

# Teenage expert on Ireland's dance bands

**A**NTHONY BROWNE of 8 Lenihan Avenue, Prospect, may be too young to gyrate to the music of Ireland's showbands, but he can claim to have a greater knowledge of them than the most seasoned dancing fan.

Anthony's hobby is collecting pictures of dance band groups and yesterday he was presented with the 1,600th photograph. It took him six years to reach this figure and he is confident of adding to it at the rate of about 25 a week. If you like mathematics and dislike dance music, you may enjoy calculating how old Anthony will be when he runs out of material for his hobby! The number of dance bands in Ireland is something over 700, but it was not anything so big as that when Anthony started his hobby. His brother, John, got him his first photograph—a picture of the Woodpeckers—and after a year the collection had grown to 50. In the second year it had reached the 200 mark and three years later he topped the four figures. Most of the pictures are autographed and the collection is supplemented by a file of newspaper clippings and information on Ireland's leading groups.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Anthony keeps up a regular correspondence with such of his idols as Mick Delahunty, Ian Henry, Maurice Mulcahy, Dermot O'Brien, Jack Ruane, Paul Russell and Butch Moore.

Most treasured photographs are those of the Clipper Carlton, The Capitol and Johnny Quig-

ley. He receives about ten letters each week from other collectors living in different parts of the country, and swaps are often negotiated with these pen pals.

His biggest hour came at the age of 12 four years ago when he was invited to tea by the famous Acker Bilk at Cruise's Hotel, and he also had the pleasure of meeting such renowned personalities as Emile Ford, Chris Barber and Roy Orbison. He has met most of the Irish showbands and groups and has chatted with Dusty Springfield, Freddie and the Dreamers, the Everly Brothers, Adam Faith. Many of these send him their latest pictures and publicity.

His favourite vocalist is Tony Woods of the Express Showband, and he is a great fan, too, of Cork's own Tony Lynch of the Hoedowners, who is a brother to Pat of the Airchords and to Stephen of the Dixielanders.

Largest photograph in Anthony's collection is that of the Capital Showband; it measures 3 feet by 2 feet.

When Anthony began his hobby in 1960 he was the only collector of dance band photographs in Limerick. The number of people following his hobby now exceeds sixty!

Anthony is true to a family tradition in music. A brother, Joseph, is vocalist with the popular Berwyn Showband; another, John, is bass player

with the same group and previously played with the Ohio Showband; a third, Willie, is lead guitarist with a local pop group, "The Colours." Anthony himself is an accomplished drummer.

## Popular Sergeant Retires

A popular member of the Gardai in Limerick, Sergeant Denis Bugler, has retired after 41½ years' service in the Force.

Sergeant Bugler, who is a native of Co. Clare joined the Gardai in 1925 and did his training in the Depot at Phoenix Park. Most of his service was spent in the Counties of Donegal and Mayo and he came to Limerick from Tipperary (where he was stationed for a short period) 12 years ago. Since that time he has been stationed in Limerick as Deputy Sergeant.

Sergeant Bugler is married to a Clafé lady. They have a family of six.

His colleagues in the Force and his many other friends in Limerick and the various districts where he has served will join with us in wishing this popular officer many years of happiness in his retirement.

hoiced. "The Road Round Ireland" and "Challengers" for first productions.

The school holds an annual Irish Recital during which Irish plays are presented and recitals of Irish poetry given. On one of these occasions, Padraig Colum came and spoke, and heard a girl sing his own "She Walked Through the Fair."

"It will give me great pleasure to be able to tell Padraig Colum how beautifully we heard 'Nora Ring sing this song in King John's Castle,'" said Mr. Burwell.

Mr. Burwell, his wife, Mr. Ludwig C. Zuber, and their students who came to the poetry and ballad evening, said they were delighted with this Lime-

of which we have many me said:

In view of the extending study amongst U.S. students of Irish writers like Yeats, O'Casey, James Stephens, Colum, A.E. (George Russell) and Lady Gregory, places like Coole, if it had been preserved, and Thoor, Ballylee—which he was glad to see restored—and places associated with these writers—should be protected as they could become valuable attractions for student tourists.

Their school will be glad—such is the professorial and student interest in Irish writing, to have the works of contemporary poets—especially those who read at King John's Castle—sent on to them.



Anthony Browne with some of his vast collection of showband pictures.