

'Summer Nights' return to Troy



Bianca Borde vocalizes to the musical rhythm of the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band. Hugh Borde (left), patriarch of the group, plays the soprano steel drum. The

versatile band does the classics, polka, country-western, rock, calypso, reggae, disco and a new beat called socca.

Photos by ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

Those heady "Summer Nights," filled with music, food and fun, have returned for a second season at the Troy Hilton Inn.

The poolside parties Fridays beginning at 6 p.m. feature the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, a family group headed by Hugh Borde. On stage are five sons and two daughters, among them 8-year-old percussionist Charlotte Borde, who has been with the band since she was 2 years old. Besides the Borde family from Trinidad, the band also includes Sundiata Keita from Nigeria, who plays conga drums.

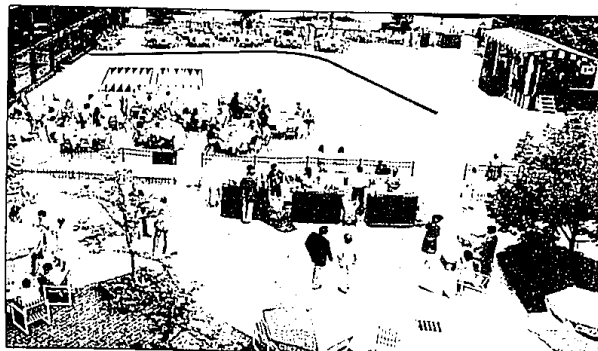
The group, which started in 1942, has been playing in the Detroit area since 1977. Formerly living in Hollywood, the band members moved to Ypsilanti but continue to perform all over the country.

Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band has appeared in the Detroit area at F Jazz at the Pontchartrain, the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn and every year at the Michigan State Fair.

"It's unique," Hugh Borde said, describing the band's music from empty oil drums. "It's a novelty."



Gus Limbo, fire and limbo dancer, performs for a rapt audience.



"Summer Nights" in the courtyard at the Troy Hilton offer cocktails and dancing for the after-work crowd. The casual parties

are especially popular with metro-area singles.

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