

Invaders Steelband Takes On New Name

One of the original and most famous of steel bands, Invaders will in future be shown as the Shell Invaders Steelband.

The new name has been adopted as the result of an arrangement made recently between the members of the steelband and the Marketing Division of Shell Trinidad Limited.

Recently, bandsmen were busy painting their pans with the familiar red and yellow colours and Shell emblems in preparation for the Carnival season.

In addition to their many appearances at pre-Carnival 'fetes' and on the streets on Carnival Monday and Tuesday, it is hoped that the band will give a concert in Woodford Square at which some of their specialty classical pieces can be heard.

The history of Invaders

goes back to the very roots of the steelband tradition. According to Ellie Manette, one of the original members and still leader of the band, they started in 1938 in 'Hell Yard', the traditional headquarters of the old-time bamboo-bamboists of down-town Port-of-Spain.

It was in 'Hell Yard' that on VE Day—May 6, 1945—a huge crowd gathered and finally set off down the street to the tune of 'Five years and eight months we-ent play no mas', accompanied by haphazard assembly of percussion instruments ranging from garbage can lids to pieces of old iron.

RAPID DEVELOPMENT

From then on the steelband started to develop rapidly. From a piece of steel, through a biscuit tin, a paint pan and finally a sawed-off pan, the 'Ping-pong' emerged.

"The man who brought the steelband from social ostracism to the threshold of respectability was Ellie Manette," wrote W. A. Simmonds in a booklet published

to accompany an exhibition of 'Pan' in cement sculpture by Raphael Samuel.

It was Ellie who first wrapped his drumstick with strips of rubber and he who first marked off the top of an oil drum in the now familiar pattern.

'GOING SHELL'

As his technique developed he gathered a group around him, taught them and launched the Invaders steelband.

A crucial point in steelband history had arrived. From then on steelbands were socially acceptable—they had 'arrived'.

Today the steelband is still evolving. Who can say what new techniques or developments will occur? But whatever happens it is certain that the steelband is established for all-time as one of Trinidad's unique contributions to music and an inalienable part of its culture.

Invaders have been in the forefront of steelbands since their early days. Now that they're 'Going Shell' no doubt they will continue to 'go well'.

**JUST
RECEIVED!**

**CARNIVAL
MASKS**

from

25c. to 75c.

**Y. de Lima & Co., Ltd.
Port-of-Spain — San F'do.**