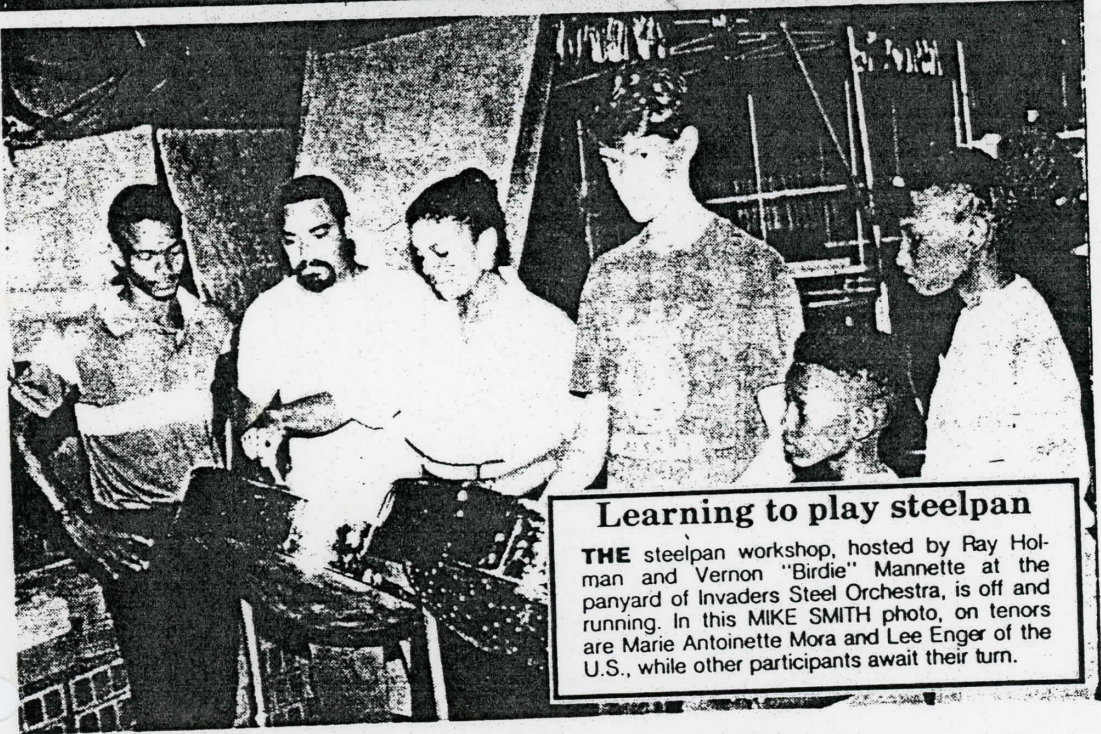


with Peter Ray Blood



Learning to play steelpan

THE steelpan workshop, hosted by Ray Holman and Vernon "Birdie" Mannette at the panyard of Invaders Steel Orchestra, is off and running. In this MIKE SMITH photo, on tenors are Marie Antoinette Mora and Lee Enger of the U.S., while other participants await their turn.

Despers going all out for 1990 Panorama title

HAVING bowled over audiences at the recent *Trinidad & Tobago Pan/Jazz Festival*, pannist Robert Greenidge is now taking a short rest from the concert stage. However, it's not all rest for the world renowned pannist as he is also initiating plans for WITCO Desperadoes' participation in Carnival 1990.

The Desperadoes manager said that he was convinced that the popular Laventille band would excell in next year's Panorama competition. He disclosed that next year marks the silver anniversary of the relationship between the West Indian Tobacco Company (WITCO) and Desperadoes, and the band would be going all out to give the sponsor a special gift.

The third musician to arrange for Desperadoes since 1963, Greenidge did Baron's *Somebody* for this year's Panorama competition. The band placed fourth. In previous years, Desperadoes had its Panorama selections arranged by Beverly Griffith and Clive Bradley, the latter having left his style indelibly marked on the band's music.

A few months ago, Bradley, after arranging for Pandemonium, Tokyo and Valley Harpe, returned to Desperadoes to arrange the band's repertoire for a planned tour to France. Since then, there has been speculation that the "rift" between both parties has

been healed and that Bradley had in fact returned "home."

With Bradley back in the Despers fold, there is some degree of uncertainty as to who would arrange the 1990 Panorama piece. Said Greenidge: "I have no qualms of collaborating with Clive, or with Clive arranging the piece on his own. The final decision rests with the members of the band. I will go along with any decision that is taken in the best interest of the band. Since Rudolph (Charles) was alive, the band had an unwritten policy that its arranger would remain exclusive to Desperadoes."

Responding to a suggestion that the discipline Desperadoes' pannists could be of a higher quality, Greenidge said: "While I am aware of the many people from all walks of life...people like Jean Reid...who love the band dearly, the members aren't really sure of this. They do and feel things differently to other musicians, so sometimes their actions may be misinterpreted for indiscipline."

"However, if the members of Desperadoes were not a well-disciplined lot, there's no way the band could have achieved the record for winning the most national Panorama titles, and enjoyed the successes it has had as a Steelband Festival orchestra and highly acclaimed cultural ambassadors to Trinidad and Tobago."