

From May 20 Terrace Talk radio program

1:21:40

Weeshie Fogarty (WF)

John. John O'Neill. You have a story about Moss Keane. Where does this come into?

J O'N

This was in our last year in St Brendan's. There was a new dormitory opened, across the way there from the Bishop's Palace. There were five of us that were oddballs.

WF

Were you included in them?

J O'N

Yes, and I joined 4 others. So, what happened was: you had the Kenmare gang staying together. You had the Dingle gang; you had the Beara crowd, the Millstreet crowd, East Kerry; you had lots of different columns.

But there were five of us, there was one from Portmagee, one from Currow, that was Moss, one from Dingle a fellow called London, John Dillon from Abbeydorney, and myself. We struck up together. There was another chap with us from Droumtarriff, Micheal Long, who went on to be a very very successful accountant afterwards.

One night in 1964, in November, about half past two in the morning, I felt the clothes being pulled off my bed. Moss used to sleep in the opposite bed to me. I was wondering what was happening, and the next thing I heard was someone in the floor saying 'five - six -- seven'. And he eventually got to ten.

And I realized it was Moss, so I said "will you ever get into bed, and leave us sleep?" He said, "I am very very sorry".

So, two months afterwards, in January 1965, there was a young Irish rugby team and they were playing England. Mike Gibson and those were on at the time. They were playing in Lansdowne Road and they won by 18 points to 5.

And about a week afterwards, the same thing again, the clothes were

pulled off my bed. and the next thing I heard "a hundred and forty five, a hundred and forty six," and so on to "a hundred and fifty".

And I didn't say anything, just watched what was happening, because there was bit of light coming through the glass in the door, just below us.

Moss straightened himself up, faced the back wall, and started flexing his muscles, and I will always remember him catching his left arm with his right hand, and he said "This is Willie John McBride".

WF

He was training?

J O'N

And the thing about all this, exactly nine years afterwards, in the Irish Times, Moss was after getting on the Irish team. What it said in the paper, "who would expect a Presbyterian from Ballymena in Antrim, in the second row of the Irish team, with a Catholic from Kerry?"

WF

He had been training.

J O'N

How he could get from ten, struggling, to a hundred and fifty. He could have gone to two hundred and fifty, or three hundred and fifty.

Canon Linnane

They were press-ups.