

# Photo from Ashes book goes on sale

By **RON KIRWAN**

A FAMOUS Limerick photograph said to be the original of the picture on the front cover of Angela's Ashes is for sale.

And the owner, Old Clare Street resident Paddy Malone, says that half the proceeds will go to charity.

"It's time to sell the picture and for some charity to benefit from the success of Angela's Ashes," said Mr Malone, a long-time critic of the best-seller and its author Frank McCourt.

The school snap of 18 third class Leamy's School boys is carried on the cover of the multi-million best seller Angela's Ashes and also appears on the fly-leaf of its US and Canadian editions.

Mr Malone claims the snapshot is his property and says he has lined up independent experts to back up his claim—he also asked publishers Harper Collins to acknowledge his ownership.

Despite the book's publishers say-

ing that Frank McCourt had confirmed that his mother had the picture all her life, Mr Malone is still convinced that he has the original photo: "As far as I'm concerned, it's definitely my picture which was taken from a published copy and used for the cover."

Mr Malone explained that the original picture taken in Leamy's schoolyard was of 37 boys but it was accidentally torn in two in the 1940s.

"One part of the original has 18 in it—exactly the same as the cover shot. It's a bit of a coincidence that the cover has the same number in it and the cracks and tears are exactly the same," added Mr Malone.

The disputed picture features 18 Limerick boys including, Aidan Farrell, Jimmy Moloney, Paddy Malone, Davy Danagher, RIP; Bernie McMahon, Paddy Moloney, Jimmy O'Brien, Sean Meehan, RIP; Paddy Clohessy, Bobby Sullivan, Pa Hannigan, Mattie Heslin, RIP; Billy Campbell, Gerry Kelly, RIP; Seanie Cronin and Frank McCourt.



**Paddy Malone with his picture.**

(LL)