



# AMERICAN STORES EXODUS AMONG THE WINNERS

The American Stores Exodus not only their second Panorama outing gained 263 points last Friday night to place second in the East Zone Finals.

International Trust Nu Tones with 264 points just pipped Exodus for first place.

The name EXODUS for a steelband seems strange. But that name means exactly what it says --- an EXODUS of sweet pan music from St. Augustine to all parts of this pan-crazy country.

And this is exactly what the American Stores EXODUS steelband does when it takes its beautiful indigenous music out of home base at St. John Village, St. Augustine.

In the relatively short period of six months forty determined young men from St. John were able to pool their efforts, raise funds, buy pans, build a theatre and develop a steelband called EXODUS.

But even more astonishing was that in just nine months EXODUS was able to take a shot at Panorama '82, coming up with a sizzling rendition of Blueboy's

"Unknown Band" — which after that became EXODUS' nickname.

And appropriately so since the band had beat its way from virtual obscurity into the hearts of north pan enthusiasts and the judges' scoresheets.

EXODUS, the 'Unknown band', was by Ash Wednesday able to pin on its banner several laurels — fourth place in the East zonals; fourth place in the national semi-finals and eighth place in the national finals — a fantastic performance for an 'unknown band' and the first ever unsponsored band to reach the Panorama finals on its first attempt.

Since then the band has not looked backwards. It has grown bigger and better and proved themselves again when they showed off their skills in the "Hollows" two Sundays ago and followed this up with a rip-roaring exposition of pan skills when they appeared at the Savannah in the East zonals in the '83 Panorama.

Last Friday, to the appreciative roar of both the North Stand and Grand Stand crowds American Stores Exodus again produced a masterful performance with their interpretation of Blue Boy's Rebecca.

It was a hip-swaying, mas making rendition and the judges approved. In just two short years, the American Stores Exodus seem to have established a reputation for excellence among bands.



Mrs. Sandra Hosein Singh Managing Director of American Stores presents Vernon Theroulde an official of the steelband with a cheque.

## EXODUS SIGNS FORMAL AGREEMENT

A Formal Agreement was signed earlier last week between American Stores and Exodus Steelband, with regards to sponsorship of the steelband.

A spokesman for

American Stores explained that when the company was approached on the question of sponsorship they immediately agreed as it seemed fitting to get involved in the youth and culture of the

country.

A spokesman for the band said that there has been greater involvement and interest by band members since the sponsorship took place.