

7.2.12 'Padraig Column', Benburb, Co. Tyrone, August 2008

| <b>Pseudonym</b>    | <b>Dialect Zone</b> | <b>Provenance</b>   | <b>Sex</b> | <b>Age</b> | <b>Educational Level</b> | <b>Religion</b> | <b>Ch.7 Text No.</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Padraig Column (PC) | MUE                 | Benburb, Co. Tyrone | M          | 73         | PG qualification         | C               | 7.2.12               |

**KPC** And what about St Pat's? Did you ever have a favourite teacher in St Pat's?

**PC** Ach, well, there would have been quite a few. Em, Father Brennan was a great character you know.

**KPC** Uh-huh.

**PC** Very, very nice man. Very, very gentle, you know...

**KPC** Mm.

**PC** ... and, em....

**KPC** Well, obviously, he stood up for you...

**PC** He did.

**KPC** ... when you needed it.

**PC** Aye, he did. Em, ach, there was a lot of them. Eh, there was a Science teacher, Harry Tobin. My...

**KPC** Mm-mm.

**PC** There was Felix O' Hanlon.

**KPC** Right.

**PC** You know, who's known all over Ireland as music collector and Gaelic...

**KPC** Mm-mm.

**PC** ... expert, and all of that.

**KPC** Mm-mm.

**PC** And then there was Bobby Ford...

**KPC** Mm-mm.

**PC** ... *Bucky Ford* they called him then.

**KPC** What did he teach?

**PC** He would have been, taught, he taught mainly Ir... he taught a lot of Irish, and he taught French.

**KPC** Mm-mm.

**PC** And I can remember one day I got on the bus in Belfast, and who was sitting on it only Mr Ford?

**KPC** And did he recognise you?

**PC** Oh, he did, and I said to him, em, at one stage in the conversation, I says, 'You know, God I would love to be like you.' He looks at me, 'What!' I said, 'I would love to be like you.'

**KPC** Mm.

**PC** And he said, 'Why?' And I says, 'Well, you are known all over Ireland as a great Irish speaker...

**KPC** Mm.

**PC** ... as good as a native speakers.'

**KPC** Mm-mm.

**PC** And I said, 'I believe you're married to a native speaker'.

**KPC** Mm-mm.

**PC** And he looks at me, 'Aye,' he says, 'so you think that way..' 'Aye,' he says, '[unclear 24:12]. I...I says, 'the fluency like'.

**KPC** Mm.

**PC** 'So you think I'm dead fluent?' he says. I said, 'Ach, aye, yo... God, sure you'd be as good as a native speaker.' 'I'll tell you something,' he says.

**KPC** *[laughs]*

**PC** 'I married a native speaker from Gaoth Dobhair.'

**KPC** Mm-mm.

**PC** And he says, 'We're married 42 years.'

**KPC** Mm-mm.

**PC** And he says, 'When we fall out, which can happen brave and often,' he says, 'she uses some word, or syntax, or phrase that I've never heard before,' he says, 'and it drives me bloody mad.' *[laughs]*

**KPC** *[laughs]*

**PC** So... I always remember that as when do you really learn a language? You know.