

THE EDITOR: As far back as 1969, in a calypso entitled "Write The Right History," I called upon historians in the Caribbean, and the powers that be to write the right history. Little has been done since, especially in matters cultural.

Lo and behold, on Saturday night last, before thousands of people, and before tens of thousands who will on film view the finals of the Steelband Festival 1986, the President of our nation pointed out that 45 years ago when he attended his first dinner of St. Mary's Old Boys', there was no steelband around.

Still Alive

What a statement to make! And from a President! But that is precisely the point I have been making for years, which is that the history of St. Mary's is well known, the history of socialite dinners is well documented, but the history of our cultural traits is not only poor and unwritten, but our people seem to care so little about the need for and use of it.

Forty five years ago, whilst St Mary's Old Boys were having dinners, guys like Joe Crick, Chic McGrew Springer; Ligilee; Black

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Write the history of steelband

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James and a host of others, were busily experimenting with pans, and putting notes on them.

Forty five years ago, men like Victor Wilson, Birdie Mannette, Francis Wickham, Kelvin Dove and

even Ellie Mannette could already be classified as panmen, and these men are still alive today — thank God.

Forty-five years ago, Oval Boys was already founded by Stanley "Bone Head" Hunte, Charlie Chan band from McDonald Street in Wood-

brook was founding out rhythms, the boys from up in the Lime grove in Gonzales were grooving, while in the Southland, Nicholas and "Lola" Williams already had revellers jumping. I can name others, but I think the point has been made.

What it all boils down to is that beside keeping the festival, Pan Trinbago must see it as a priority to write the right history of the steelband, so that the nation will not be misinformed. The festival is not as important as the right history.

People Of Sumer

George Goddard, Michael Anthony and I who have been so commissioned therefore need the help of all knowledgeable persons to come forward with their testimonies, while businessmen should throw in their dollars in the same way as they assisted the festival. Without a proper history we are doomed, and what was said of the people of Sumer may one day be applied to us. "What became of the people of Sumer," asked the researcher to the old man?

"They lost their history, so they died," came the reply.

HOLLIS LIVERPOOL (Chalk-dust), Diego Martin