

The 'Beethoven' of Pan

By **PETER
BLOOD**

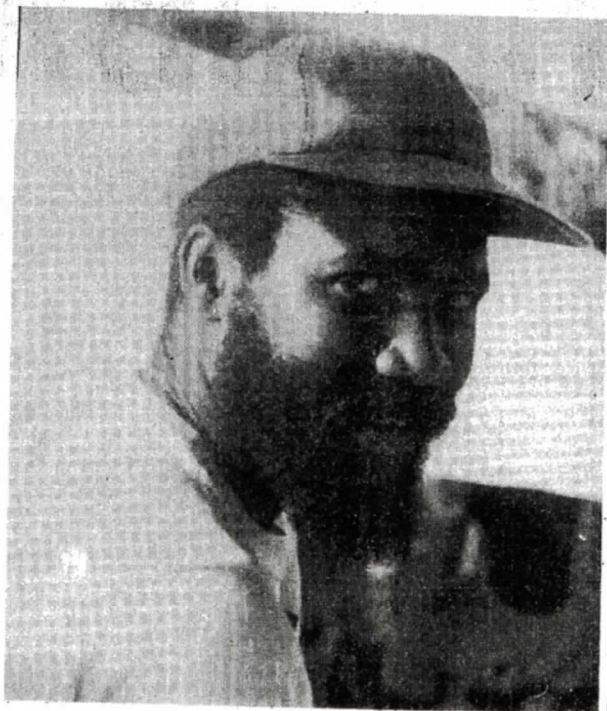
LENNOX 'Boogsie' Sharpe is the last of eight children, born to Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Sharpe of Benares Street, St. James. He is the arranger of not just one, but four of the nation's top steelbands namely, Pan Trinidad Experience, N.P. Jewel 22, Siparia Deltones and Phase II Pan Groove.

Boogsie is certainly no "greenhorn" to the world of Pan and arranging. He started composing at the age of nine (nineteen years ago), while attending primary school, prior to his attending Progressive Educational Institute.

Beginning his phenomenal pan career as a member of Starlift, Boogsie co-arranged tunes with Ray Holman. Two of the pieces he arranged for Starlift were 'Drunk and Disorderly' and 'Never Say Goodbye.' As a member of Starlift, Boogsie also did some arranging for the Silver Stars Steel Orchestra, gaining experience and the ability to arrange for several bands simultaneously.

Boogsie has a collection of beautifully composed tunes, some of the old and lesser known ones being, 'Malick' (his first composition for pan), 'Mr. Norbert' (done in 1972 for Tropical Angel Harps), 'Hush Up' (done the following year for Birdsong) and 'Las Lap'.

These tunes failed to make much of an impression on pan enthusiasts who seemed determined to hold onto the concept of traditional calypso for pan. It wasn't until 1975, that Boogsie, then aged 22, gained some recognition



LENNOX "Boogsie" SHARPE

with his composition, "Rock It with Pan." He composed and arranged this tune for Phase II Pan Groove for the Panorama contests.

Tasting the brief but sweet tang of success and accomplishment, he composed "Rags to Riches," in 1976 and "I Like to Beat Pan" in 1977. This tune pushed Phase II into winners row in the North Panorama winners that year, defeating "big guns" Desperadoes and Pandemonium who played the Ray Holman composition, "Panyard Vibrations."

For the next four years Boogsie's tunes, composed for Phase II, made this Woodbrook band a constant threat to the Panorama Rivals.

During this period Len's compositions have been, 'Carnival is Bacchanal' (1978), '79 Is Mine' (1979), 'No Panorama' (1980) and last year's, 'Pan In A Rage'.

For this year's Panorama competition Boogsie is arranging for three steelbands, NP Jewel 22 (Kitchener's, 'Heat'), Siparia Deltones (Kitchener's, Pan Explosion '82) and Phase II Pan Groove (His own composition, 'Pan Take Over'). An individual who has always treated every and any aspect of pan seriously and with fervent dedication, it will be no surprise if these three bands shine above the others in this year's panorama; thanks to the Beethoven of pan, Lennox 'Boogsie' Sharpe.