

Panmen clash: \$2,000 damage

JEALOUSY, revenge or personal grudge? Yesterday speculation ran high on the reason behind the incident between two neighbouring steelbands from the West. Members of CIBC Starlift alleged that they were attacked by the Shell Invaders Steel Orchestra on Carlos Street about 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

They estimated about \$2,000 damage to pans and drum set.

On carnival Monday and Tuesday, a spokesman said Starlift and Invaders decided to protect each other because they both received threats from a band from East Port-of-Spain. So they stayed close to each other.

Attack

An incident occurred about 5 p.m. on stage at the Queen's Park Savannah where it was said that a member of Invaders went into Starlift and was kicking the costume of the queen of their band. He was stopped and put out of the band.

A spokesman from Invaders said that their member was looking for their King of the Band who was already on stage when he was attacked and put out of Starlift.

The incident was reported to the captain of Invaders, "Birdie" Vernon Mannette who

pacified the situation and everything was alright after that.

Some members of Starlift felt that the Invaders attack stemmed from that incident.

It was also felt in some circles that Invaders panmen were annoyed over the strides Starlift had made in recent years and that the incident was a built-up tension over about three years.

Spokesmen from both bands said that many members from Starlift were originally from Invaders and that both bands were always friendly.

The spokesman for Starlift said yesterday that they were going along Carlos Street towards Wrightson Road Invaders turned into Carlos Street from Ariapita Avenue and allegedly started "pelting bottles", he said.

"People in Starlift just started to run", he stated adding that many ran through Adam Smith Square.

That was when about three men from Invaders started mashing up the pans and drum set, he said.

A spokesman for Invaders said that they were going along peacefully when they were attacked with bottles.

Shell Invaders Captain, "Birdie" Mannette could not be contacted yesterday.



Starlift arranger Ray Holman and pan-beater Gerard Clarke examining the damaged drums from their trap set, at the Woodbrook Police Station yesterday.

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