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Angel Harps protest panyard destruction



ANGEL HARPS' PANS PILED HIGH AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AS A RESULT OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING.

PICTURE BY HUBERT ALEXANDER

By RODERICK LEWIS,
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
REPORTER

PAN Trinbago has called for a probe surrounding the circumstances leading up to the destruction of Angel Harps Steel Orchestra's pan yard.

The eastern region of the representative body for panmen, deplored the wrecking of the building where band members practised on Main Street, Arima, and claimed that this action was taken by a demolition squad following instructions from the Crown Lands Division.

As a result, the pans which are worth thousands of dollars, are now being destroyed by the elements.

Cedric Campbell, Public Relations Officer, for the region, complained that the band was unsponsored and only five of its 30 members were employed. "In order to raise money to build somewhere to practise," he revealed, "the boys had organised Block-O-Ramas and go around begging for donations".

Materials

Campbell added that band members then paid \$50 an hour for a tractor to grade the land, and bought materials to build the shed. The land on which it was built was given to Angel Harps by the Crown Lands Division following a visit by the Prime Minister in 1969 when he made a tour of pan yards.

He pointed out that some of the pans were stashed away under a neighbour's house, but the majority were left to the mercy of wind and rain.

An official of the Crown Lands Utilisation Office pointed out that the person to comment on the matter was not available.