

Pan 'in memory'

IT WAS indeed a memorable day in the history of the steelband movement in Trinidad and Tobago. Two days after the hectic two-day celebration of Carnival, pannists from the late 1930s to the 1980s met at a social affair, organised and hosted by calypsonian Chalkdust and veteran pan personalities George Goddard and Hugh Borde, at Borde's Belmont residence. It was the first time in the history of the steelband movement that such an event took place, with present-day, young pannists meeting their mentors of yesteryear. In 1983 there was a veterans-only gathering at the Holiday Inn, but that event could not match the dazzle of this occasion.

The array of pannists gathered for just those few

hours at Borde's home demands mention if only for posterity. Pannists from the late '30s and early '40s there included Goddard of Alexander's Ragtime Band, Invaders and former president of both the Steelband Association and Pan Trintago; Mack Kinsale of Alexander's Ragtime Band and Red Army; Carlton Zigilee Constantine of Hell Yard and Bar 20; Lloyd Loreigh of Oval Boys (now Trintoc Invaders); Ossie Campbell of Bar 20 and Casablanca and Fred Corbin of Casablanca. Among the pannists of the later '40s were Hugh Borde of Tripoli; Andrew Pan De Labastide of Casablanca and Hill 60; Hugo Besson of Five Graves to Cairo; McKeller Big Mack Sandiford of Missing Bull and Bar 20, and Anthony

Williams of Sun Valley and North Stars.

Those attending from the era of the 1950s were Clem Bellerand, Eugene Salo Williams and Claude Monsegue of Boys Town; Albert Jones of City Kids and Rising Sun; Junior Pouchet of Silver Stars; Clifton Block Bonaparte of Southern Symphony, and Manuel Camps of Tripoli and Tripolians. Of this group, both Jones and Pouchet are past presidents of the Steelband Association.

The 1960-1980 era was also well represented. Pannists from these two decades included Tommy Crichlow of Tripoli; Beverly Griffith of WITCO Desperadoes; Kendall Lewis of Merrytones; John Babb of Tripolians; Keith Preddie of Mexitones; Earl Rodney of Solo Harmonites; Leon



A smiling Hugh Borde (standing third from left) plays host to some steelbands pioneers and current stars in the pan world at his Belmont residence. Also in this DELLA ANN STEWART photo are (standing from left), Abdul Mohammed, Ronald Nurse, Beverly Griffith, Junior Pouchet, Keith Preddie and Leon Smooth Edwards. Sitting from left: John Babb, Tommy Crichlow, Kendall Lewis and Claude Monsegue.

Smooth Edwards of Catelli Trinidad All Stars; Ken Professor Philmore of Vat 19 Fonclaire; Viola Mayfield Camps of Tripolians; Abdul Hakim Muhammed and Edmund Charles (brother of the late Rudolph Charles) of Boys Town; Raphael Thompson of Tune Rivers, and Ronald Nurse.

Also in attendance were Director of Culture Lester Efebo Wilkinson, and his staff and historian/author Michael Anthony, Express journalist

Keith Smith; and Express entertainment columnist and Fertrin Pandemonium foundation member Peter Blood.

Over a year ago, Michael Anthony and Goddard were assigned by the government to compile a history of the steelband movement, and that subject formed the main purpose of the gathering. Goddard will travel overseas later this year to interview a number of old pannists now residing abroad.

Steelbands

Exp 15/3/87 p29