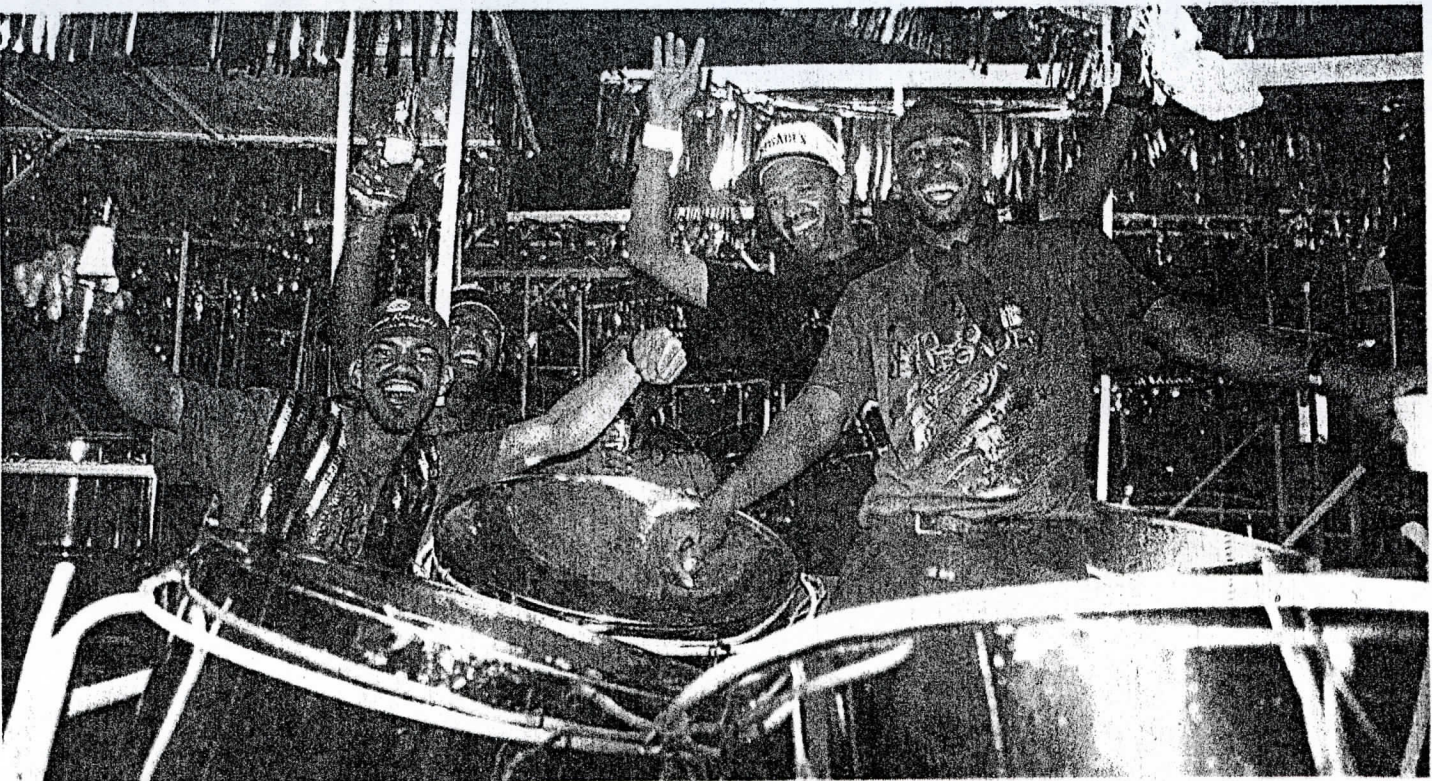




CELEBRATION TIME: Back in the panyard on Charlotte Street, pannists and supporters of Panorama champion Amoco Renegades celebrated the victory. Smiling faces, hearty chit-chat, lots to drink and eat and some play. These pannists sporting the colourful Renegades stage outfits mirror the joy of a winner. (See Page 13). **Photo by LESTER FORDE.**

Renegades in a rage

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Charlotte Street band wins eighth Panorama title

By REY DAVIS

AMOCO RENEGADES repelled a terrific burst of musical fury from 11 of its rivals at Queen's Park Savannah on Saturday night to win the prestigious Panorama title for a record-equalling eighth time.

The 12 bands contested the 33rd edition of the Panorama final in the presence of a record sellout crowd estimated at 10,000. Hosts National Carnival Commission and Pan Trinidad attributed the turnout to the anticipated high quality of the competition which spanned a six-hour period under clear night skies on the broad wooden stage.

Challenged true and hard by the other 11 bands who presented selections like "Mind Yuh Business", "The Power Of Music", "Blast Off", "Pilgrimage" and "Case Of The Disappearing Panyards", the defending champions from Charlotte Street, Port-of-Spain, countered and conquered with "Pan In A Rage", a calypso of The Original De Fosto Himself.

The band won last year with another De Fosto calypso "Four Lara Four" after a string of five successes with compositions by Lord Kitchener and one by Baron.

Its Jit Samaroo arrangement of the De Fosto calypso that likened the rage of a storm to the fiery musical presentations of the

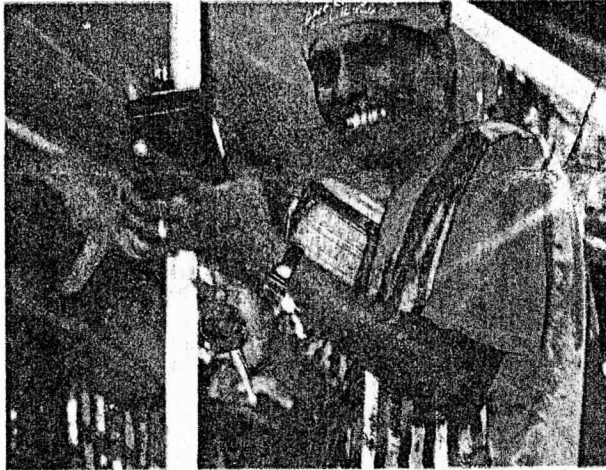
Panorama bands earned it 473.5 points out of a possible 500. Its winning score was five and a half points ahead of second-placed Phase II Pan Groove (Mind Yuh Business) and 33 and a half clear of 12th and last, Potential Symphony (Pan In A Rage).

Witco Desperadoes and Exodus were tied third with 467.5 points, six behind the winner.

Renegades clearly rendered its tune of choice with tell-tale symbolism as its range of tenors, cellos, guitar pans, basses and rhythm section appeared to be engaged in a harmonious tug-o-war. It introduced in its play a taste of the infectious Indo-chutney rhythm currently making big waves in the country's musical potpourri.

Other bands like Tropical Angel Harps who also played "Pan In A Rage" and Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars who rang out "Power Of Music" injected the Indo-Trinidadian rhythm into their play.

So confident were the Renegades pannists and supporters of victory that tenor player Anthony Olivieri said moments after the band's performance at midnight: "All those who went before us and those to come after us can count themselves winners. But we are the leaders, the champions and we have the maestro Jit (Samaroo) on our side."



NO JITTERS: Meet Jit Samaroo, the arranger for whom the Panorama bell tolled an eighth victory call at the Queen's Park Savannah on Saturday night. Positioned in the heart of Amoco Renegades' rhythm section, affable Jit plays the cowbell to keep the upbeat rhythmic pace of "Pan In A Rage", the tune he arranged for the title-winner.

Photo by LESTER FORDE.

Appearing eighth in the order, Amoco Renegades had seen all of Arcadian Nutones (eighth-placed), Potential Symphony (12th), Pamperi (11th), Witco Desperadoes (tied third with Exodus), Hydro Agri Skiffle Bunch (10th), Phase II Pan Groove (2nd) and Tropical Angel Harps (6th) fire direct hits at the prime honour berth.

Then after it performed the band left in its wake Solo Pan Knights (seventh-placed), Exodus (tied third with Witco Desperadoes), Sangre Grande Cordettes (ninth) and Neal

and Massy Trinidad All Stars (fifth) to shoot their musical guns.

But zeroing in closest on the prime target before Renegades came on stage was Phase II Pan Groove, band number six which was searching for only its third national crown. Under its inspirational arranger Len "Boogie" Sharpe, Phase II almost hit the mark after stoking the musical fire with a red-hot performance of "Mind Yuh Business" which Sharpe himself composed. It was Sharpe's second shot at quelling the Renegades'

fury, having assumed leadership role for interpretation of the Denyse Plummer-sung piece after Anise "Haffers" Hadeed's control in the preliminary round. Sharpe, whose composition was played by four other bands, was clearly delighted at Phase II's performance.

"Winning a Panorama is nice. But I could sense that the people were enjoying our music and that's what matters for now," Sharpe said as he strolled off stage. Witco Desperadoes which was joined by Renegades as the leading title-

winner in Panorama history, also poked the flames of the Panorama fire with its highly explosive rendition of Robert Greenidge's "Blast Off" as band number four.

And later it was Exodus appearing tenth on stage with a highly professional and staggering performance of Pelham Goddard-David Rudder's "Case Of The Disappearing Panyards" that threatened to overpower the Renegades' rage.

But none looked more poised to throw the proverbial cold water on the Renegades' fire than the number 12 band, Trinidad All Stars who won its last and fourth title in 1986. All Stars' rampaging roll of Kitchener's "Power Of Music" sent the audience into ecstasy, making its performance raise ominous clouds of an upset. But it was not to be.

The seven-member panel of adjudicators used criteria of 40 points apiece for arrangement and general performance and ten each for tone and rhythm in arriving at final aggregate scores. The keyed-up audience though scored on the sweet tonal quality and pulsating beats of the bands and handed the spirit of exciting play to Pamperi, Skiffle Bunch, Tropical Angel Harps and certainly Trinidad All Stars.

The final highlighted double-pronged attacks by arrangers Samaroo (Renegades and Cordettes),

Greenidge (Desperadoes and Solo Pan Knights) and Ken "Professor" Philmore (Skiffle Bunch and Potential Symphony).

Samaroo, who played the cow-bell for Renegades, stays out front as the most successful arranger, leaving Greenidge, Sharpe, Goddard and Bradley (Nutones) to savour their own successes in the past.

Other arrangers who featured were Clarence Morris (Tropical Angel Harps) and Godwin Bowen (Pamperi).

THE RESULTS:
1. AMOCO RENEGADES (Pan In A Rage) 473.5; 2. PHASE II PAN GROOVE (Mind Yuh Business) 468; 3. WITCO DESPERADOES (Blast Off) 467.5 and EXODUS (Case Of The Disappearing Panyards) 467.5; 5. NEAL & MASSY TRINIDAD ALL STARS (Power Of Music) 466; 6. TROPICAL ANGEL HARPS (Pan In A Rage) 459; 7. SOLO PAN KNIGHTS (Mind Yuh Business) 455.5; 8. ARCADIAN NUTONES (Mind Yuh Business) 455; 9. SANGRE GRANDE CORDETTES (Mind Yuh Business) 451.5; 10. HYDRO AGRI SKIFFLE BUNCH (Mind Yuh Business) 450; 11. PAMPERI (Pilgrimage) 446; 12. POTENTIAL SYMPHONY (Pan In A Rage) 440.