

CARNIVAL in Trinidad and Tobago provides a unique spectacle as virtually the entire population of the country sets out to enjoy itself in a pre-lenten period of gaiety and laughter.

It begins at j'ouvert on Monday and continues without let up until las lap which ends on the stroke of midnight on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday ushers in the 40-day lenten period.

For two days, Carnival turns the streets of Port-of-Spain into glittering rivers of colour and spectacle. Bands in fancy dress parading in the streets dance along to the accompaniment of road marches — calypso tunes whose popularity has been won by popular acclaim.

Carnival is a riot of colour

# College boys shocked the onlookers

and spectacle, but without music it would lose its charm and spontaneous gaiety. And the music of Carnival is the music of the steelbands, and so it is that in this atmosphere the Texaco Dixieland Steelband was formed.

Trinidad's carnival of 1950 saw for the first time, a band of College students

armed with an assortment of steel pans, dustbins and brake drums parading through the streets.

Onlookers were shocked, yet, amid understandable protests from relatives and friends, these boys went on to become the now famous Dixieland Steel Orchestra, winners of the 1960 Music Festival, and finalist in the 1967 Festival, third place winners in the 1968 Steelband Panorama Competition, and standing head and shoulders above the rest, in a land where good steelbands are a dime a dozen.

Their leader, Curtis Perre, is the driving force behind their success, aiming as nothing less than perfection. He never rests until fully satisfied that he has extracted every ounce of talent and energy from his boys.

And the boys? Each one is a wizard on his instrument and is capable of taking charge of the band at a moment's notice.

The Texaco Dixieland Steelband has thus far produced three recordings. Their unique style has won for them the admiration of thousands who have heard them perform in New York, Miami, Boston, Montreal, London, Paris, Rome, Switzerland, Rhodesia, Nassau, Haiti, Curacao and several of the smaller West Indian Islands.