Mitchell, Tony "A 'new' Injun Coming" Evening News 27 Jan 1966 p.7 print

A 'new' Injun coming

By TONY MITCHELL

NO LONGER the stereotype "Wild Indian" the customary braves and squaws. Far from it! It will be the "Festival of the Dance" by the Metronomes Steel Orchestra, of Tragarete Road, Newtown, come Carnival.

Five hundred odd masqueraders will parade the streets of the city dancing to the music of the "sweet" pans of the Metronomes, finalists in every competition they have contested so far.

There will be spirit dancers, dog dancers, snake, corn, horse tail, Mayan bird, devil and bussel dancers. And of course, the Sun Dancer.

Organiser is Kenny Turner, who amazes prospective band members whenever he quotes the price range of the various costumes. "The most expensive is $40 and the cheapest $15," he boasts.

And there is a variety of fabrics for the costuming. Lame, velvet and plush are the backgrounds for many colour schemes.

The "Queen of the Band," who will be entered in the Savannah and other competitions, is Monica Robertson. She will portray the "Goddess of the Sun."

The din of the "pans" were too much for me to get all the facts about the mas' clearly, as the boys were beating out Lord Kitchener's "Law and Order."

But I was able to gather that on Carnival Monday, the Metronomes will be playing "Teenage Fashions."

There was a slight break in the music, as captain Harold Phillip, apparently pleased with "Law and Order," ordered his men to play Sparrow's "Rosylyn."

A later change to an oldie, "If I love You," sounded excellent too. Man behind the scenes is arranger-tuner Winston McLean. That name rang a bell. Yes, Winston is a son of the late Archie McLean, popular bassist of Woodford Street.

The 60 pans of the Metronomes will be rumbling come Carnival Monday and Tuesday as well as at Panorama, the week before.

● *THE Metronomes at practice*