-operation all through the competition.

Continuing the report stated that the Abbeyfeale Club made history in 1952. This was brought about by the success of the 3rd annual football game—Munster v. Rest of Ireland selection—played on Easter Sunday. The 5,000 odd people who saw the game wondered how a small club like Abbeyfeale could muster 30 of Ireland's best footballers and provide seating accommodation for 1,500 people to witness one of the best challenge games played in 1952. One old follower of Gaelic games remarked that the fixture would have done credit to the Central Council. It was done by a very energetic local committee, ably assisted by Mr. Nelius O'Connell, now resident in Dublin. It is expected that the 4th annual game, fixed for April 5th, will even surpass that of 1952.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

Mr. J. Fitzgibbon, N.T., in presenting the statement of accounts, stated that 1952 was the Club's most successful since the foundation. After paying £230 for a 15 year lease of the Gaelic Grounds the Club's excess of income over expenditure amounted to over £100.

The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were unanimously adopted.

The Rev. Chairman, in his address, urged the players to pay more attention to training during the coming year.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The following officers were elected for 1953—President, Very Rev. P. Canon Carroll, P.P., V.F.; Vice-President, Rev. J. Halpin, C.C.; Chairman, Rev. J. Liston, C.C.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. T. O'Connell; Hon. Secretaries, Mr. J. Fitzgibbon, N.T., and Mr. C. Murphy; Hon. Treasurers, Mr. P. O'Connor, B.A., and Mr. E. McCarthy, N.T.; General Committee—Messrs. J. O'Rourke, J. Cotter, M. Harnett, T. Mann, E. Sweeney, P. Buckley.

Abbeyfeale GAA Officers

THE annual general meeting of the Abbeyfeale G.A.A. Club was held at St. Ita's Hall on Monday night, and the following officers were elected: President, Very Rev. P. Canon Carroll, P.P., V.F.; Vice-President, Rev. J. Halpin, C.C.; Chairman, Rev. J. Liston, C.C.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Thomas O'Connell; Joint Secs., Messrs. Nelius Murphy and John Fitzgibbon, N.T.; Treasurers, Messrs. Eddie McCarthy, N.T., and James O'Rourke, M.R.C.V.S. Committee: Messrs. James J. Collins, T.D., Moss Colbert, Ml. Collins, James Cotter, John J. O'Kelly, Patrick O'Connor, B.A., Eugene Sweeney, Denis P. Lyons, William Mann, Denis Fitzgerald, John Lane, Thomas Mann, and Nelius O'Connell as honorary member. Selection Committee: Messrs. James J. Collins, T.D., Moss Colbert, Eddie McCarthy, N.T., Nelius Murphy, John Fitzgibbon, N.T. and James O'Rourke, M.R.C.V.S.

Dec 1953

ABBEYFEALE G.A.A.: REPORTS AT ANNUAL MEETING 1954

THE annual general meeting of the Abbeyfeale G.A.A. took place at St. Ita's Hall on Monday last. Mr. Thomas O'Connell, Vice-Chairman, presided in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, Rev. J. Liston, C.C.

The Secretary, Mr. J. Fitzgibbon, gave a detailed account of the club's activities during the year. Dealing with the various teams entered in the championships he said that the Club had a most successful year. Of four teams entered (1) The senior football team, although young and inexperienced, reached the County semi-final, beating St. Patrick's and a much fancied City Gaels fifteen. In the semi-final against Treaty-Sarsfield, although losing their best defender early on, they put up a very good show against much more seasoned opposition. (2) A very young junior team was unluckily defeated by Carrickerry in the 1st round. (3) The minor football team reached the Co. final. The final against St. Patrick's, at Kilmallock, resulted in a draw. At Newcastle West a week later, they were victorious everywhere except on the score-board. They were unfortunate to lose by 2 points to a grand St. Patrick's team. Many old footballers who saw both games were of the opinion that the standard reached was the best ever seen in this grade. A "gate" of £50 approximately for this game speaks for itself. (4) The juvenile team, as in 1952, were defeated by St. Senan's in the West Limerick final. Again the standard in this final was of a very high quality. By maintaining this standard of football it will not be very long until major honours will again find a home by the Feale.

Continuing, he said that the annual Easter Sunday football game was a big success. Four thousand people witnessed a thrilling exhibition by Ireland's greatest footballers.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

The Treasurer, Mr. P. O'Connor, in presenting his very detailed report, said that the Club's finances were not in as good a position as in former years. On the year's working there is a deficit of £150, as a result of alterations to Gaelic Grounds, but with an energetic committee this debt should be wiped out in the coming year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for 1954 resulted as follows:—

Hon. President, Very Rev. P. Canon Carroll, P.P., V.F.; Hon. Vice-President, Rev. J. Halpin, C.C.; Chairman, Rev. J. Liston, C.C.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. T. O'Connell; Hon. Secretaries, Mr. J. Fitzgibbon and Mr. N. Murphy; Hon. Treasurers, Mr. E. McCarthy and Mr. J. O'Rourke. General Committee—Messrs. Thomas Mann, J. Cotter, M. Colbert, J. Collins, T.D.; Ml. Collins, P. O'Connor, Wm. Mann, D. P. Lyons, J. J. O'Kelly, J. Lane, D. Fitzgerald, M. Harnett, E. Sweeney, N. O'Connell (Dublin representative).

At a subsequent committee meeting the following selection committee was appointed: Messrs. J. O'Rourke, M. Colbert, J. J. Collins, E. McCarthy, N. Murphy and the Secretary.

7/1 Flying Coshel.

G.A.A. JAN. 1954 ABBEYFEALE CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Abbeyfeale Club was held at St. Ita's Hall on Monday night, and the following officers were elected for the coming year—President, Very Rev. P. Canon Carroll, P.P., V.F.; Vice-President, Rev. J. Halpin, C.C.; Chairman, Rev. J. Liston, C.C.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Thomas O'Connell; Joint Secretaries, Messrs. Nelius Murphy and John Fitzgibbon, N.T.; Hreasurers, Messrs. Eddie McCarthy, N.T. and James O'Rourke, M.R.C.V.S. Committee, Messrs. James J. Collins, T.D., Moss Colbert, Michael Collins, James Cotter, John J. O'Kelly, Patrick O'Connor, B.A., Denis P. Lyons, William Mann, Denis Fitzgerald, John Lane, Thomas Mann and (Nelius O'Connell an honorary member). Selection Committee, Messrs. James J. Collins, T.D., Moss Colbert, Eddie McCarthy, N.T., Nelius Murphy, John Fitzgibbon, N.T., and James O'Rourke, M.R.C.V.S.

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL AT ABBEEYFEALE 1955

St. Ita's Secondary School, 3-5, Abbeyfeale Togh. School, 1-4.

At the Sportsfield, Abbeyfeale, on Sunday last, St. Ita's Secondary School defeated the Technical School by 3-5 to 1-4, in the first round of the Inter-Schools' League, sponsored by West Limerick G.A.A. Board. These two teams gave a very creditable display of good, hard football under conditions which were anything but good.

Although the score would suggest that St. Ita's won easily, this was far from true, because it was anybody's game up to ten minutes from full time, when a soft goal by St. Ita's clinched the issue.

Best for St. Ita's were M. Lane, J. Cahill, T. Horan and M. Wall. Prominent for the "Tech" were L. Downey, E. O'Connor, J. O'Keefe and T. O'Donnell.

Moss Colbert was a capable referee.

OBITUARY: 1954

Mr. Thomas (Blackeen) O'Connor

It was with deep regret that the people of Abbeyfeale learned on Monday of the death in New York of Thomas (Blackeen) O'Connor, following an accident.

The deceased who was son of William O'Connor, M.C.C., Central Hotel, Main Street, emigrated six years ago. He was twenty six years of age, and leaves a wife and two young children.

Thomas O'Connor was educated at Abbeyfeale boys primary school, and later at St. Ita's College. It was at St. Ita's that he became an accomplished footballer, and later served the local clubs in all grades. In New York he became a member of the Limerick team there, and later its captain, leading the way to many a victory.

He joined the American Army and saw active service in Korea.

Blackeen, as he was affectionately called, was a fine type of young man, and his upright and dignified manner won for him the friendship and esteem of many.

May the earth of the great American Republic lay lightly on him and may his noble soul find eternal rest in the arms of the Lord.

Sincere sympathy will be extended to his bereaved wife and children, to his father, to his sister Mrs. J. Sheeran; and to his brothers William, Michael andattie.

LOUGHILL GAELIC FOOTBALLER

Playing a trojan's part in a star-studded College of Science team in the semi-final of the P. J. Duke Memorial Cup was Dan O'Donovan—mainstay of this College team which plays thirteen inter-county men. Dan, who is an agricultural student, hails from Loughill and comes from a family steeped in the Gaelic Athletic tradition—three of the family having represented Limerick. If only some of our football selectors could have seen his magnificent display! There is still hope for Limerick football. 1954

April 1955
**Abbeyfeale masters
 Mountcollins**

At Newcastle West on Sunday, the neighbouring Western parishes of Abbeyfeale and Mount Collins met in the junior football championship and produced good-class football. Owing to counter attractions, the attendance was small.

Abbeyfeale were early on the offensive but their forward-movement was frustrated by good back work by the Mt. Collins players. After some fast play in both sides and many wides, S. Roche (Mt. Collins) gave Mt. Collins the first score, a nicely placed goal. Shortly afterwards, play, in which King and Harnett figured, swung towards the Mt. Collins posts, and Abbeyfeale got two points in quick succession.

Mt. Collins replied with a point per Murphy, just before half time, Tumulty had a point for Abbeyfeale leaving the score Mt. Collins, 1 goal 1 pt. Abbeyfeale, 3 pts.

On the resumption, Abbeyfeale, playing with more scientific combination had the better of the play, but Mt. Collins fought every inch of the way. A free taken by Mt. Collins close in was well saved by S. Riordan. In a daring Abbeyfeale offensive, which followed, Lenihan figured in the Mt. Collins' defence. Abbeyfeale succeeded in securing two extra points, however, winning by the margin of a point.

Abbeyfeale—B. Begley, S. Lee, E. Doody, T. O'Connor, T. Foran, P. Harnett, L. Ward, T. Doody, S. Riordan, L. Hobbs, M. King, D. Hartigan, E. McSweeney, P. Tumulty P. O'Riordan.

Mt. Collins—P. Sheehan, C. Murphy, D. Lenihan, T. O'Connor, A. Lenihan, D. Mulcahy, D. O'Connell, S. Roche, T. Brosnan, S. Lane, S. Sullivan, D. Leahy, A. Myles, D. Sheehan, D. Murphy.

Mr. S. Herlihy refereed.

**Medals Presented
 To Abbeyfeale
 Footballers**

Sept 56

At a social held at St. Ita's Hall on Wednesday night, the West Limerick and county medals were presented to the members of the Abbeyfeale minor football team.

Mr. J. J. Collins, T.D., M.C.C., vice-chairman, in making the presentation, congratulated Abbeyfeale on winning their first county minor title.

He hoped it would not be long until a senior title would come to the Fealeside town, which has been prominent in Gaelic affairs since the early days of the G.A.A. when the team was trained by the patriot priest of the Land League days, Very Rev. William Casey, P.P.

He also paid a tribute to the hard-working committee. Mr. William Tuohy presided.

1955

**Abbeyfeale
 Footballers too
 good for Glin**

Abbeyfeale scored a convincing, but hard-earned win, over Glin in the West Limerick Minor Football final, before a large crowd at Newcastle West, on Sunday. The game was keenly contested for most of the hour and, while Abbeyfeale fully deserved their win, they had little enough to spare up to the last ten, or twelve minutes. Glin had the best of matters in the opening stages, but were defeated by the spectacular saving of P. O'Donovan in the Abbeyfeale net. After the game, there were enthusiastic scenes when Rev. D. McCarthy, C.C., Chairman of the West Board, presented the cup to the winners.

THE PLAY

Glin forced the pace in the opening stages and Reidy, O'Connor and Hynes combined in a series of determined drives. However, O'Donovan, in the Abbeyfeale net, saved on several occasions and, from a counter-attack, King opened the scoring with an Abbeyfeale goal. Collins added a point for the winners, before Downey replied with a goal for Glin. Before the interval, King, Tumulty and O'Connor added further scores for the winners, leaving the half-time score: Abbeyfeale 2-3; Glin 1-0.

Glin fought back early on the resumption and had a goal from a melee in front of the Abbeyfeale net. Abbeyfeale replied with two points from O'Connor and a Glin point by Reidy, was followed by further Abbeyfeale points from King and Collins. Glin replied with a point before the long whistle.

Mr. P. O'Connor (Athea) refereed. **Abbeyfeale**: J. Donovan, C. Lane, P. Broderick, C. McMahon, T. McMahon, T. O'Connor, M. Lyons, M. King, J. Myles, E. O'Connor, C. Hobbs, L. Downey, P. Tumulty, M. Collins, J. Flynn.

Glin: P. Buckley, M. Meade, P. O'Connor, J. Reidy, J. Noonan, M. McNamara, P. Griffin, T. Lane, C. Scanlan, M. Stanley, P. Reidy, P. Hogan, M. Hynes, T. Scanlan, T. O'Connor.

Abbeyfeale 2-7 Glin 2-2

**Abbeyfeale For
 Minor Football
 29/10/55 Final**

Abbeyfeale qualified for the final of the County Limerick Minor Football Championship at Rathkeale on Sunday when their very promising combination scored a three-point victory over St. Patrick's by 1-7 to 0-7. At half-time the scores were level at three points each.

Led by the elusive, long-kicking Miceal King, the winners went on to take the lead and win deservedly.

In the opening half Phelan, Hennessy and Sexton combined to secure two early points for St. Patrick's, before O'Connor pointed for the winners. Phelan (St. Patrick's) and King and Downey (Abbeyfeale) added further points before the interval.

On the resumption St. Patrick's recovered the lead with a point from Phelan. King replied with an Abbeyfeale point, and O'Connor goaled to give the Fealesiders the lead for the first time. Joyce pointed for St. Patrick's but Downey and King replied with similar scores for the winners and there was a further point at both ends before the finish.

Mr. G. Fitzgerald (Rathkeale) refereed.

Abbeyfeale—J. Donovan, P. Brouder, C. McMahon, L. Ward, J. Woulfe, T. McMahon, M. Lyons, J. Myles, M. King, E. O'Connor, W. Downey, C. Hobbs, E. Flynn, P. Tumulty, M. J. Collins.

St. Patrick's—B. O'Shea, J. McGrath, P. Carney, A. Roche, M. Whelan, J. Whelan, M. Farren, A. Clancy, F. Sexton, P. Joyce, J. Phelan, A. O'Sullivan, S. Kelleher, J. Hannoway, T. Quilligan.

ter in the annals of
 games. *April 1956*
Abbeyfeale

Abbeyfeale, County Limerick G.A.A. officers: Chairman, Rev. J. Liston, C.C.; Vice-do., Mr. J. Collins, T.D., M.C.C.; Sec., Mr. Thomas Mann; Treasurer, Mr. D. O'Mahony. Committee: Messrs. O'Kelly, Cotter, O'Connell, Tuohy and McCarthy.

11-8-56
 The Chairman said he would like to extend a welcome to Mr. Nelius O'Connell, of Dublin, and Abbeyfeale, who had done trojan work in Dublin on behalf of the Limerick Men's Association and was one of the powers behind the formation of the Treaty-Gaels team in the capital. Mr. O'Connell suitably replied and said his thoughts were always with the West Limerick Board, which he had attended as an Abbeyfeale delegate for many years in the old days. He wished the Board continued success in its efforts to promote Gaelic games in the west of the county.

6-7-54
**MINOR FOOTBALL IN
 WEST LIMERICK**

M.F.—Abbeyfeale, 1-7; Castlemahon, 1-2.

Abbeyfeale proved just too good for Castlemahon in the West Limerick minor football championship, at Newcastle West, on Friday evening of last week, when, before a representative gathering, they scored a well deserved but hard-fought five-point victory over the Deelside combination. At half time the winners were 0-7 to 0-1 and they continued to force the pace until the closing minutes, when Castlemahon notched a goal.

Mr. M. O'Grady (Newcastle West) refereed.

No. 156—CONNY COLLINS of Abbeyfeale

(By Seamus O'Ceallaigh)

ABBEYFEALE'S recent great win, that brought the first minor County football crown to the parish, revives memories of grand football days by the Feale, when the great and dearly loved Pastor, Father Casey, played such a noble part in planting the Gaelic seeds that produced rich return.

Father Casey spent thirty-six memorable years as Parish Priest of Abbeyfeale, and when he died, nearly fifty years ago, the people of the parish erected a bronze statue on the Square, there to remain a permanent reminder of the remarkable figure that left such an impress of the Ireland of his day.

Long before the G.A.A. was formed, Father Casey was trying to revive the games of Ireland, and a dozen years prior to the introduction of proper rules, he organised a big football match, in which teams of twenty-six aside were engaged and which took three and a half hours to play.

When the G.A.A. got going, the Abbeyfeale lads quickly rallied to its support, which was only very natural considering that Father Casey had already established a close friendship with the first great patron of the new organisation—Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel. This came about when Father Casey proved the first Parish Priest to side openly with Dr. Croke on the land question.

FIRST AFFILIATED TEAM.

The first team Abbeyfeale affiliated under G.A.A. rules was captained by Conny Collins of Kingsland, who proved a fine leader, and although he never had the honour of leading a side to full championship victory, the lads under his command set the tradition that has prompted successive generations to earn football fame on the playing fields of Limerick and far beyond its confines.

The very early Abbeyfeale combinations were noted for their earnestness, strength, and determination—characteristics which each and every one of the old Gaels seemed to possess in full measure.

As the years progressed, and Abbeyfeale sent many of her sons to college and seminary, the students introduced scientific tactics to the aid of the old glory methods of the earlier days, and this development aided the team in its efforts to win a place of honour in Limerick football.

Training was never neglected under Father Casey's mode of preparation, and when an important contest was approaching Conny Collins gathered his lads for practice matches between town and country struggles just as tough and antagonistic, if not more so, than any against an outside combination.

STRICT TRAINING.

The training schedule was strict, and Father Casey, a great Temperance advocate, always tried to ensure that drink was barred, at least "for the duration." And if any leaned towards a few extra, he took good care his reverence did not find it out.

The good Parish Priest was a great believer in having the whole parish rally round the team for any important game, and he made every effort to induce as many as possible to travel on such occasions.

Another of the prides of Abbeyfeale at the time was a first class Brass Band, and this was always commandeered for the occasion, heading the cavalcade, which was generally led by Father Casey, on horseback, with outside carts, common farm carts, donkey carts, and a great contingent on foot making up a splendid following.

made was to Croom in the late summer of 1891, there to play Doon in a vital championship tie. The full contingent, consisting of the brass band, under Jack Scully, the footballers under Conny Collins, and the usual big muster of side line warriors and youthful aspirants to the popular colours of green and gold, were detrained from a special at Patrickswell and marshalled by Father Casey for a march to Croom.

Doon turned up there on wagonettes, a fine set of strong-limbed hard-faced, fearless-looking men, who seemed to care little for the great Abbeyfeale crowd.

The men from under the shadow of the Galtees made the running in the earlier stages of the game and were unlucky in an effort for goal. A second sally was saved by some hefty arm strokes of the Abbeyfeale backs, then permitted, but Doon were back again only to fail in front of the posts.

PANDEMONIUM REIGNED.

After ten minutes exciting football, two Western forwards, following some hard fought exchanges, in which Mick McEnery "The Kerr" Sullivan, Conny Collins and William Dee were prominent, got possession and placed their top men in dangerous ground, when he was deliberately tripped by an opponent. The referee attempted to mend matters with a close in free, but this only invited further aggressions, and immediately pandemonium reigned in a scene that was one of the worst witnessed in the long story in the long story of Limerick football.

All hope of finishing the match was abandoned, and, although Abbeyfeale were awarded the verdict the trip back to Patrickswell, to catch the return train, bore little resemblance to the lively march of the morning.

Most memorable of all the meetings of early G.A.A. days were the clashes between Abbeyfeale and Templeglantine, bringing as they did into opposition two sides of powerful physique which any parish or country might well feel justly proud to own. Athletic, virile, fearless, well trained and of wiry build, they played terrific football with all the fire and verve they could command, and rarely called a stop for the recovery of a player, despite the fierceness of the exchanges.

THRILLING FOOTBALL.

When Conny Collins lined up his men at Mountmahon, or some other such meeting place, there was something to quicken the spirits of both old and young. They met, too, in Templeglantine oftentimes, and always provided strenuous, thrilling football, with the issue generally so close that when it came to the balancing of accounts at the end of the season there was rarely a lot between them.

We had no great Gaelic enclosures then, but the sidelines were kept clear by Father Casey at one side on horseback, using his riding crop to keep the more venturesome ones in control, whilst the parish priest of Templeglantine, Father Cliford, who later bred a Grand National winner in "Kirkland," performed a like service on the opposite wing.

Those far-off days are recalled with particular reverence by the real old stock of West Limerick, men who thrilled to the memory of figures like Conny Collins, Denis P. Lyons, Jack Forde, the Rourkes, the Cotters, Jim Horgan, the Hartnetts, Patsy Leahy and all the other great men of pioneer football days by the Feale.

LATER TIMES AND OLDER PLAYERS.

In later days another generation of players grew up in the ranks of

just tribute paid to men like Jack Larry Collins, Heck Moloney, Jack McCarthy, Bill and Jim Horan, Jack Cahill, Jack Connell, Denis O'Connell, Roger Finnerty, Flor. O'Connell, Denis McCarthy, Davey O'Connor, Paddy Fitzgerald, Paddy Meade, Tommy O'Connell, Jimmy Collins, David Shanahan, W. D. O'Connor, Willie Phelan, David Nash, and the many more who deserve to be remembered.

And before Abbeyfeale won their first Limerick county crown we must not forget that nine Abbeyfeale men were members of the Limerick football team that won the American championship in 1907 with Denis O'Connell their captain.

Abbeyfeale G.A.A. Club: Election Of Officers

1956

On Monday of last week (writes our Abbeyfeale correspondent) a big crowd attended St. Ita's Hall for the annual general meeting of the Abbeyfeale G.A.A.

The chairman, Rev. J. Liston, C.C., in the course of his address, congratulated the minor football team on bringing the championship to Abbeyfeale for the first time.

The treasurer's (Mr. E. McGrath, N.T.) report showed that income exceeded expenditure by £1 19s. 5d.

The secretary, Mr. Tommy Mann, gave a detailed account of the Club's progress during the year.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:—

Chairman, Rev. J. Liston, C.C.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. J. Collins, T.D.; Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. Mann; Treasurer, Mr. D. O'Mahony; Committee—Messrs. J. J. O'Kelly, E. McCarthy, N.T.; Wm. Tuohy, T. O'Connell, J. Cotter.

The following committee were selected to look after the interests of the schoolboys:—

Messrs. A. Downey, N.T.; J. Fitzgibbon, N.T.; E. McCarthy, N.T.; P. J. Lane, N.T.; M. Colbert, N. Murphy.

No. 184—MOSS COLBERT of Abbeyfeale

IT can truly be said of Moss Colbert that had he lived a few miles farther south he would have several All-Ireland football medals to his credit.

As a Limerick man he never got the opportunity of figuring with the football greats. Had he been born in the nearby "Kingdom," instead of in the 'Fealeside town, he would have the openings in plenty to play and even further embellish his acknowledged style and artistry at Gaelic football.

The versatile Limerick man—native of Abbeyfeale—as well as being a great footballer, was useful at other sports, particularly handball and hurling. Amongst his other accomplishments was the art of handling big football games as a referee of much prominence, whilst in the indoor sphere he figured with a lot of success as a billiards player.

ABBEYFEALE'S PART IN GAEILIC FOOTBALL.

Gaelic football has held pride of place in Abbeyfeale down the long years since the G.A.A. was founded. The name and fame of Father Casey, the patriot priest of the parish in the early days of the Association, travelled the length and breadth of Ireland as symbolic of the new movement and what it meant to the youth of Ireland.

Abbeyfeale has the reputation of having contributed very substantially to the total of Irish missionaries fighting the battle for the Faith in far foreign fields, but it is also interesting to discover that there were nine Abbeyfeale men on the Limerick football team which won the American football championship in 1907.

That same year the patriot priest of Abbeyfeale died. The great Gael was mourned deeply, as an extract from his obituary demonstrates: "In many an Irish home whose roof tree he upheld, the silent tear will fall and the fervent prayer ascend for the noble heart who drove the rent thief like the wolf to lowlier lands, who truly fed the poor and solaced those in pain, who dared the prison for his people's rights and left his country better than he found it. He did his best, and left for other hands and better times a bright example and a clearer way to win weighing twelve stone, as a foot-

baller Moss was a two-footed, accurate brainy forward, whose lovely approach work was a treat to watch and a confusion to the best of defenders. Even his opponents could not help exclaiming "what a beauty," on occasions when he sent unstoppable balls to the net for a green flag majors to win a match almost on his own.

He shone in the company of many famous footballers, and by his crusading and his coaching, his own football ability and all-round sportsmanship helped a lot to revive the big ball code in the Shannonside county.

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

Moss Colbert was Limerick by birth but it was in Kerry, however, whilst a pupil at St. Michael's College, Listowel, that he first displayed the prowess that was later to mark him as one of Limerick's greatest football exponents.

While still a schoolboy, he wore the senior jersey for the local club at a period when their great rivals, Glin, were completing a remarkable spell, during which they captured seven county senior football and a junior football crown in a span of nine years. In that wonderful decade the Glin men were only ousted twice—in 1927 when a great Commercials fifteen beat them on a re-play, and in Glin, at that; in 1932, when Abbeyfeale put them out of the Western representation.

AN INSPIRATION.

The latter success was an inspiration to the rising youth by the 'Feale, and when Moss Colbert joined the senior string in 1934, hopes were high of a long spell of Abbeyfeale supremacy, worthy successors and wearers of the Glin mantle.

This, it will be remembered, was also the period of great Limerick hurling mastery, with which the name of Ahane will always be so closely and so gloriously associated.

Parallel with their great hurling triumphs, the Ahane lads turned their attention to football, and to the surprise of all, qualified for the 1935 County Senior final, in which they were pitted against a much fancied Abbeyfeale fifteen. In fact, few gave Ahane a chance. However, it was a different story when the pair met at Rathkeale on October 4th, 1936—Ahane winning 3-2 to 1-1—the first of a five-in-a-row football successes that included another win over Abbeyfeale in 1933, this occasion on a re-play, 1-9 to 1-2, after the pair had figured in a drawn struggle in which they divided a meagre four points.

FIGURED WITH DISTINCTION.

Moss Colbert figured with distinction in those three games, in which the Mackeys and Jacky Power were so prominent for Ahane.

When Ahane were eventually defeated in 1940, Abbeyfeale looked set for the long delayed mastery spell. They were proud that evening of May 25th, 1941, when they registered a solitary point win over other old rivals, Knockane, 2-4 to 2-3, in the 1940 County final. However, the cup of victory was swept from their lips, when Knockane fought an objection and proved successful.

Unqualified success came the following year, when Treaty were beaten in a great final at Askeaton. A sweeter victory was the defeat of Knockane the next season.

A defeat that carried almost as much glory and glamour as a vic-

torious and moulded the path of foot-

baller Moss was a two-footed, accurate brainy forward, whose lovely approach work was a treat to watch and a confusion to the best of defenders. Even his opponents could not help exclaiming "what a beauty," on occasions when he sent unstoppable balls to the net for a green flag majors to win a match almost on his own.

He shone in the company of many famous footballers, and by his crusading and his coaching, his own football ability and all-round sportsmanship helped a lot to revive the big ball code in the Shannonside county.

REFEREE OF MUCH ABILITY.

As his football activity declined, he came more and more into the limelight as a referee of much ability. The first games he handled were for the West Limerick Board but his capabilities were soon recognised elsewhere and there was one season when he must have refereed almost every County senior football final in Munster.

He handled Munster Championship and National League games in plenty, and in 1948 had charge of the Cavan-Louth All-Ireland Senior Football Championship semi-final. A few years ago he was referee of the international football final at Croke Park, in which New York triumphed over Cavan.

Acclaimed one of the best and most impartial referees in the country, he kept close to the ball all the time, was fast and alert in action but never spoiled a game by over use of the whistle.

USEFUL AT HANDBALL AND BILLIARDS.

Two footed in the kicking code, he was ambidextrous at handball, winning county honours in the early 'forties and later representing Limerick in the All-Ireland Championship series.

Billiards also came easy to him and he won a number of local tournaments.

Very promising as a hurler, he encouraged the game in Abbeyfeale and entered a team for the West Limerick Championships. They gave a few satisfying displays and it was a pity they eventually faded from the scene. Abbeyfeale should make another effort to propagate the caman code, now getting so popular in neighbouring Kerry.

Moss proved an efficient club secretary, good humoured and tireless. Now back in Abbeyfeale again, we hope to hear a lot more of him in the years ahead.

WINNERS AND THE VANQUISHED 10/8/54
winners abbeyfeale MFCh.



20
7
54 **Junior Hurling
And Football
Results**

Juv. F.—Abbeyfeale, 0-2; St. Senan's, 0-0.

J.H. (B)—St. Senan's, 9-10; Rathkeale, 1-3.

At Newcastle West on Sunday Abbeyfeale scored a hard-earned two-point victory over St. Senan's in the West Limerick Juvenile Football competition. The game was very keenly contested throughout and at half time both teams were still without a score. In the second moiety the Fealeside youths succeeded in notching a couple of points to score a hard-won victory after a really good game.

Mr. M. O'Grady (Newcastle West) refereed.

In the Junior Hurling Championship (B) competition, Saint Senan's, last year's runners-up in the competition, proved they are once again a force to be reckoned with by scoring a run-away victory over a rather disappointing Rathkeale selection. Playing quite a few of their regular football stalwarts, the Shannonsiders forced the pace early on and never looked back until they had consolidated their victory with an overwhelming margin.

Mr. Christie O'Connor (Newcastle West), refereed.

UNDER-14 FOOTBALL

The Abbeyfeale boys did not disappoint their big contingent of supporters in their defeat of St. Senan's by the only score of the game in the final of the under-14 Football Competition. As was to be expected from these two great football centres, the youthful teams provided a really good class exhibition of the code, which augurs well for the future of the game in the two centres. The Fealesiders were just about worth their three-point victory, as they did most of the attacking throughout and were, perhaps, a little unlucky in some of their efforts. Although a somewhat lighter side, the St. Senan's lads gave a really good account of themselves and fought back gamely to the last minute. After the match, there were jubilant scenes when the cup was presented to the victorious team by Mr. Liam Fitzmaurice, N.T., Chairman of the West Board, who warmly congratulated Abbeyfeale on their success and complimented both teams on the very fine display.

2-10-54 1-0-0

**Death In America
Of Well-Known
Abbeyfeale Gael 1954**

The death has taken place at his residence, 990 Amsterdam Avenue, New York City, of Mr. Michael O'Connell. He was a member of a well-known Abbeyfeale family closely associated with the G.A.A. and the republican movement.

The late Mr. O'Connell and his three brothers played on the Limerick County team. He was a member of the Abbeyfeale team that won the 1914 County Senior Football Championship, and was on the Ballymacelligott team that won the Kerry County Senior Football Championship in 1918. In 1925 he emigrated to the States, and at the end of that year he succeeded his brother Denis as Captain of the Limerick team in New York and he played with them until he retired in 1932. He was proprietor of a Saloon in New York which was the meeting place for many well-known Gaels, and his Manager was Tom (Gega) O'Connor, former Kerry All-Ireland footballer. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Margaret O'Connell, his brothers Philip O'Connell, New York; and Thomas O'Connell, popular Vice-Chairman of the Abbeyfeale G.A.A. Club, and one sister, Mrs. N. Mulvihill, Knockanure, County Kerry.

ABBEYFEALE ADVANCE IN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

July 59

Before a fair-sized attendance Father Caseys, Abbeyfeale, advanced to the semi-final of the senior football championships by defeating Glin 0-7 to 0-2 at Sportsfield, Rathkeale, on Sunday last.

A strong cross-wind made conditions difficult for good football but, nevertheless, both teams produced a fairly good standard.

FIRST TO THE ATTACK.

With the wind advantage, Father Caseys were first to attack and had a few wides before O'Connor was off the mark for a 50. Most of the play was now in Glin territory and after ten minutes Fitzgerald had Abbeyfeale's opening point. Two quick points by J. Lane and B. Broderick put the Fealesiders first ahead. A further point was scored by P. O'Connor for Abbeyfeale.

After 22 minutes T. O'Connor got Glin's only first-half point. Before the interval Abbeyfeale next increased their lead with two points from Lane and E. O'Connor closed Abbeyfeale's scoring with a point from 50 yards.

Half-time:—Father Caseys, 0-7; Glin, 0-1.

It looked on the turnover that Glin would quickly wipe out the arrears but they disappointed. Their forwards got several scoring chances without result. It was a ding-dong struggle, mostly staged in Abbeyfeale territory during the third quarter. In the 17th minute T. O'Connor had Glin's second point, but contrary to expectations it was Abbeyfeale who finished the stronger.

Glin had one other good try at goal but J. J. O'Connor was loudly applauded for a great save at full stretch. The final whistle went with Abbeyfeale pressing.

P. Fitzgerald, E. O'Connor, T. Sheehan, Lane and Hobbs were prominent for Abbeyfeale throughout, while T. O'Connor, Finn, D. Culhane were Glin's best players.

THE TEAMS

Abbeyfeale—J. J. O'Connor (goal), T. Sheehan, P. Broderick, M. Lane, J. Riordan, D. Fitzgerald, E. O'Connor, P. Fitzgerald, J. Downey, Michael Lane, J. Hobbs, J. Fitzgerald, P. O'Connor, D. O'Connell, B. Broderick.

Subs.:—E. O'Connor, J. Fitzgerald.

Glin—M. McNamara (goal), T. McKeown, S. Finn, M. O'Leary, J. Dillane, D. Cullane, J. Reidy, M. Meade, T. O'Connor, M. Adams, E. O'Connor, M. Dillane, J. Stack, D. Sweeney, S. O'Connor.

Year's Suspension, On Abbeyfeale Club

1959

THE Abbeyfeale club was suspended for 12 months at a special meeting of the Limerick Co. Board, G.A.A. The meeting had discussed at length the report of the referee (Mr. J. Sheehan) and the Limerick senior football championship game between Treaty-Sarsfields and Abbeyfeale, played at Croom. After the chairman (Mr. P. O'Reilly) had announced his decision, Mr. J. Collins, representing Abbeyfeale, said that his club would appeal to the Munster Council.

The Kildimo-Pallaskenry Club's appeal against a suspension of five years imposed on the club by the Limerick City Board was refused.

The suspension arose out of incidents, as reported by the referee (Mr. S. Gleeson), during a match between Kildimo-Pallaskenry and Ballybrown.

While upholding the decision of the City Board, the County Board arranged that the suspension on minor and juvenile players in the club area would be reviewed in 12 months' time, and if the County Board was satisfied then that there were proper men in charge of them they would be allowed back.

Medals Presented To Successful Football Teams

July 59

At the ceili held in the Abbey Hall, Abbeyfeale, on Tuesday night, the Abbeyfeale minor football and under 14 football team, who were victorious in the County and West Limerick Championships, respectively, last year were presented with their medals.

The presentation was made by Rev. Jerry Downey, a prominent member of the Abbeyfeale football team in the 'thirties, who has recently returned from Australia.

After congratulating the teams, Father Downey said he hoped that the young boys of the town and parish would keep alive the football tradition sown by late Father William Casey, Abbeyfeale, patriot Parish Priest, and that a senior football championship cup would soon find a resting place in Abbeyfeale.

Death In America Of Well-Known Abbeyfeale Gael

1959

The death has taken place at his residence, 990 Amsterdam Avenue, New York City, of Mr. Michael O'Connell. He was a member of a well-known Abbeyfeale family closely associated with the G.A.A. and the republican movement.

The late Mr. O'Connell and his three brothers played on the Limerick County team. He was a member of the Abbeyfeale team that won the 1914 County Senior Football Championship, and was on the Ballymacelligott team that won the Kerry County Senior Football Championship in 1918. In 1925 he emigrated to the States, and at the end of that year he succeeded his brother Denis as Captain of the Limerick team in New York and he played with them until he retired in 1932. He was proprietor of a Saloon in New York which was the meeting place for many well-known Gaels, and his Manager was Tom (Gega) O'Connor, former Kerry All-Ireland footballer. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Margaret O'Connell, his brothers Philip O'Connell, New York, and Thomas O'Connell, popular Vice-Chairman of the Abbeyfeale G.A.A. Club, and one sister, Mrs. N. Mulvihill, Knockanure, County Kerry.

26-1960
**ABBEYFEALE
 PRIEST BACK
 TO AUSTRALIA**

VERY REV. FR. J. DOWNEY, New Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, has left his native town after spending a most enjoyable holiday, to return to his mission parish in New South Wales, Australia.

KEEN INTEREST IN G.A.A.

During his stay at home he was keenly interested in G.A.A. affairs, and was made Vice-President of the G.A.A. in Abbeyfeale at the annual general meeting held recently, under the Chairmanship of Very Rev. Canon Lynch, P.P., Abbeyfeale.

Father Downey was a very able footballer in his youthful days and helped to bring the county honours to the banks of the Feale in 1947. He spent many evenings down in the football grounds encouraging the young boys in the games of the Gael, during the summer when he was at home. He took an active interest in many kinds of sport and presented the Banard Cup and trophies to the winners at the very recent, successful coursing meeting at Abbeyfeale.

GREAT PARISH WORK IN AUSTRALIA

As a young priest, Father Downey was given the responsibility of building a beautiful church in Binya before he came home, renovating a church and building a magnificent presbytery at Barellan, Australia. Special tributes were extended to Father Downey by the Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, His Grace, Archbishop O'Brien, D.D., for the great work being done by this Abbeyfeale priest in Australia.

GOOD WISHES

His many friends in Abbeyfeale, Glin and surrounding areas wish him continued success in the wonderful work being done in the Australian Continent.

Father Downey is son of the late Philip Downey, Abbeyfeale, who was one of the founders of the Sinn Fein movement in Abbeyfeale and who was one of the pioneers of the movement in West Limerick.

ABBEYFEALE

18/2/61

Lecture

Mr. R. Harslam, Cork Borough Accountant and Assistant in Public Relations, University College, Cork, gave a very interesting lecture to the Social Science class at the Abbeyfeale Technical School on Thursday night last. The lecture was on "The Work of the Local Authorities."

Sweeney.

The meeting discussed the formation of committees for the new Casey-Colbert senior football club made up of Abbeyfeale and Athea and nominated a panel to act on the committee of the newly-formed club. The Treasurer reported that the finances of the club were very good—a surplus of £280

Called To Depot

John J. O'Connor son of Timothy J. and Mrs. O'Connor, Kilconlea, Abbeyfeale, has been called to the Garda Depot, Dublin, to begin his training. This popular young man was a well-known Gaelic footballer. He played in goal for Abbeyfeale and Limerick in the minor grade and was a member of the Abbeyfeale team which won the 1958 minor championship.

G.A.A. Meeting

At the annual general meeting of the Abbeyfeale G.A.A. held at St. Ita's Hall, Abbeyfeale, on Sunday last, the following officers were elected for 1961:— Chairman, Very Rev. P. Canon Lynch, P.P., V.F.; Vice-Chairman J. J. Collins, T.D.; Hon. Treasurer, R. Fitzgerald; Hon. Secretary, Moss Colbert; Committee—E. McCarthy, N.T.; B. Long, N.T.; D. Cullinane, E.

6/2/60 **ABBEYFEALE**

A large crowd attended the annual general meeting of the Abbeyfeale G.A.A. held in St. Ita's Hall. The outgoing chairman, Mr. William Mann, presided.

The Chairman gave a detailed account of the year's activities, and said in general that the Club had a good year, especially in the number of young boys who had taken part in the various grades.

Mr. Thomas Mann, outgoing Secretary, in his report and balance sheet, said he was glad to be in a position to report a credit balance of £200 after the year.

The meeting then elected the committee for the coming year as follows:—

President and Chairman, Very Rev. P. Canon Lynch, P.P., V.F.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. John Fitzgibbon, N.T.; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. John J. O'Kelly, Hon. Secretary, Mr. Moss Colbert.

Committee — Messrs. James J. O'Rourke, M.R.C.V.S., and Denis Fitzgerald.

MR. PATRICK WALSH, NEW STREET, ABBEYFEALE.

The death occurred suddenly, at Foynes, of Patrick Walsh, New Street, Abbeyfeale. He had been employed at Shamrock Fertilisers Ltd., Foynes, as weigh-machine operator, and his untimely death came as a painful shock to all his friends, and cast a sad gloom over Abbeyfeale and surrounding areas.

Patrick Walsh, or Pete, as he was better known to all who knew him well, was a man of high intellect who will be always remembered for his honesty, integrity and uprightness. He was good-natured and big-hearted; of a genial and courteous disposition, he was esteemed by all who came in contact with him. Pete was a gentleman — a charming and cultured personality of whom any company might well be proud.

He came from an old esteemed Abbeyfeale family and was a footballer and handballer of no mean ability, having played with Abbeyfeale on several occasions. While a student of St. Patrick's College, Dublin, he was eye-witness to the Croke Park tragedies on "Bloody Sunday." His love for Gaelic games and everything Irish knew no bounds.

A fitting and moving tribute was paid at the removal of the remains from St. Senan's Hospital, Foynes, to Abbeyfeale. Over 250 workmen of Shamrock Fertilisers, whose factory was closed down as a mark of respect during the funeral, joined in the cortege. The coffin was borne by his workmates to the Main Street, and work on the unloading of two ships for the factory was suspended—a tribute from his friends to a man who had worked among them for such a short period, and who, during that time had made innumerable friends.

The interment took place in St. Mary's Cemetery, Abbeyfeale, and prayers at the graveside were said by Very Rev. Canon Lynch, P.P., V.F., Abbeyfeale; Rev. Fr. J. Liston, C.C., do.; Rev. Fr. M. Frawley, C.C., do., and Rev. Fr. O'Connor, Australia.

G.A.A. Season

The G.A.A. season in the town was officially opened on Sunday, with the 1960 final of the Grade B football competition, which had to be brought over from last year owing to the prolonged spell of bad weather. In a game that did not prove very attractive, Tournafulla disposed of Adare. As was expected the attendance was not very large, owing to a big double National League attraction at Kilmallock. Nevertheless, the first outing of the season, under ideal weather conditions, proved a very pleasant experience after a prolonged spell of winter inactivity. The new Gaelic Park, it was very pleasant to note, was looking at its very best for the occasion and it looks as if the pitch will be at its best for the current season. It is hoped early in the year to arrange the replay between Lime-

leu... once they got... they gave an ex... smashes and court cr... labelled them an outstand... pair.

11/2/61 **ABBEY**

Their First Game

The newly-formed Casey-Colbert football team had their first game of the season at the Sportsfield, Abbeyfeale, on Sunday last.

They defeated Knocknagoshel, 1-4 to 0-2, although short of their inter-county players, Moloney, Woulfe and Barrett.

Scorers for the winners—P. Fitzgerald, M. King, Hanrahan and Mulvihill, and for Knocknagoshel, McEelligott and Keane.

Mr. P. O'Connor (Athea) was a capable referee.

Good Fish Catcher

WEST JUVENILE FOOTBALL FINAL

Fr. Casey's just pip Askeaton in thrilling final

Fr. Casey's 2-3
Askeaton 2-2.

After completely dominating the play in almost every department of the field in the opening half, Fr. Casey's (Abbeyfeale) had to fight hard to maintain their single point lead over Askeaton in the West Limerick juvenile football championship re-play at Newcastle West on Sunday, writes Dan Mulcahy.

The return match in the opening moiety was in disappointing contrast with the drawn game at Rathkeale two weeks before but in the closing half the youths provided a rare succession of thrills for the fairly big crowd of patrons.

Excitement was maintained at feverish pitch up to the last minute with the Deelsiders pressing for the vital score that might have resulted in another draw. The Abbeyfeale boys, however, fully deserved their hard-earned win as in both games they had the better of the general exchanges against the gallant Deelsiders. They also had a slight advantage in speed and fielding and were the shade quicker off the mark that made all the difference.

It was all Abbeyfeale in the opening half when the Feale-side boys, playing with the decided advantage of a strong wind, kept the Askeaton defence under constant heavy pressure. The game was only a few minutes old when Paddy Harnett pointed for the winners and Paddy Stack followed up shortly afterwards with a similar score.

Despite a stubborn Askeaton defence, Liam Quirke cut through for a Fr. Casey's goal, and John Dennison added a point before the interval when the winners were sitting pretty on the score of 3-1 to nil.

Although now enjoying the

decided wind advantage, Askeaton were slow to settle down on the resumption and missed some good scoring chances before Tony Wallace opened with a point. Des. Horrigan followed up with a similar score and midway through the second moiety the fat was in the fire for Abbeyfeale when Paddy Walsh, with a goal, reduced Fr. Casey's lead to a single point.

The Askeaton backs, however, slipped up when the winners counter-attacked and Paddy Harnett, snatching from a close in free, sent a dribbling ball through to the net. Still undaunted, Askeaton fought back again and a goal from Pat Buckley left the issue still wide open as the Deelside lads threw everything they had into a final effort. But time was fast running out and they were still a point in arrears at the final whistle.

Referee, Doney Mullane (St. Senan's).

Fr. Casey's—J. Prenderville, D. O'Connell, N. Aherne, C. Daly, M. Scannell, D. Collins, M. Aherne, M. Wrenn, G. Griffin, P. Harnett, L. Quirke, M. Harnett, S. Lyons, J. Daly, J. Dennison.

Askeaton—T. Madigan, S. Barron, M. Ruttle, M. Hayes, D. Madigan, P. Walsh, O. Hannifin, D. Costelloe, P. Fitzgerald, P. O'Donoghue, P. Buckley, T. Corrigan, N. Nestor, D. Horrigan, G. O'Shaughnessy.

1964

Fr. Casey's Scoring spree by

Fr. Casey's 5-11
Castlemahon Nil

The Abbeyfeale boys went on a veritable scoring spree at Askeaton on Sunday when they scored a crushing victory over Castlemahon in the West Limerick juvenile football semi-final. The winners were leading at half-time by 0-6 to nil and the real blitz came in the second moiety when they continued to pile up the winning score without a reply from Castlemahon. Fr. Casey's have thus qualified to meet Askeaton in the final at Rathkeale on Sunday.

Mr. Donie Mullane (St. Senan's) refereed.

Fr. Casey's—J. Prenderville, S. Lyons, R. Fennelly, B. Collins, N. Aherne, E. O'Connell, J. Daly, M. Scannell, P. Harnett, M. Griffin, P. Collins, M. Harnett, M. Wrenn, L. Quirke, J. Lane.

Castlemahon—V. Geary, P. Noonan, S. Young, M. O'Regan, D. Mullane, P. Doherty, M. O'Riordan, E. O'Riordan, D. Mullane, J. Phillips, M. O'Mahony, B. Quaid, P. O'Shea, T. O'Riordan, H. Moran, T. Quaid, N. Flanagan.

2-1-65
Abbeyfeale—champions of the West

I have received the following poetic tribute to the Abbeyfeale side that won the 1964 West Limerick juvenile football title. It is set to the air of "The Wearing of the Green" :—

Our juveniles are champions,
They won their final test;
They conquered grand Askeaton

In sweet Newcastle West.

This was their second meeting,

A classic and a treat;
Our skill and combination
That saved us from defeat.

Our captain, Moss Aherne,
Repulsed the first attack;
A goal from Quirke came after

A point from Patrick Stack.

Young Dennison and Griffin,
Were stylish and supreme;
Damian Daly was outstanding
Till he ran out of steam.

The second half was started,
By young Mullane from
Foynes;

We saw a mighty clearance
From wing back Stephen
Lyons.

Jim Prenderville, our 'keeper,
We shall not soon forget;
We got the score we wanted
When Hartnett found the net.

Now here's to Michael
Scannell,
And Liston whom we like;
There's burly Michael Hartnett,
A son of Mossie Mike.

John Daly in the forwards,
Combined with Mossie Wrenn;
Dan Collins showed his
brilliance,
We're champions once again.

We fielded fit and eager,
We're not afraid to train;
Our subs. were Ned and Lulu,
Bud Connell and John Lane.

Hard luck for grand Askeaton,

The heroes from the Deel;
God bless the Father Casey's,
The champs. from Abbeyfeale.

— By "EIRE OG."

ABBEYFEALE Oct 1964

Under-21 football

Abbeyfeale under-21 football team had a very good win over Athea in the third round of this competition at Dromcollogher on Sunday last. The final score was Abbeyfeale 3-6, Athea 0-7, after leading 1-2 to 0-4 at half-time. Abbeyfeale now qualify to meet Glin in the semi-final and on last Sunday's form look to have an excellent chance of going to the final.

The Abbeyfeale team was as follows: B. Scannell (goal), D. Collins, Joe O'Connell, J. Quirke, P. Collins, P. Prenderville, P. Harnett, S. Lyon, S. Dennison, M. Ahern, G. Griffin, T. Browne, J. Lane, M. O'Connell, J. Daly.

12-8-69

'CRICKET SCORE' WIN FOR ST. SENAN'S

M.F. : St. Senan's, 5-10;
Father Casey's, 0-3.

St. Senan's, with a cricket score of 25 points to three, experienced little difficulty in disposing of the Abbeyfeale challenge in the West Limerick Minor Football Championship semi-final at Newcastle West on Sunday. The Foynes fifteen, one of the best minor selections ever fielded by the Shannonside parish, got away to a very encouraging start and, playing against a stiff breeze, were well ahead at the interval on the score of 1-5 without a reply from Father Casey's. After the resumption the Fealesiders were given a brief boost with an early point, but St. Senan's promptly replied with a brace of goals and a couple of more points before Father Casey's, short four of their regulars, again pointed. In the closing stages the "Saints" went into a veritable scoring spree and added two more goals and a brace of points to their formidable tally. Gallagher, Hynes, Behan, Danaher, Cregan and Mullane contributed to the winning score for the Foynes lads, while Riordan and O'Rourke, assisted by Brown and Flynn, was responsible for the Fealeside scores.

As a result of their clear-cut win on Sunday, St. Senan's now go on to meet their old rivals, Glin, in the Western minor final. Mr. Jim Quaid, Feohanagh, refereed.

St. Senan's: P. Madigan; P. Conors, P. Dunleavy, J. Flynn, T. Carroll, P. Cregan, J. Enright, J. Behan, T. Mulvihill, D. Mullane, S. Danaher, T. Sanley, M. Cussen, J. Hayes, N. Gallagher.

Father Casey's: L. McAuliffe; D. Collins, C. McAuliffe, M. Liston, J. O'Rourke, M. Harnett, S. O'Connor, S. Lyons, S. Denison, D. O'Connor, J. J. McCarthy, L. Flynn, N. Ahern, D. Brown, S. Riordan.

CLOSE WIN FOR FR. CASEY'S

March 1968

Fr. Casey's 1-4
Gerald Griffin's 0-5

The Ballyhabill junior football fifteen and their big contingent of followers must have felt rather sore with themselves as they wended their way out of the Newcastle West playing field on Sunday after suffering a two-point defeat at the hands of their rivals from Abbeyfeale. After dominating the play for most of the hour, Gerald Griffin's were a point ahead with little more than a minute to go. They seemed all set for a win in this first round championship game when Eamon O'Dwyer caught the defence off the mark from a well-directed 50 and tapped home a goal that put the Fealesiders two points ahead just before the final whistle.

DRAW—FAIR?

It was a cruel blow to Ballyhabill's hopes and, while a draw might well have been an apt result, Gerald Griffin's had only themselves to blame for the last-minute reverse. They had enough opportunities in the opening half to win twice over, but frittered away numerous chances with faulty marksmanship and were only a solitary point ahead at half-time. They continued to force the pace for most of the closing moiety but were still only a point on top in the closing minutes of a game that very seldom reached the standard expected from these two traditionally great football parishes.

Then in the dying minutes of the game Fr. Casey's snatched a dramatic win from a goal-mouth scramble that followed a fifty. It was a hectic finish to a game that produced little in the way of interest and excitement.

Mr. Jim Quaide (Feohanagh) refereed.

Fr. Casey's: T. Browne, M. Collins, W. Harnett, M. Scannell, M. O'Connell, E. O'Dwyer, L. Quirke, D. Collins, D. Mahony, J. Lane, T. Quirke, E. Aherne, P. Condon, W. O'Mahony, P. Sweeney.

Gerald Griffin's: J. O'Brien, J. Hayes, D. Donovan, P. Scannlan, D. Nolan, E. McKenna, P.

O'Connor, J. Mahony, P. Hayes, L. Reidy, M. O'Connor, J. Hayes, J. Brouder, M. O'Keeffe, J. Reidy.

FR. CASEY'S WIN AGAIN

Minor football final:
Fr. Casey's (Abbeyfeale) 1-12
Castlemahon 1-1

Curtain raiser to the big big game on Sunday was the minor football final which Fr. Casey's won on the above score. Exchanges were even enough in the first half and scores were level at this stage: Fr. Casey's, 0-4; Castlemahon, 1-1.

In the second half, however, Castlemahon had no answer to the fine football of the Abbeyfeale lads and actually failed to score in this half. Fr. Casey's, of course, had the advantage of match practice having been nominated by the West Board to contest the county semi-finals and reached the county final to be narrowly beaten by Oola. Castlemahon

had not a game since they defeated Glin some months back.

D. Murphy kept a good "goals" for the winners and had excellent support from J. Collins, Gerard Collins and Billy Doody. Tony Brown and Bob Ahern controlled centre-field, while up front George Brown, George Callaghan, Teddy Sullivan, M. Ford and Pat Leahy were always dangerous.

Best for Castlemahon were: Joe Quaid (goals), Mike Riordan, Mike and Noel Mahony (backs), and Tom Quaid, John Noonan and J. Greaney (forwards).

SCORERS

Fr. Casey's: G. Callaghan, 0-5; M. Ford, 0-4; P. Leahy, 0-2; M. Griffin, 0-1; T. Sullivan, 1-0.

Castlemahon: J. Noonan, 1-0; J. Greaney, 0-1.

1-11-69

TEAMS

Fr. Casey's — D. Murphy, J. Sullivan, J. Collins, P. Scannell, C. Carroll, G. Collins, B. Doody, T. Browne, L. Ahern, G. Brown, M. Ford, G. Callaghan, M. Griffin, P. Leahy, T. Sullivan.

Castlemahon — J. Quaid, J. Ryan, M. Riordan, D. Fitzgibbon, B. Lomasney, M. Mahony, W. Mahony, T. Quaid, M. Quaid, J. Greaney, J. Neenan, P. Greaney, P. Hayes, S. O'Connor, G. Phillips.

Mr. T. Woulfe refereed in his usual efficient manner.

West Limerick G.A.A.

8/11/69

LAST MINUTE POINT EARNED FATHER CASEY'S A DRAW

Under 21 football final:

Askeaton 3-3
Fr. Casey's 1-9

In a fast, exciting, highly entertaining 21 football final at Newcastle West on Sunday last a last minute point gave Fr. Casey's a deserved draw with Askeaton.

Askeaton, playing with the gale force wind in the first half, had much the better of the exchanges and at half-time they led by 3-3 to 2 points. Immediately after half time Fr. Casey's swung into the attack and had a point. Four minutes later, Stephen Lyons took a 14 yards free which he intended for a point but the ball did not rise. An Askeaton defender in attempting to clear only palmed the ball into his own net. This really put Fr. Casey's going but the Askeaton defence did not concede another goal and with time ticking away it looked as if they would just hold on. But Billy Scannell, who was playing at centre-back, moved down to the attack and taking a pass from his brother, Mike, he kicked a beautiful point from about 40 yards to level the scoring just on full time.

FAIR

A draw was a fair result to a game which no team deserved to lose. They both overcame the conditions in fine style and produced a grand brand of football in a very sporting manner.

Dick Costello, in attack in the first half and later in defence, was Askeaton's star player and others to shine were Terence Madigan (goals), Sean Barron, Jim Neville and Christy Carrig (backs); D. J. Daly, Neil Rahanan (centre-field) and forwards Mike McMahon, Sean Purtill and Pat Buckley.

Dan and John Collins, Mike Scannell and Patsy Harnett

were sound defenders for Fr. Casey's and their best forwards were: Mossy Ahern, Stephen Lyons, Moss Forde and M. Collins.

SCORERS

Askeaton—M. McMahon, 2-0; D. J. Daly, 1-3.

Fr. Casey's—S. Lyons, 1-4; J. Ahearn, 0-1; S. Collins, 0-1; P. Harnett, 0-1; M. Scannell, 0-1; B. Scannell, 0-1.

TEAMS

Askeaton — T. Madigan, M. Ruttle, S. Barron, J. Neville, C. Carrig, P. Walsh, D. Rahanan, N. Rahanan, D. J. Daly, D. Cussen, P. Buckley, D. Naughton, M. McMahon, S. Purtill, P. Fitzgerald.

Fr. Casey's—E. Doody, J. Collins, D. Collins, D. Sexton, M. Scannell, P. Harnett, B. Scannell, S. Collins, L. Ahern, M. Forde, E. Griffin, S. Lyons, G. Collins, M. Ahern, T. Brown. Referee, Mr. Jim Quaid.

£150 football
Abbeyfeale
tournament! 19/4/69

The winners of a sixteen team football tournament being run at Moyvane will receive one hundred pounds, and the other team in the final, fifty pounds for their clubs. It is part of a carnival to raise funds to add further amenities to the Sports-field in Moyvane.

The opening round, which is on the knock-out system, was played last Friday evening between Abbeyfeale and Moyvane.

Aided by a strong breeze, Moyvane got into an early lead of three points by O'Callaghan and Collins. Abbeyfeale replied with a point by M. Aherne, but N. Buckley and J. Cunningham increased Moyvane's lead with a point each. Making full use of the wind they pounded the Abbey defence repeatedly, but J. Cotter, in goal, and J. Scallan, at full back, defied wind, men and weather. In a good combined movement, Abbey moved down field, which D. Brown culminated in a goal, much to the delight of his supporters. Half-time score read: Moyvane 9 pts.; Abbeyfeale, 1 goal 1 point.

Within minutes of the restart, G. Lyons sent over a point for Abbey. S. Collins and M. Aherne added a point each, to bring them within two points of Moyvane, or the right to the next round. Moyvane had two points from frees and Abbey one. It was still anyone's game until Moyvane came down and D. Flavin sent to the net to clinch the issue.

Prominent for Moyvane were T. Hanrahan, C. O'Callaghan, Jn. Maloney, Liam Hanrahan, while Abbeyfeale were best served by T. and M. Aherne, P. Harnett and P. Sweeney.

Many rousing games may well be expected before the £100 and £50 are placed to the credit of clubs.

1973 Abbeyfeale (Fr. Casey's)

Under 16 West F
Semi Final

Abbeyfeale under 16 footballers just got the verdict by a single point over Newcastle West in the replay at Drumcollogher on Friday night last. Although having much more of the play they were lucky in the finish. Final score was 1-2 to 1-0.

The Abbeyfeale team was: Colm Ward (goal), Jeremiah O'Connor, Michael O'Rourke, Christy Colbert, Jer Browne, David Lane, Gerry Leahy, Richard Quirke, Gerard Moloney, Denis Joy, David Keating, Tom Corbett, Peter Murphy, Johnny Keating, Eamonn McCarthy.

The under 21 football game against Oola in the Co. semi-final at Kilmallock on Sunday next has been postponed. Abbeyfeale have already qualified to play the 1972 final in this grade whenever it will be played.

U-21 FOOTBALL

Abbeyfeale under-21 footballers had a busy week-end, playing a game on Saturday evening and again on Sunday afternoon, both at Newcastle West. The Saturday evening game against Carrigerry was one of the best seen at the venue for a long time. Abbeyfeale got the winning point in the last minute of the game.

On Sunday at the same venue the team turned out fresh to have a clear-cut win over Ballyhahill. The team was:

J. Flynn (goal), T. O'Connell, P. Scannell, M. Flynn, J. O'Mara, C. O'Callaghan, D. Murphy, J. Healy, P. O'Callaghan, G. Browne, G. O'Callaghan, T. O'Sullivan, G. Ahern, G. Collins, H. Harnett.

Sunday's team was the same except F. McCarthy played in goal.

Abbeyfeale 2-4 Asherton 2-3
Final. Asherton 1-12 Fr. Casey's 0-9

M.F.
Final

MINOR TITLE

Abbeyfeale minor footballers won the West Limerick minor final at Newcastle West on Sunday last beating a fancied Askeaton side 4-0 to 2-0.

Abbeyfeale lined out as follows: Frank McCarthy (goal), Dan Keating, Jim Lyons, Eamonn O'Donoghue, Denis Murphy Morrissey, Pat O'Callaghan, Jeremiah McCarthy, Kevin Quirke, Gerard Moloney, Paudie O'Carroll, David Keating, James Lane, Richard Quirke.

There was great excitement at the conclusion of the game when John Whelan, West Board, Secretary, presented the cup to Denis Murphy. Abbeyfeale captain

Abbeyfeale minor footballers defeated Oola in the county semi-final at Croom on Sunday last, on the score, 2-10 to 0-3.

They fully deserved their win, as they played the better type of football throughout the our.

Abbeyfeale team was as follows:— Frank McCarty (goal); Richard Quirke, Jim Lyons, Eamonn O'Donoghue; Denis Murphy, George Leahy, Daniel Scannell; Gerard Moloney, Pat O'Callaghan; Noel Ward, Kevin Quirke, Jer McCarthy; Paudie O'Carroll, James Lane, David Keating. Sub: Con Murphy for J. Lane.

Fr. Casey's 0-13 St. Kieran's 3-3

Fr. Casey's— J. Flynn; T. O'Connell, P. Scannell, M. Flynn, J. O'Mara, C. Callaghan, D. Murphy, P. Callaghan, G. Healy, T. Sullivan, G. Brown, G. Callaghan, G. Ahern, G. Collins, H. Harnett.

The Callaghan brothers, Gerard, Con and Pat, were outstanding for the winners, all through, with Teddy Sullivan, Ger. Collins, Moss Flynn, John O'Mara and George Brown also doing well.

Under 21 F (holders)

Best Ballakenny
Cricherry
Gerald Griffiths

HCW, 2-10 to 3-3, West Final

Callaghan Bros
George Brown (0-7) in final
Moss Flynn
Gerard Collins
Johnny Sullivan
L Quirke (1-3) in final

Fr. Casey's— F. McCarthy, J. Brown, P. Scannell, J. Carroll, C. Callaghan, D. Murphy, P. Callaghan, G. Brown, G. Ahern, Quirke, T. Sullivan, T. Con-

Jan. 1973—

The annual general meeting of the Abbeyfeale G.A.A. Club took place at St. Ita's Hall on Saturday night last.

The outgoing chairman, Billy O'Connor, welcomed the attendance, and thanked the players and all who helped the club during the year.

The secretary, Rev. E. Dillane, C.C., in his report, considered the past year a good one for the club, the under 14 and 16 teams winning the West Championship; the minors un-luckily beaten in the final, as were the seniors, and the under 21 team still a lively contender both for the West and County Championship. The most important thing he thought was that up to 60 games were played by teams in the club during 1972.

Stephe nLyons, treasurer, gave details of the club's finances and said that after a very expensive year the balance sheet showed the club to be in the "red" by £44. Fr. O'Neill also addressed the meeting.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

President, Very Rev. M. Canon Purtill, P.P., V.F.; vice-president, Daniel Cullinane; chairman, William O'Connor; vice-chairman, Rev. E. Dillane, C.C.; hon. sec., Rev. C. O'Neill, C.C.; assistant sec., James Collins, B.A.; hon. treasurer, P. J. Lane, N.T. Committee: Patsy Harnett, David Lyons, John Fitzgibbon, N.T.; Con Broderick, Tom Ahern, Patrick B. Harnett, Georgie Browne, Joe Wrenn, T. Mann

Abbeyfeale under 21 footballers won the West Limerick Championship at Drumcollogher on Sunday last on the score: 2-11 to 3-4. This victory is the 2nd in succession.

Newcastle West led by an eight-point margin at the interval and looked home and dried, but the Abbeyfeale boys eventually and Newcastle West on the run completely and finished the game 4 points to the good. Newcastle West scored only 1 point in the 2nd period, while Abbeyfeale had 2 goals and 6 points.

The Abbeyfeale team was as follows: Frank McCarthy (goal), Jimmy Browne, Pat Scannell, Thomas O'Connell, Sean Carroll, Con O'Callaghan, Denis Murphy, Jimmy Healy, Pat O'Callaghan, Gearoid O'Callaghan, Gerard Collins, Georgie Browne (capt.), Gerard Ahern, Liam Quirke, Teddy O'Sullivan. Sub.: Kevin Quirke for T. O'Sullivan in first half.

Mr. Paddy Browne, West Board secretary, presented the cup to the winning captain, Georgie Browne, amid scenes of jubilation.

S.F. CH

St. Kieran's 2-8 Fr. Casey's 0-8

The youthful Pat Callaghan was the star of the Fr. Casey's side, while Tom Ahern, Patsy Harnett, Stephen Lyons, Tony Brown, George Brown, Gearoid Callaghan and Pat Sullivan all played well.

Fr. Casey's: P. Murphy; T. Ahern, D. Collins, M. Flynn; P. Scannell, P. Harnett, J. Brown; S. Lyons, T. Brown; G. Brown, G. Collins, G. Callaghan; P. Sullivan, M. Collins, P. Callaghan. Ref. Mr. Timmy Woulfe.

M.F.

Abbeyfeale minor footballers qualified for the County final when they had a very deserved win over Askeaton at Newcastle West on Sunday last.

Excellent refereeing by Mr. A. Fogarty, Killarney, raised the standard of the game and no nonsense was allowed. The final score was: Abbeyfeale, 2-8; Askeaton, 1-5.

The Abbeyfeale side was: Frank McCarthy (goal), Eamonn O'Donoghue, Jim Lyons, David Lane, Denis Murphy (captain), George Leahy, Dixie Quirke, Paudie O'Carroll, Pat O'Callaghan, Jeremiah McCarthy, Gerard Moloney, Noel

FOOTBALLERS

The Abbeyfeale under 14 footballers got off to a great start on Monday evening last, at Newcastle West, when they had a last second goal, which gave them a 2 point victory in a very close and exciting game against Castlemahon. Final score Abbeyfeale, 1-3; Castlemahon, 0-4.

1970

OBITUARY

The death occurred last week of Robert (Bobbie) Moloney (61), Colbert Terrace. He was well-known and popular all over the county. In his younger days he was a prominent G.A.A. man and represented as a goalkeeper Abbeyfeale and Limerick for many years. Many of his old football comrades marched behind the hearse to the Old Cemetery in the Square. His passing is regretted and sympathy is extended to his brothers Pat, Tony and Eddie, and relatives.

1971

UNLUCKY

Abbeyfeale under 16 footballers who recently won the West Limerick championship must be considered unlucky in the County semi-final against Treaty-Sarsfields at Rathkeale last week. The game resulted in a draw.

Sept 1972

SENIOR FOOTBALL

Abbeyfeale Senior Footballers, outsiders in the semi-final game against Askeaton, at Newcastle West on Sunday last, came from 5 points down midway in the second half to draw in the dying seconds. The final score was Abbeyfeale 3-9, Askeaton 4-6. This was one of the best senior football games seen at Newcastle West for a long time, and the very big attendance got real value for money. Full marks to both teams for producing a very high standard of football, played in a manly and sporting fashion.

The Abbeyfeale side was: Jim Flynn (goal), Moss Collins, Dan Collins, Michael O'Connell, Paddy Collins, Billy Scannell, Johnny O'Sullivan, Tony Browne, Patsy Harnett, Gearoid O'Callaghan, Mike Scannell, Pat O'Callaghan, Stephen Lyons, Ray Rochford, Donal O'Neill. Subs.: Jerry Healy for M. O'Connell, Con O'Callaghan for M. Collins.

QUALIFIED

At the same venue, after the senior game, our Under 14 footballers qualified for the West Limerick final when they beat Askeaton 0-4 to 1-0 in a most exciting encounter. Then Under 14 team: Frank Foley (goal), Chris Colbert, Pat McEnery, Jer Browne, Peter Murphy, David Lane, Eamonn Scannell, Richard Quirke, David Keating, D. P. Woulfe, James McEnery, Denis Joy, Liam O'Callaghan, Dermot Leahy, Dan McCarthy. Sub.: Aeny McEnery for D. Leahy.

Sept 1972

West Limerick G.A.A.:

8/4/72

Good win for Fr. Casey's at Drom.

Fr. Casey's 2-10
Newcastle West 1-5

At wind swept Dromcollogher on Sunday last, Fr. Casey's (Abbeyfeale) had a well deserved victory over Newcastle West in the Senior Football League. Fr. Casey's fielded what was probably their strongest team, and Newcastle West, short five or six regulars, were really no match for them. If Fr. Casey's can keep this team together for the Championship they will be more than a match for any opposition.

Fr. Casey's played with the wind in the first half, and although it took them a while to settle down, they had a nice interval lead of 2-6 to 0-1. In the second half though facing the elements, Fr. Casey's forced the

play, and in 10 minutes added four points from well taken frees by Stephen Lyons. Then Newcastle began to fight back, but they had to fight very hard for their scores, and Fr. Casey's were worthy winners in the end.

SCORERS

Fr. Casey's: S. Lyons (0-7), T. Ahern (1-0), R. Rochford (1-0), G. Griffin (0-1), P. Sullivan (0-1), S. Dennison (0-1).

Newcastle West: J. McGrath (1-2), K. O'Donnell (0-1), J. Guerin (0-1), L. O'Connor (0-1).

TEAMS

Fr. Casey's: Tim Quirke, Patsy Harnett, Dan Collins, Mick Connell, Billy Scannell, Mick Collins, Pat Collins, Mick Scannell, Tony Brown, Seamus Dennison, Gerry Griffin, Pat Sullivan, Tom Ahern, Roy Rochford, Stephen Lyons.

Newcastle West: Willie O'Connor, Paddy McCarthy, Jim Kelly, Peter Curtin, Joe Nash, Liam O'Connor, Donie Enright, Dan Kennedy, John McGrath, Kevin O'Donnell, Noel O'Connor, John Guerin, Mike Nash, Tom Kelly, Finbarr O'Connor.

Referee: Mr. Pat Lane (Foynes).

Father Casey's 2-12
Athea 1-3

27
5
72

At Newcastle West, Athea, who were formed to line out without some of their more prominent players, were no match for a rampant Father Casey's side who played with great skill. This present Father Casey's team are playing great stuff at the moment and will be fancied by many to win the senior title. The youthful Tony Brown was once again the star of the side, and others to play well were the Scannells, the Collinses and S. Lyons. Athea's best were veteran T. Woulfe, P. Dalton, J. Brouder and J. Barrett.

TEAMS

Father Casey's: T. Quirke, M. Connell, D. Collins, M. Collins, B. Scannell, P. Harnett, G. Collins, H. Scannell, T. Brown, S. Dennison, D. O'Neill, S. Lyons, P. Collins, R. Rochford, T. Ahern.

Athea: T. Keefe, P. Moran, C. Mullane, C. Sweeney, M. Brosnan, P. Dalton, J. Barrett, J. Brouder, K. Dillon, D. McCoy, T. Woulfe, H. Moran, J. Kelly, J. Mullane, M. Mahony.

Fr. Casey's 6-6
St. Mary's 0-5

At Newcastle West on Sunday last Fr. Casey's had a very easy win over St. Mary's in a one sided game. The Rathkeale boys were never really able to match the brilliant footballing ability of the Abbeyfeale team and were well and truly beaten. Fr. Casey's have now reached the final of the competition and will meet either Carrickerry or St. Senans. Outstanding for them on Sunday were the O'Callaghan brothers, Tony Brown, Jim Flynn, Moss Flynn and Pat Scannell. St. Mary's best players were Sean Harnett, Tom Larkin, Joe Fitzgerald and Niall Hogan.

TEAMS

Fr. Casey's—Jim Flynn, Pat Scannell, Gerard Collins, John Sullivan, Con Callaghan, Gerard Callaghan, Pat Callaghan, Tony Brown, Jerry Healy, George Brown, Billy Sullivan, Gerry Ahern, Billy Murphy, Jim Browne, Moss Flynn.

St. Mary's—Connie Hogan, Joe Kennedy, Mike Cunningham, John Daly, Jim O'Grady, Tim Larkin, John Shire, Joe Fitzgerald, Dennis O'Dea, Connie Naughton, Mike Fitzgerald, John Harnett, Pat Naughton, Billy Neville, Frank Dalton.

Ref.: Mr. Pakie Hayes (Ballyahill).



Mionúir Mhainistir na Féile 1974



Fr. Casey's (Abbeyfeale) who were defeated by St. Mary's (Rathkeale) in the West under 14 Football Final. 1948



Fr. Casey's (Abbeyfeale) who won the West Limerick Senior Football title for the first time in 1978.



The Fr. Casey's under 21 side defeated by Askeaton in the semi-final at Newcastle West on Sunday. 5-11-77

Abbeyfeale 2.7.77

By defeating St. Kieran's of Carrickerry, 1-10 to 0-9, at Newcastle West on Saturday last, Abbeyfeale senior footballers have advanced to the semi-final of the West Limerick championship.

The Abbeyfeale team was: James Lane (goal), David Lane, Bill Doody, Maurice Flynn, Denis Murphy, Patsy Harnett, Pat Scannell, Georgie Leahy, David Keating, Eamonn McCarthy, George Browne, Jim O'Donnell, Kevin Quirke, Mike Scannell and Gearoid O'Callaghan.

The Abbeyfeale Legion of Mary pilgrimage to Lough Derg

WEST LIMERICK G.A.A.

5/7/75

Fr. Casey's tops

At Dromcollogher Gaelic Grounds on Sunday last Fr. Casey's qualified for the West Limerick S.F. final in which they will meet the holders St Kierans, with a fully merited win over Newcastle West. The first half was very evenly contested and the winners led at the break by 2pts to 1pt. Fr. Casey's however took over in second half with the losers goal coming with almost the last kick of the game.

Scorers Fr. Casey's: J. Joy 0-3, G. Browne 0-3, C. Callaghan 1-0, M. Scannell 0-2, G. Leahy 0-1.

NC. West P. Ahern 0-1, M. Kelly 1-0.

Teams Fr Casey's J. Hartigan, B. Doody, B. Scannell, M. Flynn, T. Browne, G. Collins, J. O'Mara, G. Leahy, C. Callaghan P. Harnett, G. Browne, D. Quirke S. Lyons, J. Joy, G. Callaghan.

NC. West W. Kelly B. Murphy, D. Kennedy, J. Cawley, V. White, L. Sullivan, L. Doherty P. Ahern. M. Kelly, T. Doody, D. Mullane, P. Kelly, G. McCoy, G. Sweeney, P. O'Connor.

Subs. L. O'Connor, V. Collery, N. O'Connor.

Ref. Mr. P. Lane (St. Senan's).



Fr. Casey's, West Limerick senior football champions, at Newcastle West on Sunday.

12-7-75

LIMERICK LEADER, SA



Abbeyfeale . . . winners over Newcastle West in the county senior football championship.



Abbeyfeale . . . defeated in the Bord na nOg final at Newcastle West.

A UNIQUE CLUB

says JIMMY COLLINS

Father Casey's G.A.A. club, Abbeyfeale, is in many ways unique. It can boast of having as its founder a very famous man, Fr. Casey, the Land League priest. The club evolved from an Athletic club which was in a flourishing state when the G.A.A. was founded in 1884. Into this club Fr. Casey organised the youth of the parish and encouraged local football matches, which were played on the Inches behind the Courthouse. The team had men of fine physique, athletic, virile and fearless. The pitch was unenclosed so Fr. Casey plied his riding crop for a clear field. He followed the teams in all their matches throughout West Limerick and as far as Doon in the East. His word and presence were more powerful in critical moments than all other forces combined. The club made frequent incursions to Templeglantine, Monagea and Listowel. The major breakthrough came when Abbeyfeale Rovers, as they were known then made their way into the County final, to be beaten by Com-

mercials. Since then many great teams with many great players have left Abbeyfeale to compete in the various championships within the County. In all Abbeyfeale has competed in seventeen Senior Football Finals, one Junior Final, two Under 21 finals, nine Minor finals, two Juvenile finals and one Under 14 final. Indeed in more recent times the Abbeyfeale under age teams have been very successful. This year was no exception. Many will maintain that the Under 14 team that won the County Championship in 1979 was the most promising under age team to compete in the Abbeyfeale colours, in the

Limerick championship. Certainly it is good to be able to report that this team not merely won the Limerick championship but also beat the Cork, Kerry and Clare champions. Though they played teams like Kilrush, Milford, the Cork champions, Knocknagoshel, Ardfert and Listowel in the course of the year, they were never once beaten. This is a team with very promising players. Boys like Martin O'Carroll, Philip Danagher, Thomas Leahy, Tom Mann and John O'Sullivan must surely develop into good seniors. Personally I believe that this team was the most talented team that I have seen in Abbeyfeale and I have no doubt that if the team can be kept together and with proper coaching and motivation, Abbeyfeale will not have to wait very long to win another Senior Championship. The Juveniles, too, though overshadowed by the Under 14 team had a successful year making their way into the West Limerick Final to be beaten by a good St. Mary's (Rathkeale) side.

The most welcome news of the year was the announcement that the club had purchased a playing pitch. For many years now the club had been seeking to purchase suitable land that could be developed into a playing pitch worthy of the parish. The land that has been purchased — seven acres in all — is the Inch, which had previously been leased to the club. It was this same pitch that housed in the mid-sixties some of the greatest players in the country in the Easter Sunday promotions, organised chiefly by Nelius O'Connell. Plans have been already drawn up by the architects for the develop-



Fr. Casey's (Abbeyfeale): Co. Under 14 Football Champions for the 1st time.

BACK (L. to R.): Thomas Leahy, Pat Roche, Phil Danaher, Billie Colbert, John Sullivan, Michael Lyons, Michael Woulfe, Tom Enright, Joe Wrenn (Coach).

FRONT: Martin Carroll (Capt.), Gerard Harnett, Liam Lyons, Johnny Finucane, Thomas Mann, Frank Woulfe, Sean Leahy, Con Sullivan, Dan Fitzgerald, Mikey Mahony, John Morrissey.

ment of the pitch, which will commence within the next few months. Though the cost of the undertaking will be great the officers of the club feel confident that

the Abbeyfeale people at home and abroad will support the project. A Field Committee has been formed and fund-raising has already commenced.

The annual general meeting of the local G.A.A. club was held at St. Ita's Hall on Saturday night last. There was a good attendance.

The club had a very good year in the playing field winning the West championship in the senior grade and runners-up in the under 14 competition. The finances of the club are in a healthy condition. Officers elected for the coming year; chairman, Billy O'Connor (outgoing); vice-chairman, Tony Murphy; joint. hon. treasurers, Joseph (Doe Doe) Wrenn and Jer Murphy; hon. sec., Patrick Mann. Committee: Joe Cotter, C. Cullinane, Maurice Flynn, Jerry O'Riordan, Pat Scannell, James O'Donnell, J. Keating, P. Cullinane, Murt Keating, B. Scannell, Johnny O'Sullivan and David Keating.

Abbeyfeale An 79

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to Fr. Casey's on their recent purchase of their own grounds comprising about six acres. We wish the Abbeyfeale club every success in their venture. **3.2.79**

14/4/79

Abbeyfeale

The book entitled "Glor na Feile", which incorporates the many interesting lectures given at Feile na Feile since its inception in 1974, as well as some of the winning songs, poems and essays, and also including many photographs, will be on sale in the shops next week. The book will be officially launched in Abbeyfeale on Easter Monday evening.

The list of distinguished contributors includes the names of Mairin Uí Dhálaigh, widow of the late Uachtarán, Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh; An tAth O'Fiannachta, Professor of Irish and Welsh in Maynooth; Dr. Gearoid Ó Tuathaigh, Lecturer in History in University College Galway; Una Nic Einri and Sr. Colm Cille, lecturers in Mary Immaculate College of Education; Sr. Evengelista and Padraig O Cearbhaill, Abbeyfeale; Nicolas Breathnach of Newcastle West and Seamus O Ceallaigh of Limerick.

There are articles in Irish on Tadhg Gaelach O Suilleabhain, Micheal Og O Longain, Daithi O Bruadar, Eoghan Rua O Suilleabhain and Tadhg O Neill-Lane, also stories about Spiorad na Bearne, a description of Templeglantine Hedge University, as well as a complete history of Abbeyfeale GAA in English, with many pictures, and also an article and ballad on Fr. Casey, etc.

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP (REPLAY)

Fr. Casey's.....0-5
Glen Rangers.....0-4
Flen Rangers.....0-4

2-6-79

Fr. Casey's and Glen Rangers served up fine fare in atrocious conditions in Newcastle West on Saturday evening last in the replay of the senior football championship. Only a kick of the ball separated the sides all through and the losers must rue the loss of at least two good chances of the equaliser which they deserved. Glen Rangers Rangers will now meet St. Senan's with the winners going forward to meet Newcastle West in the quarter-final.

Scorers - F. Casey's: Stephen Lyons, 0-3; Pat O'Callaghan, 0-1; Gearoid O'Callaghan, 0-1. Glen Rangers: Pat Sweeney, 0-2; Mike Dalton, 0-2.

TEAMS

Fr. Casey's: B. Scannell, J. Keating, D. Lane, M. Flynn, D. Murphy, C. Callaghan, G. Leahy, D. Keating, D. O'Donnell, G. Browne, S. Lyons, P. O'Callaghan, G. O'Callaghan, G. Moloney, J. O'Donnell.

Glen Rangers: M. Costello, J. Regan, J. Hogan, D. Scanlon, C. Noonan, P. O'Shaughnessy, D. Enright, D. Fitzgerald, C. Fitzgerald, M. Dalton, C. Sheehan, J. A. Culhane, M. Fitzgerald, P. Sweeney, P. O'Connor. Sub.: P. Wallace.

Referee: Mr. Niall Duggan.

In the under 21 hurling championship at Rathbane, in what was reported to be a thrilling game, Dromcollogher defeated St. Kieran's by 5-6 to 3-6.

15
2
79

Work has commenced in the erection of a new handball alley at the rear of St. Ita's Hall. All labour is local and AnCO is supervising and helping in the operation. This is a further amenity for the area and it must be welcomed.

Collins, a member of the Hill fam-

Abbeyfeale

Abbeyfeale

Abbeyfeale under-14 footballers had a clear-cut victory over Foynes in the West Limerick final on Sunday week last at Newcastle West. On Thursday night last they took on St. Mary's (Limerick, who have been county champions for the past few years) in this year's county semi-final, and after an exciting game at Askeaton Sportsfield, the Abbeyfeale boys won on the score 2-5 to 1-1.

The Abbeyfeale team on both occasions was as follows: Billy Colbert (goal), Pat Roche, John O'Sullivan, John Finucane, Liam Lyons, Martin Carroll (captain), Michael Lyons, Thomas Leahy, Philip Danaher, Thomas Mann, Gerard Hartnett, Frank Woulfe, Sean Leagy, Michael Woulfe, Thomas Enright. Abbeyfeale will now meet Bruff in the county final at Askeaton—date to be arranged.

An All-night Vigil will take

1.9.79



Fr. Casey's, Abbeyfeale, who defeated Camogue Rovers in the county under 14 football final.

1/9/79

Jan 1980

Page 8

A'feale

The Annual General Meeting of the local G.A.A. Club took place last week and was very well attended. The big event of the year for the club was the purchase of the Inch, the local sportsfield, for £25,000.

Even though the club had over the past number of years "gathered" a good part of this amount, there is still a large shortfall. It is hoped that the public will be generous in helping out financially and otherwise when the new plan for the sportsfield is announced.

The club had a good year in the championships, with four teams competing in the various grades. The under 14s created a record by winning the County Championship for the first time.

The following officers were elected for the coming season:

Chairman, Wm. O'Connor; hon. sec., P. Mann; hon. treas., J. McAuliffe; asst. hon. treas., J. O'Malley; General Committee: Fr. J. Fitzgerald, C.C., P. Landers, D. Keating, J. Riordan, P. Hartnett, B. O'Connor, P. Lyons, D. Morrissey, T. Murphy, C. Cullinane. Field Committee: J. Fitzgibbon, J. Collins, B. Ahern, J. Riordan, T. Murphy, T. Mann, P. J. Lane, C. Cullinane, D. Morrissey, J. Cotter, B. O'Connor.

There will be a second runner

Ab'feale

Abbeyle footballers had their first outing of the current season when they played a draw against Ballysteen at Newcastle West on Sunday last. This West Championship is in the league system, and the Abbeyle side should have got full points as they controlled the play for most of the hour.

The team was as follows: L. White, Thomas O'Connell, David Lane, Maurice Flynn, Denis Murphy, Billy Scannell, Peter Murphy, George Leahy, Jim O'Donnell, Georgie Browne, David Keating, Pat O'Callaghan, D. P. Woulfe, Mike Scannell, D. O'Donnell. Subs.: P. Scannell for G. Leahy, G. O'Callaghan for D. P. Woulfe and D. Quireke for D. O'Donnell.

The death occurred last week of Mr. Paddy Lyons, New Street. He was in his early eighties. A member of a well-known local family, he was prominent in the drapery business of the town up to very recently.

The death also occurred of Mrs. Emma Murphy, relict of Tim Murphy, New St. Sympathy is extended to her relatives.

U-16 FOOTBALL FINAL

Fr. Casey's.....3-9
Glin.....1-3

29/3/81

Fr. Casey's had a very good win over Glin at Rathkeale in a good sporting game, with plenty of good football. Best for the winners were Martin Carroll, W. Colbert, F. Danaher, T. Leahy, and the losers were best served by John McNamara, M. McLoughlin, McAdams and J. Hogan.

31-1-81

Abbeyfeale

The annual general meeting of the local G.A.A. club was held at St. Ita's Hall, on Saturday night last. There was an extra large attendance at the meeting. Even though the club were not among the winners in the championships, nevertheless all teams gave a good account of themselves and with a bit of luck at least the championship might have come. The club caters for under 12's, under 14's, minors and seniors and in general the year was a satisfactory one for the club. The club's finances are in reasonably good condition despite costs in travelling, etc. The following officers were elected for the coming year: chairman, Billy O'Connor, Mountmahon; vice chairman, Tony Murphy; hon. sec., Billy Ahern; hon. treas., Dave Morrissey; P.R.O., Denis Murphy.

Minor club: chairman, Rev. J. Fitzgerald, C.C.; hon. sec., Joseph Wren; general committee: Tommy Mann, Patrick Mann, Denis O'Connor, Joe Colls, D. Harnett, Patsy Cullinane, Pat Scannill, Billy Scannell.

Manager senior football, Patrick Mann; managers minor team, Joe Wren and D. Harnett; managers juvenile teams, F. J. Fitzgerald and John Fitzgibbon, N.T. Under 12 and under 14 teams, Dave Morrissey, Pat O'Callaghan, N.T., and Tom Browne, N.T.

Abbeyfeale

16-5-81

On Saturday night last, our under 21 footballers made their exit from the championship when they lost to Carrickerry, being beaten 3-8 to 1-5. Abbeyfeale took a long time to settle down in the first half and found themselves trailing by 2-5 to 0-2 at the interval. The second half saw a much improved performance, but poor shooting and a Carrickerry penalty near the end put paid to any chance of victory. Sean Enright, in goal, made some fine saves and could not be faulted for any of the goals. Eamon Dalton, Mike Lyons, Mike Quirke and John Lyons were very solid all through in defence. Paddy Lane and Eamon Roche worked very hard in midfield. John Joe Foley was the best of the forwards.

Our under 14s were beaten 2-2 to 1-0 by a very big Kilcornan side last Monday night. Most prominent for Abbeyfeale were Redmond Quigley, John Hartnett, Donal Quinn, Dan O'Connor and John Harnett.

FIXTURES

Thursday, 14th: under 13, v. Foynes, in Foynes.

Monday, 18th May: Under 12s play a championship match in Ardagh at 7.30 p.m.

Abbeyfeale

7/5/81

Our senior footballers were beaten 2-8 to 1-2 in the first round of the championship by Askeaton last Sunday. The game was played in appalling conditions and the quality of the play was poor. We now face a 3-way play off for the remaining semi-final position. A big improvement on last Sunday's performance is required and with a view to this training will take place each Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7.15 p.m. A full turnout is essential.

The u. 14s and u. 16s both had their disappointments last week when Foynes failed to fulfil their scheduled fixtures.

On Saturday night next, the u. 21s are involved in a championship match in Dromoclogher. This match is fixed for 7.15 p.m.

On the same night the senior team play host to Naas. The time of this match is likely to be 5.30 p.m. This game in the Inch should be well worth a visit when one recalls the very entertaining game in Naas between the two clubs last September. There are no underage matches scheduled for next week at this moment.

Abbeyfeale

30/5/81

Our senior footballers were beaten 2-6 to 1-6 by Rockchapel in a tournament game last weekend. In a very close game, played in driving rain, Abbeyfeale led until ten minutes from time. Rockchapel got a vital goal near the end and just held on in an exciting finish. Most prominent in a good overall performance were Con O'Callaghan, T. J. O'Connell, David Keating and Billy Scannell.

The under 13s lost by 4-2 to 1-2 in a Community Games match against Foynes. Nevertheless we saw some very promising performances from Timothy Hennessy, Colm O'Donnell and Thomas Fitzgerald.

Next Sunday our seniors play Moyvane in a tournament game in Athea at 7.30 p.m. They were due to play Ballysteen in the championship this weekend but this has been deferred until Saturday week (June 6) due to a number of our players being involved with Limerick in a Munster championship match.

At the A.G.M., of the Brucee G.A.A. club, held recently, the following officers were elected for the coming year:-

President: Rev. Fr. Moran, P.P.; Vice-Presidents: Michael O'Brien Snr., and Rev. Fr. Brown; Chairman: Michael Mullane; Vice-Chairman: Mike O'Brien; Secretary: Seamus Sexton; Assistant Secretary: John Moloney; Treasurers: Paddy Carey and Jim O'Brien; P.R.o.: Joseph Morrissey.

It was decided at the meeting to enter the following teams for 1981. Senior Hurling, Junior Hurling, Junior Football, Under-21 Hurling and Football. Also to enter all Juvenile competitions. 31.1.81

Sympathy is extended to the families of the following who died

23/5/81 Abbeyfeale

Our senior footballers beat Brosna by 1-8 to 1-6 in a friendly match at the Inch last Tuesday night. This was an experimental Abbeyfeale team and there were some very encouraging performances from players making their senior debut, namely, Eamonn Roche and Derry Quirke.

The seniors continue their preparation for the championship with a tournament game against Rockchapel in Mountcollins this Friday evening.

The under 12s were beaten 4-7 to 2-6 by Castleisland. In a very enjoyable game we saw promising performances from John Kelly, Joe Thompson, Thomas Fitzgerald and David Morrissey.

Abbeyfeale boys school beat their Rathkeale counterparts 5-2 to 1-3. Amongst those to catch the eye were Noel Roche, Billy Riordan, Diarmuid Quinn and John Moloney.

Bruff 24/9/83

The oft-quoted poetry lines "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun" spring to mind when one thinks of Bruff's last two junior football championship games, but for all the wrong reasons. For the matches against Galtee Gaels and Kilmallock, howling gales and torrential rain made a mockery of football. There wasn't a dog to be seen, but the sanity of all the Irishmen involved would have to be called into question!

The result of the last game was: Bruff, 0-7; Kilmallock, 1-2. Both games were spirited performances, but there will have to be an even better performance if the team are to advance past Ballylanders in Knocklong on next Sunday. The team who played Kilmallock last week was: T. Hehir, M. Carmody, T. O'Sullivan, A. Gubbins, D. McEniry, T. O'Sullivan, W. Bulfin, D. Kiely, G. Hayes, B. Horan, D. Hehir, R. O'Leary, G. Browne, J. Power, M. Hehir. Subs.: S. Bulfin, J. Leahy, P. Hehir, G. Hehir, J. Bulfin. At the end of the game, Anthony Gubbins suffered a serious leg injury when he went over on an ankle. It is to be hoped that he will be back in action again shortly.

The under 14s who are interested in taking part in a club league are requested to be at the field on next Saturday at 10.45 a.m. Parents are asked to provide transport where it is needed.

Club GAA

12.5.84 Abbeyfeale

The Abbeyfeale under 14 team scored a great victory over Newcastle West at Tournafulla last Monday evening. Final score Abbeyfeale 3-1, NCW 0-3.

Abbeyfeale lined out as follows: Bernard McMahon, Maurice Lyons, Denis Collins, Thomas Hanlon, Ger McCarthy, Ml. Cullinane, David O'Connor, Paul Surgue, Liam Quirke, Michael Scannell, Donal Murphy, Barry Horgan, Seanie Naughton, Gerdi Thompson, Chris McGill.

Although defeated 0-10 to 0-6 the Abbeyfeale senior team showed great improvement when they played Ballysteen last Saturday evening.

Abbeyfeale lined out as follows: Larry White, Liam Murphy, Derry Quirke, Jim Browne, Billy Colbert, Jim Finnucane, Mike Quirke, Jim O'Donnell, George Browne, John Colbert, Maurice Flynn, LIAM Sweeney, Pat Murphy, Billy ORourke for Liam Murphy (injured).

An important meeting of the GAA Club will be held in St. Ita's Hall on Friday night 18/5/84.

Three members of the Abbeyfeale under 16 team Tom Fitzgerald, Andrew Mahony and Sean Murphy were on the West Limerick panel which was defeated by Limerick City at Askeaton recently.

Bruff 24/9/84

There was a marvellous reception in Bruff on Wednesday night last for the All-Ireland minor champions. There was a huge crowd in the street when the team was welcomed by Canon Culhane and club chairman, Anthony Gubbins. After the team was paraded through the town they were treated to a meal, compliments of the Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Bank and Microtherm Ltd. The night was completed by a disco in the community centre.

Celebrations will continue on this Sunday when the club hosts a supper social at Bulgaden Castle. Earlier in the day the seniors will be hoping to reach the penultimate stage of the championship when they play Cappamore in the Gaelic Grounds. Although the team is a very youthful one, they have prepared well under coach Willie O'Brien, and are hopeful of putting up a good performance.

The death has taken place of Mr. Patrick Farrell of Ballynanty, Bruff. Paddy was a life-long G.A.A. supporter and played on the fancied Bruff senior hurling teams of the early twenties. In fact, Paddy played hurling well into his forties. Sincere sympathy is extended to his son, Pat; relatives and friends. 1-12-84

Miss Lorraine Garry of Bruff

Abbeyfeale

23-5-81
Our senior footballers beat Brosna by 1-8 to 1-6 in a friendly match at the Inch last Tuesday night. This was an experimental Abbeyfeale team and there were some very encouraging performances from players making their senior debut, namely, Eamonn Roche and Derry Quirke.

The seniors continue their preparation for the championship with a tournament game against Rockchapel in Mountcollins this Friday evening.

The under 12s were beaten 4-7 to 2-6 by Castleisland. In a very enjoyable game we saw promising performances from John Kelly, Joe Thompson, Thomas Fitzgerald and David Morrissey.

Abbeyfeale boys school beat their Rathkeale counterparts 5-2 to 1-3. Amongst those to catch the eye were Noel Roche, Billy Rioran, Diarmuid Quinn and John Moloney.

Abbeyfeale

23-5-81
The sudden passing on Thursday last of Timmy O'Rourke, The Square, caused widespread regret not alone to his family but to the general public in the area. In his 32 years as a vet, he made many friends and was held in high esteem by all. He was chairman of Abbeyfeale coursing club for over 20 years and was responsible with his committee for making Abbeyfeale coursing one of the best in Ireland. In his teen years he represented Connaught in schools rugby and was also selected for Galway in senior football. He was also prominent with Abbeyfeale GAA and was a member of the 1947 team which won the county final. There was a large and representative crowd at the removal of his remains and funeral at which a guard of honour of his former GAA team mates and others together with his coursing club colleagues paid their final respects. Sympathy is extended to his wife Norrie, sons Jack, Conor and Jim, and daughters Marie and Ann, brother Noel and sister Madeline.

Abbeyfeale

12-9-81
Next Sunday is a big day for Abbeyfeale G.A.A. when our under 16s play South Liberties in the county final. This game takes place in Askeaton with a 6.30 p.m. start. This is the team that won the county U-14 two years ago and we hope to return with the U-16 crown next Sunday. After a slow start to their season, our lads have improved with each game and will certainly give a good account of themselves on Sunday. We wish them the best of luck.

A bus will travel to the match, details of which can be obtained from any committee member.

Athea beat Abbeyfeale by two points in the replay of the 7-a-side tournament last Sunday in a very exciting game.

Church Street/New Street won the local 7-a-side, beating 'Caher' by 2-5 to 0-0 in a one-sided final.

Abbeyfeale

12-9-81
Hill Gift, owned by Dan Lane, Abbeyfeale Hill, had a second win in 10 days when successful at Limerick on Monday night in the good time of 30.28 secs. This promising 17 month old bitch by local stud dog, Ballydonnell Sam, has been sold for £1,000.

Abbeyfeale under 16 footballers gave a creditable display of good clean football when going under by 1-3 to 1-1 in the County Final at Askeaton on Sunday evening last, to a top class South Liberties team. Abbeyfeale team was: John Morrissey (goal), Michael Lyons, John Finnuane, Pat Roche, Billy Colbert, Martin Carroll, Liam Lyons, Philip Danaher, Thomas Leahy, Sean Leahy, Gerard Harnett, Thomas Mann, Michael Woulfe, Liam Sweeney, George Leahy.

GAA ROUND-UP

13-6-81 CLUB Abbeyfeale

On Saturday night last our seniors defeated Ballysteen by 1-6 to 0-2 in the championship. Abbeyfeale, aided by a strong wind, took a long time to settle down, and their half-time lead of one point didn't seem enough. A brilliant goal from Pat O'Callaghan 10 seconds into the second half gave Abbeyfeale the boost they needed and they held out against a very physical Ballysteen team in a tense finish. This was a very gutsy team effort with Bill Doody, Pat O'Callaghan and David Keating worthy of special mention.

Team: L. White, B. Doody, M. Quirke, D. Quirke, M. Flynn, P. Murphy, C. O'Callaghan, D. Keating, J. O'Donnell, P. Lane, P. O'Callaghan, E. Scannell, E. Roche, M. O'Rourke, D. Hartnett. Subs., D. Murphy and M. Lyons.

The seniors rounded off a great week-end by beating a highly rated Moyvane side in the Athea tournament by 1-7 to 0-2. A brilliant midfield performance by David Keating was an inspiration to the rest of the team who all performed ably in this very convincing win. They now play Glin in the semi-final.

Team: L. White, D. Murphy, C. O'Callaghan, M. Quirke, M. Flynn, P. Murphy, B. Scannell, D. Keating, J. O'Donnell, P. Lane, E. Scannell, E. Roche, D. Hartnett, M. O'Rourke, M. Lyons. Subs., D. Quirke, D. Reid.

GAA Round

18-7-81 Abbeyfeale

Abbeyfeale senior footballers beat Boherbue by 3-8 to 2-10 in the final of the Boherbue Tournament last Friday night.

Abbeyfeale, who led throughout, seemed to be headed for a comfortable win when they led by seven points with 10 minutes remaining, but two goals from Boherbue meant a very tense finish with Abbeyfeale holding out for a deserved victory. Team: J. Lane, D. Quirke, B. Scannell, D. Murphy; M. Quirke, P. Murphy, M. Flynn; J. O'Donnell, D. Keating, D. Joy, G. Browne, M. Lyons, D. Harnett, D. O'Donnell, E. Scannell. Subs.: D. P. Woulfe, P. Lane.

Abbeyfeale play Glin this Saturday evening (7.30) in the quarter final of the senior championship in Askeaton.

Our minor footballers were knocked out of the championship by Knockaderry last Sunday, losing by 2-9 to 2-5. Abbeyfeale had as much of the play as the winners but we saw a very poor performance from our forwards and they were easily contained throughout. Best for Abbeyfeale were, backs, Bill Hartnett and Martin Carroll and midfielders, Derry Quirke and Brendan Roche.

The under 16s beat Rathkeale 2-6 to 0-7 to go through to the semi-final of the West. Best for Abbeyfeale were Phillip Danagher and Thomas Leahy.

The under 12s drew with Knockaderry, 2-1 each and the replay takes place this Thursday night. We were best served here by David Morrissey, Noel Roche and Muiris Mahoney.

13-6-81 Fr. Casey's Best in Robust Decider

Fr. Casey's1-8
Ballysteen0-9

Fr. Casey's advanced in the senior football championship at Shanagolden on Saturday evening with a hard earned 2 point margin over Ballysteen. After a close and exciting first half, in which there was little between the sides, Ballysteen conceded a goal in the early moments of the second half which ultimately proved the winning score of the game.

Opting for an open-style football, with some beautifully contrived movements, the winners held their lead with the losers fighting back every inch of the way. A last minute flourish by Ballysteen nearly swung the game their way when a tremendous shot thundered off the woodwork back into play and was safely collected by the Fr. Casey's defence and sent to safer areas.

Referee: Mike O'Sullivan (St. Kieran's).

Full marks to Master McCarthy ^{20/6/81}

BY CONOR KEANE

AFTER A distinguished career spanning 40 years, Mr. Eamon McCarthy, headmaster of Abbeyfeale Boys National School, retired this Wednesday.

Master McCarthy, as he is known to parents and pupils alike, was almost overcome with emotion at a special retirement ceremony at the 'Boy's School'.

After a concelebrated Mass he was presented with a video tape recorder by Rt. Rev. Monsignor Dan Gallagher, P.P., on behalf of past and present pupils, staff and the board of management.

Faithful

Mgr. Gallagher said Master McCarthy had a long and faithful career and it was very sad to be losing a man of his calibre. He wished him every happiness and contentment in his years of retirement.

The jovial Monsignor then quipped: "If I am ever caught out at confessions and have to miss a match you can record it for me."

In a very touching gesture, Master McCarthy's wife, Marie, was presented with a bouquet by 11-year-old John Moloney.

Some humour was brought to the occasion by Mary Joe Prenderville who



Rt. Rev. Mgr. Dan Gallagher, P.P., Abbeyfeale, and chairman of the board, Abbeyfeale National School, presents a video system to retiring headmaster Mr. Eamon McCarthy, at a special function at the school this week. Also pictured is Mrs. Marie McCarthy.

recited a light hearted but warm eulogy on the "Master" which she had composed. Mary Joe gave her hero some advice for retirement: "Twas bad

enough to lose the hair, by God don't lose the head."

Vice-principal Mr. Tom Brown added: "He will be missed in the staff-room

where he told many the good yarn."

When it came to Master McCarthy's turn to speak he had to fight back the tears. He summed up his feelings

when he said: "I never thought I would break like this."

He then said: "Ladies and gentlemen, and when I say 'gentlemen' I include every boy I ever taught because they were all gentlemen..."

He also paid a tribute to the present staff saying that while they were there the parents of Abbeyfeale need never be afraid of what happened to their children.

In his 40 years teaching he taught in Tournafulla, Killeedy and in Clash, Athea, before coming to Abbeyfeale. His first teaching post came when he acted as a "sub" to Mrs. James Collins. She was on maternity leave, giving birth to her son, Gerry, the present Minister for Justice.

Railway Cup

Mr. McCarthy has the distinction of being the only Abbeyfeale man to win a Railway Cup football medal with Munster. He was also a member of the last Abbeyfeale team to win a senior county championship, in 1947.

The family teaching tradition is being carried on to its third generation. Master McCarthy's parents were also teachers in Abbeyfeale.

His daughter, Aine, is an N.T., while his son, Eamon, is a final year P.E. student.

Abbeyfeale

Abbeyfeale senior footballers advanced to the semi-final of the West when they beat Glin 0-12 to 0-9 last weekend. Playing with the wind in the first half, Abbeyfeale had far too many wides and led by only 8 points to 6 at the break. They withstood a lot of pressure in the second half and ran out narrow but deserving winners in the end.

The semi-final against Askeaton has been provisionally fixed for Saturday, July 18. Team: L. White, D. Quirke, C. O'Callaghan, D. Murphy, M. Flynn, P. Murphy, B. Scannell, D. Keating, J. O'Donnell, G. Browne, P. O'Callaghan, M. Lyons, M. O'Rourke, D. O'Donnell, D. Hartnett. Subs.: G. O'Callaghan, D. P. Woulfe, E. Scannell.

The weekend before last our seniors had a good win in the final of the Boherbue Tournament, beating the local side by one point.

The minor footballers were beaten by Knockaderry in the championship. This was a game we could have won as we had most of the play but we witnessed a very uninspiring display from our forwards. Best for Abbeyfeale were midfielders Derry Quirke and Brendan Roche.

The under-16s advanced to the semi-final of the West when they beat Rathkeale by 2-5 to 1-3. Our best players were Philip Danagher and Thomas Leahy.

Our under-12s drew with Knockaderry during the week despite being short a number of players. Amongst those to shine were David Morrissey, Muiris Mahoney and Noel Roche.

Fixture: Abbeyfeale Juniors versus Dromcollogher in Rathkeale this Saturday night in the Championship.

Abbeyfeale

Abbeyfeale senior footballers were knocked out of the championship last weekend losing by 1-8 to 0-7 against Askeaton. Askeaton led by 0-7 to 0-1 at half time having played with the wind. Abbeyfeale completely dominated the second half but missed many scoring chances through poor finishing. Nevertheless, with five minutes remaining the score stood at 0-8 to 0-7 with Abbeyfeale rampant and looking likely winners. Then Askeaton broke downfield and scored a goal that settled the issue. Best for Abbeyfeale were Derry Quirke, Maurice Flynn, George Browne and Pat O'Callaghan. Team - L. White, D. Quirke, C. O'Callaghan, D. Murphy, B. Scannell, P. Murphy, M. Flynn (capt.), J. O'Donnell, D. Keating, P. O'Callaghan, G. Browne, M. Lyons, D. P. Woulfe, D. O'Donnell, D. Hartnett. Subs. E. Scannell, M. Quirke.

Fixtures - Saturday, July 25, under 16's take part in football blitz in Milford.

Sunday, July 26 - senior footballers play Rockchapel GAA tournament, 7.30 start.

Work on the development of the "Inch" is progressing very satisfactorily thanks to the trojan efforts of the fields committee. The new pitch area has been ploughed and levelled and the spectator banking has also been completed. Seeding will now take place and its hoped to be playable next spring. Plans for a pavilion, etc., are now being looked at and it is hoped that it will be finished for the re-opening of the pitch. With this in mind a fund raising committee will be set up in the near future, and we hope to have more details of this in the next few weeks.

Abbeyfeale

Fr. Denis McEnery, Main St., and Fr. Sean Murphy, Church St., are home from the U.S.A. on holidays. Fr. Sean Danaher, Church St., has spent a short holiday at home. He celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination recently in Birmingham.

Congratulations to the Community Games under 15 badminton team on winning their fourth successive county title at Foynes last week.

The senior football team had an exciting and well deserved win over old championship rivals St. Kieran's, by 2-7 to 1-7 in the final of the Athea Carnival tournament on Sunday evening last. The team was: J. Lane (goal), T. O'Connell, D. Lane, M. Quirke, J. Keating, M. Flynn, T. Kenney, J. O'Donnell, D. O'Donnell, D. P. Woulfe, P. Callaghan, R. Quirke, M. O'Rourke, D. Keating, J. Lyons. Subs.: P. Murphy for T. Kenny, E. Scannell for D. P. Woulfe, D. Hartnett for J. Lyons.



28-8-82

The Abbeyfeale team beaten by Castlemahon in the West minor football final.

9-10-82
Abbeyfeale
 Abbeyfeale Vocational School had a narrow but deserved win over Rathkeale V.S. in the semi final of the Vocational Schools senior football championship at Rathkeale on Wednesday, Sept. 29.
 The final score, Abbeyfeale 2-8, Rathkeale 3-4. The Abbeyfeale team was: D. O'Shea (goal), S. Flynn, J. Murphy (capt.), J. O'Connor, D. Quinn, S. Curtin, J. Keane, P. J. Walsh, P. Fitzmaurice, J. Murphy, J. Sheehan, D. Mulcahy, J. Horan, Ger Kelly, A. Brown.
 Abbeyfeale greyhounds keen

20/11/82

Abbeyfeale

The All Priests Show will be presented at the Convent Hall on Friday night, November 26, beginning at 8.15 sharp.

There will also be special guests from television and radio, including Bella Connell, Tony Hegarty, John O'Shea, Noel Healy and Freddie Reynolds. This promises to be an excellent concert and should not be missed. Details in advertising columns.

The local Coiste na Gaeilge are holding a book display (Taispeantas Leabhair) at the Community Centre on Tuesday next, Nov. 23 from 2 to 8 p.m. The display will include books, Christmas cards and posters in the Irish language.

The function is worth support especially for those interested in their native Irish language.

The annual Scor competition was held at the Devon Inn recently. In the Polka Set section the Abbeyfeale set qualified for the final to be held in Rathkeale on November 19. The set comprised of: Norette Riordan and Sean Harnett; Carol Sweeney and Sean Murphy; Helena Scannell and Donal Murphy; Margarie Fitzgerald and David Harnett.

Although minor footballers were beaten 2-6 to 0-5 by South Liberties in the county minor final at Askeaton on Sunday last, they nevertheless gave a good account of themselves. The final score does not do the Abbeyfeale side justice and the game was much closer than the score suggests.

The Abbeyfeale defeated finalists were: James Collins (goal); Bill Harnett, Ter O'Mahony, Liam Lyons; Billy Colbert, Martin O'Carroll, James Finucane (capt.); Philip Danaher, Tom Leahy; Sean Leahy, John Colbert, Gerard Doody; Michael Lyons, Gerard Harnett and Michael Woulfe. Sub.: Liam Sweeney for Liam Lyons.

There was a big crowd in attendance at the senior citizens' party at the Community Centre on Sunday last.

23/10/82
COI
Abbeyfeale

Last week-end was a sad one in the Abbeyfeale area.

Early on Sunday morning Leon Paul Mendel, London, who earlier this year married an Abbeyfeale girl, Miss Madeline O'Rourke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paschal O'Rourke, was fatally injured in a two car collision at Dromtrasna Collins. The couple were on holidays in Abbeyfeale and were due to return to London this week.

On Monday evening at about 5.30 p.m., Eugene Sweeney, Knockbrack (aged 62), died within 200 yards of his home. He was a member of a well-known local family and was closely associated with the G.A.A. as a player in the forties, and a member of the local G.A.A. committee.

The death also took place of Julia Scanlon (nee Murphy), Knockbrack, wife of Timmy Scanlon. She was a member of a well-known Knocknagoshel family. Sympathy is extended to her husband, family, relatives.

The death also took place of Nora, relict of Moss O'Connor, Knocknasna, on Saturday last.

The deceased lady was a member of a well-known and popular Mountcollins family.

The marriage took place recently of Joe Murphy, hardware merchant, Clash, and Miss Karen Goulding, Newcastle West.

The marriage also took place last week at Church of the Assumption, Abbeyfeale, of Miss Noreen Browne, Hill View, Knockbrack, and James Anglim, Ballinvira, Adare.

Abbeyfeale Vocational School under 16 footballers were worthy if unexpected winners of the West Limerick Vocational Schools senior championship at Abbeyfeale sportsfield last week, beating Shanagolden in decisive fashion. Final score, Abbeyfeale Vocational School 4-4, Shanagolden 0-2.

Abbeyfeale team: D. O'Shea (goal), J. Murphy, D. O'Grady, J. O'Rahilly, D. Quinn, S. Curtin, M. Delee, J. Keane, A. Browne, D. Flynn, J. Murphy, P. O'Donnell, Michael O'Mahony, P. Brosnan, M. Horan. Subs, J. Keane for D. Flynn.

The team now qualifies for the county final.

The Solemn Novena will begin



ABBEYFEALE FR. CASEYS — BEATEN IN BOTH THE WEST AND THE COUNTY MINOR FINALS 1982
 BACK ROW (L. to R.): Gerard Hartnett, Mike Lyons, Terry O'Mahoney, Liam Lyons, Philip Danaher, Jas. Collins, Bill Hartnett, Gerard Doody.

Abbeyfeale

There was a good attendance at the Abbeyfeale A.G.M., held at St. Ita's Hall, on Saturday last.

Even though the Club did not figure in the champions list, nevertheless all the seven teams, under 12s, 14s and 16s, minors, under 21s and seniors gave a good account of themselves in the different grades. The minor team was beaten in the county final after an excellent display in all their games.

The Club's finances are in a healthy state despite rising expenses. The following are the officers for the coming season:

Chairman, Billy O'Connor; vice chairman, Maurice Flynn; hon. treasurer, Denis O'Connor; hon. secretary, John Colbert; registrar, Jerry Griffin. General committee: Billy Ahern, John Fitzgibbon, Tommy Mann, Christy Cullinane, Jim Finucane, Michael Lyons, Joe Cotter, Des Harnett, Dave Morrissey, Joe Wren, Kevin O'Rourke, Denis Murphy.

Ab'feale

The Corpus Christi procession took place on Thursday evening last under ideal weather conditions. A very big crowd from the town and parish took part in the procession from the Church to the Square and back to the church grounds where Benediction took place in the open.

Mons. D. Gallagher, P.P., V.G., bore the Blessed Sacrament through the streets. Also taking part were Fr. Joe Kennedy, C.C., Fr. Jack Fitzgerald, C.C. and Fr. Patrick McEnery. The houses along the procession route were beautifully decorated with statues, Holy Pictures, flowers and greenery.

Abbeyfeale senior footballers beat Rockchapel in the replay of the final of the Mountcollins Carnival Football Tournament, 1-5 to 0-4. The winning team was: Billy Colbert (goal), Jim Finucane, Derry Quirke, Billy Scannell, Maurice Flynn, Peter Murphy, Eamonn Scannell, Jim O'Donnell, Tom Sugrue, Dan O'Donnell, David Keating, Dee Harnett, John Joe Foley, Gerry Griffin, John Colbert.

Over 200 students from the

Abbeyfeale

Feile na Feile, which took place on last week-end, was very successful. On Friday night at the Community Centre a full house enjoyed a very good programme which included the selection of this year's Cailin Gaelach Duiche Ide. She was Caitlín Ní Chonchuir, Ballagh, Abbeyfeale.

The Trath na gCeist (Question Time) was won by Convent of Mercy B team which included Cait McNally, Cait Ní Bhruair, Graine Ní Liain, Deirdre Ní Dhomhnaill. An excellent 2 act play by the boys of Abbeyfeale National School went down very well with the big audience.

On Saturday night, at Leens Hotel, Nicholas Breathnach, Newcastle West, gave a most interesting lecture on the folklore of Duiche Ide.

On Sunday the 12 o'clock Mass was in Irish with O Riada music. In all, a very enjoyable week-end.

At the Kerry Novice Swimming Gala held at Tralee on Sunday last the following entrants took part: Gerard Foley, James McCarthy, Emer Thompson, Anna McEnright, Bernie Roche, Tara Gleeson, Fiona Doyle, Patrick O'Connell and Deirdre Prenderville. All contestants gave a very good display and Gerard Foley took third place in the finals 25 metres front crawl. Anybody interested in this type of sport should contact Sean McDonnell, Bridge St.

A very representative meeting took place at St. Ita's Hall on Monday night last to discuss the erection of a sports complex at the local G.A.A. grounds.

Committees have been elected to finalise fund raising activities for the project. The G.A.A. Fields Committee, who have already £39,000 invested in the Inch Sportsfield, are providing the site for this project which will be a community run complex.

Abbeyfeale Juvenile Athletic Club wish to thank all those who supported them so generously in their collection on Sunday last. The following children won 25 prizes between them on Sunday at Cloonalour Open Sports in Tralee: Marie Collins, Cathy Collins, Michael Cullinane, Michael Cotter, Marie Quinn, Freda Danaher, Carmel Daly, Sinead O'Neill, Maurice Cullinane, Chris McGill, Timmy Cotter, Nigel McGill, Barry Horgan, Stephen Huxley, Jimmy Mahony.

The annual collection for the schools of the parish will take place this Sunday at each of the Masses.

Abbeyfeale Senior Footballers had a very busy week-end. On Friday night they defeated Mountcollins in the local carnival tournament. On Saturday night they went under to St. Kieran's (Carrickerry) in the league championship and on Sunday night played a draw with Rockchapel in the final of the Mountcollins Tournament final.

Recent wedding in the area were Gerard Foley, Ballagh and Sheila

Abbeyfeale

The annual general meeting of the Abbeyfeale GAA took place at St. Ita's Hall on Saturday of last week. There was a very good attendance. Officers elected for the coming season: chairman, Billy O'Connor; vice chairman, Liam Murphy; hon. treasurer, Denis O'Connor; hon. sec., Jerry O'Sullivan. General committee: Pat Lyons, James Collins, Maurice Flynn, Michael O'Donnell, Mossie O'Donnell, Paddy Reidy, Dave Morrissey, Jerry Riordan, Pat B. Harnett, Dan J. Casey, Jimmy Lenihan, Patsy Harnett, Jim O'Donnell, Michael Lyons, John Colbert, Tommy Mann, Kevin O'Rourke, Dan O'Donnell, Paddy Lacy O'Connor, Dee Harnett, Dave Keating, Tom Browne, John Fitzgibbon, Billy Ahern.

Selection Committee: senior team — Patsy Harnett, Michael O'Donnell, Dave Morrissey, Tommy Mann, Jerry O'Sullivan.

Under 12 team, Tom Browne, P. J. Lane, Dan Joe Casey. Under 14 team — Pat Lyons, John Colbert, P. J. Lane, Pat B. Harnett. Under 15 team — James Collins, Dave Morrissey. Under 16 team — Billy Ahern, Tommy Mann.

Next meeting of the club will be held at St. Ita's Hall, on this Friday night, February 17, at 9 p.m. All members of the new committee are requested to attend.

Abbeyfeale

At Atlea on Sunday last, Abbeyfeale Novice footballers had a good win over St. Senan's (Foynes) in the first round of the championship. Final score, Abbeyfeale 1-8, St. Senan's 1-2. The Abbeyfeale team was as follows: James Collins (goal), Murt Keating, Jim Quirke, Liam Murphy (capt.), Liam Lyons, J. D. Hartnett, Mike Lyons, Jer McCarthy, Maurice Colbert, Liam Sweeney, Jerry Murphy, Michael Scannell, Michael Woulfe. Training arrangements for the under-aged teams are: u.14 team—on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. Under 15 & 16 teams—on Sundays at 12 noon. All players are expected to attend.

Abbeyfeale

G.A.A. 7/4/84

The Abbeyfeale senior football team had a good win over Brosna at Abbeyfeale on Saturday evening. The final score was 1-9 to 0-3. Abbeyfeale lined out as follows: Liam Sweeney; Bill Harnett, Derry Quirke, Maurice Flynn, Billy Colbert; Jim McDonnell, Martin Woulfe; Michael Woulfe, David Keating, John Colbert, John Joe Foley, Liam Murphy, Eamonn Dalton. Sub. Billy O'Rourke.

Training continues on each Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7.15 p.m.

The Abbeyfeale team will play Mountcollins on this Friday evening at 7 p.m.

84.

The late Jack McEnery, Abbeyfeale

AN APPRECIATION

IT WAS WITH very deep regret that greyhound enthusiasts, not alone in his native West Limerick, but all over the country, learned of the unexpected death of Jack McEnery, Abbeyfeale — "Jack Mac" as he was affectionately known.

A coursing man to the tips of his fingers, he was acknowledged as a first class judge of a greyhound and when he backed one it was almost invariably the red light for the bookmaker.

All through the coursing season for the past forty-odd years, he attended meetings week in and week out, particularly in Cork, Kerry and Limerick, and the day or distance never bothered him.

The benefits of his hard-earned experience were never kept to himself. He passed them on to all those who became acquainted with him, especially his countless friends and confidants from all quarters of the land.

Jack was a most likeable and friendly person loved by all, young and old, and a gentleman of the highest order in every respect. His hostelry on Main Street was a mecca for all true lovers of sport. In his youth, he was a noted athlete and as a runner at sports meetings won many coveted medals and trophies. He was also a very good Gaelic footballer and won a county championship medal with Abbeyfeale in the mid-forties.

The sporting world will be all the poorer for his untimely passing.

Abbeyfeale Coursing Club will miss him most of all. For almost twenty years he held the position of assistant secretary and it is indisputable that no member of that hard-working committee gave as much time or worked harder for the club than Jack. He ran the non-stop draw virtually on his own and over the years this brought in thousands of pounds to the coffers of the

say if coursing would have survived in Abbeyfeale.

He was the first person to moot the idea of Corn na Feile, which is now recognised as one of the foremost events in the coursing calendar and it will stand forever as a monument to his brilliant foresight.

As a testament to his popularity, a large concourse of people, representative of all walks of life, attended his funeral on both days. Included were members of Bord na gCon, the Irish Coursing Club and many other sporting bodies. Members of his beloved Abbeyfeale Club, the G.A.A. and the Athletic Club formed a guard of honour and marched all the way to Reilig Ide Naofa where his mortal remains were laid to rest.

Very sincere sympathy is tendered to his brother, Fr. Denis (Minnesota, U.S.A.), to Frank (Limerick) and to his sister Peggy. Sympathy too to his sister-in-law, Pat, nephews Brian and Pat, and his many friends and relations on this sad occasion.

May his gentle soul rest at the right hand of God.

Club GAA

12.5.84

Abbeyfeale

The Abbeyfeale under 14 team scored a great victory over Newcastle West at Tournafulla last Monday evening. Final score Abbeyfeale 3-1, NCW0-3.

Abbeyfeale lined out as follows: Bernard McMahon, Maurice Lyons, Denis Collins, Thomas Hanlon, Ger McCarthy, Ml. Cullinane, David O'Connor, Paul Surgue, Liam Quirke, Michael Scannell, Donal Murphy, Barry Horgan, Seanie Naughton, Gerdi Thompson, Chris McGill.

Although defeated 0-10 to 0-6 the Abbeyfeale senior team showed great improvement when they played Ballysteen last Saturday evening.

Abbeyfeale lined out as follows: Larry White, Liam Murphy, Derry Quirke, Jim Browne, Billy Colbert, Jim Finnucane, Mike Quirke, Jim O'Donnell, George Browne, John Colbert, Maurice Flynn, Liam Sweeney, Pat Murphy, Billy O'Rourke for Liam Murphy (injured).

An important meeting of the GAA Club will be held in St. Ita's Hall on Friday night 18/5/84.

Three members of the Abbeyfeale under 16 team Tom Fitzgerald, Andrew Mahony and Sean Murphy were on the West Limerick panel which was defeated by Limerick City at Askeaton recently.

Abbeyfeale

Senior football in Abbeyfeale got a great boost at Newcastle West last Saturday evening when the senior team defeated champions Askeaton by 0-6 to 0-5.

This was a great team effort and puts Abbeyfeale back in the championship race. A very noticeable aspect of this game was the fact that I could see only two supporters from the parish at the game. Hope that this will improve during the next games. Abbeyfeale play Newcastle West next in the championship at Cooleyroe on Friday evening, 1/6/84, at 7.30 p.m. and a win here would ensure a place in the play-off stages. Abbeyfeale lined out as follows: Laurence White, Denis Murphy, Derry Quirke, Jim Browne, Billy Colbert, Tom Sugrue, John Joe Foley, Jim O'Donnell, Georgie Browne, Liam Sweeney, Maurice Flynn, John Colbert, Liam Murphy, Sean Harnett, Billy O'Rourke.

The novice team were held to a draw by Gerald Griffins at Athea on Wednesday evening last. Abbeyfeale lined out as follows: James Collins, Johnny Finucane, Pat McEnery, Thomas Mann, Liam Lyons, Bill Harnett, Mickie Lyons, Martin Woulfe, Tom Leahy, Michael Woulfe, Sean Leahy, Gerard Harnett, Miney McCarthy, Patsy Harnett, Noel Morrissey. Subs., Pat Scannell for Ml. Woulfe, Seanie Harnett for Miney McCarthy, Eamon Dalton for Noel Morrissey.

The under 16 team salvaged a point when they drew with Glin at Athea on Friday evening last. Having missed a number of scoring chances in the first half they were unlucky not to win eventually. Team — Michael Cahill, John Hartnett, Dan O'Connor, Bill Mann, Diarmuid Quinn, Sean Murphy, Patrick O'Connor, Tom Fitzgerald, Donal Lyons, John Barry, Andrew Mahony, John Kelly, Billy Riordan, Desmond Lane, Pa Enright. Subs., Noel Roche for J. Barry.

Abbeyfeale

Short five of their team the Abbeyfeale senior football team were defeated by Brosna in the Mountcollins tournament on Sunday evening last.

The team lined out as follows: Eamon Scannell, Mike Quirke, Derry Quirke, Denis Murphy, Jim Browne, Jim Finnucane, Billy Colbert, Jim O'Donnell, Georgie Browne, John Joe Foley, Maurice Flynn, Martin Woulfe, Liam Murphy, Sean Hartnett, Billy O'Rourke. Subs. Johnny Finucane for B. O'Rourke.

The Abbeyfeale senior team play Newcastle West on this Friday evening at Cooleyroe in the championship. A win at this stage would qualify Abbeyfeale for the semi final stages. The game is due to commence at 7.30 p.m.

Abbeyfeale juniors are due to play Moyvane on next Sunday evening in the Athea Carnival Tournament at 7.30 p.m.

TURDAY, JUNE 23, 1984.

NOT

Ab'feale

Feile na nGael 1984 was a great success over last week-end. It was opened by An tAth Pdraig O Fiannachta, Stiuradóir Ghlor na nGael at the local Community Centre before a packed house.

The Cailin Gaelach Dhuiche Ide Competition was won by Mairead Galvin of Knocknacrohy, representing Duagh. She is a pupil of St. Joseph's Secondary School, Abbeyfeale. Trath na gCeist (Question Time) which created great interest over the past few weeks, went to Team C, comprised of Donal Casey (Knocknasna N.S.), Tina Curtin (Dromtrasna N.S.), M. Enright (Meenikilly N.S.) and Eileen Behan (Convent of Mercy N.S.).

On Saturday there was a Feis Ceoil and the entry was the biggest ever.

The adjudicators commented that the standard in all the competitions was very high.

On Saturday night the Mass was in Irish, concelebrated by Fr. Jack Fitzgerald and An tAth O Fiannachta with the choir singing the O Riada music.

Also on Saturday there was a lecture at Reens Hotel by past president of the G.A.A., Seamus O Riain. This was attended by up to 50 people. The theme was the history of the G.A.A.

In conjunction with Feile na Feile the local G.A.A. Club put on a wonderful programme at the local sportsfield on Sunday. Over 150 boys from the five national schools took part and there were 6 games in all. At 3 p.m. the teams assembled at the Fr. Casey Monument in the Square and marched to the Inch, and were played through the streets by the Mountcollins Pipe Band.

The layout of the pitch and the general arrangements were a credit to the local club.

Abbeyfeale

The senior team have reached the semi-final of the West championship following a very impressive display when defeating Ballysteen by 0-8 to 1-2 at Newcastle West last Saturday evening. A very encouraging aspect of this game was that we had twenty-one players togged out. Abbeyfeale lined out as follows: James Lane, Denis Murphy, Derry Quirke, Jim Browne, Mike Quirke, Maurice Flynn, John Joe Foley, Jim O'Donnell, D. P. Woulfe, Denis Harnett, Georgie Browne, John Colbert, Eamon Scannell, David Keating, Pat Callaghan. Subs.: Liam Sweeney for Denis Harnett (injured); Jim Finnucane for Dave Keating.

Abbeyfeale now meet St. Kieran's on June 24 at a venue to be arranged.

Our U-12 footballers were defeated by the narrowest of margins of one point by Glin at Athea last Friday evening. Following the display I saw by some of our young players, I would say that the future of football in the parish holds no fears. The team lined out as follows: Hugh McMahon, Richard Danaher, John Cahill, Daniel Casey, Batt O'Riordan, Michael Browne, Geoffrey Doyle, Christopher McGill (capt.), Nial Sugrue, Richard O'Mahony, Bill Lane, Michael O'Kelly, John Ahern, Noel Healy, Gerard O'Connor.

In conjunction with Feile na Feile, and as part of the Centenary celebrations, Fr. Casey's G.A.A. Club are promoting the following programme on Sunday next:—

- 1.30 p.m., final of losers' group, national schools' senior league.
- 2.15 p.m., final of losers' group, national schools' junior league.
- 3 p.m., pipe band parade of teams and members to Fr. Casey's monument.
- 3.30 p.m., football challenge, Fr. Casey's senior team v. novice team.
- 4.30 p.m., final of schools' senior football league.
- 5.15 p.m., final of schools' junior football league.
- 6 p.m., presentation of Centenary medals.

All past and present members are invited to take part in the parade. There is no entry charge to the G.A.A. grounds and it is hoped that the parents and families of the children will join with them on this joyful occasion. Finally, the committee want to give notice that no hawkers will be allowed on the field.

Feile Festival got off to a good start on Friday night last. Good weather helped to bring the crowds out and attendances are up to expected numbers.

In the football tournament on Sunday evening, Abbeyfeale and Askeaton finished level, 2-6 each, after a most entertaining game before a big crowd. On Monday evening, Feola-nagh beat Tournafulla by a single point, 1-11 to 1-10, in a well contested game in the hurling tournament.

A better than average U-15 Abbeyfeale team had an easy victory over St. Kieran's (Carrickerry) in the second round of the championship at Glin on Saturday evening. Final score: Abbeyfeale, 3-8; St. Kieran's, 0-0.

holiday in Los Angeles.

At Newcastle West on Saturday night last, Abbeyfeale senior footballers went out of the championship when beaten by a single point, 1-5 to 0-7, by St. Kieran's (Carrickerry). It was a very good game and most of the big attendance thought that a draw would have been a fairer result.

Abbeyfeale had a goal disallowed, and the winning point came in the last minute. The extra large number of Abbeyfeale followers were loud in their praise of the team's performance.

The Abbeyfeale side was: Larry White (goal), Jim Browne, Derry Quirke, Denis Murphy, Eamonn Scannell, Maurice Flynn, John Joe Foley, Tom Sugrue, Jim O'Donnell, George Brown, Pat Callaghan, D. P. Woulfe, Mike Quirke, Dee Harnett, John Colbert. Subs., Liam Sweeney and David Keating.

The annual outing for the senior

CLUB GAA Abbeyfeale

Our senior football team went under by one point to St. Kierans at the semi-final of the West championship at Newcastle West last Saturday evening.

This was a game we should have won but on the day look was not our side.

A very disappointing aspect of this game was the poor standard of refereeing. I counted no fewer than five personal fouls committed by the same player after he had been booked for a similar offence. I feel that for football to improve in this part of the globe that this is the first aspect of the game to be looked into.

Abbeyfeale lined-out as follows—

Lec White, J. Browne, Diny Quirke, Denis Murphy, Eamon Scannell, M. Flynn, Captain John Foley, Jim O'Donnell, Tom Sugrue, Pat Callaghan, Georgie Browne, John Colbert, D. Harnett, Mike Quirke, P. Woulfe.

Subs: Liam Sweeney for Thom Sugrue (injured), Tim Sugrue for John Colbert. Dave Keating for Eamonn Scannell injured.

from 7.30 to 9 o'clock.

Abbeylea footballers had their only championship win when the under 15 team had a convincing win over St. Senans (Foynes) at Newcastle West sportsfield on Saturday evening last. The final score was Abbeylea 2-3, St. Senans 0-2. ¹⁻⁹⁻⁸⁴

The team got a great reception when going through the streets of the town in a motorcade on Saturday evening. The winning team was — Michael Cahill (goal), James Scannell, Dan O'Connor, John Moloney, Denis Harnett, John Fitzgibbon, Liam Quirke, Denis Collins, Andy O'Mahony, Noel Roche, Tom Fitzgerald (captain), Donal Murphy, Billy Riordan, Pa Enright, Chris McGill. Congratulations are extended to this victorious team.

The annual Abbeylea Emigrant Association will hold its

Ab'feale

¹⁻¹²⁻⁸⁴

Old footballers who had won a county championship in the past and present under 15 team were entertained at a function at the Devon Inn on Saturday night last by the local GAA club. The older players present were: Paddy O'Sullivan, Eddie McCarthy, Moss Colbert, John Fitzgibbon, Neilus Murphy, Dan Cotter, Sonny Nicholas Cotter, Joseph O'Connor, Sean (Balbo) Riordan, Sean Ward, Matty O'Connell, Tommy Mann, Patrick McCarthy. Unavoidably absent were Bishop Tim Cotter, Monsignor Dan Collins, Dan Cotter (Church Street), Tommy Murphy, Dave Doherty, Mick White, Chris Stack, Eddie Brown, Jimmy Riordan, Joe Wren and Denis Ward.

The under 15 footballers who won this year's West Limerick Championship were: Michael Cahill (goal), James Scannell, Dan O'Connor, John A. Moloney, Liam Quirke, Patrick O'Connor, Denis Collins, Denis Harnett, John Fitzgibbon, Tom Fitzgerald (captain), Billy Riordan, Andrew O'Mahony, Donal Murphy, Chris McGill, Pa Enright, Noel Riche, Davy L. O'Connor, Paul Sugrue, Thomas Hanlon.

During the function the team was presented with the West Limerick Championship trophies. The older footballers were presented with centenary medals kindly donated by Dave Morrissey of Morrissey Brothers, Killarney Road. Other trophies presented were: Senior Player of the Year Award, Derry Quirke, presented by Liam Murphy of Cappaquin Chickens Ltd.; Novice Player of the Year Award, Patsy Harnett, presented by O'Sullivan's Bar, Main Street; Clubman of the Year Award went to Jerry O'Sullivan, hon. sec. This was presented by Pat Harnett, Bridge Street. All concerned wish to thank the GAA Club and the sponsors for providing a night to be remembered.

For the first time a Prayer

A'feale

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Abbeylea under 15 footballers qualified to meet Foynes in the West Limerick final next week when they had a clear cut win over Castlemahon on Monday evening last at Tournafulla sportsfield.

The final score was Abbeylea 3-3, Castlemahon 0-3.

The winning team was as follows: Michael Cahill, John E. Moloney, Dan O'Connor, J. Scannell, Patrick O'Connor, Denis Collins, D. Harnett, John Fitzgibbon, Andrew O'Mahony, Billy O'Riordan, Tom Fitzgerald, Donal Murphy, Noel Roche, Patrick Enright, Christopher McGill. Subs., Liam Quirke, David O'Connor, J. Hanlon.

The marriage of James Joy, the Square, Abbeylea, and Bridget O'Donnell, Devon Road, took place at Templegantine Church on Friday last.

Bridget O'Connell (nee Lane), relict of Jeremiah O'Connell, Dromlegach, died last week. She was living at Convent Road for the past few years. She was a member of a well known and popular local family and her passing is widely regretted. Sympathy is extended to her sons, daughters, grandchildren and relatives.

Feale Festival 1984 ended on Sunday night last after 10 days of enjoyment for the people in the locality. The amusements and the produce stalls in the square were busier than ever. The good weather helped to bring out the big attendances.

The football and hurling competitions also created big interest.

In the final of the novice tournament, Athea beat Abbeylea by 1 goal in a closely contested final.

Kileedy and Feohanagh meet in the final of the hurling tournament and Askeaton and Abbeylea contest the final of the senior football tournament.

In general it was a great 10 days of simple enjoyment and the organising committee deserve great credit for their efforts.

Ab'feale

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There was a very good attendance at St. Ita's Hall on Friday night, November 30 when the annual general meeting of the local Fr. Casey's GAA Club took place.

The outgoing chairman, Billy O'Gorman welcomed the members and said it was very heartening to see such a large turn out and this augured well for the club. It came as a big surprise when Billy O'Connor announced that he was retiring from the chair but assured the meeting that he would still take an active part in the club. Many tributes were paid to him for his excellent work for the club over many years and in particular for his part in the purchase, lay out and enclosure of the Sportsfield at the Inch.

The election of officials and committee for the coming year were as follows: President, Fr. Jack Fitzgerald, C.C.; chairman, Billy Ahern; vice chairman, Billy O'Connor; hon. secretary, Jerry O'Sullivan; joint treasurers, Denis O'Connor and Dave Morrissey. General committee—Pat Harnett, James Collins, Pat Lyons, John Horgan, Jimmy Lenihan, John Fitzgibbon, Jimmy Browne, David Keating, Billy O'Mahony, James Lane, Billy Scannell, Tommy Mann, Derry Quirke. Senior selectors, Jerry O'Sullivan, Dave Morrissey, Derry Quirke.

A'feale

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The marriage took place last Saturday of Thomas Moloney, Knocknasna, and Maureen Russell, Ballydavid, Dingle, at St. Mary's Church, Dingle.

The sudden passing of Anne McCarthy (nee Walsh), wife of Dr. Sean McCarthy, Bridgemount, Abbeylea, has caused widespread regret in the area. She was a most popular lady and was highly respected by all section of the community. Sympathy is extended to her husband, daughter, father, sisters, brothers and relatives.

After a keenly contested and exciting game, Abbeylea and Foynes finished level 2-2 each in the final of the under 15 West Limerick championship at Glin sportsfield on Monday night last.

The replay will take place next week and should draw a big crowd.

Abbeylea senior citizens pilgrimage to Knock Shrine took place last Thursday. Up to 100 people took part from Abbeylea and surrounding areas and travelled in two buses. All agreed that it a very worthwhile outing.

Fr. John O'Connor of Rathoran, has arrived from Gaulbourne, Australia, and is spending a holiday with his family. Fr. Tim Murphy, New St., has arrived back from a world tour — USA, Australia, Pakistan, London.

Abbeylea has two young athletes from the local St. Ita's Athletic club contesting finals in the Community Games national finals in Butlins this weekend. They are Elizabeth Cotter, Knocknasna, and Richard O'Mahony. Elizabeth is in the long jump under 14 and Richard is in the 600m under 12. Best of luck is wished to both contestants.

A'feale

After a long layoff and with little if any training Abbeylea senior footballers did well to draw with Monaleen at Limerick on Sunday last in the first round of the county league. The final score was Abbeylea 0-10, Monalee 2-4. The team was — Billy Scannell, Jimmy Browne (capt.), Pat Scannell, Thomas Mann, Paddy O'Grady, Liam Murphy, Maurice Flynn, Tom Sugrue, Jim O'Donnell, Pat Callaghan, David Keating, Georgie Browne, Liam Sweeney, Gerard Moloney, Dee Harnett.

The team plays Knocknagoshel away on Monday next at 3 p.m.

Abbeylea have six of the juvenile team included in the West Limerick side who meet the South at Croom on Sunday. These are: Michael Cahill, Dan O'Connor, Tom Fitzgerald, Billy Riordan, Andrew O'Mahony and Pa Enright.

Local angle which has been since the opening of the fitting

Abbeylea

Congratulations to our senior footballers on winning the Brosna Carnival Tournament on Sunday evening last when beating Rockchapel 1-3 to 0-5 in an exciting game played in the worst possible weather conditions.

The following marriages took place last week: George Leahy,

Abbeylea

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Sonny Cotter, who died recently, was a member of a well known local family in the cattle dealing business. In his younger days he was considered a top-class jockey and rode horses in all parts of the country. In the forties he was one of the best handballers in West Limerick, winning many titles. In the same period he was considered a top-class Gaelic football referee in West Limerick and North Kerry. Sympathy is extended to his brother, Dan; sister, Bridie in the U.S.A., and relatives.

Sympathy is also extended to the family and relatives of Mrs

Abbeylea

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Abbeylea senior footballers drew with Monaleen 2-4 to 0-10 in the first round of the co. league in Monaleen on Sunday last. This was a game I felt we should have won but a draw was a good result at the end of the day. Liam Murphy, having his first game for the club, played very well at centre back. This was a good team performance in all as it was their first game together since last August. Their next game is on Monday next, March 18, in Knocknagoshel against Knocknagoshel at 3 p.m. Training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday's team lined out as follows: Billy Scannell, Jim Browne (capt.), Pat Scannell, Thomas Mann, Maurice Flynn, Liam Murphy, Paddy Grady, Tom Sugrue, Jim O'Donnell, Pat Callaghan, David Keating, Georgie Browne, Liam Sweeney, Gerry Moloney, D. Harnett.

Any player who wishes to play novice football for the year is asked to attend at the football field on Tuesday evening next, 19/3/85, at 6.30 p.m. for training.

Six members of our juvenile players will travel to Croom on Saturday next as members of the West Limerick juvenile panel who play the South. The players are MI. Cahill, Dan O'Connor, Tom Fitzgerald, Billy Riordan, Andrew Mahony and Pa Enright. A seventh member, John Fitzgibbon, would be on the panel but is unavailable.

For the first time in years the club will field an under 12 and under 14 hurling team in the championship. Any young player who wishes to play hurling is asked to contact Patsy Sweeney, Denis O'Connor, Donie Wren or Sean Horgan.

Suzanne Horgan, Fionuala Dillane and Ita Harnett from St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy.

Congratulations, boys and girls. Dan Cotter, Church Street passed away last week after a short illness. He was a member of a well known local family and was prominent in GAA affairs in the 1930s, winning a county championship in 1932 against Kibbehenny. His passing is regretted and sympathy is extended to his sister, niece and relatives.

The passing also occurred last week of Denis McCarthy, Kilconlea, a member of a highly regarded

Abbeylea
¹⁸⁻⁵⁻⁸⁵

27.4.85
Abbeyfeale

Abbeyfeale senior football team scored a draw with Newcastle West in the first round of the west championship at Quaid Park, on Sunday last.

Abbeyfeale led by one point on the call of full time, but a controversial free in front of the Abbeyfeale goal allowed Newcastle to draw. The final score was 2-7 each.

Best for Abbeyfeale were James Collins in goal, David Lane, Eamonn Collins in goal,

Best for Abbeyfeale were James Collins in goal, David Lane, Eamonn Scannell in defence, Jim O'Donnell and Georgie Browne at mid-field. Dave Keating, Brendan Roche and John Colbert in attack.

The seniors will have their next game in the championship against Askeaton on Saturday evening the 4th of May, at 7.30 p.m.

The Abbeyfeale minor team advanced to the quarter final of the championship when they scored a very impressive 7-11 to 1-3 win over Rathkeale at Newcastle West on Wednesday evening last.

Abbeyfeale under 14 team were defeated 1-5 to 1-1 in their first game of the year against Rathkeale at Newcastle West on Monday evening last.

Our under 21 team will have their first game of the year against Drom. at Tournafulla on this Saturday evening at 7.30 p.m. All players are asked to assemble in the Square at 6.45 p.m.

At St. Ita's hall on Saturday night last the AGM of the local GAA club took place. There was a good attendance. Officers elected for the coming year were as follows—President, Mr. Jack Fitzgerald, C.C.; chairman, Jimmy Browne; vice chairman, Billy O'Connor; hon. treasurer, Dave Morrissey; hon. sec., Jerry O'Sullivan; PRO, Pat Scannell. Committee, Paddy Harnett, Joe Wren, Denis Harnett, Tommy Mann, Mike Quirke, John Browne, Gerry O'Riordan, Jimmy Lenihan, Denis O'Connor, Billy Ahern, John Joe Foley, Bill Harnett, C. Cullinane.

A series of seven lectures entitled Irish and World Affairs, will commence on Monday, February 3rd, at 8.00 p.m., at the Vocational School. Lecturers will include Professor John A. Murphy, who will speak on the Anglo Irish Agreement and many other distinguished academics. Further details, together with application forms, can be had by ringing (068) 31198 or calling to the school during office hours.

Abbeyfeale 1/2/86

The local football team had an impressive win over Knockaney at Knockaney on Sunday last. The Abbeyfeale team was: John Morrissey, John Harnett, Derry Quirke, Maurice Colbert, John Scanlon, Maurice Flynn, Donal Quinn, Jim O'Donnell, Liam Sweeney, Pat Fitzgerald, Tom Fitzgerald, Maurice Curtin, Pat Callaghan, Michael O'Mahony, Jim Browne.

1-3-86

Winners of the GAA non-stop draw on Saturday night last were: £150, Margaret Cross, Abbeyfeale Hill; £75, Sean Lyons, Knocknagoshel; £25, Gerard Harnett, The Square.

A juvenile Club was formed at a GAA meeting last week. Elected were chairman, Sean O'Connor; hon. sec., Billy O'Mahony; hon. treas., Paddy Boy Harnett. Committee: Denis Harnett, John Browne, Dan J. Casey, Billy O'Connor, Billy Ahern, John Horgan, Patsy Sweeney, Paddy O'Sullivan, Pat O'Callaghan.

The senior football team had a further win at the Inch on Sunday last, beating Knockdown Gaels (Thea-Gerald Griffin combination) by 2-9 to 1-3. Next game will be at Tournafulla, against Newcastle West, on Sunday next, in the Southern Chemical cup competition.

Abbeyfeale

On June 2 our under 14 team had a good win over Ardagh in the Championships. We had great displays of hurling from Conor Madigan, Paudie O'Connor, Kevin Lenihan and Patrick Doab.

The team was: Kevin Lenihan; Paudie O'Connor, Liam O'Connor, Tomas O'Connor; Gerard Noonan, Conor Madigan, Niall Quille, Michael Looney, Eamon Roche, Eamon Madigan, Patrick Doab, Joe Giltenane, Barry Lenihan, Liam Sheehy, Noel Hannon and Aiden Boyce.

On Saturday last we played a match with our under 12s in Askeaton and had a very easy victory there too.

On Saturday, June 6 we watched Patrick Doab in great form in goals for West Limerick. He was picked to play in the Primary School team. Pat was also picked for the county Primary Schools team and the hurling club wish him all the very best.

26.5.86
Fr. Casey's

OUR senior footballers gave one of their worst displays in recent times when they were well beaten by Rathkeale in the second round of the West Championship at Askeaton. The level of commitment shown by a number of the players in recent times leaves a lot to be desired. The final score was 2-7 to 1-5.

The seniors will have their next game in the championship when they take on Askeaton at Buttevant on this Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m.

The seniors are also booked to play Brosna in the Mountcollins Carnival Tournament on this Sunday evening at 7.30 p.m.

Abbeyfeale under 21 footballers advanced to the next round of the championship with a good win over Glantine at the Inch last Sunday evening, score 1-10 to 1-6.

Team: Denis Lane, John Morrissey, Denis Groody, Eamonn Collins, Liam Lyons, Tom Mann, Mikie Lyons, Donal Quinn, Tom Leahy, Jerome Harnett, Tom Fitzgerald, Tom Enright, Mike Mahony, J. J. Wrenn, Donie Lyons.

Once in a while our local senior footballers hit the high spots, and this they did on Sunday last when beating a fancied Rathkeale side by 2-14 to 2-6 after a great, hard-fought but sporting game. Led by 2-6 to 0-3, things did not look so good, but with the aid of the wind and a great display by every member of the team, they finished up deserving winners and now qualify for the championship semi-finals.

The victorious team was: Billy Scannell, Mike Quirke, Dermot Quirke, Maurice Flynn, Maurice Colbert, John Scanlon, Eamonn Scannell, Jim O'Donnell, Liam Sweeney, John Joe Foley, David Keating, Tom Leahy, John Colbert, Georgie Browne, Pat Callaghan.

The U-12 hurlers created their own bit of history when defeating Athea at the local sportsfield by 4 goals to 3.



COUNTY CHAMPIONS

29.6.86

CLASH OF THE ASH IS HEARD AGAIN

29
5
89

By MARTIN BYRNES

Gerard Fitzgerald, Kevin Kennelly, Dermot Daly, Padraic Mac Gallann.

ABBEYFEALE won its first hurling match for 60 years last Friday. The pride of the parish rested on the sturdy shoulders of 15 under-twelves in their heroic defeat of neighbouring Templeglantine in the first round of the West league.

Now, said mentor, Garda Jerry O'Sullivan, all the youngsters are carrying hurleys in hands which never carried one before.

Abbeyfeale, like Glin, is football territory. Only lately has the sound of the clash of the ash been heard after a lapse of decades. Garda Jerry, along with Tom Enright and Paddy Quill, launched the makings of a team three seasons ago at under-ten level.

Training

After an initial training season, the youngsters were given match trials in arranged friendlies against teams from both sides of the county boundary. This year, as under-twelves, the lads were ready to create history, and their moment came last Friday.

With the confidence that their age instills, the boys from Abbeyfeale, with the home advantage, clocked up a creditable victory by 3-3 to 1-3.

"There was never a hurling team that won anything for the past sixty years," commented Neilus Murphy, local folklorist and newsagent. "There were a few attempts to bring teams into existence from time to time, but none of them ever won a match, and they faded out again."

He said that it was good that it was the youngsters who were leading the way with hurling honours.

"There might be a few All-Ireland medals among them yet," he said.

The team was: Pat Ahern, Padraig O'Donnell, Pat Scannell, Tony Scannell, Garry Quille, Padraig Murphy, John Daly, John O'Brien, Brian O'Connor, Tom O'Donnell, Eugene Horgan

Friday night last.

29
6
86

A FIRST FOR ABBEYFEALE

On Wednesday last for the first time Abbeyfeale Girls Football Under 14 won gold medals when beating Rathkeale in the County Final Community Games held in Croagh. The game was a very spectacular one with both teams level at full time. Extra time was then played and Abbeyfeale proved to be the strongest team to win by 4 points. This now means that the girls travel to Thurles on 19th July to represent Limerick in the Munster Championship. The match was refereed by Joe O'Halloran, Limerick City, who kept a close eye on both teams and was always up with the play. The coordinator Jerry Vaughan watched the match with interest and thanked both teams for such a delightful game. Mary McGill the team manager must be thanked for all the long hours, hard work and dedication she put in to the team. The Committee wish her and her team the best of luck in the Munster.

The panel is as follows: Tanya O'Connor, Marie Collins, Siobhan Sheehan, Freda Danaher, Andrea Costello, Sinead O'Neill, Shannon O'Connor, Ciara McMahon, Avril Cotter, Sinead Collins, Eleanor O'Mahony, Lisa O'Leary, Noreen Lyons, Rachel Sullivan, Siobhan Leahy, Trina Sheehan, Bernadette Roche, Deirdre Prenderville, Olive Sheehan and Marlene Sheehan.

The County medals will be presented to the Girls Football team Under 14 and

Believe it or not — an Abbeyfeale hurling team has won its first match in 60 years. This happened at the local sportsfield on Friday evening last when defeating neighbours, Templeglantine, in the West Limerick under 12 hurling league. Final score, 3-3 to 1-3.

The senior footballers played a 1-8 to 2-5 draw with Brosna in the Mountcollins Carnival football tournament on Sunday last. The replay is fixed for this Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

The local G.A.A. club holds its annual collection at all Masses on Saturday and Sunday next.

O'Mahony.

13
4
84

Last week was a good week for the local GAA club. On last Tuesday, June 2, the minor team was successful in the final of the Mountcollins Carnival Tournament beating Brosna 2-9 to 0-4. On Thursday, the under-14 side beat Mountcollins in the final of the Athea Carnival football blitz and on last Sunday night also at Athea the senior team had a good win over Moyvane in the semi-final of the carnival tournament.

The final takes place on Sunday evening at 8.30.

Abbeyfeale

At St. Ita's Hall on Friday night last the local G.A.A. Club held its AGM and it was very well attended. Even though the club did not win a championship, all teams did very well — the number of players taking part was greater than any other year.

The club's finances are in a healthy state. Officers elected: President, Fr. Jack Fitzgerald, C.C.; chairman, Pat Harnett; vice-chairman, W. W. O'Connor; hon. sec., Pat Scannell; asst. sec., Jimmy Lenihan; hon. treas., Dave Morrissey.

The general committee are the same as last year. Delegates to West and County Boards Billy O'Connor and Pat Scannell.

Abbeyfeale

III LESOW, SOUTH-TYNE.

The local senior football team had a very good weekend. The side beat Adare on Saturday, 1-10 to 2-5, at Newcastle West in the Western championships and had an impressive win over the local team in the final of the Athea Carnival tournament on Sunday night. After the game the players were presented with lovely trophies.

10-6-86

Abbeyfeale



£201 rates bill for 6 members

4
10
86

By LEADER REPORTER

A HANDBALL club which has only six paid-up members has received a rates demand from Limerick County Council for £201.50p. The club, at Abbeyfeale, is already in debt to the tune of £1,000. Its gross income this year will be £60.

The club provides free handball and racquetball facilities to students and pupils of all of Abbeyfeale's schools. Up to 100 young people are currently participating in handball at the centre near the fire station.

The saga began in 1981, when the older, open, mass-concrete alley was pulled down for safety. It had been falling apart for years.

Generous

In its place, the club erected, with AnCO help, the new, roofed, heated facility. Dressing facilities were added, and a spectator area was constructed. The council gave a small amenity grant. The rest of the money, excluding the £1,000 still outstanding, came from the local community which, says secretary, Mr. Paddy Reidy, showed remarkable generosity.

Shortly after construction was completed, an inspector from the Valuations Office visited the ball-court. The club later learned that he had put a valuation of £9 on the amenity. The club appealed at once.

The appeal didn't save them a penny. And they can't afford to take the matter to the Circuit Court for final



Tomas O'Hanlon, Collins Park, Abbeyfeale, enjoys the handball court in Abbeyfeale this week.

appeal.

This year, the first full year since the appeal, the County Council's rates warrant included the club premises, and the rates demand issued — £100.75p now, and a similar amount later.

"The problem is that community halls were de-rated in 1977, but sports facilities were not", explains Cllr. Michael O'Kelly, who is championing the cause of the club at the council and elsewhere. "We passed a resolution in 1983, pointing out to the Department the ludicrousness of that situation, but we were ignored. Again in April 1985, a motion of mine again attempted to sort out something, but to no avail".

Trying again

Mr. O'Kelly is trying again. He has a motion for council at the October meeting which would ask the council to itself waive rates on "sporting club premises provided by voluntary groups and run on a non-profit basis".

This approach differs from the others in that the council would have to pick up the loss of the income, whereas, if the system were changed nationally, the State would pay the amount.

"Tournafulla is already in a similar situation, and the big new sports complex here in Abbeyfeale will be crucified when it is completely finished", said Mr. O'Kelly.

Mr. Mike Lynch, a committee member of the club, explained that the paid-up members put in £10 a year to help toward the ordinary upkeep and insurances. The members do all of the work, and he paid special tribute to Mr. Billy O'Connor, the

treasurer, for his efforts. The decision not to charge a fee to the youngsters would stand, he said.

Mr. O'Kelly stated that he realised that the council, already hard pressed for money, could ill afford the cost of a waiver scheme, but added that many clubs simply could not afford the absence of one.

G.A.A. 23-8-86

Abbeyfeale minor footballers were defeated by St. Kierans in the final of the West championship on a score of 5 pts. to 4. The game was closely contested throughout, but Abbeyfeale failed to capitalise on a stiff breeze in the first half, and a dramatic point, scored sixty seconds from the end, gave St. Kierans a fully deserved victory.