

Four generations of pan men

OLD OAK Casablanca is a pioneer steelband. Its formation dates back to the days of the bamboo-bamboo.

Though never a winner at Panorama, the name Casablanca is always mentioned when anyone speaks of the steelband movement in retrospection.

It is no small credit to this band — which, the historians tell us, is an offspring of an earlier band called Merryboys — that it has been able to maintain the unity in the ranks and an honourable position in the movement.

Those who beat with the band today under Augustus Mark are of the fourth generation of Casablanca — all keeping the torch aflame at new Belmont headquarters, all determined to restore Casablanca to her once enviable position when she was among those which ruled the band world in the time of Patsy Haynes.

Casablanca has had successes at the former island-wide and Carnival Jamboree competitions. The band's rendition of Sibelius' "Finlandia" at the 1965 competition for the Prime

Minister's trophy cannot be easily forgotten.

Liaison officer, Laurie Miller, said that the band does not boast of new pans, or any other new equipment this year for Panorama. The band was not even boasting of a new sound.

"The band", he said, "returns this year with renewed vigour and the determination of the men to succeed. They are not contented with merely making the Finals. With three exceptions, all members are under 25. They are young and talented, and they are putting their hearts and souls into their music.

"We believe that our pans have been tuned to a sufficiently high standard to take us through Panorama, and any other competitions this year."

The band's arranger is Carlton "Lax" Marciano.

"The future of Casablanca," he said, "looks much brighter than before. As De Gafulle of France says, there can be no Casablanca without greatness."

Casablanca made a successful tour of South America early last year, and two weeks after was



AUGUSTUS MARK,
leader of OLD OAK
Casablanca.

among the top 12 selected for Panorama.

Creating a first, the band opened its Carnival camp at Argyle Street last month. Mayor Edward Taylor performed opening rights.

"A Day At The Circus In France," is the title of its mas' on Monday. On Tuesday it will take a shot at "Conquest of Hannibal The Great—218 AD."

The band is deeply indebted to its sponsors for all forms of assistance provided. This has been extended to include jobs for members.