

Steelband night in the city

DE JUMBIE get a meggie Friday night. Is to see me in the Independence Square Stand boasting to some Swedish tourists telling them how World Wide is the best beating band and they coming on stage just now with Crazy's "OPP In De Party." Next thing I know, World Wide stop beating and gone up Frederick Street.

But is my wife put me in dat. Is she who start talking to them tourists in the first place. She even try to get them to go out on the street and jump.

We sitting down good good, taking in the Pan-Round-the-Neck show, but she want to go on on the street and check the action. It

have 15 million people on Independence Square and she want to make it 15 million and two.

Ah tell she the ting going good so far. Blanca 47 from we hometown Maraval sound good "Going De Distance", and when City Kids 2 come up on stage with them two tinymites on tenor pans I run off a history on the band.

The Jumbie tell she the leader Roderick Toussaint playing pans since he was small like them two children and City Kids was the first lil boy steelband it ever had even before Jit Samaroo and them, who come on the scene later with Samaroo Kids.

City Kids was a direct descendant of the first steelband ever

formed in Belmont, Rising Sun from Farrell Lane. So City Kids 2 was like a grandchild of Rising Sun.

La Creole Pan Groove come up on stage next and play Shadow's Pac Pac, making you feel to follow them all the way to Hell, but what make things worse was when Scrunter's Pan Groove break down the place with "Do The Iwer". All the people went jumping straight up Henry Street, fust the music sweet. She insist she want to go.

Ah try reasoning with she intellect pointing out that Morgan Job, who she feel is God, couldn't be right when talking bout pan men three weeks ago: "Before and after Panorama they will still kill you for a trousers, steal you cars at gunpoint, rob you and rape you; and they, mere children will continue to breed, making children, making trouble, breeding crime and making as Lennox Grant may say, 'black distress'."

It couldn't be them two lil City Kids he talking bout. Them children are the reincarnation of men like Dudley Smith, Patsy Haynes, Tiloli and some of the other greats that come out o' Belmont. None of them never get into any trouble.

And according to Zigilie, one of the earliest pan-men still alive, the pioneers had to be resolute for the thing to survive and Job, as an educated man, should know that and not just accept this long discarded notion that because a man play pan he is a vagabond.

History has shown that it was forbidden for the Black man to even read during the days of slavery. Yet Job is as educated as any other man on earth because of somebody else's painful sacrifice.

She ain't want to hear that! As far as she concern it must have something going on outside if all them people out there.

So we leave the stand and weave we way through people like ants checking out banners. It look like all them band playing Robbie Greenidge's "Fire". Next thing the Jumbie know is everybody jumping like they wild, so high I can't even see the banner, but somebody on the side say is World Wide.

The spirit hit the Jumbie one time as soon as I hear the music. I grab my wife by she waist and pull she in the band, this time she complaining she can't breathe fust it have people.

She in front, I behind and we jumping up to OPP coming up Independence Square. A big salipinter weighing bout 300 pounds jam me from behind laughing...I can't go forward, I can't move back and people on either side, but OPP in my head so De Jumbie ain't care.

Somehow my wife look back and see this big mama behind me, so she decide she want to go back in the stand.

We gone again, worming back through the crowd, back into the stand and next to we Swedish friends.

That is where big mouth me gone telling them bout this band what beating so sweet and have everybody waiting on them to come on the stage, only to see them stop and walk up Frederick Street.

I run by the announcer to find out what number they playing. That is when I find out Worldwide was joint defending champions with Pan On De Move, so they didn't have to play in front the judges.

Imagine me, Pan Jumbie, didn't even know who win Pan Round Neck last year. Not this year, though. The Jumbie making sure he hear World Wide.