

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie	
Date of Interview	13 th April 2010	✓ Photograph of Interviewee
Location	Jimmy's Home, near Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone	
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimmy Treacy	
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>		
Gender	Male	
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Tyrone	
Education	Primary: Mullaslin PS, Co. Tyrone Secondary: Omagh CBS, Co, Tyrone Third Level: De La Salle Training College, Manchester; Stranmillis Training College, Belfast	
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Cathleen with 2 sons and 4 daughters	
Club(s)	St. Colmcille's Carrickmore; Clonoe O'Rahilly's GFC	
Occupation	Teacher	
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Political Affiliation / Membership	None	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Tyrone County Society, Philadelphia	

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat McCartan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1936 Home County: Tyrone
Education	Primary: Beragh NS, Co. Tyrone Secondary: Omagh CBS; St. Patrick's College, Co. Armagh Third Level: Greenmount Agricultural College
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 7 sisters Current Family if Different: Single
Club(s)	Beragh Red Knights; St. Mary's, Beragh
Occupation	Civil Servant in the Department of Agriculture
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Bowling Club; Golf Club

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Date of Report	15 th June 2012
Period Covered	1940s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Tyrone, Dublin, Monaghan, Armagh, Fermanagh, Kerry, Americas, USA, Great Britain, England
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Jimmy and Pat begin with discussing the GAA of their childhood and the impact it had on their local community when they were growing up. They discuss how influential priests were in the area in mobilising support for the GAA. Jimmy provides an account of the GAA overseas as he lived in England and America for a number of years. Both Pat and Jimmy discuss their involvement with the West Tyrone Board and their experiences as officials at county level. Jimmy and Pat give a detailed account of the challenges the GAA faced in Tyrone during the Troubles in Northern Ireland and discuss some of their experiences during this time.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 (Jimmy) Discusses his earliest memories of the GAA and describes playing football in a local field, called the crossroads, in the 1950s. Tells how there was never a referee.</p> <p>00:46 (Jimmy) He mentions the local GAA club, Carrickmore St. Colmcilles GAA Club, and mentions people involved with it such as McCallan's from the gap, and Kevin Scanlon.</p> <p>02:06 (Jimmy) Tells how he also played one wall handball in a nearby field.</p> <p>02:34 (Jimmy) Tells how when he was in Primary school he played football on the road. He discusses traffic at that time.</p>

03:20 (Jimmy) Talks about playing football in fields near his primary school owned by Peter Willie Dobbs and Andy Smith. He tells how they managed to play without the owners knowing.

03:46 (Jimmy) Discusses the role the local clergy played in promoting the GAA in the parish. He recalls Father McKee coming to his school in Mullaslin and talking to them about Gaelic football.

05:04 (Jimmy) Mentions how he was born in 1940. He talks about Fr McGilligan and how he was chairman of the West Tyrone board. He mentions that Father McKee was from Armagh and Fr McNally was from Derry.

06:14 (Jimmy) Talks about the role the priests play now in the area and compares this to the role they played when he was growing up. He mentions Fr Gilligan, Fr McKee, Fr McNally, and Fr Donnelly.

06:58 (Jimmy) Talks about the history of the Carrickmore St. Colmcilles GAA club. Discusses Fr Peter Paul Kerr, a local priest who wrote the history of the club in 1982 to coincide with the golden jubilee of the club.

07:25 (Jimmy) Tells how the club was formed in 1932. Describes the role Fr McGilligan played in the formation of the club.

07:48 (Jimmy) Discusses the formation of St Colmcilles in 1932. He discusses the number of senior football championships they have won in the county. He discusses Fr McGilligans part in the formation of the club in 1940, and a stain glass window to commemorate him in Creggan Church.

09:50 (Jimmy) Talks about the colours the club played and lists these as black and red, red and white, and yellow. He tells how the colour played in now is green, white and gold.

10:16 (Jimmy) Describes the history of the club colours. He discusses the introduction of internment in Northern Ireland in the 1970s and tells how this impacted on the clubs colours.

11:20 (Jimmy) Talks about the changes of club colours before the green white and gold was adopted.

11:40 (Jimmy) Talks about being born in 1940 and discusses

	<p>the rationing of food and clothes as a result of World War Two.</p> <p>12:26 (Jimmy) Talks about the level of handball in Loughmacrory and Carrickmore. He discusses playing open-wall Handball on gable walls and mentions Frank McCrystal and John Ward.</p> <p>14:00 (Jimmy) Discusses an official opening of the alley in Loughmacrory with a glass wall and Victor Sherlock, a Cavan footballer, playing at the official opening.</p> <p>14:44 (Jimmy) Discusses hurling in the club and discusses a Kerry-man that taught in the local school in the 1960s.</p> <p>15:36 (Jimmy) Talks about Tyrone winning a national title in the Lory Meagher Cup.</p> <p>15:56 (Jimmy) Talks about the level of senior hurling teams in Tyrone and mentions Carrickmore and Dungannon. He talks about the development of more hurling pitches in the county.</p> <p>17:30 (Jimmy) Talks about starting to play football when he went to the Christian Brothers school in Omagh in the early 1950s. Discusses playing in a school league on Saturdays.</p> <p>18:38 (Jimmy) Talks about meeting Carrickmore people when he went to school in Omagh, such as Paddy Grogan and Brendan Loughran and playing for the juvenile team in 1954.</p> <p>19:14 (Jimmy) Talks about winning the Tyrone juvenile championship in 1955 and the minor championship in 1956 and 1957. He explains why they did not win it in 1958.</p> <p>20:05 (Jimmy) Discusses those who played in the Tyrone county senior final in 1958 against Clonoe O' Rahillys in Dungannon. He talks about the county final in 1961.</p> <p>20:55 (Jimmy) Discusses going to America in 1962 after living in England from 1957 to 1962. He talks about playing football in Philadelphia for a Tyrone team.</p> <p>21:35 (Jimmy) Discusses the level of emigration in the 1950s to places like America. He talks about the number of GAA clubs in Philadelphia and New York.</p> <p>22:20 (Jimmy) Tells a story about a man who played for the Tyrone team in Philadelphia named Dick Hynes from Corofin</p>
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	<p>in Galway who persuaded him to go to New York to play for the Galway team. He mentions how he played for the Tyrone and Monaghan team in New York.</p> <p>23:24 (Jimmy) Discusses the difference between playing football in America compared to Ireland.</p> <p>24:20 (Jimmy) Talks about going to England in 1957 until 1962 and his involvement in the GAA there. He talks about playing football for a team in Manchester called 'Harps and Shamrocks'. He mentions men called Tom Scully and Harry Purcell.</p> <p>25:26 (Jimmy) Describes the type and colour of the jerseys the Hearts and Shamrocks wore.</p> <p>25:55 (Jimmy) Talks about going to college in the De La Salle teacher's training college in Middleton outside Manchester. He tells a story about organising a game of Gaelic football on the Rugby pitch in the college grounds one St Patrick's Day. He mentions a man called Father Hugh O'Kane, an Antrim county player, stationed in Oldham and Oliver Kerr.</p> <p>28:25 (Pat) Discusses his earliest GAA memory as asking his father to bring him to local matches.</p> <p>29:14 (Pat) Tells how his team is Beragh Red Knights. He explains that they used to be called Beragh St. Mary's but changed their name in 1973 and changed the jerseys to red.</p> <p>29:55 (Pat) Discusses how a group of curates started the South Tyrone juvenile league.</p> <p>30:28 (Pat) Remembers people making their own togs when he was growing up and describes how they did this.</p> <p>30:50 (Pat) Discusses where the teams would play. Tells how they had to pay farmers rent to use their fields.</p> <p>31:18 (Pat) Explains how a group of people involved with the club bought 15 acres for \$15,000 in 1953/54 when he was in Armagh College to use as the club grounds.</p> <p>31:53 (Pat) Describes the different types of fundraising undertaken to raise money to buy the club grounds in Beragh.</p> <p>32:24 (Jimmy) Talks about the different fundraisers undertaken to raise money for the club. Describes how his</p>
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	<p>brother Eoghan turned a barn into a dancehall and tells a story about the BBC doing a radio show about country céilís.</p> <p>34:25 (Jimmy) Talks about when his club bought their grounds in the late 1950s/early 1960s. Mentions Father Vallely and talks about he and Mickey Harte's involvement with buying the pitch, which he thinks sold for \$1,000.</p> <p>35:30 (Jimmy) Discusses the different facilities of St Colmcilles. Talks about how before they bought grounds they played football in a field called James Grogan's field. Explains how they own the field now.</p> <p>37:21 (Pat) Talks about travelling to the Carrickmore final in 1945. Talks about how people generally travelled on bicycles. Tells a story about cycling from Antrim to Tyrone.</p> <p>38:38 (Pat) Talks about football fields in Beragh and mentions a field called McNamee's Hill.</p> <p>39:03 (Jimmy) Tells a story about travelling to see Carrickmore matches on a bus. Talks about travelling to matches as a player in one car with the entire team. Tells a story about playing a match in Ballygawley, he talks about a man named James Rafferty.</p> <p>40:55 (Jimmy) Talks about going to his first county match in the early 1950s with his brother Eoghan to see Tyrone play Donegal in Coalisland. He mentions that Jim Devlin, Paddy Quinn, Iggy Jones and Frankie Donnelly were playing on the Tyrone team. He tells a story about getting lost on the way home.</p> <p>43:03 (Pat) Talks about the West Tyrone Board. He mentions Father McEvoy, chairman of the West Tyrone Board, and tells a story explaining why he was a character.</p> <p>44:07 (Jimmy) There are good stories in Mark McCaughey's history of the board. Tells a story about someone being summoned to the West Tyrone Board for a disciplinary. Thinks Peter Coleman was the chairman at the time.</p> <p>45:17 (Pat) Talks about the running of the West Tyrone Board. He mentions Master McMahan, Peter Coleman, Father McEvoy, and Mick McCaughey. Meetings were held in the Tyrone Restaurant.</p> <p>46:00 (Pat) Tells a story about the first year he was chairman</p>
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	<p>of the West Tyrone Board and talks about a meeting in the Foresters' Hall.</p> <p>46:52 (Pat) Discusses how Gortin won a junior championship one year. Tells a story about a man named John Coyle.</p> <p>47:43 (Pat) Describes how people were elected onto the West Tyrone Board.</p> <p>48:14 (Pat) Tells how many people played illegally for different teams.</p> <p>48:36 (Pat) Tells how he played illegally for Antrim Town football team when he was in Greenmount. Tells how there were few Catholic men from Greenmount. Tells how he also played a county minor final for Clogher against Omagh.</p> <p>49:16 (Jimmy) Tells a story about when he was in college in England he played illegally for Derby with two Carrickmore men, Paddy Grogan and Paddy Hughes.</p> <p>49:55 (Jimmy) Tells a story about a parishioner, Kevin Gallagher who worked in Vauxhalls in Luton, and how he and Paddy Grogan hitched to London to play for Luton.</p> <p>50:18 (Jimmy) Tells a story about when he was Tyrone's representative on the central council and met a man named Bartley Cahill.</p> <p>51:02 (Pat) Discusses how many boys left school at fourteen and how, if you went to secondary school, you met boys from other clubs.</p> <p>51:14 (Pat) Tells a story about Beragh getting to minor county final. He talks about Hughie McCann and Joe McCann.</p> <p>51:45 (Jimmy) Comments on the level of injuries there are now compared to when he was growing up.</p> <p>52:17 (Jimmy) Tells a story about getting an injury when he was playing at Mullaslin school and how he recovered after with the help of a turnip poultice.</p> <p>53:36 (Pat) Talks about when the Commission appointed to look into the board system and when the West and East Tyrone board ended in the early 1970s and the reaction of many to this decision. Explains how the county league board was established.</p>
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54:56 (Pat) Discusses when he was growing up how they never met the teams from East Tyrone unless they got to a county semi-final. He explains how four teams from west and east Tyrone met in the quarter final.

55:35 (Pat) Describes how he became involved with the West Tyrone Board. Tells how many could not attend as they had no method of transport.

56:17 (Pat) Tells how he was secretary of the Beragh club in 1958. He explains how he got work in Enniskillen and had no transport to return home regularly. He tells how he played for Enniskillen.

56:35 (Pat) Discusses the convention held in Beragh in 1966 when a committee was appointed and he became treasurer. He tells how he was asked to get involved with the minor team and became involved in the West Tyrone Minor board, going on to become chairman.

57:40 (Pat) Tells how he was elected chairman of the county board in 1975 after previously being chairman of the commission.

58:07 (Pat) Discusses how in the mid 1960s he worked for the department of agriculture and became involved in the county team. He mentions Arthur McRory and John McCusker of Dromore.

58:46 (Jimmy) Tells how when he returned from England he worked in Clonoe as a teacher in 1966. He explains how he became secretary of the East Tyrone Board. He tells how he got suspended.

59:49 (Jimmy) Tells how he was chosen as one of the delegates from east Tyrone to be a member of the county board, where he was assistant secretary, treasurer, and chairman after Pat McCartan.

01:01:27 (Pat) Discusses a seminar he attended given by Pat Fanning. He talks about how Jimmy was his successor as chairman of the county board.

01:01:18 (Jimmy) Talks about being chairman in 1980 when Arthur McRory became manager of the Tyrone senior team. He discusses the work Arthur McRory has done to promote the GAA at underage level. He mentions St Patrick's school in

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	<p>Dungannon and Tyrone county vocational school.</p> <p>01:02:00 (Pat) Tells a story about Dermot Conway, who used to write a column in the paper when he was county secretary about Arthur McRory and his mentors.</p> <p>01:02:20 (Jimmy) Tells how Arthur McRory took over at senior level in 1980. He tells how the highlight of his managerial career was winning the first national senior title of the national league in 2002.</p> <p>01:03:19 (Jimmy) Talks about when Art McRory managed the team to get to the first All-Ireland final in 1985. He mentions Eugene McKenna and Mickey Harte.</p> <p>01:04:03 (Jimmy) Tells how on the county committee he became the central council delegate representing Tyrone at Croke Park. He tells how he was chosen as the Ulster representative on the GAA management committee for three years and elected a trustee at congress.</p> <p>01:04:52 (Jimmy) He discusses how he is associated with setting up funding for Tyrone called 'Club Tyrone', and talks about how he was one of the founding members. Mentions how it was first called a millennium initiative and discusses the function of Club Tyrone. Describes how it has raised money for different developments in Tyrone, such as Omagh and Garvaghy.</p> <p>01:06:58 (Jimmy) Talks about the patrons scheme set up towards the development in Garvaghy and describes how much people have committed to pay. Tells what the development will consist of when it is finished.</p> <p>01:08:28 (Jimmy) Tells how the development is costing £6.7 million. He explains what has been completed and what is left to be completed. He maintains it is due to be completed by 2013.</p> <p>01:09:22 (Pat) Discusses the level of Scór within the club and the difficulties that have arisen to keep it going. He talks about its level of success in Tyrone.</p> <p>01:10:14 (Jimmy) Talks about the number of clubs in the county that compete in Scór tournaments.</p> <p>01:10:45 (Jimmy) Talks about Tyrone's success in dancing competitions. He mentions Omagh St. Endas and Killyclogher</p>
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	<p>and comments on their various successes.</p> <p>01:11:14 (Jimmy) Discusses how the people involved in Scór provide half time entertainment at matches and he mentions a ballad band from Dromore.</p> <p>01:11:48 (Jimmy) Talks about the chairman and secretary of the clubs sub-committee, Donal McGee from Killyclogher and Clíodhna Kerr from Carrickmore, and discusses how they were recognised at a presentation in Croke Park for the way they promoted the Irish language. He describes this method as 'clustering' and explains how this works within the clubs.</p> <p>01:13:18 (Pat) Discusses the challenges facing the GAA in Northern Ireland during the Troubles. He tells a story about when he was in congress and there was a motion complaining about the British government not giving funding for the GAA. He mentions the Derry chairman, Tommy Mellon, and recalls his opinion on the motion.</p> <p>01:14:02 (Pat) Discusses the challenges some clubs and young nationalists faced. Discusses being stopped by the UDR or the B-Specials on the way to matches.</p> <p>01:14:42 (Jimmy) Recalls going to Clones for Ulster finals and tells a story about being stopped eleven times by the UDR travelling to a match and why it was done to provoke those travelling to the match.</p> <p>01:15:53 (Jimmy) Tells a story about a county minor hurling team being stopped at a checkpoint and being thoroughly searched.</p> <p>17:15 (Jimmy) Tells how when the Troubles started he was living in Coalisland and tells a story about holding his eldest son during the first civil rights march from Coalisland to Dungannon. He talks about the provocation young people experienced on the road.</p> <p>01:18:09 (Jimmy) Describes some of the questions people were asked when stopped at British checkpoints. He describes some of the fake and humorous fake names people used to give.</p> <p>01:18:44 (Jimmy) Maintains that the hunger strikes were the biggest difficulty for the GAA and explains why. Tells how matches were interrupted by protests. He describes the tension when the hunger strikes began to die. He tells a story</p>
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	<p>about going to a meeting in Croke Park and the advice they got.</p> <p>01:21:25 (Pat) Talks about whether clubs made political statements during the hunger strikes.</p> <p>01:22:15 (Pat) Talks about when he was elected chairman of the West Tyrone Board and Declan O'Neill, county chairman after him, proposed a motion condemning something. Describes people reactions to raising political issues within the club. He mentions Mick McCaughey.</p> <p>01:23:09 (Jimmy) Talks about people within the GAA who lost their lives during the Troubles, such as Gerard Coney who was in Long Kesh and tunnelled himself out but was shot when he emerged. He discusses the response these issues received.</p> <p>01:23:56 (Both) Tells how the GAA as a body was supposed to be not involved in political issues and he explains how this was difficult. He talks about a man shot at the entrance to the Coalisland GAA pitch, Martin McShane. They also mentions Pat Shields and his son, Campbell, Kevin Kilpatrick, Aidan McAnespie, O'Donnell, Clancy, and McGirr who were all shot dead and who he taught in school.</p> <p>01:25:17 (Both) Talks about club names and mentions clubs named after people involved in the War of Independence or earlier republican insurrections such as Clonoe which is named after The O'Rahilly, Derrylaughan which is named after Kevin Barry, and Brocagh Emmets, Coalisland Na Fianna. Beragh were the last club to change their name.</p> <p>01:26:31 (Jimmy) Talks about Aidan McAnespie who was shot at Aughnacloy and tells how there is a club named after him in Boston.</p> <p>01:27:25 (Pat) Talks about reaction of seeing women at matches when he was chairman. Recalls a row that occurred at a match when he was county chairman when a man was killed. He tells how he was not contacted by the media and compares this to what would happen now.</p> <p>01:27:53 (Pat) Explains how the GAA stopped for a while in Tyrone after a man was killed during a row at a match. He mentions Paddy O'Neill and a meeting that was held to deal with the situation. He discusses some of the decisions taken at this meeting.</p>
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	<p>01:28:59 (Jimmy) Talks about what it was like from going to Tyrone to the Central Council and describes this experience.</p> <p>01:30:02 (Jimmy) Talks about how the real seat of power in Croke Park is held at management level, through the management commission.</p> <p>01:30:37 (Jimmy) Talks about being a trustee from 2003-2005. He discusses the Tyrone senior football team that made it to the All-Ireland final in 2003 and 2005, and mentions the minor team that won the All-Ireland in 2004.</p> <p>01:31:26 (Pat) Discusses his favourite role he held in the GAA, which he considers as his involvement with the county team.</p> <p>01:31:58 (Jimmy) Discusses his favourite roles he has held and lists these as his involvement with the central council and at management level. He describes being county chairman as his most rewarding experience and he explains why.</p> <p>01:32:54 (Jimmy) Talks about Paul Dorris who was chairman of Club Tyrone when it was formed in 1995. He tells a story about a conversation about maximising income to increase county success.</p> <p>01:34:44 (Pat) Describes his best memory as being on the sideline when Podge Quinn scored a goal in Croke Park against Kerry.</p> <p>01:35:15 (Jimmy) Describes his best memory as beating Kerry in an All-Ireland football final in Croke Park in 2008 and he explains why.</p> <p>01:37:49 (Pat) Describes Tyrone's defeat in the 1995 All-Ireland final to Dublin as his biggest disappointment. He mentions Peter Canavan, Adrian Cush, Mattie McLennan and Dolan. Another disappointment is that Arthur McRory never won a senior All-Ireland. He mentions Eugene McKenna.</p> <p>01:39:07 (Jimmy) Describes his biggest disappointment as being beaten in county final in 1958. He refers to Carrickmore winning the juvenile championship in 1955, and the minor championship in 1956 and 1957. He tells how he returned home from England to watch the final.</p> <p>01:40:16 (Pat) Describes what the GAA has meant to him and</p>
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	<p>talks about the friendships he made throughout his involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:40:42 (Jimmy) Describes what the GAA has meant to him throughout his life and discusses its impact on society. He talks about the voluntary ethos of the GAA. He discusses a man that had an impact on him named Jimmy McAllen, referred to as Jimmy Hughie, and explains why. He describes the role clubs throughout the county have on society.</p> <p>01:43:15 (Jimmy) He discusses how his grandchildren are beginning to play hurling and are playing with Killyclogher.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:44:13</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the GAA Oral History Project on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the GAA Oral History Project the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____15/06/12_____