

ANORAMA

'82

Despers
in the
tip
and up



Clive Bradley in Despers pan yard

BEST INDIAN Tobacco Desperadoes, or Despers", if you wish, will not be playing a "Kitchener" tune in the fourth Panorama finals day. Having written that, I fully expect the sky will fall in since "Despers" has been going with "Kitch" for a number of years including the unforgettable "Pan in harmony."

Instead, Desperadoes will play Lord Nelson's Party," which was arranged for Lord Nelson in his "Family" album by live Bradley, Desperadoes' most consistently successful ranger.

Such a combination has dynamite potential. And when you consider that Desperadoes placed very low in the national finals last year, the stage is set for a dynamic performance by a steelband that remains one of the great achievements in the steelband world.

Hailing from the Laventille hills, "Despers" have been responsible for a number of innovations both musically and technically and, whatever, they may say to the contrary, it is the one steelband that has other bands looking over their shoulder, so to speak.

Moreover,

Desperadoes, led by the irrepressible Rudolph Charles is a very proud band that does not take humiliation lying down and they will be going out there, today, to demonstrate that class is class and form is only temporary.

Their pans have been

tuned by ace-tuner, Bertie Marshall, so they will have no problem on that score and Bradley, the arranger, having missed last year's Panorama because of his study programme in the United States must be out to prove that he has not lost the Bradley magic.

Indeed that year's "rest" might very well be what he needed, to stand aside from the competition awhile before plunging in with new vigour and even fresher ideas.

So that, Desperadoes, remains one of the bands that I will make it my

business to hear. I suspect that that goes too far for a large number of the folks who will make it their business to be at the competition. And I, sticking my neck out, make bold to predict that even non-supporters of the band will be forced to sit up and take notice, as well.

KEITH SMITH.