

Panmen turn deaf ear on doctor's claim

By KENNY RUDD

JOSEPH MATHERSON, leader of the Carib Tokyo steelband and panbeater from the 'V.J.' days of the middle forties, has openly disagreed with the "discovery" by ear, nose and throat (E.N.T.) specialist, Dr. Mohammed Aziz, that steelbandmen are going deaf from the sounds of their own instruments.

Matherson's Carib Tokyo was one of many bands that journeyed to the Arima Savannah yesterday to assist fellow panmen of Sylvania

East Side Symphony in their efforts to raise funds for their new panyard-cum-theatre.

Matherson took time off to give his version of Dr. Aziz's discovery of a front page story in yesterday's "Sunday Guardian" that the noise of the steelband was damaging the delicate nerve ends in the players' ears.

A veteran in his own right, Matherson said he thought that Dr. Aziz's report was not a comprehensive one involving all panmen. He said he believed that Dr. Aziz was basing his findings on the case of a pan tuner from Egypt Village by the name of "Allan" who Matherson claimed, was tuner for many bands and who is now deaf in one ear.

He said the case of "Allan" was a "must" as it was a case of too much in one man's ear drum. "Allan," he said, was obviously over doing it.

Whereas he agreed it could be logical in the case of tuners or drum stinkers, it could not be so in the case of the panbeaters.

Reynold Kingsale, leader of the Y. De Lima Blue Diamonds endorsed Matherson's remarks pertaining to the case of the pan tuners and felt that to the beater himself the noise was no different than the everyday tooting of car horns.

Kingsale said he hoped Dr. Aziz's report would not discourage aspiring pan beaters.



JOSEPH MATHERSON

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