

Pan-round-the-neck bands parade tonight

A TOTAL of 28 pan-round-the-neck steelbands have registered to compete in this evening's *Old Time Panorama* preliminary, scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. In one of the few innovations introduced by the National Carnival Commission (NCC) and Pan Trinbago for this year's Carnival, the pan-round-the-neck competition will not be included in the South/Central Zone preliminary at Skinner Park, San Fernando, but will be held in Port of Spain at City Hall on Knox Street.

Bands will parade north along Frederick Street into the judging enclosure on Knox Street. Pan Trinbago president Owen Serrette said his organisation was eagerly looking forward to this evening's historic pan event. He said Pan Trinbago did not anticipate any problems with crowd control. Unlike the Panorama competition for conventional bands, pan-round-the-neck aggregations do not require pushers which should result in less congestion within the bands.

Serrette explained that the downtown area bounded by Queen Street, Abercromby Street, Independence Square and Henry Street will be closed to



Skiffle Bunch, the defending champs.

vehicular traffic. Participating bands will assemble and proceed to the judging venue along these streets. "We are looking forward to people's participation," said Serrette. "However, the judging area, between Frederick Street and Pembroke Streets, on Knox Street, will be cordoned off. Only the participating bands will be allowed to enter Knox Street."

While pan-round-the-neck bands will have their own preliminary tonight, qualifiers in this category will contest their final on the same night the National Panorama final is held at the Queen's Park Savannah, on February 4. The defending pan-round-the-neck champion is San Fernando's Skiffle Bunch, led by Junior Regrello. This band will play Ann Marie Inniss' *Fire, Fire, Fire Down Below*, with arrangement by Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, the song's composer and arranger. (PETER RAY BLOOD)