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**DATE:**

**Very Wor. Bro. DEVERICK JOHN (Mick) CRONIN  
(1911 - 1979)**

Deverick John Cronin was born on 18 March 1911 at Wagin, Western Australia, son of native-born parents, Michael Henry Cronin, farmer, and his wife Nellie Agatha, nee Dawson.

Although of Methodist background, Mick completed his primary education at a convent-run boarding school at Toodyay, then worked as a delivery boy and as an apprentice to a butcher at Harvey.

In 1930 he was recruited by East Perth Football Club which found him a job with a grocer in Perth.

Cronin was later employed at Whitty's lottery agency and at Boans Ltd. Department Store.

In the 1930's, he was also a middle-order batsman with the Subiaco Cricket Club.

Excelling in Australian Rules Football as an agile half-forward flanker and centreman with a penetrating left-foot kick, Cronin played 164 games for East Perth between 1930 and 1940, and in 1931, received its best and fairest award.

In 1936, the first of his five consecutive years as captain, he took the team from fourth place at the start of the finals to win the premiership.

He regularly represented Western Australia and won the inaugural Tassie Medal in the interstate carnival in 1937. After coaching East Perth from 1939 to 1941, he was made a Life-Member of the club in 1941.

On 6<sup>th</sup> April 1940 Cronin had married a stenographer, Roma Chipper at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth.

That year he opened a confectionery shop at the Hurlingham Picture Theatre, East Perth.

Mobilised in the Citizen Military Forces in January 1942, he served at home in the Australian Imperial Force for the duration of the war, engaged mostly in anti-aircraft activities. He was discharged with the rank of sergeant in October 1945, after which he ran snack shops in central Perth.

Returning to football, Cronin umpired twenty-five Western Australian Football League games in 1947-48 and officiated at the 1947 interstate carnival in Hobart, Tasmania.

Well known for his didactic style, he taught football to juniors in Perth colleges and the South Perth district, and coached East Perth again from 1951 to 1955 and the State Team in 1951. He was to be a successful agent for the Scottish Amicable Insurance Co., from 1966 to 1979.

Benefiting from a football boom in Perth, Cronin became a dominant figure on TYW - 7's weekly television program, "World of Football" from 1965 until his death. He earned respect for his sincerity and knowledge, but aroused controversy by his frankness and dogmatism. Meanwhile, he also broadcast football matches over radio station 6 IX and contributed through a ghost writer to a weekly column, "On the Back Page," in *Sports Review*.

A man of natural wit and bubbly charm, sincere, honest and forthright in his manner, Cronin was popular in sporting circles and esteemed for his community work. He was a life-long non-smoker and teetotaler; he enjoyed punting on the horses and liked a game of golf.

Cronin died suddenly of a ruptured aortic aneurysm on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1979 at the Royal Perth Hospital and was cremated. His wife and a son survived him.

## **MASONIC CAREER**

Deverick John (Mick) Cronin was made a Mason on 7 February 1950 in Lodge of Sportsmen No. 218, Western Australian Constitution.  
He was Installed as Worshipful Master on 7 April 1959.

He was conferred with the following Grand Ranks by the Grand Lodge of Western Australia:

Conferred, Junior Grand Deacon- 1968.

Appointed as District Grand Inspector of Workings - 1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72.

Conferred, Past District Grand Inspector of Workings - 1972.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 13, pp. 535/6, Edited, John Ritchie, contributed by Lyall Hunt.

Grand Lodge of Western Australia - Membership records.

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