

Steelband queen scores double

By JOHN BABB

FRIDAY night's Panorama will go down on the Carnival records as a disappointing night of the steelbands and Queen of Carnival. It will go down, too, as a bad night for the Mighty Sparrow.

Of the 12 steelbands

which appeared on stage, not one of them really injected any sort of carnival revelry feeling in the overflowing audience.

Only a few bands—Desperadoes, Harmonites and Starlift—took some bright spots of the applause.

The queens were worse off. Only three of them saved that section of the show from complete collapse—Esther Theodore, Silma Bailey and Jean Assing.

Stage director Arthur Bentley experienced more trouble with the queens coming on stage than with the steelbands which flowed on and off stage smoothly.

Mighty Sparrow's guest appearance with his "Mr. Walker" was almost a flop—without adequate musical accompaniment.

But where Sparrow failed, Road March King, Lord Kitchener excelled. The crowd was with Kitch all the way as he sang "Miss Tourist."

Although no results were released Friday night, one thing was certain—Miss Tourist will win Road March honours.

Muriel Haynes scored a double, winning the title of "Queen of the Steelbands," and selected as one of the eight finalists to appear at the Dimanche Gras tonight.

Steelband finalists are: Angostura Starlift; Esso Tripoli; Forsyth Hi-Landers; Sandbach City Syncopators; Solo Harmonites; Texaco Dixieland and West Indian Tobacco Gay Desperadoes. (See Queens Go Forth—Page 13).

Finalists for the Queen of Carnival:—Muriel Haynes, as Queen of the Solar System from the band Festival of the Planets; Marjorie Francis, as Brazilian Splendour from the band Brazilian Fiesta; Silma Bailey, as Comedy and Tragedy from the band—Fantasia '68; Elsie Lee Heung, as Honey of the Polynesians from Primeval, The Rites of Spring.

Ursula Lewis, as The Glass Empress from Conquerors of Nineveh; Joan Eli, as Aztec Callendar from the band Famous Journeys; Esther Theodore, as Coya Rayhi from Festival of the Incas, and Jean Assing as Acllacuna—The Virgin of the Sun Temple from the band El Dorado, City of Gold.

Queen of the Steelbands.

1. Muriel Haynes, as Queen of the Solar System—Texaco Dixieland.

2. Veronica Duncan as Indra Devi—The Dragon Queen—Paramount Renegades.

3. Joan Greene as Ostria, Goddess of Beauty—True Tones

Best Dressed Steelband

1. West Indian Tobacco Gay Desperadoes.

2. Esso Tripoli.

3. Angostura Starlift.

Leaders of the finalist steelbands and the eight queen finalists have been requested to be at the Queen's Park Savannah at 9 a.m. today for a briefing on tonight's finals.

In releasing their results yesterday, the judges said they unanimously agreed that the following contestants were considered floats:

Angela Copeland, Freyja Goddess of Fertility from the band Pageantry of the Vikings, and Joan Dolly, as Lady Luck from the band Play the Game.

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