

Flying Fish and Cou-Cou

The Bajan Delicacy

Flying fish (*Hirundictys Affinis*) is a popular delicacy, and accounts for 60% of the weight of all fish landed on the island. These fish travel in shoals, jumping in and out of water like dolphins. As they move through the air, their long extended fins open up as wings, hence the flying movement that gives the fish its name.

Flying fish have been closely associated with the Bajan national character. Not only is Barbados called "the land of the flying fish, but these fish frequently appear on commercial motifs.

Cou-Cou is made from Corn meal and okras. Cou-cou is usually served with fish or stew. Cou-cou can also be made from bread fruit and green bananas.

Next Issue...

- More from our resident historian and pannist: Sam Saldenha.
- Feature Island "St. Vincent"
- Recipe for Cou-Cou
- More about ERS
- Boston Carnival Count down

Feature Island Barbados

Location: Barbados is a 'pear-shaped' island 90 miles east of the Windward Islands surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic ocean. It measures 21 miles from North to South and 14 miles at its widest point. It has an area 166 sq miles.

Population: 274,540 (July 2000 est.)

The People: The ethnic composition of the island is 80% Black, 4% white and 16% other. The national language is English. Although the proper title for people from Barbados is Barbadian, the colloquial title is Bajan.

Capital: Bridgetown

Economy:

- Historically, the Barbadian economy had been dependent on sugarcane cultivation and related activities, but production in recent years has diversified into manufacturing and tourism.
- The start of the Port Charles Marina project in **Speightstown** helped the tourism industry continue to expand in 1996-99.
- Offshore finance and informatics are important foreign exchange earners, and there is also a light-manufacturing sector.
- The government continues its efforts to reduce the unacceptably high unemployment rate, encourage direct foreign investment, and privatize remaining state-owned enterprises.
- Agriculture is not a major player in the state's economy, except for sugar cane. There are some coffee, banana and cacao plantations.

History: Portuguese explorers probably landed on Barbados in the 16th century, but English colonists established the first settlement in 1627. Barbados was made a Crown possession in 1663. Barbados joined the Federation of the West Indies (1958-1962), which also included Trinidad and Tobago. Barbados gained full internal self-government in 1961, and it became an independent state in the Commonwealth of Nations on November 30, 1966.

For more information on Barbados and links to much more check out the following web page <http://www.prideofbarbados.com/>



ERS Interest Slip

Clip and return to the ERS address on page 1

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____, The best times to reach me are: _____

Email Address: _____

Other way(s) to contact me: _____

Check all items that apply

I am interested in The mail list, Playing 'mas' with ERS, Writing an article for the newsletter

Other _____



ERS Engine Room Section

A Caribbean-American Cultural Not-For-profit Organization

“Together As One”

April 2001
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Boston Carnival 2001 “Down Under In the Outback”

The Engine Room Section will be portraying “**Down Under In The Outback**” for the Boston 2001 carnival. Our costumes will remind us of our aboriginal roots, be free spirited and will allow our members the freedom to “play they self” (enjoy a stress-free day of dancing and making merry while remaining conscious of our roots). As usual the contribution will be \$40.00 for adults which includes costume, food, drinks and music. Children will be \$20.00. If you plan to join us in 2001 please fill out and return the interest form on page 8. **ERS band Launching is Saturday 14, July 2001 at 19-21 Atherton Street, Roxbury, from 6-10pm.** For more information call ERS.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ms. Dolores Richardson; legislative Aide to State Rep. Shirley Owens-Hicks, on her recognition by BlackVoices.com and WB56 as one of our unsung heroes. Ms Richardson is a dear friend of the Boston Caribbean/ American Community and deserves all of the accolades for being a loyal and tireless supporter of the entire Community. Ms. Richardson ERS salutes you. For more information see WB56.com.

Engine Room Section Who or what is ERS?

History

Engine Room Section, Inc., (ERS) was founded in 1994 for the sole purpose of bringing back the ‘old time’ way of masquerading, or as Trinidadians would say ‘playing mas into the Annual Caribbean/American Carnival in the city of Boston. With this old school theme in mind a few of the fellas and girls got together and brought the original form of costuming, Mud Mas commonly known as “ole mas”, onto the Boston Carnival stage. From that point on Engine Room Section registered with the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office/Division of Public Charities as a non-profit social and cultural organization. From our humble beginning we have made our motto, ‘Together As One’, the driving force in our methods of operation. We constantly strive to:

- Organize and participate in the Annual Caribbean/American Carnival in the City of Boston
- Plan and manage events surrounding Carnival Week
- Develop and institute cultural and social programs based on our Diaspora and the rich legacy of our African, Caribbean, American and European heritage
- Maintain unity and harmony in our community that will motivate

the younger generation to follow our example

- Provide an environment at our events and functions that is educationally enriching, fun and most of all affordable
- Assist in community based events that advance the quality of life for Caribbean/American residents of Massachusetts in general and Boston specifically
- Establish linkages with other community organizations to strengthen the understanding of our culture and our role as Caribbean/Americans in America.

Carnival Themes

From our inception in 1994 we have created and portrayed an array of themes that are historically significant to the Caribbean/American community in America and abroad. Our themes cover the gamut from local to global interest, political to comical and historical to satirical. Always, we try to be environmentally friendly and sensitive. 95% of our costumes are made of recycled materials. To date, we have depicted the following themes:

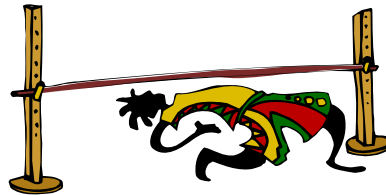
- 1994 Enjoy yourself (Coming out year)
- 1995 From the Mudderland
- 1996 Muddlympics
- 1997 Mud at Work
- 1998 "A day in the Devil's wood yard" (The devil's Wood yard is a mud volcano in Trinidad)
- 1999 Emancipation on the Farm
- 2000 Freedom to Struggle

Whatever our theme, we are always entertaining and enlightening at the same time. To us, fun and education is one concept in and of itself. We are firm believers in having

intellectual fun. So come check us out and get on board with Engine Room Section as we set sail for another fantastic voyage back to the future in 2001. All aboard.... Together As One!!!!

Boston Carnival

Since 1973 the City of Boston and the Caribbean community have collaborated to host an annual Caribbean/American Carnival. For the past twenty-eight years, the residents of Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan and other outlying neighborhoods have enjoyed the culture of the Caribbean through the annual Boston Carnival. The Carnival is synonymous to the pre-lent carnival held in Trinidad and Tobago, and is based on the same principles as the festivals in New Orleans, Louisiana and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Boston Carnival attracts over 500,000 revelers and spectators to the area annually. Visitors from throughout the Americas, Europe and the Caribbean can be seen at this wonderful cultural extravaganza every year. The Carnival is the second largest event in the City of Boston next to First Night celebration on New Year's Eve. We look forward to seeing you this year-Saturday, August 25th, 2001!!!



Community Shoutouts...

Pan Jammers: We wish PJ Adamson and the extended family of Pan Jammers the best of everything in finding a new place in the heart of the community to call home. The previous location on Geneva Avenue was central to the lifeblood of our community. For reasons beyond our collective control that parcel of land was chosen by the city for redevelopment. ERS pledges its support and assistance to help Pan Jammers achieve its goal of finding a another home in our community.🎵

Steel Bands, Steel Orchestras and Pannist: Much respect to all the steel band Practitioners (Pannist) in the community: Branches Steel Orchestra, Metro Steel Orchestra, Volume II. Soca Boys: Greetings to Heather, Evan, Ulric, Kenny and the entire family of Boston #1rhythm section, Soca Boys and Girls. Big up.🎵

Boston Carnival Bands
Best Wishes and Good Luck to all the Carnival Bands during the upcoming Boston Carnival Season, especially Honduras Connection, New Breed, Mary Innis Social Club, New Dimensions, T&T Social Club, Bajan Stamina/Invasion, Zodiac Sports & Cultural Club, Unity Sports & Cultural Club, Clouden and Associates, Mas Women and Men, Antigua and Barbuda Social Club and all the other bands whose names are not mentioned. We humbly apologize to any band

not tuned chromatically. They were tuned to the diatonic scale. The diatonic scale is made up of seven notes. The chromatic scale is made up of twelve notes, and contains sharps (#) and flats (b). A tuner generally inserted notes when a tune demanded it. For instance if one wanted to play "Star Dust" in which the first bar called for a semitone, that note had to be inserted. Another point was that pans at that time were tuned by hammering the pan inside out, producing a convex surface. Here again another watershed, Ellie Mannette is said to be the first person to hammer the surface of the drum inwards producing a concave surface.

Other highlights of that era were the introduction of straps by Gary Mescal of Sun Valley in a competition at Roxy Cinema. This meant that the problem of carrying the instrument on the road was solved, for now they could be hung from one's neck. It was around this time that pan was first heard on the radio when Sonny Roach of Sun Valley played "Mary had a little lamb" on Auntie Kay's program. Before you being to poke fun at the early steel bands, and these simple melodies, remember that this was a new instrument, and it is obvious that these early pioneers without any formal music training would start with the simplest melodies.

1947 Saw the first major steel band clash between Invaders and Tripoli on one hand, and Tokyo on the other. If you need to read more of this, try the Public Library on Belmont Circular Road, their newspaper files go way back. Most of the steel bands

portrayals at that time were Sailor or Fancy Sailor. Bands would play "Elephant Nose", "Elephant Head", "Swans". Many might believe that steel band composing their own tunes is a new phenomenon, and that Ray Holman, Boogie Sharp, and Robbie Greenidge were the first. But back in the late 1940's Invaders had their own compositions – "Invaders want to use you", another "Tell them we ain't 'fraid nobody". Sun Valley had their own compositions "Sun Valley coming down". Of course the melodies were not as sophisticated as today, and the same could be said about the early calypsoes. I do not have any data about other bands, but I would bet that All Stars, Casablanca or Desperadoes would have been part of that trend.

1948 That year "Crossfire" one of the legendary bands from St. James was organized. There are two stories regarding the creation of this band. One has it that Tripoli led by Joe Crick (now living in Philadelphia) planned to play military *mas*, but some of the other guys most notably Sterling Betancourt (now Dr. Sterling Betancourt), and Cyril Jackman wanted to play fancy sailor. No agreement was reached and as a result Cyril Jackman, Sterling Betancourt and the other formed Crossfire and played a fancy sailor *mas* – "Cobra". The other story as told to me by Cyril Jackman (actually he is leader Cyril, a spiritual Baptist leader in Boston, Massachusetts), was that members of Tripoli were parading the streets of St. James around Christmas time, and were chased by the Police. They hid their

drums in his yard, and promised to reclaim them the next day. However, when they returned he refused to give them up, but instead started his own band, Crossfire with Tropoli's instruments. He was the first leader of Crossfire.

1949 On Carnival Sunday night there was a variety concert at the Queen's Park Savannah, and some thing happened that night, which was very rare, and is unlikely to be duplicated. All of the bands played calypsoes except one. The band – Invaders - took the stage last and played a bolero – "Its Magic". According to those present it changed the whole atmosphere, and broke the monotony of hearing Calypso after Calypso. They were well received, and won the competition.

In the first newsletter, I promised to speak about The Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra, however space being a constraint has forced me end here. In our next issue I will speak about the 1950's, and definitely about The Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra (T.A.S.P.O). Until then "Stay up".

Robert "Sam Saldenha is a truly righteous brother, a graduate of the University of the West Indies, ERS founding member, father, exceptional tailor, Teacher, Historian and Pannist..

Greetings

David, Whaaatssss uuuuuupp?

Thoughts

God is with you wherever you go
Joshua 1:9

near Fatima College). One of the many watersheds in steel band history took place, in that bands used oil drums as Ping Pongs. Ellie Mannette (now Dr. Ellie Mannette) has the honor of being the first to tune oil drums. The importance is that the tuners now had a larger circumference, and could include additional notes, or expand the range of the Ping-Pong (tenor pan). Newer instruments were introduced, such as the "Tune Boom", a biscuit drum tuned with four notes, Soh, Doh, Me and Soh (octave). Another important landmark was the introduction of rubber on sticks. Prior to this the instruments were played with bare sticks or the hand. "Sun Valley" from St. James invented a "Spring Bass"- a drum played by depressing five steel springs with one's fingers. Tuning was done by shortening or extending the springs. Another innovation was the Alto Ping-Pong, (by Sun Valley) played by Cecil Ward.

Some of the bands competing were "Red Army", "Invaders" (who recently changed their name from "Oval Boys" and was led by Ellie Mannette), "Casablanca" which performed "The Bells of St. Mary's", "Tripoli" and Sun Valley who played "Home Sweet Home" and "La Paloma". The prize giving ceremony had its humorous moments according to Sonny Roach, for when John Moore of Sun Valley was returning to his seat after receiving the band's prize, "Big head John" of Red Army tripped him causing some of the prizes to break. The items were a brush set, dishes and a silver cup. These are the things, which could lead to

steel bands' clashes. It was not about the prizes, but about one band giving another respect. However, on this occasion none ensued, because Red Army was very powerful, and very few bands wanted "to mix it up" with them.

A short history of Red Army.

When Alexander Rag Time band was disbanded, actually there was a split, some members joined Oval Boys, and some moved into St. Paul Street – East Dry River – and took on the name Red Army, according to McDonald Kingsale the original leader of Red Army. Red Army moved again to Donkey Village (Sackville Street area, around the Holiday Inn Hotel on Wrightson Road), and the name was changed to Merry Makers Steel Orchestra. They were very popular, and made numerous trips abroad. On one of these trips, a school mate (Rudy "two-left" Smith) still at school made the trip and ended up living in Sweden. He now returns home to arrange for Birdsong Steel band every Carnival.

There are many families, which have been involved in the steel band movement. One such family is the Kingsale family. In 1968 Panorama there was a member from that family performing in every band, which made the finals. To name a few: Noel James played with Starlift, "Panam" was the leader of "Blue Diamonds", there were three members playing with Tripoli – "Untin", "Boyee" and Michael Kernahan. The latter now known as "Big Mike" lives in Miami, Florida, and is the leader, tuner and arranger of "21Century Steel

band". In Solo Harmonites there were a couple more.

A Calypso immortalizing Red Army's strength is called "Canaan Barrow".

*"Canaan Barrow went in town
And a Red Army Bad John lick
him down*

*Who dead? Canaan. Who
Canaan? Canaan Barrow"*

Actually that was the Road March of 1948. To those new to Steel band, Calypso and Carnival, the Road March is the tune played the most by the musical bands on Carnival Monday and Tuesday.

I am not sure who won that competition, but I know for a fact that Casablanca won a competition playing the "Bells of St. Mary's".

Another Competition organized by "Baytoon" was held at the Mucurapo Stadium, which Invaders won. Sun Valley placed second, and Sonny Roach won the Ping-Pong solo. Ellie Mannette who played "Star Dust" was the runner up.

Later a variety competition was held in which traditional musical instruments were incorporated, but Ping-Pong soloist competed separately. And here is another watershed in steel band. At this competition Alrick "Chic Ma Groo" Springer of Woodbrook won, performing "All through the night", but what is more important is that for the first time a player used two sticks. The other contestants played their Ping-Pongs, resting them on their legs, while they held them with one hand, and played with the other. Ping-Pongs at that time had twelve to fifteen notes, but were

whose name is not mentioned.
ERS wishes everyone a fun and
memorable Carnival season. 🎵

This and That

Pictures

ERS has collected pictures of our
band members and can order
prints for you.

T-shirts

You can still purchase fabulous
ERS T-shirts or Trini rags.

These make excellent gifts

T-shirts (white with ERS logo)

- Sizes: 2x-large

Price: 1 for \$15.00, 2 for \$20.00

"Trini" Rags

- Trinidad colors or red

Price: 1 for \$8.00, 2 for \$15.00

Food and drinks to go

- Rum punch, sorrel, peas and
rice, calypso chicken, fish-broth,
roti, kurma, chutney, sweet bread
etc. Let us know what you want.

Sweet Music From the Music Factory

Keep your summer groove on.
Check out the Music Factory
Volumes I and II CDs. These hot
and spicy CDs are guaranteed to
chase away your blues.

Call ERS on the above items.



*Do you want to
advertise in or
write an article for
this newsletter?
Call ERS at 617-
524-0539*

Book Corner (Get your read on)

ERS encourages you to read. Try the
following titles. Find out about our
history. It will help you to understand
where you are and where you need to go.

'From Columbus to Castro the history of the Caribbean 1492- 1969'.

Author: Eric Williams

Publisher: Random House Inc.,

New York 1970

'The black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the Santo Domingo revolution'

Author: C.L.R. James

Publisher: Random House Inc.,

New York 1963

'Marcus Garvey and the vision of Africa'

Author: John Henrik Clarke

Publisher: Random House Inc.,

New York 1973

'The struggles of the Caribbean people (1492-1984)'

Author: Patrick C. Hylton

Publisher: Billpop, Inc.,

Washington D.C. 1984

'The destruction of Black Civilization: Great issues of a race from 4500 BC to 2000 A.D.'

Author: Chancellor Williams

Publisher: Random House Inc.,

New York 1970

'They came before Columbus'

Author: Juan Van Sextima

Publisher: Random House Inc.,

New York 1976

'How Europe Underdeveloped Africa'

Author: Walter Rodney

Publisher: Howard University Press,

Washington D.C. 1972

Letter to the Editors

Durrell Fox(voicemail)

"I appreciated the newsletter
and believe it can be an
invaluable tool in connecting
the various groups and
organizations in our
community. Thank you for
including me on your mailing
list. I look forward to the next
edition...be sure to give props
to the Bajan community."

Bernice Boyce...(voice mail)

"I enjoyed the newsletter. Keep
up the good work."

Lena James

"I particularly liked the
informative piece (article) by the
resident historian and I am
thinking about submitting one
myself."

May Damberville.....

"Would like more information
on the food catering idea. I have
tasted some of your delicacies
and I think this is an idea with
tremendous promise. Good luck
and keep me informed as to
how I can support you with this
idea."

Eric Gill "Roots"..

"I would like to hear more about
Barbados and the Bajan
Massive. What about adding
color and pictures to the up-
coming issues.?"

The ERS Committee and newsletter contributors & editors:

Sheldon Braithwaite

Fabian DePeiza

Miki DePeiza

Wendell DePeiza

Yvette DePeiza

Anna Francois

Sharron Francois

Sam Harewood-Polo

David Hinds

Dayo Joseph

Curtis Mc Intosh

Sonia Pierre

Suzanne Pierre

Robert "Sam" Saldenha

Tales from Trinidad and Tobago Carnival 2001

I would rather be in Brooklyn

By Ms. Dayo Alitash Joseph

"I would rather be in Brooklyn." This is what I thought on Carnival Tuesday in Trinidad and Tobago. For five years now I have been preparing myself for the time when I would get the chance to play Mas' in the motherland of all Carnivals. I confess I was in for a real disappointment.

Let me say a little about my background. I was born in Brooklyn, but I am Trinidadian by blood and by culture. Both of my parents are from Trinidad. I am 22 years old and I have been to Trinidad 22 times. In 1996, I went home for Carnival for the first time that I could remember. After that I was convinced that one of these years, I must play the real thing so I began to get ready.

Brooklyn (BK) is my first home. So I made up my mind to go and jump on Eastern Parkway for the West Indian American Day Carnival Association's (WIADCA) event. For the next two years my cousins and I would find a truck with non-masqueraders and *chip* down the Parkway. But once they crossed the stage, I realized there was no glory. I needed to be in costume.

The next year I played with Boroete USA. I didn't like the way they were set up. It just wasn't for me. When I reached on the Parkway, I spotted the band that I would play mas' with for the following two years – Sesame Flyers, Intl. Peter Minshall made

their costume. That year Red was the theme. Everyone was wearing red and I was green with envy of the presence they carried with themselves.

Those three years that I played mas' on the Parkway I enjoyed myself. When we reached Nostrand, a judging point, we had to *"get on bad cause dais where all the Trinis limin"*. And I did it all and when we crossed the stage it was the best. Rain or Shine we enjoyed ourselves. *"Cause once the water is coming down the Artist on the truck would sing all kina tunes about water"*.

So I graduated from University in May 2000. I went home for the summer and all my cousins were talking about Carnival and how much fun they had. Truly this *was getting* to me. I started work in July and earned enough time by January to take off a week for Carnival 2001. I was going to go the distance. I was enjoying Carnival on the Parkway for too long without having tasted the real thing. The time was now and I was ready for it.

I organized with my cousin to play with whatever band she desired to play with. I put another cousin in charge of making sure I went to the best *fetes* (parties) for the handful of days that I would be there. And I arranged to reach home Carnival Thursday (The Thursday before Carnival). I went to work as usual Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Wednesday night I flew into BK, Thursday morning "Bwee" (British West Indian Airways) was taking me to sweet "T n T" (Trinidad and Tobago) Thursday, Friday and Saturday night I went

to *fete* after *fete*. Sunday morning I was taking in *♫Insomnia♫*, but that's another story (Insomnia is a *fete*). Unaccustomed to this nonstop *feting*, my body was ready to cave in so I rested. After all, I came down to play *mas'* on Monday and Tuesday.

I was playing in Barbarossa, one of the biggest masquerade bands in Trinidad and Tobago. I was about to find out this was going to be a bad idea. I spent Monday *chippin'*, getting familiar with the route, and finding spots to use the bathroom and places to get some *grub* (food). Unfortunately, not only did this **big band** not provide drinks for all of its sections, but it also didn't provide food. This is something I never experienced in BK. I mean both Sesame Flyers Intl. and Boroete USA provided breakfast in the morning and drinks throughout the route. If you were caught buying drinks from the vendors on the road you were lead to the back of the truck. It was only logical, that this should be the rule of thumb after all the money I put out. I paid more money to play in Trinidad than I did to play in Brooklyn.

I was determined to make the most out of my Tuesday *jump*. I jumped up and down the whole route. I made sure to have a big breakfast. I was going to play MAS'. Monday went smoothly so why shouldn't Tuesday? Because, Tuesday Barbarossa was behind Legends and Poison (Two of the biggest masquerade bands in TnT), so we spent 4 to 5 hours between the Port of Spain General Hospital and the Savannah. The trucks played tapes of music from previous fetes like *♫Insomnia♫*

“It’s four o’clock in the morning....”, said the man on the tape, **no** it was four o’clock in the afternoon. And that’s when it hit me, **“I’d rather be in Brooklyn”**.

Dayo Alitash Joseph is a true “Trini”, ERS member, software consultant, and culturally conscious young lady.

ANOTHER LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF THE STEEL BAND Part II –From 1945-1949

By Sam Saldenha

Since the publication of our newsletter, I came across a book on the Internet by George Goddard, one of the former Presidents of Pan Trinbago (when he was president it was called The National Association of Steel bands). For those interested go to “seetobago.com”, or in your web browser insert “George Goddard” “steel band”. His book is well documented, and in his analysis he concluded that the steel band originated in Woodbrook, with “Alexander Rag Time Band”. However, from what I read from his book, Gonzales seems to have been a hot bed of steel band activity in that period. You can draw your own conclusion.

When steel bands hit the street on “VE-Day” (Victory in Europe), the main instruments were the Tenor Kettle, Ping-Pong, Cuff Boom, Derderp (Doudoup), Iron and Bugle. The Tenor Kettle, which played an important role in the development of the Ping Pong (Tenor Pan) was made from a kind of “sweet oil (cooking oil) drum, measuring about 16” to 18” in diameter, tuned with four or five notes, and cut about 16” long.

Ping-Pongs were made from the same type of drum as the Tenor Kettle, and cut about 4” to 5” deep. However at that stage, not many were used, as the pan was not slung over one’s neck by a strap, but it was held in the air by one hand, and played with the other for a few minutes until the player got tired. After resting for a few minutes, he would start the process all over again. It is important to remember that oil drums were not used, but the smaller biscuit and caustic soda drums. In addition, sticks were not wrapped with rubber, and the followers sang the tunes.

The Cuff Boom was a biscuit drum about 20” in diameter and about 24” long. It had one note with an opening on the other side. The Derderp (doudoup) or Bass Kettle is still used in the traditional steel bands (Boston Pan Jammers, Soca Boys and Girls), and has two notes. Another early instrument was the “Baylay” which contained three notes Doh, Soh, and Me and tuned low. According to Anthony Williams the tuner was Troy from St. James Sufferers. It was tuned from part of an oil drum. He believed that this was the first occasion that an oil drum was used in a steel band. The iron is still an integral part of all bands, i.e. the brake drums of motorcars. Some bands also used pieces of “angle irons.

No pans were tuned to key with one and the other. It was random tuning. The Ping-Pongs played parts of tunes, and the followers would sing the other parts. There was a standard kettle drum (Tenor Kettle) beat in those days. It was a standard beat, because most if

not all bands used the same beat. The iron was played as today, and the Bugle had simple bugle calls.

According to Anthony Williams, (leader of PanAm North Stars), “my first attempt was a small Sunrise biscuit tin about 8” in diameter and 10” long.....four notes were tuned. They were Doh, Ray, Me and Soh. I used to play ‘Mary had a little lamb’ on it, as that was a very popular piece at that time. Then I realized that in order to play ‘Zigely, Pops and Bartersbee’ I was missing Fah, Lah and Te. I then tuned a pan similar to the sweet oil drums that was used as Ping Pongs and Tenor Kettles.” Obviously this new instrument now had seven notes. During my research, I once spoke with Hollis Liverpool (Mighty Chalkdust), and he mentioned that a member of the Alexander Rag Time band (Victor “Toetee” Wilson) mentioned that their first instruments were tuned to the chimes of Queens Royal College (Q.R.C.) clock. The chimes are called Westminster [Abbey] Chimes, and it is heard from most Churches of the Episcopal (Anglican) faith. There are five notes, which makes up the chimes.

From 1946 to 1947 the bands caused great changes in the development of the steel band, and because of the great enthusiasm shown by the players and the general public, the first steel band competition was organized. The “Island Wide Steel Band Competition” as it was called, was organized by Ranny Phillip (one of the great impresarios at that time), and held at the Mucurapo Stadium (situated