

IRISH LIFE AND LORE SERIES

HORSE RACING IRELAND COLLECTION

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CATALOGUE OF 12 RECORDINGS

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Irish Life and Lore Series

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

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**Name: Cahir O’Sullivan (born 1935)**

**Address: Newbridge, Co. Kildare**

Series title: Horse Racing Ireland 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 CIE 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 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 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 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 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 Collection CD 12

Subject: 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.

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