

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Bill Hyland

by Michael O'Dwyer

Bill Hyland was born on 20 May 1916 at 2 Davis Road, Clonmel, County Tipperary. He was the youngest son of John Hyland, a tailor, and Agnes Hyland (née O'Leary). His parents got married in Saints Peter and Paul's Church, Clonmel, on 28 October 1906. Their other children were James, Patrick and Mary (Mrs 'Mai' Slattery). As a young schoolboy Bill first became interested in athletics when he competed in the juvenile events at one of the famous Garda sports in 1926. Eventually he decided to concentrate on the hammer and 56 lb weight throwing events. In 1934 he joined the Volunteers, and at the outbreak of World War Two in 1939 he joined the army and served for thirty-one years, during which time he reached the rank of company quartermaster sergeant. In the Irish army athletics championships Bill Hyland won twelve hammer titles (1939, 1943, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955 and 1956), three 56 lb weight for distance titles (1938, 1947 and 1952), and was also a member of the Southern Command team that won the tug of war championship in 1952. At Belfield, Dublin, he won the Irish hammer championship on 19 September 1948. He was runner-up in 1944 and 1949, and was third in 1945. Bill Hyland was transferred from Fermoy to Kickham Barracks in his native Clonmel in 1948 and he joined Clonmel Athletic & Cycling Club. He became secretary, a position which he held for fifteen years until he became county secretary. He played no small part in the revival of road cycle racing in Clonmel and during the 1960s he organised a number of road walking races and these attracted entries from all over the country. He was a founder member in 1959 of the Tipperary United Sports Panel which each year selects Tipperary sports stars of the year, and is now called the Annerville Sports Awards. Bill Hyland got married to Mairead Purcell, a member of Elmville Camogie Club, Clonmel, in September 1968 in St Michael's Church, Tipperary town. As a sports journalist writing for *The Nationalist* under the pen name 'Atlas' he covered every sport within the county. Bill Hyland died on 18 March 1976 at St Joseph's Hospital, Clonmel, aged fifty-nine, and is interred in St Patrick's Cemetery, Clonmel.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships

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| 1948 | Hammer | 118 ft 8 in. | (36.17 m) |
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