

'Dixie' is back



CURTIS PIERRE

UNTIL recently, Texaco Dixieland, of Belmont, was the most travelled steelband in the territory.

The band left for the United Kingdom in 1961, shortly after winning in the steelband class of the music festival. Its handling of "Agnus Dei", "Estudiantina Walts" and the test piece "Treasure Island," by Pat Castagne was unsurpassed.

Before that, the band had been on trips to Miami, Canada, Venezuela, through the Caribbean, including Haiti and Guadeloupe.



The high standard of music which the band set in the early '60's, plus its record overseas tours made it pretty much the "glamour boys" of the steelband movement.

Dixieland was the only steelband to have won right through a festival—quarter-finals, semi-finals, and Finals.

Dixieland is the only band too, which has overseas representatives. Of the players who made the 1961 trip to England, only Curtis Pierre, the former captain, George NgWai, who recently took over from Pierre, and Adrian Lee, returned to Trinidad.

On their return in 1962 they formed what was literally a new band, with the same name.

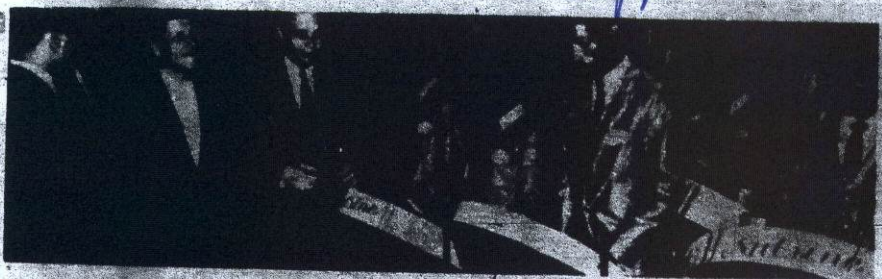


Dixieland, founded in 1964, has not been on the road since Panorama started in 1963. Since 1960, the first time it appeared in a competition was at last year's festival. It easily made the finals.

Arranger, Arnold Dupres, said: "This will be our first Panorama. Our chances are as good as anybody's else."

This view was fully endorsed by Pierre and Ng Wai.

On Carnival Monday and Tuesday, Dixieland will give an insight into things to come when it journeys into space. The band, Dupres promised, is bringing a space man with a difference.



NUTRINE Playboys, of Duke Street, Port-of-Spain, is boasting of "Something New" for Panoramans.

Skipper Dave La Barrie, aged 30, is tight-lipped as regards what this "bomb" will be.

"It would be foolish to reveal our hands at this stage," he said. "All I can say is that what we have is strong enough to crash the big bands."

And this, he added, had

nothing to do with the band's piano-phone—a pan between double-tenor and double-second—which produces an entirely different sound, and which is a pan few steelbandmen can beat.

"This will be our first try at Panorama," La Barrie pointed out. "We stand a good chance."

The emphasis at Nutrine Playboys is on youth. Most of the players are teenagers. The band is a splinter group from Sp-

niks, which had been off the road for over two years. La Barrie and Kelvin Pierre-point are the only members of the original Spunkies.

During those two years La Barrie beat with Tripoli. He also beat with the National Steelband at the Commonwealth Festival in England. It was while in New York last year that he succeeded in obtaining sponsorship for Playboys, which is less than a year old. Local agents for Nutrine are

Emphasis on youth

Beauty Supplies and Equipment Limited.

La Barrie does the arranging, while tuning is in the hands of Otto Fawcett. A bit of spice and variety has been added to the band in the person of Lis Baptiste, and Wendy Nurse.

"These girls joined us no doubt because of the reputation for decency which we have," La Barrie said. "Our members are disciplined youngsters. All prospective members have

to be screened before being admitted."

The "In-Crowd" is the name of the band's Monday mas. On Tuesday, masquerade.

About the Monday mas La Barrie revealed that latest mod designs for costumes have been sent by the band's New York sponsor.

"We have nothing but the latest in mod wear," he said. "They (the followers) asked for it, and we are giving them it."

back glory to Belmont

FORMED less than two years ago, Holiday Foods Amboys is a band with a mission—not impossible.

Its mission: to bring back to Belmont the lost glory and prestige which she has suffered in the pan world.

Manager, Bert Rodriguez, aged 25, explained: "The last good band Belmont had was Dem Fortunates. When this band went out of existence a few years ago, followers simply drifted to other bands outside Belmont. We decided to correct that situation."

And so in March, 1966, Amboys was born, with Rodriguez, and steelband veteran Lester Stewart at the helm.

The word

The word was out, and the patriotic ones answered the call. Then came the long hours of practice, during which the not-too-competent members were made to step down to make room for genuine talent.

Then came the real test. The band was stepping out for the first time, to compete with the big guns. That was last year. The occasion: Panorama.

Amboys clipped the wings of many a big band and was among the finalists. It did not come down in winner's row, but by then Amboys had etched a name for itself in the pan world. It had won the respect of rival bands, and Belmont was again in the limelight.

At the last Independence Steelband Festival, the band did it again—this time beating its way to be among the four finalists in the unopposed class.

And now it is on to its second Panorama, this year. Come in Rodriguez: "Our boys are all eager and ready to go. With sponsorship, we have been able to get an entirely new rhythm section, and now pass with better quality tunes. We are out to win."

Its mission—not impossible. Carnival Monday: The Mod World in Fancy Suits. Tuesday: Nagas of Asaan.

T.G. Steelband Supplement 4 Feb 1968

crescendo:

That one word is the embodiment of the objective both of the Sandbach Group of Companies in Trinidad and Sandbach City Syncopators Steelband—a steady increase in scope and performance until the ultimate is attained. Although in pursuit of separate objectives, the Sandbach Group and City Syncopators share the common belief that only the best performance will yield the best results; both are in common quest of the qualities which facilitate the achievement of success—dedication, application and high performance.

There have already emerged grounds for satisfaction but never self-satisfaction. City Syncopators has developed from a relatively un-known band in 1950 to second-place winners in the Steelband Association Festival of 1966 and winners of the Margaret Russel Trophy in the same Festival for what Adjudicator John Russel described as "the sweetest piece of music I have yet heard on steel". In the coming years, the band looks forward to attaining even greater heights in support of their contribution to the development of steelband music. They will do so with the continued support and encouragement of the Sandbach Group who themselves have been showing signs of development. At the present time, the operations of the group encompass an area of activity which includes Automotive Assembly, Automotive Sales and Service, Industrial Equipment Sales and Service, and Electrical Appliances Sales and Service. For both the Group and the Syncopators, the 1968 Carnival Celebrations is another opportunity to further this development, while at the same time contributing to the overall enjoyment of the season

