



LEADERS of Y. De Lima Blue Diamonds show a couple of charming visitors to their George Street pan yard designs of some of their 1970 costumes of "US Armed Forces in War and Peace."

Blue Diamonds are true jewels

ONLY four years after it was launched, the Y de Lima Blue Diamonds is one of the most popular and promising steadheads in south-east Port-of-Spain.

True, the band has been fortunate in getting from its very inception the generous sponsorship of Y. De Lima and Company and, later, part of the old Eastern Market for its pan yard.

But it was the talent of its founders, Pilon Perreira, and ace tuner Bertram Thomas, plus the support and ability of George Griffith, co-tuner, Phillip Vespre, arranger, Reynold Kingsall, leader, Reynold Byer, vice captain, and Arnim Smith that helped to make the Blue Diamonds the dynamic band that it is.

Early years

"In our first years we concentrated on mas," explained Arnim Smith, one of the band's staunchest stalwarts.

They turned out such memorable presentations as "Persia" in 1966; Legion of Valhalla in 1967; Barbarians in 1968 and Oriental Fantasy last year.

Most prominent among their masqueraders was Lloyd Best, who, as king of

the band, contested the finals on several occasions.

Recently, however, Y. de Lima Blue Diamonds have been earning a reputation for their music. Their 1968 "bomb" — Swanlake — and their rendition of Unto Us a Child is Born last year have marked them for success. They also created a sensation with Kitchener's Sixty Nine in the Panorama competition last year.

Biggest band

"This year we are confident of being in winner's row with two tunes," said Arnim Smith. They are Got Your Fella by Calypso King, Mighty Deba, and Why Do Nations So Furiously Rage Together (from Handel's Messiah). Both pieces were arranged by Vespre.

On Carnival Monday, Y. de Lima Blue Diamonds expect to have the biggest band in the streets of Port-of-Spain. They will be playing "Do Your Own Thing" and there is no band fee. On Tuesday they are coming with "US Armed Forces in War and Peace." Teddy Vieira is in charge of the mas' which includes such military hardware as a tank, landing barge and fighter plane.