

# Pan pioneer dies in Netherlands

AULDRIC "Chic Magroo" Springer was the first man to play the steelpan with two sticks, a feat that won him first place in the first island-wide competition in 1946.

Sadly, the pan pioneer passed away on October 10, not in his native land, but in the Netherlands.

Springer, who was 78, had

been ailing for some time.

On Monday, one of Springer's children, Selwyn "Mini-eyes" Springer, will hold a memorial service for his father to coincide with his funeral in Amsterdam.

The younger Springer, who has followed in his father's footsteps and made a name for himself in pan,

said his father's memory will live on because of his love of the national instrument and his innovation in the field.

"When my father won the first steelband competition, he put the pan on his knee and played with two sticks while everyone else was holding the pan up with one hand and playing with the

other," a proud Springer said.

"He was one of the Woodbrook old boys and a foundation member of the Invaders pan group."

The memorial for Springer takes place at the Trinity Cathedral in Port of Spain on October 22 at 4 p.m.

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*Blood, Peter Ray. "Play One for 'Chick McGroo'". 20 Oct. 2001: 26. Print.*