

'We're a family

ASK David Waddell, captain of Angostura Starlift, the reason for the band's successes over the years, and he would answer you in one word: TOGETHERNESS.

Tell him to elaborate on that, and he would explain: "The band is like a lime. The boys in the area (Woodbrook) all grew up together. We are a big family sort of. So we stick together."

And so, while other less industrious panmen of other

bands 'lime' at street corners members of Starlift do their 'liming' at the band's headquarters, at Alfredo Street.

And if today Starlift is counted as one of the country's top bands, this is not the result of any short-cut measure, or stroke of luck.

Starlift is an offspring of the nearby Shell Invaders, and a smaller, now defunct band, called Saigon. That was in 1967.

The band placed second the first time it appeared at a steelband festival, in 1964,

It has taken part in Panorama each year since, and is yet to be found out of the Finals.

In '64 it placed third, in '65 fourth. In '57 and '58 it won prizes as the best beating band on the road. The band has never taken part in the Bomb competition, as it does not enter the city proper at Jour Ouvert, because of the congestion.

Starlift enjoys the enviable reputation of being a band as famous, if not more famous for its mas' presentations, as it

What started off as a 'lime' is now a big name in the steelband world...

DAVID WADDELL

section after section paraded on stage.

During the pre-1968 era, Starlift specialised in head mas. Came 1964, and the band went in for mas' in a big way, thanks to Alva Maund.

On Carnival Monday, Starlift is going off-beating with "It's a Mad, Mad, Mod World," and on Tuesday it is "Oceania."

is for its pan music.

Remember "Feather Fantasy" — the 2,000-strong mas' band which took the city by surprise last year? Even Father Hendy could not resist the urge to play. Many thought the band would have won the band of the year prize, for its colourful portrayal which had the whole Savannah "Oohing" with delight as

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