

# There is reward in pan, says BJ

By REY DAVIS

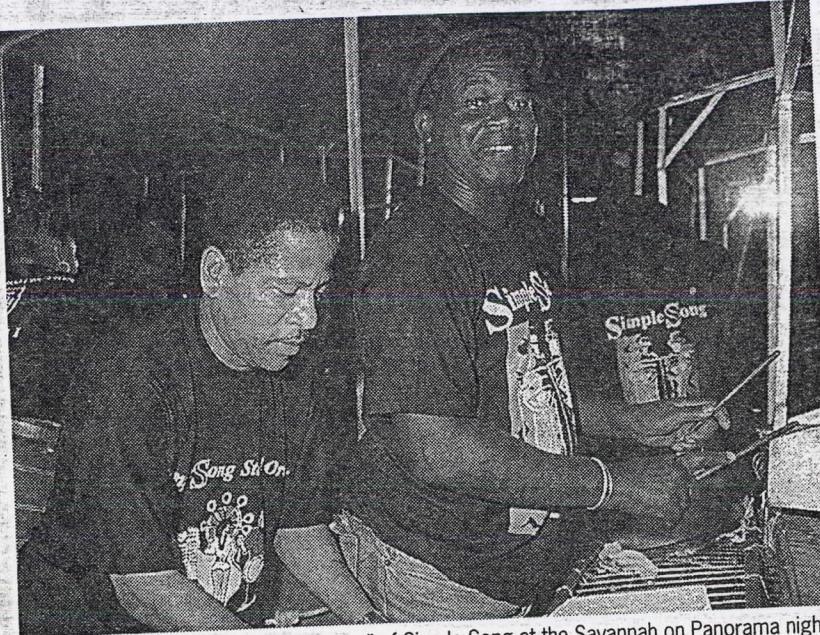
AFTER Jit is BJ. Jit? Yes. Jit Samaroo, of course, music maker-arranger extraordinaire who grew up from a Lopinot boy wonder of the Samaroo Kids (Steelband) Ensemble, through the Samaroo Jets, to be one of the pan world's most celebrated names.

BJ? Yes. He's familiarly called BJ but his name is Terrence "BJ" Marcelle.

"Everybody seems to know me and they probably like my music," BJ said in the heat of North/East Panorama final at the Savannah on Sunday night.

Jit's association with star-spangled Amoco Renegades is well known, if not well chronicled. His roll call also numbers Sangre Grande Cordettes, Our Boys of Tobago, traditional pan-round-de-neck band Trinidad Nostalgic of Arima and Lee Chong's Pan Glow of South.

BJ's ties in with traditionalist Arima All Stars and conventionalists Penta Paints Melodians, Simple Song and Jay Notes on the Panorama front.



**IN THE SONG:** Inside the "engine room" of Simple Song at the Savannah on Panorama night. Old hands at the job in support of the youth with whom BJ Marcelle concentrates most of his time and energies. Photo by LESTER FORDE.



ing no money because it does go back straight in the bands, to help the bands.

"My dollars don't count because it goes back right in the bands. Because every night I spend about \$60 to bring down some of my players, players who follow me. I ensure their security of travel and comfort.

"If they were a conventional band proba-

"Everybody does say they getting frustrated. Pan ain't have nothing. But pan go reach some day and pan go have something one day. You just have to stick to it and after you go see the reward.

"I stick to it. I get fed up. I try to leave, but I didn't and I seeing my reward right now."

A songline remembered — Thank you Mr (DJ), BJ.

(singer).  
Time to go home now. And it's one for the road, this time a loud message.  
"To the youth, don't get fed up," BJ says.

"Case Of The Disappearing Panyards (David Michael Rudder) was another testy piece which Arima All Stars (pan-round-de-neck) played.

"They were sounding very good in practice but I don't know what happen. We went down very well with that tune.

'I did work for four bands this year. I enjoy all the tunes. But the hardest tune was Melodians choice Power Of Music, Kitchener's tune. That was the hardest. Kitch gave we a hard test tune there. I had to work to manoeuvre it.'

traditionalist Arima All Stars and conventionalists Penta Paints Melodians, Simple Song and Jay Notes on the Panorama front this year.

"I also have a great band in Tortola called Shooting Stars. They were here already. They came for guest performances here and performed real nice."

How does he get around to making the preparatory rounds with the homesteaders? "It's kind of rough to make the rounds," he says, beads of sweat on his brow shimmering in the glare of the Savannah stage lights.

"I try my best to put out good music."

"The movement from this band to that every night is not easy. It's hard," he admits.

He has some degree of comfort.

"My wife accompanies me. She plays."

Reality of family life steps in.

"Then two of us have to get up in the morning to send the children to school. So it's tough because we get home late every night, then have to rise early."

BJ accepts the calling at a time of year when the going gets tough and the tough...

"It's a labour of love because I playing pan since I was seven years. I have stuck to that. That's what I live by. There are those (gals) who leave me because of pan. But this one is sticking with me. She knows what's going on."

Don't dream of a pocketful of money for BJ, the four-band

night I spend about \$60 to bring down some of my players, players who follow me. I ensure their security of travel and comfort. I buy things for them to eat and drink. Sometimes they spend the whole day by me.

"I live at 'Grande.'

BJ holds a signal place in the growing league of ripening arrangers like Fon-claire's Darren Sheppard, Petrotrin Invaders' Nervin Saunders, Courts Laventille Sound Specialists' Cary Codrington, Tobago's Ricky Williams of Natural Mystic, Leroy Thomas of Moods, Sydney Joseph of Valley Harps, Sforzata's Merlin Gill, Tropical Angel Harps' Clarence Morris, Belmont Fifth Dimension's Brian "Bean" Griffith and Noel "Mico" Skair, Andy "Max" Neils of Rhythm Rockers, Gerald "Belly" Charles of Spree Simon Harmonics, Kenneth "Guppy" Brown, Godwin Bowen et al.

He has musical chores to perform. And did he enjoy them?

"I did work for four bands this year. I enjoyed all the tunes. But the hardest tune was Melodians' choice Power Of Music, Kitchener's tune. That was the hardest."

ing very good in practice but I don't know what happen. We went down very well with that tune.

"If they were a conventional band probably it would have been a little better. But I don't know what happen. Probably it was the time we played in the morning around 5.30 am."

All Stars placed 16th of the 45 traditionalist bands to be in danger of qualifying for the 16-band semi-final after a grand fourth-place achievement in last year's final.

Penta Paints Melodians, the shockwave among last year's 12 national finalists and eventually eighth in Renegades' romp, looks to BJ's vision of Kitchener's Power of Music to weave in again. They finished eighth of 18 in the East Zonal final and are now 18th of a 24 semi-finalist call for the national title.

Jay Notes of Guaico, Grande, a "Small Band" netted joint 17th in the East contest and are out of reach of the "Small Band" finale. They played Mind Yuh Business, the finished product of Len "Boogsie" (composer), Alvin Daniel (lyricist) and Denyse Plummer