

# TIPPERARY ATHLETES



## **Jack O'Gorman**

**by Michael O'Dwyer**

Jack O'Gorman was born on 23 December 1927 at 27 O'Connell Street, Clonmel, County Tipperary. He was the eldest son of Paddy O'Gorman, a draper, and Hanora O'Gorman (née Marnell). His father was native of Clonmel, and his mother was native of Poulcapple, Mullinahone. They got married in St Mary's Church, Clonmel on 21 August 1922. Shortly after their marriage they started a drapery business at 27 O'Connell Street. Incidentally, Paddy O'Gorman (Jack's father) who was born in 1893 came from a well known business background himself. His father Richard O'Gorman owned a pub/grocery business at 2 Parnell Street and was married to Bridget Mulcahy whose family own Mulcahy's pub in Gladstone Street and Mulcahy's drapery shop in O'Connell Street. In 1932 Paddy O'Gorman built a house on Abbey Road and called it Mount Congress (named after the Eucharistic Congress). The family moved to this house and remained there until 1940 when Paddy O'Gorman built the present shop at 20/21 O'Connell Street and the family moved in and lived over the shop. Jack O'Gorman went to primary school in Marlfield, and secondary school at Clonmel High School. He left school in 1943 and went working with his father in the drapery business where he stood behind the counter for sixty-six years until his death in 2009. Jack began his athletic career in 1938 as a schoolboy when he won his first race at Clonmel High School. The prize was an alarm clock. As a talented athlete he competed in the 60 yards, 100 yards, 220 yards along with the long jump and triple jump. He travelled far and wide throughout the countryside at the time, competing in open handicap meetings in places as far away as Dundalk, Enniscorthy and Kenmare. He participated in famous sports meetings such as the Cork city sports, and the Banteer sports meeting, as well as numerous local events. At the national championships held on the first weekend of July 1952 Jack O'Gorman won the 60 yards in a time of 6.2 seconds, equalling the championship record. However, the long jump was his forte. Three times he was runner-up in the long jump at the national championships and finished in third place twice. In total he won six Irish championship medals, nine Munster championship medals and twenty-seven county medals, and also a total of sixty-six prizes. Jack O'Gorman died on 20 April 2009 at his residence in Clonmel, aged eighty-one, and is interred in St Patrick's Cemetery, Clonmel.

**Titles Won at Senior National Championships:**

**National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships**

1952

60 yd

6.2