



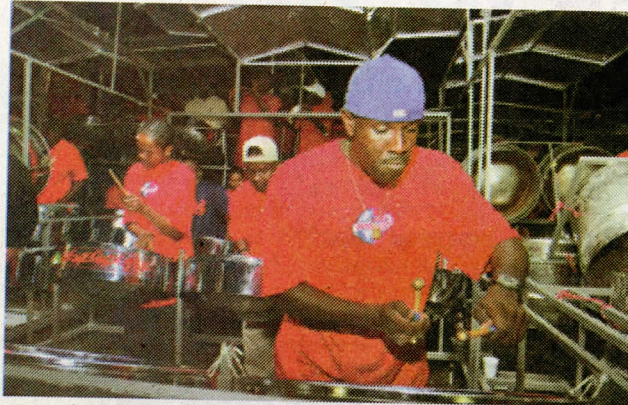
# Band Spotlight

## Renegades

Renegades had its formative years at Harpe Place, East Dry River. One of its foundation members was Stephen Nicholson better known as "Gold Teeth" who was a man of tremendous physical and mental courage. The band itself in these early years comprised players some of whom were formerly members of Bar 20, Casablanca and to a lesser extent Syncopators.

On May 24, 1967 the band acquired sponsorship from Paramount Films of Trinidad which had as its Southern Caribbean Manager, Rodney Webb. Later a pan theatre was opened at #71 Oxford Street. A request was made for the band to drop its name Renegades, but the name was maintained in honour of "Gold Teeth". The Theatre at the time cost \$12,000 and was a forward step in the social and cultural transformation of the entire community.

Renegades had its first taste of success in steelband competitions in 1969, winning the J'Ou-



vert morning bomb competition with the selection "In a Monastery Garden" arranged by Selwyn Mohammed brother of Lennox "Bobby" Mohammed leader of the Cavaliers of San Fernando.

In 1970 Renegades was contracted to play abroad the Russian ship "Chezinko" during its Caribbean cruise. The band also played aboard the Russian Liner "Shota Bustavelo" and under the leadership of Julian Alexander performed in East-

ern Europe and North Africa.

But undoubtedly, it is Jit Samaroo following the sponsorship of the Amoco Oil Company, who brought the band into prominence with the work he has done as an arranger since 1972. Jit as he is affectionately called began to arrange for Renegades from 1972, when Bertram Kellman, a tuner for Samaroo Jets introduced him to Renegades when the band was looking for an arranger. Renegades made it to the finals with

the selection "Soca Dora". This was the first of many finals for the band. Renegades had also made its mark internationally. In 1983 the band played in Gabon at the inauguration of the Amoco Oilfields and later at Bonns 200th Anniversary in Germany. In 1990 the band made a trip to Paris and appeared on a series of live television shows which highlighted many of the bigger name artistes, as the Three Degrees, Jean Michel Jarre and the Ninja Turtles. Also in 1990, Renegades performed as part of a welcoming team for Nelson Mandela's visit to the USA while the band was on an eighteen-day tour of New York. Renegades is now sponsored by B.P. Trinidad Limited and was the first and only band to have copped three Panorama titles consecutively 1995 - 1997. The band has made several trips to Japan and is one of a few bands which utilises its panyard with frequent concerts and shows.

## Pamberi

Pamberi Steel Orchestra could be found on the Old Road in San Juan. The band was formed in 1980 from two other steelbands, Marzicans and Finland. The name Pamberi means forward, taken from the freedom fighter of Zimbabwe. Over the years there have been three exponents of music who arranged for the band. They include Norbert Williams, Godwin Bowen and in 1998 Othello Mollineaux. In 1981 the band placed 6th in the East Zone Finals with the selection "Soca Jean" by Kitchener. By 1983 this position was im-



proved to 3rd. In 1985 the band placed 3rd in the East Zone and made it to the Finals of Panora-

ma where it placed 8th with Merchant's "Pan in Danger". It was in 1988 that the band re-

ally caught the eye of the listening public, when in the Panorama of that year Pamberi played a composition by its Arranger Godwin Bowen "Steel on Wheels". This was followed in 1989 by "Posse" and the unforgettable 1990 selection "Ten Minutes of Glory". The band has performed abroad in France, Switzerland and at the Montreaux Jazz Festival. Lately the band had the privilege to have Othello Mollineaux, a well known pannist who has received several international awards, as its arranger.