

METROPOLITAN



An estimated 2,000 people turned out for the Third Annual World Music Festival held at the University of Portland, Saturday. El Rey — The King Tito Puente with his hard-driving Latin percussion ended the day that was filled with good music, food and dance. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

World Music Festival held

by Robert Lothian

A special treat at the third annual World Music Festival at the University of Portland Saturday, August 24, was a guest appearance by the man who invented the steel drum.

Ellie Mannette, originally from Trinidad, is in Vancouver, B.C., this summer constructing steel drums for musicians there. He dropped down to Portland for an enthusiastically-received festival workshop.

The chrome-plated drums with the magical sound are gaining in popularity almost daily, taken over by groups that play jazz, fusion, rock and folk.

Mannette said the idea for his first drum "just came to me" in 1946. After other Caribbean musicians had tried the various sounds made by paint cans, he said he decided to try one of the many oil drums that wash up on the beach. He cut the top off, and began to experiment with the sounds made in different areas of the surface.

Mannette said he actually dreamed

the intricate sound pattern which he etched and pounded into that first drum, using a ball peen hammer and a punch. "I have absolutely no musical training," said Mannette. "All that I have created came from my musical visions."

Other patterns developed — he held up complicated "blueprints" of the patterns for various drums, including a bass model.

An average drum takes about two months to make "completely by hand," he said, and costs about \$900. Mannette announced that he will be giving steel drum workshops in Cannon Beach this fall.

An example of how Mannette's handiwork has evolved was provided later by Wyndam Hill recording artists Darol Anger, Barbara Higbie, Todd Phillips, Mike Marshall and Andy Narell. The group plays what some have described as "quintessential yuppie music" — mellow, middle class music for dreaming. The audience danced enthusiastically to an earlier

salsa band, but they swayed quietly while this group played. Some in the audience actually appeared to be meditating.

Yet Narell is a well-known steel drum impresario, and his sound is quietly incorporated into the group's new age music. He has recorded with Aretha Franklin, the Pointer Sisters and others.

Workshops at the festival featured the music of "cultures in transition" — Ghana, Laos and Central America. A standout was the workshop of African drumming and dancing presented by the Seattle group, Ocheami.

Other groups — from folk to jazz, Japanese, Indian, Arabian, Latin, Yiddish, Caribbean, Hungarian and African — turned the day into a musical potpourri and a cultural treat.

Heading the program Saturday night was the "king of the timbales" — Tito Puente and his Latin Jazz All-Stars. Tito's hot Latin sound was appropriate for the steamy night.



Children's peace games.

(Photo: Kris Altucher)

Irving Park summer program a hit with kids

by Bob Lothian

Irving Park finishes up its active summer program this week.

Attracted by fun and a safe atmosphere, hundreds of children played in the park each day during the summer's hot weather, said park director Rufus Conner.

Organized park activities include the ever-popular Reading Tree program, sports, arts and crafts, the wading pool, and free lunches for low-income children.

A new addition this summer was the Children's Peace Project, a pilot effort designed to help children learn how to resolve their conflicts peacefully through music, dance, acting and puppetry.

"We order 270 lunches and they go," said Conner. During warm weather, he added, up to 70 children use the wading pool at one time.

A train of admiring children followed the popular "park man" as he set out a sign with "today's puzzle." A chalked note said, "gimp sold after lunch." Children use the multi-colored plastic strands known as gimp to make belts, key chains and other do-dads.

"We have a lot of kids here and quite a few adults and they are all

well-behaved, I see to that," said Conner, former Pacific University basketball forward. During the school year, Conner coordinates Irvington Community School.

Many children come for the Reading Tree program in the morning and stay for recreation activities afterward. The Reading Tree teaches reading and writing with popular stories. Reading Tree director Bee Anderson and Conner are helped by a crew of 10 to 15 volunteers, "just parents helping out," said Conner.

Each Wednesday at the park, between 60 and 150 children participated in the Children's Peace Project, said Rachael Pruitt, director.

On one of the first cloudy Wednesdays after a hot spell, children in the Peace Project formed a circle and danced to drum and autoharp music. Then one by one, they entered the circle and pretended they were chickens, lions, hyenas, dogs and cats. They made animal sounds, too. Some were a little embarrassed. Then they sang "We Are the World."

"We're really teaching kids how to work together without fighting," said Pruitt, a member of Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament. In designing the program, Pruitt said she was not motivated by fear of the

bomb. The emphasis is on teaching children techniques for getting along with their neighbors and learning about different cultures, she said.

She picked Irving because of its location in the inner city and because Conner supported the idea, Pruitt said. Community groups, including the Urban League and the Urban Indian Council, offered support and advice, she added.

Jennifer Williams, 12, wrote the script for a puppet show which children in the peace project performed for parents and other children. She has "bad kid" puppets breaking into houses to find friends. Other child puppets convince the house-breakers that they will only make enemies that way. The problem is resolved without calling the police, Jennifer explained, and all the children go out for pizza.

Jennifer, from Baton Rouge, La., was in Portland visiting her grandmother who lives near the park. She enjoyed the activities at Irving and her new friends so much, she said, that she tried talking her mother into moving to Portland. "I'd be really bored" back home, she said.

Pruitt is seeking funds to continue the peace project into the fall. Her goal is the formation of a children's performance group, she said.

Project Return brings "truant officers" back to Portland Schools

"Truant Officers," inactive in recent years because of financial cutbacks, return to Portland with a new title when the school year starts Sept. 3.

"Project Return" — developed jointly by the Portland School District and City of Portland's Police Bureau and Youth Service Center Administration — was described by Supt. Matthew Prophet during a meeting of the Portland Board of Education.

Supt. Prophet said officers of the Police Bureau's new Juvenile Services Unit during school hours will locate, detain and transport truant Portland Public Schools students to a school district receiving center at former Monroe High School.

The center, located in the Portable buildings at 2508 N.E. Everett St., will be staffed between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on school days by school district and juvenile services personnel and volunteers.

Truant students detained in the field by juvenile services officers will be taken into custody and charged with a statutory offense called "BCC-Truancy" (behavior circumstantial conditions).

After receiving the truant and the custody report, center personnel will contact schools and juvenile courts about records of the truant students and notify their parents or guardians.

After the consultations, the center will select appropriate disposition of a truant's case — either by the student's return to school, assignment to a resource center, release to parents or guardians, self-release, referral to alternative schools or programs or to a youth service center for counseling.

Portland School District will establish two student resource centers to involve parents in assessing education needs of the chronic truant and planning for the student's eventual return to a regular school. It also will help middle and high schools develop programs to assist returning truants.

Juvenile services officers will not take into custody truants from other school districts or other youths covered by Oregon's compulsory-attendance laws, but not enrolled in school. Officers instead will cite such youths for "BCC-truancy," file custody reports, and notify parents and appropriate school districts and juvenile courts.

Supt. Prophet said the joint truancy project as a byproduct of efforts by a student attendance committee appointed by him in November 1984. The 19-member committee — mandated to recommend clarifications and changes to the school district's attendance policies, regulations and practices — comprises school administrators, teachers, school police, other support staff, parents and representatives from the police bureau and city youth centers.

Chaired by Carolyn Sheldon, a student-services coordinator for the school district, the committee held public hearings last March and also has involved attendance specialists from the Oregon Department of Education, Oregon State University and the University of Oregon.

Prompted by police bureau evidence that most daytime burglaries are committed by youths, the committee in June recommended establishment of a cooperative truancy-deterrent effort similar to successful programs in California, Hawaii and Utah.

Project Return then was refined by Supt. Prophet and his staff, in concert with representatives of Portland Mayor Bud Clark, Multnomah County Commission and Juvenile Services Commission, police bureau and youth service centers.

The committee's full report on its original mandate is expected in October. Supt. Prophet said he expects to respond and make his own recommendations to the school board later this fall.

Lindberg outlines zero percent loan program

On Wednesday, August 7, 1985, the Portland City Council approved an ordinance ratifying an agreement with the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development for an energy conservation weatherization loan program. Approximately \$700,000 is available at 0% to make weatherization loans to about 250 moderate income families in the City of Portland. These loans can be financed over a period of seven years and are available through the Portland Development Commission (PDC).

Commissioner Mike Lindberg indicated, "This is a special program opportunity, because while federal resources are dwindling, the City is able to provide a much needed weatherization program for Portland families who have not already been able to get their homes weatherized." Lindberg went on to say, "We are particularly proud that the Portland Development Commission came forward and offered to administer and help market this program without additional cost.

The Commission and their staff has always had a commitment to energy conservation and their long-standing relationship with Portland lending institutions has enabled us to provide this program. HUD funds will be used to subsidize the interest rates to 0%. Loans will be made through PDC to Portland's moderate income families."

Income limits apply to the program. For example, to be eligible, a family of four would need to have an income of less than \$31,700 to qualify. An energy audit is required to determine eligible work. These are available free from energy suppliers. Telephone numbers to arrange these are: Oil Heat Institute 231-7101; Northwest Natural Gas, 226-4211 ext. 5532; Portland General Electric 226-5822; or Pacific Power and Light Co. 238-2886. Call PDC at 796-6800 for further information on the loan application and qualification process. The City is able to offer these loans only until the end of the year.

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N.E. Union at Skidmore
Saturday, Aug. 3rd
About 4 P.M.

Were You A Witness?

Did you see this accident involving a young woman, Sabrina Simmons, who was on her bicycle and was hit by a van as she crossed N.E. Union at Skidmore?

The Simmons want to thank the public for their sympathetic help at the time of Sabrina's death, for she was alone.

The only voice that can speak for her now is you!

Please help. Call Ted
at 636-8804 (daytime)
 or write
2539 N.E. 19th, Portland, OR 97211