

IRISH LIFE AND LORE SERIES

HORSE RACING IRELAND
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

CATALOGUE OF 46 RECORDINGS



HORSE RACING
IRELAND

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Irish Life and Lore Series

Maurice and Jane O’Keeffe, Ballyroe, Tralee, County Kerry

e-mail: info@irishandlore.com

website: www.irishlifeandlore.com

telephone: +353-66-712 1991/ +353-87-299 8167

Recordings compiled by: Maurice O’Keeffe

Catalogue editor: Jane O’Keeffe

Word processing/database management by: Margaret Lantry, Cork

Recordings mastered by: Barra Vernon, Cork

Privately published by: Maurice and Jane O’Keeffe, Tralee

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INDEX

Alan Lillingston.....	14
Alison Baker.....	15
Barbara Collins.....	4
Betty Galway Greer.....	16, 17
Brendan Daly.....	18
Cahir O’Sullivan.....	1
Christopher Gaisford-St Lawrence.....	19
Clem Magnier.....	45, 46
Dermot Weld.....	3
Dick O’Sullivan.....	9
Finbarr Slattery.....	20
Francis Flood.....	21
Jacqueline O’Brien.....	22
Jim Berney.....	23
Joe Collins.....	24
John Burns.....	41
Johnnie Harrington.....	25
Johnny Kierans.....	10
Luke Mullins.....	27, 28
Marguerite (Gita) Weld.....	12, 13
Maureen Mullins.....	29
Michael Kinane.....	11
Mick O’Toole.....	5
Norman Colfer.....	31
Paddy Woods.....	42
Pat Farrell.....	8
Peter Fitzsimons.....	32
Phonsie O’Brien.....	6
Rosaleen Tonson Rye.....	41
Roy Craigie.....	33
Sir Edmund Loder.....	34
Sonia Rogers.....	35, 36
Stan Cosgrove.....	2
T. P. Burns.....	43
Tim Finn.....	7
Tommy Kinane.....	37
Tommy Murphy.....	44
Tunney Galvin.....	38
Valentine Lamb.....	39
William Robinson.....	40

Name: Cahir O’Sullivan (born 1935)

Address: Newbridge, Co. Kildare

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 1

Subject: The Turf Club

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 78:21



Content:

Track 1: His background in Dundalk, and his education. Leaving Ireland in 1957 to work in England. Joining the Anglo-Irish bloodstock industry while studying for a degree in Commerce. He joined Myson in Newcastlewest as managing director in 1969.

Track 2: He joined the Turf Club in 1976 as Chief Executive. Historical background to the Turf Club in Ireland and the people who worked there.

Track 3: His remit with the Turf Club. Those who were on the governing body. The state of the industry in the 1970s. Setting up of the Racing Board.

Track 4: Politics in the industry during his time and the formation of Horse Racing Ireland.

Track 5: Reasons for the change, and the development of the company.

Track 6: Perception of the old Turf Club as highbrow. Responsibilities to the industry; breaking with tradition.

Track 7: After his retirement being nominated Steward of the Turf Club for two years. The allocation of prize money for the national hunt and flat races.

Track 8: An account of the Chief Stewards under whom he worked. The ownership of the Curragh racecourse and the costs incurred.

Track 9: A typical day when he held the position of Chief Executive and Keeper of the Match Book, and the people who worked with him. Changes in the rules of the sport which he instigated.

Track 10: Organising the calendar for the twenty-eight race meetings around the country. His views on the reasons for the closure of racecourses such as Tralee and Mullingar. He explains why Royal Ascot would be his favourite race meeting. The people who perform the role of referees and stewards.

Name: Stan Cosgrove (born 1927)

Address: Moyglare Stud, Maynooth

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 2

Subject: Veterinary

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 65:34



Content:

Track 1: A brief history of Moyglare Stud and a synopsis of his own life.

Track 2: Studying veterinary in 1946 at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and his move to UCD. Qualifying in 1952 and his first practice in partnership in Dublin.

Track 3: In 1956 being one of the first to own a radio telephone. Joining a new practice in Kildare. Buying out that practice and starting an operating theatre . Pioneering new surgery on horses in Ireland.

Track 4: Becoming part-time manager of Moyglare Stud in 1962, when it had been bought by Swiss native Walter Haefner and also running his own business. The thoroughbred horse and its injuries; the putting down of a horse; the relationship with the owners.

Track 5: His involvement in the breeding of horses. The management at Moyglare Stud with four teams: the stud team, the racing team, the farm team and the garden team.

Track 6: The stock in the stud including brood mares, foals and yearlings. The Foley family’s long tradition as farriers with the family.

Track 7: Drugs in the sport. His views on the Turf Club and Horse Racing Ireland, and his thoughts on the Tallaght Strategy.

Name: Dermot Weld (born 1948)

Address: Rosewell House, The Curragh

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 3

Subject: Trainer

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 74:48



Content:

Track 1: His background in the Curragh and his education. Studying Veterinary Science in UCD, and becoming the youngest qualified vet in Ireland. His amateur years as a jockey. His success in riding in international races.

Track 2: Commencing training after the retirement of his father Charlie in 1971 and his subsequent death two years later.

Track 3: Training horses in the 1970s with great success. Some of the people for whom he trained horses.

Track 4: ‘Teach Dhá Mhíle’ which he bought for a syndicate which was raising funds to put a new roof on a local church.

Track 5: Gambling on horses. Horses he owned, and responsibility for other people's horses. His staff over the years, and his record of having over 3,000 winners.

Track 6: Receiving the key to the city of Melbourne.

Track 7: The awards he received over the years including the UCD Contribution to the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Track 8: His views on the politics of the industry. The facilities at the Curragh. Serving on two racing boards. The number of people who are employed and the suppliers he uses. Judging a horse and its individual characteristics.

Track 9: Stories of the early period of his life, and his first trip to America at the age of 17. His favourite horse.

Track 10: Discussing his photographs and the awards he received down through the years.

Name: Barbara Collins (born 1930s)

Address: Conyngham Lodge, The Curragh

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 4

Subject: Trainer

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 63:14



Content:

Track 1: Her background in Dublin, her education and her work in Switzers. Meeting her husband and her marriage in 1963. Her first impressions when she arrived at Conyngham stables.

Track 2: The owners she met in the early days of the business. Some of the racecourses, in particular, Tralee racecourse, that she visited in the 1960s.

Track 3: The background to the name of the stud farm. Her husband Con who was a good judge of horses and an anecdotal story about some horses bought. The changes which have taken place in the industry.

Track 4: Training the horses on the Curragh and explaining the ownership of the Curragh and the sheep rights.

Track 5: The jockeys who rode for the stables including Pat Shanahan. She also talks about the Drogheda Memorial Fund, and her husband’s work on the Board.

Track 6: What it takes to run a stud farm.

Track 7: Her family in the business. The staff, the size of the firm and the numbers of horses. Betting and gambling.

Track 8: A memorable day when a horse named *Princess Pati*, trained by Con won the Irish Oaks in 1984 and other great successes. Her memories of good and bad years at the stud farm. Her own very special horse – *The Bower*.

Name: Mick O'Toole (born 1931)

Address: Maddenstown, Kildare

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 5

Subject: Trainer

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 59:24



Content:

Track 1: His background in Dublin and his introduction to racing, both of greyhounds and horses at a very early age. The big influences in his life, his two uncles Willie and Paddy Byrnes. The big breakthrough with greyhounds and the change over to horses.

Track 2: Beginning to train horses in the Phoenix Park. His first horse owner. His stablehands who stayed with him down through the years.

Track 3: Buying Maddenstown Stud Farm in 1970.

Track 4: His great successes and memories of Cheltenham down through the years. Winning at Royal Ascot.

Track 5: The trainers, the breeders and the jockeys in the industry. His memories of race meetings around the country. His great successes in winning Classics. The horse sales he attended.

Track 6: His retirement ten years ago and his great passion for horses and racing. His family's involvement in the industry. The apprentices who worked for him over the years.

Track 7: His admiration for Irish jockeys and his views on what makes a good horse trainer.

Track 8: Being a character in the business. His views on staying on top of the game.

Track 9: His favourite horses that he trained himself and their owners.

Track 10: Racing at Listowel. Drugs and dishonesty in the industry.

Name: Phonsie O'Brien (born 1929)

Address: Landscape House, Kilsheelan, near Clonmel

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 6

Subject: Trainer

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 74:10



Content:

Track 1: Growing up in Churchtown, North Cork. His background, and a windfall which came to his father from his uncle. The maternal side of the family, the Twomeys. His own education.

Track 2: Starting to work with horses at a very young age. His brother Vincent who was successful in gambling. The buying of Ballydoyle Stables in Cashel, Co. Tipperary.

Track 3: His amateur riding days and the many races that he won. Working as a jockey. The opportunity to work as a jockey for a stud farm in England but returning to work with his brother, Vincent.

Track 4: The Turf Club in the early days and the reasons why the stables were such a success from the beginning.

Track 5: Riding in the English Grand National and coming second on *Royal Tan*.

Track 6: A typical day in Ballydoyle. Recalling some of the racecourses he raced at in the 1950s. Beginning to train horses from 1956 onwards.

Track 7: Purchasing South Lodge.

Track 8: Moving to Thomastown Castle estate and building a house and stables there. The owners that he trained for in the early days. Marriage to Ann Pilsworth.

Track 9: The 1960s and the changes at that time in the industry. Finding a market and clients overseas. The changes in the system and the people who instigated them.

Track 10: Keeping his own business small and being fortunate in choosing the best riders. Being five times winner of the Galway Plate.

Track 11: Buying Landscape House and the sale of Thomastown.

Name: Tim Finn (born 1927)

Address: Killenaule, near Thurles

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 7

Subject: Groom

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 68:46



Content:

Track 1: His background in Greenpark, Limerick, his early education and finding work with the McClintock stables in Rochestown, near Cork city, for seven years.

Track 2: In the 1940s, transportation of horses by CIÉ to England.

Track 3: Starting work in 1952 with O’Gradys as a travelling Head Lad.

Track 4: Working with O’Gradys and his memories of those working days there.

Track 5: His first trip overseas to England in 1946 for the McClintocks, and describing the journey in great detail. Also his first trip to England with horses for the O’Gradys, one of which was owned by the Duchess of Westminster. The various jockeys who rode for the O’Gradys.

Track 6: The work carried out by a groom in the O’Grady stables and sleeping over the stables until his marriage.

Track 7: The techniques he used in breaking in a thoroughbred horse.

Track 8: His very early days growing up and his mother's family, the O’Sullivans of Gneeveguilla, Sliabh Luachra, Co. Kerry. The long service of sixty years he gave to the O’Gradys.

Track 9: Point-to-point races in Tipperary and his long standing membership of a club there. His belief that the best horses are reared on the Golden Vale.

Name: Pat Farrell (born 1954)

Address: Moyglare Stud Farm

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 8

Subject: Groom

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 41:48



Content:

Track 1: His background in Newbridge, Co. Kildare and growing up on a stud farm where his father John worked. His own work in late 1960s as a young stablehand for Edmund Loder in Newbridge. In 1973 he came to Moyglare Stud, and the work he did there.

Track 2: His short education and serving his time for W.J. Brennan. His first ride in a race for Danny O’Donnell.

Track 3: A description of a day working on a stud farm.

Track 4: Wages and conditions in the early days working for Danny O’Donnell at the Curragh. In 1973 he began working with Moyglare Stud, and he describes his role as a groom. Travelling with horses overseas and his ability to understand the nature of a thoroughbred horse.

Track 5: Breaking in a horse, the individuality of the horse, and his favourite horses which include *Be My Guest*. Responsibilities and pressures in handling such valuable animals. The important role of a feedman in a stable yard. His present work and looking after foals.

Name: Dick O’Sullivan (born 1930s)

Address: Punchestown Racecourse, Naas

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 9

Subject: Racecourse managing director

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 71:07



Content:

Track 1: His background growing up in Tralee and his education there. Veterinary college. His marriage to Carmel Green in 1963.

Track 2: Being Head of Veterinary Services for Kerry in 1983 having worked as an Inspector and Superintendent in the veterinary industry. Changing direction from the public to the private sector. Developing new skills in choosing good people to work for him when he joined Kerry Group. Moving to five different positions within the company.

Track 3: Being posted to Mexico and Brazil, taking charge of a new operation for Kerry Group. Returning home in 2000, being appointed by Horse Racing Ireland as a consultant to Leopardstown Racecourse.

Track 4: Appointed Chief Executive of Irish Thoroughbred Marketing. Moving to Punchestown Racecourse in 2002 and his role as Managing Director. A description of the rescue strategy put in place.

Track 5: The historical importance of Punchestown, which is home to National Racing and the National Hunt Festival. Its running over the years.

Track 6: An explanation of how Punchestown Racecourse is a self-funding commercial operation. The staff who work there.

Track 7: A discussion on Punchestown Racecourse, and its operation as a commercial enterprise.

Track 8: His non-executive chairmanship of Bord na gCon, and the great challenges he faced in its reorganisation. Limerick greyhound track and its commercial operation is discussed.

Track 9: Irish Thoroughbred Marketing and its work in promoting the sale of Irish thoroughbreds.

Track 10: The high points and the challenges faced in his career.

Name: Johnny Kierans (born 1939)

Address: Drogheda town

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 10

Subject: Anglo Printers, Drogheda

Recorded by Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 67:33



Content:

Track 1: His background in Drogheda, and his family’s barbering business in the town. His introduction to horse-racing at a very early age.

Track 2: Joining the *Drogheda Independent* newspaper as an apprentice compositor at the age of 14 after a short education, and learning from Tom O’Donoghue and Andrew Belton there. An anecdote about the horse *Caherdaniel*.

Track 3: Serving his time in the printing business and being appointed to senior foreman. Producing racecards and printing and designing new racecards. Stories about betting and losing.

Track 4: The historical background to the racing card. Attending a course at Kodak in England to learn new skills.

Track 5: The reasons why he left the *Drogheda Independent* in 1980 to start his own business, and in this new business, Anglo Printers, he designed the first tote ticket for the Jackpot in Ireland.

Track 6: Producing the first overnight declarations in Ireland.

Track 7: His contribution of articles to the sporting press. His father and his uncle's involvement in the old IRA and politics in the family.

Track 8: Explaining the progress from hot metal printing to modern methods in the printing business. Gaining a monopoly in the racecard business. His retirement six years ago.

Name: Michael Kinane (born 1959)

Address: Punchestown

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 11

Subject: Jockey

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 78:05



Content:

Track 1: Mick Kinane’s early days, growing up on Holy Cross and Killenaule, Co. Tipperary. His education and his apprenticeship as a jockey at Liam Brown’s stables in the Curragh in 1976.

Track 2: His first winning ride at Leopardstown as an apprentice in 1975. Becoming Irish Champion Jockey in 1984. Beginning work in Ashbourne Stables for Michael Kauntze.

Track 3: The skills in horseracing, having confidence and his injuries over the years.

Track 4: Returning to work in Liam Browne’s stables on the Curragh prior to working in Dermot Weld’s stables. His relationship with the trainers and getting instructions for races.

Track 5: The layout of various racecourses. The money in the sport.

Track 6: Owners and trainers with whom he has been involved over the years, and the great horses with which he was successful. The difference between high expectations and the absence of pressure, and the psychology involved. His favourite horse of all time was *Sea the Stars*. The extreme discipline which he had to apply to his weight, which averaged 8.7 stone. Staying with the flat races rather than jump races.

Track 7: His retirement in 2009.

Track 8: His marriage to Helen Clarke in 1983 and life at Coolmore Lodge on the Curragh. The great success he had in 1990 in winning the Belmont Stakes, one of the legs of the Triple Crown in America. The horse called *Go and Go* was owned by Walter Haefner and trained by Dermot Weld. Being the only Irish jockey on an Irish horse to have achieved this. An anecdotal story about being a marked man after winning the Belmont Stakes.

Track 9: Ups and downs throughout his career. The jockeys in the industry that he admired. Spending six years with Aidan O’Brien at the height of his career.

Name: Gita Weld (born 1914)

Address: Rosewell House, The Curragh

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 12

Subject: Part 1 – A life with horses

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 45:57



Content:

Track 1: Her background in Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary. The Civil War in the area and a detailed account of a farmhand who worked for her father, and his execution on the farm. Stories about the Republicans, their demands for a place to stay and for the use of the farm for drilling.

Track 2: Tracing her mother’s people, the O’Mahonys from Clonmel, with accompanying comments from her son Dermot Weld. They owned Powerstown Park which is now on Clonmel racecourse.

Track 3: Recalling her first time on a horse at age three. Hunting with her father with the Waterford Hounds. Days in boarding school. Successful days in showjumping. An anecdote about the years of World War II, riding a horse to show, participating, and riding home again.

Track 4: Working with the Department of Agriculture in Naas and the outbreak of war. Another anecdote about riding from Naas to home in Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary.

Track 5: Point to point races with the Clonmel Harriers and the Naas Harriers in 1944 and 1945.

Name: Marguerite (Gita) Weld (born 1914)
Address: Rosewell Stud, Curragh, Co. Kildare



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 13
Subject: Part 2 – A second visit to Rosewell Stud
Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore
Recording date: 2012
Time: 68:00

Content:

- Track 1: Following her marriage to Charlie Weld, the couple moved to England for two years, where Charlie trained horses. The family background of her parents and grandparents.
- Track 2: Returned to Ireland, living near the Phoenix Park, where they trained horses. Memories of travelling to the horse sales in Newmarket in the 1950s, with Dermot, her young son.
- Track 3: The logistics of moving home and horses to Rosewell Stud in the 1950s; building up the business of horse breeding; the owners for whom her husband trained horses.
- Track 4: The owners and trainers in the Curragh area; her patrons over the years; getting involved in breeding horses with her father, and later her brother; the jockeys the family retained over the years.
- Track 5: With prompting from Dermot, recalled the early days of sending horses overseas to race meetings, and hearing race results on Michéal Ó hEithir’s radio programme. Memories also of Dermot’s first win as an amateur jockey, when he was fifteen.
- Track 6: The stable hands, the yard men and the grooms who worked for the Welds over the years. The days of transporting horses to race meetings by CIÉ, parading them from the train stations and through the town to the racecourse.
- Track 7: The business of breeding and selling horses; the purchase of Glen Vale Stud in Tipperary and later Piper’s Hill Stud in Naas and finally Spring Bank in the Curragh.
- Track 8: The importance of planning and choosing the appropriate race for a horse to fulfil its potential. Anecdote of the origins of her nickname Gita.

Name: Alan Lillingston (born 1935)

Address: Mount Coote Stud, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 14

Subject: The business of horsebreeding and riding

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 57:50



Content:

Track 1: Born in Leicestershire, England, the son of a serving officer with the British Army. Moved with his mother to Ireland following the death of his father in Normandy in 1944. Described the purchase of Mount Coote estate jointly with Major Watt.

Track 2: His days as an amateur jockey, winning his first race at Tralee racecourse at the age of thirteen. Education in Yorkshire followed by a degree in agriculture at Cambridge University.

Track 3: Memories of his mother, who built up the horse breeding business in Mount Coote. Anecdote of his time as an amateur jockey for Tom Dreaper’s stables.

Track 4: His half-brother Lord Harrington, Patrickswell, who sent his horses to be pre-trained at Mount Coote.

Track 5: His mother’s death in 1952, and the responsibilities of the business which he, as a seventeen-year old, was required to manage with his stepfather.

Track 6: The contribution he made as a Steward with the Turf Club and as Secretary of the National Hunt.

Track 7: His serious riding accident, which brought an end to his amateur jockey days.

Track 8: His regular attendance at the Royal Dublin Horse Show, where he met his future wife, Vivienne. Competed in dressage and eventing, and travelled to the Mexico Olympics in 1968; the disappointment felt by the Irish Team at the Games.

Track 9: Hunting with the Limerick Foxhounds.

Name: Alison Baker (born 1920)

Address: Malahow, The Naul, Co. Dublin

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 15

Subject: Breeding and Rearing Arkle

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 66:00



Content:

Track 1: A description of her early years, growing up on the family farm; her family connections. Her father’s inheritance of a stable of horses, which included *Bright Cherry*, dam of the famous *Arkle*.

Track 2: Memories of her father, who was Master of Hounds with Fingal Harriers, and of her own horse riding days. The relationship between her family and the Dreapers. Tom Dreaper would subsequently train *Arkle*. The tradition of horse breeding among the local farming community.

Track 3: Discussed the breeding and rearing of *Arkle* and recalled *Bright Cherry*’s racing triumphs.

Track 4: The preparation of *Arkle* for the salesring, and his future owner, the Duchess of Westminster. *Arkle*’s trainer Tom Dreaper and his first win at Navan Racecourse.

Track 5: Looking through the stud books to recount the lineage of *Bright Cherry* and the other foals she produced.

Track 6: The management of the farm and stud in the 1950s.

Track 7: Reminiscences of *Arkle*’s glory years, his retirement, demise and subsequent burial.

Name: Betty Galway Greer (born 1930s)

Address: Rooskey Lodge, Dunboyne, Co. Meath

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 16

Subject: Part 1 – Recalling Nat Galway Greer’s illustrious career

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 75:05



Content:

Track 1: A description of her childhood and young life during ‘The Emergency’ years. Working with her father from an early age in the care of the horses he procured and sold for show jumping. Discussed Goffs’ old sales arena in Ballsbridge.

Track 2: Recollections of her father, Nat Galway Greer and his abiding passion for show horses; memories of riding to hounds with him as members of the Meath Hunt.

Track 3: The complexity of the business of managing show horses, and the expertise of the many people involved in the endeavour.

Track 4: Memorabilia of her father’s successes, including the magnificent silver perpetual trophy which he won on ten occasions over twenty years at the Dublin Horse Show.

Track 5: Discussed the history of the Dublin Horse Show, and memories of attending during the 1940s and 1950s.

Track 6: Recollections of her father’s journeys, often to Munster, to seek out promising foals from his contacts among the strong farmers in the region.

Track 7: Looking through old albums containing photographs and newspaper cuttings of the many successes at the Dublin Horse Show, and the horsemen who participated in competitions over the years.

Track 8: The sad occasion in 1956, when her father suffered a serious riding accident, and Betty was required to take over the business.

Name: Betty Galway Greer (born 1930s)
Address: Rooskey Lodge, Dunboyne, Co. Meath

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 17
Subject: Part 2 – Recalling Nat Galway Greer’s illustrious career
Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore
Recording date: 2012
Time:



Content:

- Track 1: Memories of her father Nat, who bought *Golden Miller* as a foal in 1927. *Golden Miller* in his time won 27 chases, five Cheltenham Gold Cups and The Galway Plate.
- Track 2: Another great horse owned by Nat was *Monk’s Star*. Recalled a momentous day at Punchestown in 1957 when *Monk’s Star* won the Maiden Chase with Francis Flood on board, leaving six horses for dead. Recalled the friendship and business relationship between her father and Tom Dreaper.
- Track 3: Reviewing memorabilia and recalling her first horse, *Crenella*, who won in Ballydoyle and was subsequently the dam of five major winners.
- Track 4: Discussed a plaque presented to Nat during the 1950s by the English racing fraternity, in recognition of his record in producing great show horses, including *Mighty Atom*.
- Track 5: Her father’s early sporting life and his talent for horsemanship in point to point races, including the Farmers’ Race at North Kildare’s Harriers Hunt, held at Windgates near Maynooth. Recalled seeing ladies ride sidesaddle during the pre-war years.

Name: Brendan Daly (born 1924)

Address: Listowel, Co. Kerry

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 18

Subject: Racecourse management

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 54:45



Content:

Track 1: Early years in Market Street, Listowel. Became Secretary of Listowel Racecourse in 1951. The racecourse at that time, and the staff who looked after the upkeep of the track down through the years.

Track 2: The tendency of the profession of Turf Accountant to be passed down in families; these maintained the same location at the racecourse year after year. The challenge of maintaining a three day event.

Track 3: Recalled, with prompting by his daughter, Breda, the familiar faces of racegoers to Listowel through the years.

Track 4: The parade of the racehorses from the train station in Listowel through the town and then to the yards of local farmers, which were their quarters for the duration.

Track 5: The voluntary aspect of much of Listowel Races, and the generosity of so many people who gave freely of their time. His work as an accountant with McKenna’s of Listowel.

Track 6: Reminiscences of the Clerk of the course, the Stewards, and the Keeper of the matchbook. The traditional office he occupied at the racecourse. Breda discussed her position as Assistant Secretary, which she began eighteen years ago.

Track 7: The invaluable support of his late wife, Kathleen (née Keane). The transfer of racecourse land to Kerry Group, who have been a major support to Listowel races through the years.

Name: Christopher Gaisford-St Lawrence (born 1930)

Address: Howth Castle, Co. Dublin

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 19

Subject: The Turf Club

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 75:45



Content:

Track 1: His youthful enthusiasm for horseracing, and becoming involved in owning and breeding horses.

Track 2: Membership of the Turf Club, and Stewarding at Baldoyle.

Track 3: The expenses inherent in maintaining a racecourse. Government involvement in setting up the Racing Board. His views on the brief of the Turf Club.

Track 4: The introduction of sponsorship for races, which had the advantage of attracting the best horses. The passion and the way of life of owning and training horses.

Track 5: Memories of his tenure with the Turf Club.

Track 6: His chairmanship of the Disciplinary Committee, and a controversial incident that occurred during this time.

Track 7: The challenges he encountered while Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Track 8: Power struggles within the Turf Club.

Track 9: The Turf Club offices in Merrion Square, prior to the move to the Curragh.

Name: Finbarr Slattery (born 1925)
Address: Orchard Close, Killarney, Co. Kerry



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 20

Subject: Racecourse management

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 73:10

Content:

- Track 1: An account of his family’s background, and growing up in Asdee, north Kerry.
- Track 2: Studied for a degree in Agriculture in University College Dublin, and then went to Nottingham in England to work for a short time.
- Track 3: Returned to Ireland, and after a short time moved to Killarney where he met and married Carmel O’Leary, whose family had a tradition of involvement in Killarney Racecourse and also in the greyhound racing business.
- Track 4: The revival of Killarney Races.
- Track 5: His two publications on horseracing. Membership of the Committee of Killarney Racecourse. The development of the Racecourse over the years; the challenge of raising sponsorship; transfer of a portion of land for the construction of a golf course.
- Track 6: The bookmakers who attended Killarney Racecourse regularly for many years.
- Track 7: Memories of friends and committee members; the most memorable race meetings through the years; the introduction of the trophy, sponsored by Kerry Group, which was presented to the trainer who had the most winners at the three racecourses in Kerry over one year.

Name: Francis Flood (born 1930)

Address: Ballynure, Co. Wicklow

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 21

Subject: The life of a jockey and trainer

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 56:45



Content:

Track 1: Growing up in Grangecon Rocks, Co. Wicklow. Becoming a stableboy for Paddy Sleator, a local horse trainer at Grangecon Stables; getting excellent opportunities to ride out great horses.

Track 2: His days as an amateur jockey; recalling the many stablehands employed by Paddy Sleator.

Track 3: His views on Stewarding; his many wins as a jockey at Punchestown.

Track 4: In 1968, set up his own stables at Ballynure and began training. Anecdote about a musical duo, Foster and Allen, for whom he trained horses.

Track 5: The skills required to train horses and to judge a horse’s potential.

Track 6: Discussed the many trophies and memorabilia present in the room which he won over the years.

Track 7: The longstanding tradition of good horsemanship in the Flood family. Concluded interview with review of the many memorable photographs of triumphant occasions, including winning The Gold Cup and The Irish Grand National.

Name: Jacqueline O'Brien (born 1926)
Address: The K Club, Straffan, Co. Kildare



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 22
Subject: Vincent O'Brien's widow's recollections of an extraordinary life
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore
Recording date: 2012
Time: 74:30

Content:

Track 1: Her background in Western Australia, and her family name, Wittenoom. Visiting Ireland in 1951, where she met Vincent O'Brien, her future husband. The couple made their home in Ballydoyle.

Track 2: The business of training race horses and sourcing markets overseas.

Track 3: Discussed a challenging time for the business, when Vincent's horse training licence was revoked, and the stance taken by the family on the matter. Raising a young family, and combining this with the requirements of business, which included extensive travel, to the USA in particular.

Track 4: The occasion on which Vincent invested in Phoenix Park racecourse, and the unsuccessful nature of this endeavour. Vincent's partnership with John Magnier and Robert Sangster in owning and training horses at the new Coolmore Stud.

Track 5: The setting up and management of Coolmore Stud. The excellent bloodline of *Northern Dancer*, which brought great success to Coolmore. The visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Coolmore in 2011, where she inspected her mares in training.

Track 6: Discussed favourite horses and favourite racecourses, and superstitions surrounding the sport of horse racing. The occasion when Vincent objected to a Steward's decision regarding *Kings Lake*, who won the Irish 2000 Guineas (1981), demoted to second after a Curragh stewards' enquiry, only to be reinstated following successful appeal to the stewards of the Turf Club.

Track 7: The introduction of new techniques for training horses, and the many jockeys who worked with Vincent over the years, including a number from Australia.

Track 8: Reminiscences of her own family in Australia.

Name: Jim Berney (born 1932)
Address: Killcullen, Co. Kildare



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 23

Subject: The saddlery business

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 62:45

Content:

Track 1: Discussed the Berney family tradition of saddlery in Kilcullen over many generations since 1880. Educated by the Dominicans in Newbridge, emigrating to Vancouver in 1950, where he remained for six years.

Track 2: Returned to Ireland at the request of his father, to work in the family business – Berney Bros Saddlery. Discussed the craft of saddlery, the leather suppliers, the patterns and colours of the leather, the tanneries.

Track 3: The sense of continuity in the workshop, working alongside his father and grandfather, who were master craftsmen.

Track 4: The many changes in the saddlery business over the sixty years of his tenure. The master craftsmen and other members of staff with whom he worked.

Track 5: Reminiscences of growing up in a large family, the need for efficiency in the running of the family farm and the business. Discussed the specialised tools of a saddler, the same tools used by his father and grandfather.

Name: Joe Collins (born 1949)
Address: Bellewstown, Co. Meath



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 24

Subject: Clerk of the Course

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 57:50

Content:

Track 1: Growing up in Drogheda; his interest in hunting from an early age.

Track 2: His ambition to be Clerk of the Course after joining the Turf Club in 1968.

Track 3: Manager of Bellewstown Racecourse for a number of years. His years as Clerk of the Course during the 1970s and 1980s, travelling to race meetings around the country.

Track 4: Became Director of Laytown Races in 1974, and managed to halt its decline.

Track 5: Examples of his role and responsibilities as Clerk of the Course.

Track 6: A discussion of his duties as Race Starter and Clerk of the Scales.

Track 7: The racecourses he particularly enjoyed. His views of the structure of the Turf Club during his tenure.

Track 8: Discussed the enjoyment he took in his career and the reasons for his retirement.

Name: Johnnie Harrington (born 1936)

Address: Commonstown Stud, Moone, Athy, Co. Kildare

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 25

Subject: Bloodstock agent

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 53:00



Content:

Track 1: Grew up in Cork, born into a merchant family in Cork city. In the 1970s he joined the Bloodstock Agency – discussed his brief in this post.

Track 2: The management of Irish racing; the dominance of Coolmore Stud today.

Track 3: Decided to breed horses, bought Commonstown Stud. Discussed the development of the business and the staff members who assisted him. Decided to train horses in addition to breeding –some owners for whom he trained horses. His marriage to Jessica Fowler.

Track 4: Other owners and trainers in the business, including the McGrath brothers.

Track 5: Tracing his family roots, and the maternal side of the family; memories of his early years.

Name: Kevin Prendergast (born 1932)
Address: Erindale, Friarstown, Co. Kildare



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 26

Subject: The life of a trainer

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 73:00

Content:

Track 1: Horse training as a way of life from his birth; his father, Paddy Prendergast, known as ‘Darkie’, who was a strict disciplinarian, and his home at Rossmore Lodge. Education with the Dominicans in Newbridge. His rugby days. In 1949 he began his horse training apprenticeship in Australia, where he stayed for five years.

Track 2: In 1963 gained his licence to train; building up the training business; his first horse owner, Mrs Whitney Tippett, who sent him promising horses.

Track 3: His years as a successful amateur jockey; his first memorable win on *Zara* in the Phoenix Park racecourse in May 1963.

Track 4: The Doyles, who were the former owners of Rossmore Lodge. Taking over his father’s business in 1979 in addition to his own enterprise. The stable management in those days; the long tradition of stable hands; the clients.

Track 5: The racecourses around the country; the transporting of horses by CIE in the early days; transporting horses overseas in the 1960s.

Track 6: His views on the Turf Club and its members; the setting up of Horseracing Ireland.

Track 7: The jockeys who rode for the Prendergast stables through the years.

Track 8: Reminiscences of his life as it is now, the challenges encountered by an individual in the horse training business.

Name: Luke Mullins (born 1922)
Address: Newbridge, Co. Kildare



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 27

Subject: Part 1 – Racecourse Manager

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 69:40

Content:

Track 1: Growing up in Doninga, Co. Kilkenny, during the economic war in the 1930s; followed by the years of ‘the Emergency.’

Track 2: His decision to join the Irish Army, stationed in Curragh camp; the individuals who were detained there for the duration.

Track 3: The army horses which were stabled at the Curragh. Membership of the Naas Harriers and memories of hunting events.

Track 4: On leaving the army, being offered the position of Secretary of Galway racecourse, where he was to remain for twenty years, moving to management; his work to improve the racecourse. Recalling the ownership of the land in Ballybrit and the names of staff members of the time.

Track 5: Sourcing funding for the improvement of the racecourse; financial challenges of the early days.

Track 6: His observation that his army experience conferred the discipline which he applied to his work. Working closely with Lord Killanin, who was chairman of Galway racecourse at the time. Attracting the top National Hunt horses to the Galway Races. Anecdotes of the tradition of turf accountants at the races.

Name: Luke Mullins (born 1922)

Address: Newbridge, Co. Kildare

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 28

Subject: Part 2 – Racecourse Manager

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 46:45



Content:

Track 1: Securing sponsorship, advertising and promotional work in respect of Galway Races.

Track 2: The background to the famous Galway Tent, and the corporate and political gatherings held there.

Track 3: The social aspect of and community involvement in the Galway Races.

Track 4: The importance of maintaining the carnival atmosphere in the infield of the racecourse. His retirement in 1989; subsequently owning and breeding his own horses.

Track 5: Recalled a story told to him by an older member of the community, of a laneway through Mary Burke’s land to the racecourse, where the horses on arrival would be paraded to the infield.

Name: Maureen Mullins (born 1929)
Address: Doninga Stud, Co. Kilkenny



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 29

Subject: The business of breeding and training.

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 59:45

Content:

Track 1: Growing up in Kilkenny, from a family of 9 children; many of her siblings were musical and played instruments. Early interest in hunting and competed in showjumping locally.

Track 2: Met her future husband, Paddy Mullins, a horse trainer, whom she married in 1954. Paddy took over his family business from his father, William, that same year. The early days of building up their business; the owners for whom Paddy trained horses; their home in ‘Doninga,’ a Georgian house which was previously owned by the Cramptons, an Anglo-Irish family.

Track 3: Raising her family and encouraging their interest in horses and competing in showjumping championships. Her interest in breeding horses and looking after the brood mares.

Track 4: The other studs locally, which were also successful in breeding thoroughbred horses. The gift for horsemanship of local people who were employed by the family.

Track 5: Discussed the art of bookmaking and betting. Concluded with a summary of her early years working in Dublin.

Name: Neil McGrath (born 1956)

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 30

Subject: The Irish Sweepstakes and a life working with horses

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 58:50



Content:

Track 1: The background to the McGraths; memories of his grandfather, Joe.

Track 2: Reminiscences of his father and his uncles, all of whom were involved in the buying of Brownstown Stud Farm in 1939. Memories of the stable hands who worked there.

Track 3: Background to the Sweepstakes set up by his grandfather, Joe, and the benefits of this to horseracing.

Track 4: Early memories of his childhood, and later becoming involved in the family business, serving his time with his uncle, Seamus.

Track 5: Moving to America, where he worked as an assistant trainer until 1982, when he returned home. Explained the change of ownership of Brownstown Stud, and its eventual sale.

Track 6: The sport of horseracing and betting. Recalled his mother’s family and memories of his aunts.

Name: Norman Colfer (born 1928)

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 31

Subject: The auctioneering business

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 77:50



Content:

Track 1: Childhood in Wexford, graduated from Trinity College Dublin. Discussed the privileged lifestyle a gentleman enjoyed at that time.

Track 2: His introduction to auctioneering, his apprenticeship with Smith Griffin in Dawson Street, Dublin, then moving to J. C. Brady cattle sales in Co. Meath.

Track 3: Recalls his wife, Vera Heywood Jones.

Track 4: His enthusiasm for attending race meetings. In 1968, became manager of Fairyhouse racecourse, a post he held for twenty years; his role in this position.

Track 5: The challenge of securing sponsorship for the racecourse; the Irish Grand National sponsored for the first time in 1970, becoming the Irish Distillers Grand National. Recalled the fencemen during his tenure.

Track 6: The introduction of corporate sponsorship, which changed the nature of racing, and subsequently required the building of a new stand with private boxes at Fairyhouse.

Track 7: The background of the Irish Racecourse Association, and becoming Secretary of this body.

Track 8: The turbulent years of his auctioneering career in Goffs.

Name: Peter Fitzsimons (born 1931)

Address: Phibsborough, Dublin

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 32

Subject: The life of a bookmaker

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 69:45



Content:

Track 1: Childhood in Gardiner Street, Dublin and early education locally. Followed his father into the business of turf accountant, beginning as a clerk. The challenge of attending race meetings around the country during ‘The Emergency,’ when travel was curtailed.

Track 2: Took over his father’s business in 1961. A day in the life of a ‘bookie’; his clients; the tic-tac men; securing his regular pitch on the various racecourses.

Track 3: The serious problem of heavy gambling, which he has sometimes seen ruin lives.

Track 4: The Phoenix Park races and the social aspect of the event.

Track 5: The form book and the necessity for a bookmaker to study the horses in order to assess the odds. The invaluable input of the people who clerked for him throughout the years. The high risk strategy of gambling; the emergence of ‘old money’ during race meetings.

Track 6: An unpleasant incident at his home, when a robbery took place.

Track 7: The complexity of a career in bookmaking, including the sensitivity to know when to provide credit safely to trusted punters.

Name: Roy Craigie (born 1935)
Address: Cellbridge, Co. Kildare



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 33

Subject: An inside view of the industry

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 74:40

Content:

Track 1: The family tradition of hunting with the Fingal Harriers and the Ward Union Hunt. The family business at Merville Dairies, Finglas, which he joined in 1969, and the amalgamation with HB Dairies. The amalgamation of Dublin, Merville and Premier Dairies, of which he became General Manager overall. Trade union turbulence in those days.

Track 2: His introduction to horse racing and getting involved in its administration. Membership of the Fairyhouse Committee, replacing Norman Colfer as Manager of Fairyhouse in the 1980s.

Track 3: The managerial structure of Fairyhouse Racecourse.

Track 4: Membership of the Turf Club in 1972; acted as Steward at racecourses throughout Ireland. His involvement with the Racing Board, prior to the setting up of Horse Racing Ireland.

Track 5: Securing sufficient funding to enable lucrative prize money to be offered, which attracted the premier horses throughout Europe.

Track 6: The background of the National Hunt; membership of this body.

Track 7: His views on the predominance and control of the thoroughbred horse industry.

Track 8: His days as an amateur jockey, and his enjoyment of owning and breeding horses.

Name: Sir Edmund Loder (born 1941)
Address: Eyrefield Lodge, The Curragh, Co. Kildare



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 34

Subject: The Turf Club

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 76:45

Content:

Track 1: Childhood in Sussex, England. Inherited Eyrefield Stud in 1968, on the death of his bachelor uncle, Lt-Col. Giles Harold Loder. Giles Harold had inherited Eyrefield in 1914 on the death of his uncle, Major Eustace ‘Lucky’ Loder, the first member of the family to own the stud. Discussed his involvement in the business of horse breeding, the bloodlines he inherited, and the advice he received on the matter from his cousin, Peter Powell.

Track 2: Joined the Turf Club in the 1960s – described the membership as it was in those days.

Track 3: The Irish Hospital Sweepstakes sponsorship of the Irish Derby (from 1962), and subsequently sponsorship from Budweiser, both of which had a major effect on Irish horseracing.

Track 4: The need for improvements on the estates which he had inherited; recalled many families who had worked on the estates over the years. The sale of one family property – O’Connell Stud in Newbridge – to His Highness Sheikh Mohammad.

Track 5: His success in breeding champion racehorses, both in Ireland and in the USA, where he boarded a small herd of his horses. The daily routine of life as a horse breeder. The conflict of interest he experienced when a new body, Horse Racing Ireland, was being set up, as he was Chairman of the Breeders Association and also a member of the Turf Club.

Track 6: Among his Turf Club responsibilities was the management of all racing programme fixtures for the entire year.

Track 7: Explained his family connection to the Phoenix Park Racecourse, and his views on its closure. Summary of the properties owned by his family and a description of the manner of his Irish inheritance. Edmund’s father was Sir Giles Rolls Loder, whose own father, Captain Robert Egerton Loder, was killed in action in World War I.

Name: Sonia Rogers (born 1937)
Address: Grangewilliam Stud, Maynooth, Co. Kildare



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 35

Subject: Part 1 – The bloodstock business

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 59:40

Content:

Track 1: Her background and family name, Pilkington.

Track 2: Memories of her childhood home, Stackallen House Co. Meath. Her mother, a keen horsewoman, was a member of the Meath Hunt and kept a pack of hounds. Recollection of the first occasion on which her mother became involved in horse breeding.

Track 3: Studied art in Paris as a young woman. Returned home to Stackallen House, helping her mother with the horse breeding business. Met her future husband, Tim Rogers, whom she married in 1965. The couple conducted a horse breeding business from Grangewilliam Stud and also Simmingstown Stud.

Track 4: Securing markets overseas. Her husband’s connection to Sir Winston Churchill, whom he served as *aide-de-camp* during World War II. The bloodstock business begun by her husband, and his purchase of a stud business in New Zealand.

Track 5: Following her husband’s death in 1984, the challenges she and their son, Anthony, faced in continuing the business.

Track 6: Her husband’s family background, including the ownership of an estate in what is now Adamstown, south Co. Dublin.

Track 7: Maintaining and building up the business.

Track 8: The challenges and high risks inherent in the horse breeding business.

Name: Sonia Rogers (born 1937)

Address: Grangewilliam Stud, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 36

Subject: Part 2 – First female member of the Turf Club

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 34:20



The late Tim Rogers

Content:

Track 1: The involvement of buyers from Saudi Arabia, who also invested significantly in horse breeding businesses in Ireland. The intricacies of identifying the sales ring value of Irish thoroughbred mares, foals and yearlings.

Track 2: A description of her home, Grangewilliam Stud and its surroundings.

Track 3: The horse breeding fraternity. Her pride in being the first woman to be admitted to membership of the Turf Club. Her membership of Goffs, the Racing Board, and her trusteeship of other racing organisations.

Name: Tommy Kinane (born 1933)
Address: Punchestown, Co. Kildare



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 37

Subject: Life as a horse jockey and horse trainer

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 71:35

Content:

Track 1: Grew up in Knocknavilla, between Cashel and Dundrum, one of 14 children, from a family of stonemasons; left school as a young boy to work as a labourer for a local farmer. Began his apprenticeship as a stable hand with Tim Hyde at Camas Park Stud, where he remained for three years.

Track 2: Emigrated to England in 1953 and worked as a freelance jockey. Also worked in construction in Heathrow. Met his future wife, Frances O’Brien, at a dance in Hammersmith.

Track 3: Returned to Ireland to work with his brother Dan, who retained him as a jockey at his stables in Mullinahone. The way of life of his parents and siblings during his childhood.

Track 4: His first race in Ireland; competed in three Aintree Grand National races; some of his memorable wins; riding for many of the well-known trainers in Ireland until the age of 47.

Track 5: The salary structure for jockeys; his riding technique over the years; the challenge of maintaining his optimum physical condition and appropriate weight of 9 stone, and less on some occasions.

Track 6: After retirement as a jockey, turned his talents to horse training, which he continued for 22 years; the various locations from which he operated his business.

Name: Tunney Galvin (born 1927)
Address: Tralee, Co. Kerry



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 38

Subject: A bookmaker's life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 51:40

Content:

Track 1: Growing up in the family home, over the family betting office in Rock Street, Tralee. He and his siblings assisted in the running of the business and gained an interest in the sport of horseracing and greyhound racing.

Track 2: As a youth in 1944, taking over the business from his father. His early years as a bookmaker in Tralee, at the greyhound track and the racecourse.

Track 3: Race meetings during the 1930s at the racecourse, Tralee. The accoutrements of a bookmaker in those days: the leather bag; the slate; the box on which he stood; the clerks who worked with him down through the years.

Track 4: With prompting from Áine, his wife, described the challenges of telephone communications at this time to the betting office from the racecourses, and getting race results from the Exchange Telegraph Company in Limerick. The selling of Sweepstakes tickets from the betting office.

Track 5: Discussed 'the lang', which was a shared language exclusive to bookmakers. Memories of Listowel Race Week, the most profitable for bookmakers of all the racecourses that he attended.

Track 6: An overview of the profession and the challenges a bookmaker encounters.

Name: Valentine Lamb (born 1939)
Address: Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin



Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 39

Subject: A sporting journalist

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 56:40

Content:

Track 1: Growing up in Somerset, England. Memories of his mother, whose father was Lord Longford of Pakenham Hall, Co. Meath. His early visits to his mother’s home.

Track 2: Joining the staff of the *Financial Times* in London in 1961 and, four years later, the *Irish Times* in Dublin.

Track 3: In 1970, became editor of the *Irish Field*. Exciting times in Irish racing – anecdotes of Goffs’ move to Kill; the McGrath brothers; the Anglo-Irish ascendancy who were dominant in Irish racing.

Track 4: The success of the Coolmore Stud and why it flourishes. Recalling his early days as a journalist and also the editorials he wrote for the *Field*.

Track 5: The great stories of the time included the attempted takeover of Punchestown Racecourse and the closure of the Phoenix Park Racecourse. His views on televised races.

Track 6: Memories of the editor of the *Irish Times*, Major McDowell and the other journalists who covered racing at that time. Returning to the subject of Goffs and the National Stud.

Name: William Robinson (born 1934)
Address: Deerpark House, Calverstown, Co. Kildare

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 40

Subject: A jockey's life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 77:00



Content:

Track 1: Background and education in Kilcullen, Co. Kildare.

Track 2: Memories of working with his father, riding amateur races, and his first employer, Mrs Peggy St. John Nolan. As a woman, she was not permitted at the time to hold a trainer's licence, which was in the name of her head man, Matt Geraghty.

Track 3: Turning professional jockey in 1956; the routine and discipline of the profession. Anecdotes of the old school of horsemen in Ireland. His next retainers, John Corbett, and also Dan Moore. His decision to move to England, where he was stable jockey to champion trainer Fulke Walwyn for nine years at Saxon House stables in Lambourn.

Track 4: The legendary rivalry between himself and Pat Taaffe, and their famous respective mounts, *Mill House* and *Arkle*. The challenges he faced as a champion jockey in Ireland in 1958. The jockeys he considered the best during his career.

Track 5: His memories of participating in the English Grand National on ten occasions. Careful investigation of the course prior to a race.

Track 6: The relationship between trainer and jockey. The gambling prevalent in the sport.

Track 7: In 1964, married Susan Hall whose father, Cyril, managed the Irish Stud. Became involved in breeding and training horses, after his retirement as a jockey. The nine generations of equine bloodline which he inherited from his mother.

Track 8: An overview of the highlights of his career.

Name: John Burns (born 1929) and Rosaleen Tonson Rye (born 1932)

Address: Ryecourt, Crookstown, Co. Cork

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 41

Subject: Showjumping and training

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 66:50



Content:

Track 1: John outlined his family background and his grandfather, who came from Scotland during the time of the First World War, to work for Col. W. H. Walker at what is now the National Stud. His grandfather subsequently returned to Scotland, but his son, Tommy, who was John’s father, remained in Ireland, and settled in Lumville House, Curragh, Co. Kildare. Jimmy, John’s elder brother, served as a gunner in the RAF, and was killed in action in World War II.

Track 2: John’s early career, riding at point-to-points and bumper races. Rosaleen recalled her show jumping days and her successes in show jumping and horse showing at the RDS in the 1940s and 1950s.

Track 3: John discussed the training of horses in the Curragh in the 1940s and the trainers he knew at this time. Recalled an event during his father’s career as a jockey, which resulted in his licence being revoked.

Track 4: Changes in the racing world over the last half century.

Track 5: Rosaleen’s memories of her father, John Tonson Rye, a well-known horse trainer and breeder in Ryecourt, who developed his interest in horses at a very early age. Rosaleen explained that, after World War II, the potential for success in racing was increased due to the zoning of the country into regions, whereby horses were confined to racing in their own areas.

Track 6: John recalled the challenges of a jockey’s life in times past. An anecdote about a race in which he and Alan Lillingston participated.

Track 7: The transporting of horses during the war years, including having to walk them long distances to the train station.

Track 8: John and Rosaleen recalled the prize money awarded for winning races in the 1950s and 1960s. Memories of a number of individuals, including the Keepers of the Matchbook down through the years. Memories of the Turf Club’s offices in Dublin and horse sales during those times.

Name: Paddy Woods (born 1930)

Address: Greenogue, Killsallaghan, Co. Dublin

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 42

Subject:

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 57:57



Content:

Track 1: Childhood in The Common, Fairyhouse. Left school after primary education and worked with horsetrainer Dan Moore, in Fairyhouse. Went for three years to Charlie Rogers before returning to the Dan Moore stables. In 1956, started work with Tommy Dreaper at Greenogue. Discussed the training methods for horses at this time, and the owners for whom he trained horses. For more than three years, the privilege of daily riding out the famous *Arkle*.

Track 2: Memories of the personality of the racehorse *Arkle* and the close association he had for such a long time with that wonderful horse.

Track 3: Recalled the extraordinary ability he detected developing in *Arkle* over time. The sad occasion during the King George race, when *Arkle* fractured his pedal bone, though still managed to win the race. The tremendous efforts to rehabilitate that marvellous horse.

Track 4: Discussed his retirement at the age of 40, and his continued loyalty to Tom Dreaper. Highlights of his career and his particular skill at the jumps. The challenge of setting up his own stables and training for Northern Ireland owners, including the Robinsons.

Track 5: His new endeavour, being involved in the promotion of a particular type of horse feed.

Name: T. P. Burns (born 1924)

Address: Landfall Paddocks, The Curragh, Co. Kildare

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 43

Subject: A jockey's life from the 1930s to the 1960s

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 64:22



Content:

Track 1: T. P., the elder brother of John Burns, recalled his early days, growing up in Lumville House. His early introduction to the world of horse racing, when, in 1938, at 13 years of age, he won his first race on *Prudent Rose* at a three-day event at the Curragh. Memories of serving his apprenticeship and gaining his indentures as a professional jockey.

Track 2: Background to the family history.

Track 3: Early days as a jockey in Ireland, before the war. Horseracing life around the Curragh at this time.

Track 4: Memories of horse racing being centralised at the Phoenix Park during the war years, due to fuel shortages and the curtailment of travel.

Track 5: His father, Tommy, who purchased a property and farm in Pollardstown, Co. Kildare. The difficulties experienced by farmers during the economic war in the 1930s. An anecdote in which he recalled competing against his father in the same race.

Track 6: Riding for Dan O'Brien, Vincent's father, in Churchtown, Co. Cork, which later led to further employment at Ballydoyle with Vincent O'Brien.

Track 7: Memories of his career as a jockey and, prompted by Guy Williams, highlighting a challenging occasion in Cheltenham in which his horseriding skills were commended in a 'nip and tuck' type of race.

Track 8: Getting the rare opportunity to ride *Arkle* to victory in a flat race.

Name: Tommy Murphy (born 1936)

Address: Ballydoyle, Co. Tipperary

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 44

Subject: A jockey's life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time: 57:47



Content:

Track 1: Childhood in Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford. Left school after completing primary education, to be apprenticed to Milo Walsh. His first winner for Milo Walsh on *Fabrice* in the Phoenix Park.

Track 2: Worked in England as a jockey for a number of trainers, including four years with the Duke of Norfolk. The competitive nature of a jockey's career, with its rivalries and challenges.

Track 3: Returning to Ireland in 1963, to work for Clem Magnier in Co. Meath, where he remained for ten years. Discussed a number of memorable races, including a win at Cheltenham in 1972 on *Noble Life*, a race in which he beat *Comedy of Errors*.

Track 4: Discussed the tactical skills that a good jockey must acquire, always attempting to win, sometimes against all the odds.

Track 5: Joined Vincent O'Brien at Ballydoyle in 1974, being second jockey to Lester Piggott.

Track 6: Recalled the beginning of Coolmore Stud and its development. His reputation as a tactical jockey.

Track 7: Retirement from riding in 1980, to become headman in Coolmore. Recalled long walks and discussions with Vincent on many an evening around Coolmore.

Name: Clem Magnier (born 1917)

Address: Trimblestown Stables, Athboy, Co. Meath

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 45

Subject: Part 1 –

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time:



Content:

Track 1: Memories of growing up on the outskirts of Fermoy, Co. Cork, and his education in a number of boarding schools.

Track 2: Recalled his father Michael’s success in training point to point horses and hunters; Clem’s youthful days helping his father at the stud farm.

Track 3: Cycling long distances to attend race meetings in the 1920s, including to Killarney. Leaving home in the 1930s and enduring tough times in Dublin for three years.

Track 4: His introduction to training horses in Kilsheelan, near Clonmel, while living with his sister. Discussed some successful horses which he trained, including *Overshadow*, who came fourth in the English Grand National and, in the same year, won the Irish Grand National, a first for any horse.

Track 5: Recalled the challenges of getting horses to races during the war years.

Track 6: His first permanent stableyard, between Clonmel and Kilsheelan. Memories of his first wife, Ursula Quirke, whom he married in 1933.

Track 7: The changes he witnessed over the years in Irish racing.

Track 8: An occasion on which he was suspended for three months by the Turf Club.

Name: Clem Magnier (born 1917)

Address: Trimblestown Stables, Athboy, Co. Meath

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland Oral History Collection CD 46

Subject: Part 2 –

Recorded by: Maurice O’Keeffe – Irish Life and Lore

Recording date: 2012

Time:



Content:

Track 1: Discussed the training techniques he favoured, the owners for whom he trained horses, and the jockeys who rode for him in the early days.

Track 2: His decision fifty years ago to buy Rathfeale Stud in Co. Meath, which was originally owned by Reggie Walker, who was also a trainer.

Track 3: The skills required to run a successful business, and the focus and passion which he brought to the thoroughbred horse racing industry. Retirement in 1987 and passing on the business to the next generation of his family.