

PAN CO-OP



The Sonic Harps panyard is the scene of this group photograph showing the people involved in PAN DEVELOPMENT UNLIMITED. Third from left in the back row, can be seen Scofield Pilgrim, with Barry Yeates (hands around Amral Khan), sixth from left. Front row shows John Chow at left, who is the assistant to Mervyn Ray (fourth from left), the resident pan tuner on the course.

GETS OFF THE GROUND

A. HARRIS

"DAMN FAST and out of place to say that panmen are not interested in music."

THIS was the response I got from Barry Yeates about Aubrey Adams. Barry was incensed that the Cultural Adviser to the Government could say that panmen are not interested in music.

This reaction was understandable, coming from the man who has been the guiding light behind Pan Development Unlimited.

Because at the Sonic Harps panyard, what is one of the first attempts to train panmen is being made.

CONCEPT

The story, according to Barry, goes back to August 1975, when Pan Trinbago removed him as Secretary of the Panorama Planning Committee.

"After my removal, I was faced with two choices", relates Barry, "one was to fight Pan Trinbago, on what was really a petty issue, and the other was to seek financial help for the development of the panmen."

"There was really only the second choice," so Barry went to Amral Khan whom he saw "as a man who had skilfully exploited the pan and had as a result, projected pan worldwide."

According to Barry, he discovered that his and Amral's concept of the steelband "more or less the same"

The first discussion between the two was in December. By January their ideas had begun to take shape.

They agreed on principle to the creation of a steelband co-op for local and international purposes.

With the enthusiastic support of Amral Khan and \$10,000 promised as financial backing, a course for potential pan-tuners was begun in March 1976.

OBLIGATION

The 12 students, who are under no obligation, embarked on a 10-week programme of learning to read music under Scofield Pilgrim.

After this period, the students who attend classes twice a week, will

move on to various other subjects like business law, steelband administration and musical arrangement.

One of the ideas, is that at the end of the course students can be sent to any part of the world, fully qualified to handle any aspect of steelband business.

In any case, it is hoped that the students will become foundation members of the proposed co-op.

Barry feels confident that the pan tuners course, which was chosen because of the critical need for it, "would help in bringing the steelbandsman to the full realisation of his

potential," and show that there need not be such-reliance Government help.

I got the impression that Barry was proud of what had been achieved so far and believed him, when he said that Pan Development Unlimited, meant to bring all published projects to fruition.