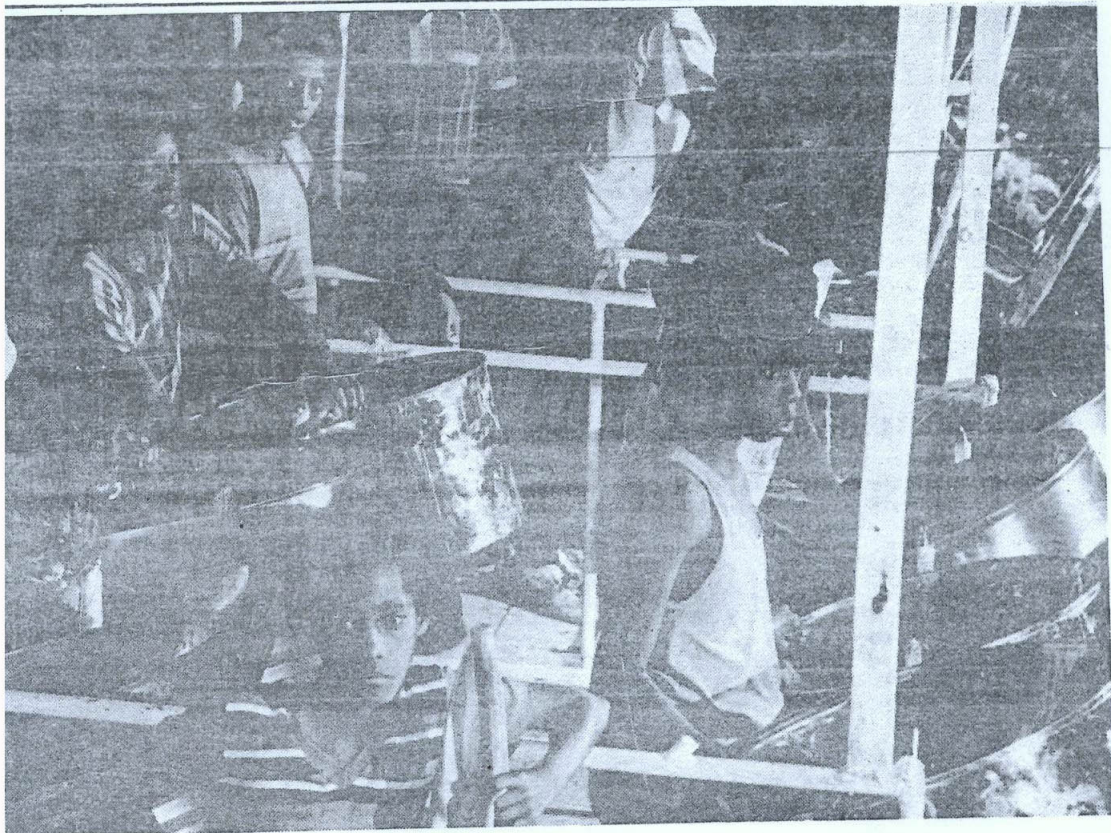


Leisure and Entertainment



Children save steelband from a losing 'hat trick'

By CHRISTINE LEE

WHO wants to read a story about losers on Carnival Friday? Unknown artistes, "has beens", smart alecks, they are a dime a dozen. From early o'clock they feverishly descend on the media, clamouring for publicity.

And, with promises of grandeur to come, they then drop like flies, defeated to the lowest ranks in the preliminaries of various competitions.

One should be selective about just "who" deserves a story, focus on the few good enough to "make it" — the winners. After all, one loser is no different from the other. And inevitably, they all have heart rending sob stories to tell. Every calypsonian has fought for recognition, every mas leader faces obstacles and

every pan man has had to struggle. Take the story about Belmont New Dimension for instance...

Originally "Fifth Dimension," this set of pan men from a ramshackled pan yard, in a notoriously rough area of Belmont, came dead last in the panorama preliminaries, two years in a row.

Naturally, the members got despondent. Divided interests made it difficult for the band to function as a unit and apathetic, the members drifted away.

Only two remained: Prince (Elton Williams) and Eddy Valla; diehard pan men without a band and a hope of even smelling victory. Nevertheless, Prince continued tinkering away on the pans in solitude; save for the wide-eyed little 'fellas' who had always hung around.

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